



RECAP
Recreation
Capacity
Platform™

NEXT GENERATION DECISION TOOLS FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

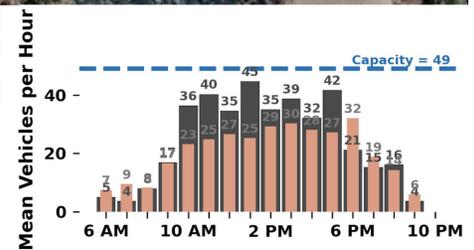
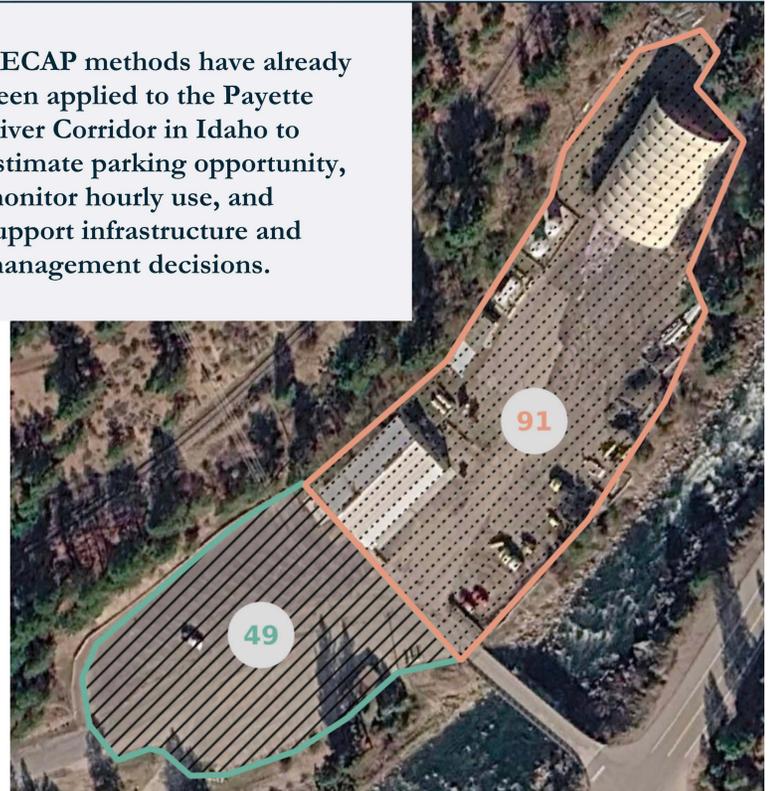
A sponsored research opportunity with the Institute of Outdoor Recreation and Tourism at Utah State University

Outdoor recreation demand is rising across the American West and beyond. Public land agencies, destination communities, and industry partners face growing pressure to manage congestion, protect visitor experiences, reduce conflict, and make smarter infrastructure investments. Yet most still lack timely, defensible, and scalable tools to understand when, where, and why capacity challenges emerge.

The RECAP: Recreation Capacity Platform within the Institute of Outdoor Recreation and Tourism at Utah State University is designed to meet that need. RECAP advances applied research at the intersection of visitor use management, spatial analytics, computer vision, and decision support. Its goal is straightforward: help partners move beyond anecdotal crowding concerns toward credible, actionable intelligence for managing high-demand recreation settings.

Recent gifts to Utah State now provide four years of support for a dedicated Ph.D. student focused on this work. **That core investment creates a strong opportunity for philanthropic, nonprofit, and industry partners to expand the platform through matching support for field research, pilot projects, data systems, and applied tool development.**

RECAP methods have already been applied to the Payette River Corridor in Idaho to estimate parking opportunity, monitor hourly use, and support infrastructure and management decisions.



WHAT WE'RE BUILDING

We are creating an applied research and analytics platform capable of supporting:

- parking and access capacity estimation
- visitor volume and temporal use pattern monitoring
- congestion and density indicators across sites and corridors
- threshold development for management action
- capacity dashboards and decision-support tools
- scenario testing for interventions such as parking redesign, shuttle systems, information strategies, and access management



Institute of Outdoor Recreation & Tourism
UtahStateUniversity.



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INVESTMENT LEVELS

Founding Partner

\$100,000+

Supports platform-wide growth over multiple years. Funding may support field deployments, graduate research expansion, pilot studies, stakeholder workshops, applied reporting, and prototype dashboard development. Founding Partners will be recognized as early investors in a nationally relevant research platform.

Research Partner

\$50,000–\$99,999

Supports a major workstream or pilot application tied to a sponsor-relevant geography, corridor, recreation system, or management challenge. May include tailored briefings, applied reporting, and participation in sponsor roundtables shaping research translation and use.

Applied Innovation Partner

\$15,000–\$49,999

Supports targeted needs such as field data collection, equipment, hourly research support, technical translation, stakeholder engagement, or specific analytic tasks that expand the reach and practical value of the platform.

Because recent gifts to USU cover faculty time and graduate student support, external investment is especially valuable in funding the research activities that make the work visible, scalable, and useful. Sponsor support may be directed toward:

- field data collection and pilot deployments
- additional student or hourly research assistance
- equipment, imagery, software, and computing costs
- prototype tools and dashboard development
- sponsor-relevant analyses and reporting
- stakeholder workshops and applied dissemination

Why USU and IORT?

The Institute of Outdoor Recreation and Tourism brings nationally recognized expertise in outdoor recreation, tourism, visitor use management, and applied social science. The platform also builds on strengths in geospatial analytics, AI-enabled monitoring, and computer vision. IORT's land-grant mission ensures this work is designed not just for publication, but for practical use by agencies, communities, and industry partners.

This is not speculative work. It builds on methods already being tested in active management settings and is designed to deliver sponsor-relevant outcomes.

AN INVITATION TO BUILD WITH US

We welcome conversations with foundations, nonprofits, public-sector partners, and industry organizations interested in becoming early supporters of this work.



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A core endowment secures PhD-level talent. Sponsor investment turns that talent into field-ready research, actionable tools, and measurable impact



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