

Oregon Resident Outdoor Recreation Demand Analysis – Klamath 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 Klamath 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 Klamath County in the following tables. The top activities for Klamath County both user occasions (based on where the activity occurred) and proportion of Klamath 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 Klamath County, 2011

User Occasions Where Activity Occurred		% Population Participating	
Activity	User Occasions	Activity	% Population Participating
Walking on local streets / sidewalks	4,548,217	Walking on local streets / sidewalks	57.9
Relaxing, hanging out, escaping heat / noise, etc.	1,869,988	Sightseeing / driving or motorcycling for pleasure	56.5
Walking on local trails / paths	1,865,675	Walking on local trails / paths	53.5
Bird watching	1,448,752	Picnicking	48.3
Other nature / wildlife / forest / wildflower observation	1,285,746	Relaxing, hanging out, escaping heat / noise, etc.	44.7
Dog walking / going to dog parks / off-leash areas	1,273,549	Visiting historic sites / history-themed parks	37.9
Outdoor photography, painting, drawing	893,979	Walking / day hiking on non-local trails / paths	37.5
Collecting (rocks, plants, mushrooms, berries)	958,949	Sledding, tubing, or general snow play	37.5
Bicycling on roads, streets /sidewalks	835,650	General play at a neighborhood park / playground	37.4
Target / skeet shooting / archery	824,110	Car camping in a tent	36.4

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

Activity	User Occasions	% Population Participating
Non-motorized Trail Activities		
Walking on local streets / sidewalks	4,548,217	57.9
Walking on local trails / paths	1,865,675	53.5
Walking / day hiking on non-local trails / paths	608,746	37.5
Long-distance hiking (back packing)	176,068	14.1
Jogging / running on streets / sidewalks	647,410	12.7
Jogging / running on trails / paths	743,646	14.2
Horseback riding	133,661	7.0
Bicycling on unpaved trails	409,339	17.7
Bicycling on paved trails	417,445	25.0
Bicycling on roads, streets / sidewalks	835,650	23.0
Bicycle touring on paved roads / paths (long day / multi-day rides)*		11.6
Motorized Activities		
Class I – All-terrain vehicle riding (3 & 4 wheel ATVs, straddle seat and handle bars)	341,856	21.1
Class II – Off-road 4-wheel driving (jeeps, pick-ups, dune buggies, SUVs)	181,897	16.6
Class III – Off-road motorcycling	43,477	3.9
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)	64,884	5.6
Snowmobiling	79,756	5.9
Personal water craft – jet ski	59,295	6.6
Power boating (cruising / water skiing)	146,969	21.6
Non-motorized Snow Activities		
Downhill (alpine) skiing / snowboarding	41,005	10.8
Cross-country / Nordic skiing / skijoring on groomed trails	11,240	2.0
Cross-country / Nordic skiing / skijoring on ungroomed trails / off designated trails	20,389	4.8
Snowshoeing	73,491	11.9
Sledding, tubing, or general snow play	102,676	37.5
Outdoor Leisure / Sporting Activities		
Sightseeing / driving or motorcycling for pleasure	669,360	56.5
Picnicking	451,493	48.3
General play at a neighborhood park / playground	700,671	37.4
Dog walking / going to dog parks / off-leash areas	1,273,549	26.5
Relaxing, hanging out, escaping heat / noise, etc.	1,869,988	44.7
Attending outdoor concerts, fairs, festivals	98,337	34.4
Tennis (played outdoors)	83,241	3.2
Outdoor court games other than tennis (basketball, beach volleyball, badminton, etc.)	310,176	6.7
Baseball / softball	73,231	10.1
Football, soccer, lacrosse, rugby, ultimate frisbee	57,128	8.0
Golf	84,167	14.0

Activity	User Occasions	% Population Participating
Disc golf	16,502	4.5
Skateboarding, inline skating, roller skating, roller skiing	303,902	2.3
Rock climbing, bouldering, mountaineering	246,037	4.9
Orienteering, geocaching	93,180	3.6
Hang gliding, sky diving, paragliding	<1,000	<1.0
Visiting historic sites / history-themed parks (history-oriented museums, outdoor displays, visitor centers, etc.)	231,534	37.9
Nature Study Activities		
Bird watching	1,448,752	30.8
Whale watching	-	11.5
Exploring tidepools	-	21.8
Other nature / wildlife / forest / wildflower observation	1,285,746	27.6
Visiting botanical gardens	1,031	6.8
Visiting nature centers	28,280	15.4
Outdoor photography, painting, drawing	893,979	19.6
Collecting (rocks, plants, mushrooms, berries)	958,949	24.2
Vehicle-based Camping Activities		
RV / motorhome / trailer camping	195,112	34.9
Car camping with a tent	200,528	36.4
Motorcycle camping with a tent	10,958	1.6
Yurts / camper cabins	1,346	9.1
Fishing, Hunting, Shooting Activities		
Fly fishing	514,766	11.6
Fishing from a boat (other than fly fishing)	588,419	30.1
Fishing from a bank or shore (other than fly fishing)	596,191	35.4
Crabbing	-	9.9
Shellfishing / clamming	-	5.4
Big game hunting with a gun	270,233	19.7
Big game hunting with a bow	79,692	4.9
Waterfowl hunting	129,073	8.2
Upland bird or small game hunting	103,406	10.5
Target / skeet shooting / archery	824,110	16.4
Non-motorized Water-based and Beach Activities		
White-water canoeing, kayaking, rafting	25,587	16.3
Flat-water canoeing, sea kayaking, rowing, stand-up paddling, tubing / floating	105,992	11.3
Surfing / ocean stand-up paddling	-	<1.0
Windsurfing / kiteboarding	<1,000	<1.0
Sailing	420,293	<1.0
Beach activities – ocean	3,386	35.0
Beach activities – lakes, reservoirs, rivers	252,394	33.5
Swimming / playing in outdoor pools / spray parks	92,965	12.8
Snorkeling / SCUBA diving	10,747	1.6

*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 Klamath 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 and hiker-biker the lowest priority need.

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

Camping Type	How likely to use camping type in state park*	Level of priority need for camping type near your community*
RV sites	2.7	2.6
Cabins or yurts w/ heat, lights	2.6	2.7
Cabins or yurts w/ heat, lights, bathroom, kitchen	2.6	2.6
Drive-in tent sites	3.6	3.3
Hike-in tent sites	2.5	2.7
Hiker-biker sites	1.9	2.4
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 Klamath County results, with items listed in descending order by mean priority ratings. The top priority needs for Klamath County residents are access to waterways, soft surface walking trails, playgrounds with natural materials (Natural Play Areas) and nature and wildlife viewing areas. Picnic areas for small groups, off-street bicycle trails and off-leash dog areas rated high as well. Tennis and basketball courts and baseball / softball fields rated the lowest on priority investments.

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

Item	Mean
Public access sites to waterways	3.8
Dirt / other soft surface walking trails and paths	3.6
Children’s playgrounds and play areas made of natural materials (logs, water, sand, boulders, hills, trees)	3.4
Nature and wildlife viewing areas	3.4
Picnic areas and shelters for <u>small</u> visitor groups	3.2
Off-street bicycle trails and pathways	3.2
Off-leash dog areas	3.1
Community gardens	3.0
Off-highway vehicle trails / areas	3.0
Picnic areas and shelters for <u>large</u> visitor groups	2.9
Designated paddling routes for canoes, kayaks, rafts, driftboats	2.9
Children’s playgrounds and play areas built with manufactured structures like swing sets, slides, and climbing apparatuses	2.8
Paved / hard surface walking trails and paths	2.7
Multi-use fields for soccer, football, lacrosse, etc.	2.7
Baseball / softball fields	2.5
Basketball courts	2.4
Outdoor tennis courts	2.3

Value and Delivery for Benefits of Parks and Recreation Services

Klamath 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 4.3 on the 5-point scale, improving physical health, community desirability and preserve open space rated the highest valued in Klamath County. Lowest valued benefits in Klamath County included provide opportunities for social interaction, promote tourism and help attract new residents / businesses. Delivery of benefits ranged from a mean score of 2.5 to 3.2, with improve physical health and fitness, preserve historical features and preserve open space rated the highest delivered in Klamath County. Lowest delivered benefits in Klamath County included help attract new residents / businesses, increase property values and help reduce crime.

Table 5. Value and Delivery for Benefits of Parks and Recreation Services, Klamath 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	4.3	Improve physical health and fitness	3.2
Make your community a more desirable place to live	4.2	Preserve historical features in your community	3.2
Preserve open space and the environment	4.1	Preserve open space and the environment	3.1
Improve mental health and reduce stress	4.0	Make your community a more desirable place to live	2.9
Help reduce crime	3.9	Provide opportunities for social interaction	2.9
Preserve historical features in your community	3.8	Improve mental health and reduce stress	2.8
Enhance a sense of place and community	3.7	Promote tourism	2.8
Increase property values in your community	3.5	Enhance a sense of place and community	2.7
Help attract new residents and businesses	3.5	Help reduce crime	2.5
Promote tourism	3.5	Increase property values in your community	2.5
Provide opportunities for social interaction	3.4	Help attract new residents and businesses	2.5