

Yellowstone National Park

Visitor Transit Survey



PAPERWORK REDUCTION and PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT: The Paperwork Reduction Act requires us to tell you why we are collecting this information, how we will use it, and whether or not you have to respond. We are authorized by the National Park Service Protection Interpretation and research in System (54 USC §100702) to collect this information. The routine uses of this information will be for the benefit of NPS Managers and Planning staff in Yellowstone National Park in future initiatives related to the visitor use and resource management within the site. The data collected will be summarized to evaluate visitor uses and expectations during their visit at Yellowstone National Park. Your responses to this collection are completely voluntary and will remain anonymous. You can end the process at any time and will not be penalized in any way for choosing to do so. All contact information collected for the purpose of the follow-up survey will be destroyed at the end of the collection period and no personal identifiable records will be maintained or stored for any purposes. Data collected will only be reported in aggregates and no individually identifiable responses will be reported. A Federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and you are not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB Control Number (1024-0224). We estimate that it will take about 6 minutes to complete this on-site questionnaire. You may send comments concerning the burden estimates or any aspect of this information collection to: Dr. Will Rice, University of Montana, william.rice@umontana.edu (email); or David Pettebone, National Park Service, david_pettebone@nps.gov (email).

YELL VISITOR SURVEY: INTERCEPT SURVEY

SURVEYOR TO COMPLETE:

Surveyor name: _____

Survey Site

Geyser Corridor

- ☐ Midway
- ☐ Old Faithful

Canyon Area

- ☐ Canyon Village
- ☐ North Rim

INTERCEPT OPENING SCRIPT

First, determine if visitor is eligible:

“Hello, I am working with Yellowstone National Park conducting a 6-minute survey to better understand visitor perceptions of potential future management options for the park. May I ask you several questions about these potential actions?”

➔ If the visitor says **YES**, read the following script:

Before we begin, I would like to let you know that this survey has been approved by the Office of Management and Budget. It is important to note that a Federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and you are not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it has a valid OMB control number. The control number for this collection is XXXX-XXXX and this number is valid through XX/XX/XXXX. Secondly, your participation is voluntary and your name will never be connected with your individual responses. This survey will only take about six minutes of your time today. [Full Privacy /Paperwork Reduction Act and Burden Statements will be available for respondents to read on the tablet.]

➔ If the visitor says **NO**, read the following script:

Ok, may I ask three quick questions?

➔ If the visitor says **NO**, thank them for their time.

➔ If the visitor says **YES**, ask the non-response bias questions: See questions 1, 2 and 3 below.

Topic Area 1: GROUP4

1. How many people were in your [personal, organized, tour] group, including you?
____ Number of people

Topic Area 1: GROUP1

2. Please select the choice below that best describes your traveling party. (Please select all that apply)

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Individual Traveling alone | ☐ Preschoolers (less than 5 years old) |
| ☐ Family only | ☐ Teen agers (12-19) |
| ☐ Friends only | ☐ Adults (20-64) |
| ☐ Family plus friends | ☐ Anyone over 65 |
| ☐ Tour or other group | ☐ With pets |

Topic Area 1: RES1

3. Which of the following best describes your residency of the counties directly bordering Yellowstone National Park (i.e., Teton County, WY; Park County, WY; Fremont County, ID; Gallatin County, MT; Park County, MT)? Check one.
- ☐ Permanent Resident
 - ☐ Seasonal Resident (returning annually for 1-6 months)
 - ☐ Not a Resident

Topic Area 1: RES2

4. Are you a permanent resident or citizen of the United States?
- ☐ NO - What is your country of origin? _____
 - ☐ YES - What is your zip code and state of residence
State _____ Zip code _____

Topic Area 1: RES7

5. In what type of community do you now live? (Please select one response)
- ☐ on a farm or ranch
 - ☐ rural or small town (under 1000 population)
 - ☐ town (1000 to 5000 population)
 - ☐ small city (5000 to 50,000 population)
 - ☐ medium city (50,000 to 1 million population)
 - ☐ in a major city or metropolitan area (over 1 million population)

Topic Area 1: AGE1

6. What is your age? _____

Topic Area 4: TRAFFIC5

7. Overall, compared to what you expected, how much traffic congestion did you experience during your visit to this location within Yellowstone National Park?
- ☐ I didn't know what to expect
 - ☐ Less traffic congestion than I expected
 - ☐ About the same as I expected
 - ☐ More traffic congestion than I expected

Topic Area 4: TRAFFIC8

8. Where did you park at this location within Yellowstone National Park?
- ☐ Parking lot
 - ☐ On side of the road
 - ☐ In a pull-out further away and walked

Topic Area 4: TRAFFIC9

9. Approximately how much time did you spend in waiting in traffic to park at this location within Yellowstone National Park?
- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ I have not been delayed. | ☐ 21-30 minutes |
| ☐ Less than 5 minutes | ☐ 31-44 minutes |
| ☐ 5-10 minutes | ☐ 45-60 minutes |
| ☐ 11-20 minutes | ☐ More than 1 hour |

Topic Area 4: PARKING18 (Variation: Added site-specific response options and modified wording to focus on parking areas instead of entrance stations.)

10. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about potential actions when parking lots in this location within Yellowstone National Park are full? (Check one box for each item.)

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither	Agree	Strongly Agree
When parking lots in Yellowstone National Park are full people should be...					
...allowed to enter Yellowstone National Park and drive around until a parking space opens up.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
...stopped at the entrance station until some parking spaces open up and only then allowed to enter.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
...directed to park at the lot near the entrance station and ride a shuttle bus into Yellowstone National Park.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither	Agree	Strongly Agree
<i>When parking lots in Yellowstone National Park are full people should be...</i>					
...directed to a park-and-ride lot outside of Yellowstone National Park and ride a shuttle bus into this park.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
...directed to other recreation areas instead of visiting Yellowstone National Park that day.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Topic Area 3: FVIS13

11. If you were to visit Yellowstone National Park in the future, if a transit (bus) service existed, with service to the park's major destinations, how likely would it be that you would use such a service? *(check only one)*

Not at all Likely	Slightly likely	Moderately Likely	Very Likely	Extremely Likely	Undecided
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

If you answered "Not at all likely" or "Slightly likely", why might you not be interested in using it?

Topic Area 8: MGMTOPT13 (Variation: Added NPS site specific response options and modified question wording to specify "at this location.")

12. Please indicate the extent to which you would support or oppose each of the following potential management actions **at this location** within Yellowstone National Park.

	Strongly Oppose	Oppose	Neither Support Nor Oppose	Support	Strongly Support	Don't Know/ Not Sure
<u>Lottery for Private Vehicle Permits:</u> - Apply for a trip date of your choice for a visit to <i>this area of the park</i> - Applicants would be selected at random for those days when applications exceeded the limit. <i>Those not able to obtain a permit could not visit this area at their desired time.</i>	1	2	3	4	5	DK
<u>Lottery for Private Vehicle Permits (with shuttle option):</u> Same as the previous option, except <i>anyone could still access the area via a free shuttle.</i>	1	2	3	4	5	DK
<u>Advanced Reservations for Private Vehicle Permits:</u> - Attempt to purchase a permit online (from a limited number available) prior to your trip to visit <i>this area of the park</i> during the summer season. <i>Those not able to obtain a reservation could not visit this area at their desired time.</i>	1	2	3	4	5	DK
<u>Advanced Reservations for Private Vehicle Permits (with shuttle option):</u> Same as the previous option, except <i>anyone could still access this area via a free shuttle.</i>	1	2	3	4	5	DK
<u>First-come, First-served for Private Vehicles:</u> - Attempt access to <i>this area of the park</i> on a first-come, first served basis. <i>Those not able to obtain a parking spot could not visit this area at their desired time.</i>	1	2	3	4	5	DK
<u>First-come, First-served for Private Vehicles (with shuttle option):</u> Same as the previous option, except <i>anyone could still access this area via a free shuttle.</i>	1	2	3	4	5	DK

Topic Area 4: TRANSERV5

13. In your opinion, at what point is the wait time for a shuttle bus no longer acceptable?

_____ Number of minutes *OR* _____ The wait time doesn't matter to me

Topic Area 4: TRANSERV18

14. How important are the following regarding any future shuttle systems in Yellowstone National Park? Please select one response for each characteristic.

	Not at all important	Slightly important	Moderately important	Very important	Extremely important
Information on where to board shuttle	1	2	3	4	5
Clear signage and directions to shuttle parking area	1	2	3	4	5
Clear route information displayed on each shuttle	1	2	3	4	5
Easy, convenient parking for shuttle	1	2	3	4	5
Frequency of shuttle service	1	2	3	4	5
Increased hours of shuttle operation	1	2	3	4	5
Comfort, not crowded	1	2	3	4	5
Space for personal items (i.e., gear, strollers, coolers)	1	2	3	4	5
Knowing amount of reduced air pollution from not driving in Yellowstone National Park	1	2	3	4	5
Increased wait times for parking in Yellowstone National Park	1	2	3	4	5
Knowing you are reducing traffic congestion in Yellowstone National Park	1	2	3	4	5
On-board orientation by employee	1	2	3	4	5
Ability to access trailheads	1	2	3	4	5

Topic Area 5: EXP2

15. What about this area of Yellowstone National Park added to your expected experience?

Topic Area 5: EXP3

16. What about this area of Yellowstone National Park detracted from your expected experience?

Interviewer script:

Thank you for your time.