

Oregon Resident Outdoor Recreation Demand Analysis – Baker County Summary

2013-2017 Oregon Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Supporting Documentation

Randall Rosenberger
Kreg Lindberg

Oregon State University College of Forestry

12 November, 2012



Background

In preparation for the 2013-2017 Oregon Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) contracted with Oregon State University (OSU) to conduct a statewide survey of Oregon residents regarding their 2011 outdoor recreation participation in Oregon, as well as their opinions about parks and recreation management. This report summarizes key findings of the survey for Baker County. For review of statewide survey results, please see the full survey report, Oregon Resident Outdoor Recreation Demand Analysis, online at: http://www.oregon.gov/oprd/PLANS/docs/scorp/2013-2018_SCORP/Demand_Analysis.pdf

Survey Methodology

The survey was conducted using a random sample of Oregon households. In order to generate sufficient responses for each county, the sample was stratified by county. Separate random samples were drawn from each county. Surveying Oregonians consisted of 50,150 mail outs, with 46,348 of the surveys deliverable (92%). Of those delivered, 8,860 completed surveys were obtained, for an overall response rate of 19%. This response rate is typical of statewide, general population surveys that are long and do not include token financial incentives. Sample data were weighted to represent county-level population proportions and statewide age-related proportions. For a detailed description of the survey methodology, please see the full survey report at the web link provided above.

Outdoor Recreation Activities

Based on previous SCORP outdoor recreation activity lists and input from the SCORP steering committee comprised of parks and recreation managers across Oregon, seventy (70) recreation activities were identified as important recreation activity types. These activities were grouped into eight (8) categories, including Non-motorized Trail Activities, Motorized Activities, Non-motorized Snow Activities, Outdoor Leisure / Sporting Activities, Nature Study Activities, Vehicle-based Camping Activities, Fishing / Hunting / Shooting Activities, and Non-motorized Water-based and Beach Activities.

User Occasions and Participation in Outdoor Recreation

User occasions (number of times people engage in an activity) and percent of the population that participates in an activity are presented for Baker County in the following tables. The top activities for Baker County both user occasions (based on where the activity occurred) and proportion of Baker County residents are included in Table 1. County totals for all seventy recreation activities are included in Table 2.

Table 1. Top Ten Activities in Baker County, 2011

User Occasions Where Activity Occurred		% Population Participating	
Activity	User Occasions	Activity	% Population Participating
Walking on local streets / sidewalks	1,386,270	Walking on local streets / sidewalks	79.7
Walking on local trails / paths	614,385	Walking on local trails / paths	74.1
Dog walking / going to dog parks / off-leash areas	538,749	Sightseeing / driving or motorcycling for pleasure	69.4
Jogging / running on streets / sidewalks	501,942	Picnicking	66.6
Relaxing, hanging out, escaping heat / noise, etc.	436,603	Walking / day hiking on non-local trails / paths	53.9
Bicycling on roads, streets /sidewalks	432,036	Relaxing, hanging out, escaping heat / noise, etc.	52.8
Class II – Off-road 4-wheel driving	365,867	Attending outdoor concerts, fairs, festivals	49.9
Other nature / wildlife / forest / wildflower observation	357,165	Fishing from a bank or shore	49.5
Sightseeing / driving or motorcycling for pleasure	351,701	Collecting (rocks, plants, mushrooms, berries)	47.3
Class I – All-terrain vehicle riding	317,788	Visiting historic sites / history-themed parks	47.2

Table 2. User Occasions and Participation in Outdoor Recreation Activities, Baker County Residents, 2011

Activity	User Occasions	% Population Participating
Non-motorized Trail Activities		
Walking on local streets / sidewalks	1,386,270	79.7
Walking on local trails / paths	614,385	74.1
Walking / day hiking on non-local trails / paths	303,737	53.9
Long-distance hiking (back packing)	41,853	38.5
Jogging / running on streets / sidewalks	501,942	26.9
Jogging / running on trails / paths	133,209	25.1
Horseback riding	200,731	16.2
Bicycling on unpaved trails	54,100	16.0
Bicycling on paved trails	146,224	17.9
Bicycling on roads, streets / sidewalks	432,036	45.8
Bicycle touring on paved roads / paths (long day / multi-day rides)*		5.9
Motorized Activities		
Class I – All-terrain vehicle riding (3 & 4 wheel ATVs, straddle seat and handle bars)	317,788	32.1
Class II – Off-road 4-wheel driving (jeeps, pick-ups, dune buggies, SUVs)	365,867	37.2
Class III – Off-road motorcycling	43,517	5.9
Class IV – Riding UTVs / side-by-side ATVs (non-straddle seat, driver and passenger sit side-by-side in the vehicle, steering wheel for steering control)	32,895	6.5
Snowmobiling	75,807	17.3
Personal water craft – jet ski	11,730	4.7
Power boating (cruising / water skiing)	81,770	19.7
Non-motorized Snow Activities		
Downhill (alpine) skiing / snowboarding	83,332	16.6
Cross-country / Nordic skiing / skijoring on groomed trails	18,627	4.8
Cross-country / Nordic skiing / skijoring on ungroomed trails / off designated trails	8,734	6.2
Snowshoeing	33,187	14.6
Sledding, tubing, or general snow play	75,281	45.6
Outdoor Leisure / Sporting Activities		
Sightseeing / driving or motorcycling for pleasure	351,701	69.4
Picnicking	192,377	66.6
General play at a neighborhood park / playground	160,326	41.9
Dog walking / going to dog parks / off-leash areas	538,749	36.2
Relaxing, hanging out, escaping heat / noise, etc.	436,603	52.8
Attending outdoor concerts, fairs, festivals	26,274	49.9
Tennis (played outdoors)	3,505	5.5
Outdoor court games other than tennis (basketball, beach volleyball, badminton, etc.)	36,499	13.8
Baseball / softball	46,072	16.4
Football, soccer, lacrosse, rugby, ultimate frisbee	43,316	20.7

Activity	User Occasions	% Population Participating
Golf	14,863	10.1
Disc golf	<1,000	1.7
Skateboarding, inline skating, roller skating, roller skiing	13,391	4.2
Rock climbing, bouldering, mountaineering	43,964	13.2
Orienteering, geocaching	7,505	2.2
Hang gliding, sky diving, paragliding	<1,000	<1.0
Visiting historic sites / history-themed parks (history-oriented museums, outdoor displays, visitor centers, etc.)	271,615	47.2
Nature Study Activities		
Bird watching	207,002	13.1
Whale watching	-	2.5
Exploring tidepools	-	12.4
Other nature / wildlife / forest / wildflower observation	357,165	39.3
Visiting botanical gardens	1,210	3.7
Visiting nature centers	3,652	6.3
Outdoor photography, painting, drawing	200,432	19.9
Collecting (rocks, plants, mushrooms, berries)	283,737	47.3
Vehicle-based Camping Activities		
RV / motorhome / trailer camping	136,726	44.9
Car camping with a tent	125,959	45.0
Motorcycle camping with a tent	9,263	<1.0
Yurts / camper cabins	6,160	6.4
Fishing, Hunting, Shooting Activities		
Fly fishing	25,874	11.3
Fishing from a boat (other than fly fishing)	83,281	29.5
Fishing from a bank or shore (other than fly fishing)	277,087	49.5
Crabbing	-	6.4
Shellfishing / clamming	-	3.3
Big game hunting with a gun	45,949	29.1
Big game hunting with a bow	43,665	13.2
Waterfowl hunting	4,342	3.8
Upland bird or small game hunting	43,483	19.6
Target / skeet shooting / archery	115,449	23.2
Non-motorized Water-based and Beach Activities		
White-water canoeing, kayaking, rafting	2,761	9.7
Flat-water canoeing, sea kayaking, rowing, stand-up paddling, tubing / floating	11,327	8.9
Surfing / ocean stand-up paddling	-	<1.0
Windsurfing / kiteboarding	<1,000	<1.0
Sailing	<1,000	<1.0
Beach activities – ocean	-	25.2
Beach activities – lakes, reservoirs, rivers	59,028	33.5
Swimming / playing in outdoor pools / spray parks	41,001	16.0
Snorkeling / SCUBA diving	<1,000	1.1

*Bicycle touring was asked as a separate question regarding participation only.

Camping Likelihood and Priority Needs

This set of questions asked people to rate various camping types using 5-point Likert scales according to the likelihood of using a type of camping when or if the individual went camping at an Oregon State Park campground (1 = Not at all likely to 5 = Very likely), and to rate their perceived need for more of each type of camping near the individual’s community (1 = Lowest priority need to 5 = Highest priority need).

For Baker County residents, drive-in tent sites had the highest likelihood of use, while hiker-biker sites had the lowest likelihood of use (Table 3). Similarly, drive-in tent sites had the highest priority need, while hiker-biker sites had the lowest priority need.

Table 3. Likelihood and Priority Need for Camping Type, Baker County

Camping Type	How likely to use camping type in state park*	Level of priority need for camping type near your community*
RV sites	2.6	2.5
Cabins or yurts w/ heat, lights	2.4	2.7
Cabins or yurts w/ heat, lights, bathroom, kitchen	2.5	2.5
Drive-in tent sites	3.0	2.8
Hike-in tent sites	2.7	2.7
Hiker-biker sites	1.8	2.2
Other type	2.6	2.6

* Means scores for 5-point Likert Scale (1 = "Not at all likely" or "Lowest priority need" to 5 = "Very likely" or "Highest priority need")

Priorities for the Future

Survey participants were asked about their opinions on priorities for the future in and near their community. Respondents were asked to rate several items for investment by park and forest agencies using a 5-point Likert scale (1 = Lowest priority need to 5 = Highest priority need). Items were developed by the steering committee, representing several municipal-type areas and beyond.

Table 4 reports Baker County results, with items listed in descending order by mean priority ratings. The top priority needs for Baker County residents are access to waterways, soft surface walking trails and off-highway vehicle trail / areas. Picnic areas for small groups, playgrounds with natural materials (Natural Play Areas) and nature and wildlife viewing areas rated high as well. Tennis and basketball courts and baseball / softball fields and multi-use fields rated the lowest on priority investments.

Table 4. Priorities for the Future, What Park and Forest Agencies Should Invest In, Baker County—Mean For 5-Point Likert (1 = “Lowest priority need” to 5 = “Highest priority need”)

Item	Mean
Public access sites to waterways	3.6
Dirt / other soft surface walking trails and paths	3.4
Off-highway vehicle trails / areas	3.3
Picnic areas and shelters for <u>small</u> visitor groups	3.2
Children’s playgrounds and play areas made of natural materials (logs, water, sand, boulders, hills, trees)	3.0
Nature and wildlife viewing areas	3.0
Off-street bicycle trails and pathways	2.9
Off-leash dog areas	2.9
Picnic areas and shelters for <u>large</u> visitor groups	2.7
Paved / hard surface walking trails and paths	2.7
Community gardens	2.6
Designated paddling routes for canoes, kayaks, rafts, driftboats	2.4
Children’s playgrounds and play areas built with manufactured structures like swing sets, slides, and climbing apparatuses	2.3
Multi-use fields for soccer, football, lacrosse, etc.	2.2
Baseball / softball fields	2.2
Basketball courts	2.1
Outdoor tennis courts	1.9

Value and Delivery for Benefits of Parks and Recreation Services

Baker County residents that participated in outdoor recreation activities were also asked their opinions related to the benefits provided by park and recreation agencies. First, respondents were asked to rate each benefit type based on how valued it is using a 5-point Likert scale (1 = Least valued to 5 = Most valued). Next, they were asked to rate how well park and recreation agencies are currently delivering each benefit type using a similar scale (1 = Currently does not deliver at all to 5 = Currently delivers extremely well).

Ranging from a mean score of 3.2 to 4.2 on the 5-point scale, improving physical health, community desirability, preserve open space, improve mental health and preserve historical features rated the highest valued in Baker County. Lowest valued benefits in Baker County included increase property values, help attract new residents / businesses and provide opportunities for social interaction. Delivery of benefits ranged from a mean score of 2.6 to 3.6, with preserve historical features, promote tourism, community desirability and preserve open space rated the highest delivered in Baker County. Lowest delivered benefits in Baker County included help attract new residents / businesses, improve mental health, increase property values and help reduce crime.

Table 5. Value and Delivery for Benefits of Parks and Recreation Services, Baker County

Value For Benefits of Parks and Recreation Services—Mean for 5-point Likert (1 = "Least valued" to 5 = "Most valued")		Delivery of Benefits of Parks and Recreation Services—Mean for 5-point Likert (1 = "Currently does not deliver at all" to 5 = "Currently delivers extremely well")	
Benefit	Value Mean	Benefit	Delivery Mean
Improve physical health and fitness	4.2	Preserve historical features in your community	3.6
Make your community a more desirable place to live	4.0	Promote tourism	3.3
Preserve open space and the environment	3.9	Make your community a more desirable place to live	3.1
Improve mental health and reduce stress	3.9	Preserve open space and the environment	3.1
Preserve historical features in your community	3.9	Enhance a sense of place and community	3.0
Help reduce crime	3.8	Improve physical health and fitness	2.9
Enhance a sense of place and community	3.7	Provide opportunities for social interaction	2.9
Promote tourism	3.5	Help reduce crime	2.7
Provide opportunities for social interaction	3.3	Increase property values in your community	2.7
Help attract new residents and businesses	3.3	Improve mental health and reduce stress	2.7
Increase property values in your community	3.2	Help attract new residents and businesses	2.6