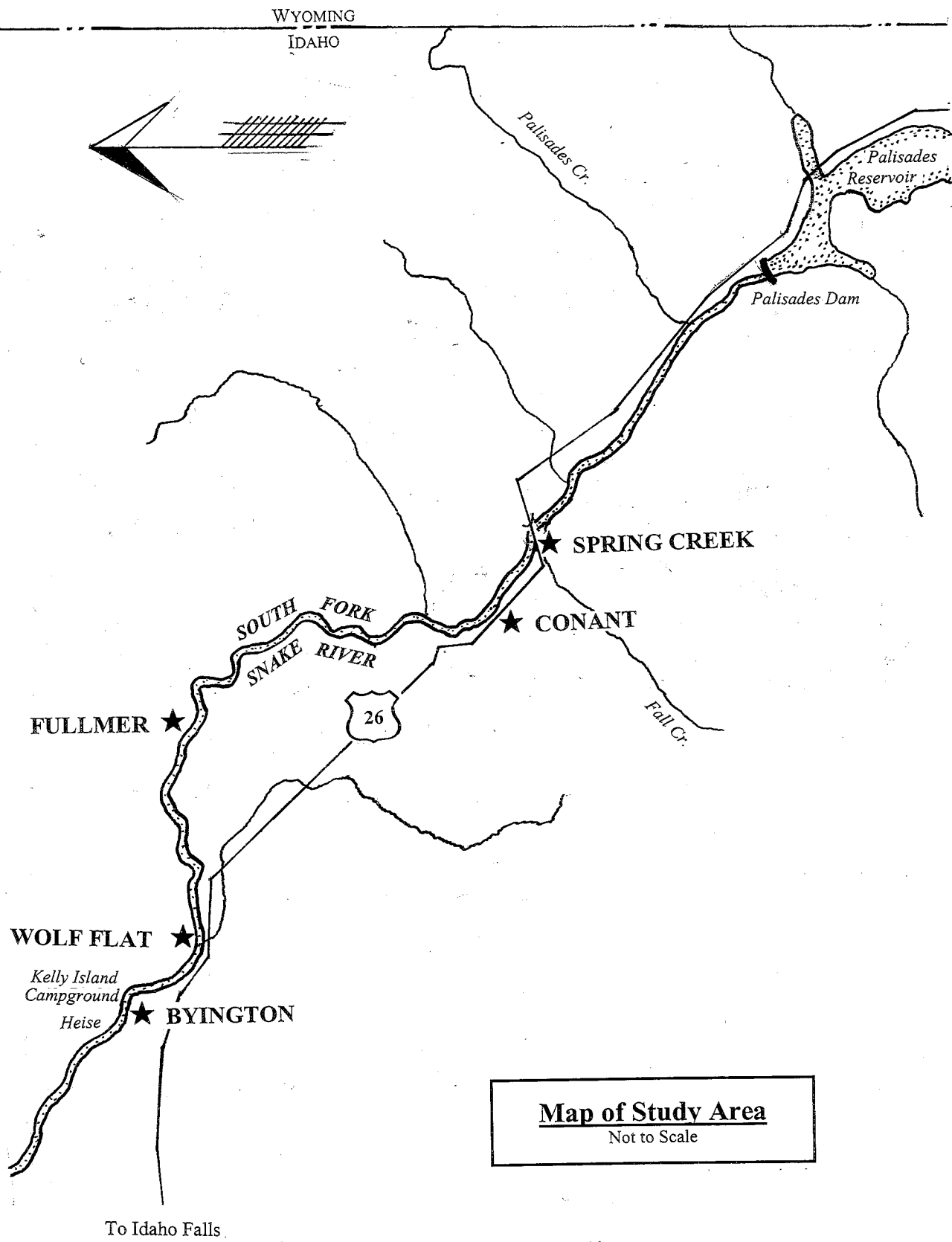


**A Summary Report:
2001 South Fork of the Snake River
Boaters and Campers Visitor Survey**



**Utah State University
Institute for Outdoor Recreation and Tourism**

PROFESSIONAL REPORT IORT-PR-2002-3



A Summary Report: 2001 South Fork of the Snake River Boaters and Campers Visitor Survey

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U.S. Department of the Interior
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PREFACE

The purpose of this study was to conduct a visitor study of boaters and campers recreating along a 39 mile stretch of the South Fork of the Snake River in southeast Idaho. Recreation along the South Fork is administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Idaho Falls Field Office. In order to provide BLM river corridor managers with river-use data, researchers at Utah State University (USU) conducted a survey of boaters and campers during the summer of 2001 at five takeouts on the river. The objectives of this research were to gain insights into visitor's demographic characteristics, recreational use patterns and characteristics, river trip satisfaction and conflicts, attitudes toward use limits, potential alternative destinations, attitudes toward development along the river, and comments and recommendations regarding management rules and policy. The following report summarizes the results of the study.

The report is divided into nine sections with supporting documentation in the appendices. The first section, Introduction, contains background information relevant to understanding the results presented thereafter. It describes study objectives along with the physical characteristics of the study area, management objectives, and a brief comparison of a previous study conducted in 1991.

The next section, Methods, describes the survey and sampling method. The third section, Survey Response and User Characteristics, reports the survey response rate as well as the results from the demographic questions. It also reports on group size, past experience recreating on the river, and frequency of boating and camping along the South Fork. The River Use Characteristics section contains behavioral results such as weekend vs. weekday use patterns, types of watercraft operated by the respondents, activities engaged in by the boaters, length of stay, and the parking lots' capacity patterns.

The fifth section presents results from questions asking about the overall satisfaction with the river trip or camping area, number of other people seen, respondents' attitudes toward limiting use, and where the respondents would go if they were unable to use the river due to use limits. Attitudes Toward Problems and Development Along the River, the sixth section, reports on the extent of any problems that interfered with the users recreation experience as well as their attitudes toward nontraditional recreation activities and development patterns in the river corridor. It also contains the results of the

question asked of the campers about preferred type of campground development.

The next section, Attitudes Toward Management Rules and Policy, summarizes the results from a series of questions asking about management rules and objectives. Visitor Comments and Recommendations, section eight, summarizes several open-ended questions and comments the respondents offered after the survey was completed. The last section, Conclusions and Recommendations, presents some of the authors' interpretation of the results and recommendations for future management and research. Appendix A contains a copy of the survey instruments. Appendices B and C contain the complete text of all the respondents' open-ended comments and management recommendations.

The authors wish to thank the U.S. Department of Interior, BLM Idaho Falls District for providing the support and funding for this project. We would also like to acknowledge the Institute for Outdoor Recreation and Tourism at Utah State University for providing the support facilities and computers for data entry and analysis. Finally, we would like to thank the river's management personnel, campground hosts, and field research technicians, John Briem, Matthew Blahna, and Mert Redmond along with the social science research technicians at USU whose dedication to collecting, recording, and presenting accurate and useful information made this research possible.

I. INTRODUCTION

This report presents results of a visitor study on a 39 mile stretch of the South Fork of the Snake River in southern Idaho. The data was gathered from two sources; river boaters and overnight river campers. The information was gathered from a random sample of the two recreational groups during the 2001 summer use season. Specific objectives of the study were identified as: 1) identify the recreation experiences and opportunities desired by visitors to the South Fork; 2) explore visitors' attitudes toward crowding, safety, sensitive species, commercial river recreation, low impact camping, and river use limits; 3) develop recommendations beneficial for the resource management planning process; 4) determine management and facilities improvement priorities; and 5) identify potential sources of conflicts among different user groups.

Characteristics of Study Area

The study site was the portion of the South Fork of the Snake River between Palisades Dam and Byington boat launch, approximately 39 river miles. The South Fork is located in southeastern Idaho and flows from Palisades Reservoir to the confluence of Henry's Fork of the Snake River which is located near Rigby, Idaho, approximately 60 river miles. It is a broad, relatively calm section that is considered a blue ribbon cutthroat fishery and attracts local, national, and international fishers. The South Fork's headwaters originate in Idaho, Wyoming, and Montana with numerous small creeks and streams contributing to its flow below Palisades Dam.

The river corridor contains bald eagle nesting territories and provides conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of a threatened plant species, the Ute Ladies Tresses Orchid. Nearly 126 species of birds have been identified in the drainage with many species wintering over. There are also about 35 small river islands designated as Wilderness Study Areas (WSA). Mature cottonwood stands, some of the largest remaining in the western United States, are abundant in the South Fork's river corridor. Mammals, such as mink, moose, and deer, also make their home here. The river fishery is managed by natural reproduction with no stocking which allows populations of whitefish, cutthroat, rainbow, and brown trout to interact and hybridize.

The South Fork provides a variety of opportunities for recreation. Hiking, camping, ATV riding, wildlife and bird watching, and fishing are some of those, but fishing is the major draw. Although the river flow is mostly flat water, boating the river is not without risks. The river water is diverted for irrigation purposes in a number of places. For example, at the Great Feeder Diversion Dam below Byington nearly half of the river is channeled into a major irrigation canal. It can be extremely dangerous if a boater fails to navigate away from the diversion's current and is drawn into a hazardous spillway. There are several river access points located off Idaho State Highway 26. The river corridor is popular with both locals and non-local visitors and there has been an increase in the number of users per year over the last decade.

In 1996, a fee demonstration program was implemented in an attempt to recover some of the costs of recreation management. The program was implemented at 11 sites along the South Fork and consisted, mainly, of facility improvements such as parking areas, fee collection stations, picnic sites, potable water, toilets, boat take-outs and launch ramps, site host employment, and facility maintenance. The current cost of a day pass is \$3.00, a season pass is \$35.00, and there is a \$5.00 fee for a river overnight camping permit.

Sample research locations. In order to survey boaters and river campers using the 39 mile stretch of the South Fork, five take-out location were identified. Spring Creek, Conant, and Byington are located on the south side of the river while Wolf Flat and Fullmer are on the north bank. The north side take-outs are accessed from a gravel road originating near Kelly Campground (see map inside front cover).

The Spring Creek boat launch and takeout area is an improved fee demonstration site with amenities such as paved parking, fee boxes, and toilets. It is accessed from Highway 26 at the Swan Valley bridge, 12 river miles below the Palisades Dam spillway.

Conant is an developed fee demo site with paved parking, concrete boat ramp, separate raft launches/takeouts, fee boxes, potable water, visitor center, flush toilets, and trash receptacles. It is also accessed from Highway 26, two river miles below Spring Creek. There are also private businesses nearby including a lodge, fly shop, and convenience store.

Byington is also a developed fee demo site with paved parking, concrete boat ramps, potable

water, picnic tables, toilets, handicapped fishing dock, trash receptacles, and a human waste disposal area for campers. A site host, employed by the BLM, lives on the grounds during the summer season. It is located about 39 river miles below Palisades Dam and is about two miles from Highway 26.

Wolf Flat is a non-fee site with a gravel boat ramp and very limited parking. It is located about four river miles above Byington. It is accessed by way of a dirt road on the north bank of the river, east of Kelly Campground. Fullmer is about seven miles up river from Wolf Flat, is accessible by the same dirt road, and is a fee demo site with fee boxes, concrete boat ramp, and toilets.

Management Objectives of the Study Area

The general management objectives for the upper Snake River corridor applies to the entire planning area, which includes South Fork from Palisades Dam to the confluence of Henry's Fork, Henry's fork from the confluence to St. Anthony, and the main stem from the confluence south to Market Lake Canal. The area covered by this planning area includes: 15,000 acres managed by the BLM; 5,600 acres managed by United States Forest Service (USFS); and about 1,000 acres managed by the Bureau of Reclamation and Army Corps of Engineers. There are also about 800 acres managed by the State of Idaho and 20,500 acres in private ownership (BLM and USFS 1991). The five general management objectives are: "1) Maintain, restore, and improve riparian areas as healthy and productive plant communities; 2) Maintain the rivers' scenic values, particularly in the South Fork Canyon from Conant Valley to Heise; 3) Maintain or enhance critical nesting, foraging, and wintering areas for bald eagles, maintain big game winter range, and improve unsatisfactory big game management. Maintain heron rookeries and improve goose nesting opportunities; 4) Maintain the full range of multiple uses allowed and established in the Medicine Lodge RMP and Targhee LMP; and 5) USFS will manage domestic livestock grazing according to existing allotment management plans and BLM will manage grazing in support of wildlife, riparian, and recreation:" (BLM and USFS 1991).

The primary management objective for the South Fork is to maintain the river's scenic values within the South Fork Canyon stretch (Conant to Byington), while at the same time maintaining the full range of multiple uses established in previous management plans. Another objective is to maintain, restore, and improve riparian areas as healthy and productive plant communities. Of particular concern is to

protect the Ute Ladies Tresses Orchid habitat (a threatened species) while at the same time allowing camping to occur in these areas. This has become a difficult balancing act because the orchid grows in disturbed areas along the South Fork, but those areas are also some of the most popular camping areas in the canyon. The BLM is also focusing a great deal of effort in public education efforts such as informing the public about resource regulations and policy as well as sanitation ethics and low impact camping techniques.

Comparisons with Previous Study

In 1991, a river visitor survey was conducted on the South and Henry's forks of the Snake River by the Institute for Human Ecology and funded by the BLM and Idaho Department of Fish and Game (Pratt 1991). Information was gathered by way of intercept, mail-back, and telephone surveys. Due to the differences in sampling methodologies, time frame, and study areas employed by the 1991 and 2001 studies, direct comparisons are not possible. However, there are some interesting contrasts and similarities when examining both study's general results. The 1991 study did not sample a subgroup of overnight campers, so the following discussion focuses on boaters interviewed in 2001 and those surveyed by intercept and mail methods in 1991.

In both studies, males were the predominant users with about 79% in 1991 and 77% in 2001. About 75% were between the ages of 20-49 in 1991 and 59% in 2001. In 1991, 86% of the users were residents of Idaho and there were visitors from 16 other states. In contrast, the 2001 results show that 59% were Idahoans and a total of 40 states were represented by the respondents. It should be noted that the 1991 report stated that out-of-state visitors were more likely to be found on the South Fork than on Henry's Fork.

The 1991 study found that about 75% of visitors participated in fishing whereas in 2001, about 86% indicated they fished from a boat and 48% fished from shore. In 1991, about 64% indicated their most important activity was fishing with approximately equal numbers saying fishing from a boat and fishing from shore. By contrast, in 2001 70% indicated fishing from a boat and about 6% fishing from shore as their primary activity. However, when examining only the summer season results from 1991, it would appear that there has not been much change over ten years with 70% indicating they fished from

a boat and 52% fished from shore in 1991.

When examining the data from questions asking about how many other boaters were seen, there would appear to be an increase in the number of seen over the ten year period between the two studies. In 1991, the average number seen was reported as 21 compared to 40 in 2001. Again, comparisons may be misleading because the average reported in 1991 was over a one year period whereas in 2001, data was gathered only during the summer, the peak boating season. Also, the 1991 average is the maximum number seen at any one time whereas the 2001 average is the number seen during the entire river trip.

Although both studies used different questions to determine the degree of crowding respondents felt, some interesting contrasts arise. In 1991, the survey question was phrased as: "How would you characterized the condition at that point ('point' being where they saw the most people that day)? Would you say it was very crowded, somewhat crowded, neither crowded nor uncrowded, or uncrowded." For those who indicated very crowded (6%), the mean number seen was 103, somewhat crowded (20%, mean = 38), neither crowded nor uncrowded (18%, mean = 23), and uncrowded (56%, mean = 12). In 2001, the question was phrased differently asking: "Which of the following best describes your feelings about the number of people you saw" (the previous question asked respondents to estimate the number of people they had seen on the trip). Of those who said far too many people seen (9.6%), the mean number seen was 64 and the median 50, somewhat too many (28.1%, mean = 42, median = 40), about the right amount (59.0%, mean = 31, median = 25), somewhat too few (2.8%, mean = 23, median = 150), and far too few (0.4%, mean = 20, median = 20).

It is also interesting to note that about 74% indicated not crowded or neither crowded nor uncrowded in 1991 and about 62% said they saw about the right amount or too few in 2001. Again, caution should be exercised in any comparison of these results because in 1991 the crowding question referred to the location where they had seen the most people and the 2001 question referred to the number seen on the entire trip. However it would appear that a majority of the respondents did not feel crowded in the most congested areas in 1991 and a majority saw about the right number or too few people on their river trips in 2001.

When asked about certain types of development activities along the river corridor, 70% opposed

or strongly opposed lining the river with rip-rap in 1991 and about 24% opposed or strongly opposed in 2001. In 1991, 78% strongly opposed residential development along the river and 79% strongly opposed resorts. In 2001, about 42% strongly opposed residential housing and 34% strongly opposed general developments along the river. The 1991 percentages are for the entire study area for the entire year and that question was asked on the mail-back survey (n = 146). Data for the summer users along the South Fork was not presented in the 1991 report for a more accurate comparison with the 2001 results.

II. METHODS

To assess visitors' attitudes toward boating and camping recreation on the South Fork of the Snake River, a survey was developed and implemented during the 2001 summer season. Two questionnaires were designed by Utah State University (USU) social scientists and BLM Upper Snake River District staff. One version focused on boating issues and the other on camping. The surveys were four pages long and contained about 85 questions (Appendix A). The data were analyzed using SPSS statistical software on computers at USU.

Sampling design. The field survey research was conducted with a systematic random sampling method. Two roving researchers administered the intercept survey at five takeouts on the South Fork: 1) Byington; 2) Conant; 3) Spring Creek; 4) Wolf Flat; and 5) Fullmer. The sampling period was June 15 to September 9, 2001 during which there were 46 sampling days for each technician. Each technician worked independently and collected surveys at the different locations for a total of 92 sample days. The technicians surveyed boaters and campers on a six hour shift per day and used a rotating time schedule with a morning to afternoon shift (10 am to 4 pm) half the days and an afternoon to evening shift (2 pm to 8 pm) for the other half. For August and September, the afternoon to evening sampling period moved backward one hour (1 pm to 7 pm) to accommodate the change in daylight. On the days the technicians' were assigned to sample at the undeveloped takeouts on the north side of the river, the time period was evenly split between the Wolf Flat and Fullmer takeouts during the six-hour day. Those two takeouts were analyzed as a single location and is referred to as the "North Side" in the report. Sampling dates were:

- ◆ June 15-18, 21-24, 27-30;
- ◆ July 1, 3-12, 15-18, 21-24, 27-30
- ◆ August 1-11, 20-24, 26-30
- ◆ September 1-5, 7-9.

The intercept surveys were self administered. In order to avoid possible selection bias, all adult boaters (about 16 years or older) coming off the river were asked to fill out a survey. Boaters were approached as they were coming off the river and tying off their boats. The research technicians

identified themselves as a student at Utah State University and asked the contacts if they would take ten minutes to fill out a survey. Some respondents filled out the survey immediately after coming off the river while others would wait until the boats were loaded on the trailers and the gear stowed. This flexibility ensured the surveys were conducted without interfering with the ramp traffic flows. On most days, all boaters taking out at the ramps were approached whereas on very crowded days, all boaters could not be personally contacted. If the party drove away before they could be approached, the researcher made note of the number of missed survey opportunities. On this research project, the technicians noted that none of the parties coming off the river drove away before the technician had an opportunity to contact them. In some cases, boaters refused to participate and that was noted as a “refusal” in their daily logs. In other cases, the respondent indicated that they had completed a survey previously and was noted as a “repeat” in their logs. For a summary of the sampling results, see the next section.

Besides sampling boaters, the research was designed to also obtain information about those camping at designated campsites on the river accessible by boats. Most of those sites are located on the stretch between Conant and Byington takeouts. If the party had camped on the river, every other member of the party was asked to fill out the version of the questionnaire that contained questions about the camping experience. The other members of the party were asked to fill out the regular survey. Thus, we were able to obtain data regarding the camper sub-sample.

Questionnaires. There were two survey versions: one for boaters and one for campers (Appendix A). The instruments contained about 85 questions on four pages. The field technician was responsible for filling out the section on general information which included date, day of the week, time, takeout location, gender, age, and how crowded the parking lot appeared. The rest of the questions assessed the user’s characteristics and attitudes toward South Fork river management, other visitors, and regulations. The questions were developed to assess the following: 1) demographic and visitor characteristics, 2) river and campsite use, 3) perception of river recreation satisfaction, conflicts, crowding, and displacement, 4) problems encountered on the river trip and attitudes toward development along the river, 5) attitudes about management rules and policy, and 6) open-ended comments and recommendations. The open-ended questions gave respondents the opportunity to address personal ideas and concerns about river management along the South Fork.

Of the 1,214 respondents who filled out the surveys, 101 (8.3%) were campers. When adjusting for the sampling process, referred to above, where every other member of an overnight camping party was asked to fill out the camper survey version, it would appear that 202 (16.6%) of the 1,214 respondents camped while on the river and 1,012 (83.4%) did not spend overnight on the river. However, because of an uncertain variance in the actual ratio of boaters to campers surveyed (it was left to the field technicians to make the judgement whether or not to administer the camper survey based on visual clues, such as obvious presence of camping equipment stowed in the boat), results comparing boaters and campers is not weighted or adjusted.

In the following sections, descriptive statistics are presented for all survey questions. The summary tables present results from both boaters and campers and the tables containing boater response data are organized into the four takeout locations: Byington, Conant, Spring Creek, and North Side.

III. SURVEY RESPONSE AND USER CHARACTERISTICS

This section reports results related to survey response rates along with visitor demographics including gender, age, and residence. It also contains results regarding group size, makeup of camper group, and previous experience with boating or camping on the South Fork.

Intercept survey response. A total of 2,033 visitors were contacted (1,882 boaters and 151 campers) with 442 (417 boaters and 25 campers) indicating that they had previously filled out a survey form. Of the non-repeat contacts (1,591), 1214 completed a survey for an overall response rate of 76.3% with 352 of the 1465 boaters (24.0%) and 25 of the 126 campers (19.8%) refusing to fill out a survey (Table III.1). More than a third of the respondents who completed a survey were encountered at a later time during the sampling season ("repeats"). Only 101 (8.3%) completed a camper survey. However, when adjusting for the camper sampling strategy of having every other camper fill out a camper survey and the other half fill out a boater survey, about 16.6% of the respondents were probably camping at one of the river campsites.

Table III.2 and III.3 summarizes the sampling results by weekday periods. As mentioned in the previous chapter, the field technicians logged in a total of 92 six hour sampling days during the sampling period. Each technician sampled for 46 days. Twenty-three of those sampling days were at Byington and Conant, 25 at Spring Creek, and 21 at the undeveloped takeouts on the north bank (Wolf Flat and Fullmer, referred to as the North Side). On the Fourth of July (a Wednesday), one of the field technicians was located at Spring Creek while the other was at Conant. On Labor Day (Monday September 3), only one technician was in the field at Byington. Using the categories described in Tables III.2 and III.3, the sampling locations were: Byington, 11 weekdays and 12 weekends/holiday; Conant, 11 weekdays and 12 weekends/holiday; Spring Creek, 13 weekdays and 12 weekends/holidays; and North Side, 11 weekdays and 10 weekends. Thus sampling was relatively evenly distributed but compared to the other sites, there were two extra days at Spring Creek and two fewer weekend days at the North Side takeouts.

Table III.1: Sampling summary and response rate.

	n (%)
Contacts ¹	2033
Repeats	442 (36.4%)
Non-repeat contacts	1591
Refusals	377
Completed surveys	1214
Response rate	76.3%
Boater survey	1113 (91.7%)
Camper survey	101 (8.3%)

¹ Includes completed surveys, those who previously completed a survey (repeats), and refusals.

Table III.2: Boater sample size by day and takeout location.

	Byington	Conant	Spring Creek	Wolf Flat	Fullmer	Total
Weekdays ¹	51.3% (173)	41.6% (132)	46.9% (191)	38.1% (8)	51.6% (16)	46.7% (520)
Weekends ²	48.7% (164)	58.4% (185)	53.1% (216)	61.9% (13)	48.4% (15)	53.3% (593)

¹ Weekdays include Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, with the exception of Wednesday the 4th of July and Monday the 3rd of September, Labor Day.

² Weekends include Friday, Saturday, and Sunday with the addition of Wednesday the 4th of July and Monday the 3rd of September, Labor Day.

When comparing the completed boater survey results for all locations (Table III.2), the weekend/holiday visitation amount is only slightly larger than during the workweek. At Byington and Fullmer, the technicians encountered a slightly greater number of boaters during the weekdays. These

findings contrast with the campers. More than three times (77) the number of campers take out on the weekends/holidays than during the work week (Table III.3). It should be noted that 97 of the 101 campers surveyed (96.0%) were contacted at Byington. Therefore, subsequent tables showing results from the camper survey will not be categorized by the different takeout locations.

Table III.3: Camper sample size by day and takeout location.

	Byington	Conant	Spring Creek	Wolf Flat	Fullmer	Total
Weekdays ¹	23.7% (23)	0.0% (0)	100.0% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	23.8% (24)
Weekends ²	76.3% (74)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	100.0% (1)	100.0% (2)	76.2% (77)

¹ Weekdays include Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday with the exception of Wednesday the 4th of July and Monday the 3rd of September, Labor Day.

² Weekends include Friday, Saturday and Sunday with the addition of Wednesday the 4th of July and Monday the 3rd of September, Labor Day.

Gender and age. As shown on Table III.4, a majority of respondents were male. In comparing the boaters and campers, less than one-quarter of the boater respondents are female compared to slightly more than one-third of the campers.

Respondents were also asked to give their age. In addition to calculating the median and means, seven age group categories were created: 15 to 20 years; 21 to 30; 31 to 40; 41 to 50; 51 to 60; 61 to 70; and those over the age of 70. Respondents' ages ranged from 15 to 95.

The mean age of the boaters (42.0) is only slightly higher than the campers (40.5) (Table III.4). Campers tend to be slightly younger than the boaters with 26.5% of the campers under 31 compared to 20.8% of the boaters. There is also a slight difference in older river users with 8.6% of the boaters over the age of 60 compared to 5.1% of the campers. The age category of 31 to 40 is the modal category for both groups.

Table III.4: Respondents' gender and age.

		Boaters		Campers	
		n	%	n	%
Gender	Male	847	76.7	66	66.0
	Female	258	23.3	34	34.0
Age	Median	43.5	-----	40.0	-----
	Mean	42.0	-----	40.5	-----
	15 - 20	53	4.8	5	5.1
	21 - 30	178	16.3	21	21.4
	31 - 40	303	27.7	34	34.7
	41 - 50	237	21.7	24	24.5
	51 - 60	227	20.7	9	9.2
	61 - 70	74	6.6	4	4.1
	> 70	22	2.0	1	1.0

State residence. All but four of the respondents are residents of the United States and each of those completed a boater survey (one was from Russia, one from Mexico, one from Chile, and one from Belize). A majority of the boaters (58.5%) are Idaho residents and slightly less than half of the campers (49.5%) are from Idaho (Table III.5). Utah residents are the next highest percentage of visitors accounting for 10.6% of the boaters and 22.8% of the campers followed by Wyoming (6.3% of the boaters and 11.9% of the campers). A further discussion of visitors' residences is contained in Chapter IV.

Table III.5: State and country residence of respondents.¹

	Boaters		Campers	
	n	%	n	%
United States	1106	99.6	101	100.0
Other Countries	4	0.4	0	0.0
Idaho	647	58.5	50	49.5
Utah	117	10.6	23	22.8
Wyoming	70	6.3	12	11.9
California	50	4.5	0	0.0
Colorado	26	2.4	0	0.0
Other Western States ²	66	6.0	7	6.9
Other States ³	130	11.8	9	8.9

¹ State percentages are those respondents whose residence is in the US.

² The other western states include New Mexico, Oregon, Montana, Alaska, Nevada, Washington, and Arizona.

³ Respondents are from 40 of the 50 states. The ten states not represented are Indiana, North Dakota, Mississippi, Vermont, New Hampshire, Kentucky, Louisiana, Hawaii, Oklahoma, and Maine.

Group size, camper group makeup, and commercial groups. Tables III.6 and III.7 shows results from the question asking how many people in respondents' party. The average group sizes for both the boaters and the campers were around three. The lowest average were the boaters taking-out at the undeveloped North Side ramps (2.6). Almost 15% of the campers were in groups larger than 10 people compared to the boaters where about 5% indicated their groups were greater than 10. More than 10% of the Spring Creek boaters indicated their group size was larger than 10.

Table III.6: Number of people per group per location (boaters).

Response Category ¹	Byington ²	Conant ²	Spring Creek ²	North Side ²	All Locations ²
Average ³	2.8	2.7	3.0	2.6	2.9
1	2.7% (9)	2.8% (9)	2.0% (8)	1.9% (1)	2.4% (27)
2	28.2% (95)	30.9% (98)	25.3% (103)	32.7% (17)	28.1% (313)
3 to 6	56.4% (190)	59.6% (189)	56.5% (230)	65.4% (34)	57.8% (643)
7 to 10	9.2% (31)	5.7% (18)	5.9% (24)	0.0% (0)	6.6% (73)
11 to 20	3.0% (10)	0.3% (1)	4.7% (19)	0.0% (0)	2.7% (30)
More than 20	0.6% (2)	0.6% (2)	5.7% (23)	0.0% (0)	2.4% (27)

¹ The groups ranged in size from 1 to 35.

² Response frequencies (*n*) are shown in parentheses under the percentage.

³ Median group sizes for Byington = 3, Conant = 3, Spring Creek = 3, and North Side = 3.

Table III.7: Number of people per group (campers).

Response Category ¹	n	%
Average ²	3.1	-----
1	1	1.0
2	36	35.6
3 to 6	35	34.7
7 to 10	14	13.9
11 to 20	15	14.9

¹ The groups ranged in size from 1 to 17.

² Median group size = 3.

On the camper survey, a question was asked about the makeup of the group. As shown on Table

III.8, 64.4% indicated they were with their family or that their group comprised both family and friends. Only one person indicated that their group was a club or organization and only two classified themselves as individuals.

Table III.8: Makeup of camper groups.

	n	%
Individual	2	2.0
Family	40	39.6
Friends	33	32.7
Family and friends	25	24.8
Club or organization	1	1.0

The survey also contained a question asking whether the respondents hired a commercial outfitter or guide for their trip. Only six (5.9%) of the campers indicated they had hired an outfitter or guide and 140 (12.6%) of the boaters were on a commercially guided trip.

Recreation experience on the river. The questionnaires contained a series of questions designed to identify year respondents first visited the river and, for repeat visitors, the frequency of visits during a “typical” year. Results are shown in Tables III.9 through III.12.

About three-quarters (75.6%) of the boaters indicated they had boated on the South Fork previously (Table III.9). First time visitors on the river ranged from 19.6% at Byington to 27.8% at Spring Creek. Of those who indicated that it was not their first boating trip on the river, 24.8% said they first boated the South Fork during the 1980s and 37.9% during the 1990s. About 11% indicated they had first boated at least 32 years ago.

When asked similar questions, 63.0% of the campers indicated they had camped on the river before (Table III.10). The average year the campers had first camped on the river was 1991. Of those who indicated it was not their first South Fork camping trip, 63.3% first camped between 1990 and 1999 and 21.7% during the 1980s. Only 5.0% first camped during the 1960s and none indicated prior to the 1960s.

Table III.9: Experience boating the South Fork of the Snake River (boaters).

		Byington	Conant	Spring Creek	North Side	All Locations
First time on the river	No	80.4% (271)	75.1% (238)	72.2% (294)	73.1% (38)	75.6% (841)
	Yes	19.6% (66)	24.9% (79)	27.8% (113)	26.9% (14)	24.4% (272)
If no, year first boated South Fork	Mean	1983	1986	1989	1983	1986
	Median	1985	1987	1992	1988	1988 ¹
	1936 to 1949	0.8% (2)	1.9% (4)	1.1% (3)	8.3% (3)	1.2% (9)
	1950 to 1959	4.4% (11)	1.9% (4)	1.1% (3)	2.8% (1)	2.8% (21)
	1960 to 1969	11.6% (29)	5.7% (12)	5.0% (13)	2.8% (1)	7.3% (55)
	1970 to 1979	22.0% (55)	14.7% (31)	9.9% (26)	27.8% (10)	16.1% (122)
	1980 to 1989	24.4% (61)	31.3% (66)	20.6% (54)	19.4% (7)	24.8% (188)
	1990 to 1999	29.2% (73)	36.0% (76)	48.9% (128)	27.8% (10)	37.9% (287)
	2000 to 2001	7.6% (19)	8.5% (18)	13.4% (35)	11.1% (4)	10.0% (76)

¹ Mode for all Locations is 2000 (n=56), followed by 1980 (n=49), 1990 (n=46), and 1999 (n=44).

If the respondents indicated that they had visited the river before, they were also asked how many times they either boat or camp on the river in a typical year. For boaters, the average number of trips in a typical year is 13.7 (Table III.11) and the median number of times is six, indicating most boaters have a great deal of experience on the South Fork. It is also interesting to note that 23.2% boat only one or two times. Campers had a lower average (3.6) number trips per year than the boaters (Table III.12).

One respondent indicated that the maximum number of times they go camping in a typical year was 20 and three said 15. More than half (54.4%) of the campers indicated one or two times, 19.6% three or four, and 18.0% five to ten times.

Table III.10: Experience camping on the South Fork of the Snake River (campers).

		n	%
First time camping on the river	No	63	63.0
	Yes	37	37.0
If no, year first camped South Fork	Mean	1991	-----
	Median ¹	1992	-----
	1936 to 1949	0	0.0
	1950 to 1959	0	0.0
	1960 to 1969	3	5.0
	1970 to 1979	2	3.3
	1980 to 1989	13	21.7
	1990 to 1999	38	63.3
	2000 to 2001	4	6.7

¹ Modal year is 1999 (n = 10) followed by 1990 (n = 9), 1998 (n = 8), and 1993 (n = 5).

Table III.11: Boating trips in a typical year (boaters).^{1,2}

	Byington	Conant	Spring Creek	North Side	All Locations
Mean	14.5	13.1	12.9	17.0	13.7
Median	8	6	5	6	6
0	1.9% (5)	3.1% (7)	2.9% (8)	0.0% (0)	2.5% (20)
1	9.6% (25)	11.8% (27)	12.9% (36)	13.5% (5)	11.6% (93)
2	7.3% (19)	15.7% (36)	11.5% (32)	16.2% (6)	11.6% (93)
3 to 4	15.4% (40)	11.4% (26)	15.1% (42)	10.8% (4)	13.9% (112)
5 to 7	15.0% (39)	13.1% (30)	16.2% (45)	10.8% (4)	14.7% (118)
8 to 10	15.4% (40)	11.8% (27)	10.8% (30)	5.4% (2)	12.3% (99)
11 to 15	8.5% (22)	8.3% (19)	10.8% (30)	5.4% (2)	9.1% (73)
17 to 20	6.9% (18)	10.0% (23)	6.5% (18)	2.7% (1)	7.5% (60)
22 to 25	5.4% (14)	3.5% (8)	2.2% (6)	8.1% (3)	3.9% (31)
27 to 30	6.5% (17)	2.6% (6)	4.7% (13)	10.8% (4)	5.0% (40)
35 to 50	3.8% (10)	4.4% (10)	2.9% (8)	13.5% (5)	4.1% (33)
60 to 100	3.5% (9)	3.5% (8)	2.9% (8)	0.0% (0)	3.1% (25)
> 100 ³	0.8% (2)	0.9% (2)	0.7% (2)	2.7% (1)	0.9% (7)

¹ n=804, missing/not applicable cases= 309.

² Response frequencies (*n*) are shown in parentheses under the percentage.

³ Two people indicated they boated on the river 150 times. Another said 200 and one said 300.

Table III.12: Overnight camping trips in a typical year (campers).

	n	%
Mean	3.6	-----
Median	2	-----
0	1	1.6
1	15	24.6
2	18	29.5
3	6	9.8
4	6	9.8
5	8	13.1
6 to 10	3	4.9
> 10 ¹	4	6.6

¹ Three people indicated that they camped on the river 15 times and one person said 20.

IV. RIVER USE CHARACTERISTICS

Data were recorded by the research technician for boaters and campers regarding the time that boats were pulling off the river, day of the week, location, and the capacity of the parking areas when the survey was being filled out. Respondents were asked for the type of boat they were using, how long they were on the river, where they launched, and the type of recreation activities they engaged in during their trip. These data help clarify the use patterns and characteristics of the river recreationists. As described in Section III, the number of boater intercept surveys administered indicates that an almost equal amount of use occurs during weekends and holidays as during weekdays. This contrasts with the camper results that suggest that about three times as much use occurs on weekends.

Watercraft types. Respondents were asked to indicate the type and number of boats in their group. For the boater sample, Table IV.1 summarizes the number of boats by categories arraigned by the different take-out locations. As indicated in the table's footnote, 87.2% had only one boat and the other 13.8% had between two and seventeen boats in their group. Overall, 57.4% were driftboats followed by jetboat/motorboat (17.7%) and rafts (16.3%). The largest proportion of jetboat/motorboat users were at the North Side ramps followed by Byington (26.9%), Conant (21.3%), and Spring Creek (4.7%). More than half the kayak and canoe users and about 47% of the raft users took out at Spring Creek. Half of the jetboat and motorboat users took out at Byington and 32.9% at Conant. Compared to the boater sample, campers are more likely to have more than one boat (33.3%), more likely to use rafts (33.0%), and less likely to use a jetboat or motorboat (11.0%) (Table IV.2).

Visit length. Respondents were asked how many hours (for single day users) or how many days and nights they spent on their river trip. As shown in Table IV.3, 85.6% of the boaters' trips were day use ranging from one to 20 hours (average of 6.2 hours and a median of 6.0 hours). Day users taking out at Byington had the highest average of 7.0 hours. For the multi-day boaters, the average number of days was 2.5 with 1.5 nights. Those taking out at Conant had the highest average of 3.1 days. The average number of days for the campers was 2.2 while the average number of nights was 1.3 (Table IV.4). For the location of the campsites, see Appendix B.

Table IV.1: Type and number of watercraft at the different take-outs (boaters).

Type of Craft ^{1,2}	Byington	Conant	Spring Creek	North Side	All Locations
Driftboat	47.6% (207)	60.4% (218)	63.3% (299)	64.8% (35)	57.4% (759)
Raft	16.3% (71)	12.2% (44)	21.4% (101)	0.0% (0)	16.3% (216)
Kayak/Canoe	4.6% (20)	3.0% (11)	7.6% (36)	0.0% (0)	5.1% (67)
Jetboat/ Motorboat	26.9% (117)	21.3% (77)	4.7% (22)	33.3% (18)	17.7% (234)
Other	4.6% (20)	3.0% (11)	3.0% (14)	1.9% (1)	3.5% (46)
Total	100.0% (435)	100.0% (361)	100.0% (472)	100.0% (54)	100.0% (1322)

¹ Number of boats (*n*) are shown in parentheses under the percentage.

² Of the 1106 respondents who answered this question, 964 (87.2%) had one boat, 66 (6.0%) had two, 36 (3.3%) had three, 10 (0.9%) had four, 11 (1.0%) had five, and 19 (1.7%) had more than five.

Table IV.2: Type and number of watercraft used (campers).

Type of craft ¹	n	%	Number of craft ²
Driftboat	69	69.0	86 (50.9%)
Raft	33	33.0	51 (30.2%)
Kayak/Canoe	6	6.0	10 (5.9%)
Jetboat/Motorboat	11	11.0	20 (11.8%)
Other	2	2.0	2 (1.2%)

¹ Of the 100 respondents who answered this question, 67 had one boat, 12 had two, 10 had three, 8 had four, 2 had five, and 1 had six.

² Number of boats = 169.

Table IV.3: Length of time on the river (boaters).

		Byington	Conant	Spring Creek	North Side	All Locations
Hours ¹	Mean	7.0	6.0	5.8	6.2	6.2
	Median	7.0	6.0	6.0	7.0	6.0
Days ²	n (%)	103 (64.8%)	28 (17.6%)	22 (13.8%)	6 (3.8%)	159 (100.0%)
	Mean	2.3	3.1	2.7	2.3	2.5
	Median	2.0	2.5	2.0	2.0	2.0
	2	75 (72.8%)	14 (50.0%)	14 (63.6%)	4 (66.7%)	107 (67.2%)
	3	24 (23.3%)	6 (21.4%)	5 (22.7%)	2 (33.3%)	37 (23.3%)
	4	4 (3.9%)	2 (7.1%)	1 (4.5%)	0 (0.0%)	7 (4.4%)
	5	0 (0.0%)	4 (14.3%)	1 (4.5%)	0 (0.0%)	5 (3.1%)
	> 5	0 (0.0%)	2 (7.1%)	1 (4.5%)	0 (0.0%)	3 (1.9%)

¹ n = 945 (85.6% of the respondents indicated they were on the river one day or less).

² n = 159 (14.4% of the respondents indicated they were on the river more than one day).

Table IV.4: Length of time on the river (campers).

		n	%
Days	Mean	2.2	-----
	Median	2.0	-----
	2	79	79.8
	3	18	18.2
	4	2	2.0
Nights	Mean	1.3	-----
	Median	1.0	-----
	1	76	76.8
	2	19	19.2
	3	4	4.0

Launch sites. The respondents were also asked where they launched their boats. Table IV.5 shows the most popular launch site for the boaters taking out at Byington was Conant (43.5%) followed by Byington (36.3%). For boaters taking out at Conant, 35.8% had launched at Palisade Creek followed by Palisades Dam (23.1%) and Conant (20.4%). At Spring Creek, 47.0% put-in at Palisades Dam and 43.7% at Palisades Creek. At the North Side ramps, 44.2% of the boaters launched at Conant and 23.1% at Wolf Flat (one of the North Side ramps). For the campers (96.0% came off the river at Byington), 48.0% launched at Conant, 18.0% at Palisades Creek, 17.0% at Spring Creek, and 11.0% at Palisades Dam (Table IV.6).

Table IV.5: Launch locations (boaters).

Put-Ins	Take-Outs ¹				
	Byington	Conant	Spring Creek	North Side	All Locations
Palisades Dam	3.6% (12)	23.1% (69)	47.0% (185)	0.0% (0)	24.7% (266)
Byington	36.3% (120)	1.3% (4)	0.3% (1)	0.0% (0)	11.6% (125)
Palisade Creek/Irwin	3.0% (10)	35.8% (107)	43.7% (172)	5.8% (3)	27.1% (292)
Conant	43.5% (144)	20.4% (61)	0.3% (1)	44.2% (23)	21.3% (229)
Spring Creek	6.6% (22)	9.4% (28)	4.3% (17)	5.8% (3)	6.5% (70)
Fullmer/ Cottonwood	3.9% (13)	0.3% (1)	0.3% (1)	11.5% (6)	2.0% (21)
Wolf Flat	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	23.1% (12)	1.1% (12)
Fall Creek	0.0% (0)	2.3% (7)	2.5% (10)	0.0% (0)	1.6% (17)
Other	3.0% (10)	7.4% (22)	1.8% (7)	9.6% (5)	4.1% (44)

¹ Response frequencies (*n*) are shown in parentheses under the percentages.

Table IV.6: Launch locations (campers).

Put-Ins	n	%
Palisades Dam	11	11.0
Byington	3	3.0
Palisade Creek/Irwin	18	18.0
Conant	48	48.0
Spring Creek	17	17.0
Fullmer/Cottonwood	0	0.0
Wolf Flat	0	0.0
Fall Creek	1	1.0
Other	1	1.0

Recreation activities. The questionnaire administered to the boater sample contained a list of twelve outdoor recreation activities. Respondents were asked to indicate which of these activities they participated in during this trip and also which one was their primary activity. Results shown on Table IV.7 indicate that fishing from the boat was most frequently mentioned by 86.1% of the respondents. Next most popular was fishing from shore (47.9%), wildlife watching (43.0%), sightseeing (37.8%), birdwatching (32.6%), and boating (30.1%). Only 3.4% indicated hiking and 13.5% swimming. It is interesting that 156 (14.1%) indicated camping since only 101 of those can be accounted for by the camper survey (if it was obvious that a group coming off the river had camped overnight on one of the undeveloped river campsites, every other person was asked to fill out a camper survey and the others were asked to fill out a boater survey). The other 55 respondents were either missed by the research technicians or could have been camping at one of the developed campsites in the area.

Table IV.7: Activities that respondents participated in (boaters).¹

Types of Activities ²	Byington	Conant	Spring Creek	North Side	All Locations
Boat fishing	90.5% (305)	91.1% (286)	77.4% (315)	96.2% (50)	86.1% (956)
Shore fishing	45.7% (154)	54.5% (171)	44.2% (180)	51.9% (27)	47.9% (532)
Wildlife watching	49.3% (166)	39.2% (123)	41.0% (167)	40.4% (21)	43.0% (447)
Sightseeing	41.5% (140)	32.8% (103)	39.3% (160)	32.7% (17)	37.8% (420)
Birdwatching	32.3% (109)	32.5% (102)	34.4% (140)	21.2% (11)	32.6% (362)
Boating	36.8% (124)	24.8% (78)	27.5% (112)	38.5% (20)	30.1% (334)
Photography	29.4% (99)	21.3% (67)	28.0% (114)	25.0% (13)	26.4% (293)
Picnicking	21.1% (71)	14.6% (46)	19.7% (80)	17.3% (9)	18.6% (206)
Cruising for fun	20.2% (68)	12.4% (39)	16.2% (66)	19.2% (10)	16.5% (183)
Camping	25.2% (85)	6.4% (20)	10.1% (41)	19.2% (10)	14.1% (156)
Swimming	15.7% (53)	10.5% (33)	14.7% (60)	7.7% (4)	13.5% (150)
Other activities	1.8% (6)	6.4% (20)	4.2% (17)	3.8% (2)	4.1% (45)
Hiking	4.2% (14)	1.9% (6)	4.2% (17)	1.9% (1)	3.4% (38)

¹ Response frequencies (n) are shown in parentheses under the percentage.

² 211 respondents (19.1%) indicated they participated in only one activity and 894 (80.9%) participated in more than one activity.

Table IV.8 shows the results from the followup question that asked respondents to indicate their

primary activity. At all takeouts the most frequently mentioned primary activity, by far, was fishing from the boat. The next frequently indicated primary activity at Byington, was hiking (9.2%) while 7.6% of those taking out at Conant indicated fishing from shore and 8.4% at Spring Creek indicated sightseeing. Boaters were also asked the main reason they decided to come out to the South Fork for their trip. Appendix B presents the results of that question.

Table IV.8: Primary recreational activities at each location (boaters).^{1,2}

Location ³	Most popular	Second most popular	Third most popular	Fourth most popular	Fifth most popular
Byington	<u>Boat fishing</u> 66.2% (194)	<u>Hiking</u> 9.2% (27)	<u>Boating</u> 7.5% (22)	<u>Shore fishing</u> 6.5% (19)	<u>Camping</u> 3.4% (10)
Conant	<u>Boat fishing</u> 77.1% (182)	<u>Shore fishing</u> 7.6% (18)	<u>Boating</u> 5.5% (13)	<u>Sightseeing</u> 4.7% (11)	<u>Cruising</u> 1.7% (4)
Spring Creek	<u>Boat fishing</u> 66.0% (188)	<u>Sightseeing</u> 8.4% (24)	<u>Boating</u> 8.1% (23)	<u>Cruising</u> 6.0% (17)	<u>Shore fishing</u> 6.0% (17)
North Side	<u>Boat fishing</u> 82.6% (38)	<u>Camping</u> 4.3% (2)	<u>Sightseeing</u> 4.3% (2)	<u>Boating</u> 2.2% (1)	<u>Photography</u> 2.2% (1)

¹ Response frequencies (*n*) are shown in parentheses.

² Cruising and wildlife watching tied with boating and photography at North Side.

³ Byington N=337, missing/don't know = 44; Conant N=317, missing/don't know = 81; Spring Creek N=407, missing = 122; North Side N=52, missing = 6.

Local vs. non-local use. The states where South Fork boaters and campers reside was discussed in the previous chapter. Further analysis revealed that a sizable proportion of the boaters and about 37% of the campers reside close to the study area. For purposes of this analysis, local users were defined as those living in the five Idaho counties (Bonneville, Teton, Jefferson, Bingham, and Madison) and two Wyoming counties (Teton and Lincoln) that are adjacent to the South Fork of the Snake River.

As shown on Table IV.9, almost half (49.2%) of the boaters reside in one of the local counties. It is also interesting to note that 60.6% of the locals are from Bonneville County where Idaho Falls is located (which has the largest metropolitan population in the area) and through which most of the study segment flows. The camper sample revealed some interesting contrasts. Almost two-thirds (63.4%) of

the campers were non-locals. It is also interesting that of the 36.6% campers who were local, about half (51.4%) were from Bonneville County and about one-quarter were from Teton County, Wyoming (where Jackson Hole is located).

Table IV.9: Local and non-local visitors.¹

	Boaters		Campers	
	n	%	n	%
<i>Locals</i>	548	49.2	37	36.6
Bonneville Co., ID	332	60.6	19	51.4
Teton Co., WY	53	9.7	9	24.3
Teton Co., ID	47	8.6	4	10.8
Jefferson Co., ID	64	11.6	2	5.4
Lincoln Co., WY	9	1.6	2	5.4
Bingham Co., ID	32	5.8	1	2.7
Madison Co., ID	11	2.0	0	0.0
<i>Non-Locals</i>	565	50.8	64	63.4

¹ Non-locals include those respondents who were not from the seven counties adjacent to the South Fork of the Snake River.

Parking lot capacity. The field technician was asked to estimate the how full the parking lots were for each survey completed. Table IV.10 summarizes those observations combining both the boater and camper surveys. During the weekdays at Byington, 51.5% of the time the parking lot was one-quarter to one-half full, 25.0% of the time it was empty to one-quarter full, and 23.5% of the time it was one-half to three-quarters full. It was never three-quarters full or greater during the weekdays that sampling occurred. This contrasts with the weekend capacity. Almost a third of the time (30.8%) it was half full or less but 30.5% of the time it was three-quarters full or greater.

Similar results were observed at Conant where during the weekdays 43.8% of the time the lot was one-quarter to one-half full, 30.6% empty to one-quarter, and 24.8% one-half to three-quarters full. On the weekend, it was half full or less 20.9% of the time and 33.2% of the time it was three-quarters

full or greater (Table IV.10).

Table IV.10: Parking lot capacity.

	Byington ³	Conant ³	Spring Creek ³	North Side ³
<u>Empty - 1/4</u>				
Weekdays ¹	25.0%	30.6%	5.5%	81.3%
Weekends ²	11.6%	5.1%	0.8%	61.5%
<u>1/4 - 1/2</u>				
Weekdays ¹	51.5%	43.8%	19.2%	18.7%
Weekends ²	19.2%	20.9%	19.1%	12.8%
<u>1/2 - 3/4</u>				
Weekdays ¹	23.5%	24.8%	26.0%	0.0%
Weekends ²	38.7%	40.8%	17.6%	7.7%
<u>3/4 - Full</u>				
Weekdays ¹	0.0%	0.8%	34.2%	0.0%
Weekends ²	27.2%	27.6%	17.6%	17.9%
<u>Overflow</u>				
Weekdays ¹	0.0%	0.0%	15.1%	0.0%
Weekends ²	3.3%	5.6%	45.0%	0.0%

¹ Weekdays include Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, with the exception of Wednesday the 4th of July and Monday the 3rd of September, Labor Day.

² Weekends include Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, with the addition of Wednesday the 4th of July and Monday the 3rd of September, Labor Day.

³ Number of surveys administered: Byington weekday n = 132 and weekend n = 302, Conant weekday n = 121 and weekend n = 196, Spring Creek weekday n = 146 and weekend n = 262, North Side weekday n = 16 and weekend n = 39.

Observations at Spring Creek contrast sharply with those from Conant and Byington. During the weekdays the parking area at Spring Creek was three-quarters to full 34.2% of the time and over capacity 15.1% of the time. On the weekends the lot's capacity was stretched even further: almost 20% of the time the parking lot was three-quarters to full and 45.0% of the weekend periods it was over capacity (Table IV.10).

In general, the Byington and Conant lots were filled to capacity or overflow levels about one-third of the time on weekends and holidays but never during the weekdays. Spring Creek, on the other hand, was full about half the time on both weekdays and weekend/holidays.

Because of its relative remoteness and lack of development, the parking areas at the North Side takeouts were rarely congested. In fact, 81.3% on the weekdays and 61.5% on the weekends the parking areas were empty to one-quarter full. The research technicians did not observe any times during the weekdays or weekends that the parking areas overflowed (Table IV.10).

V. TRIP SATISFACTION, CONFLICTS, CROWDING, AND DISPLACEMENT

The questionnaire contained several questions designed to assess visitor satisfaction, perception of conflicts that the respondents felt detracted from their river recreation experience, their attitudes toward crowding on the river and campgrounds and the need to impose use limits, and alternative recreation experiences respondents would seek if they were not able to recreate on South Fork due to use limits.

River trip and camping satisfaction. Boaters were asked how satisfied they were with their river trip whereas campers was asked how satisfied they were with the area where they camped. As shown on Table V.1, over 90% of the boaters said they were very satisfied or satisfied. Only 26 boaters (2.4%) said they were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied: three at Byington, eight at Conant, twelve at Spring Creek, and three at the North Side ramps. Campers answers were similar with 92.% very satisfied or satisfied and 2.2% dissatisfied (Table V.2).

Table V.1: User level of satisfaction with day's recreation experience (boaters).¹

Response	Byington	Conant	Spring Creek	North Side	All Locations
Very Satisfied	52.4% (176)	52.9% (166)	57.3% (232)	50.0% (26)	54.2% (600)
Satisfied	39.5% (133)	40.1% (126)	32.8% (133)	44.2% (23)	37.5% (415)
Neutral	7.1% (24)	4.5% (14)	6.9% (28)	0.0% (0)	6.0% (66)
Dissatisfied	0.6% (2)	2.5% (8)	2.5% (10)	3.8% (2)	2.0% (22)
Very Dissatisfied	0.3% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.5% (2)	1.9% (1)	0.4% (4)
Mean ²	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6

¹ Response frequencies (*n*) are shown in parentheses under the percentage.

² Mean score calculated on a scale where 1= Very Satisfied, 2= Satisfied, 3= Neutral, 4= Dissatisfied, and 5= Very Dissatisfied.

Table V.2: User level of satisfaction with camping area (campers).

Response	n	%
Very Satisfied	49	52.7
Satisfied	37	39.8
Neutral	5	5.4
Dissatisfied	2	2.2
Very Dissatisfied	0	0.0
Mean ²	1.6	-----

² Mean score calculated on a scale where

1 = Very Satisfied, 2 = Satisfied, 3 = Neutral,

4 = Dissatisfied, and 5 = Very Dissatisfied.

If the respondents indicated they were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied, the questionnaire asked them to describe the reasons for their negative experience. Besides the 26 boaters who indicated dissatisfied, another 40 answered this question. Response frequencies are shown in Table V.3. The most frequently mentioned reason (n = 32) had to do with motorboats or jet boats. The next most common reasons had to do with fishing quality (28.2%) followed by crowding (22.4%). Nine campers offered reasons that they had a negative experience: two mentioned human waste and lack of bathrooms, two did not like having cattle in their campsite, three complained that there were no picnic tables, and two said that the fire pits were overused.

Conflicts with other users. Even though almost all of the respondents indicated that they were satisfied with their river recreation experience, the behavior of others may still detract from their enjoyment. There was a question on the boater survey that asked if the actions of others detracted from their enjoyment of the river today and if so, who and what was the cause of this conflict. More than one-quarter of the boaters (27.0%) indicated that the actions detracted from their enjoyment. Of those 277 boaters, 268 identified the types of users (41 named two types) and activities that provoked conflicts. A summary of those activities is presented in Appendix B.

Table V.3: Reasons for dissatisfaction with trip (boaters).^{1, 2}

Category and Responses (%)	n
OTHER BOATERS (40.0%)	34
Motorboats	16
Jet boats	14
Other boaters don't obey the rules	1
Motor boats eroding the bank	1
Motor boats going fast	1
Other boaters are discourteous	1
CROWDING (22.4%)	19
Too many boats	8
Too many people	5
Too many guides	5
Attitudes of the guides	1
FISHING (28.2%)	24
Did not catch any fish	14
Poor fishing due to water fluctuation	7
Water too high to dry fly fish	1
Poor fish management	1
Over fished	1
HUMAN IMPACTS (4.7%)	4
Human waste problem	3
Trash on shore	1
OTHER (4.7%)	4
Wind	1
Houses on the river	1
Noisy	1
Out of state	1

¹ Of the 66 boaters who gave responses, 26 were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with their trip while 40 were neutral, satisfied, or very satisfied.

² Up to three responses were recorded for each respondent.

Most frequently mentioned user groups were those operating jet boats (48.3%). Respondents' complaints included the boats being noisy (28.8%), producing wakes (24.5%), and speeding (21.2%).

Other complaints included inconsiderate operators, disrupting fishing, too many, and pollution (Appendix B). Another 20.7% identified motor boaters as interfering with respondents' enjoyment. Complaints also identified the boats as being noisy (20.7%), producing wakes (17.7%), and speeding (8.9%).

About 13% of responses referred to river guides or guided trips. Respondents complained that there were too many guides or guided trips, inconsiderate or rude guides, and that the guides were occupying all the good fishing spots. Jet skis were mentioned by 6.3% of the respondents who indicated that the actions of others detracted from their boating enjoyment. Jet skier behaviors that bothered the respondents included noise (25.0%), getting in the way of fishing (12.5%), and speeding (12.5%). Other user groups that detracted from the respondent's trip were fishermen, drift boaters, kayakers, jerks, floaters, river front home owners, boaters, and other users (see Appendix B).

Perceived crowding and use limits. There was a series of four questions that assessed respondents' perception of crowding and acceptability of use limits. Boaters were first asked to "estimate the number of people (other than your own group) you saw on this trip" while the campers were asked to "estimate the number of people (other than your own group) you saw where you camped." Summary results are shown on Tables V.4 and V.5. The average number seen by the boaters was 40.1 (Table V.4) and for the campers it was 7.0 (Table V.5). Boaters taking out at Spring Creek saw the lowest average (33.0) while those at Conant saw the most (46.5). Median values for all locations was 30.0. The median value of the campers was 2.5 and the modal number seen was zero.

The next question asked respondents if they saw too many, about the right number, or too few other persons on the river or in the camping areas. A majority of boaters at each takeout thought the number seen was about right (Table V.6), but more than one-third thought they had seen far too many or somewhat too many other boaters including 41.2% at the North Side ramps, 40.1% at Conant, 36.6% at Spring Creek, and 36.3% at Byington (Table V.4). This contrasts with the campers with 82.0% indicating that the number of others they saw was about right and 14.6% saying they saw too many (Table V.5).

Table V.4: Number of other people seen (boaters).¹

		Byington	Conant	Spring Creek	North Side	All Locations
Number of other people seen	Average	42.1	46.5	33.0	42.6	40.1
	Median	30.0	30.0	30.0	30.0	30.0
	Range	3-500	0-500	2-250	5-200	0-500
Feelings about the number of people seen	Far too many	10.4% (33)	11.0% (32)	7.9% (29)	9.8% (5)	9.6% (99)
	Somewhat too many	25.9% (82)	29.1% (85)	28.7% (106)	31.4% (16)	28.1% (289)
	About right amount	60.4% (191)	55.8% (163)	61.0% (225)	54.9% (28)	59.0% (607)
	Somewhat too few	2.2% (7)	4.1% (12)	2.4% (9)	2.0% (1)	2.8% (29)
	Far too few	0.9% (3)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	2.0% (1)	0.4% (4)

¹ Response frequencies (*n*) are shown in parentheses under the percentages.

Table V.5: Number of other people seen (campers).

		n	%
Number of other people seen	Average	7.0	-----
	Median	2.5	-----
	Mode	0	41.7
	Range	0 to 56	-----
Feelings about the number of people seen	Far too many	1	1.1
	Somewhat too many	12	13.5
	About right amount	73	82.0
	Somewhat too few	3	3.4
	Far too few	0	0.0

The next question was “In general, do you think there is currently a need to put a limit on the number of boats that can use this segment of the South Fork at one time.” For campers the question read, “In general, do you think there is currently a need to put a limit on the number of campers that can use this camping area.” Summary results for the boaters are reported in Table V.6 and for the campers in Table V.7. One-fourth of the boaters indicated definitely or probably yes with the highest percentage calculated for those contacted at Conant (29.1%) followed by North Side (27.4%), Byington (25.7%), and Spring Creek (20.8%). A similar proportion of campers indicated there was a need to limit the number of campers (20.2%) despite the fact that a much lower portion of campers felt crowded.

Table V.6: Need to put a limit on the number of boats that can use the river at one time (boaters).¹

	Byington	Conant	Spring Creek	North Side	All Locations
Definitely Yes	9.5% (30)	10.8% (32)	7.6% (28)	17.6% (9)	9.6% (99)
Probably Yes	16.2% (51)	18.3% (54)	13.2% (49)	9.8% (5)	15.4% (159)
Probably No	35.2% (111)	40.7% (120)	46.2% (171)	29.4% (15)	40.4% (417)
Definitely No	32.4% (102)	25.4% (75)	26.5% (98)	31.4% (16)	28.2% (291)
Don't Know	6.7% (21)	4.7% (14)	6.5% (24)	11.8% (6)	6.3% (65)

¹ Response frequencies (n) are shown in parentheses under the percentage.

The boaters and campers who indicated that there was a need to place use limits were then asked to give reasons why limits were needed. Summary results are presented in Appendix B. Of the 318 responses offered by the boaters, 39.6% had to do with other boaters. Specific responses had to do with other boats going too fast and that there were too many of jet boats or too many boats in general. Almost one-fifth of the boater responses had to do with crowding and 15.7% with fishing (e.g., stress on the river and fish and over fishing). Almost as many comments referred to commercial guides (48) as fishing (50). All of those comments referred to either too many outfitters or limiting the number of outfitters. There were also 33 comments from the boaters wanting to limit numbers in order to enhance natural conditions

(e.g., to protect river environment and keep the river in its natural state) (Appendix B).

Table V.7: Need to put a limit on the number of campers that can use the camping area at one time (campers).

	n	%
Definitely Yes	2	2.2
Probably Yes	16	18.0
Probably No	51	57.3
Definitely No	14	15.7
Don't Know	6	6.7

Only 13 campers indicated there was a need to put a limit on the number that use the campsites. They gave 19 reasons; six stated there were too many other campers and other responses had to do with protecting the fragile resources, maintaining a sense of solitude, too much litter or garbage, and three people wanted limits on motorized watercraft (Appendix B).

Alternative river recreation. As a followup to the questions regarding use limits, the next question asked if the respondent was unable to recreate on the South Fork due to use limits (for either boating or camping), would they do the same activities and if so, where would they go to do the activities. For boaters, over half said they would have gone boating anyway. Most of those said they would go on or near the South Fork, including a different segment of the South Fork (26.7%), the Henry's Fork (11.8%), or another segment of the Snake River (8.1%). Only 16.6% indicated that they would not have gone boating because there is not an adequate alternative (Table V.8). Probably of equal interest is that 30.5% of the boaters did not know if they would go boating or not (see Appendix B for a complete list of alternative destinations given). A large majority of campers (82.4%) indicated they would go camping somewhere else on the same segment if limits were in place. Only 3.5% of campers indicated they would not have gone on an overnight river trip (Table V.9).

Table V.8: Recreation activities respondents would have done if they were unable to boat due to use limits (boaters).¹

	Byington	Conant	Spring Creek	North Side	All Locations
Boated on a different segment of the South Fork	28.8% (83)	26.3% (66)	25.0% (80)	28.6% (12)	26.7% (241)
Boated on Henry's Fork	10.1% (29)	12.4% (31)	13.4% (43)	7.1% (3)	11.8% (106)
Boated on another part of the Snake River	6.6% (19)	10.8% (27)	7.8% (25)	4.8% (2)	8.1% (73)
Boated on Palisades Reservoir	1.7% (5)	0.8% (2)	1.9% (6)	2.4% (1)	1.6% (14)
Boated on a different river	4.9% (14)	6.8% (17)	3.1% (10)	2.4% (1)	4.7% (42)
Not gone boating because there is no adequate alternative	19.1% (55)	13.1% (33)	17.8% (57)	11.9% (5)	16.6% (150)
Don't know	28.8% (83)	29.9% (75)	30.9% (99)	42.9% (18)	30.5% (275)

¹ Response frequencies (*n*) are shown in parentheses under the percentage.

Table V.9: Recreation activities respondents would have done if they were unable to get a campsite due to use limits (campers).

	n	%
Probably camped somewhere else on this segment	70	82.4
Probably not camped on this segment this trip	4	4.7
Probably gone to a different river or segment	5	5.9
Probably not gone on a boat trip at all	3	3.5
Don't know	3	3.5

VI. ATTITUDES TOWARD PROBLEMS AND DEVELOPMENT ALONG THE RIVER

The questionnaires contained a series of statements regarding problems encountered during respondents' river trip. Boaters were asked about conditions encountered both on the river and at the takeouts or launches whereas campers were asked about problems in the campsites. For each statement, they were asked to indicate whether it was a problem, a small problem, a moderate problem, or a big problem. Both boaters and campers were also asked whether or not they supported increased development activities along the river and non-traditional types of river recreation. Campers were also asked which type of campsite they preferred to use while recreating on the South Fork.

Boaters: Problems on the river. The boating survey contained a series of eleven statements concerning possible problems encountered on the river section the respondents floated. With the exception of too many motorized watercraft, a majority of respondents felt that the conditions descriptions were not a problem (Table VI.1). However, a majority of the respondents (53.9%) felt that too many motorized watercraft is a problem to some degree with more than half of those indicating it is a big problem. When asked if too many boaters was a problem, 45.7% indicated that it was with almost half of those indicating a moderate or big problem. More than one-third thought that litter along the river and inconsiderate boaters is a problem but most thought they were small or moderate problems. About three-quarters of the boaters indicated that boating safety, water pollution, disturbances of bald eagle nesting area, and human waste or toilet paper were not problems (Table VI.1).

{insert Table VI.1}

Boaters: Problems at launches or takeouts. Boaters were also asked to rate a series of ten statements about potential problems at the launches or takeouts. A majority of respondents indicated that each of the statements were not a problem (Table VI.2). Almost one-third thought that too many people at the launches and takeouts were problems but most of those indicated it was a small problem. Less than 20% indicated that lack of human waste disposal facilities, lack of information about the river, lack of toilets, and lack of shelter or shade are problems. Less than 3% indicated that any of the conditions are big problems (Table VI.2).

Table VI.1: What extent is each of the following a problem on the river (boaters).¹

On the River	Not a problem	A small problem	A moderate problem	A big problem	Don't know	Average ²
Too many motorized watercraft	43.4% (434)	13.7% (137)	16.8% (168)	23.4% (234)	2.7% (27)	2.2
Too many boaters	51.5% (508)	23.3% (230)	16.3% (161)	6.1% (60)	2.7% (27)	1.8
Rude, inconsiderate boaters	62.3% (617)	17.0% (168)	11.0% (109)	6.8% (67)	3.0% (30)	1.6
Livestock along the river	68.6% (677)	15.6% (154)	6.7% (66)	5.4% (53)	3.7% (37)	1.5
Litter along the river	60.4% (597)	23.9% (236)	8.8% (87)	3.7% (37)	3.1% (31)	1.5
Human caused vegetation loss	65.4% (644)	18.2% (179)	7.4% (73)	2.6% (26)	6.4% (63)	1.4
Not enough camping areas	62.2% (599)	11.0% (106)	5.9% (57)	1.8% (17)	19.1% (184)	1.4
Boating safety	74.6% (735)	14.4% (142)	4.5% (44)	1.9% (19)	4.6% (45)	1.3
Water pollution	75.4% (735)	13.5% (132)	4.0% (39)	1.3% (13)	5.7% (56)	1.3
Disturbance of bald eagle nesting areas	74.0% (730)	10.3% (102)	4.1% (40)	2.0% (20)	9.5% (94)	1.3
Human waste or toilet paper	73.5% (723)	13.0% (128)	4.4% (43)	2.2% (22)	6.9% (68)	1.3

¹ Response frequencies (*n*) are shown in parentheses under the percentage.

² Average value shown is calculated from a scale where 1 = Not a problem, 2 = A small problem, 3 = A moderate problem, and 4 = A big problem.

Table VI.2: What extent is each of the following a problem at launches or takeouts (boaters).¹

At Launches or Takeouts	Not a problem	A small problem	A moderate problem	A big problem	Don't know	Average ²
Too many people at the launch site	65.8% (649)	20.7% (204)	8.6% (85)	2.7% (27)	2.1% (21)	1.5
Too many people at the take-out	67.6% (664)	19.1% (188)	8.8% (86)	2.3% (23)	2.1% (21)	1.5
Lack of drinking water	72.1% (704)	13.1% (128)	7.7% (75)	2.1% (21)	5.0% (49)	1.4
Lack of human waste disposal facility	76.8% (754)	10.4% (102)	4.6% (45)	2.4% (24)	5.8% (57)	1.3
Lack of information about the river	76.1% (746)	11.2% (110)	5.8% (57)	1.3% (13)	5.5% (54)	1.3
Lack of trash receptacles	75.7% (743)	13.5% (132)	6.0% (59)	1.0% (10)	3.8% (37)	1.3
Not enough parking	75.1% (737)	13.8% (135)	6.0% (59)	1.6% (16)	3.5% (34)	1.3
Litter or trash	75.8% (749)	16.5% (163)	4.1% (41)	0.9% (9)	2.6% (26)	1.3
Lack of toilets	81.4% (797)	10.2% (100)	3.6% (35)	1.7% (17)	3.1% (30)	1.2
Lack of shelter/shade	80.4% (784)	11.9% (116)	3.2% (31)	1.1% (11)	3.4% (33)	1.2

¹ Response frequencies (*n*) are shown in parentheses under the percentage.

² Average value shown is calculated from a scale where 1 = Not a problem, 2 = A small problem, 3 = A moderate problem, and 4 = A big problem.

Campers: Problems at campsites. The camper sub-sample was asked to rate seventeen statements regarding problems in the camping areas where they stayed. Results from the first eight statements are contained in Table IV.3 and the remaining nine in Table IV.4. As with the boaters, a majority of the campers (61.2%) thought that too many motorized watercraft is a problem with 40.0% indicating it is a moderate or big problem. About a third said that difficulty in finding an unoccupied

campsite, litter or trash at campsites, and campsites damaged by previous campers is a problem. Only 5 campers (5.9%) thought the campsites being too remote or secluded is a problem (Table VI.3).

Table VI.3: Extent of problems where respondents camped (campers).¹

Issue	Not a problem	Small problem	Moderate problem	Big problem	Don't know	Average ²
Too many motorized watercraft	38.8% (33)	21.2% (18)	16.5% (14)	23.5% (20)	0.0% (0)	2.3
Difficulty finding an unoccupied campsite	64.7% (55)	23.5% (20)	7.1% (6)	3.5% (3)	1.2% (1)	1.5
Litter or trash at campsites	67.1% (57)	21.2% (18)	9.4% (8)	2.4% (2)	0.0% (0)	1.5
Campsites damaged by previous visitors	67.4% (58)	23.3% (20)	5.8% (5)	3.5% (3)	0.0% (0)	1.5
Not enough patrols	71.4% (60)	7.1% (6)	6.0% (5)	7.1% (6)	8.3% (7)	1.4
Campsites too close to other parties	85.9% (73)	7.1% (6)	3.5% (3)	3.5% (3)	0.0% (0)	1.3
Rude inconsiderate campers	82.6% (71)	7.0% (6)	7.0% (6)	0.0% (0)	3.5% (3)	1.2
Campsites are too remote/secluded	94.1% (80)	3.5% (3)	1.2% (1)	1.2% (1)	0.0% (0)	1.1

¹ Response frequencies (*n*) are shown in parentheses under the percentage.

² Average value shown is calculated from a scale where 1 = Not a problem, 2 = Small problem, 3 = Moderate problem, and 4 = Big problem.

Almost half (45.9%) indicated that human waste or toilet paper at campsites is a problem with 24.7% saying it is a moderate or big problem (Table VI.4). More than one-third indicated that cattle or cattle droppings in campsites (42.4%), vegetation loss (41.2%), human damaged trees at campsites (37.6%), and human caused erosion (36.6%) are problems. It should be noted that of those who indicated that these conditions posed a problem, most rated the problems as moderate or big for only two conditions (cattle and human waste). It should also be noted that only four campers (4.7%) felt that noise at night is a problem (Table VI.4).

Table VI.4: Extent of problems where respondents camped (campers).¹

Issue	Not a problem	Small problem	Moderate problem	Big problem	Don't know	Average ²
Cattle or cattle droppings in campsites	57.6% (49)	16.5% (14)	11.8% (10)	14.1% (12)	0.0% (0)	1.8
Human waste or toilet paper at campsites	54.1% (46)	21.2% (18)	12.9% (11)	11.8% (10)	0.0% (0)	1.8
Vegetation loss/impacts	57.6% (49)	27.1% (23)	8.2% (7)	5.9% (5)	1.2% (1)	1.6
Human damaged trees at campsites	62.4% (53)	28.2% (24)	5.9% (5)	3.5% (3)	0.0% (0)	1.5
Human cause erosion or bare ground	63.5% (54)	22.4% (19)	11.8% (10)	2.4% (2)	0.0% (0)	1.5
Lack of firewood	71.8% (61)	12.9% (11)	7.1% (6)	4.7% (4)	3.5% (3)	1.4
Disturbance of bald eagle nesting areas	77.6% (66)	10.6% (9)	2.4% (2)	2.4% (2)	7.1% (6)	1.2
Too many people passes my campsite	81.9% (68)	13.3% (11)	4.8% (4)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	1.2
Noise at night	94.1% (80)	3.5% (3)	0.0% (0)	1.2% (1)	1.2% (1)	1.1

¹ Response frequencies (*n*) are shown in parentheses under the percentage.

² Average value shown is calculated from a scale where 1 = Not a problem, 2 = Small problem, 3 = Moderate problem, and 4 = Big problem.

Increased development activities and recreation. Both boaters and campers were asked to indicate their support or opposition to a six development and non-traditional recreation activities on the South Fork. Table VI.5 contains the results from the boaters and Table VI.6 shows the camper sub-sample results. The greatest amount of opposition (oppose or strongly oppose) is for residential housing along the river for both the boaters (62.5%) and campers (80.5%). Similar results are found for general development along the river (60.6% boaters and 65.1% campers oppose or strongly oppose). Respondents tended to support or are neutral on providing rip-rap for erosion control with 37.3% of the boaters and 34.6% campers indicating support or strong support (38.7% boaters and 30.9%

campers indicated neutral). Strongest opposition to the three recreation activities are for corporate training skills activities for both the boaters (32.7%) and campers (53.1%). Outdoor leadership training courses tended to have mixed results for the boaters (33.4% support and 23.4% oppose) and campers (37.8% support and 32.9% oppose). The largest support was for environmental education group trips (43.5% boaters and 44.3% campers indicated support or strong support) (Tables VI.5 and VI.6).

Table VI.5: Feelings about increased development activities and recreation (boaters).¹

Development Activity	Strongly Support	Support	Neutral	Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Average ²
Residential housing along the river	2.3% (22)	6.4% (62)	27.9% (271)	21.8% (212)	41.7% (405)	3.9
General developments along the river	2.6% (25)	8.7% (83)	28.1% (268)	26.2% (250)	34.4% (328)	3.8
Corporate training skill activities	5.6% (52)	14.9% (138)	46.9% (435)	15.0% (139)	17.7% (24)	3.2
Outdoor leadership training courses	10.2% (96)	23.2% (218)	43.2% (406)	11.3% (106)	12.1% (114)	2.9
Rip-rap for erosion control along the river bank	12.8% (117)	24.5% (224)	38.7% (354)	10.0% (91)	14.0% (128)	2.9
Environmental education group trips	14.3% (135)	29.2% (275)	41.9% (395)	7.3% (69)	7.2% (68)	2.6

¹ Response frequencies (*n*) are shown in parentheses under the percentage.

² Average value shown is calculated from a scale where 1 = Strongly Support, 2 = Support, 3 = Neutral, 4 = Oppose, and 5 = Strongly Oppose.

Table VI.6: Feelings about increased development activities and recreation (campers).¹

Development Activity	Strongly Support	Support	Neutral	Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Average ²
Residential housing along the river	1.2% (1)	1.2% (1)	17.1% (14)	19.5% (16)	61.0% (50)	4.4
General developments along the river	3.6% (3)	9.6% (8)	21.7% (18)	22.9% (19)	42.2% (35)	3.9
Corporate training skill activities	6.2% (5)	11.1% (9)	29.6% (24)	23.5% (19)	29.6% (24)	3.6
Outdoor leadership training courses	13.4% (11)	24.4% (20)	29.3% (24)	13.4% (11)	19.5% (16)	3.0
Rip-rap for erosion control along the river bank	13.6% (11)	21.0% (17)	30.9% (25)	14.8% (12)	19.8% (16)	3.1
Environmental education group trips	17.7% (14)	26.6% (21)	38.0% (30)	5.1% (4)	12.7% (10)	2.7

¹ Response frequencies (*n*) are shown in parentheses under the percentage.

² Average value shown is calculated from a scale where 1 = Strongly Support, 2 = Support, 3 = Neutral, 4 = Oppose, and 5 = Strongly Oppose.

Campsite type preferences. Campers were asked “What type of campsite would you prefer to use on the South Fork of the Snake River?” As shown on Table VI.7, none of the campers indicated that they never plan on camping on the South Fork again. Only one person (1.2%) indicated highly developed site (flush toilets, showers, running water, and electrical hookups) and only three (3.7%) said developed sites (pit toilets, docks, picnic tables, and fire grills). A majority (65.9%) said they prefer undeveloped sites with no facilities while 29.3% indicated semi-developed campsites (with pit toilets and fire rings) (Table VI.7).

Table VI.7: Preferred campsite type (campers).

Campsite Types	n	%
Never plan on camping on South Fork again	0	0.0
Undeveloped sites (no toilets or other facilities)	54	65.9
Semi-developed campsites with pit toilets and fire rings	24	29.3
Developed campsites with pit toilets, docks, picnic tables, and fire grills	3	3.7
Highly developed sites with flush toilets, showers, running water, and electrical hookups	1	1.2

VII. ATTITUDES TOWARD MANAGEMENT RULES AND POLICY

The questionnaires contained a list of management rules and respondents were asked whether they supported or opposed the rules. The list on the boater survey referred to possible rules for managing the South Fork and the camper survey referred to rules for reducing camping impacts. The surveys also contained lists of potential management policy and respondents were asked the level of priority managers should place on the items and to rank them on a seven point scale with one being the lowest priority and seven the highest priority.

Management rules. In general, the greatest opposition among boaters regarded rules that place limits on the amount of use (Table VII.1). A majority oppose limiting the number of people allowed on the river each day (50.9%), limits on the number of launches per day (51.9%), and limiting the number of people per group (51.9%). There was also a greater opposition than support for limits on the number of boats per group (49.5% oppose and 21.0% support) and assigning launch times during periods of heavy use (46.5% oppose and 22.5% support). The largest amount of support is for requiring that people carry out their own trash (84.7% strongly support or support) with 69.0% indicating strong support. A majority of boaters also support requiring people carry out human body waste (56.7%) and to allow camping only in designated sites (58.1%). A greater proportion of boaters also support (43.2%) requiring the use of porta-potties than oppose (24.5%) (Table VII.1).

A majority of campers (63.0%) indicated they oppose or strongly oppose assigning boaters to specific campsites (Table VII.2), however 50.0% support allowing camping only in designated sites (74.4% including those who said neutral). There is also some opposition towards limiting number of campers allowed per day (41.0% oppose, 36.1% neutral, and 22.9% support) and limits on number of campsites occupied per day (36.6% support, 40.2% neutral, and 23.2% support). As with the boaters, but to an even greater extent, campers support requiring people to carry out their own trash (93.9% strongly support and 4.9% support). Almost three-quarters support prohibiting camping in bald eagle enclosure areas (73.7%) and requiring people to carry out human waste (71.6%). A majority of campers also support prohibiting camping in areas with rare plants (55.5%), requiring the use of port-potties (60.5%), and prohibiting wood cutting (51.8%).

Table VII.1: Support and opposition of possible rules for managing the South Fork (boaters).¹

Possible Rules	Strongly Support	Support	Neutral	Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Average ²
Require people to carry out their own trash	69.0% (664)	15.7% (151)	9.0% (87)	3.1% (30)	3.2% (31)	4.4
Require people to carry out human body waste	41.7% (399)	15.0% (143)	25.4% (243)	10.1% (97)	7.7% (74)	3.7
Allow camping only at designated sites	34.0% (326)	24.1% (231)	23.4% (224)	9.1% (87)	9.4% (90)	3.6
Require use of porta-potties	25.4% (242)	17.8% (170)	32.3% (308)	14.1% (134)	10.4% (99)	3.3
Assign where group may camp	13.0% (123)	22.4% (211)	30.8% (290)	19.2% (181)	14.6% (138)	3.0
Limit fishing access in bald eagle habitat	12.4% (119)	17.2% (165)	33.5% (322)	19.2% (185)	17.8% (171)	2.9
Assign launch times during heavy use times	5.7% (54)	16.8% (158)	31.0% (292)	23.2% (218)	23.3% (219)	2.6
Limit number of boats per group	5.5% (52)	15.5% (147)	29.4% (278)	26.6% (252)	22.9% (217)	2.5
Limit number of people per group	4.9% (47)	12.4% (118)	30.7% (292)	27.9% (265)	24.0% (228)	2.5
Limit number of launches per day	6.0% (57)	13.2% (126)	28.9% (276)	28.1% (269)	23.8% (228)	2.5
Limit the number of people allowed on the river each day	6.4% (61)	13.8% (131)	28.9% (275)	27.0% (257)	23.9% (228)	2.5

¹ Response frequencies (*n*) are shown in parentheses under the percentage.

² Average value shown is calculated from a scale where 1 = Strongly Oppose, 2 = Oppose, 3 = Neutral, 4 = Support, and 5 = Strongly Support.

Table VII.2: Support and opposition of possible rules for reducing camping impacts (campers).¹

Possible Rules	Strongly Support	Support	Neutral	Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Average ²
Require people to carry out their own trash	93.9% (77)	4.9% (4)	1.2% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	4.9
Prohibit camping within bald eagle closure areas	51.3% (41)	22.5% (18)	12.5% (10)	7.5% (6)	6.3% (5)	4.1
Require people to carry out human body waste	49.4% (40)	22.2% (18)	12.3% (10)	8.6% (7)	7.4% (6)	4.0
Prohibit camping in areas with rare plants	33.3% (27)	22.2% (18)	28.4% (23)	11.1% (9)	4.9% (4)	3.7
Require use of porta-potties	34.6% (28)	25.9% (21)	19.8% (16)	9.9% (8)	9.9% (8)	3.7
Prohibit wood cutting	28.9% (24)	22.9% (19)	21.7% (18)	15.7% (13)	10.8% (9)	3.4
Allow camping only at designated sites	23.2% (19)	26.8% (22)	24.4% (20)	13.4% (11)	12.2% (10)	3.3
Require use of camp stoves or fire pans	20.5% (17)	22.9% (19)	22.9% (19)	21.7% (18)	12.0% (10)	3.2
Limit on number of campsites occupied per day	4.9% (4)	18.3% (15)	40.2% (33)	20.7% (17)	15.9% (13)	2.8
Limit on number of campers allowed per day	4.8% (4)	18.1% (15)	36.1% (30)	24.1% (20)	16.9% (14)	2.7
Assign boaters to specific campsites	4.9% (4)	9.9% (8)	22.2% (18)	34.6% (28)	28.4% (23)	2.3

¹ Response frequencies (*n*) are shown in parentheses under the percentage.

² Average value shown is calculated from a scale where 1= Strongly Oppose, 2 = Oppose, 3 = Neutral, 4 = Support, and 5 = Strongly Support.

Policy priorities. Boaters were asked to read 17 preferred management policy items and asked to rank the degree of priority managers should place on these items in the future. Tables VII.3, VII.4, and VII.5 presents the average scores, calculated on a scale where one indicates lowest priority, seven highest priority, and four is medium priority by takeout location and overall average. It should be noted

that there seems to be general agreement among the boaters at the different takeouts. For the items having to do with environmental protection (Table VII.3), boaters think that protecting fish habitat (6.1) and wildlife habitat (5.1) should have high priority. They also feel that a high priority should be considered for protecting threatened and endangered species habitat (4.7). They also feel that reduction of livestock grazing (3.9) and protection of cottonwood habitat (3.7) should be lower priorities (Table VII.3).

Table VII.3: Priority on environmental protection items for future management (boaters).¹

	Byington	Conant	Spring Creek	North Side	All Locations
Protect fish habitat	5.9	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.1
Protect wildlife habitat	4.9	5.1	5.4	4.7	5.1
Protect threatened and endangered species habitat	4.5	4.8	4.9	4.2	4.7
Prevent impacts to natural vegetation on shore	3.7	4.3	4.3	3.8	4.1
Prevent impacts to soils on shore	3.8	4.2	4.3	3.9	4.1
Reduce livestock grazing	3.8	3.9	4.0	3.3	3.9
Protect cottonwood habitat	3.6	3.8	3.6	3.6	3.7

¹ The average scores are calculated on a scale where 1 = Lowest Priority and 7 = Highest Priority.

Most of the items regarding information and outreach had average scores around the scale midpoint, with the lowest average priority for providing more information about the quality of the fishing (3.3) (Table VII.4).

The remainder of the items that the boaters were asked to rank fell into the broad category of management or services improvements (Table VII.5). The only item with an average priority ranking above four is to provide additional public land along the river corridor (4.3). The lowest priority averages among all 17 items are to provide more law enforcement presence (3.1), increase river patrols (3.0), and to set up a campsite reservation system (3.0) (Table VII.5).

Table VII.4: Priority on information items for future management (boaters).¹

	Byington	Conant	Spring Creek	North Side	All Locations
Provide low-impact camping information	4.1	4.4	4.3	4.8	4.2
Provide boating etiquette information	3.8	4.1	4.0	3.6	4.0
Provide river safety information signs at launches	3.9	4.2	4.0	3.8	4.0
Provide more information about fishing quality	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.0	3.3

¹ The average scores are calculated on a scale where 1 = Lowest Priority and 7 = Highest Priority.

Table VII.5: Priority on management/services improvements items for future management (boaters).¹

	Byington	Conant	Spring Creek	North Side	All Locations
Provide additional public land along the river corridor	4.2	4.4	4.4	4.0	4.3
Reduce crowding in heavy use areas	3.7	3.8	4.1	3.7	3.9
Provide additional campsites along the river	3.4	3.3	3.4	3.2	3.4
More law enforcement presence	3.2	3.1	3.0	2.8	3.1
Increase river patrols	3.1	3.0	2.9	2.7	3.0
Set up campsite reservation system	2.9	3.2	3.1	2.7	3.0

¹ The average scores are calculated on a scale where 1 = Lowest Priority and 7 = Highest Priority.

Campers were asked to read 13 items and asked to indicate the priority rankings the same as the boaters. Table VII.6 shows the average priority scores with the highest to protect bald eagle habitat (5.3) followed by providing low-impact camping information (4.5), reducing livestock grazing along the

river (4.5) and providing additional campsites along the river (4.5). As with the boaters, the lowest average priority score is to provide a campsite reservation system (2.7). Items that also had low scores are providing more developed campsites, increasing river patrols, and providing more handicap accessible campsites (3.1 each) (Table VII.6).

Table VII.6: Priority on policy items for future management (campers).¹

	Average
Protect bald eagle habitat	5.3
Provide low-impact camping information	4.5
Reduce livestock grazing along the river	4.5
Provide additional campsites along the river	4.3
Provide more undeveloped campsites	4.1
Reduce crowding in heavy use camping areas	3.8
Prevent impacts to natural vegetation in camping areas	3.8
Prevent impacts to soils in camping areas	3.8
Protect cottonwood habitat	3.7
Provide more developed campsites	3.1
Increase river patrols	3.1
Provide more accessible campsites for the handicapped	3.1
Provide a campsite reservation system	2.7

¹ The average scores are calculated on a scale where 1= Lowest Priority and 7 = Highest Priority.

VIII. VISITOR COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

At the end of the survey, respondents were asked if they had any additional comments or recommendations for management of the South Fork of the Snake River. Even though the survey was comprehensive and most respondents were anxious to hit the road, 163 boaters and 12 campers wrote down additional comments. The complete text of those comments is presented in Appendix C organized by takeout locations.

Byington boaters. A total of 51 boaters taking out at Byington offered additional comments or management recommendations. About 17 mentioned the need to restrict access or enforce restrictions to commercial outfitters and guides. One person suggested “limiting the number of guides per day” while another had two suggestions: “limit time of day on river for guides” and “designate one day a week for no guides.” Another pointed out what may be a problem in the current system: “they (licensed guides) use their allotted number of boats to hire others to increase the number of clients.” Five respondents thought that the number of boats should be limited while seven want limits on motorboats, jet boats, or speeding boats. One person said there is a “need to limit motor size on jet boats to 40 hp and ban jet skis.” It should also be noted that about six respondents did not feel that use restrictions or limits were necessary. One person said that “we hope people who ‘think’ they know more than we, who have known every inch of the river, will NOT put restrictions on our freedom to enjoy what is out our backdoor” and another said “I feel we need to mind our own business and let others do the same ... bald eagles will continue to have their young even if there are twice the current number of boaters.” There also appears to be the sentiment use limits should not apply to locals (six comments). One person said “I support limiting out-of-state and non-resident people on the river” and another suggested to “charge out-of-staters more for fishing licenses.” But an inordinate number were concerned with (or wanted limits on) out-of-state boaters and guides. Another four or five mentioned litter as a problem.

Conant boaters. Similar to Byington, 12 of the 43 Conant boaters felt that commercial guides should have some limits or restrictions. One person thought the “guides and outfitters are the main reason for overcrowded rivers, ramps, and campsites.” Another suggested to “also restrict and enforce out-of-state (non-licensed) guides’ use of the river” and “no ‘trading use’ of guide permits by any guide

other than one working for a local licensed outfitter.” There were about seven respondents who thought that motorized boats should be restricted with one person concerned that jet boats are a safety concern and four stating that motorboats should be banned on the river. There were also several who expressed concern about additional restrictions. One boater is concerned that if restrictions are in place, they would not be able to freely recreate “river is here for us to enjoy, not to be banned from using it.” Three people thought that any use limits should apply to non-residents first (“limit out-of-state fishermen and guides before Idahoans”), three mentioned problems with litter (“litter is a big problem”), several were concerned about development along the river (“first priority should be to limit any development to more than 1000 feet from any part of the river”), and two respondents thought it was too crowded.

Spring Creek boaters. There were 60 respondents at Spring Creek that wrote additional comments on the survey. The most frequent concern (about 14) had to do with motorboats, jet boats, and jet skis. One boater thinks that “there is need to limit jet boats, especially those with more than 150 hp” while another thought there should be an outright ban on “jet boats on the upper river.” About five people thought that motorized watercraft are having a negative impact on wildlife and habitat. There was also a sentiment that there should be further restrictions on commercial guides (about seven comments). One person thinks that if you “limit the guides, you eliminate all the problems” while another suggested to “ban guides and reduce out-of-state presence.” There was also concern expressed about development along the river. One person thinks there are “too many trophy homes along the river” while another expressed concern that lawn fertilizers are contaminating the river. Two respondents thought that the conditions were crowded but mentioned they were there on a holiday. One person thought it would be a good idea to “make camp/float trips available to young people, especially from the cities in Idaho.”

North Side (Wolf Flat and Fullmer) boaters. Even though relatively few boaters were sampled at the north side takeouts, nine offered comments or suggestions. Five thought there should be restrictions on motorized watercraft with one person stating that “power boaters are the only problem” and suggested reviewing the management policy on the “Deschutes River (because) their restrictions are excellent examples of what can and should be done.” Another thought that limits should be implemented to maintain the character of the South Fork: “the need for limits on the number of boats is so that it

doesn't become like Jackson Hole area (too many boats and rafts)." There were two respondents that felt commercial guiding operations should be restricted or even banned. Two boaters did not like the idea of additional rules with one writing "we all pay taxes and we have a right to be here" while the other was more adamant in his feelings: "Local people only and with any boat they want!!! Because it is all out-of-state and guides."

Campers. All the campers that offered comments came off the river at Byington. Of the 12 respondents, two mentioned seeing human waste and toilet paper at the campsites and another suggested that "even day trippers should be required to have portable toilets." One person suggested that better "signs would help first time floaters/campers." One suggested banning motorized watercraft and several think there should be a limit on the number of outfitters or guided trips. Other comments were made regarding the quality of the trip and the South Fork with several commenting on the natural beauty and an enjoyable camping trip.

Even though most respondents at all locations wrote one, two, or three comments or suggestions, one boater who took out at Spring Creek offered these sentiments:

We hate port-potties, but it has reduced the toilet paper in campgrounds and that was ugly! There are sometimes too many boaters. Some trips, we loathe all of the speed boats. Personally, I do not believe jet skis have a place on the Snake River. Neither were a problem on this trip due to low fishing. That is somewhat surprising because they haven't seemed to care about fishers' or floaters' feelings in the past. We say let them thoroughly enjoy Palisades! We are always enamored with the Snake River experience, but this summer we are all saddened that the fishing has changed. The Snake River has been a valued part of our lives and the quality of our lives for 30 years. We are not 'trendy' fishermen, we are catch-and-release real fishers long before fly fishing became cool. We have a deep love and respect for Wyoming, Idaho, and Utah rivers. Although we know things are changing and more and more people need rivers, we long for days gone by. We appreciate your efforts to preserve the quality of the Snake River as it is paramount in our lives. Thank You!

IX. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The purpose of this study is to provide the staff in the BLM's Idaho Falls District with use and attitude data for boaters and campers recreating on the South Fork of the Snake River. The study site is a 39 mile stretch of the South Fork in Southeastern Idaho, between Palisades Dam and the Byington take out. The key issues of concern for the study were human waste, T&E species management (especially for bald eagles and Ute Lady's Tresses Orchids), social carrying capacity, conflict between power boaters and floaters, and camping impacts along the river. Camping is accessible only by boat, and is restricted to designated sites along the river in some stretches, and open to dispersed camping in others.

The study was designed to characterize the visitors and use characteristics of boaters and campers, and to measure attitudes toward conflicts, crowding, and management actions and policies that may help address the issues listed above. Surveys were conducted at five boat access points: Spring Creek, Conant, Byington, and two remote sites, Wolf Flat and Fullmer, referred to jointly as the "North Side" take outs. Boaters were selected randomly at these takeouts, with a small sub sample of campers selected to complete the questionnaire that contained camping specific questions.

The general goal for this report is to help managers provide recreational opportunities while minimizing recreational conflicts and environmental impacts. This section summarizes the results of the survey and makes general recommendations for meeting this goal. First we discuss the visitor characteristics and recreational experiences of boaters and campers on the river, and then visitors' perceptions of crowding, conflict, and management needs.

Visitor Use Characteristics and Experiences

From a recreational use perspective, the South Fork is distinctly a dominant use river. While boaters participate in a variety of activities, fishing is by far the most common and most important activity on the segment. Over 86% of the boaters participate in boat fishing and 48% in shore fishing. Boat fishing was listed as the *primary* activity by over two-thirds of the respondents at all takeouts, and no other activities were listed by more than 10% of the boaters at any take out. By way of comparison,

in studies we conducted on sixteen different lakes and river segments in Utah, including eight BLM managed river segments, only one river segment, the Brown's Park segment on the Green River, even approached this type of fishing dominance (Reiter *et al.* 2001^a, 2001^b, and 2002). This is a critical consideration for river management because all of these studies indicate that fishing is a relatively sensitive recreational activity due to anglers' concerns with resource impacts and recreational conflicts.

The residences of the boaters' indicates that the river is primarily a regional attraction. Most boaters come from Idaho, Utah, and Wyoming, and nearly half are from the seven counties adjacent to the South Fork. Only about one-quarter of boaters are from outside the three-state region, and only four respondents (< .1%) were international visitors.

The South Fork visitors also tend to have a lot of experience using this stretch of river. Two-thirds of the campers and three-quarters of the boaters are repeat visitors, and 52% of the boaters have been visiting the South Fork since before 1990. For campers, two-thirds are repeat visitors and 30% first visited the South Fork before 1990. And most repeat boaters visit the river several times each year. The median number of visits made by repeat boaters in 2000 was six, and since the average number of visits was 14, it indicates that some boaters use the river a very large number of times each year. Even three-quarters of the repeat campers make multiple trips to the river each year.

These results indicate that the South Fork attracts a relatively local, very experienced, and very committed clientele. Boaters are likely to exhibit high levels of place attachment and strong opinions about management. But there is also a dual clientele, however. About one-quarter of the visitors have little experience on the river and come from outside the region. Thus, the South Fork segment also has a national image and river guides play a secondary but still important role in the recreational fishing character of the river. And evidence of conflict between these two groups was found in the open-ended comments on the survey. The largest category of comments at both Byington and Conant, and the second largest number of comments at Spring Creek, were negative comments made about outfitters and guides or the need to restrict their activities.

Most of the other use characteristics tend to reflect the fishing-oriented clientele of the river. Average group sizes are small (about three per group) and relatively long day trips are the norm (86% of the boaters do day trips and spend an average of 6.2 hours on the river). Even camping trips tend to

be short (1.3 days on average). Most boaters (57%) are in drift boats, or rafts, canoes, or kayaks (21%), and relatively few are motorized 17.7%. This is especially true of campers (69% drift boats, 39% rafts, and only 11% jet/motorboats). Only about 13% of the boaters and 6% of the campers hired commercial outfitters.

These results suggest that greater management emphasis should be on the day use and short camping type fishing trips and meeting the needs and preferences of local, experienced fishermen. Guides and outfitted public are important but secondary clients. Meeting preference of experienced, local boaters however, will not be easy, as these boaters and campers appear to have two distinct images of future management: 1) those who favor more use restrictions to help keep the river in the relatively pristine, low use conditions they remember it (probably the non-motor boaters and campers), and 2) those who favor no government controls and prefer the BLM allow unrestricted freedom to use the river as they have been accustomed to (probably motor and jet boaters). At a minimum, both these "groups" need to be actively involved in future management decisions, and as a starting point for public involvement, they need to be made aware of the alternative and potentially contradictory images of river management.

Although only 13% of the sample indicated they were on a commercially guided trip, quite a few respondents voiced displeasure with the outfitters. There are probably several explanations for this displeasure. For example, given the very local/experience use character of the river, the locals may perceive the outfitters' clients as interlopers or even a factious clique. Local fishers may resent seeing people with brand new equipment and fancy clothes and having paid guides do all the work for them. Or, guides take their clients to the best fishing "holes" with little effort which the locals may perceive as unfair competition for the best spots. This source of conflict can be addressed with limits on the number or movements of outfitters.

Boating on the South Fork is relatively evenly distributed throughout the week, including weekends, but campers are nearly twice as likely to be taking out on weekends compared to weekdays. At Byington and Conant, parking lots are full about one-third of the weekends days, but rarely on weekdays. At Spring Creek, however, lots are full or overflowing on about half of the weekends *and* weekdays. The North Side lots are rarely full on weekends (18% three-quarter to full) and never at

overflow. Thus, based solely on parking, Spring Creek is the most overcapacity parking area, and renovations seem to be needed or boaters will go further down river (or park along the highway creating a traffic safety hazard) where lots are also heavily used but not overcapacity as often as Spring Creek. The parking area at Spring Creek is haphazard and the soil and vegetation is heavily impacted. With site hardening and design improvements, extra capacity can be obtained at Spring Creek at the same time as *reducing* the physical impacts of recreation and without expanding the impact area. (The crowding results discussed below also support the need to harden and expand capacity at Spring Creek.)

For launch sites, quite a few boaters (1/5 to 1/3) at the lower takeouts (Byington, Conant, and the North Side launches) put in and take out at the same ramp, especially at Byington (over 36%). This means that a relatively large number of boaters travel both directions on the river, and permitting motors or limiting motor sizes would be difficult. If managers consider limiting motor sizes (which a relatively high number of boaters suggest in the open-ended comments), maximum engine horsepower regulations should at least allow boaters to travel upstream.

Satisfaction, Conflicts, and Crowding

Satisfaction levels are very high. Like all the segments in the Utah Rivers Study (Reiter *et al.* 2001^b), over 90% of both campers and boaters were either “very satisfied” (over 50% of both subgroups) or “satisfied.” Sources of dissatisfaction were caused by behaviors or impacts of other boaters (34) (especially motor/jet boats (30)), fishing quality (24), and crowding (18) (including too many boats, too many people, too many guides). In the open-ended comments at the end of the survey, however, the largest category of responses were negative comments about outfitters and guides, followed by the need to limit motor and jet boats or the sizes of motors allowed on the river.

Crowding seems to be a bit of a problem, too, but primarily on the river, as campers saw relatively few people in the camping areas (mean 7, median, 2.5), and few campers thought they saw “too many people” (15%) or thought there was a need to limit the number of groups using the camp areas (20%, with only 2% saying “definitely yes”). On the river, however, boaters saw a relatively high number of other boaters (mean 40, median 30), 38% said they saw too many people (nearly 10% said “far too

many”), and one-quarter said they thought use limits should be imposed.

Most boaters thought that if they could not get on the river due to use limits, they would go boating anyway, and nearly half predicted that they would go to another segment on the South Fork, the Henry’s Fork, or elsewhere on the Snake River. Thus, limiting use would displace boating uses to other river segments. This is especially true of the campers: when asked what they would do if they could not camp in the same place due to restrictions, 93% said they would camp anyway and 82% of these said would camp somewhere else on the South Fork. These results illustrate that if existing camping areas are closed for rehabilitation, boaters will camp somewhere else along the South Fork. This will disperse existing camping impacts to other sensitive riparian areas. Recent research on the ecological impacts of recreation has shown that the total impacts from camping are much greater in unimpacted areas than in areas that are already impacted by recreation use; closing camping areas would actually have the counter intuitive result of increasing the physical impacts of recreation use on the South Fork, and make the impacts more difficult to manage. And since crowding is not a problem in camping areas, we recommend using educational and enforcement strategies for increasing low impact camping behavior.

These crowding results are similar to the Brown’s Park segment of the Green River, which had relatively high crowding perceptions that were comparable to *low* use river segments where solitude is a primary motivation for taking the trip. This indicates that fishermen are as sensitive to seeing a large numbers of other boaters as wilderness visitors compared to most boating and rafting recreationists. While this may be due to an interest in solitude, it probably also reflects competition for preferred fishing spots, greater sensitivity to conflicting uses, and stronger perceptions of appropriate and fair behavior compared to most river users. All of these factors probably help explain the relatively large number of negative comments about river guides. The high level of experience and place attachment exhibited by the South Fork boaters probably increase the intensity of these feelings of conflict and crowding.

Rather than limiting boating use, which will displace use to other segments and likely have little effect on crowding perceptions (because some of the crowding seems to be caused by *behavior* of others), we recommend using educational, zoning, and enforcement strategies be implemented or increased. For example, posting principles of fishing and boating etiquette, designating fishing segments

and wakeless hours, increasing rule enforcement, and requiring guides to take and use mandatory etiquette and minimum impact courses and to pass this information to clients as is currently the norm in river rafting and back country outfitting as requirement for permit. Limiting the number of guided trips and motor sizes may also help reduce feelings of crowding, but should probably only be considered if educational and zoning strategies are not effective.

Attitudes Toward Management Rules and Policies

Despite the findings that crowding is a problem on the river, there is relatively strong opposition to use limits on the numbers of boaters and, to a lesser extent, campers. There is relatively strong support, however, for management actions that regulate behaviors. Both boaters and campers tend to support management actions that restrict behaviors that impact the environment (e.g., carrying out trash and body waste, protect eagle habitat and rare plants) and *existing* use restrictions (e.g., limiting camping to designated areas and requiring porta potties), but there is less support for new use restrictions (e.g., requiring assigned campsites).

Attitudes toward policies were similar. Policies aimed at protecting the resources are the most acceptable, providing additional information received medium support, and providing facilities and services the lowest support. Regarding resource protection, fish, wildlife, and T&E species protection were ranked the highest, low impact camping information was ranked relatively high (and in open-ended comments there were numerous individual recommendations for providing information and education), and the only services that received a moderate amount of support was providing more recreational opportunities. Campers were more concerned with livestock grazing than boaters, boaters were more concerned with development along the river, but neither of these issues seemed to generate a large amount of concern. Campers would also like to see more campsites along the river, and a mandatory reservation system was the least acceptable of the specific camping policies.

There were strongly mixed feelings exhibited in the open-ended questions. While most made suggestions for use restrictions, and there were some relatively strong anti motor and jet boat comments (especially concerning jet skis and boats with large motors), there was also some very strong anti limit, anti restriction, and even anti government control rhetoric in the comments. In general, negative

comments about outfitters and guides dominated the open-ended comments, especially at Conant and Byington, followed by limitations on jet boats and motor sizes, especially at Spring Creek. There were also quite a few negative comments about non-local visitors, many more such comments than in any of the 16 river segments and lakes we studied in Utah, and some of these boaters combined anti local sentiments with calls for restrictions on outfitters and guides.

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APPENDIX A

Survey Forms

No. _____

OMB #0596-0108

SOUTH FORK OF THE SNAKE RIVER BOATER SURVEY

Thank you for agreeing to complete this survey. It should take about ten minutes of your time. Your responses will provide valuable information for future river management. Please complete all four pages of the survey.

Date: _____
Day: _____
Time: _____
Takeout: _____
Gender: M F
Age: _____
Parking: _____

1. Where is your permanent residence?

City: _____ County: _____ State: _____

2. Is this the first time you have boated on the South Fork of the Snake River? ____ Yes ____ No

If NO What year did you first boat on the South Fork? _____

How many times do you boat on it in a *typical* year? _____

3. Did you hire a commercial outfitter or guide for this trip? ____ Yes ____ No

4. How long were you on the river? _____ hours OR _____ days _____ nights

If more than one day, where did you camp? _____

5. How many people are in your group? _____

6. Please indicate the *type* and *number of boats* in your group on this trip.

_____ Driftboat _____ Raft _____ Kayak/canoe _____ Jetboat/Motorboat _____ Other: _____

7. Where did you launch your boat(s)? ☐ Palisade Dam ☐ Palisade Creek ☐ Spring Creek ☐ Fullmer
☐ Byington ☐ Conant ☐ Other: _____

8. What was the main reason you decided to come out to the South Fork for this trip?

9. From the list of activities below, please indicate which activities you or someone in your group did during this trip. (Check *all* that apply.)

☐ Shore fishing ☐ Birdwatching ☐ Swimming ☐ Camping ☐ Boating ☐ Wildlife watching
☐ Boat fishing ☐ Photography ☐ Hiking ☐ Sightseeing ☐ Picnicking
☐ Cruising or just driving the boat for fun ☐ Other activities: _____

10. If more than one activity, please circle from the list above, your *primary* activity.

11. In general, how satisfied are you with this river trip?

☐ Very Satisfied ☐ Satisfied ☐ Neutral ☐ Dissatisfied ☐ Very Dissatisfied

If Dissatisfied or Very Dissatisfied, what factors detracted from the quality of your river trip? _____

12. Please estimate the number of people (other than in your own group) you saw on this trip _____

13. Which of the following best describes your feelings about the number of people you saw.

- ☐ Far too many people
- ☐ Somewhat too many people
- ☐ About the right number of people
- ☐ Somewhat too few people
- ☐ Far too few people

14. In *general*, do you think there is currently a need to put a limit on the number of boats that can use this segment of the South Fork at one time?

- ☐ Definitely yes
- ☐ Probably yes
- ☐ Probably no
- ☐ Definitely no
- ☐ Don't know

IF YES Why do you feel that additional use limits are needed on the South Fork of the Snake?

15. If you were not able to get on this segment of the river for this trip due to restrictions on the number of boats *today*, would you have ... (Check *one* response.)

- ☐ Boated on a different segment of the South Fork? → Where? _____
- ☐ Boated on Henry's Fork?
- ☐ Boated on another part of the Snake River? → Where? _____
- ☐ Boated on Palisades Reservoir?
- ☐ Boated on a different river? → Which river? _____
- ☐ Not gone boating because there is no adequate alternative.
- ☐ Don't know.

16. Did the action of others detract from your boating enjoyment today? ☐ YES ☐ NO

IF YES What types of groups or users detracted from your enjoyment? _____

What did they do? _____

Can you think of any other group that detracted from your enjoyment? _____

What did they do? _____

17. To what extent is each of the following a problem on the segment of the river you floated?

	<u>Not a Problem</u>	<u>A Small Problem</u>	<u>A Moderate Problem</u>	<u>A Big Problem</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
<u>On the river ...</u>					
Not enough camping areas	1	2	3	4	X
Too many motorized watercraft	1	2	3	4	X
Litter along the river	1	2	3	4	X
Rude, inconsiderate boaters	1	2	3	4	X
Human caused vegetation loss	1	2	3	4	X
Boating safety	1	2	3	4	X
Water pollution	1	2	3	4	X
Livestock along the river	1	2	3	4	X
Too many boaters	1	2	3	4	X
Disturbance of bald eagle nesting areas	1	2	3	4	X
Human waste or toilet paper	1	2	3	4	X

At launches or take-outs ...

Litter or trash	1	2	3	4	X
Too many people at the launch site	1	2	3	4	X
Too many people at the take-out	1	2	3	4	X
Lack of information about the river	1	2	3	4	X
Lack of trash receptacles	1	2	3	4	X
Not enough parking	1	2	3	4	X
Lack of toilets	1	2	3	4	X
Lack of shelter/shade	1	2	3	4	X
Lack of drinking water	1	2	3	4	X
Lack of human waste disposal facility	1	2	3	4	X

18. The following is a list of possible rules available for managing the South Fork of the Snake river. For each one, please indicate your level of support or opposition for that type of rule on the South Fork in general AND if you think this type of rule is needed on the river now.

						Needed Now?		
	<u>Strongly Support</u>	<u>Support</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Strongly Oppose</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Maybe</u>	<u>No</u>
Limit fishing access in bald eagle habitat	1	2	3	4	5	y	m	n
Assign where group may camp	1	2	3	4	5	y	m	n
Limit the number of people allowed on the river each day	1	2	3	4	5	y	m	n
Limit number of launches per day	1	2	3	4	5	y	m	n
Limit number of people per group	1	2	3	4	5	y	m	n
Limit number of boats per group	1	2	3	4	5	y	m	n
Assign launch times during heavy use times	1	2	3	4	5	y	m	n
Require people to carry out their own trash	1	2	3	4	5	y	m	n
Require people to carry out human body waste	1	2	3	4	5	y	m	n
Allow camping only at designated sites	1	2	3	4	5	y	m	n
Require use of porta-potties	1	2	3	4	5	y	m	n

19. Indicate the priority you think river managers should put on each of the following items in the future.

	<u>Lowest Priority</u>					<u>Highest Priority</u>	
Protect fish habitat	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Provide additional campsites along the river	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
More law enforcement presence	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Provide more information about fishing quality	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Increase river patrols	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Protect cottonwood habitat	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Set up a campsite reservation system	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Provide boating etiquette information	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Protect threatened and endangered species habitat	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Provide river safety information signs at launches	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Reduce crowding in heavy use areas	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Prevent impacts to natural vegetation on shore	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Prevent impacts to soils on shore	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Reduce livestock grazing	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Protect wildlife habitat	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Provide low-impact camping information	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Provide additional public land along the river corridor	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

20. What are your feelings about increased development activities and different types of recreation along the South Fork of the Snake River?

	<u>Strongly Support</u>	<u>Support</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Strongly Oppose</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
Residential housing along the river	1	2	3	4	5	X
Rip-rap for erosion control along the river bank	1	2	3	4	5	X
Environmental education group trips	1	2	3	4	5	X
General development along the river	1	2	3	4	5	X
Corporate training skill activities*	1	2	3	4	5	X
Outdoor leadership training courses**	1	2	3	4	5	X

**Corporate training refers to outdoor field trips for members of businesses and organizations designed to develop decision making and teamwork skills through activities such as climbing, ropes courses, and rafting.*

***Outdoor leadership programs are mostly designed to train younger people in the outdoor skills necessary to lead groups into the backcountry.*

If you have any comments about your trip or river management, please feel free to use the bottom of this sheet to write those comments. Please return this questionnaire to the field researcher who passed them out.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP !!

SOUTH FORK OF THE SNAKE RIVER CAMPER SURVEY

*Thank you for agreeing to complete this survey. It should take about ten minutes of your time. Your responses will provide valuable information for future river management. **Please complete all four pages of the survey.***

Date: _____
Day: _____
Time: _____
Takeout: _____
Gender: M F
Age: _____
Parking: _____

1. Where is your permanent residence?

City: _____ County: _____ State: _____

2. Is this the first time you have camped on the South Fork of the Snake River? ____ Yes ____ No

If NO What year did you first camp on this segment of the South Fork? _____

How many times do you camp in this area in a typical year? _____

3. Did you hire a commercial outfitter or guide for this trip? ____ Yes ____ No

4. How many people are in your group? _____

5. What is the makeup of your group? (Please check only one.)

☐ Individual ☐ Family ☐ Friends ☐ Family and Friends
☐ Group unacquainted with prior to trip ☐ Club or organization

6. Please indicate the **type** and **number of boats** in your group on this trip.

_____ Driftboat _____ Raft _____ Kayak/canoe _____ Jetboat/Motorboat _____ Other: _____

7. Where did you launch your boat(s)? ☐ Palisade Dam ☐ Palisade Creek ☐ Spring Creek ☐ Fullmer
☐ Byington ☐ Conant ☐ Other: _____

8. How long did you on spend on this trip? _____ days _____ nights

Where did you camp? Night 1: _____

Night 2: _____

Night 3: _____

If you camped more than one night, please refer only to your last night on the river when answering the remaining questions.

9. In general, how satisfied are you with the area where you camped?

☐ Very Satisfied ☐ Satisfied ☐ Neutral ☐ Dissatisfied ☐ Very Dissatisfied

If Dissatisfied or Very Dissatisfied, what factors detracted from the quality of your campground? _____

10. Please estimate the number of people (other than own group) you saw in the area where you camped. _____

11. Which of the following best describes your feelings about the number of campers you saw.

- ☐ Far too many campers
- ☐ Somewhat too many campers
- ☐ About the right number of campers
- ☐ Somewhat too few campers
- ☐ Far too few campers

12. In *general*, do you think there is currently a need to put a limit on the number of campers that can use this camping area?

- ☐ Definitely yes
- ☐ Probably yes
- ☐ Probably no
- ☐ Definitely no
- ☐ Don't know

IF YES Why do you feel that additional use limits are needed where you camped?

13. If camping use limits are implemented and you were not able to get a campsite in the area where you camped on this trip, what do you think you would have done? Do you think you still would have camped somewhere else on this segment of the river or done something else? (Check just *one*.)

- ☐ Probably camped somewhere else on this segment
- ☐ Probably not camped on this segment this trip
- ☐ Probably gone to a different river or segment → **Where?** _____
- ☐ Probably not gone on a boat trip at all
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ Don't Know

14. The following is a list of possible rules available for reducing impacts from camping on the South Fork of the Snake river. For each one, please indicate your level of support or opposition for that type of rule to manage the camping areas on this segment **AND** if you think that type of rule is needed now.

						Needed Now?		
	<u>Strongly Support</u>	<u>Support</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Strongly Oppose</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Maybe</u>	<u>No</u>
Limit on number of campers allowed per day	1	2	3	4	5	y	m	n
Limit on number of campsites occupied per day	1	2	3	4	5	y	m	n
Prohibit wood cutting	1	2	3	4	5	y	m	n
Require use of camp stoves or fire pans	1	2	3	4	5	y	m	n
Assign boaters to specific campsites	1	2	3	4	5	y	m	n
Require people to carry out their own trash	1	2	3	4	5	y	m	n
Prohibit camping in areas with rare plants	1	2	3	4	5	y	m	n
Require people to carry out human body waste	1	2	3	4	5	y	m	n
Allow camping only at designated sites	1	2	3	4	5	y	m	n
Require use of porta-potties	1	2	3	4	5	y	m	n
Prohibit camping within bald eagle closure areas	1	2	3	4	5	y	m	n

15. To what extent is each of the following a problem in the area where you camped?

	<u>Not a Problem</u>	<u>A Small Problem</u>	<u>A Moderate Problem</u>	<u>A Big Problem</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
<u>At the campground ...</u>					
Litter or trash in campsites	1	2	3	4	X
Too many motorized watercraft	1	2	3	4	X
Campsites are too remote/secluded	1	2	3	4	X
Campsites too close to other parties	1	2	3	4	X
Not enough patrols	1	2	3	4	X
Rude, inconsiderate campers	1	2	3	4	X
Campsites damaged by previous visitors	1	2	3	4	X
Difficulty finding an unoccupied campsite	1	2	3	4	X
Too many people passed my campsite	1	2	3	4	X
Human caused erosion or bare ground	1	2	3	4	X
Human damaged trees at campsites	1	2	3	4	X
Cattle or cattle droppings in campsites	1	2	3	4	X
Human waste or toilet paper at campsites	1	2	3	4	X
Disturbance of bald eagle nesting areas	1	2	3	4	X
Vegetation loss/impacts	1	2	3	4	X
Lack of firewood	1	2	3	4	X
Noise at night	1	2	3	4	X

16. Can you think of any other problems river managers need to address concerning river camping areas?

17. *In general*, indicate the priority you think river managers should put on each item in the future.

	<u>Lowest Priority</u>					<u>Highest Priority</u>	
Provide more undeveloped campsites	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Provide more developed campsites	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Protect bald eagle habitat	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Increase river patrols	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Protect cottonwood habitat	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Provide more accessible campsites for the handicapped	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Provide a campsite reservation system	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Provide low-impact camping information	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Provide additional campsites along the river	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Reduce crowding in heavy use camping areas	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Prevent impacts to natural vegetation in camping areas	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Prevent impacts to soils in camping areas	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Reduce livestock grazing along the river	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

18. What type of campsite would you prefer to use on the South Fork of the Snake River? (Check only *one*.)

- ☐ I never plan on camping on the South Fork again
- ☐ Undeveloped sites (no toilets or other facilities)
- ☐ Semi-developed sites with pit toilets and fire rings
- ☐ Developed sites with pit toilets, docks, picnic tables, and fire grills
- ☐ Highly developed sites with flush toilets, showers, running water, and electrical hookups.

19. What are your feelings about increased development activities and different types of recreation along the South Fork of the Snake River?

	<u>Strongly Support</u>	<u>Support</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Strongly Oppose</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
Residential housing along the river	1	2	3	4	5	X
Rip-rap for erosion control along the river bank	1	2	3	4	5	X
Environmental education group trips	1	2	3	4	5	X
General development along the river	1	2	3	4	5	X
Corporate training skill activities*	1	2	3	4	5	X
Outdoor leadership training courses**	1	2	3	4	5	X

**Corporate training refers to outdoor field trips for members of businesses and organizations designed to develop decision making and teamwork skills through activities such as climbing, ropes courses, and rafting.*

***Outdoor leadership programs are mostly designed to train younger people in the outdoor skills necessary to lead groups into the backcountry.*

If you have any comments about your camping area or river management, please feel free to use the bottom of this sheet to write those comments. Please return this questionnaire to the field researcher who passed them out.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP !!

APPENDIX B

Reasons for Boating on the South Fork of the Snake River

Location of Campsites for Overnight Boaters

Reasons Why Respondents Want a Limit on the Number of Boaters on the South Fork

Reasons Why Respondents Want a Limit on the Number of Campers on the South Fork

Groups Identified by Respondents Who Detracted from Their Enjoyment on the River and the

Activities that Caused that Detraction

If Not Able to Boat on South Fork Due to Use Limits, What Other Activity and Where

Reasons for Boating on the South Fork of the Snake River

Percentages of individual reasons are the percent of respondents. Percentages of each total category are the percent of the total number of responses. Up three responses were coded for each respondent.

RECREATION	[246] (17.8%)
Fun/enjoyment/pleasure/love it	[143] (13.1%)
Drive boat/float river/easy float	[53] (4.8%)
Recreation	[29] (2.6%)
Drink beer/party	[8] (0.7%)
Not working	[6] (0.5%)
Something new/experience Snake River/always wanted to	[6] (0.5%)
Swimming	[1] (0.1%)
FISHING	[702] (50.8%)
Fishing	[598] (54.6%)
Excellent/good/quality	[44] (4.1%)
Learn to fly fish/fly fish	[38] (3.5%)
Fly hatch/salmon flies/PMD hatch/stone flies	[19] (1.7%)
Catch native fish/trout	[3] (0.3%)
ENVIRONMENT	[137] (9.9%)
Wildlife/outdoor/scenery	[112] (10.2%)
Good weather	[13] (1.2%)
Good water/class one water	[6] (0.5%)
View river front development	[4] (0.4%)
Test foul weather gear	[1] (0.1%)
Falls	[1] (0.1%)
VACATION	[30] (2.2%)
Get away/vacation	[23] (2.1%)
Father's Day/Birthday	[3] (0.3%)
Touring for out of state visitors/recon for future trip	[3] (0.3%)
Weekend wedding	[1] (0.1%)
CONVENIENCE	[62] (4.5%)
Live here/proximity/family lives close by	[40] (3.7%)
Vacation home in Sun Valley/vacation home close by	[9] (0.8%)
Knowledge of river/grew up in vicinity	[8] (0.7%)
Free float/no permit required	[3] (0.3%)
Easy shuttle	[2] (0.2%)

WORK ON RIVER	[18] (1.3%)
Guide service	[10] (0.9%)
Work/business	[8] (0.7%)
UNCROWDED	[9] (0.7%)
Less crowded	[4] (0.4%)
Peace/serenity	[4] (0.4%)
Displaced from other river	[1] (0.1%)
CAMPING	[34] (2.5%)
Camping	[26] (2.4%)
Camp trip	[4] (0.4%)
Favorite place to camp	[2] (0.2%)
Set up camp	[2] (0.2%)
SOCIALIZATION	[98] (7.1%)
Be with family	[42] (3.0%)
Fish with friends	[24] (2.2%)
Invitation from friends	[12] (1.1%)
Recommended by friends	[13] (1.2%)
Relations	[7] (0.6%)
GROUP TRIP	[23] (1.7%)
Leadership training for Idaho Falls Chamber of Commerce	[11] (1.0%)
Church group	[7] (0.6%)
Scout camp	[5] (0.5%)
ANNUAL TRIP	[11] (0.8%)
Always do it	[5] (0.5%)
Annual trip	[4] (0.4%)
Snake River	[2] (0.2%)
INFORMATION SOURCES	[11] (0.8%)
Magazine article	[5] (0.5%)
Canoeing book	[4] (0.4%)
Idaho guidebook	[1] (0.1%)
Read about it in a book	[1] (0.1%)

Location of Campsites for Overnight Boaters

Of the 92 respondents who indicated the locations of their campsites, 73 (79.3%) stayed only one night, 17 (18.5%) stayed only two nights, and 2 (2.2%) stayed three or more nights.

FIRST NIGHT CAMPSITES [92]

Pine Creek	[23] (31.5%)
Pine Creek #5	[12] (16.4%)
Pine Creek #3	[4] (5.5%)
Pine Creek #4	[3] (4.1%)
Pine Creek	[2] (2.7%)
Pine Creek #2	[2] (2.7%)
 Dry Canyon	 [13] (17.8%)
Dry Canyon #1	[4] (5.5%)
Dry Canyon #2	[4] (5.5%)
Dry Canyon #3	[4] (5.5%)
Dry Canyon	[1] (1.4%)
 Gormer Canyon	 [12] (16.4%)
Gormer Canyon	[4] (5.5%)
Gormer Canyon #1	[4] (5.5%)
Gormer Canyon #4	[2] (2.7%)
Gormer Canyon #2	[1] (1.4%)
Gormer Canyon #3	[1] (1.4%)
 Outfitters	 [4] (5.5%)
Hyde Outfitter Camp	[2] (2.7%)
Outfitters Camp	[1] (1.4%)
World Cast Angler's site	[1] (1.4%)
 Other	 [39] (53.4%)
Lufkin Bottom	[20] (27.4%)
Falls Creek	[4] (5.5%)
Nature Conservancy	[3] (4.1%)
Water Crest Spring	[2] (2.7%)
Cottonwood/Fullmer	[2] (2.7%)
On the river	[2] (2.7%)
Firestone	[2] (2.7%)
Wolf Flat	[1] (1.4%)
Calamity	[1] (1.4%)
Bridge	[1] (1.4%)
Kelly Campground	[1] (1.4%)

SECOND NIGHT CAMPSITES [17]

Pine Creek	[7] (41.2%)
Pine Creek #5	[6] (35.3%)
Pine Creek	[1] (5.9%)
Other	[12] (70.6%)
Lufkin Bottom	[6] (35.3%)
On the river	[4] (23.5%)
Where guides take out below Lufkin Bottom	[1] (5.9%)
Canyon	[1] (5.9%)

THIRD NIGHT CAMPSITES [2]

Lufkin Bottom	[1] (50.0%)
Pine Creek #5	[1] (50.0%)

Reasons Why Respondents Want a Limit on the Number of Boaters on the South Fork

Percentage shown for individual comments are the percent of respondents (n=258) who indicated that reason for imposing use limits. Percentages in each category are calculated by dividing the number of responses in that category by the total number of responses. Each respondent was given the opportunity to give up to three responses (n=318).

OTHER BOATERS (GENERAL)	[126] (39.6%)
Other boats go too fast	[40] (15.5%)
Too many jet boats/limit jet boats	[37] (14.3%)
Too many boats	[20] (7.8%)
Too many motorboats/no motorboats	[7] (2.7%)
No jet skis	[6] (2.3%)
Harmony	[5] (1.9%)
Safety	[4] (1.6%)
Inconsiderate boaters	[2] (0.8%)
Too big of a wake	[2] (0.8%)
Attitudes at boat ramps	[1] (0.4%)
Noise/limit the size of jet boat motors	[1] (0.4%)
Cut down on "joy riders"	[1] (0.4%)
OTHER BOATERS (GUIDES)	[48] (15.1%)
Too many outfitters	[40] (15.5%)
Limit guide boats	[3] (1.2%)
Less commercial	[2] (0.8%)
Too many guides during peak times	[2] (0.8%)
Too many Wyoming outfitters	[1] (0.4%)
CROWDING	[61] (19.2%)
Crowding	[14] (5.4%)
Too many people	[14] (5.4%)
Increase enjoyment	[12] (4.7%)
Solitude	[7] (2.7%)
Too many out of state visitors	[3] (1.2%)
Saturday was too busy	[3] (1.2%)
Limit on holidays and other peak times	[3] (1.2%)
Too many fishermen	[2] (0.8%)
Increase use	[2] (0.8%)
Crowded boat ramps	[1] (0.4%)

FISHING	[50] (15.7%)
Stress on the river and fish	[22] (8.5%)
Over fishing	[18] (7.0%)
Fish quality	[6] (2.3%)
Availability of fishing	[3] (1.2%)
Use of creel and bait	[1] (0.4%)
 ENVIRONMENT	 [33] (10.4%)
Protect river environment	[16] (6.2%)
Natural state	[7] (2.7%)
Control pollution	[4] (1.6%)
Better camping	[2] (0.8%)
Aesthetics	[2] (0.8%)
Erosion	[1] (0.4%)
Human waste problem	[1] (0.4%)

Reasons Why Respondents Want a Limit on the Number of Campers on the South Fork

Percentage shown for individual comments are the percent of respondents (n=13) who indicated that reason for imposing use limits. Percentages in each category are calculated by dividing the number of responses in that category by the total number of responses. Each respondent was given the opportunity to give up to three responses (n=18).

OTHER CAMPERS	[9] (50.0%)
Too many other people/campers	[6] (46.2%)
Solitude/Privacy	[2] (15.4%)
Bathroom problems	[1] (7.7%)
 ENVIRONMENT	 [9] (50.0%)
Delicate resources	[4] (30.8%)
Litter/garbage	[2] (15.4%)
Motorized watercraft	[2] (15.4%)
Cattle problems	[1] (7.7%)

Groups Identified by Respondents Who Detracted from Their Enjoyment on the River and the Activities that Caused that Detraction

Categorical percentages are calculated by dividing the number of responses in that category (user groups) by the total number of responses (n=381). Each respondent was given the opportunity to give two responses. Detraction activities percentages are calculated by dividing the number of respondents who indicated that activity by the number in the user group.

JET BOATS	[184] (48.3%)
Noisy	[53] (28.8%)
Wakes	[45] (24.5%)
Speed/go to fast	[39] (21.2%)
Inconsiderate	[8] (4.3%)
Get in the way of fishing	[7] (3.8%)
Too many jet boats	[5] (2.7%)
Pollution	[5] (2.7%)
Drive to close	[4] (2.2%)
Up and down the river through good fishing spots	[3] (1.6%)
Erode the bank	[3] (1.6%)
Just being there	[2] (1.1%)
Strayed from main channel/side channel used	[2] (1.1%)
Detract from experience	[2] (1.1%)
Buzzed river	[1] (0.5%)
Take away enjoyment	[1] (0.5%)
Scared the fish	[1] (0.5%)
Dangerous	[1] (0.5%)
Smell	[1] (0.5%)
Rude	[1] (0.5%)
 MOTORBOATERS	 [79] (20.7%)
Noisy	[26] (32.9%)
Wakes	[14] (17.7%)
Speed	[7] (8.9%)
Inconsiderate	[4] (5.1%)
Just being there	[4] (5.1%)
Take away enjoyment	[3] (3.8%)
Too many	[3] (3.8%)
Up and down river through good fishing spots	[3] (3.8%)
Erode bank	[3] (3.8%)
Get in the way of fishing	[2] (2.5%)
Drive to close	[2] (2.5%)
Rude	[2] (2.5%)
Boat launch	[1] (1.3%)
Getting on and off the river	[1] (1.3%)

Pollution	[1] (1.3%)
Scared fish	[1] (1.3%)
Motorboat sprayed them	[1] (1.3%)
PAID FISHING GUIDES	[42] (11.0%)
Too many	[11] (26.2%)
Think they own the river	[6] (14.3%)
Inconsiderate	[5] (11.9%)
Rude	[5] (11.9%)
Taking all the good spots	[4] (9.5%)
Get in the way of fishing	[3] (7.1%)
Clusters/big groups	[2] (4.8%)
Just being there	[1] (2.4%)
Don't respect shore fishermen	[1] (2.4%)
Cut them off	[1] (2.4%)
Tried to boat them to other parts of the river	[1] (2.4%)
Arrogant	[1] (2.4%)
Speed	[1] (2.4%)
JET SKIS	[24] (6.3%)
Noisy	[6] (25.0%)
Get in the way of fishing	[3] (12.5%)
Speed	[3] (12.5%)
Inconsiderate	[2] (8.3%)
Wakes	[2] (8.3%)
Just being there	[2] (8.3%)
Buzzed the river	[2] (8.3%)
Drive to close	[1] (4.2%)
Man relieved himself in public	[1] (4.2%)
Rowdy	[1] (4.2%)
Detract form experience	[1] (4.2%)
GUIDE TRIPS	[7] (1.8%)
Too many	[2] (28.6%)
Get in the way of fishing	[1] (14.3%)
Taking all the good spots	[1] (14.3%)
Think they own the river	[1] (14.3%)
Cut them off	[1] (14.3%)
Just being there	[1] (14.3%)

OTHER FISHERMEN	[10] (2.6%)
Not following fishing etiquette	[2] (20.0%)
Inconsiderate	[2] (20.0%)
Think they own the river	[1] (10.0%)
Cut them off	[1] (10.0%)
Rowdy	[1] (10.0%)
Ignorant	[1] (10.0%)
Get in the way of shore fishing	[1] (10.0%)
Get in the way of fishing	[1] (10.0%)
DRIFT BOATS	[5] (1.3%)
Get in the way of fishing	[1] (20.0%)
Drive to close	[1] (20.0%)
Cut them off	[1] (20.0%)
Smell	[1] (20.0%)
Inconsiderate	[1] (20.0%)
KAYAKS	[5] (1.3%)
Noisy	[2] (40.0%)
Inconsiderate	[2] (40.0%)
Get in the way of fishing	[1] (20.0%)
JERKS	[4] (1.0%)
Get in the way of fishing	[1] (25.0%)
Did not obey rules	[1] (25.0%)
Rowdy	[1] (25.0%)
Inconsiderate	[1] (25.0%)
FLOATERS	[3] (0.8%)
Get in the way of fishing	[2] (66.7%)
Too many	[1] (33.3%)
RIVER FRONT HOME OWNERS	[3] (0.8%)
Just being there	[1] (33.3%)
Detract from experience	[1] (33.3%)
Pollution	[1] (33.3%)
BOATS	[3] (0.8%)
Too many	[1] (33.3%)
Rude	[1] (33.3%)
Noisy	[1] (33.3%)

OTHER GROUPS	[12] (3.1%)
Wyoming guides just being there	[1] (8.3%)
Wyoming guides think they own the river	[1] (8.3%)
Gun users leaving trash	[1] (8.3%)
Dangerous	[1] (8.3%)
Utah State surveyors just being there	[1] (8.3%)
Construction workers being noisy	[1] (8.3%)
Motor boat tour operator was rude	[1] (8.3%)
Camp host left nasty notes	[1] (8.3%)
Beer drinkers were rowdy	[1] (8.3%)
Topless swimmers flashing boobs	[1] (8.3%)
Tobacco chewers spitting	[1] (8.3%)
Pelicans being inconsiderate	[1] (8.3%)

If Not Able to Boat on South Fork Due to Use Limits,
What Other Activity and Where

Boated on a different segment of the South Fork? [169] Where?

BYINGTON	[66] (39.1%)
Lower on the river	[9] (13.8%)
Lorenzo	[7] (10.8%)
Palisades	[7] (10.8%)
Conant	[7] (10.8%)
Anywhere Possible	[6] (9.2%)
Up river	[3] (4.6%)
Upper Canyon	[3] (4.6%)
Conant to Byington	[3] (4.6%)
Twin Bridge	[2] (3.1%)
Menan	[2] (3.1%)
Dam to Spring Creek	[2] (3.1%)
Byington to Lorenzo	[2] (3.1%)
Hycee	[1] (1.5%)
Swan Valley	[1] (1.5%)
Below Palisades	[1] (1.5%)
Lunch Counter	[1] (1.5%)
South Fork	[1] (1.5%)
Heise to Twin Bridge	[1] (1.5%)
Husky to Springhead	[1] (1.5%)
Dam to Conant	[1] (1.5%)
Dam to Bridge	[1] (1.5%)
Husky to Conant	[1] (1.5%)
Pine Creek	[1] (1.5%)
Less Crowded Area	[1] (1.5%)
Don't Know	[1] (1.5%)
CONANT	[41] (24.3%)
Conant to Byington	[14] (36.9%)
Byington	[5] (13.2%)
Lower on the river	[5] (13.2%)
Spring Creek	[3] (7.9%)
Don't Know	[3] (7.9%)
Lorenzo	[2] (5.3%)
Conant	[2] (5.3%)
Fullmer	[2] (5.3%)
Anywhere possible	[1] (2.6%)
Up river	[1] (2.6%)

Palisades	[1] (2.6%)
Ririe	[1] (2.6%)
Heise to Twin Bridge	[1] (2.6%)

SPRING CREEK	[55] (32.5%)
Conant to Byington	[15] (27.2%)
Lower on the river	[11] (20.0%)
Twin Bridge	[6] (10.9%)
Anywhere possible	[5] (9.1%)
Lorenzo	[3] (5.5%)
Conant	[3] (5.5%)
Hycee	[2] (3.6%)
Spring Creek	[2] (3.6%)
Byington	[2] (3.6%)
Menan	[1] (1.8%)
Green River	[1] (1.8%)
Somewhere else	[1] (1.8%)
Swan Valley to Heise	[1] (1.8%)
Byington to Twin Bridges	[1] (1.8%)

NORTH SIDE	[7] (4.1%)
Anywhere possible	[2] (28.6%)
Palisades	[2] (28.6%)
Upper Canyon	[1] (14.3%)
Twin Bridge	[1] (14.3%)
Byington	[1] (14.3%)

Boated on another part of the Snake River? [53] Where?

BYINGTON	[13] (24.5%)
Twin Bridge	[4] (30.8%)
Jackson	[3] (23.1%)
Lower on the river	[2] (15.4%)
Upper Canyon	[2] (15.4%)
Up river	[1] (7.7%)
Chosen by guide	[1] (7.7%)

CONANT	[19] (35.8%)
Jackson	[5] (26.3%)
Anywhere possible	[3] (15.8%)
Lower on the river	[2] (10.5%)
Dam to Spring Creek	[2] (10.5%)

Menan	[1] (5.3%)
Up river	[1] (5.3%)
Conant to Byington	[1] (5.3%)
Fall Creek	[1] (5.3%)
Teton City	[1] (5.3%)
South Fork	[1] (5.3%)
Wyoming	[1] (5.3%)

SPRING CREEK [19] (35.8%)

Jackson	[9] (47.4%)
Teton City	[2] (10.5%)
Lorenzo	[1] (5.3%)
Anywhere possible	[1] (5.3%)
Conant	[1] (5.3%)
Up river	[1] (5.3%)
Somewhere else	[1] (5.3%)
Hoback	[1] (5.3%)
Moose Wilson	[1] (5.3%)
Anywhere without permits	[1] (5.3%)

NORTH SIDE [2] (3.8%)

Jackson	[1] (50.0%)
Above American Falls	[1] (50.0%)

Boated on a different river? [29] Where?

BYINGTON [8] (27.6%)

Madison	[4] (50.0%)
Teton	[1] (12.5%)
Green River	[1] (12.5%)
Salmon River	[1] (12.5%)
Below American Falls	[1] (12.5%)

CONANT [14] (48.3%)

Anywhere possible	[2] (14.3%)
Madison	[2] (14.3%)
Somewhere else	[2] (14.3%)
Green River	[2] (14.3%)
Jackson	[1] (7.1%)
Teton City	[1] (7.1%)
Yellowstone	[1] (7.1%)
North Fork	[1] (7.1%)
Warm/Salt River	[1] (7.1%)

Out of state	[1] (7.1%)
SPRING CREEK	[7] (24.1%)
Teton	[2] (28.6%)
Green River	[1] (14.3%)
North Fork	[1] (14.3%)
Henry Fork	[1] (14.3%)
Salmon River	[1] (14.3%)
Blackfoot	[1] (14/3%)

APPENDIX C

Additional Comments

Snake River Boater Survey Additional Comments

BYINGTON

- 1
- 2 [B617005] Human waste was a problem on some of our other trips.
- 3 [B618001] We have been boating this river when there was only one other boat out there. We
4 hope we will be able to continue to boat until we cannot physically (health) go. We
5 hope people who “think” they know more than we, who have known every inch of this
6 river, will NOT put restrictions on our freedom to enjoy what is out our back door.
7 We appreciate and take very tender care of this wonderful resource.
- 8 [B623002] Restrict weekend use to residents.
- 9 [B623005] I support limiting out-of-state and non-resident people on the river.
- 10 [B623010] Limits and management do not accomplish anything.
- 11 [B623012] Limit number of guides per day.
- 12 [B623015] If anything is done to protect the river it should be to eliminate so many guide boats and
13 guides. If permit is used only the rich will be able to enjoy the river. I have fished this
14 river for many years and do not think the motors are hurting it. It is the public that does
15 not know how to catch-and-release.
- 16 [B623016] Limit survey takers at the takeouts.
- 17 [B623027] Keep Idaho, don't lose it!
- 18 [B623045] Fishing could have been better.
- 19 [B623050] Speed boaters should be regulated or removed.
- 20 [B623051] Prevent impacts to soils on shores due to jet boats.
- 21 [B629004] It seems like I just filled out an environmental survey. Summary of my feelings: Leave
22 the river alone and limit the use of it by out of state and out of area people and guide
23 services! Let the people that live here enjoy it and use it. The eagles pay no attention to
24 anyone minding their own business.
- 25 [B629020] Limit commercial guides! Limit jet boats!

1 [B629023] Got warning because we parked in wrong spot.

2 [B630001] Limit time of day on river for guides. Designate one day a week for no guides.

3 [B630002] Restrict power boats in the canyon. Don't allow outfitters designated campsites that
4 can't be used by anyone else.

5 [B630003] I feel that there would be harmony if everyone kept moving along, but your drift boats
6 and particularly your guides, are moving too slow. If you float or motor past them, they
7 (guides) are shaking their heads or mouthing off to us.

8 [B630004] Guides need to be outlawed. The river is for public use, not for profit. Us locals fished
9 this river forever and now people want to make money.

10 [B630008] Please limit the number of licensed guide boats. They use their allotted number of boats
11 then hire others to increase the number of clients.

12 [B630009] It's the people of Idaho's river. You can't tell them they can't use it!

13 [B630018] Limit the guides.

14 [B630019] Too many out-of-state guides.

15 [B630021] There should be fewer guides and outfitters on the river! They all have more boats on
16 the river than they are allowed.

17 [B630022] I feel we need to mind our own business and let others do the same. More regulations
18 only means that soon nobody will be able to use this river. I feel that land owners along
19 the river should be able to develop or subdivide as they wish without any interference
20 from any environmentalists or anyone else. They had the forethought to purchase the
21 ground in the past, they should be able to profit on their investments. I think that bald
22 Eagles will continue to have their young even if there are twice the current number of
23 boaters.

24 [B705004] No mention about limiting access of outfitters, especially out-of-state. I think something
25 needs to be done about this problem.

26 [B705035] Overall, the South Fork of the Snake River is one of the more well maintained streams
27 in the West. Education of boaters and a possible speed limit on motor crafts. Rules and
28 regulations to maintain the integrity of the river with the added developments may be
29 needed also. However, at this point limiting use is not necessary.

1 [B705036] At this point I don't see any need to restrict the number of boaters. You may have
2 some congestion during major holidays but this doesn't warrant any major changes.

3 [B706005] Too many guides on a public river.

4 [B706020] Too many drift boats and guides.

5 [B706024] Limit number of commercial boats.

6 [B711001] Do the right thing!

7 [B711003] Need outhouses and stricter enforcement of outfitters using porta-potties.

8 [B724004] Need to restrict the number of guide boats. I know there is already a restriction but it
9 needs to be enforced.

10 [B729021] I believe the continuing increase in jet boat activity is not only damaging important
11 spawning Reds in the fall (brown trout) but also the noise damage and damage to the
12 shoreline is irreparable and needs to be dealt with.

13 [B729025] Limit the number of guides on the river.

14 [B729027] Charge out-of-staters more for fishing license.

15 [B829029] Need to limit motor size on jet boats to 40 hp and ban jet skis.

16 [B806005] Prohibit motors two consecutive days a week. Make day-trippers have porta potties.
17 Enforce the rules, particularly porta-potties.

18 [B812001] People were shooting off rifles just next to our camp at 7:00 AM and beside being
19 annoying, it could have caused some kind of accident. It was down right ignorant. Also,
20 I think that the area should be patrolled for people littering and they should be fined and
21 maybe be taken to court. There is no excuse for throwing your trash out.

22 [B812011] This is one of the few rivers where you can float it without prior reservations, permits,
23 etc. Keep it that way.

24 [B822002] There are very few fish. I don't agree with a campsite reservation system.

25 [B822003] The development of Conant has the potential of turning the river into a guides' river.

1 [B823002] Motorboats defile the peace of the canyon, create wakes, and pollute. Please mail
2 survey results and analysis to me at PO Box 4703 Jackson, WY. 83001. Thanks! Erich
3 Wilbrecht.

4 [B828001] Limit guides and nonresidents.

5 [B828003] This (survey) is to kick us off the river and make a guide boat paradise.

6 [B830002] Limit commercial outfitters.

7 [B903008] The government should provide for the common defense and stay out of our recreation.
8 If too many people are on the river, some will get tired of it and go elsewhere.

9 [B903015] Too many out-of-state people fishing on weekends. Also, there seems to be very little
10 regulation of the guides on the river.

11 [B903016] I did not read one question (in survey) of guiding on the river. I think this is a major
12 problem.

13 [B903017] The South Fork and North Fork should limit the nonresident and guide use on the
14 weekends similar to the regulations Montana has passed on the Beaverhead and Big
15 Hole Rivers.

16 CONANT

17 [C616003] I use a small jet boat and I like it.

18 [C616005] Jet boaters are a safety concern. Please take a look at the jet boat problem!

19 [C616010] Could use some outhouses along the way.

20 [C616011] Wise and prudent use is in order. Extreme restrictions are not needed. River is here for
21 us to enjoy, not to be banned from using it.

22 [C616012] The turn just before the boat ramp was tricky. Maybe a sign saying something like,
23 "stay left," would be helpful.

24 [C622007] Fishing was slow due to recent water fluctuations over past four days.

25 [C622008] The guides think they own this river. They need a river for themselves.

- 1 [C628005] There needs to be a limit on the number of outfitters boats. There are too many.
- 2 [C628006] Strongly support reducing the number of guides and outfitters that are allowed to use
3 the river at any one time. Guides and outfitters are the main reason for overcrowded
4 rivers, ramps, and campsites.
- 5 [C628008] We saw too many boaters today but that is an unusual problem. Also, there was a lot
6 of litter along the bank of the river.
- 7 [C703004] I strongly support regulations requiring porta-potties overnight, but not for day trips.
- 8 [C703006] The river is free use for everyone. Keep the Fed's off my river!
- 9 [C703022] Fishing in Bald Eagle habitat should only be limited depending on how negatively it
10 affects them.
- 11 [C703025] Why shouldn't all who want to use the river do so?
- 12 [C703031] It is not yet time to limit use. I agree that it may be necessary in the future but not now!
13 Appreciate limiting guided trips in the canyon. Limit out-of-state fishermen and guides
14 before Idahoans.
- 15 [C704002] Conant needs a better ramp.
- 16 [C704007] Limit the number of guides on each section of the river. Restrict total number of guided
17 trips any outfitters can have at any one time on the whole river. First priority should be
18 to limit any development to more than 1000 feet from any part of the river. Second
19 priority should be to restrict guide and outfitter numbers. Also restrict and enforce out-
20 of-state (non-licensed) guides use of the river. No "trading use" of guide permits by any
21 guide other than one working for a local licensed outfitter.
- 22 [C704008] Too many guides on the river.
- 23 [C704017] Too many Utahns at launches and takeouts. People who try to control it (the river) and
24 ask too many questions irritate me. We shoot people from Utah! Do everything
25 possible to keep Utahns out of Idaho and off the river.
- 26 [C704020] In general just keep the guide boats to designated stretches and watch they don't go
27 over their quota. Don't over manage this river! The best thing is to get minimum stream
28 flows so it is not devastated in the winter.
- 29 [C704024] Motorized, discourteous boaters should not be allowed.

- 1 [C704033] Need to educate people of shuttle waiting areas and its usefulness.
- 2 [C707009] 1. No more Jet Boats.
3 2. River needs to be permitted.
4 3. Portable toilet law needs to be enforced.
5 4. Stricter creel and bait limits are also required.
- 6 [C707015] Motor boats should not be on the river.
- 7 [C707017] Do not kill the rainbows it is very dumb.
- 8 [C707025] Too many outfitters.
- 9 [C707033] Water was too high for dry fly fishing.
- 10 [C708003] Too many guide boats.
- 11 [C708010] Too many houses and too much development along the river.
- 12 [C708011] Houses along the bank are a very big problem. Also, litter is a big problem.
- 13 [C709001] Great trip.
- 14 [C710009] Guides are rude and inconsiderate. Bring your own water and if you want shade,
15 consult a tree.
- 16 [C716015] This is my first time here and it was great! Not too crowded or polluted, especially
17 compared to other places I've been, and the scenery was beautiful. Hard for me to
18 comment on future development and low limitations without knowing more.
- 19 [C716016] Jet boats are loud and inconsiderate.
- 20 [C729011] Power boaters are very annoying and discourteous. Could do without them.
- 21 [C809004] Weekends and hatches do get crowded.
- 22 [C809005] Considering the apparent activity, I was pleased at the lack of litter. Only one site I saw
23 was a mess and it was a road access site.

- 1 [C809008] There is a very high proportion of outfitters and guided trips compared to private and
2 family trips. Limit outfitters and provide more information for private, unpaid parties.
3 Make Conant Canyon a wild and scenic trip with no trace camping regulations,
4 education, and enforcement.
- 5 [C809010] Limit commercial users, not private. Continued access for the taxpaying average citizen
6 is important. If this river is accessible only for the rich who can buy an outfitted trip, it
7 will be a tremendous insult to family users.
- 8 [C809014] Jetboats detracted from the trip.
- 9 [C809018] Too many people on the river.
- 10 [C902013] Do not reduce the number of rainbow trout in the river.
- 11 [C902014] Reduce the number of guided trips on the river. I have been floating this river since
12 1975. This July was the heaviest pressure I have ever seen.

13 **SPRING CREEK**

- 14 [S615002] Limit the guides and you will eliminate all the problems.
- 15 [S621003] There was some livestock along the river. Crowding was not a problem today.
- 16 [S621021] Limit fishing in Bald Eagle habitat over the water, but not bank fishing.
- 17 [S621029] The fewer rules the better. It is great the way it is now. The fewer rules the better, but it
18 also needs to be protected.
- 19 [S621031] Leave it (river) alone, less development, whether it be private homes or so called
20 improvements.
- 21 [S621033] There is a need to limit jet boats, especially those with more than 150 hp.
- 22 [S621035] Trash is a problem on the shore.
- 23 [S627001] Do the job without brainwashing.
- 24 [S627002] Takeout was immediately below the rapids. Need to provide information about the
25 river.

1 [S628004] Houses with lawns to the river! Doesn't the fertilizer go right into the river? Is that a
2 legal setback? I don't like the power boat noise but they are legal and the people
3 themselves didn't do anything wrong.

4 [S628007] I'm dissatisfied with the fish management decision to attempt to eliminate the Rainbow
5 Trout populations.

6 [S701006] No jet boats on the upper river.

7 [S703007] Number 14 is a faulty question.

8 [S703011] I am a commercial guide. Limit the number or ban jetboats.

9 [S703015] There are somewhat too many people because it is the 4th of July weekend.

10 [S703016] There are somewhat too many people because it is the 4th of July weekend.

11 [S703018] People should be required to carry out solid human waste.

12 [S703020] Get rid of motorboats.

13 [S703026] Motorboats should have a 5 hp max!

14 [S703027] Too many questions on this form!

15 [S703033] Limit horsepower on boats to 20.

16 [S703038] There are plenty of lakes to go power boating on, please leave the rivers for drifting.

17 [S703042] In general, motorboaters have no respect.

18 [S704014] Not enough parking at Spring Creek.

19 [S704028] Grade the road to Cottonwood.

20 [S704029] Grade the road to Cottonwood.

21 [S704031] Don't like jet boats.

22 [S704033] Too many trophy homes along the bank. These homeowners and motorboaters have no
23 sense of wilderness.

1 [S710002] Limit the number of guided boats and provide bathrooms.

2 [S715003] Should ban guys with \$1000 outfits.

3 [S715009] Limit number of launches per day for boaters and outfitters.

4 [S715013] Regulations: less is best.

5 [S715019] I wanted to catch more fish.

6 [S715032] Questionnaire is too long!

7 [S715033] Questionnaire is too long!

8 [S715045] Do not upgrade the access at Lorenzo because it would send too many people there
9 and it is too dangerous for "dudes." It would also make jet boating too easy and cause
10 significant erosion.

11 [S721005] Prefer minimum setbacks for housing along the river.

12 [S721020] Thank you for your work doing this survey.

13 [S721022] Don't like motorboats.

14 [S721033] Too many motorized boats.

15 [S727003] Close the whole river after the season and restrict guide services.

16 [S727004] Close the damn thing to fishing for three years but don't limit numbers on the river.

17 [S727020] Motorized boaters are rude and not safe. There is not enough parking on the
18 weekends.

19 [S727025] What about controlling flow more consistently to protect fish habitat.

20 [S728008] Limit number of guides.

21 [S728016] Please ban jet skis.

22 [S730005] Less guides.

- 1 [S802006] 1- Make camp/float trips available to young people, especially from the cities in Idaho.
2 2- When there is so much scum/weeds at the edges, why not increase river flow to
3 keep water cooler?
- 4 [S808001] Opening up a takeout in the canyon so that day trips would be available to the public
5 would be great. Somewhere to row and porta-potties would be great. I have always
6 had great experiences here (lived in Wyoming for 15 years) and use the area quite
7 often.
- 8 [S808006] Where is all the Cutthroat? Too many white fish.
- 9 [S810004] Limit motor boats. In addition to noise, pollution, they add greatly to stream bank
10 erosion. Consider keeping them downstream as a start.
- 11 [S820006] Prohibit motors on river.
- 12 [S820007] Limit motorboats! We saw a healthy bull moose grazing and a healthy cow moose swim
13 across the river!
- 14 [S901009] Some ramps need work badly.
- 15 [S901013] People need to be educated about how treacherous the river can be.
- 16 [S901023] Ban guides and reduce out-of-state presence.
- 17 [S901026] Get rid of motorboats for better habitat.
- 18 [S901027] No \$3 parking fee.
- 19 [S901028] No \$3 parking fee.

1 [S901032] We hate porta-potties, but it has reduced the toilet paper in campgrounds and that was
2 ugly! There are sometimes too many boaters. Some trips, we loathe all of the speed
3 boats. Personally, I do not believe jet skis have a place on the Snake River. Neither
4 were a problem this trip due to low fishing. That is somewhat surprising because they
5 haven't seemed to care about fishing or floaters feelings in the past. We say, let them
6 thoroughly enjoy Palisades! We are always very enamored with the Snake River
7 experience, but this summer we are all saddened that the fishing has changed. The
8 Snake River has been a valued part of our lives and the quality of our lives for 30 years.
9 We are not "trendy" fishermen, we are catch and release real fishers long before fly
10 fishing became cool. We have a deep love and respect for Wyoming, Idaho, and Utah
11 rivers. Although we know things are changing and more and more people need rivers,
12 we long for days gone by. We appreciate your efforts to preserve the quality of the
13 Snake River as it is paramount in our lives. Thank you!

14
15 **WOLF FLAT**

16 [W624005] Power Boaters are the only problem. The Deschutes River and their restrictions are
17 excellent examples of what can and should be done.

18 [W705001] Get rid of the large motorboats! There is a need for limits on numbers of boats so that it
19 doesn't become like Jackson Hole area (too many boats and rafts).

20 [W705002] Large motorboats should not be allowed! Quality of fishing is more important than
21 quantity of fish caught.

22 [W712001] We all pay taxes we have a right to be here.

23 **FULLMER**

24 [F630006] Local people only and with any boat they want!!! Because it is all out-of-state and
25 guides.

26 [F804008] Too many guides and motorized boats on the river.

27 [F804010] Poor fishing, but beauty and wildlife were fantastic!

28 [F805004] Eliminate all guides and power boats! Now!!!

29 [F904002] Manage winter and fall water levels for fish as well as farmers.

Snake River Camper Survey Additional Comments

BYINGTON

- [B617506] Let people reduce crowding on their own.
- [B623507] Beautiful River! Signs would help first time floaters/campers. Thanks.
- [B623508] Reduce the amount of guided trips. Highest priority.
- [B630504] The camping is great.
- [B729510] Please close the river to motor craft of all kind.
- [B729519] I love this river for an overnighiter.
- [B806501] Even day-trippers should be required to have portable toilets.
- [B810502] Dirty human feces and TP.
- [B811502] People left feces and TP in the trees and someone camped down from us, too close.
- [B811503] This is a beautiful wilderness and there is no reason to make it look like the rest of the world, e.g., houses, cows, and litter.
- [B903506] Maintain equal access. Limit the number of outfitters.
- [B909501] Thank you!