

Oregon Resident Outdoor Recreation Demand Analysis – Crook County Summary

2013-2017 Oregon Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Supporting Documentation

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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 Crook 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 Crook County in the following tables. The top activities for Crook County both user occasions (based on where the activity occurred) and proportion of Crook 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 Crook County, 2011

User Occasions Where Activity Occurred		% Population Participating	
Activity	User Occasions	Activity	% Population Participating
Walking on local streets / sidewalks	967,951	Sightseeing / driving or motorcycling for pleasure	64.7
Walking on local trails / paths	364,131	Walking on local streets / sidewalks	58.5
Bird watching	315,927	Walking on local trails / paths	50.7
Relaxing, hanging out, escaping heat / noise, etc.	279,861	Attending outdoor concerts, fairs, festivals	49.1
Sightseeing / driving or motorcycling for pleasure	250,275	Relaxing, hanging out, escaping heat / noise, etc.	46.9
Bicycling on roads, streets /sidewalks	205,574	RV / motorhome / trailer camping	40.9
Dog walking / going to dog parks / off-leash areas	193,108	Visiting historic sites / history-themed parks	40.0
Jogging / running on streets / sidewalks	171,218	Walking / day hiking on non-local trails / paths	40.0
Other nature / wildlife / forest / wildflower observation	157,811	General play at a neighborhood park / playground	37.6
Power boating (cruising / waterskiing)	131,992	Picnicking	37.3

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

Activity	User Occasions	% Population Participating
Non-motorized Trail Activities		
Walking on local streets / sidewalks	967,951	58.5
Walking on local trails / paths	364,131	50.7
Walking / day hiking on non-local trails / paths	119,762	40.0
Long-distance hiking (back packing)	18,679	9.4
Jogging / running on streets / sidewalks	171,218	14.2
Jogging / running on trails / paths	47,109	11.4
Horseback riding	86,715	6.5
Bicycling on unpaved trails	28,090	11.7
Bicycling on paved trails	65,011	15.2
Bicycling on roads, streets / sidewalks	205,574	25.4
Bicycle touring on paved roads / paths (long day / multi-day rides)*		9.8
Motorized Activities		
Class I – All-terrain vehicle riding (3 & 4 wheel ATVs, straddle seat and handle bars)	89,038	18.3
Class II – Off-road 4-wheel driving (jeeps, pick-ups, dune buggies, SUVs)	47,451	13.8
Class III – Off-road motorcycling	12,035	3.4
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)	11,538	5.4
Snowmobiling	<1,000	2.2
Personal water craft – jet ski	6,798	1.4
Power boating (cruising / water skiing)	131,992	26.4
Non-motorized Snow Activities		
Downhill (alpine) skiing / snowboarding	<1,000	7.8
Cross-country / Nordic skiing / skijoring on groomed trails	<1,000	2.5
Cross-country / Nordic skiing / skijoring on ungroomed trails / off designated trails	4,600	4.9
Snowshoeing	<1,000	8.6
Sledding, tubing, or general snow play	10,291	18.9
Outdoor Leisure / Sporting Activities		
Sightseeing / driving or motorcycling for pleasure	250,275	64.7
Picnicking	60,024	37.3
General play at a neighborhood park / playground	87,223	37.6
Dog walking / going to dog parks / off-leash areas	193,108	24.4
Relaxing, hanging out, escaping heat / noise, etc.	279,861	46.9
Attending outdoor concerts, fairs, festivals	37,248	49.1
Tennis (played outdoors)	<1,000	4.1
Outdoor court games other than tennis (basketball, beach volleyball, badminton, etc.)	10,536	3.4
Baseball / softball	11,349	7.9
Football, soccer, lacrosse, rugby, ultimate frisbee	15,560	7.9

Activity	User Occasions	% Population Participating
Golf	26,750	9.2
Disc golf	<1,000	2.0
Skateboarding, inline skating, roller skating, roller skiing	11,692	2.3
Rock climbing, bouldering, mountaineering	52,549	2.0
Orienteering, geocaching	85,403	4.2
Hang gliding, sky diving, paragliding	<1,000	<1.0
Visiting historic sites / history-themed parks (history-oriented museums, outdoor displays, visitor centers, etc.)	30,042	40.0
Nature Study Activities		
Bird watching	315,927	17.1
Whale watching	-	10.0
Exploring tidepools	-	19.7
Other nature / wildlife / forest / wildflower observation	157,811	23.0
Visiting botanical gardens	<1,000	5.1
Visiting nature centers	<1,000	6.9
Outdoor photography, painting, drawing	46,224	12.9
Collecting (rocks, plants, mushrooms, berries)	50,624	20.0
Vehicle-based Camping Activities		
RV / motorhome / trailer camping	101,155	40.9
Car camping with a tent	43,929	23.1
Motorcycle camping with a tent	4,904	1.0
Yurts / camper cabins	<1,000	3.0
Fishing, Hunting, Shooting Activities		
Fly fishing	29,226	7.4
Fishing from a boat (other than fly fishing)	75,908	16.2
Fishing from a bank or shore (other than fly fishing)	69,312	25.5
Crabbing	-	5.0
Shellfishing / clamming	-	1.8
Big game hunting with a gun	23,038	19.2
Big game hunting with a bow	28,107	5.6
Waterfowl hunting	4,521	2.0
Upland bird or small game hunting	5,033	6.2
Target / skeet shooting / archery	36,982	16.5
Non-motorized Water-based and Beach Activities		
White-water canoeing, kayaking, rafting	9,581	9.5
Flat-water canoeing, sea kayaking, rowing, stand-up paddling, tubing / floating	21,641	11.0
Surfing / ocean stand-up paddling	-	<1.0
Windsurfing / kiteboarding	<1,000	<1.0
Sailing	<1,000	<1.0
Beach activities – ocean	-	28.0
Beach activities – lakes, reservoirs, rivers	81,334	29.4
Swimming / playing in outdoor pools / spray parks	11,401	10.8
Snorkeling / SCUBA diving	<1,000	1.9

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

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

Camping Type	How likely to use camping type in state park*	Level of priority need for camping type near your community*
RV sites	2.9	2.6
Cabins or yurts w/ heat, lights	2.3	2.3
Cabins or yurts w/ heat, lights, bathroom, kitchen	2.4	2.3
Drive-in tent sites	3.0	2.5
Hike-in tent sites	2.2	2.2
Hiker-biker sites	1.6	2.0
Other type	2.8	2.3

* 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 Crook County results, with items listed in descending order by mean priority ratings. The top priority needs for Crook County residents are soft surface walking trails, access to waterways and nature and wildlife viewing areas. Playgrounds with natural materials (Natural Play Areas) and picnic areas for small visitor groups rated high as well. Tennis and basketball courts, 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, Crook County—Mean For 5-Point Likert (1 = “Lowest priority need” to 5 = “Highest priority need”)

Item	Mean
Dirt / other soft surface walking trails and paths	3.4
Public access sites to waterways	3.4
Nature and wildlife viewing areas	3.1
Children’s playgrounds and play areas made of natural materials (logs, water, sand, boulders, hills, trees)	3.0
Picnic areas and shelters for <u>small</u> visitor groups	3.0
Off-highway vehicle trails / areas	2.9
Off-street bicycle trails and pathways	2.8
Picnic areas and shelters for <u>large</u> visitor groups	2.7
Paved / hard surface walking trails and paths	2.7
Community gardens	2.7
Off-leash dog areas	2.7
Children’s playgrounds and play areas built with manufactured structures like swing sets, slides, and climbing apparatuses	2.5
Designated paddling routes for canoes, kayaks, rafts, driftboats	2.5
Multi-use fields for soccer, football, lacrosse, etc.	2.4
Baseball / softball fields	2.2
Basketball courts	2.2
Outdoor tennis courts	2.0

Value and Delivery for Benefits of Parks and Recreation Services

Crook 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 3.4 to 4.2 on the 5-point scale, improving physical health, help reduce crime and community desirability rated the highest valued in Crook County. Lowest valued benefits in Crook County included promote tourism, provide opportunities for social interaction and help attract new residents / businesses. Delivery of benefits ranged from a mean score of 2.7 to 3.4, with preserve open space, community desirability and preserve historical features rated the highest delivered in Crook County. Lowest delivered benefits in Crook County included increase property values, help reduce crime, help attract new residents / businesses and improve mental health.

Table 5. Value and Delivery for Benefits of Parks and Recreation Services, Crook 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 open space and the environment	3.4
Help reduce crime	4.1	Make your community a more desirable place to live	3.3
Make your community a more desirable place to live	4.1	Preserve historical features in your community	3.3
Preserve open space and the environment	4.0	Promote tourism	3.2
Improve mental health and reduce stress	3.9	Enhance a sense of place and community	3.2
Preserve historical features in your community	3.8	Improve physical health and fitness	3.1
Enhance a sense of place and community	3.7	Provide opportunities for social interaction	3.1
Increase property values in your community	3.6	Improve mental health and reduce stress	2.9
Help attract new residents and businesses	3.5	Help attract new residents and businesses	2.9
Provide opportunities for social interaction	3.4	Help reduce crime	2.8
Promote tourism	3.4	Increase property values in your community	2.7