



**Social Science Program  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior**

**Visitor Services Project**



# **Mojave National Preserve Visitor Study**

**Fall 2003**

**Report 151**



**University of Idaho**

**Park Studies Unit**



**Social Science Program  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior**

**Visitor Services Project**

# **Mojave National Preserve**

## **Visitor Study Fall 2003**

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### **Visitor Services Project Report 151**

July 2004

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## **Visitor Services Project Mojave National Preserve Report Summary**

This report describes the results of a visitor study at Mojave National Preserve during October 10-18, 2003. A total of 690 questionnaires were distributed to visitors. Visitor groups returned 397 questionnaires for a 57.5% response rate.

This report profiles Mojave National Preserve visitor groups. A separate appendix contains visitors' comments about their visit. This report and the appendix include summaries of those comments.

Forty-seven percent of visitor groups were groups of two, 26% were alone. Forty-five percent of the visitor groups were family groups. Fifty-nine percent of visitors were aged 36-65 years and 9% were aged 15 or younger.

Five percent of visitor groups were international from England (23%), Germany (23%), Canada (21%), and 8 other countries. The largest proportions of United States visitors were from California (63%), Nevada (14%) and Utah (3%). Smaller proportions of U.S. visitors came from another 33 states and Puerto Rico.

Seven percent of the visitors were of Spanish/Hispanic/Latino ethnicity. Most visitors were of White racial background (96%). Thirty-four percent of visitors reported that this was their first visit to Mojave National Preserve from 1995 through present. Most visitors (70%) spent one to three hours at the preserve.

Prior to this visit, visitors most often obtained information about Mojave National Preserve through previous visits (54%), maps/brochures (47%), and friends/relatives (35%). Thirty-one percent of the visitors received no information before their visit.

Most visitor groups (83%) felt "not at all crowded" by number of people in the preserve. Seventy-nine percent of visitor groups felt "not at all crowded" by the number of vehicles in the preserve. Most visitors (63%) felt "very safe" during this visit to the preserve.

The average visitor group expenditure in and outside the preserve (including Shoshone, Primm, Needles, Laughlin, Barstow, and Twentynine Palms but not Las Vegas) was \$180. The average per capita expenditure was \$77. The median visitor group expenditure (50% of group spent more, 50% spent less) was \$45.

In regard to use, importance, and quality of information and visitor services and facilities, it is important to note the number of visitor groups that responded to each question. The most used services/facilities by the 154 respondents included park brochure/map (48%) and directional signs on trails (35%). The information services/facilities that received highest "extremely important" and "very important" ratings included park brochure/map (79%, N=67) and directional signs on trails (77%, N=43). Park brochure/map (81%, N=63) is the service that received highest "good" and "very good" quality rating.

The most used visitor services/facilities by the 288 respondents included paved roads (83%) directional signs in park (53%), and restrooms (34%). The visitor services/facilities that received highest "extremely important" and "very important" ratings included trails (93%, N=31), potable drinking water (90%, N=30), and paved roads (89%, N=217). RV/tent/vehicle camping (83%, N=30) is the service that received highest "good" and "very good" quality rating.

Most visitor groups (67%) rated the overall quality of visitor services at Mojave National Preserve as "very good" or "good." Nine percent of visitor groups rated the overall quality of visitor services as "poor" or "very poor."

For more information about the Visitor Services Project, please contact the University of Idaho Park Studies Unit; phone (208) 885-7863 or visit the following website: <a href="http://www.psu.uidaho.edu">http://www.psu.uidaho.edu</a>
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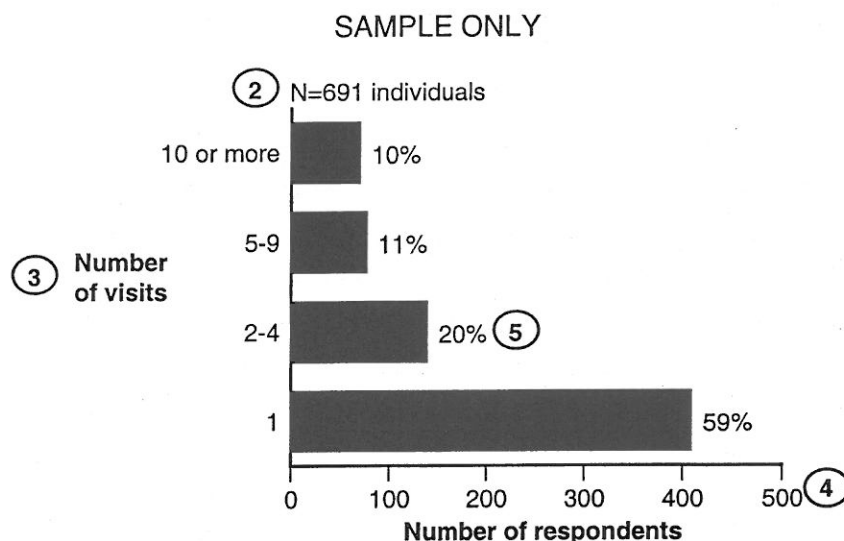
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## INTRODUCTION

This report describes the results of a study of visitors at Mojave National Preserve. This visitor study was conducted from October 10-18, 2003 by the National Park Service (NPS) Visitor Services Project (VSP), a part of the Park Studies Unit at the University of Idaho.

The report is organized into four sections. The **Methods** section discusses the procedures and limitations of the study. The **Results** section provides summary information for each question in the questionnaire and includes a summary of visitor comments. An **Additional Analysis** section is included to help managers request additional analyses. The final section includes a copy of the **Questionnaire**. The separate appendix includes comment summaries and visitors' unedited comments.

Most of this report's graphs resemble the example below. The large numbers refer to explanations following the graph.



① **Figure 4: Number of visits**

- 1: The figure title describes the graph's information.
- 2: Listed above the graph, the "N" shows the number of visitors responding and a description of the chart's information. Interpret data with an "N" of less than 30 with **CAUTION!** as the results may be unreliable.
- 3: Vertical information describes categories.
- 4: Horizontal information shows the number or proportions in each category.
- 5: In most graphs, percentages provide additional information.

## METHODS

### Questionnaire design and administration

All VSP questionnaires follow design principles outlined in Don A. Dillman's book *Mail and Internet Surveys: The Tailored Design Method* (1999). The Arches NP questionnaire was developed at a workshop held with park staff to design and prioritize the questions. Some of the questions were comparable with VSP studies conducted at other parks; others were customized for Arches NP.

Interviews were conducted, and 690 questionnaires were distributed to a sample of visitor groups who arrived at Mojave National Preserve during the period from October 10-18, 2003. Visitors were sampled at Cima, Essex, Ivanpah, and along Kelbaker/ I-40 road.

Visitor groups were greeted, briefly introduced to the purpose of the study, and asked to participate. If visitors agreed, an interview, lasting approximately two minutes was used to determine group size, group type, and the age of the adult who would complete the questionnaire. These individuals were then asked for their names, addresses and telephone numbers in order to mail them a reminder-thank you postcard. Visitor groups were given a questionnaire and asked to complete it during or after their visit and then return it by mail. The questionnaires were pre-addressed and postage paid.

Two weeks following the survey, a reminder/thank you postcard was mailed to all participants. Replacement questionnaires were mailed to participants who had not returned their questionnaires four weeks after the survey. Seven weeks after the survey, a second round of replacement questionnaires were mailed to visitors who still had not returned their questionnaires.

### Data Analysis

Returned questionnaires were coded and the information was entered into a computer using a standard statistical software package—Statistical Analysis System (SAS). Frequency Distribution and cross-tabulations were calculated for the coded data, and responses to open-ended questions were categorized and summarized.



### Sampling size, missing data, and reporting items

This study collected information on both visitor groups and individual group members. Thus, the sample size ("N") varies from figure to figure. For example, while Figure 1 shows information for 377 visitor groups, Figure 5 presents data for 840 individuals. A note above each graph specifies the information illustrated.

Occasionally, a respondent may not have answered all of the questions, or may have answered some incorrectly. Unanswered questions result in missing data and cause the number in the sample to vary from figure to figure. For example, although Mojave National Preserve visitors returned 397 questionnaires, Figure 1 shows data for only 377 respondents.

Questions answered incorrectly due to carelessness, misunderstanding directions, and so forth turn up in the data as reporting errors. These create small data inconsistencies.

### Limitations

Like all surveys, this study has limitations that should be considered when interpreting the results.

1. It is not possible to know whether visitor responses reflect actual behavior. This disadvantage applies to all such studies and is reduced by having visitors fill out the questionnaire soon after they visit the park.
2. The data reflect visitor use patterns of visitors to the selected sites during the study period of October 10-18, 2003. The results do not necessarily apply to visitors during other times of the year.
3. Caution is advised when interpreting any data with a sample size of less than 30, as the results may be unreliable. Whenever the sample size is less than 30, the word "**CAUTION!**" is included in the graph, figure or table.

### Special conditions

Weather conditions during the visitor study were typical October weather for the Mojave National Preserve area with sunny, hot, and windy days.

## RESULTS

### Visitor groups contacted

At Mojave National Preserve, 798 visitor groups were contacted and 690 of these groups (86%) accepted questionnaires. Questionnaires were completed and returned by 397 visitor groups, resulting in a 57.5% response rate for this study.

Table 1 compares age and group size information collected from the total sample of visitors, who participated, with age and group size of visitors who actually returned questionnaires. Based on the variables of respondent age and visitor group size, non-response bias was judged to be insignificant.

**Table 1: Comparison of total sample and actual respondents**

Variable	Total sample		Actual respondents	
	N	Avg.	N	Avg.
Age of respondents	581	47.0	374	49.0
Group size	670	2.1	377	2.5

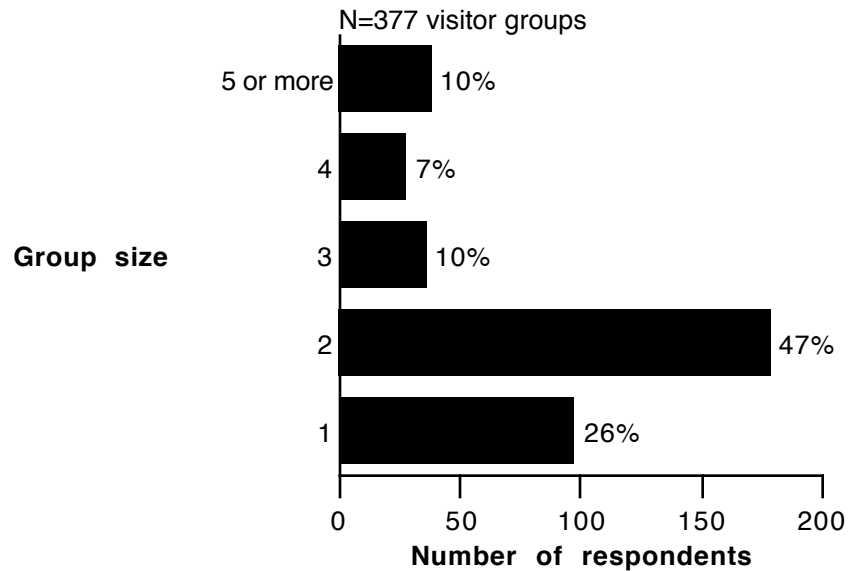
### Demographics

Figure 1 shows visitor group sizes, which ranged from one person to 15 people. Forty-seven percent of visitor groups consisted of two people, while another 26% had one person.

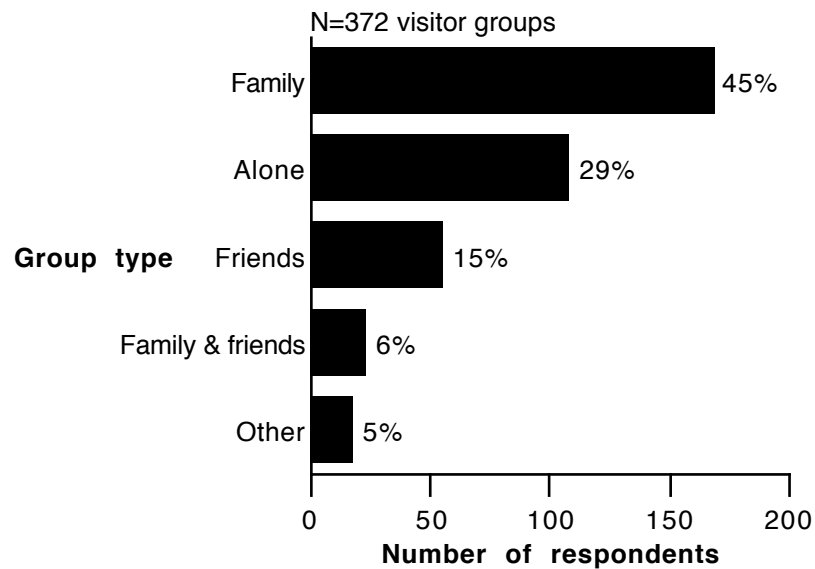
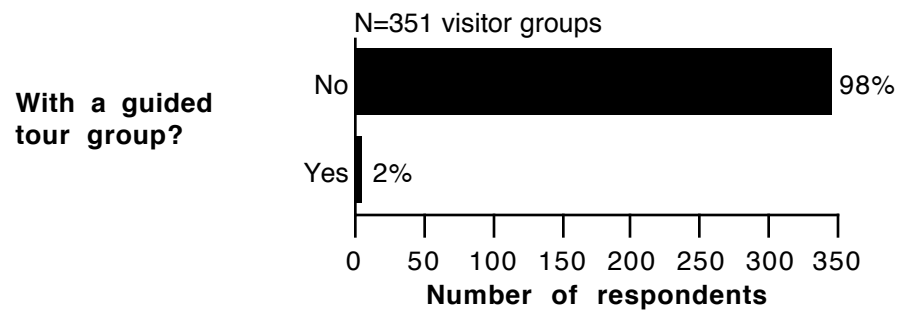
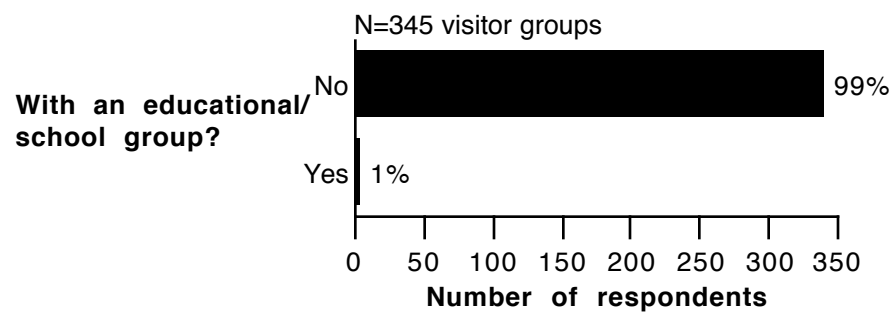
Forty-five percent of visitor groups were made up of family members, 29% were traveling alone, and 15% were with friends (see Figure 2). "Other" group types included Boy Scouts, co-workers, colleagues, bike race supporters, crew gathering burros, bird class at Zzyzx, and with dog. Two percent of visitor groups were with a guided group (see Figure 3) and 1% were with a school or educational group (see Figure 4).

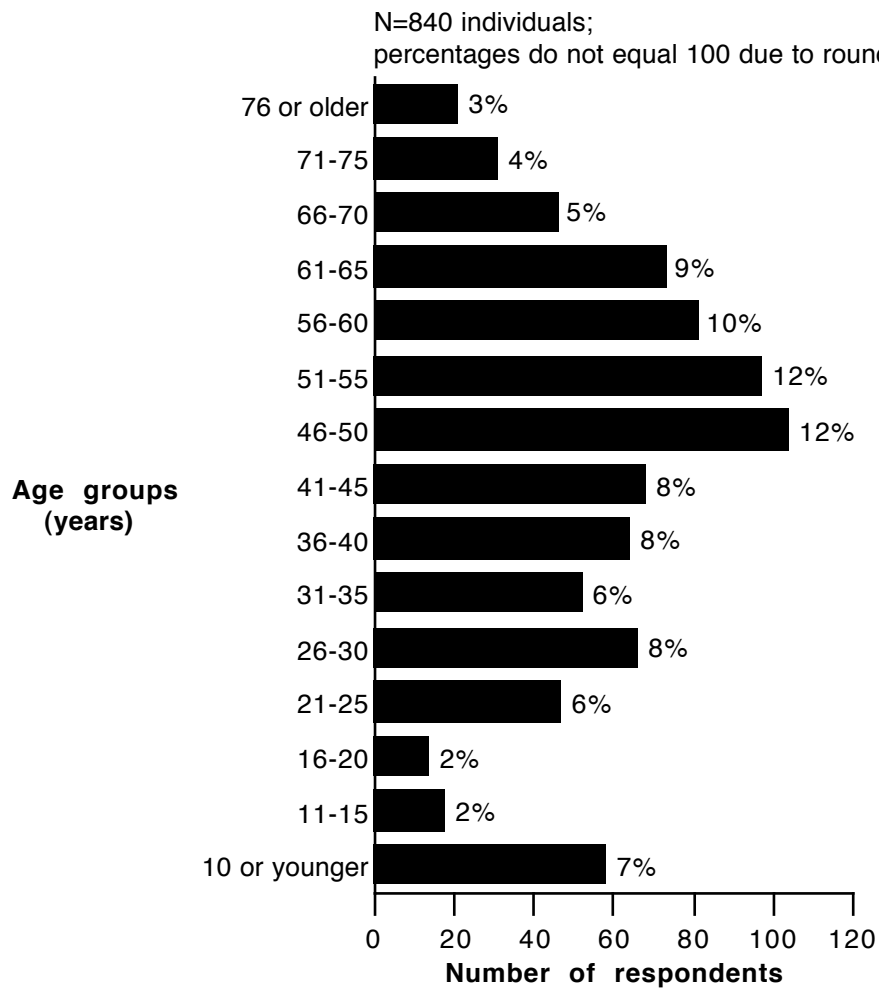
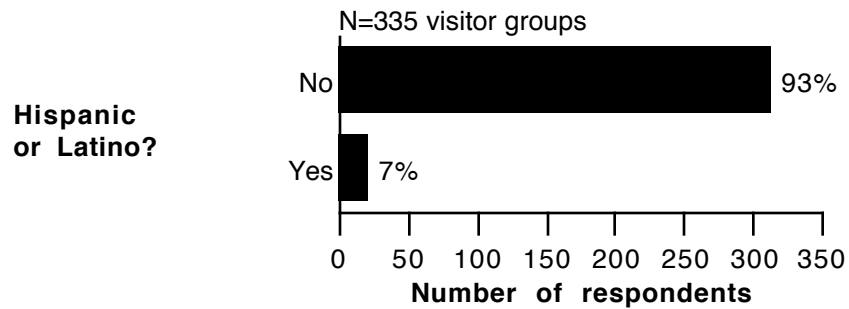
Fifty-nine percent of the visitors were in the 36-65 age group, and 9% were 15 years or younger (see Figure 5). Seven percent of the visitors were of Spanish/Hispanic/Latino ethnicity (see Figure 6). Most respondents (96%) were of White racial background (see Figure 7). Visitors' races also consisted of American Indian/Alaska Native (4%), Asian (2%), Black or African American (1%), and Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander (<1%).

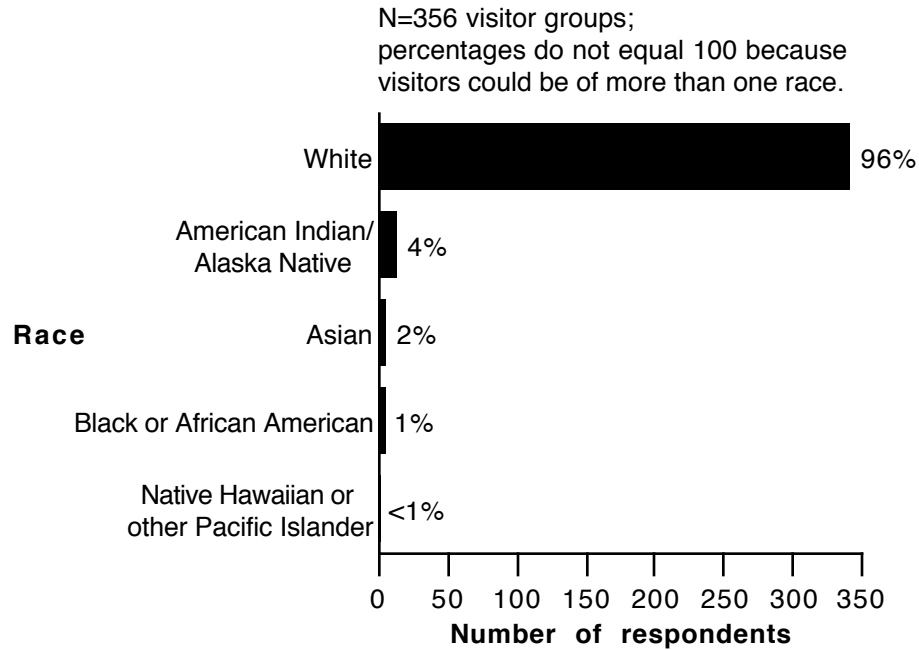
Five percent of visitor groups were international, from England (23%), Germany (23%), Canada (20%), and 8 other countries (see Table 2). The largest proportions of United States visitors were from California (63%), Nevada (14%) and Utah (3%). Smaller proportions of U.S. visitors came from another 33 states and Puerto Rico (see Map 1 and Table 3).



**Figure 1: Visitor group sizes**

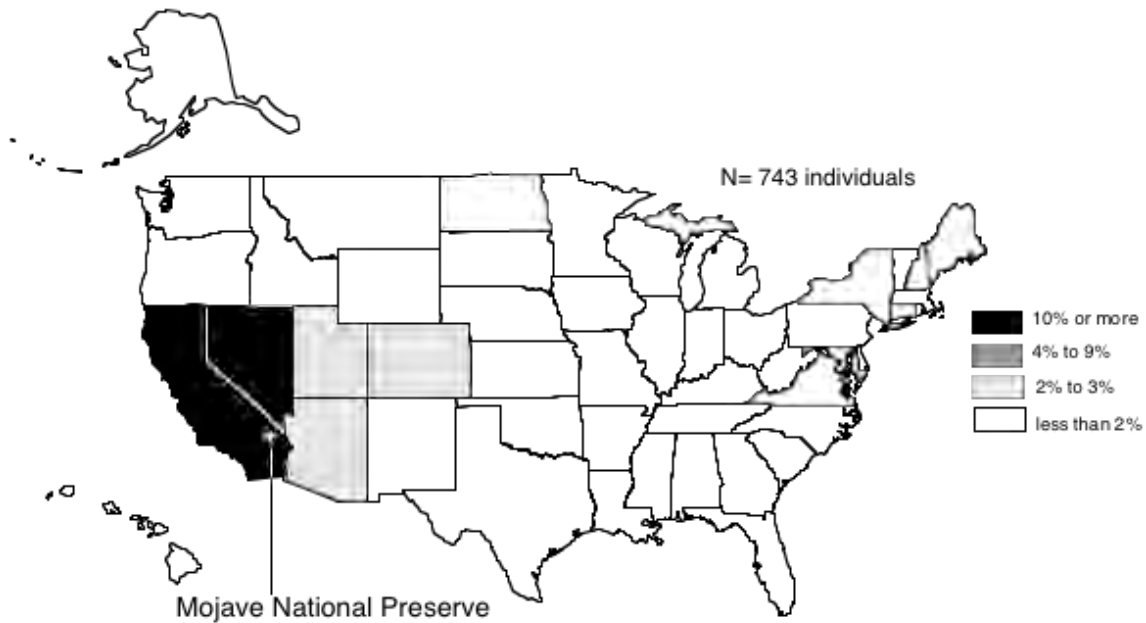
**Figure 2: Visitor group types****Figure 3: Visitors with a guided tour group****Figure 4: Visitors with a school/educational group**

**Figure 5: Visitor ages****Figure 6: Visitors of Spanish, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity**

**Figure 7: Visitor race****Table 2: International visitors by country of residence**

percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding

Country	Number of individuals	Percent of international visitors N=43 individuals	Percent of total number of visitors N=786 individuals
England	10	23	3
Germany	10	23	3
Canada	9	21	2
Switzerland	5	12	2
Belgium	2	5	1
France	2	5	1
Australia	1	2	<1
Italy	1	2	<1
Mexico	1	2	<1
Scotland	1	2	<1
South Africa	1	2	<1



**Map 1: Proportion of United States visitors by state of residence**

**Table 3: United States visitors by state of residence**

percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding.

State	Number of individuals	Percent of U.S. visitors N=743 individuals	Percent of total visitors N=786 individuals
California	471	63	60
Nevada	105	14	13
Utah	24	3	3
Colorado	18	2	2
Arizona	16	2	2
Minnesota	10	1	1
Texas	10	1	1
New York	8	1	1
Ohio	6	1	1
Idaho	5	1	<1
Kansas	5	1	<1
Montana	5	1	<1
Washington	5	1	<1
Florida	4	1	<1
Michigan	4	1	<1
New Mexico	4	1	<1
Wisconsin	4	1	<1
Wyoming	4	1	<1
18 other states and Puerto Rico	35	5	4

**Visitor awareness of land management**

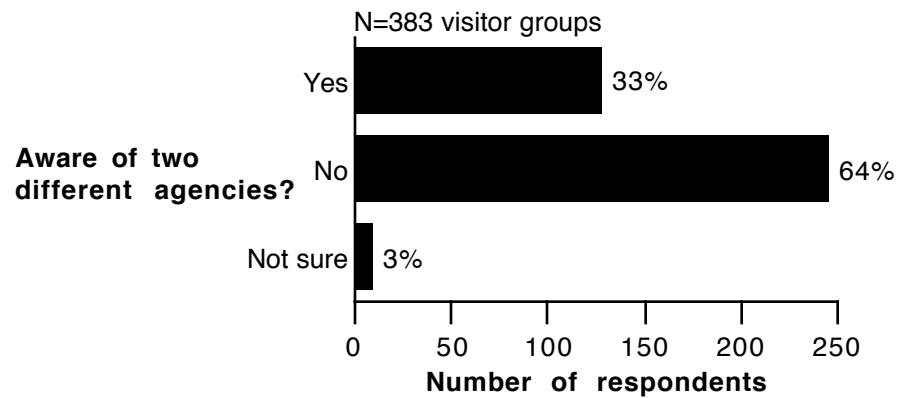
Visitor groups were asked a series of questions regarding their awareness of Mojave National Preserve and the National Park System. First, visitors were asked, "Prior to your visit, were you aware that two different government agencies-- the National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management-- each with different land management goals, manage land in the Mojave Desert?" As shown in Figure 8, most visitor groups (64%) were not aware that the Mojave Desert is managed by two different agencies, 33% were aware, and 3% were "not sure."

Visitors were then asked, "Prior to your visit, were you aware of the difference between a national preserve and a national park?" Forty-eight percent of visitor groups were aware of the difference between a national park and a national preserve, 44% were not aware, and 9% were "not sure," as shown in Figure 9.

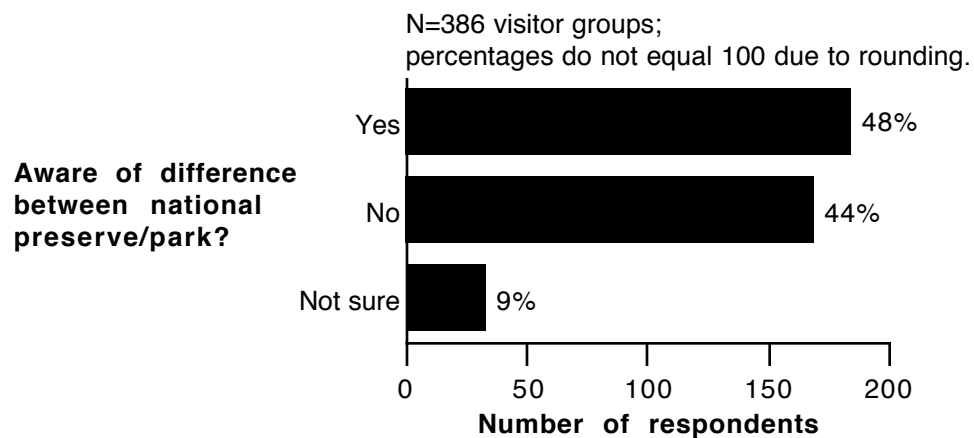
Visitors were also asked, "Prior to your visit, were you aware that there is Congressionally designated wilderness within Mojave National Preserve?" As shown in Figure 10, most visitor groups (55%) were aware of the designated wilderness, 41% were not aware, and 4% were "not sure."

Finally, visitors were asked, "Prior to your visit, were you aware that designated wilderness preserves land by limiting use to non-motorized means of travel such as hiking and horseback?" Most visitor groups (82%) were aware, 10% were "not sure," and 8% were not aware (see Figure 11).

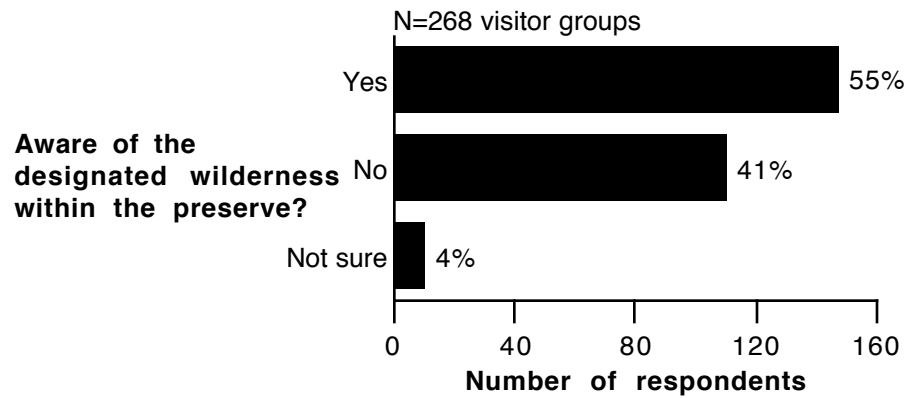




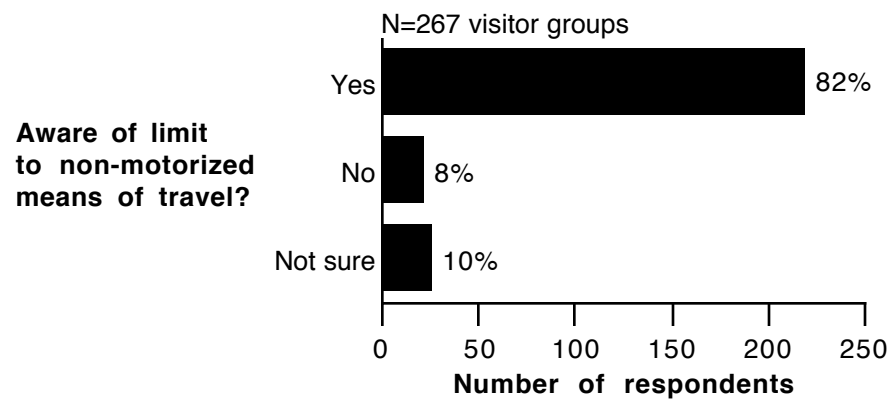
**Figure 8: Visitor awareness that the Mojave Desert is managed by NPS and BLM?**



**Figure 9: Visitor awareness of the difference between a national preserve and a national park**



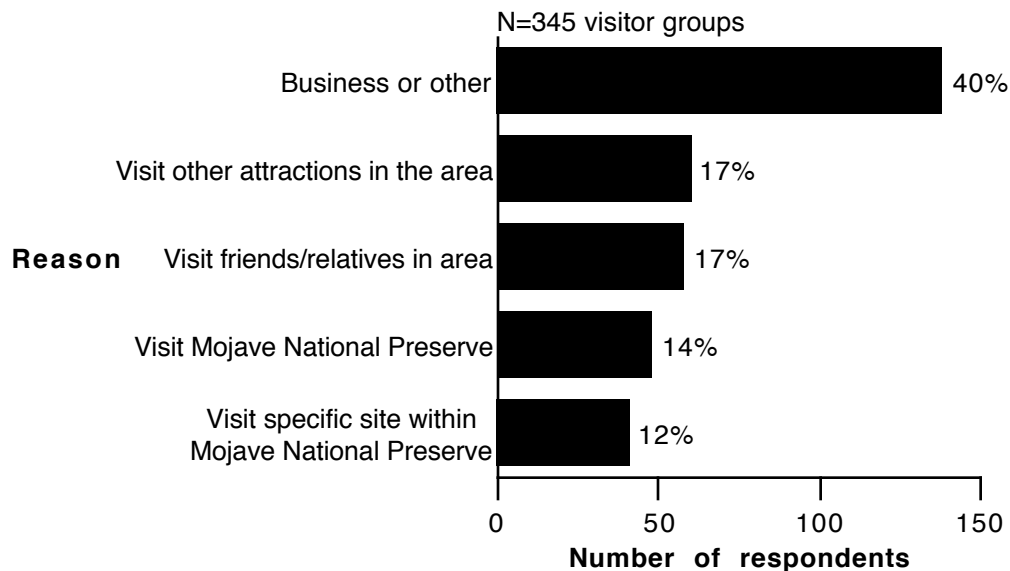
**Figure 10: Visitor awareness that there is Congressionally designated wilderness within Mojave National Preserve**



**Figure 11: Visitor awareness that designated wilderness preserves land by limiting use to non-motorized means of travel**

**Primary reason for visiting the area**

Visitors were also asked their primary reason for visiting the Mojave National Preserve area including Shoshone, Primm (State Line), Needles, Laughlin, Barstow, and Twentynine Palms, but not Las Vegas. Forty percent of visitor groups responded that business or other was their primary reason, followed by visiting other attractions in the area (17%) and visiting friends/relatives in the area (17%), as shown in Figure 12. Fourteen percent of visitors came to visit Mojave National Preserve and 12% came to visit a specific site within Mojave National Preserve.



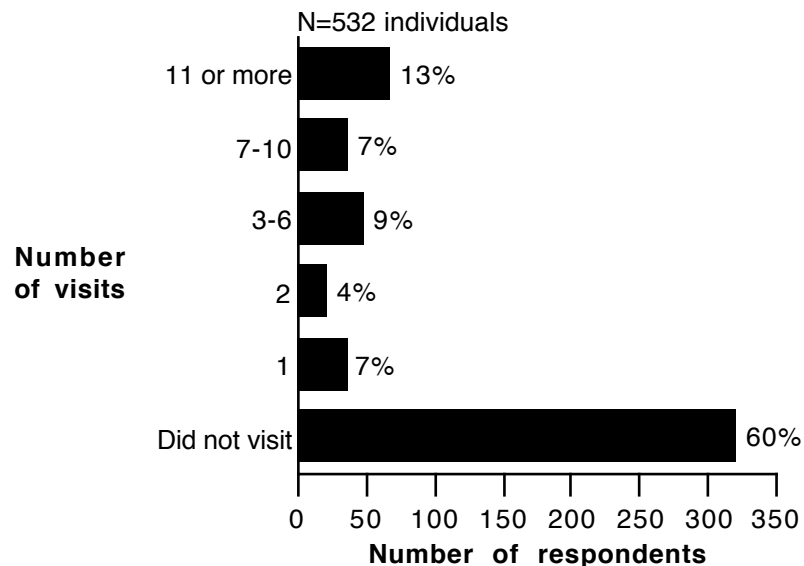
**Figure 12: Primary reason for visiting Mojave National Preserve area**

**Number of visits/ number of vehicles used**

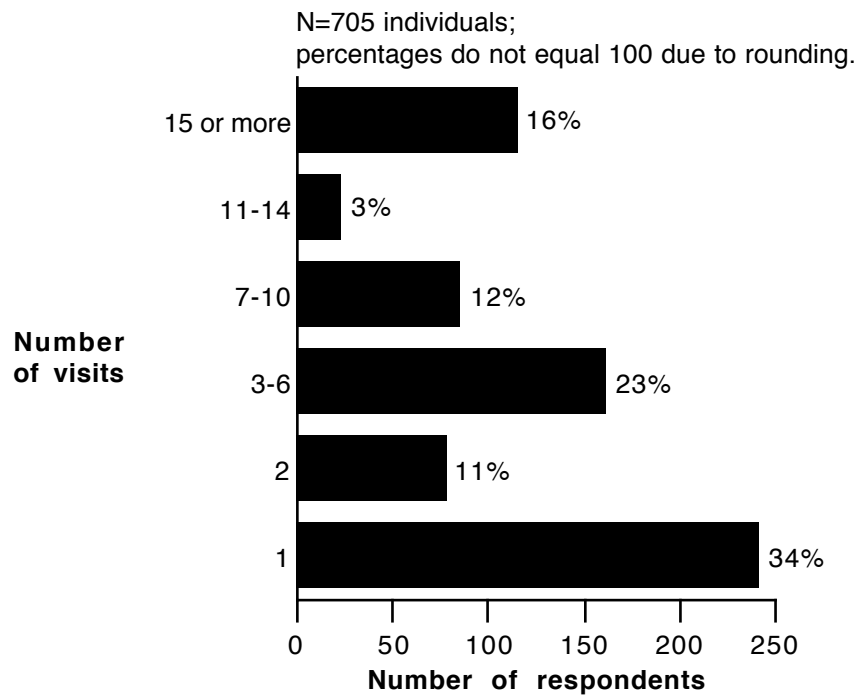
Visitor groups were asked how many times each member in the group had visited Mojave National Preserve before 1995. Sixty percent of visitors reported that they did not visit Mojave National Preserve before 1995, 16% visited between three and ten times, and 7% said they visited Mojave National Preserve only once before 1995 (see Figure 13).

Visitors were also asked how many times they had visited Mojave National Preserve from 1995 through the present. Thirty-four percent responded that it was their first visit to Mojave National Preserve from 1995 to the present (see Figure 14), while 23% visited between three and six times.

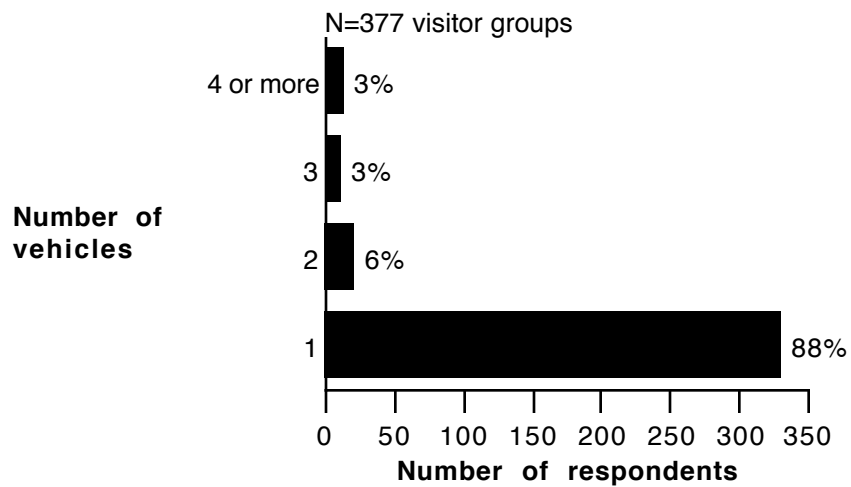
Eighty-eight percent of visitor groups arrived in one vehicle, 6% in 2 vehicles, and 6% arrived in three or more vehicles, as shown in Figure 15.



**Figure 13: Number of visits to Mojave National Preserve before 1995**



**Figure 14: Number of visits from 1995 through present  
(including this visit)**



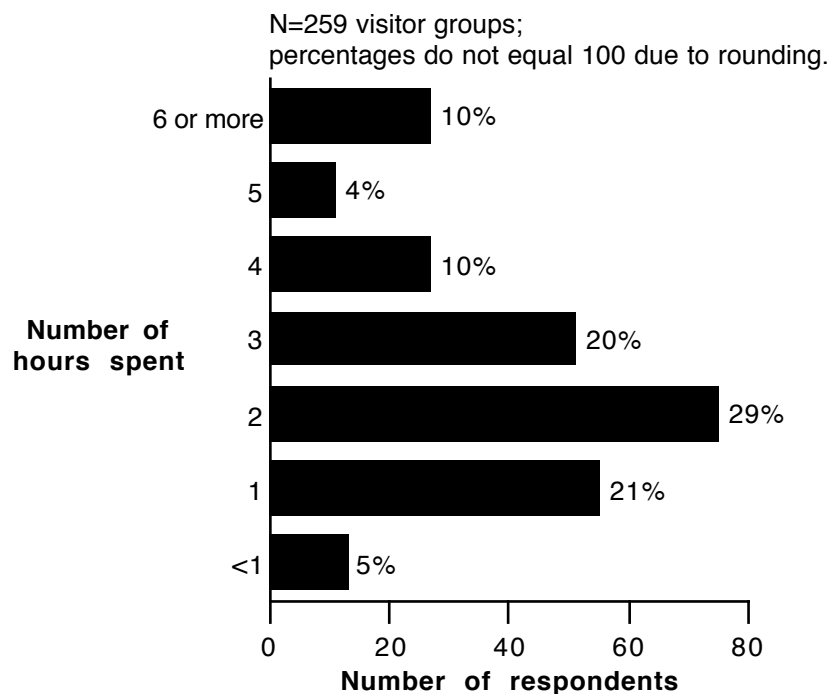
**Figure 15: Number of vehicles per group**

**Length of visit/ preserve entries**

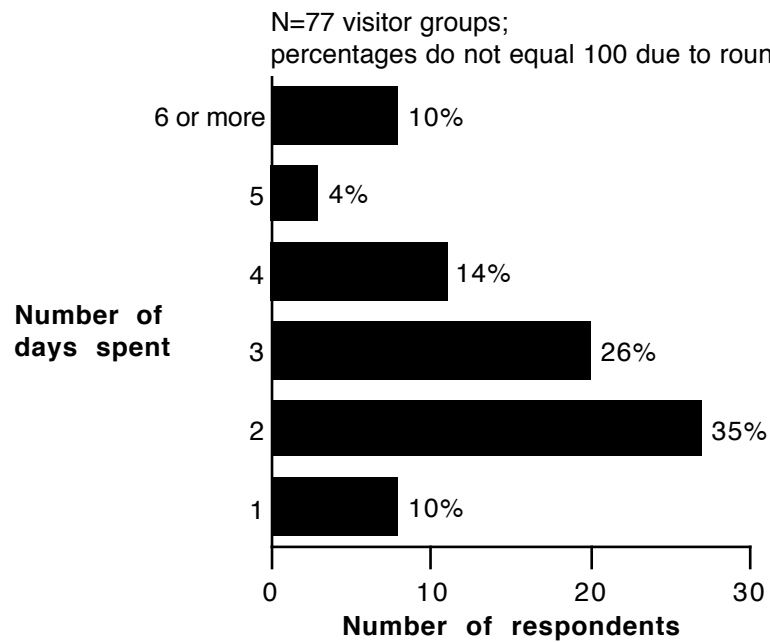
Visitor groups were asked how long they spent visiting Mojave National Preserve on this visit. If they spent less than 24 hours at Mojave National Preserve, they were asked the number of hours spent. Most visitor groups (70%) responded that they spent between one and three hours (see Figure 16). Twenty-four percent reported staying four or more hours.

If visitors spent 24 hours or more at Mojave National Preserve, they were asked the number of days spent. Thirty-five percent of visitor groups spent two days (see Figure 17). Twenty-six percent of visitor groups spent three days and 14% spent four days.

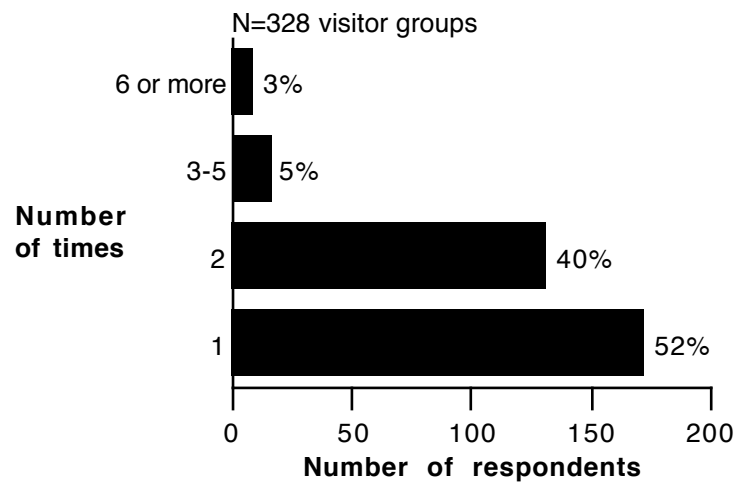
Most visitor groups (52%) entered the preserve once and 40% entered twice during this visit (see Figure 18).



**Figure 16: Hours spent at Mojave National Preserve on this visit**



**Figure 17: Visitors who spent 24 hours or more at Mojave National Preserve on this visit**



**Figure 18: Number of times entered Mojave National Preserve on this visit**

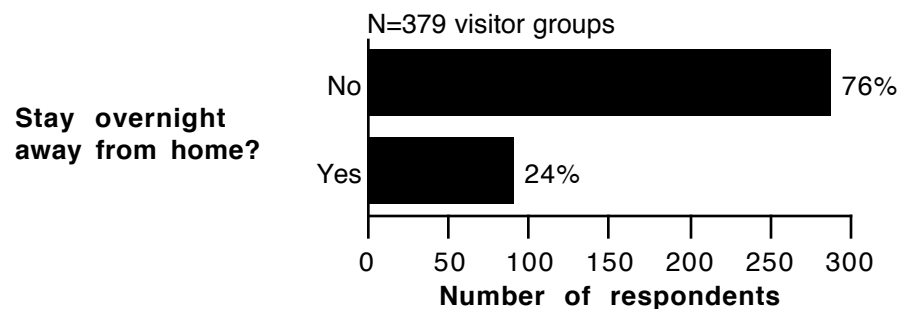
**Overnight accommodations**

Visitor groups were asked if they stayed overnight away from home in the Mojave National Preserve area. As shown in Figure 19, most visitor group (76%) did not stay overnight away from home in the Mojave National Preserve area while 24% stayed overnight.

Groups who stayed overnight away from home in the area were then asked to report the number of nights. Forty-four percent of visitor groups stayed two nights, 22% stayed one night, and 16% spent between three or four nights in the Mojave National Preserve (see Figure 20). Forty-two percent of visitor groups stayed two nights in the area, 24% stayed one night, and 15% stayed three nights, as shown in Figure 21.

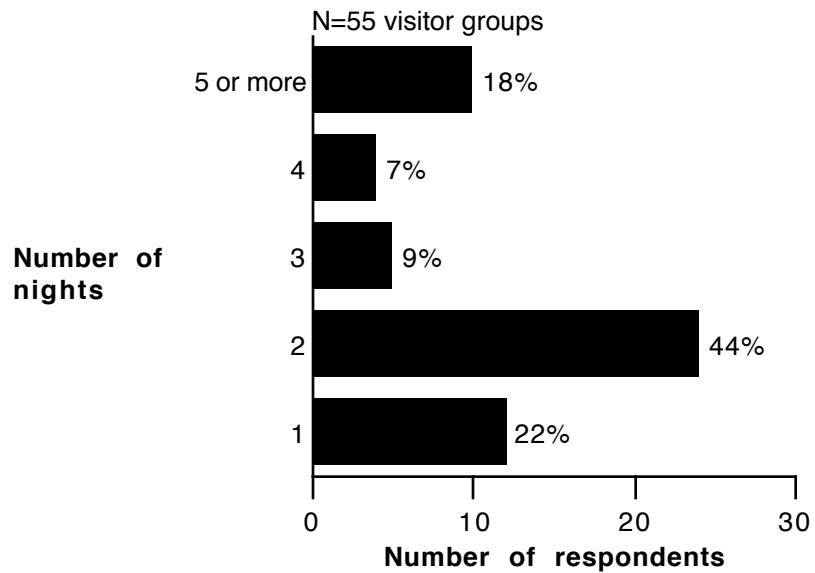
Visitor groups were then asked to report the types of lodging in which they spent the night(s) inside the preserve and in the area. Inside Mojave National Preserve, 54% of visitor groups reported spending the night(s) in a campground/trailer park and 52% used backcountry campsites (see Figure 22). In the area, most visitor groups (62%) stayed at a lodge, motel, cabin and B&B, 12% stayed with friends, and another 12% stayed at backcountry campsites, as shown in Figure 23. No visitor groups reported staying at their personal seasonal residence. "Other" types of lodging include RV, roadside camping, tent, and desert studies center.

Visitors were also asked to report the town/city they stayed on the night after leaving Mojave National Preserve. Table 4 summarizes the comments

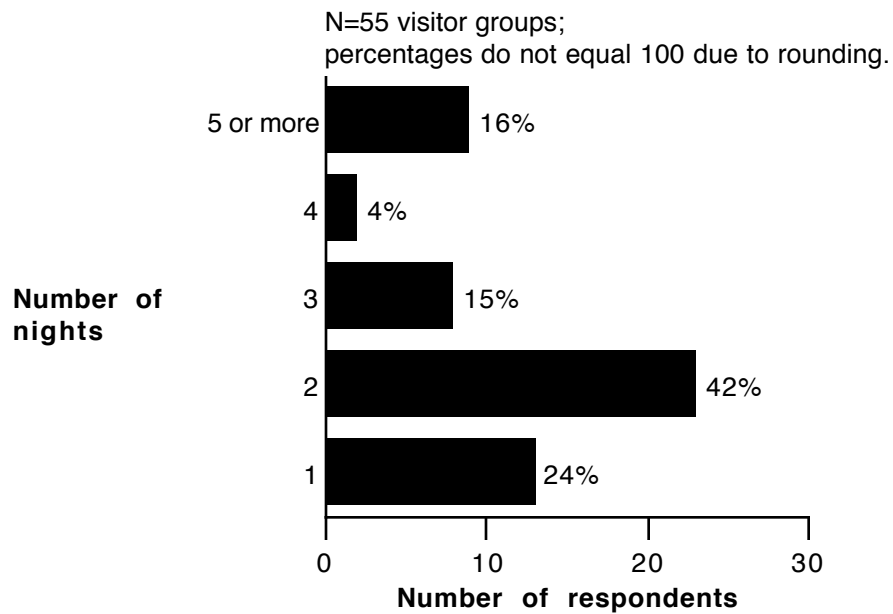


**Figure 19: Visitors who stayed overnight away from home in the Mojave National Preserve area**

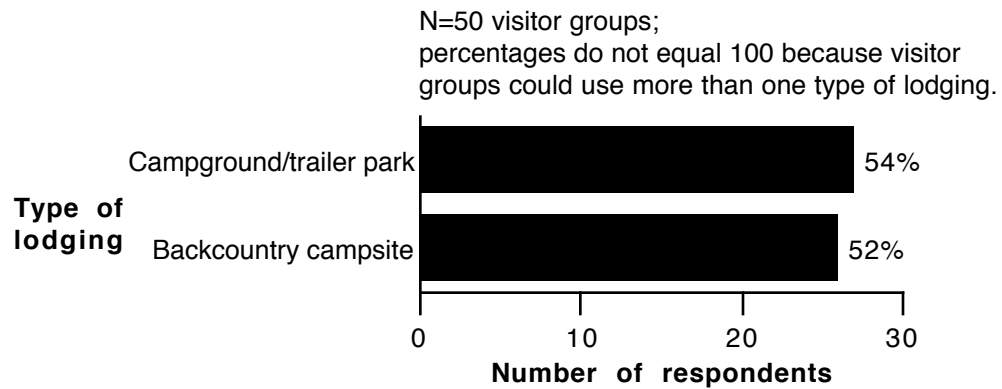




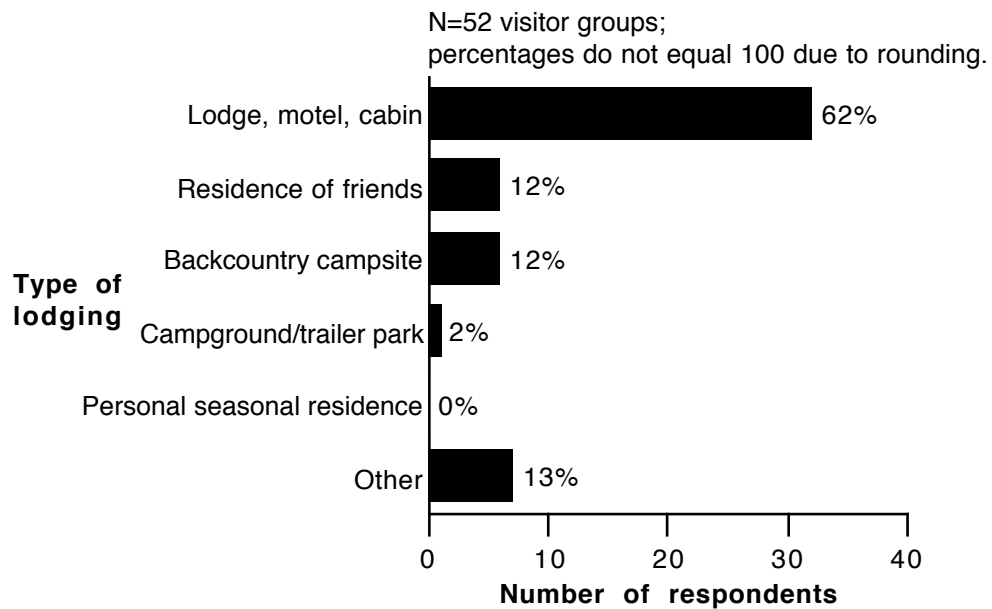
**Figure 20: Number of nights spent in Mojave National Preserve**



**Figure 21: Number of nights spent in the area**



**Figure 22: Type of lodging inside Mojave National Preserve**



**Figure 23: Type of lodging in the area**

**Table 4: Places visitors stayed on the night after leaving Mojave National Preserve**

N=116 visitor groups

Town/City	Number of times mentioned
Las Vegas, NV	19
Primm, NV	9
Palm Springs, CA	6
Los Angeles, CA	4
Palm Desert, CA	4
Twentynine Palms, CA	4
Apple Valley, CA	3
Barstow, CA	3
Bullhead, AZ	3
Joshua Tree National Park, CA	3
Needles, CA	3
Anaheim, CA	2
Flagstaff, AZ	2
Helendale, CA	2
Henderson, NV	2
Long Beach, CA	2
Monrovia, CA	2
San Diego, CA	2
Yucca Valley, CA	2
Baker, CA	2
Arcadia, CA	1
Buena Park, CA	1
Canoga Park, CA	1
Carpinteria, CA	1
Cathedral City, CA	1
Corvallis, OR	1
Desert Hot Springs, CA	1
Escondido, CA	1
Green River, CA	1
Hemet, CA	1
Hesperia, CA	1
Jean, NV	1
La Quinta, CA	1
Laguna Beach, CA	1

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**Table 4: Places visitors stayed on the night after leaving Mojave National Preserve**

(continued)

Town/City	Number of times mentioned
Lake Havasu, AZ	1
Meadview, AZ	1
Morongo Valley, CA	1
Newberry Springs, CA	1
Nipton, CA	1
Ojai, CA	1
Pahrump, NV	1
Phoenix, AZ	1
Placentia, CA	1
Rio Rancho, CA	1
Riverside, CA	1
San Jose, CA	1
Search Light, NV	1
Sequoia National Park, CA	1
St. George, UT	1
Sun City West, AZ	1
Panamint Springs, CA	1
Thousand Palms, CA	1
Tujunga, CA	1
Victorville, CA	1
Wendover, NV	1
Yermo, CA	1
Youngstown, OH	1

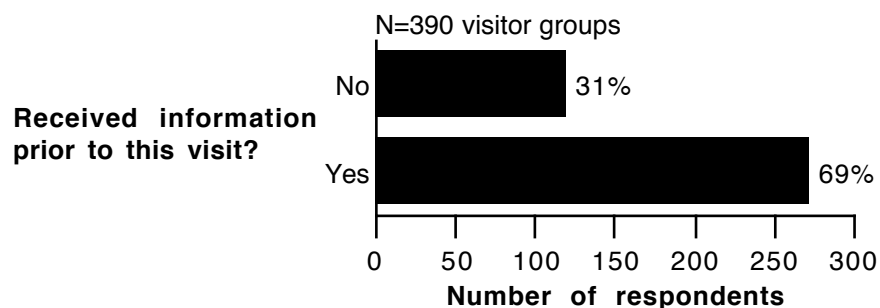
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### Sources of information

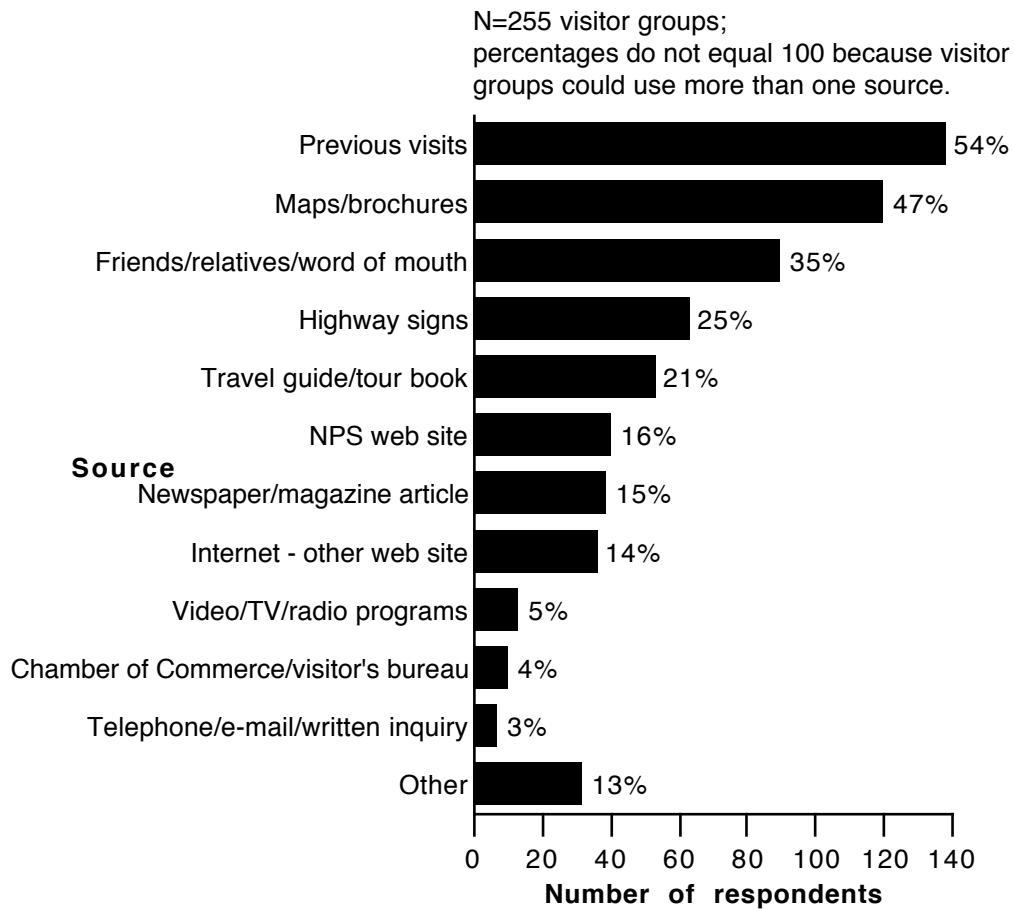
Visitor groups were asked to indicate the sources from which they had received information about Mojave National Preserve prior to their visit. Thirty-one percent of visitor groups received no information prior to their visit, see Figure 24. Of those groups who received information, the most common sources were previous visits (54%), maps/brochures (47%), and friends/relatives/word of mouth (35%), as shown in Figure 25. The least common source was telephone/e-mail or written inquiry to preserve (3%). “Other” sources of information used by visitors were from hunting experience, having business meeting in the area, short cut from Las Vegas to home, maps, AAA, school courses, gas station attendant, phone booth, Furnace Creek 508 bike race, rock climbing guide, and National Parks and Conservation Association.

Most visitor groups (57%) received the information they needed to plan their visit, however, 22% did not receive the information they needed and 21% were “not sure” (see Figure 26). The additional information that was needed prior to their visit is listed in Table 5.

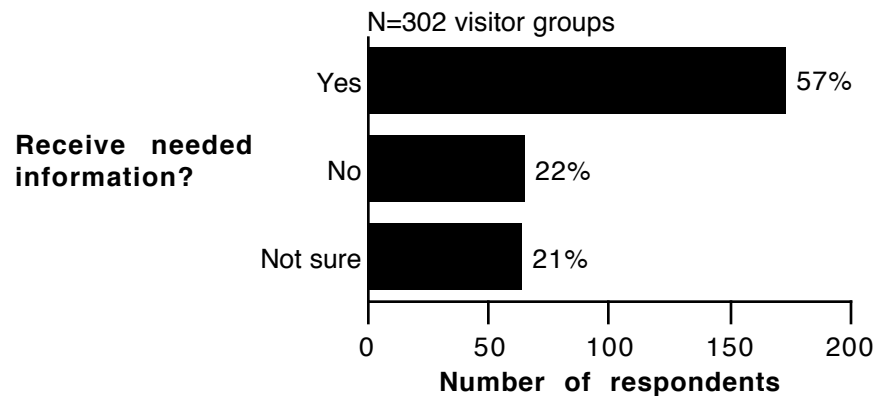
Visitor groups were also asked what sources of information they would prefer to use for a future visit. Most visitor groups (53%) would prefer to use maps/brochures and 46% would use the National Park Service web site, as shown in Figure 27. “Other” sources of information include short cut to Las Vegas, road signs, pamphlets from other parks, and general knowledge.



**Figure 24: Visitor groups who received information about Mojave National Preserve prior to this visit**



**Figure 25: Sources of information used by visitors prior to this visit**

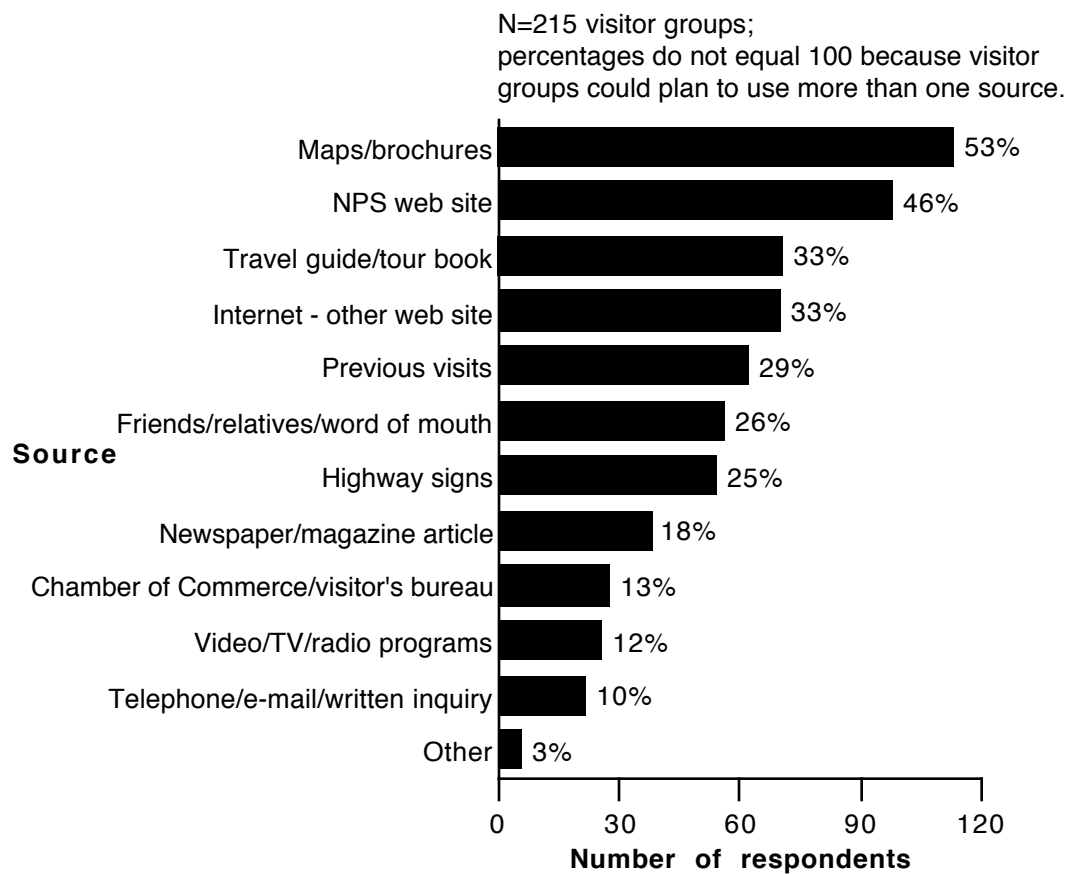


**Figure 26: Receive needed information?**

**Table 5: Additional information needed by visitors prior to this trip to Mojave National Preserve**

N=53 visitor groups;  
some visitors made more than one comment.

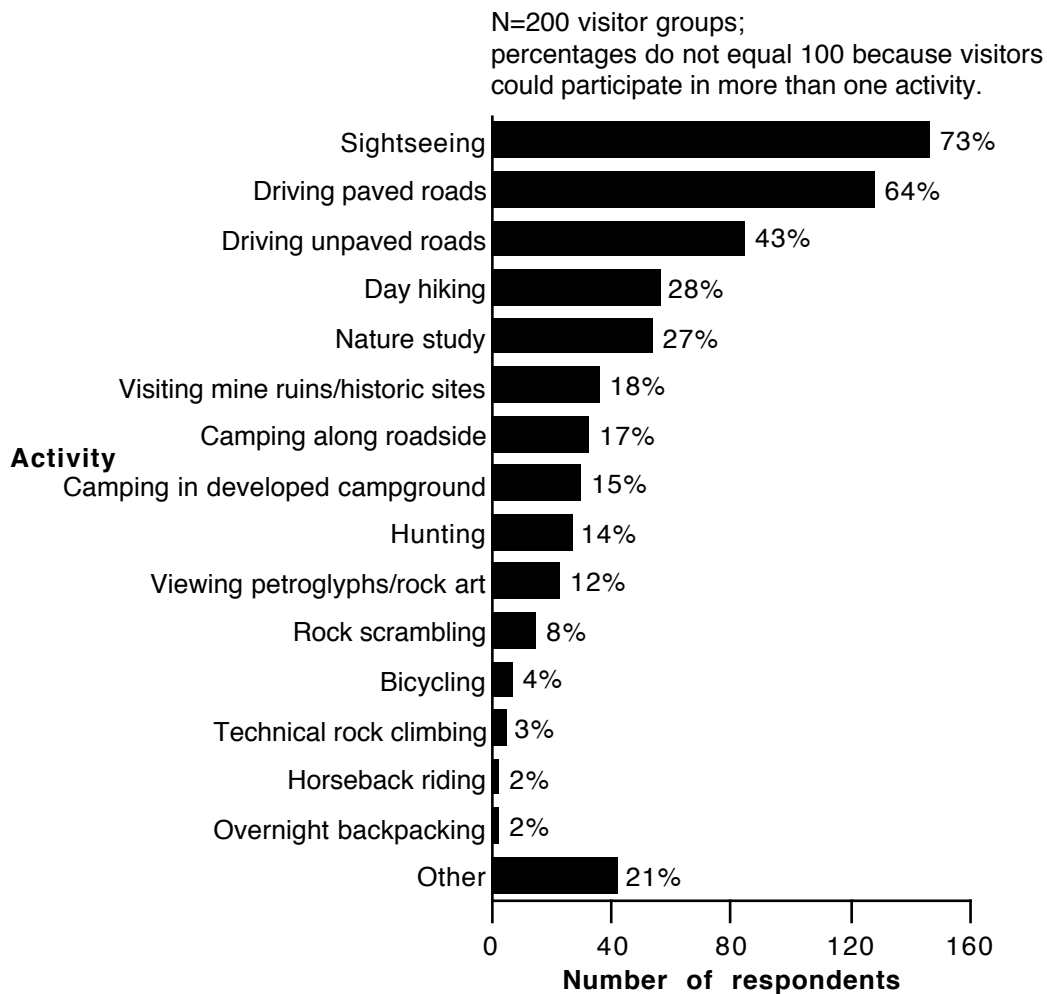
Information/source	Number of times mentioned
Did not need any information	17
Detailed map of the area	9
Road condition	6
General information about the preserve	4
Better road signage	4
Did not even know of its existence	4
Information about available guided tour	3
Need a better website with variety of information	3
Campsite	3
Reasons for taking out the water tank	2
Hunting regulations	1
Visitor center	1
Why tour bus was not allowed	1
All closed areas	1



**Figure 27: Preferred sources of information by visitors planning future visits**

### Activities

Among respondents of this survey, 48% visitor groups said they were driving through a short cut between Southern California and Las Vegas without stopping. Of those who visited the Mojave National Preserve, the most common activities were sightseeing (73%), driving paved roads (64%) and driving unpaved roads (43%), as shown in Figure 28. The least common activities were horseback riding and overnight backpacking (each 2%). “Other” activities included driving through, taking a cavern tour, studying geology of the area, photography, gathering burros, on the way to Joshua Tree National Park, using restrooms at Kelso, searching for owl/eagles, bird and reptile observation, getting away from civilization, and rock climbing.

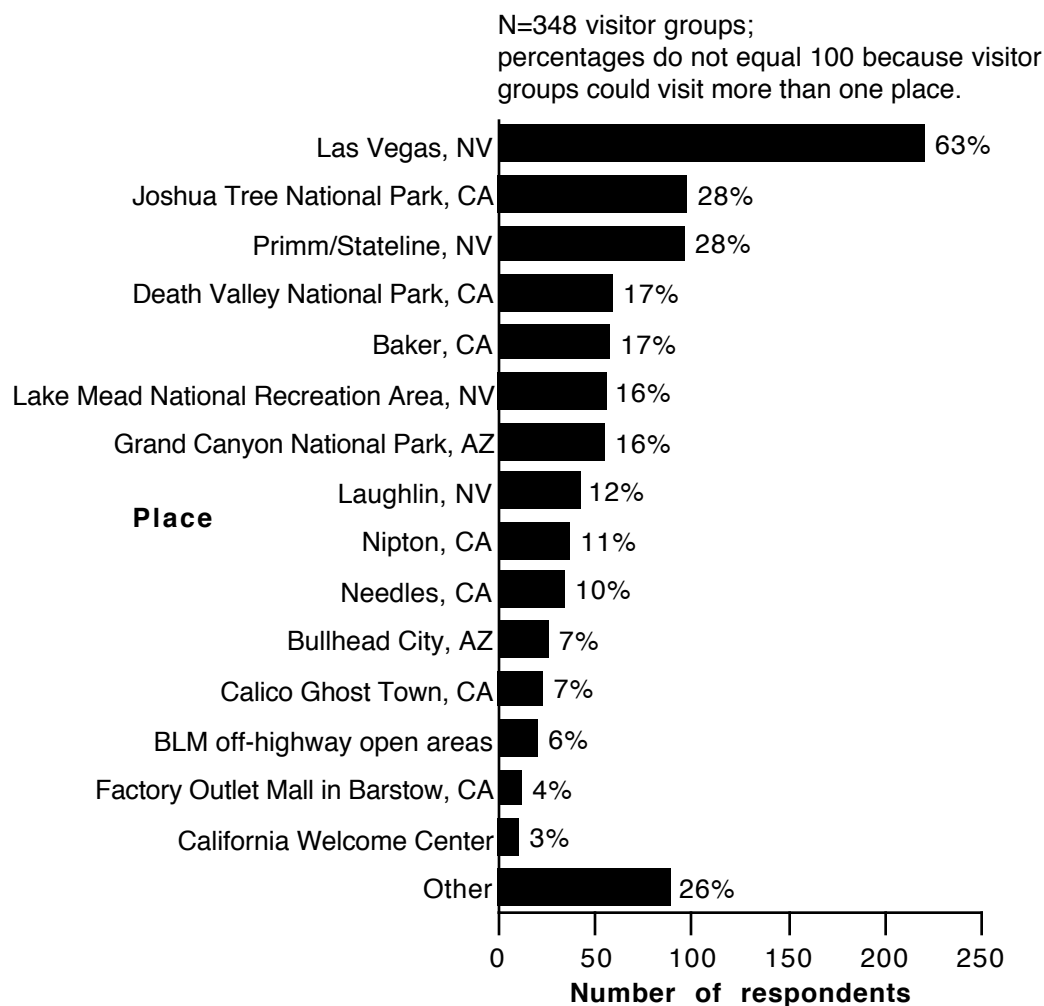


**Figure 28: Visitor activities on this visit**



### Places visited outside the preserve

Visitor groups were asked to identify the other places that they visited or planned to visit on this trip to Mojave National Preserve. The most visited places included Las Vegas, NV (63%), Joshua Tree National Park, CA (28%) and Primm/Stateline, NV (28%), as shown in Figure 29. The least visited place was the California Welcome Center (3%). “Other” places that visitors visited or planned to visit are listed in Table 6.



**Figure 29: Places visited on this trip to Mojave National Preserve**

**Table 6: “ Other” places visitors visited or planned to visit**

N=89 visitor groups;  
some visitors made more than one comment.

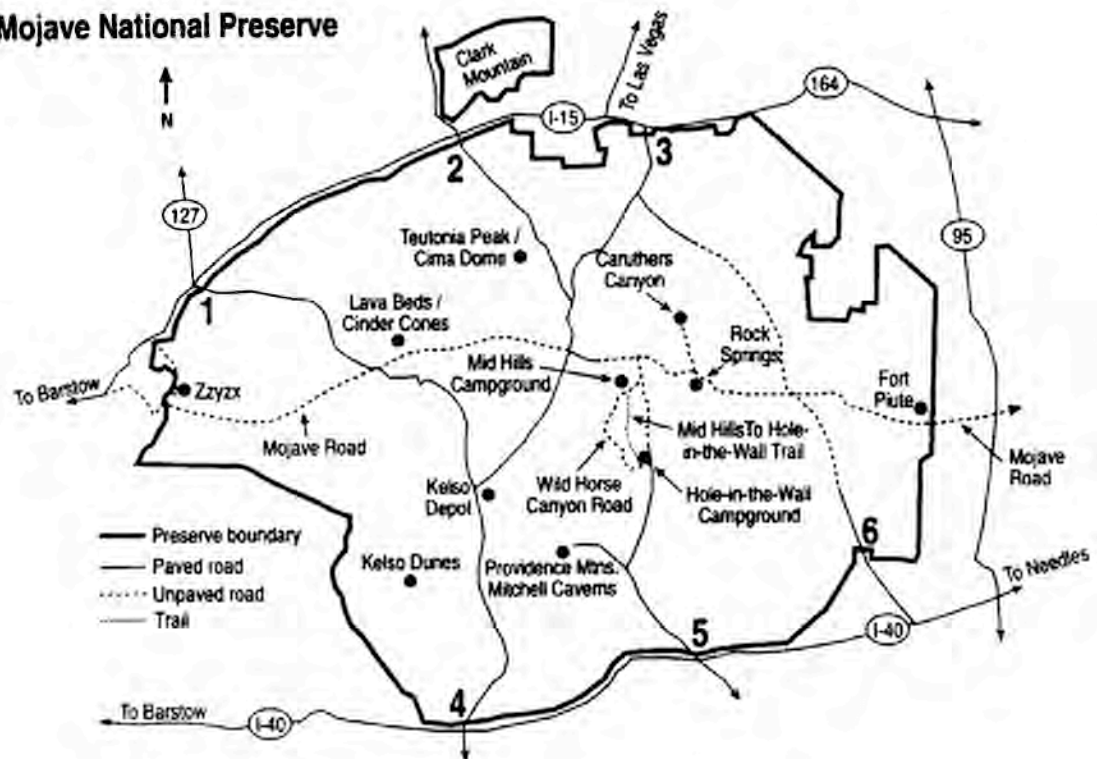
Place	Number of times mentioned
Palm Springs, CA	21
Twentynine Palms, CA	5
Zion National Park, UT	3
Sedona, AZ	3
Cedar City, UT	3
Searchlight, NV	2
Palm Desert, CA	2
Goffs, CA	2
Joshua Tree National Park, CA	2
Yucca Valley, CA	2
Amboy Crater, AZ	2
Barstow, CA	2
Bryce Canyon National Park, UT	2
Kingman, AZ	2
Hole-in-the-Wall Campground, CA	2
Blythe, CA	1
Yuma, CA	1
Imperial Valley, CA	1
Desert Study Center	1
Beaver Dam, AZ	1
Green River, UT	1
URARA (Utah Rock Art Research Association) Symposium, UT	1
La Quinta, CA	1
Newberg Springs, CA	1
Picacho Spa, CA	1
Rancho Mirage, CA	1
Gooseberry Mesa, UT	1
Valley of Fire State Park, NV	1
Jean, NV	1
Nevada Welcome Center	1
Cima, CA	1
Kelso, CA	1
Fenner, CA	1
Hoover Dam, AZ	1
Amargosa Valley, CA	1
Los Angeles, CA	1
Mesquite, CA	1
Oatman, AZ	1
Pahrump, NV	1
San Diego, CA	1
Shoshone, CA	1
St. George, UT	1
Tecopa, CA	1
Williams, AZ	1
Just driving through, none of the above	15

### Sites visited in the preserve

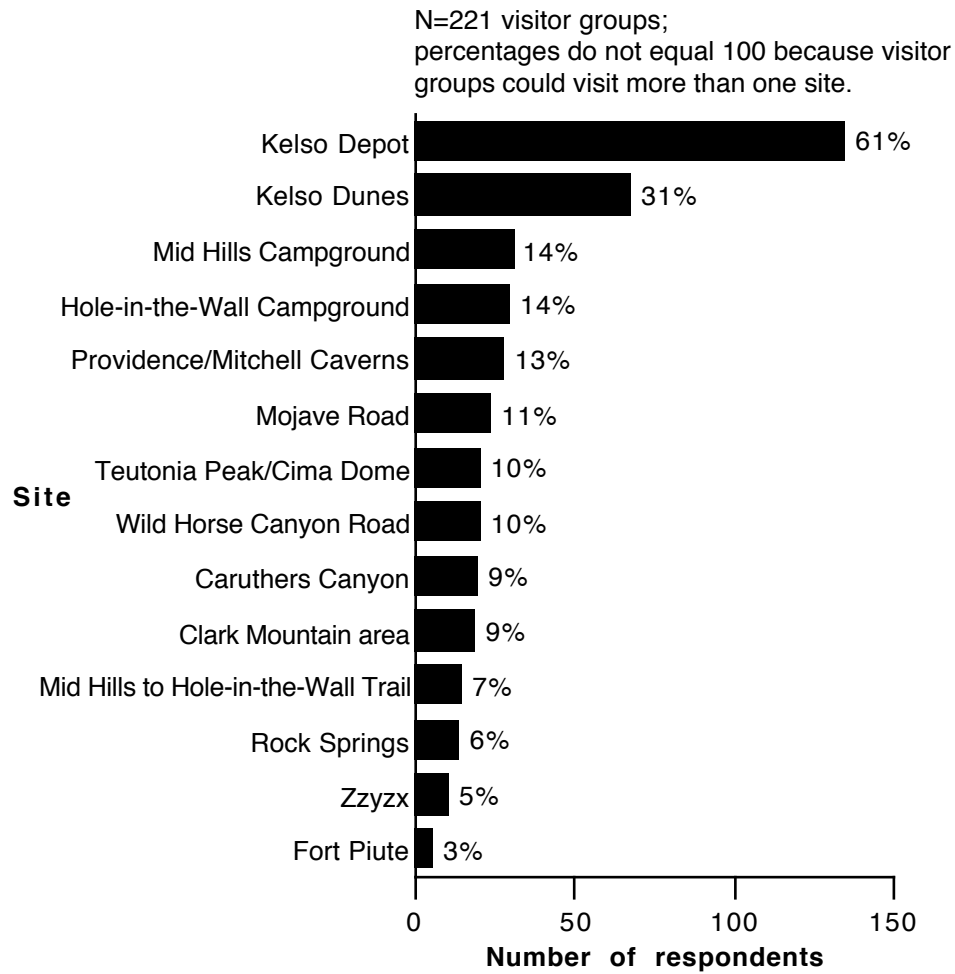
Visitor groups were asked to identify the sites that they visited in Mojave National Preserve. Map 2 was provided to help visitors locate the sites. The most visited sites included Kelso Depot (61%) and Kelso Dunes (31%), as shown in Figure 30. The least visited site was Fort Piute (3%).

Visitor groups were also asked the site where they first entered and site where they left the preserve. Forty-three percent of visitor groups reported that they first entered Mojave National Preserve from I-40 SE, 26% from I-15, and 13% from Highway 127 (see Figure 31). Thirty-seven percent of visitor groups reported that they left Mojave National Preserve for the last time via I-40 SE, from I-15 (36%), and Clark Mountain (10%), as shown in Figure 32.

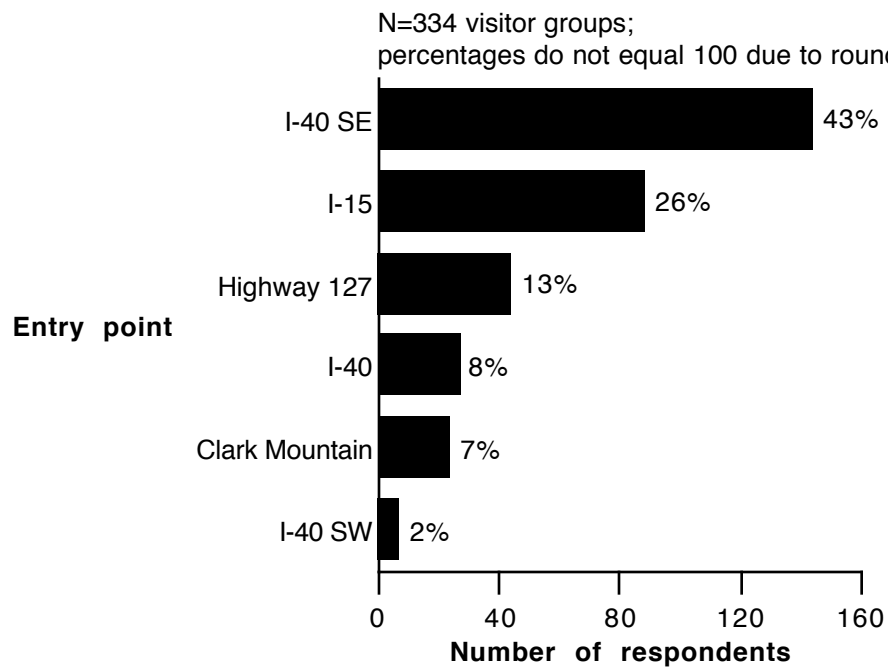
**Mojave National Preserve**



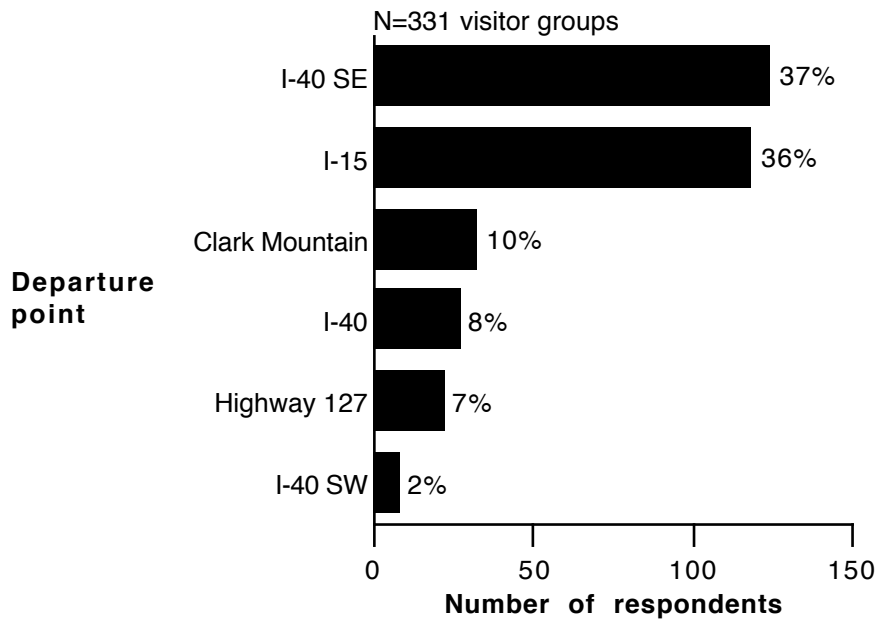
**Map 2: Sites within Mojave National Preserve**



**Figure 30: Places visited in Mojave National Preserve**



**Figure 31: First entry point at Mojave National Preserve**

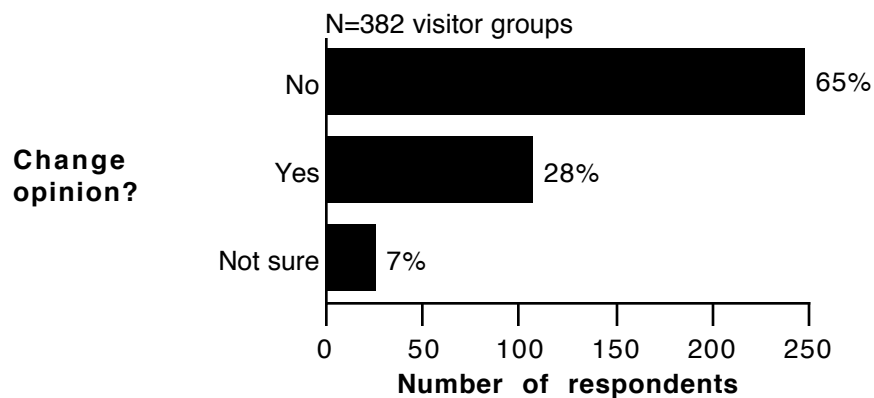


**Figure 32: Last departure point from Mojave National Preserve**

**Opinions about Mojave Desert**

Visitors were asked, “Has your opinion about the Mojave Desert changed since your visit to Mojave National Preserve?” Of 382 visitor groups who answered this question, 65% reported that their opinion about the Mojave Desert had not changed after their visit to Mojave National Preserve (see Figure 33). Twenty-eight percent reported that their opinion had changed and 7% were “not sure.”

If their opinions had changed, visitor groups were then asked to report how. Table 7 lists the visitor groups’ comments.



**Figure 33: Has your opinion about the Mojave Desert changed?**

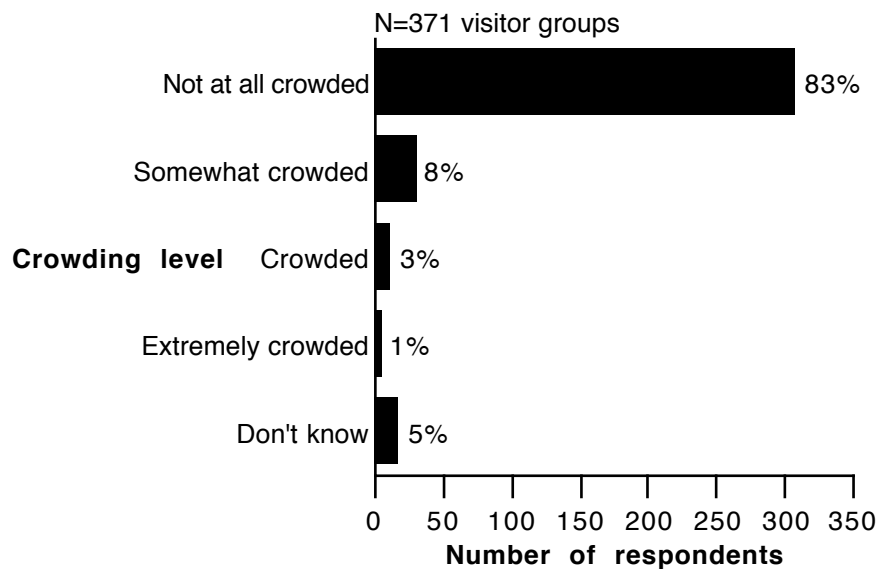
**Table 7: Changes in visitor opinions about the Mojave Desert**

N=108 visitor groups;  
some visitors made more than one comment.

Comment	Number of times mentioned
Realized how beautiful it is	19
We want to come back and explore it	18
More things to do and see than we thought	17
More variety of landscapes and habitat than expected	12
Bigger than we thought	7
Glad it is protected	7
Did not know it was there	6
Like it even better	6
Still love it	6
Unhappy that there are so many restrictions	5
Unhappy that there are so many closed off roads	4
Great restoration of Kelso Depot	4
Should not have become a preserve	3
More interesting rock formation than we knew	3
Increased the appreciation of the natural beauty	2
It needs better road signage	2
Need to maintain water resources	2
Amazed with the number of Joshua trees	2
Darker than we thought	1
Smaller than we thought	1
Very special place in history	1
Each time we go we see something different	1

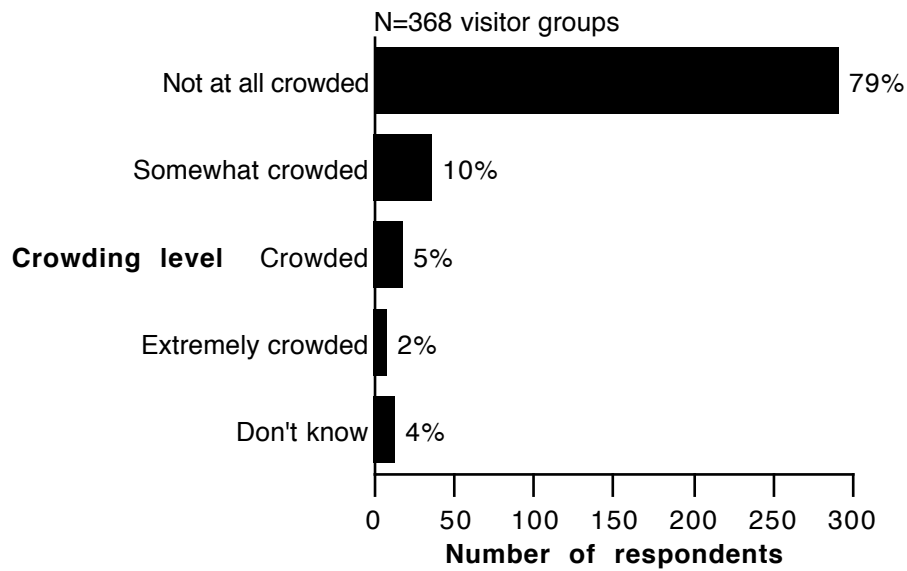
**Perceptions about crowding**

Visitor groups were asked to report how crowded they felt during their trip to Mojave National Preserve. Regarding the crowding of people, most visitor groups (83%) felt “not at all crowded,” 8% felt “somewhat crowded,” and 3% felt “crowded,” as shown in Figure 34. Seventy-nine percent of visitor groups felt “not at all crowded” by the number of vehicles in the preserve during this visit, 10% felt “somewhat crowded,” and 5% felt “crowded” (see Figure 35).



**Figure 34: Visitors' perception of crowding of people in the preserve**





**Figure 35: Visitors' perceptions of crowding of vehicles in the preserve**

### Importance of selected preserve's features/qualities

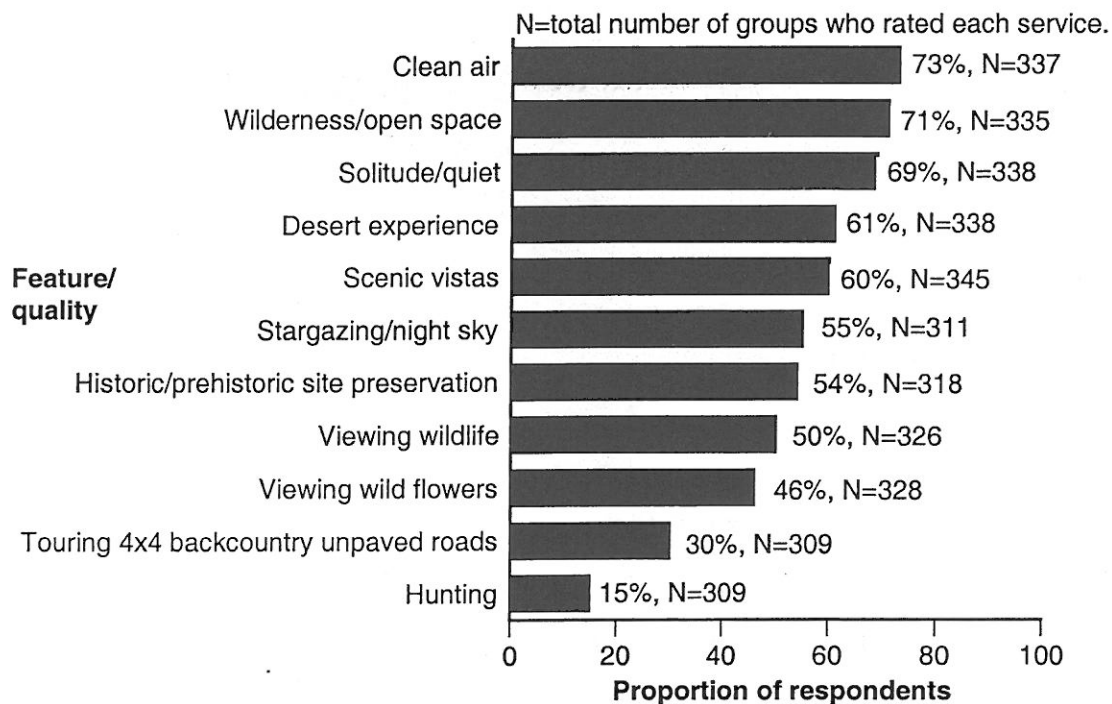
Visitors were asked to rate the importance of selected Mojave National Preserve features/qualities to their group during this visit. Table 8 summarizes visitors' ratings. The features/qualities received the highest "extremely important" and "very important" ratings included clean air (73%), wilderness/open space (71%), and solitude/quiet (69%), as shown in Figure 36. The feature/quality receiving the highest "not important" rating was hunting (64%).

Visitors were then asked to select the three most important features/qualities that encouraged them to visit Mojave National Preserve. Visitors reported scenic vistas (34%), desert experience (16%), and solitude quiet (10%) as the most important features/qualities that encouraged them to visit Mojave National Preserve (see Figure 37). Solitude/quiet (22%), desert experience (16%), and wilderness/open space (15%) were most mentioned as the second most important features/qualities, as shown in Figure 38. Wilderness/open space (20%), solitude/quiet (19%) were reported as the third most important features/qualities (see Figure 39). The "other" feature/quality that visitor groups mentioned in the ratings included camping, cave, far from civilization, the Kelso Depot, a nice off-traffic short cut, and fun to tour.

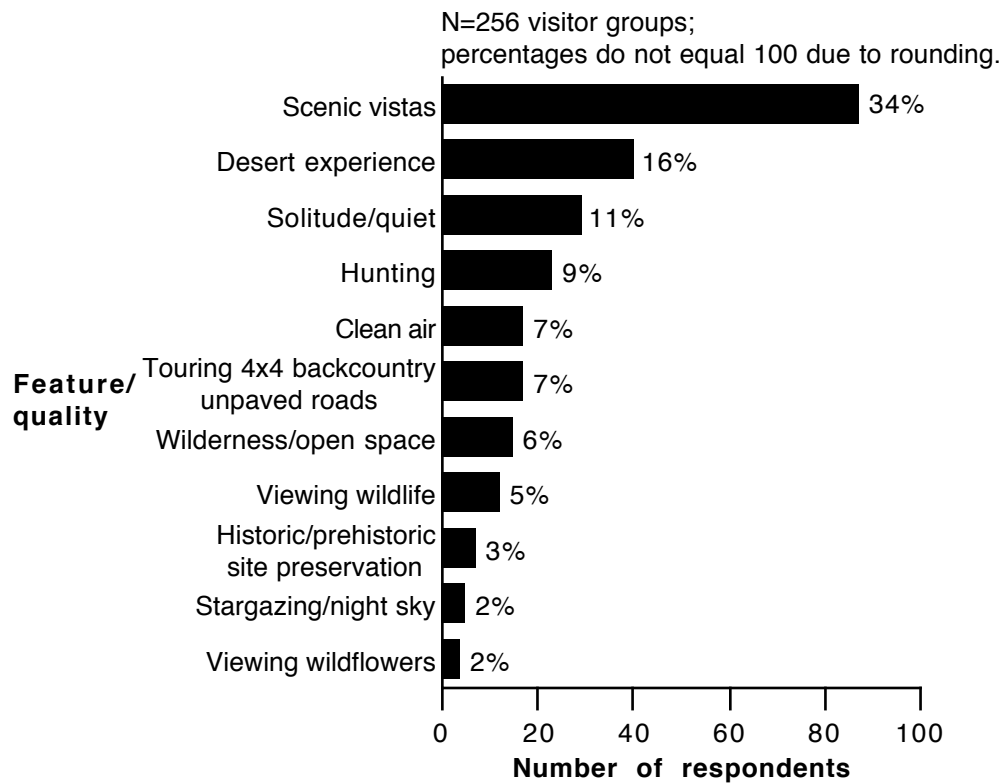
**Table 8: Importance of selected preserve's features/qualities**

N=number of visitor groups who rated each feature/quality;  
percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding.

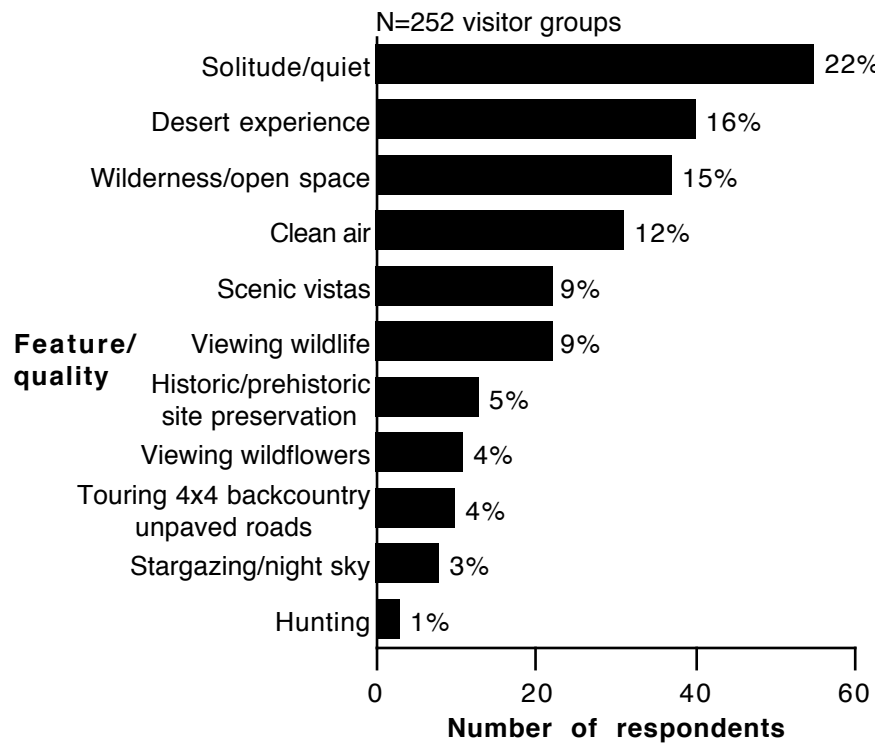
Feature/quality	N	Ratings (%)					
		Extremely important	Very important	Moderately important	Somewhat important	Not important	Don't know
Scenic vistas	345	38	22	24	4	5	6
Desert experience	338	36	25	22	6	7	5
Viewing wildlife	326	29	21	25	10	9	6
Viewing wildflowers	328	24	22	27	9	12	5
Clean air	337	49	24	18	2	4	3
Solitude/quiet	338	45	24	19	4	5	4
Wilderness/open space	335	50	21	16	4	6	4
Stargazing/night sky	311	38	17	12	8	14	12
Historic/prehistoric site preservation	318	36	18	18	9	10	9
Touring 4x4 backcountry unpaved roads	309	22	8	13	11	34	12
Hunting	309	13	2	4	7	64	10



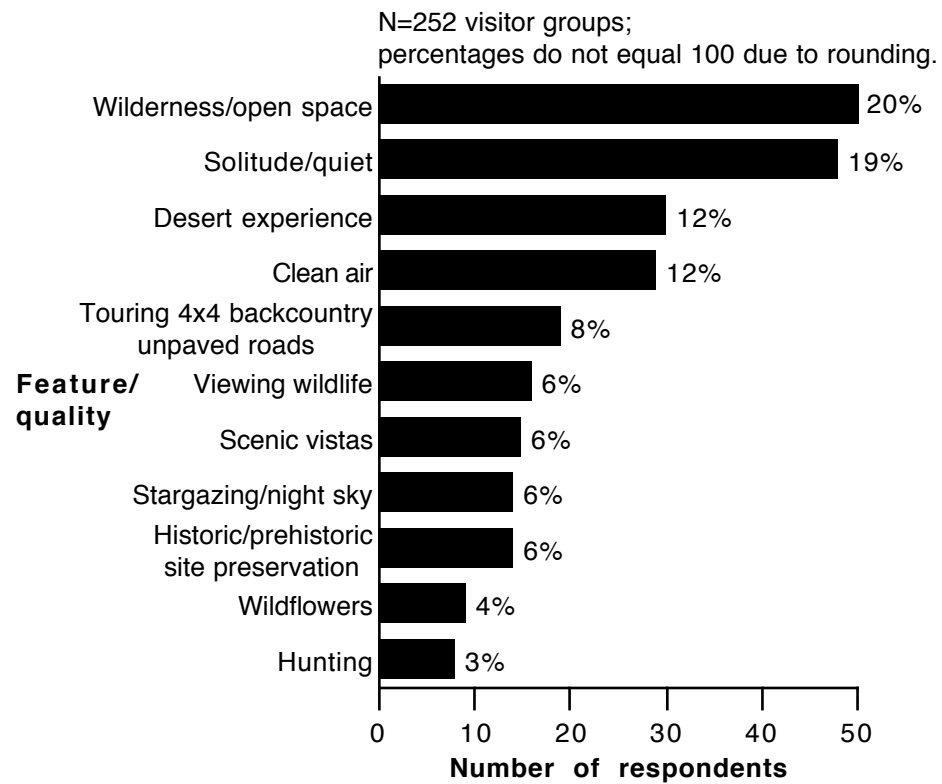
**Figure 36: Combined “important” and “extremely important” ratings for the preserve features/qualities**



**Figure 37: The most important feature/quality**



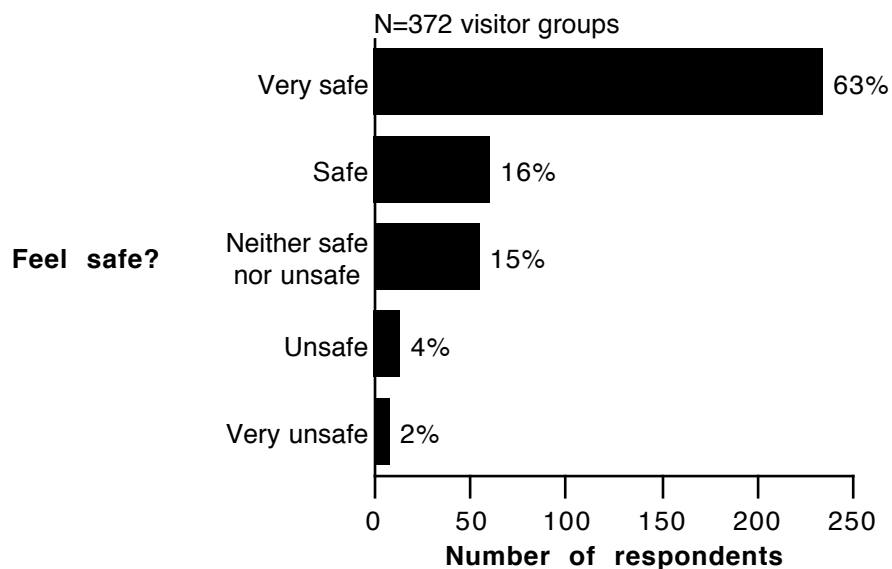
**Figure 38: The second most important feature/quality**



**Figure 39: The third most important feature/quality**

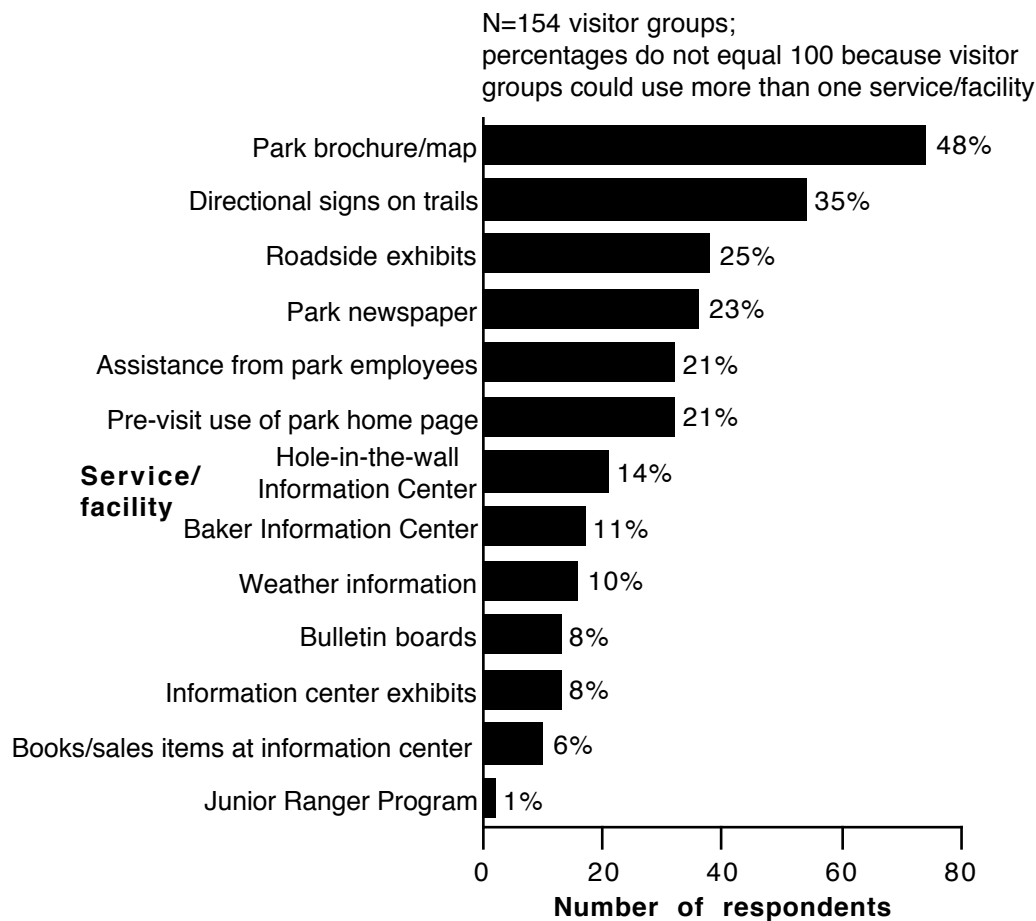
**Opinions about safety**

During this visit to Mojave National Preserve, most visitor groups (63%) felt “very safe,” 16% felt “safe,” and 6% felt “unsafe” or “very unsafe,” as shown in Figure 40. Visitor groups who felt “unsafe” or “very unsafe” were then asked to explain why. The reasons that groups felt unsafe included traveling at night without a cell phone, having no access to emergency help, fearful of armed park ranger, hunting season, a bike race took over the road, long winding roads, too many people, do not see any highway patrol, and other vehicles were going over the speed limit.

**Figure 40: Safety level**

**Information services/facilities: use, importance, and quality**

Visitor groups were asked to note the information services and facilities they used during this visit to Mojave National Preserve. The most used information services/facilities were park brochure/map (48%) and directional signs on trails (35%), as shown in Figure 41. The least used service was the Junior Ranger Program (1%).



**Figure 41: Information services and facilities used**



Visitor groups rated the importance and quality of each of the information services and facilities they used. The following five-point scales were used in the questionnaire.

IMPORTANCE
5=extremely important
4=very important
3=moderately important
2=somewhat important
1=not important

QUALITY
5=very good
4=good
3=average
2=poor
1=very poor

The average importance and quality ratings for each service and facility were determined based on ratings provided by visitors who used each service and facility. Figures 42 and 43 show the average importance and quality ratings for each of the park services and facilities. All services and facilities were rated above average in importance and quality. Note: Pre-visit use of park home page, Hole-in-the-Wall Information Center, Baker Information Center, Information center exhibits, books/sales items at information center, assistance from park employees, Junior Ranger Program, and bulletin boards were not rated by enough visitors to provide reliable data.

Figures 44-56 show the importance ratings that were provided by visitor groups for each of the individual facilities. Those facilities receiving the highest proportion of “extremely important” or “very important” ratings included park brochure/map (79%) and directional signs on trails (77%). The highest proportion of “not important” ratings was park newspaper (6%).

Figures 57-69 show the quality ratings that were provided by visitor groups for each of the individual facilities. The service receiving the highest proportion of “very good” or “good” ratings was park brochure/map (81%). The highest proportion of “very poor” ratings was for directional signs on trails (7%).

Figure 70 combines the “very good” and “good” quality ratings and compares those ratings for all of the services and facilities.

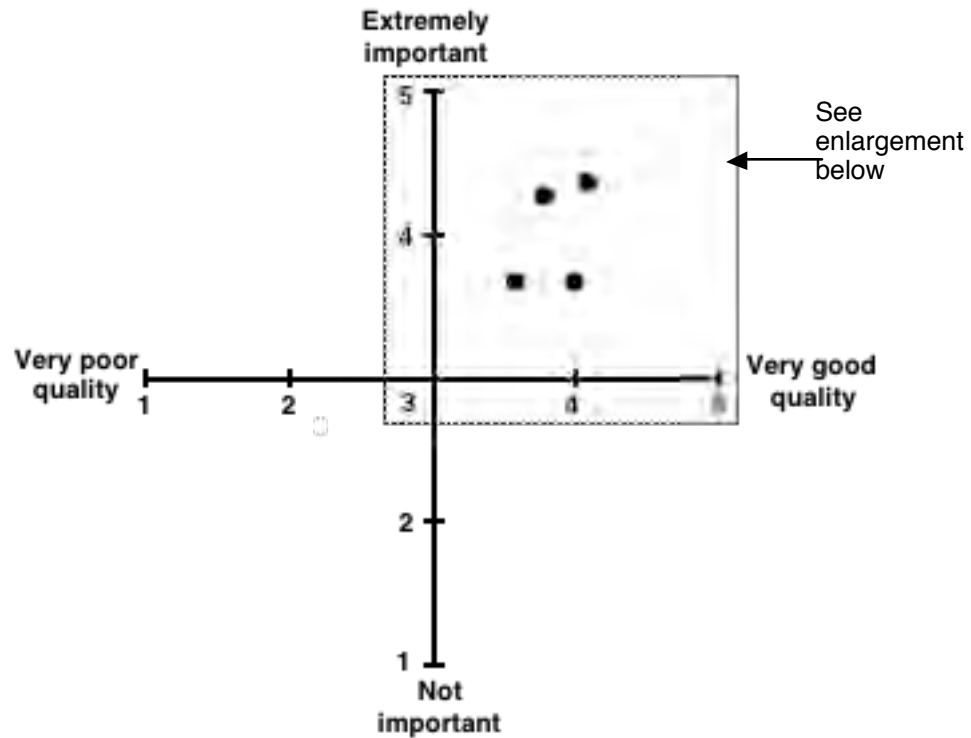


Figure 42: Average ratings of information service importance and quality

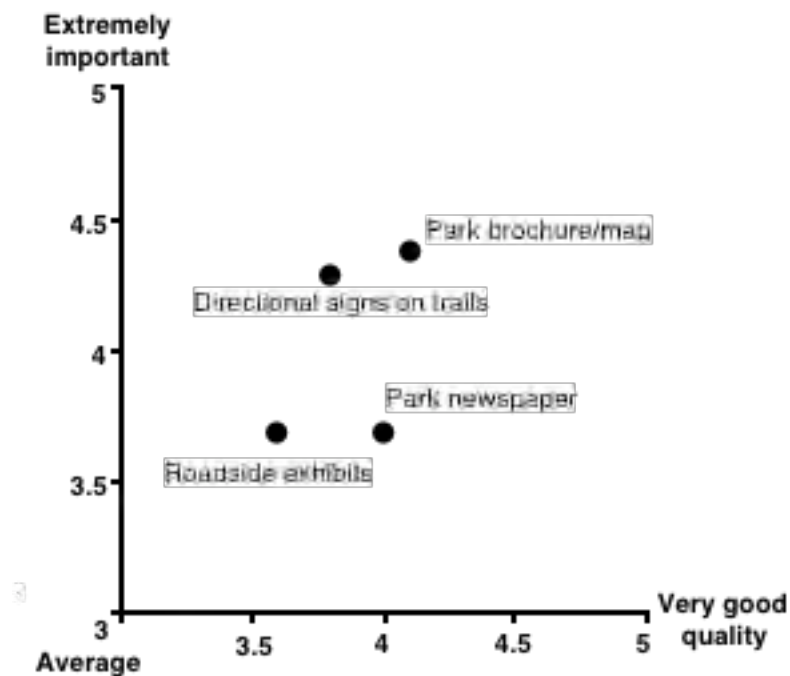
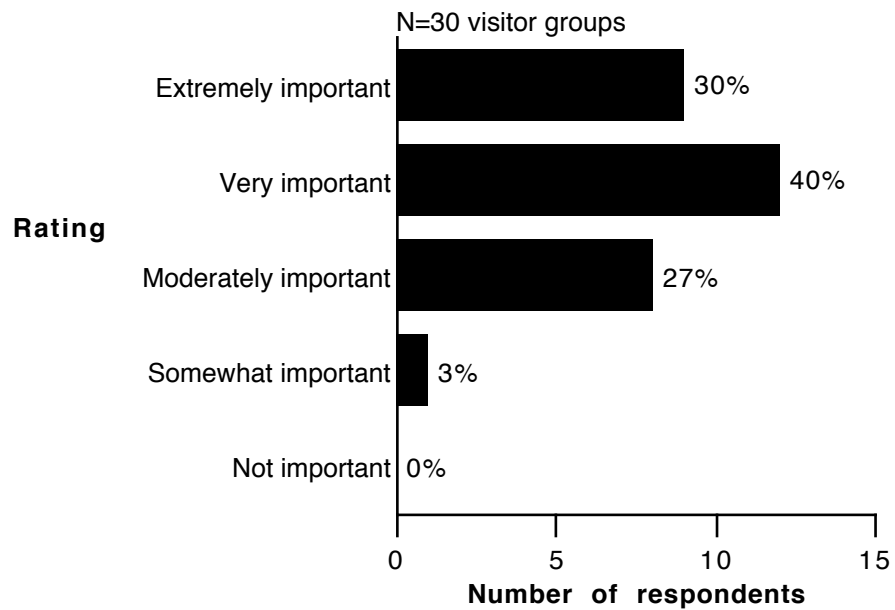
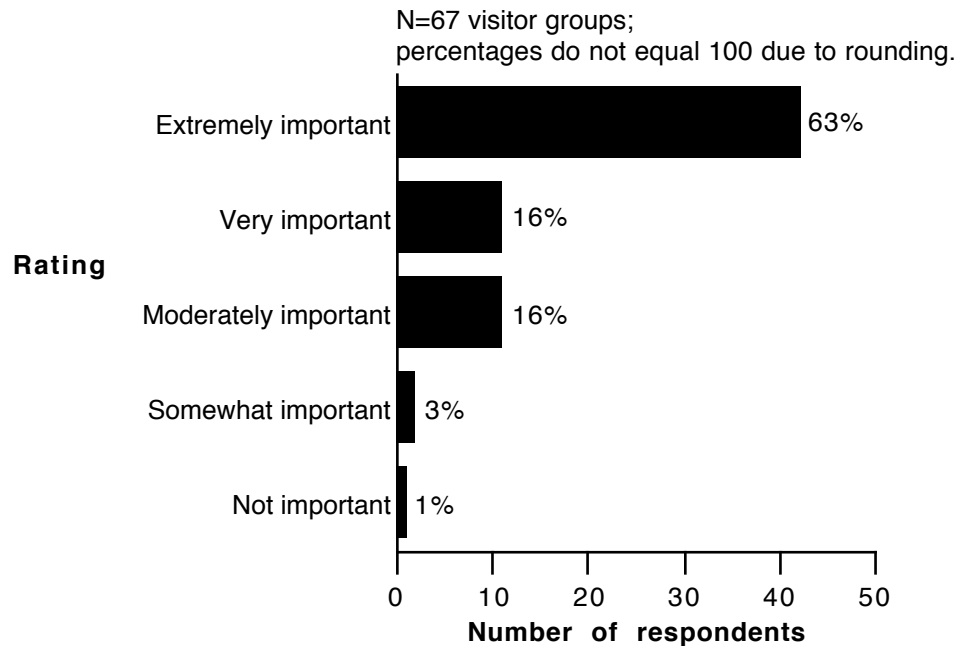


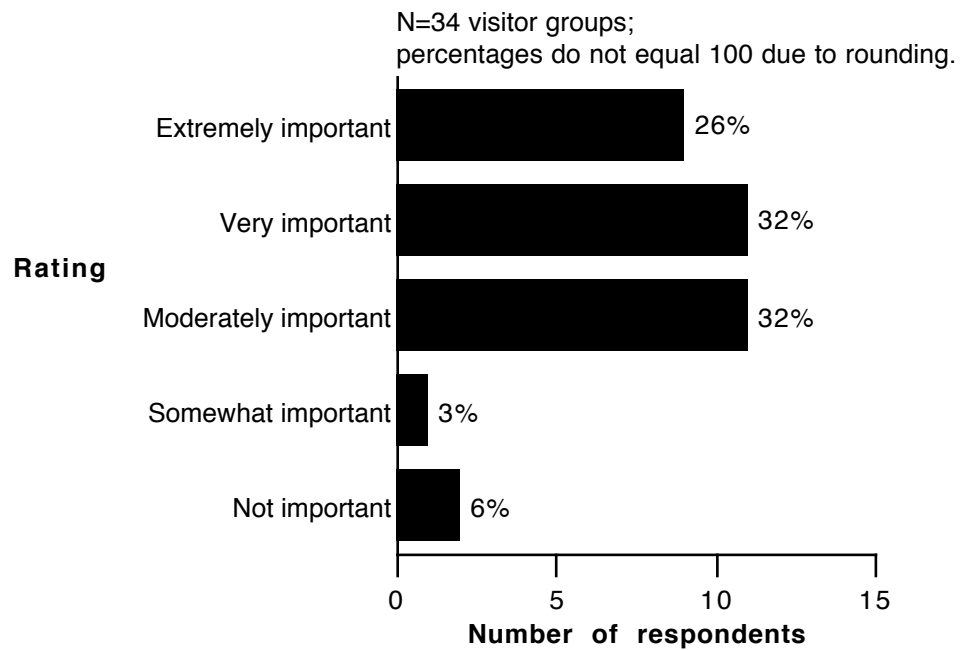
Figure 43: Detail of Figure 42



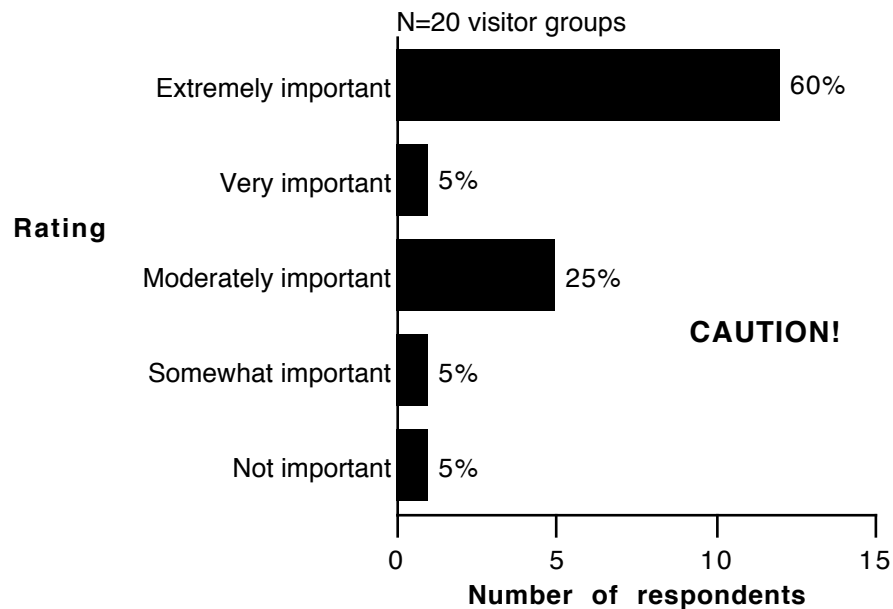
**Figure 44: Importance of pre-visit use of park home page**



**Figure 45: Importance of park brochure/map**



**Figure 46: Importance of park newspaper**



**Figure 47: Importance of Hole-in-the-Wall Information Center**

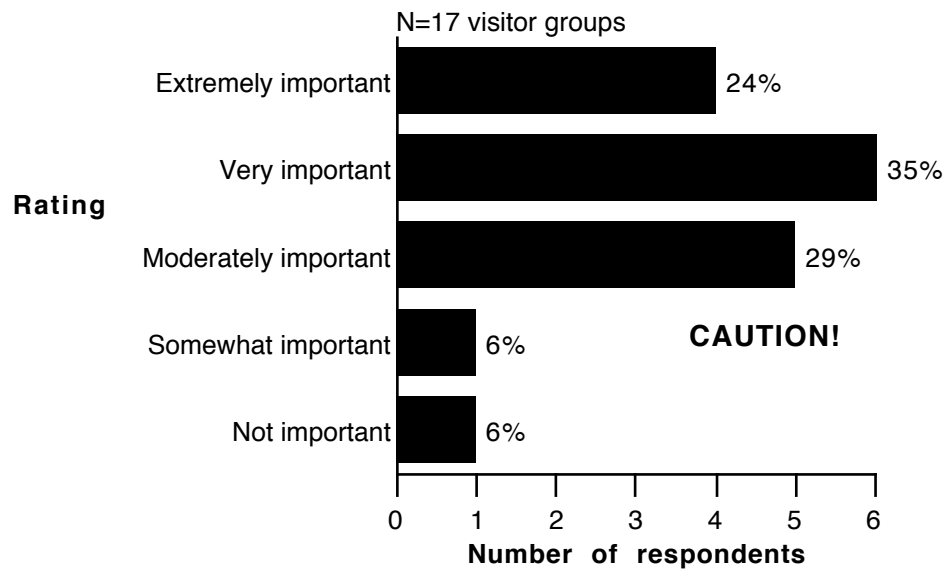


Figure 48: Importance of Baker Information Center

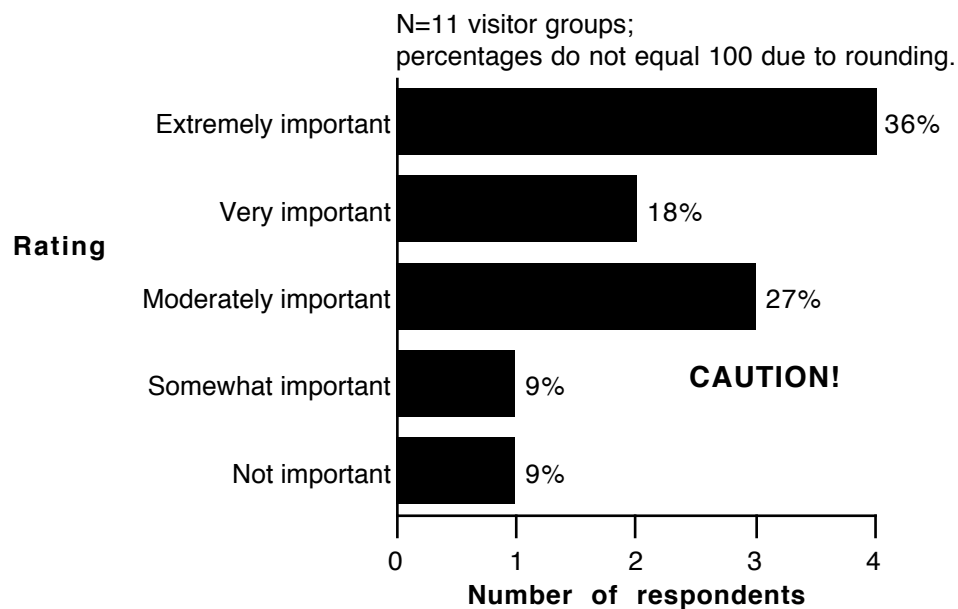


Figure 49: Importance of information center exhibits

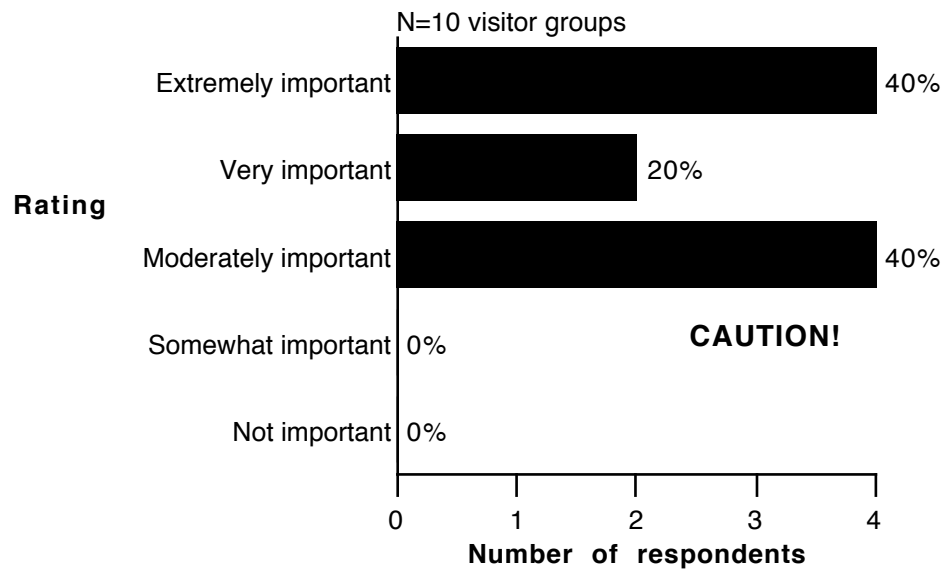


Figure 50: Importance of books/sales items at information center

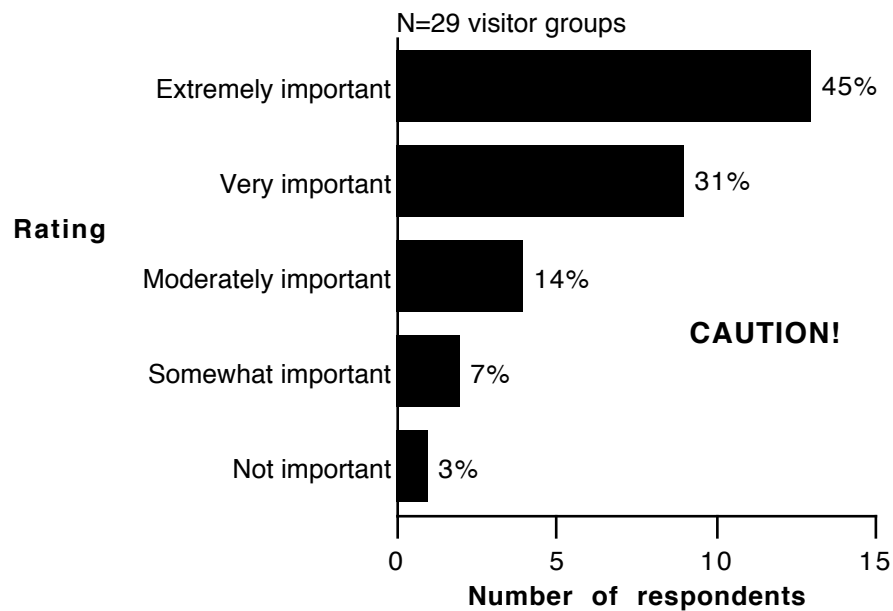
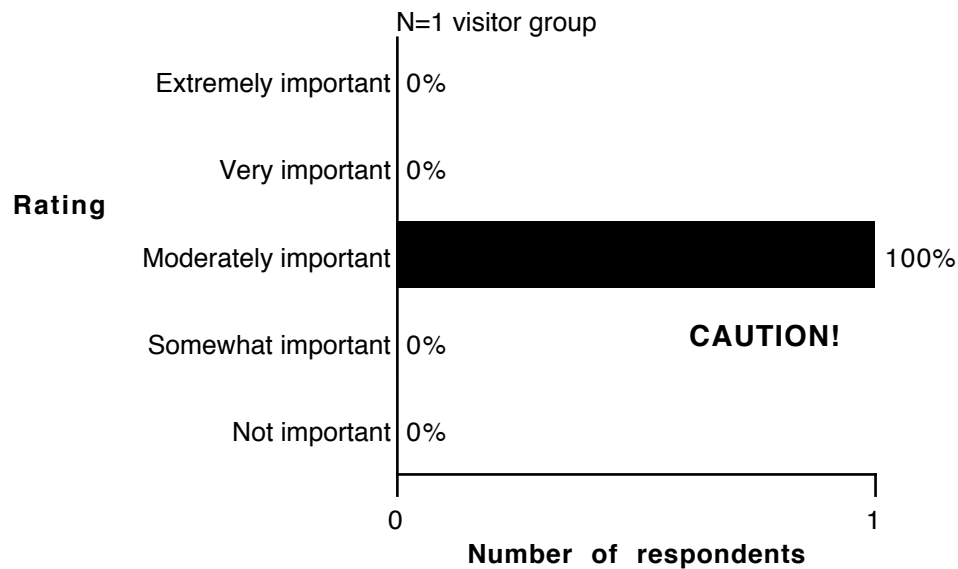
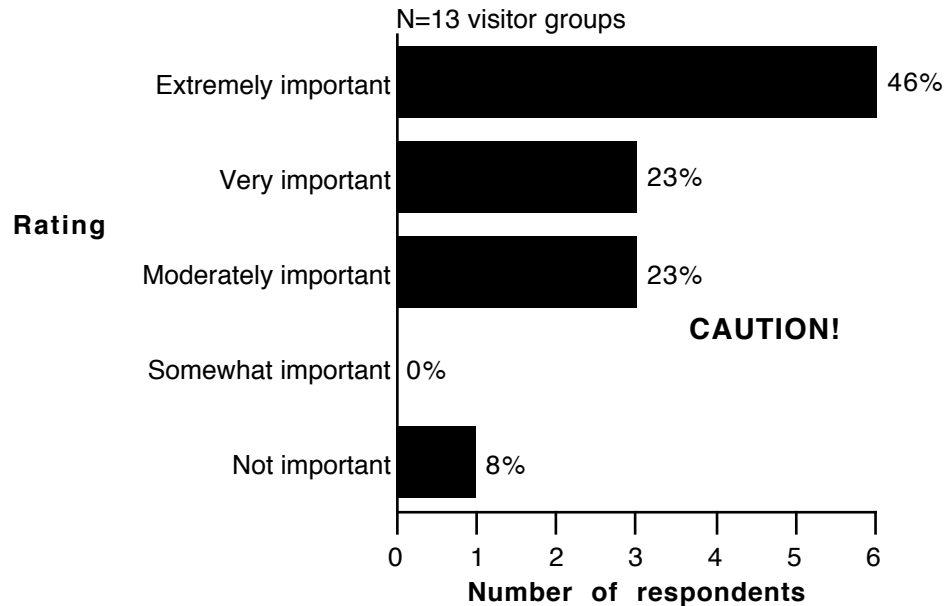


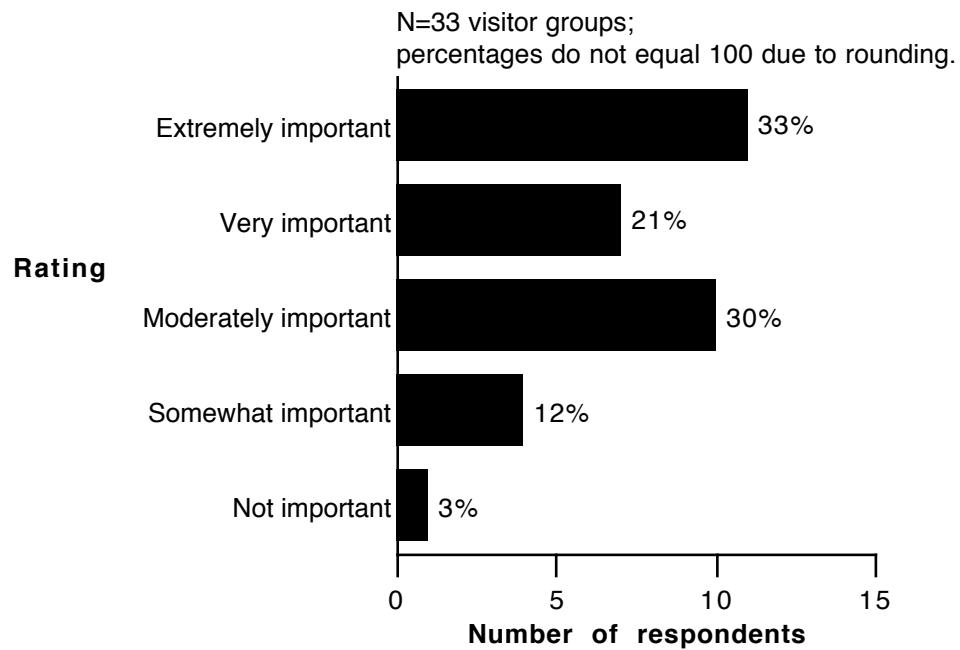
Figure 51: Importance of assistance from park employees



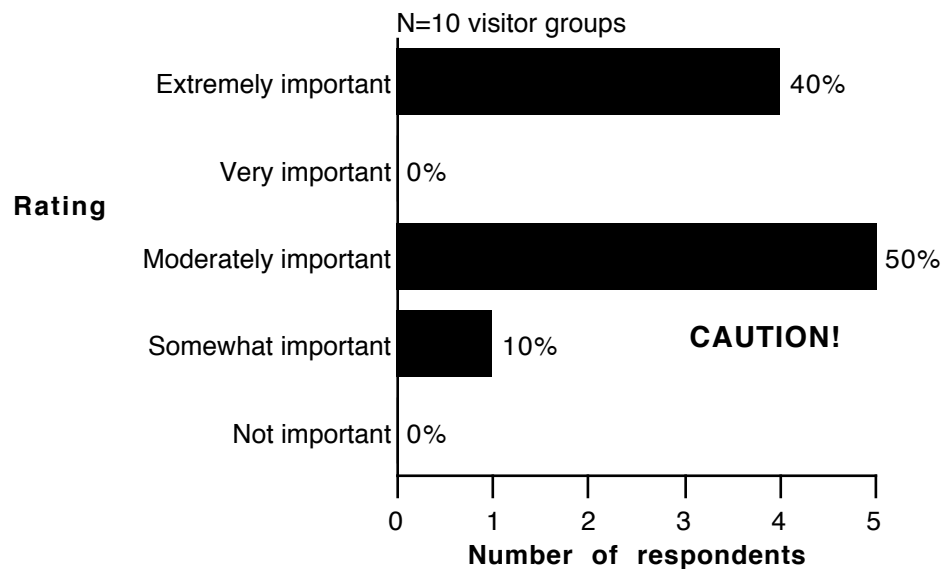
**Figure 52: Importance of Junior Ranger Program**



**Figure 53: Importance of weather information**

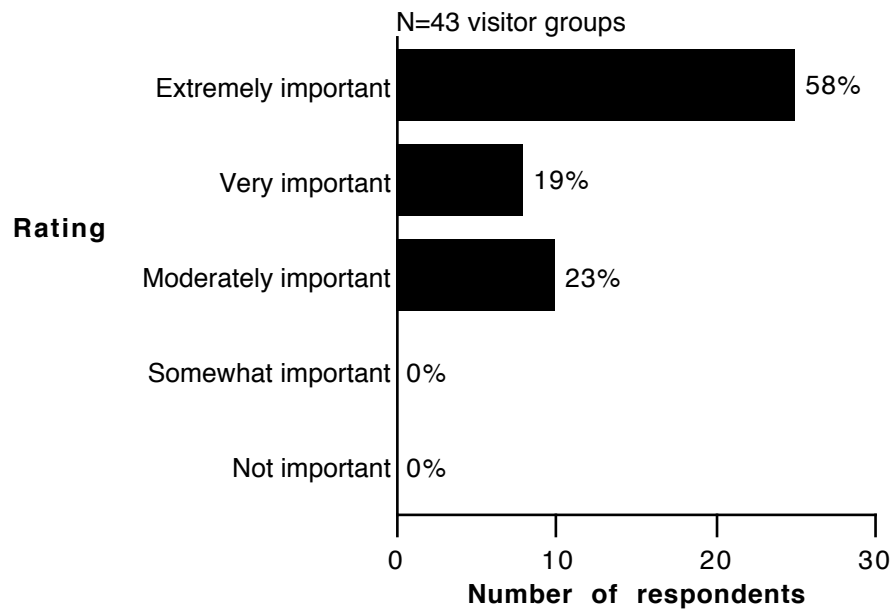


**Figure 54: Importance of roadside exhibits**

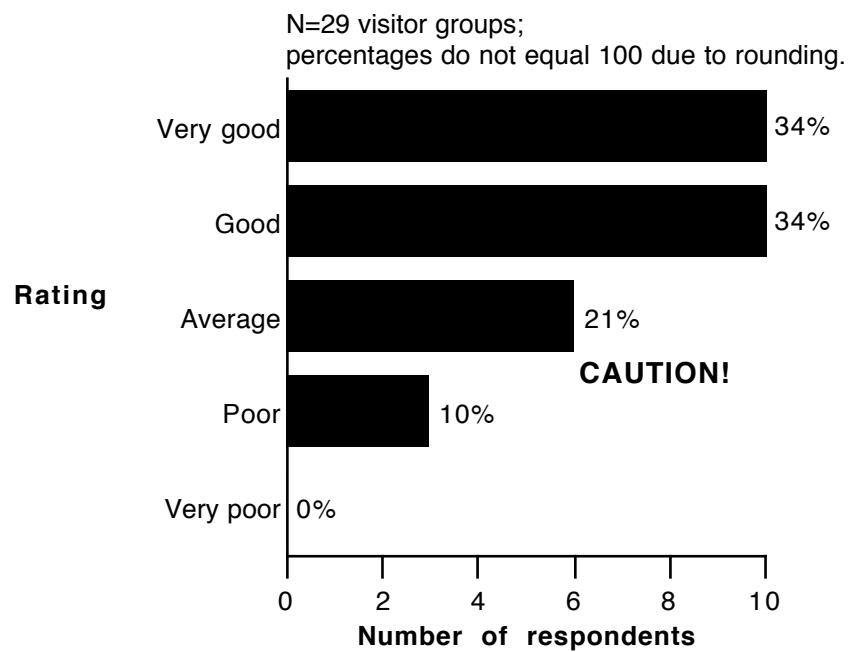


**Figure 55: Importance of bulletin boards**

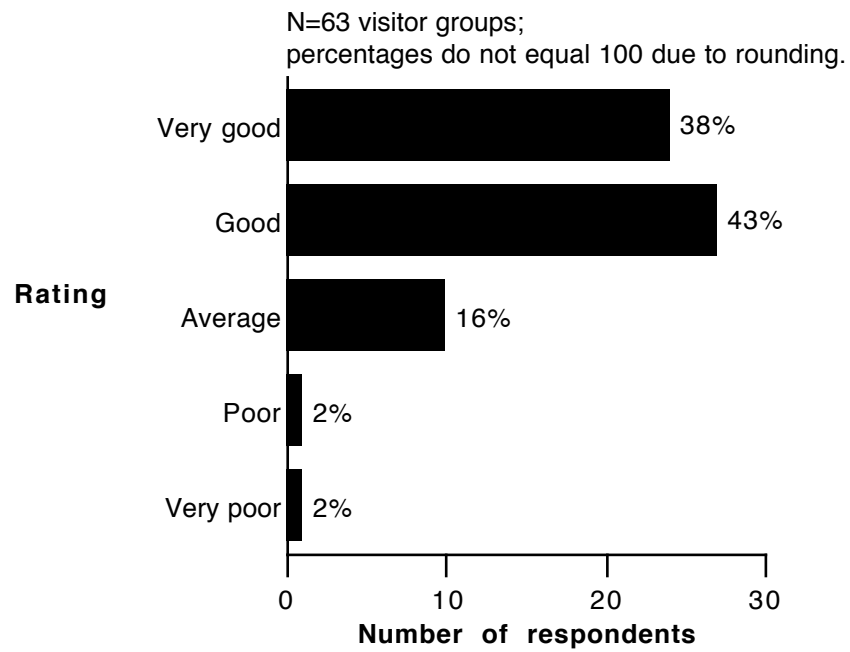




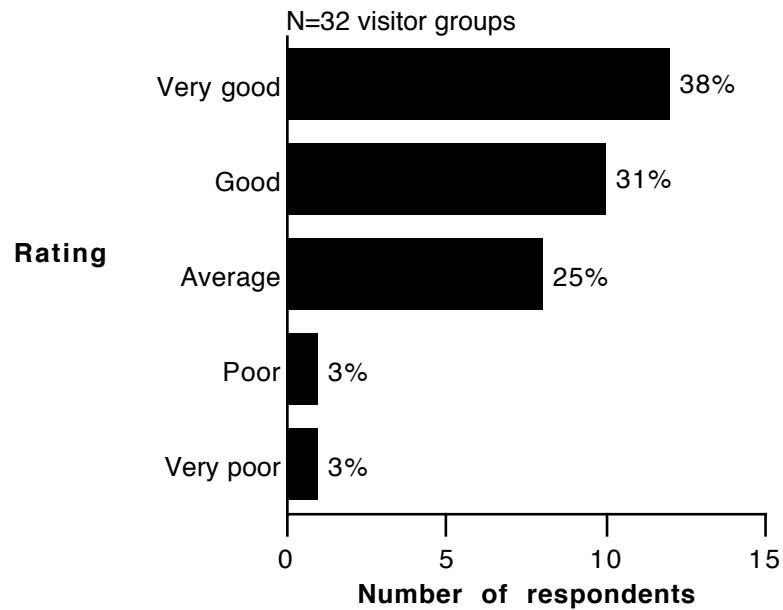
**Figure 56: Importance of directional signs on trails**



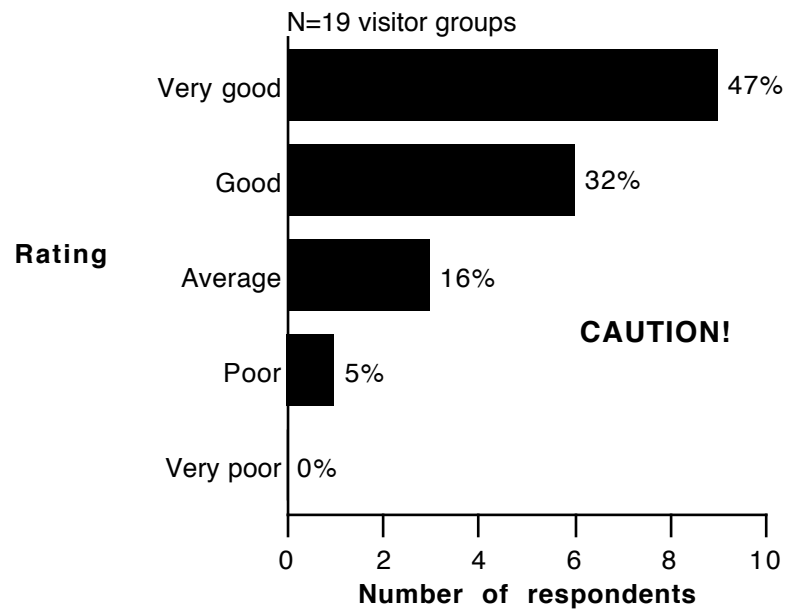
**Figure 57: Quality of pre-visit use of park home page**



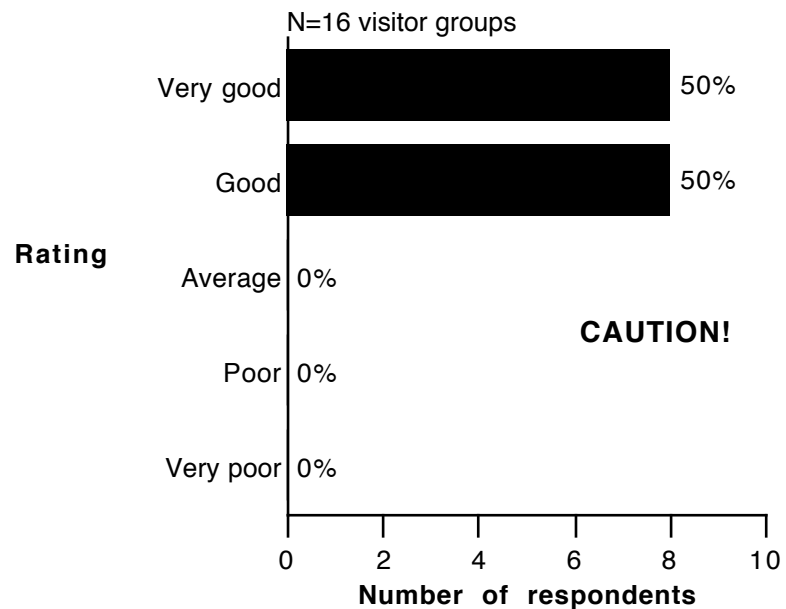
**Figure 58: Quality of park brochure/map**



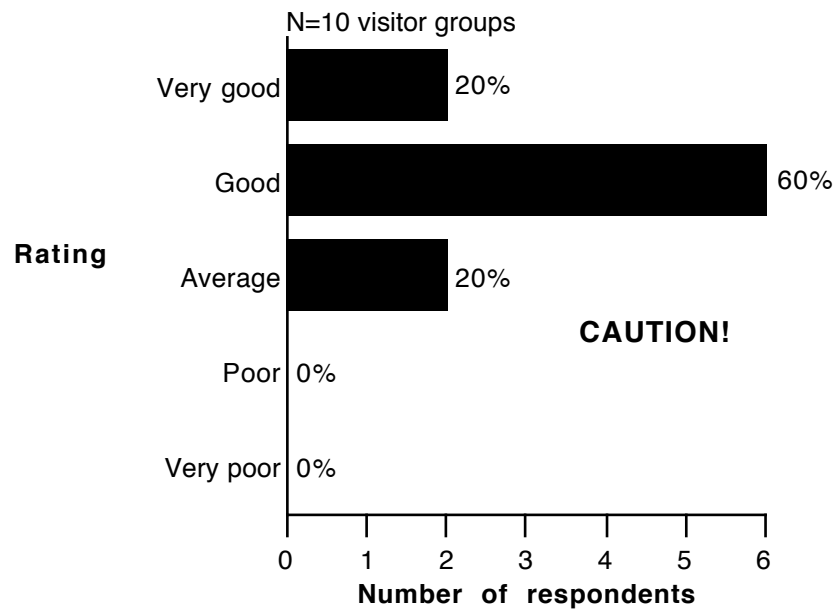
**Figure 59: Quality of park newspaper**



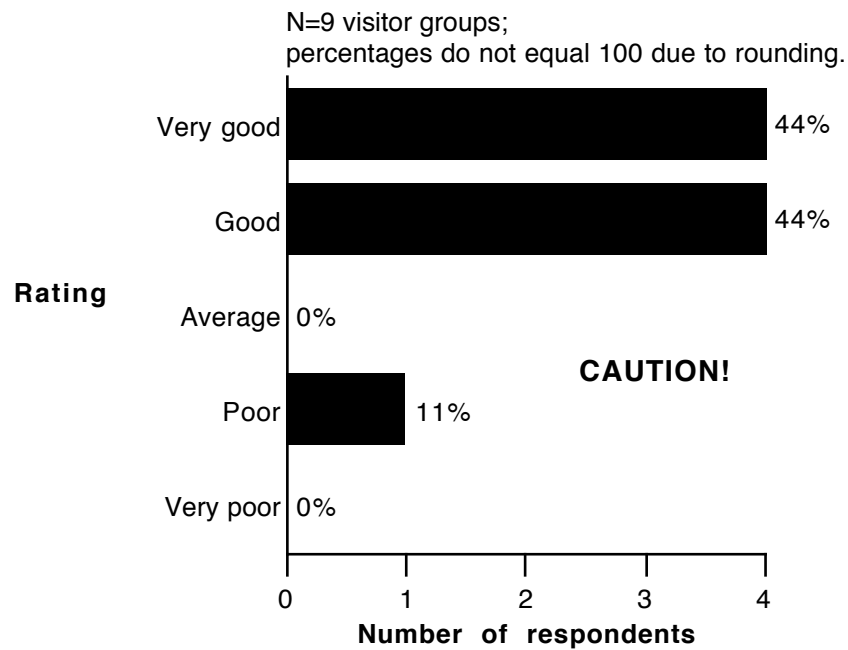
**Figure 60: Quality of Hole-in-the-Wall Information Center**



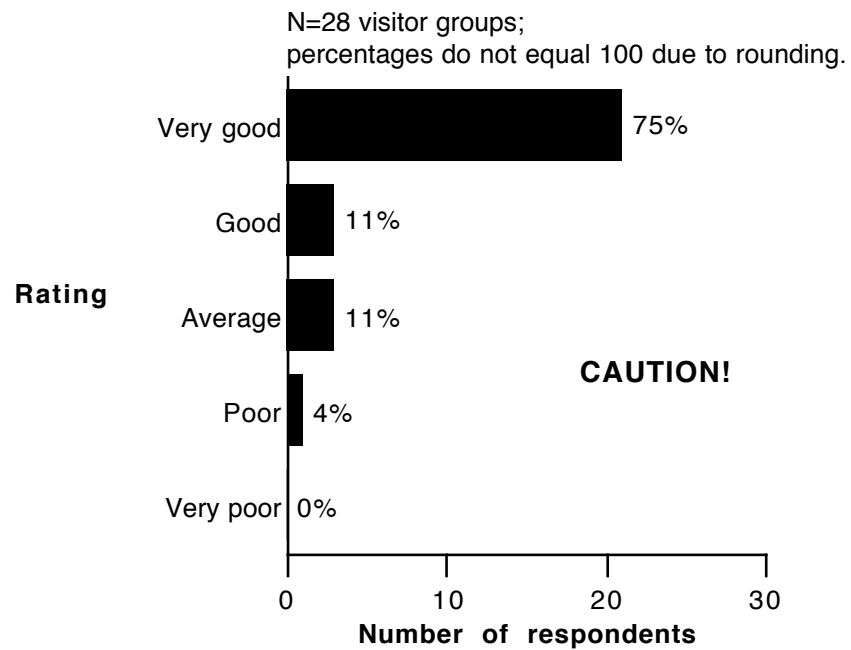
**Figure 61: Quality of Baker Information Center**



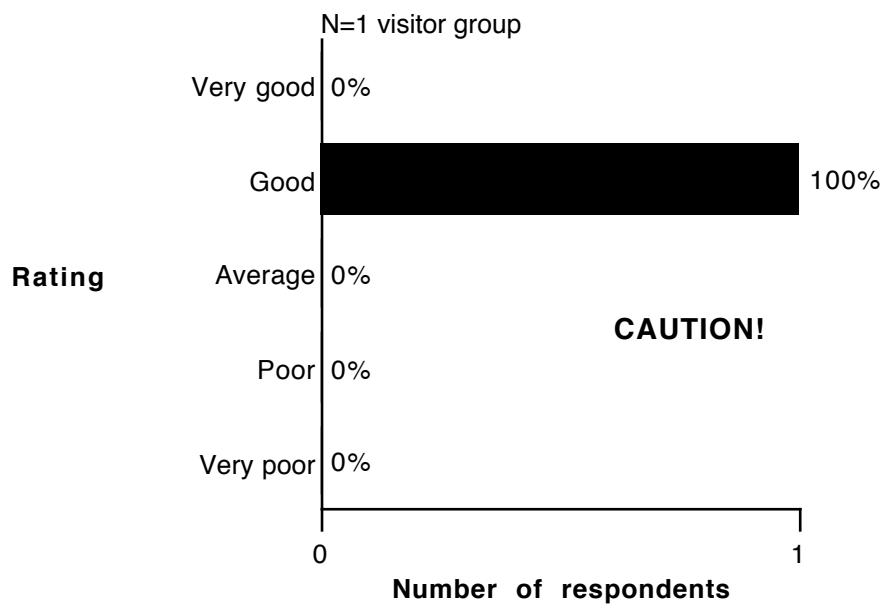
**Figure 62: Quality of information center exhibits**



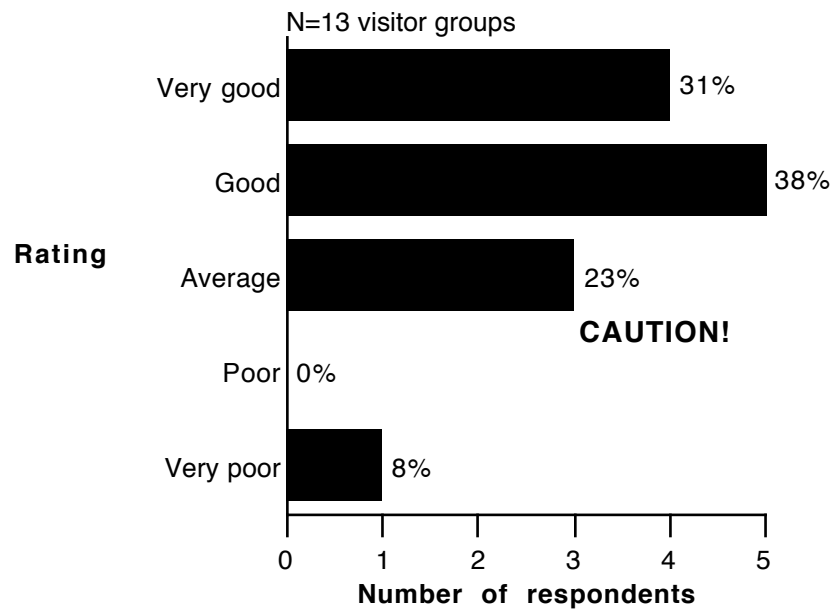
**Figure 63: Quality of books/sales items at information center**



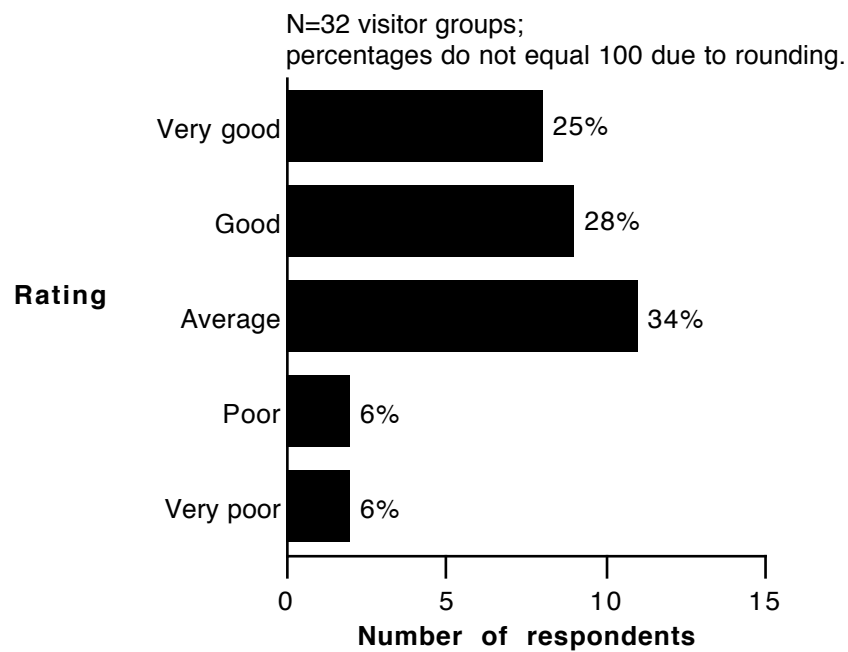
**Figure 64: Quality of assistance from park employees**



**Figure 65: Quality of Junior Ranger Program**



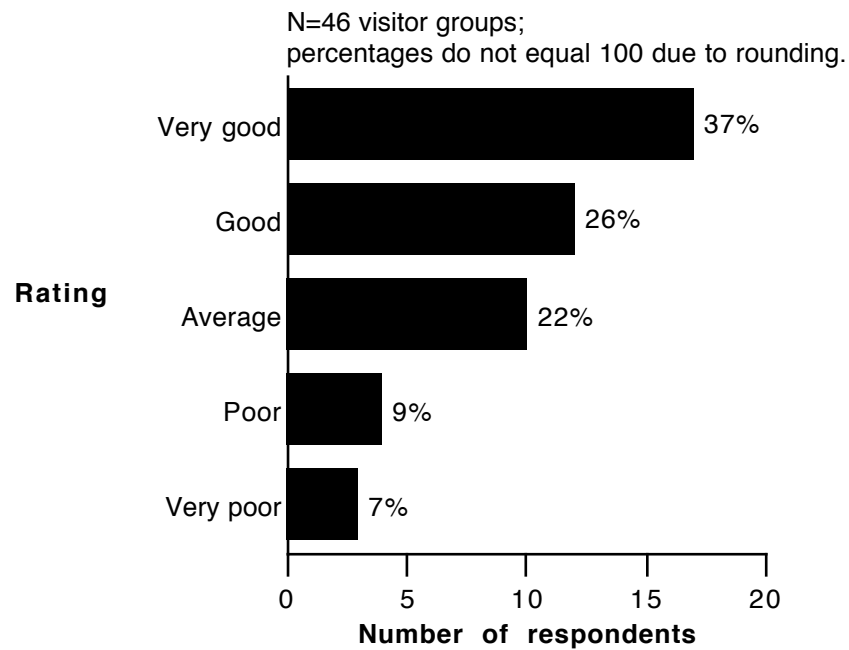
**Figure 66: Quality of weather information**



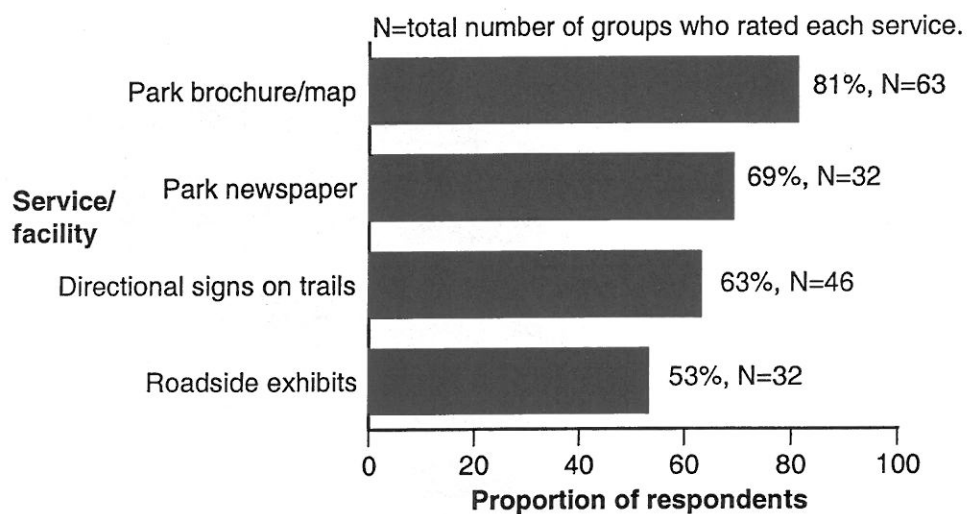
**Figure 67: Quality of roadside exhibits**



**Figure 68: Quality of bulletin boards**



**Figure 69: Quality of directional signs on trails**

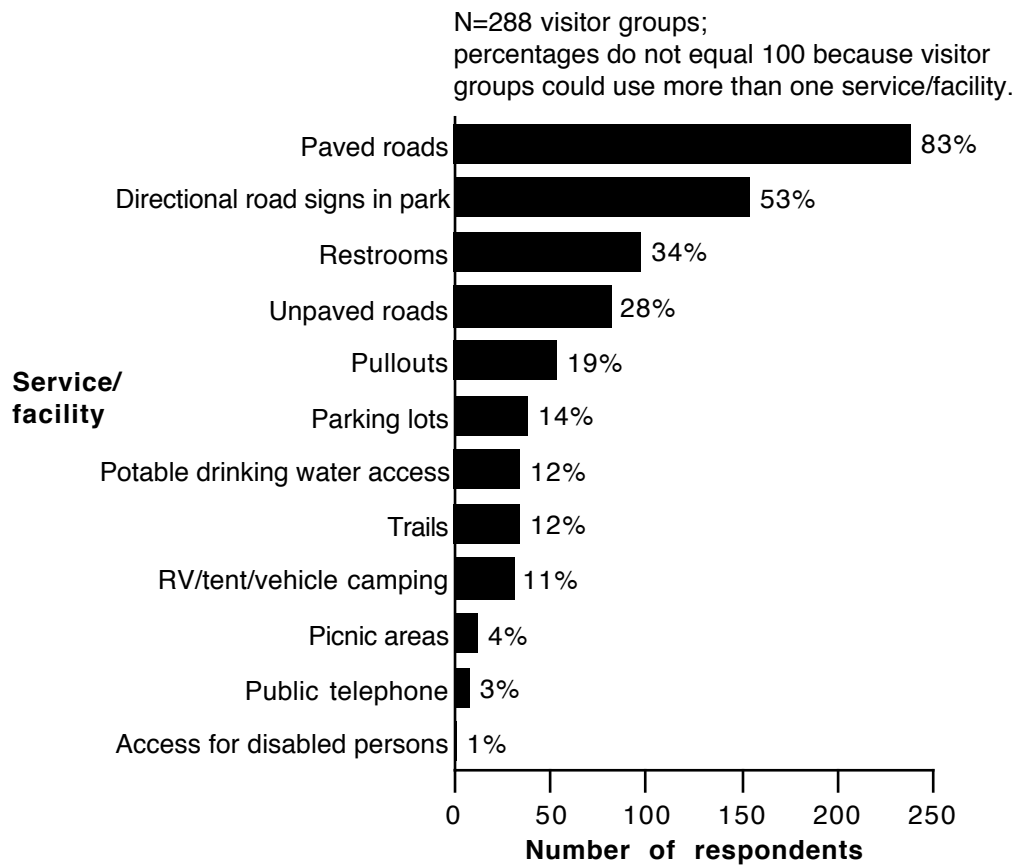


**Figure 70: Combined proportions of “good” and “very good” quality ratings for information services/facilities**



**Visitor services and facilities: use, importance, and quality**

Visitor groups were asked to note the visitor services and facilities they used during this visit to Mojave National Preserve. The most used services and facilities included paved roads (83%), directional road signs in park (63%), restrooms (34%), as shown in Figure 71. The least used service was the access for disabled persons (1%).

**Figure 71: Visitor services and facilities used**

Visitor groups rated the importance and quality of each of the visitor services and facilities they used. The following five-point scales were used in the questionnaire.

IMPORTANCE	QUALITY
5=extremely important	5=very good
4=very important	4=good
3=moderately important	3=average
2=somewhat important	2=poor
1=not important	1=very poor

The average importance and quality ratings for each service and facility were determined based on ratings provided by visitors who used each service and facility. Figures 72 and 73 show the average importance and quality ratings for each of the park services and facilities. All services and facilities were rated above average in importance and quality. Note: trails, picnic areas, access for disabled persons, public telephone, and potable drinking water access were not rated by enough visitors to provide reliable data.

Figures 74-85 show the importance ratings that were provided by visitor groups for each of the individual facilities. Those facilities receiving the highest proportion of “extremely important” or “very important” ratings included trails (93%), potable drinking water access (90%), and paved roads (89%). The highest proportion of “not important” ratings was parking lots (5%).

Figures 86-97 show the quality ratings that were provided by visitor groups for each of the individual facilities. Those facilities receiving the highest proportion of “very good” or “good” ratings included RV/tent/vehicle camping (83%) and parking lots (79%). The highest proportion of “very poor” ratings were for restrooms (11%).

Figure 98 combines the “very good” and “good” quality ratings and compares those ratings for all of the services and facilities.

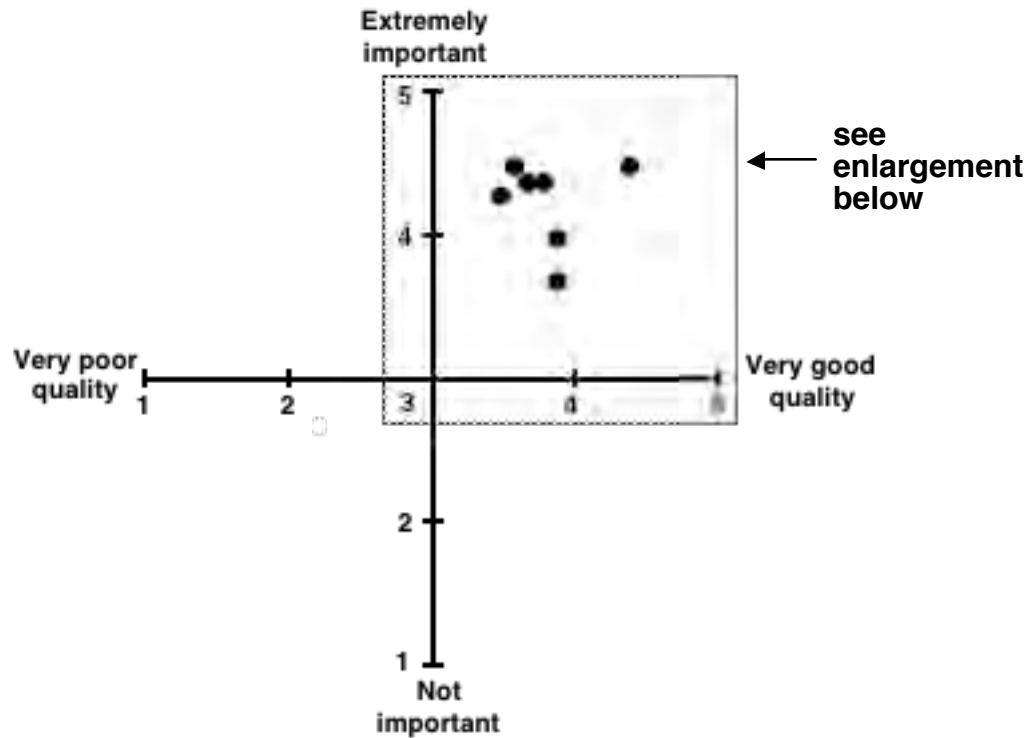


Figure 72: Average ratings of visitor service importance and quality

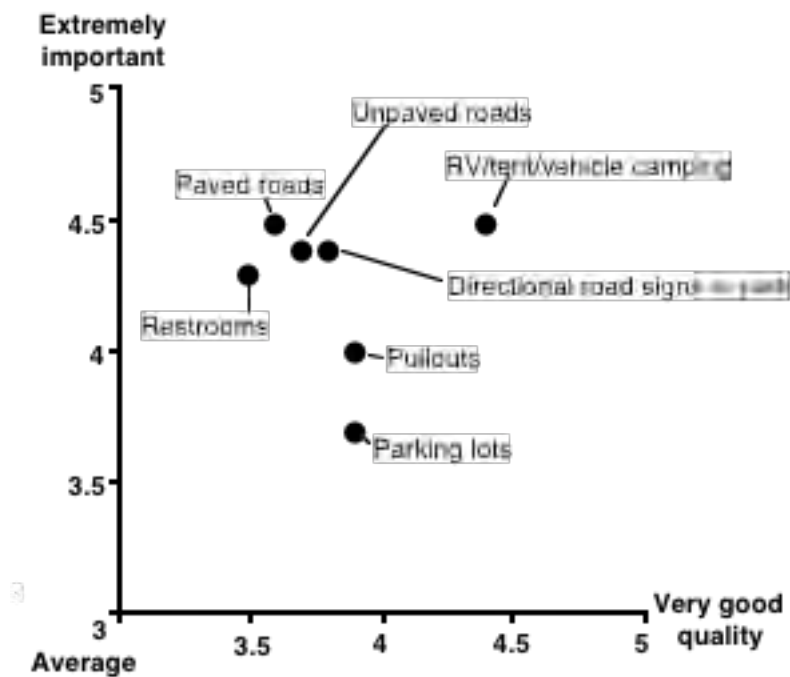
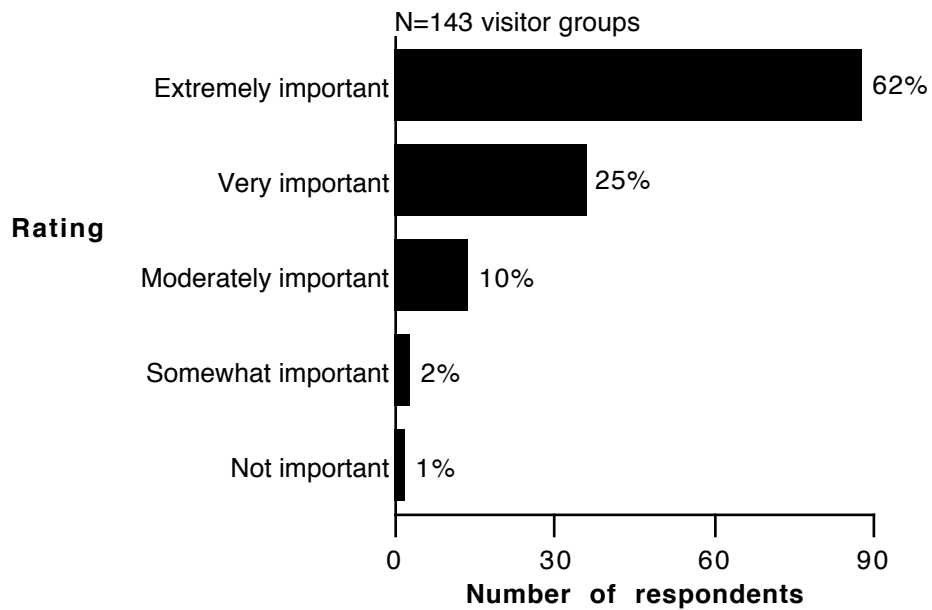
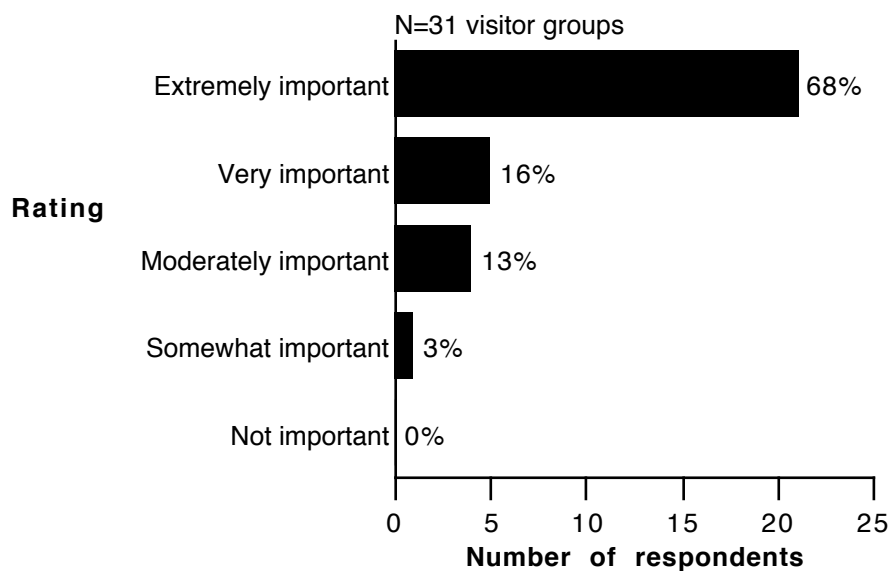


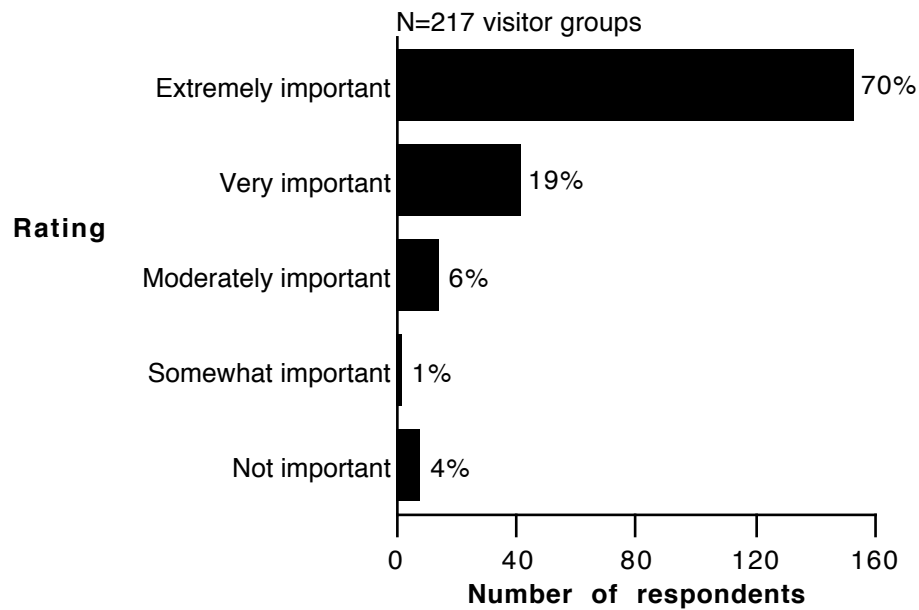
Figure 73: Detail of Figure 72



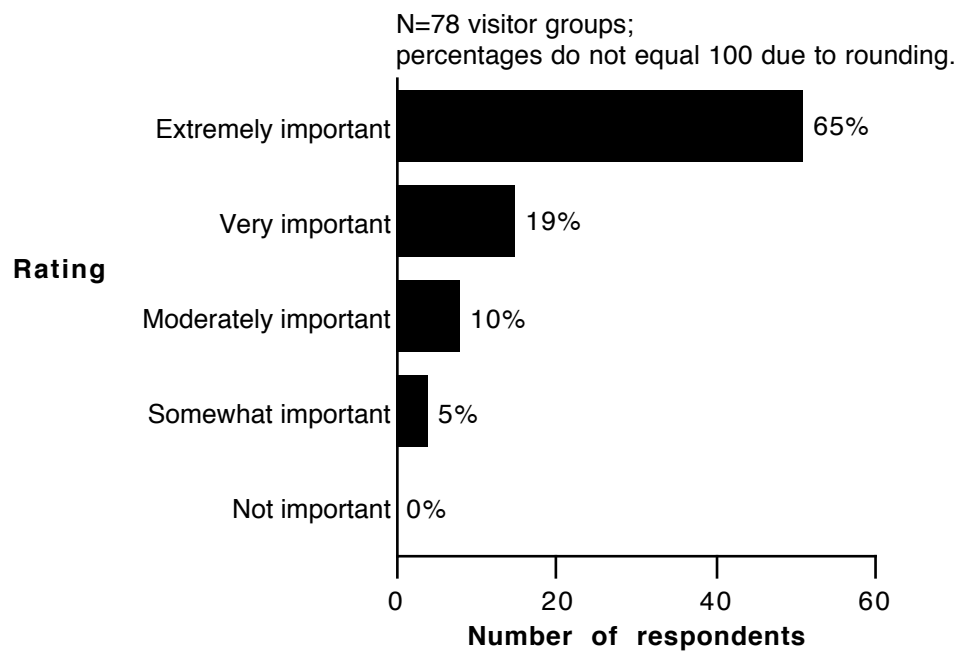
**Figure 74: Importance of directional signs in park**



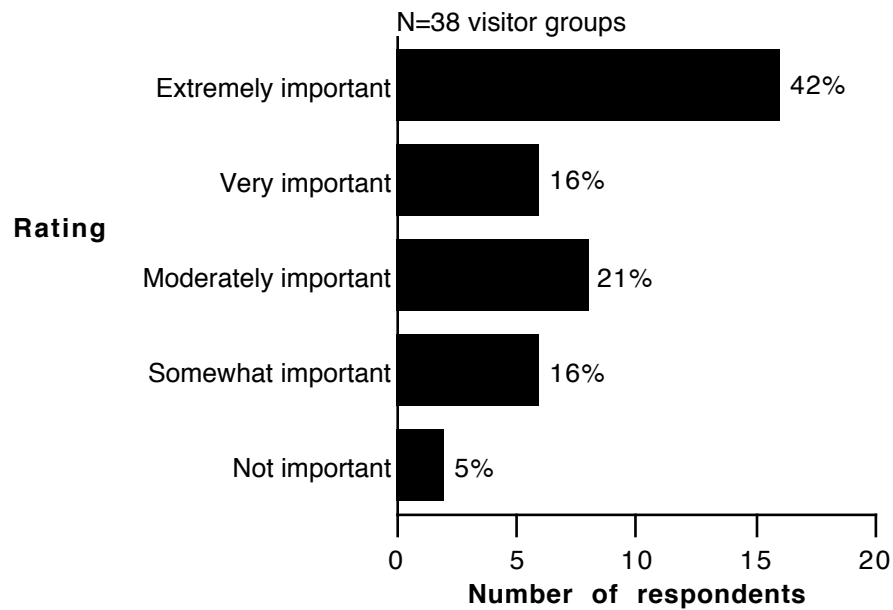
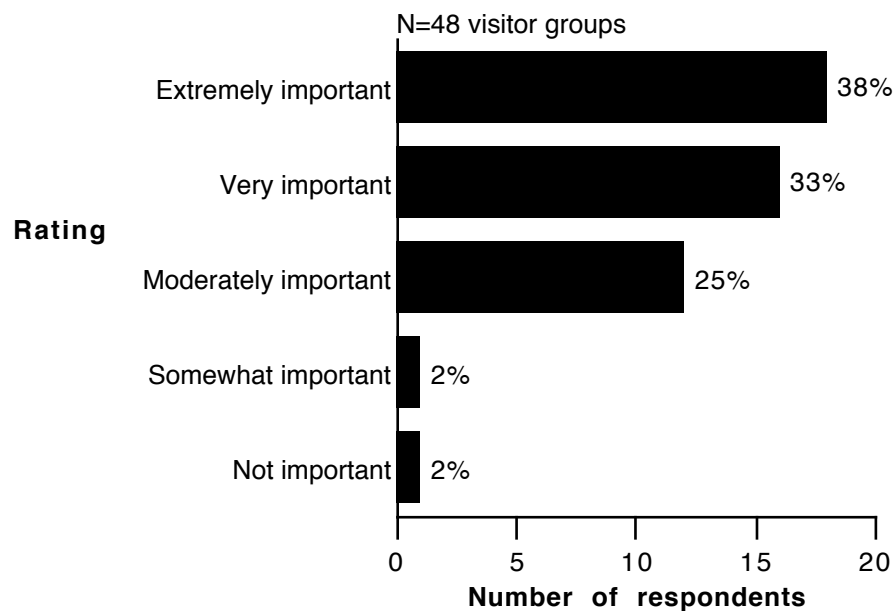
**Figure 75: Importance of RV/tent/vehicle camping**

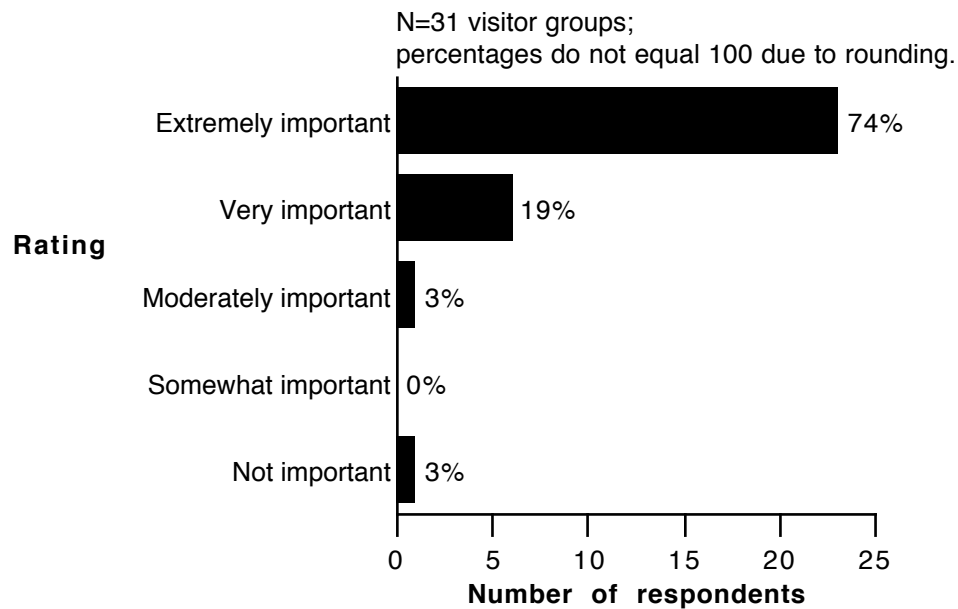
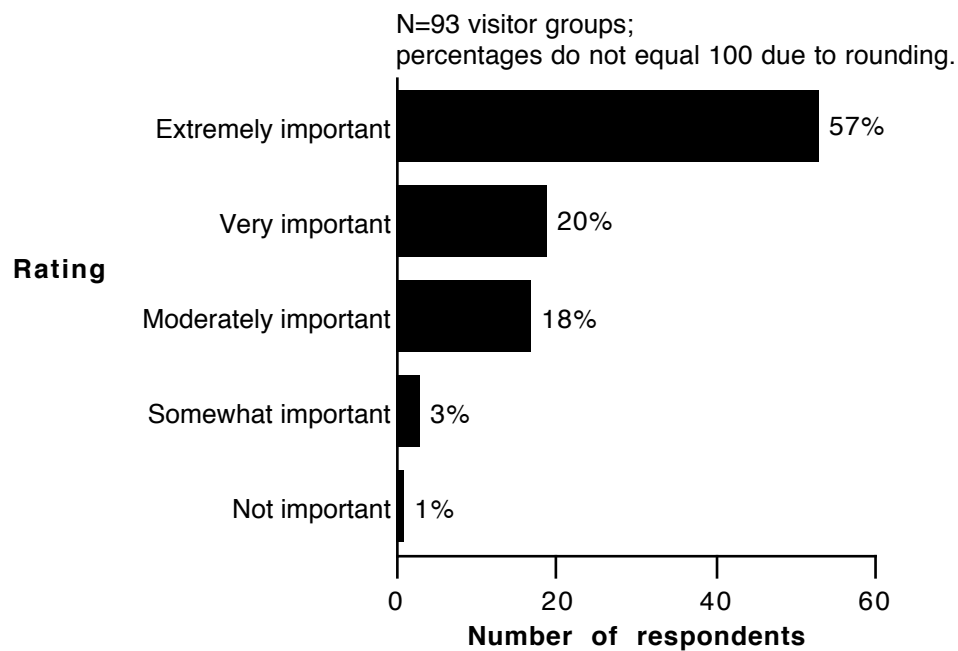


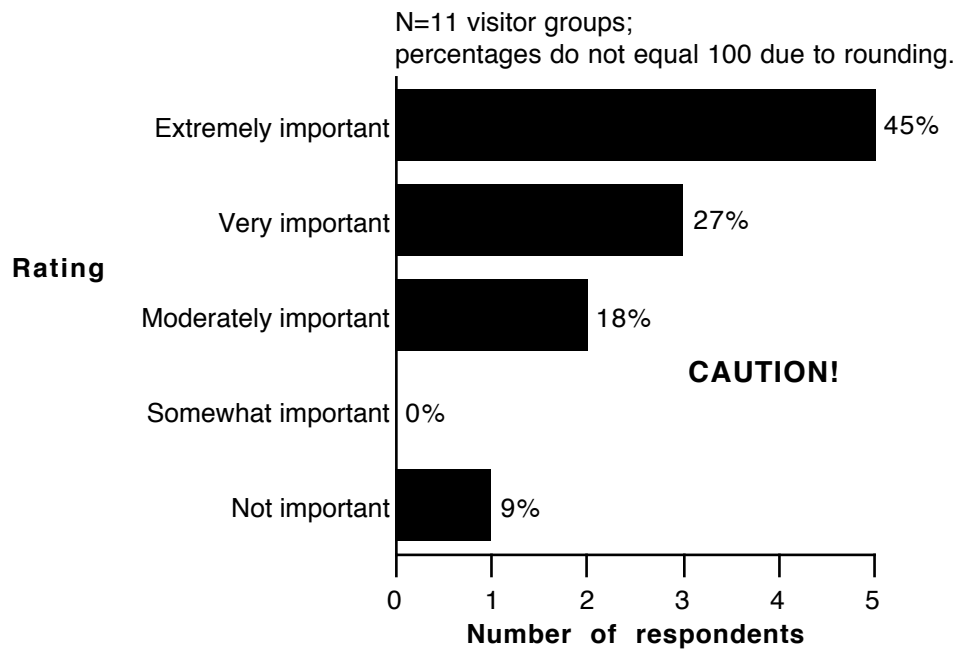
**Figure 76: Importance of paved roads**



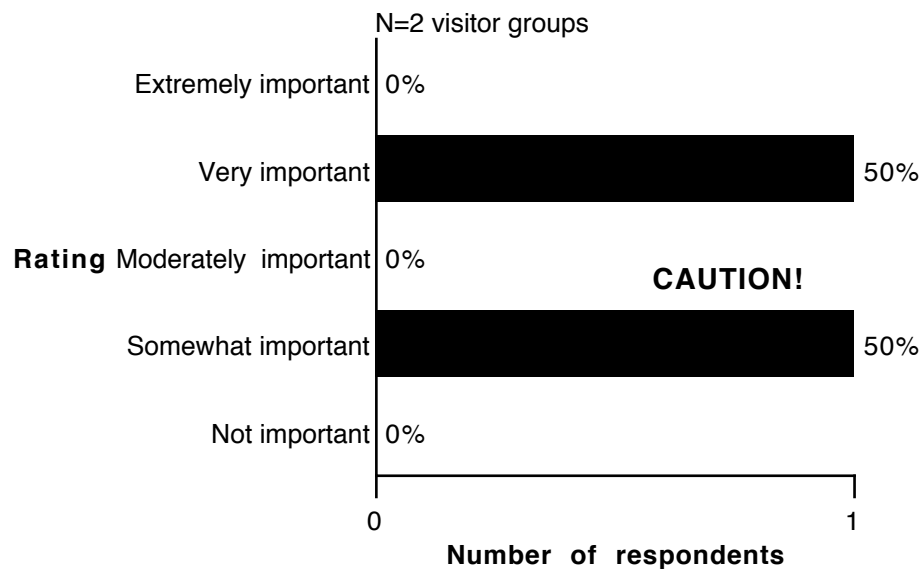
**Figure 77: Importance of unpaved roads**

**Figure 78: Importance of parking lots****Figure 79: Importance of pullouts**

**Figure 80: Importance of trails****Figure 81: Importance of restrooms**

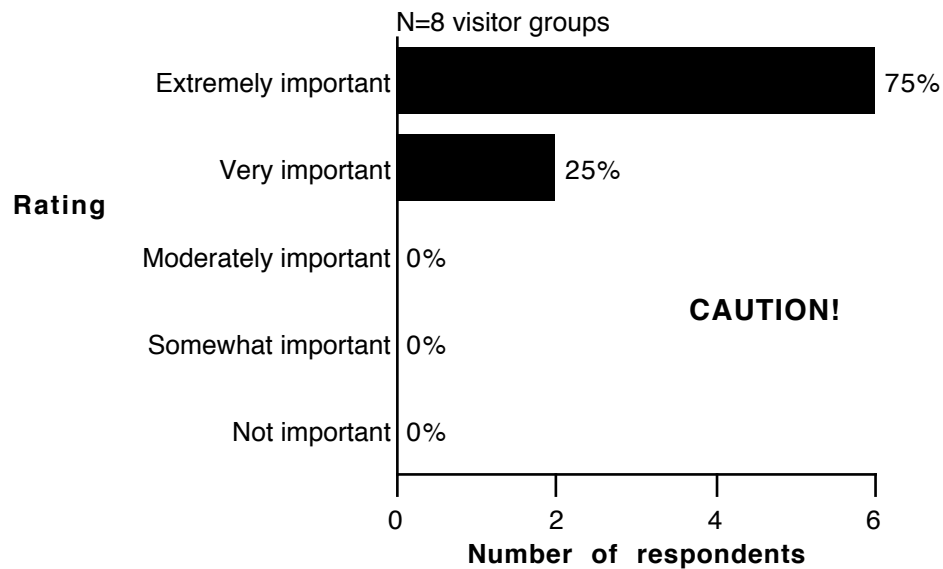


**Figure 82: Importance of picnic areas**

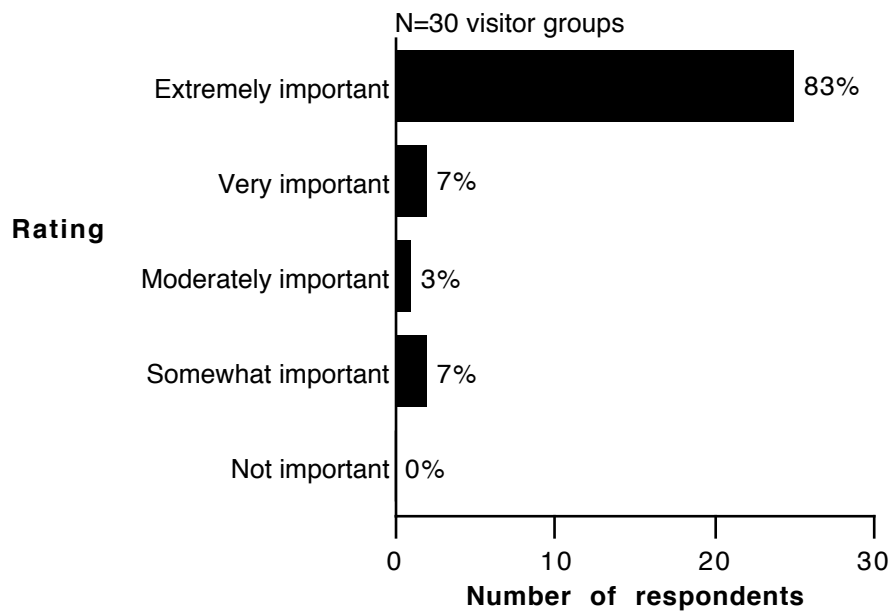


**Figure 83: Importance of access for disabled persons**

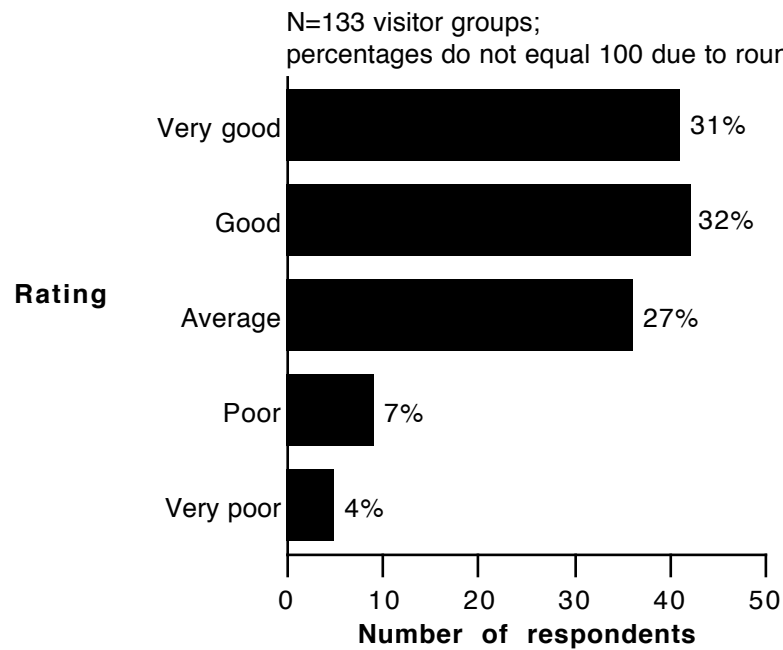




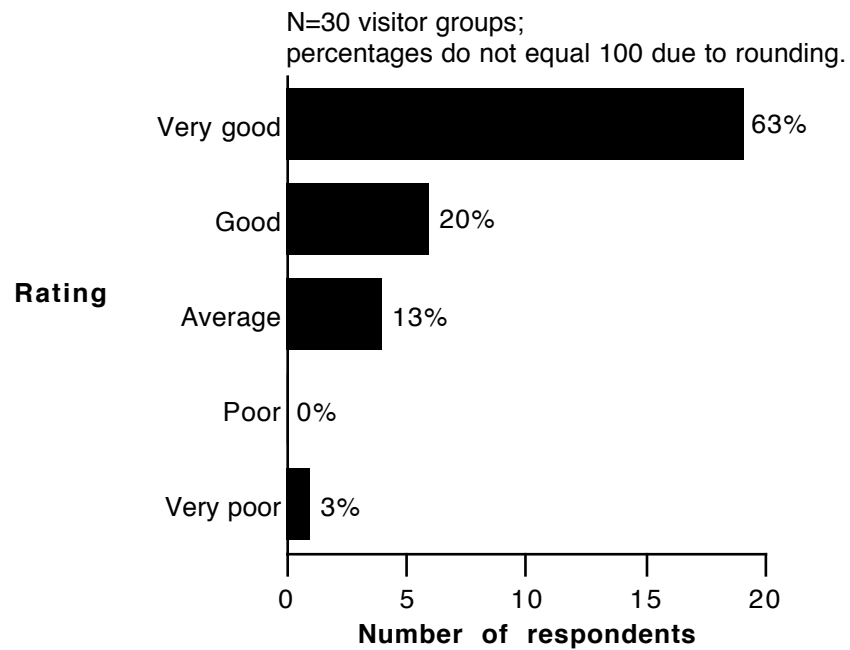
**Figure 84: Importance of public telephone**



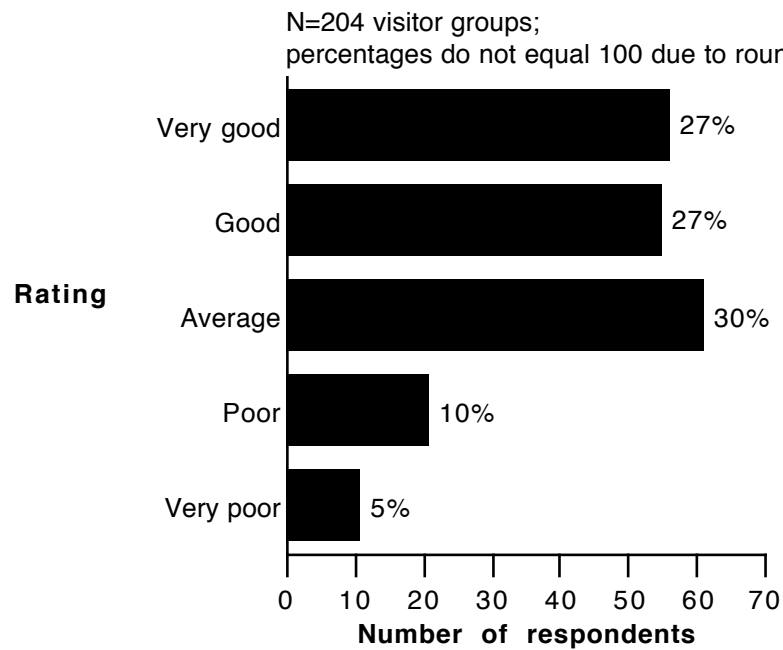
**Figure 85: Importance of potable drinking water access**



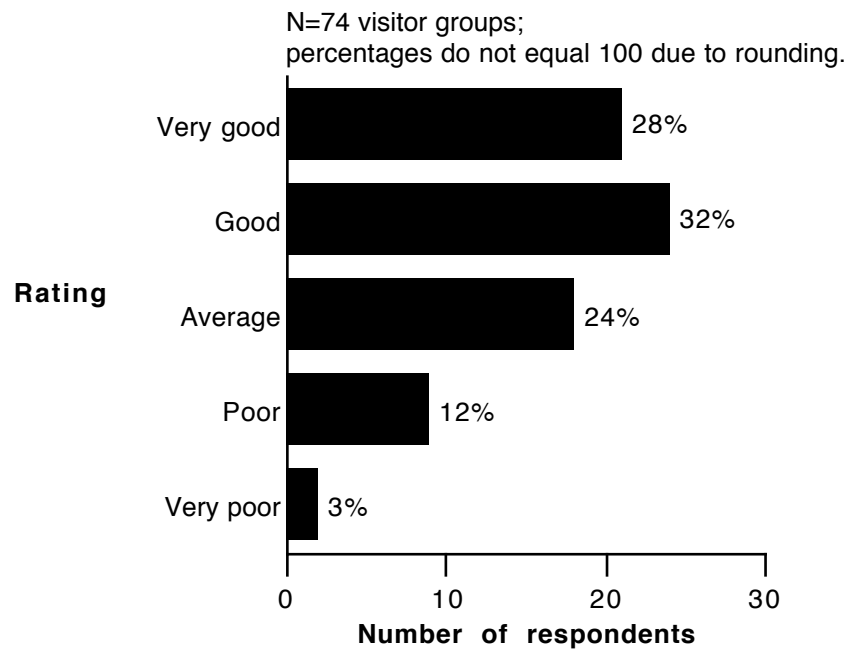
**Figure 86: Quality of directional road signs in park**



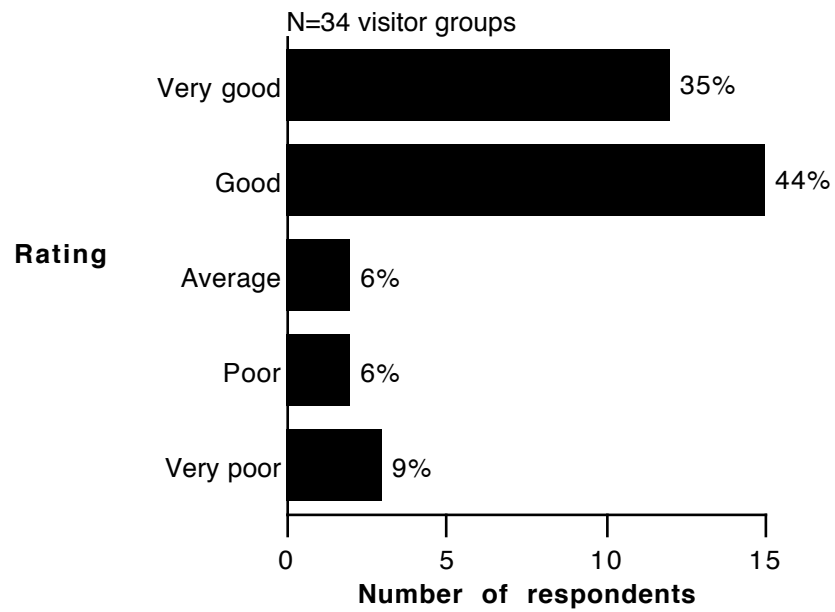
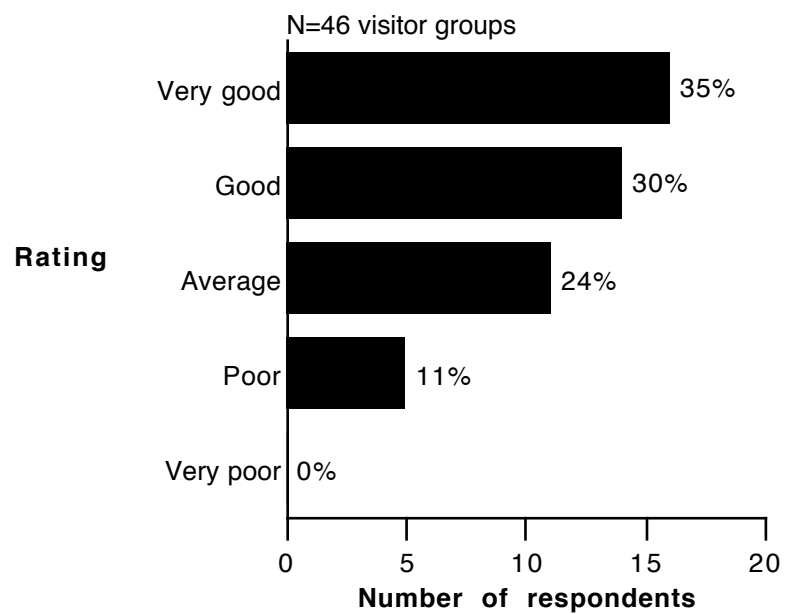
**Figure 87: Quality of RV/tent/vehicle camping**

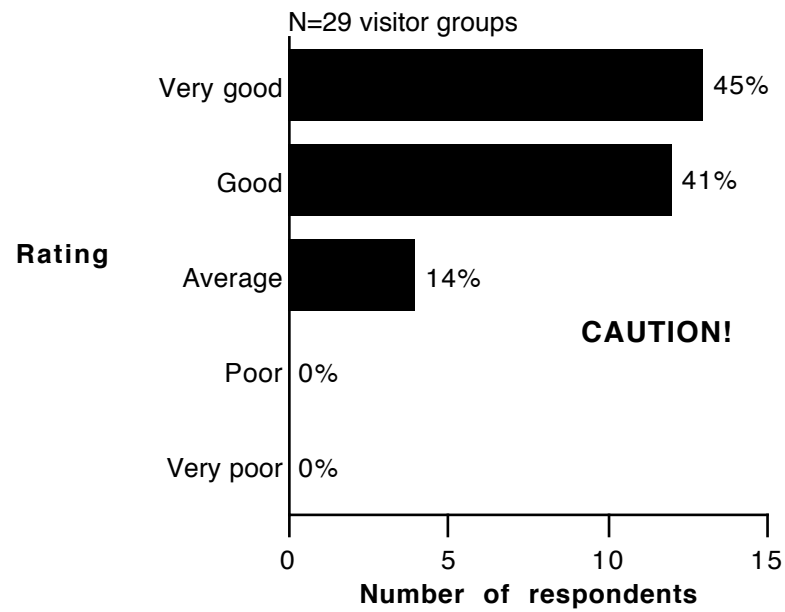
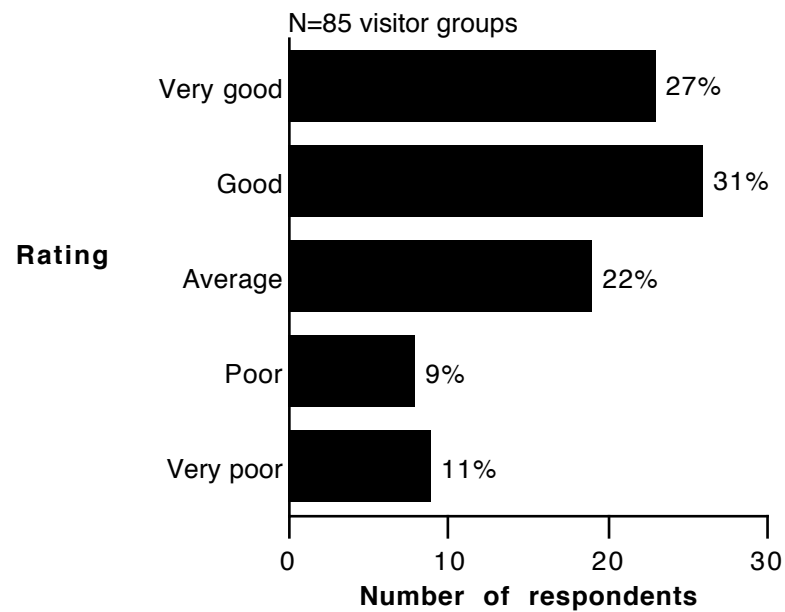


**Figure 88: Quality of paved roads**



**Figure 89: Quality of unpaved roads**

**Figure 90: Quality of parking lots****Figure 91: Quality of pullouts**

**Figure 92: Quality of trails****Figure 93: Quality of restrooms**

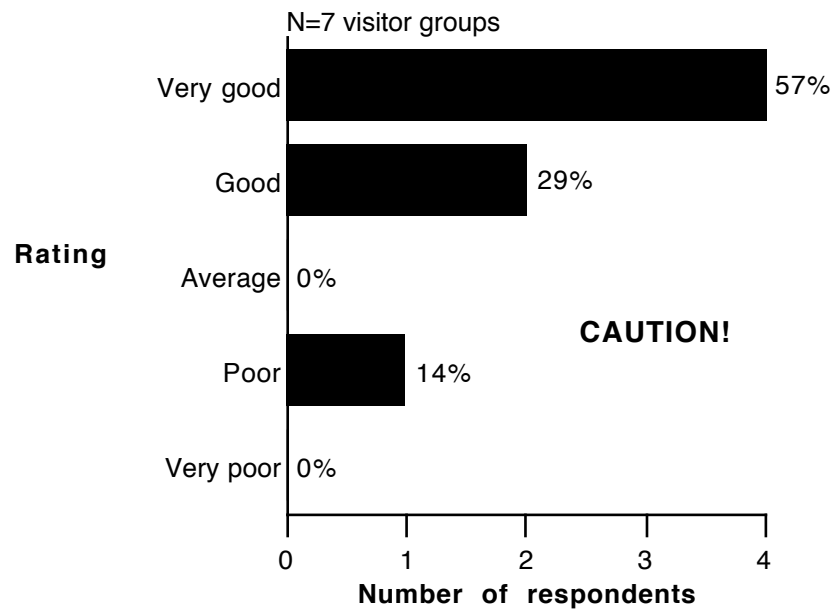


Figure 94: Quality of picnic areas

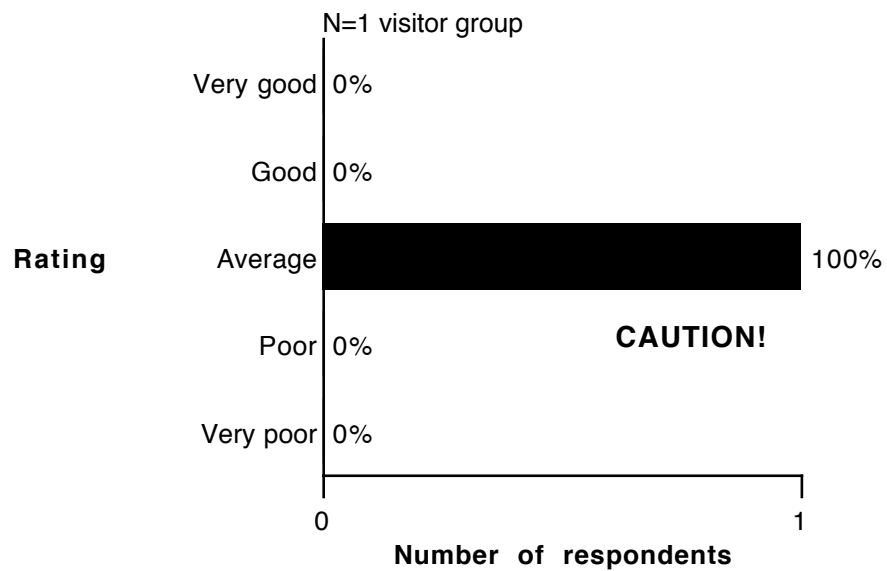


Figure 95: Quality of access for disabled persons

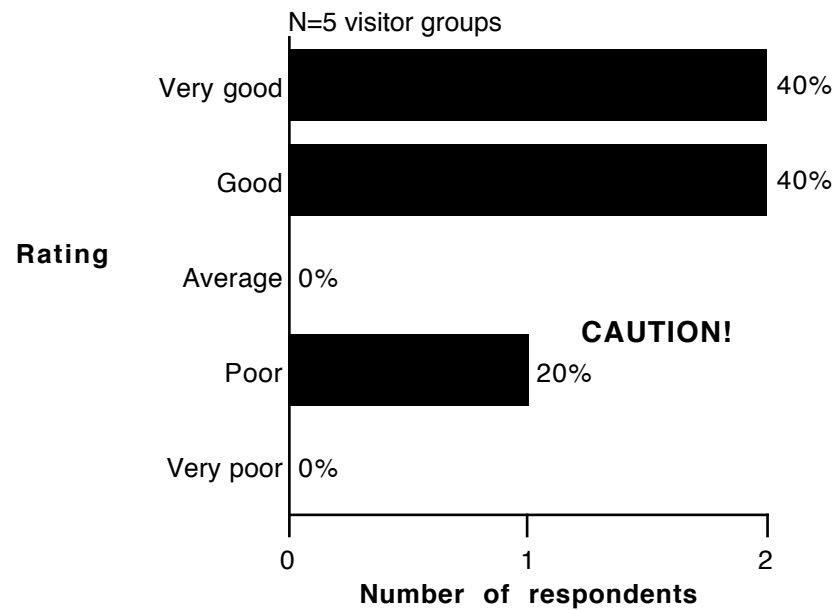


Figure 96: Quality of public telephone

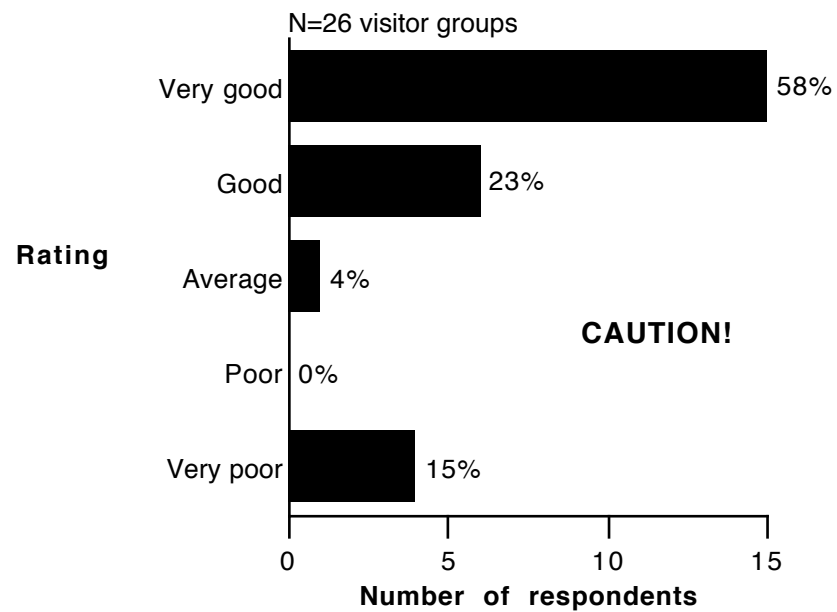
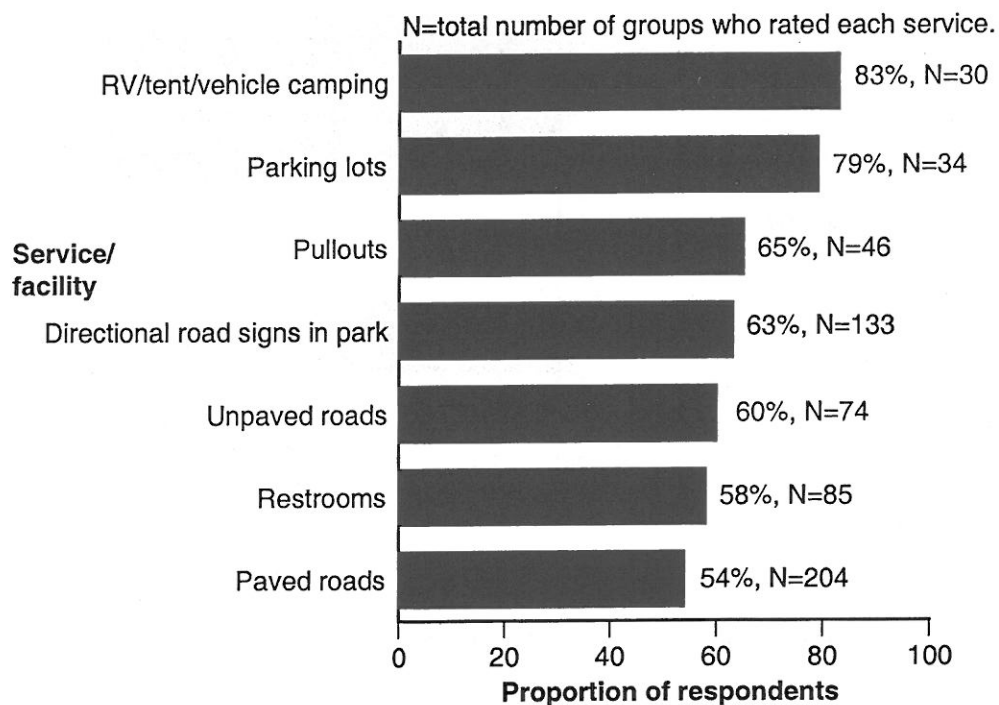


Figure 97: Quality of potable drinking water access



**Figure 98: Combined proportions of “very good” and “good” quality ratings for visitor services and facilities**



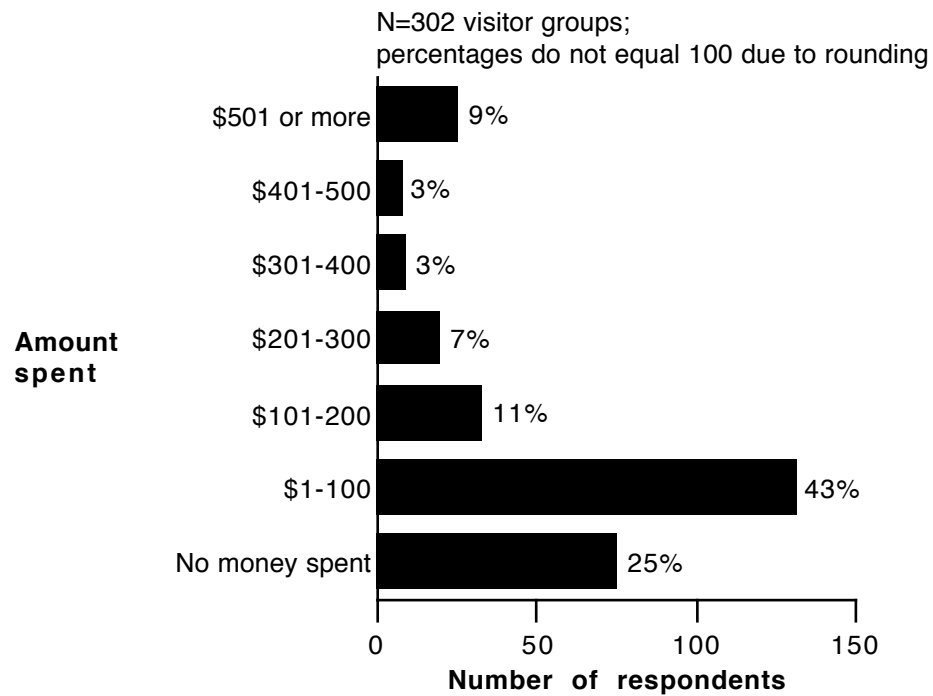
<b>Total expenditures</b>
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Visitor groups were asked to estimate the amount of money they spent on their visit to Mojave National Preserve and the surrounding area (including Shoshone, Primm, Needles, Laughlin, Barstow and Twentynine Palms, but not Las Vegas). Groups were asked to list the amounts they spent for lodging; camping fees; guide fees; restaurants and bars; groceries and take-out food; gas and oil; other transportation expenses; admissions, recreation, and entertainment fees; and all other purchases.

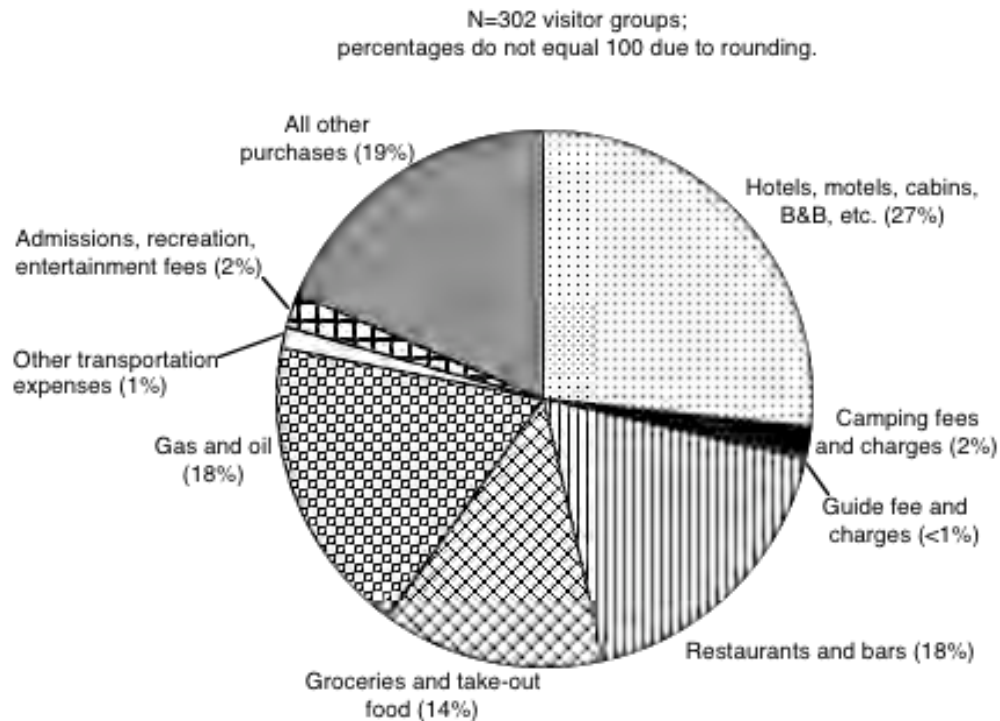
**Total expenditures in and around the preserve:** Forty-three percent of visitors spent between \$1 and \$100 during their visit and 25% spent no money (see Figure 99). Eleven percent spent between \$101 and \$200, and 9% spent \$501 or more. Of total expenditures by groups, 27% was for hotels, motels, cabins, etc., 18% for gas and oil, and 18% for restaurants and bars, as shown in Figure 100.

The average visitor group expenditure during the visit was \$180. The median visitor group expenditure (50% of spent more and 50% of groups spent less) was \$45. The average per capita expenditure was \$77.

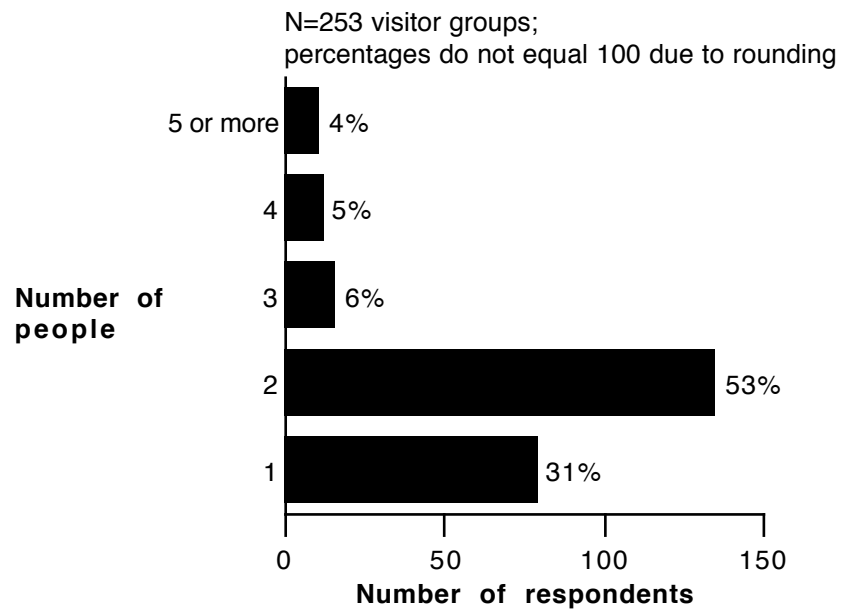
In addition, visitor groups were asked to indicate how many adults (18 years or older) and children (under 18 years) were covered by their expenditures. Figure 101 shows that 53% of the visitor groups had two adults; 31% had one adult. Figure 102 shows that 64% of groups had no children under the age of 18 covered by the expenditures.



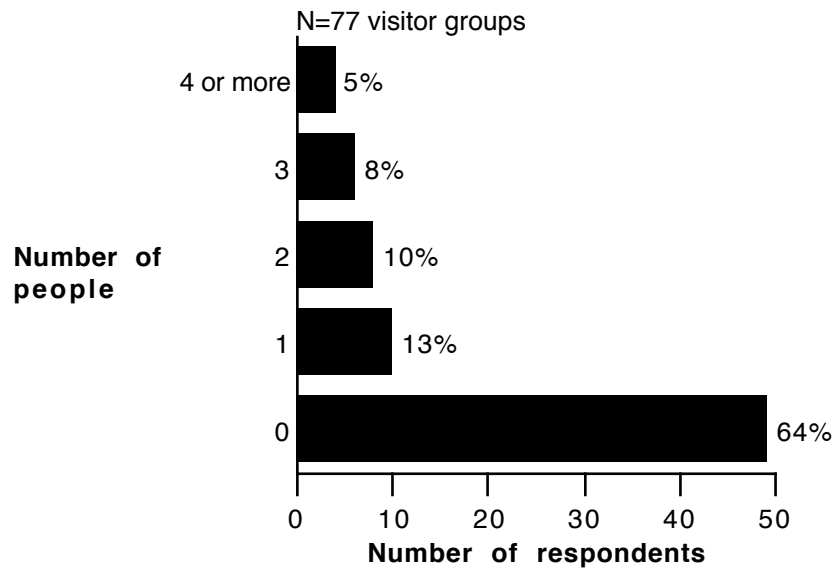
**Figure 99: Total expenditures both in and out of Mojave National Preserve**



**Figure 100: Proportions of expenditures in and out of Mojave National Preserve**



**Figure 101: Number of adults covered by expenditures**



**Figure 102: Number of children covered by expenditures**

### Expenditures inside the preserve

**Total expenditures inside the preserve:** Seventy-four percent spent no money and 15% spent between \$1 and \$25 (see Figure 103).

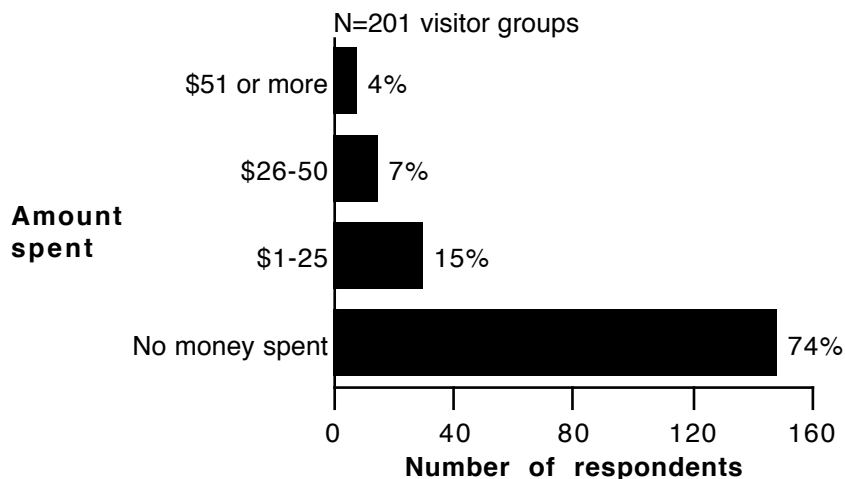
Groceries and take-out food accounted for the greatest proportion of expenditures (62%) in the preserve, as shown in Figure 104.

The average visitor group expenditure in the preserve during this visit was \$14. The median visitor group expenditure (50% of groups spent more and 50% of groups spent less) was \$0. The average per capita expenditure was \$21.

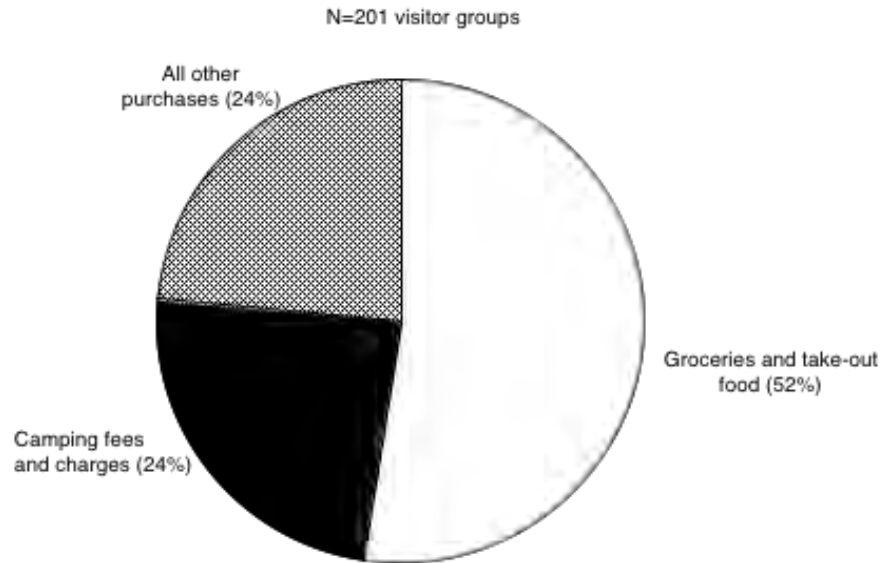
**Camping fees and charges:** Most visitors (89%) spent no money in the preserve and 6% of visitors spent between \$1 and \$15 (see Figure 105).

**Groceries and take-out food inside the preserve:** Most visitors (84%) spent no money while in the preserve and 7% spent between \$1 and \$15 (see Figure 106).

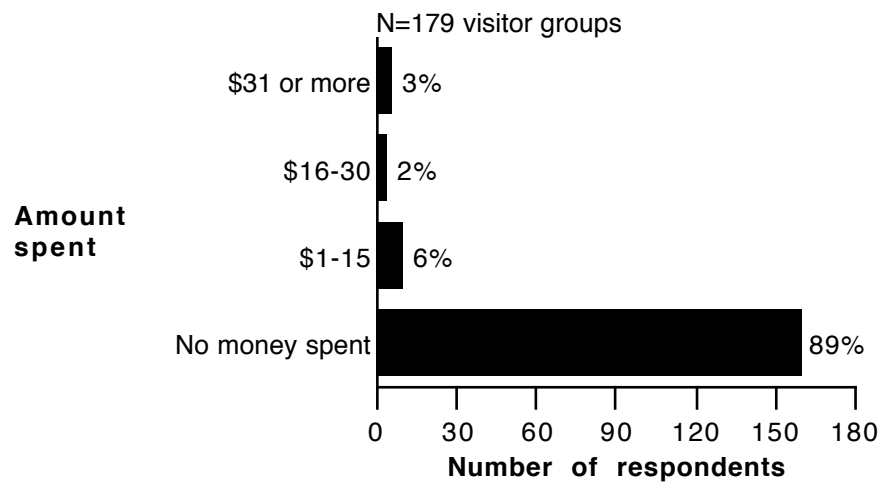
**All other purchases:** Eighty-nine percent of visitors spent no money and 4% spent between \$1 and \$15 (see Figure 107).



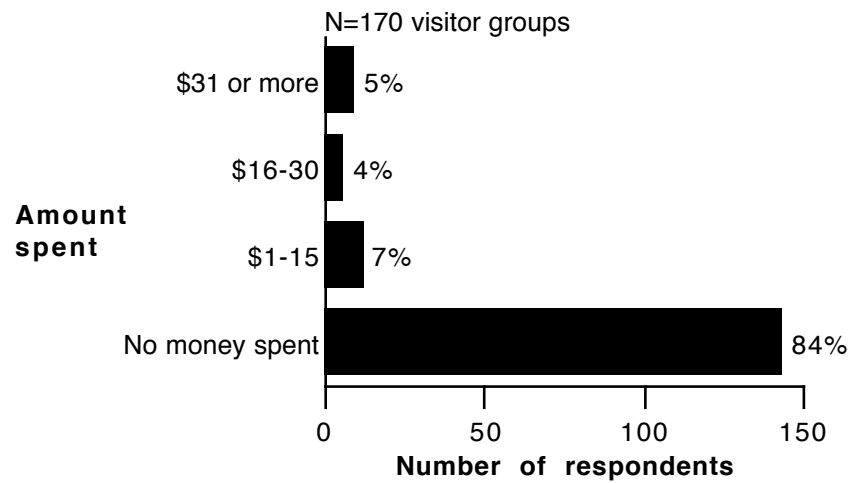
**Figure 103: Expenditures in the Mojave National Preserve**



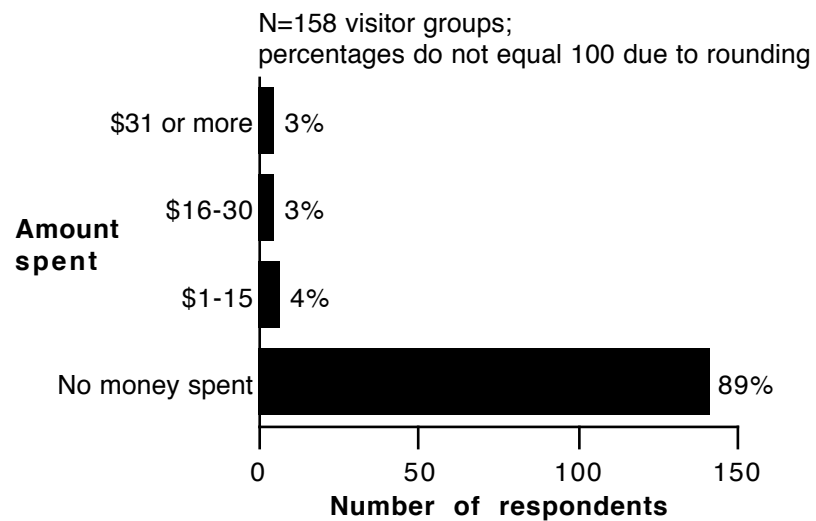
**Figure 104: Proportions of expenditures in Mojave National Preserve**



**Figure 105: Expenditures for camping fees and charges inside the preserve**



**Figure 106: Expenditures for groceries and take-out food inside the preserve**



**Figure 107: Expenditures for all other purchases inside the preserve**

### Expenditures outside the preserve

**Total expenditures outside the preserve:** Forty-seven percent of visitor groups spent \$1 to \$100, 20% spent no money, and 10% spent from \$101 to \$200 in the Mojave National Preserve area, as shown in Figure 108.

The largest proportions of expenditures outside of the preserve were for lodging (28%), gas and oil (19%), and restaurants and bars (19%), as shown in Figure 109.

The average visitor group expenditure outside of the preserve during this visit was \$193. The median visitor group (50% of groups spent more and 50% of groups spent less) was \$50. The average per capita expenditure was \$102.

**Hotels, motels, cabins, B&B, etc. outside of preserve:** Sixty-eight percent spent no money and 11% spent \$201 or more (see Figure 110).

**Camping fees and charges:** Most groups (96%) spent no money; 4% spent between \$1 and \$50 (see Figure 111).

**Guide fees and charges:** Most groups (97%) spent no money (see Figure 112)

**Restaurants and bars:** Forty-seven percent spent no money; 35% spent between \$1 and \$50 (see Figure 113).

**Groceries and take-out food:** Forty-four percent spent no money and 42% spent between \$1 and \$50 (see Figure 114).

**Gas and oil:** Fifty-two percent spent between \$1 and \$50, 24% spent no money, and 18% spent between \$51 and \$100 (see Figure 115).

**Other transportation expenses:** Most groups (93%) spent no money (see Figure 116).

**Admission, recreation, entertainment fees:** Ninety-one percent spent no money; 5% spent between \$1 and \$50 (see Figure 117).

**All other purchases:** Sixty-six percent spent no money and 22% spent between \$1 and \$50 (see Figure 118).

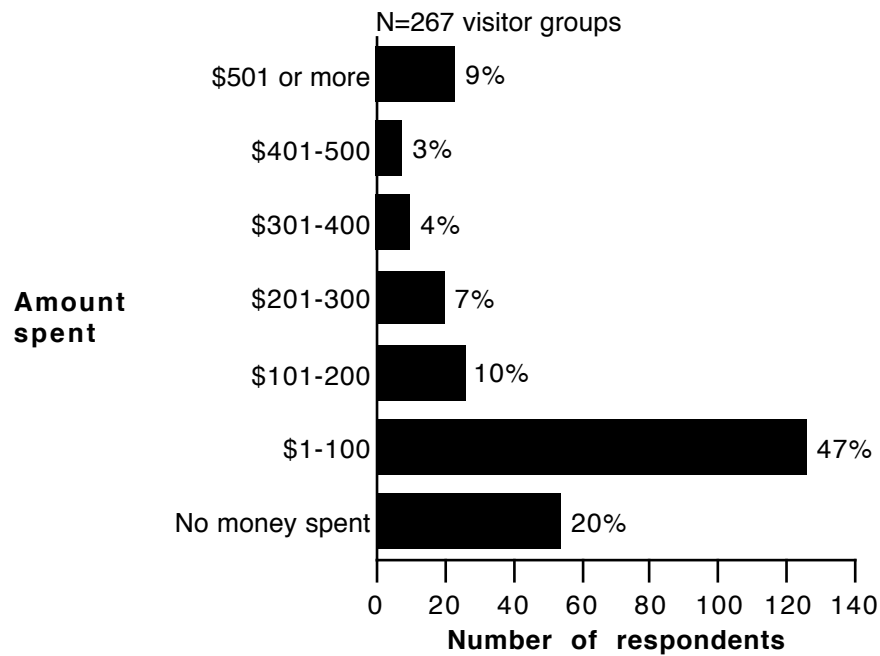


Figure 108: Expenditures outside the preserve

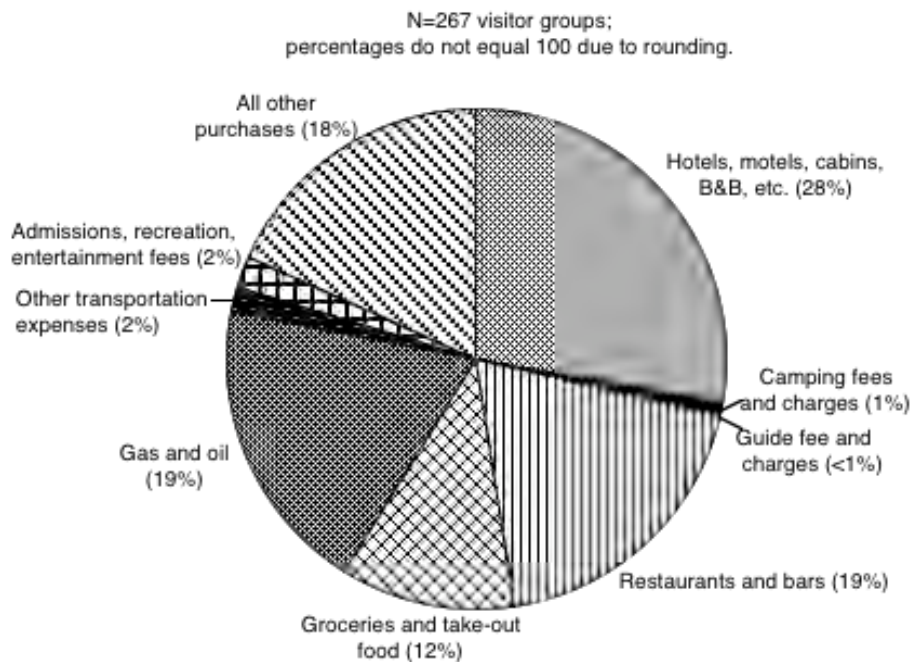
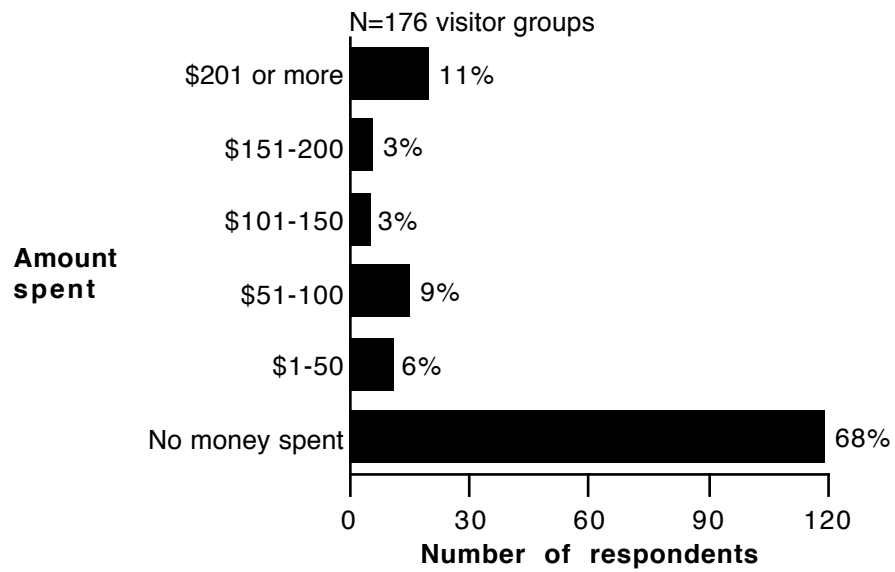
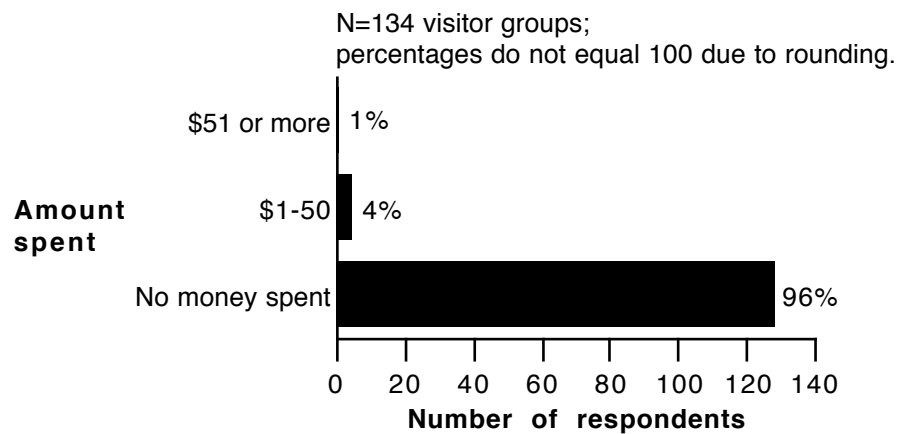


Figure 109: Proportions of expenditures outside of Mojave National Preserve

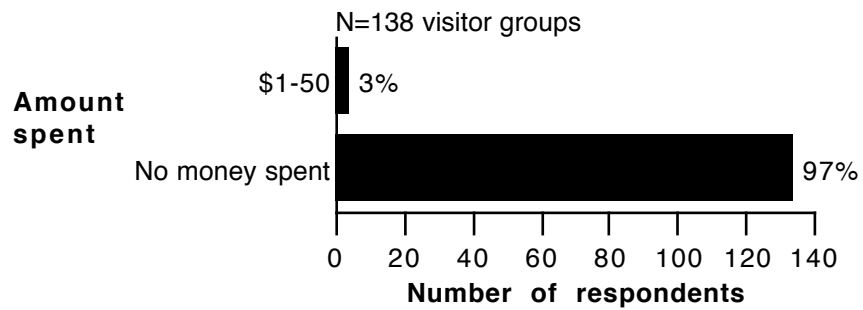




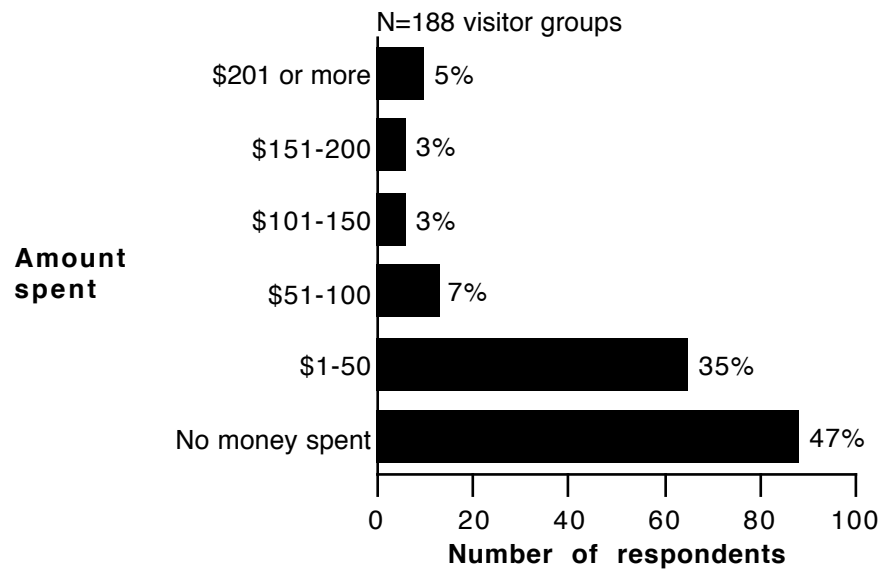
**Figure 110: Expenditures for hotels, motels, cabins, B&B, etc. out of preserve**



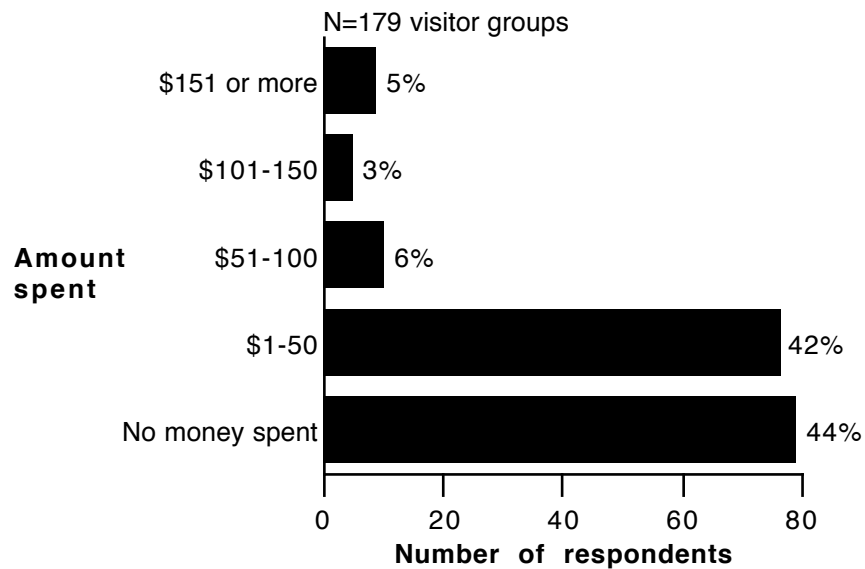
**Figure 111: Expenditures for camping fees and charges**



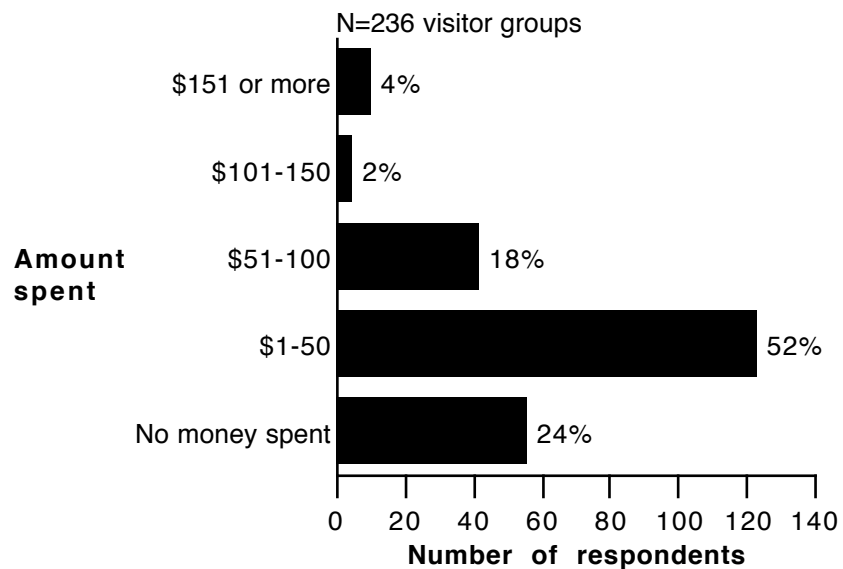
**Figure 112: Expenditures for guide fees and charges outside the preserve**



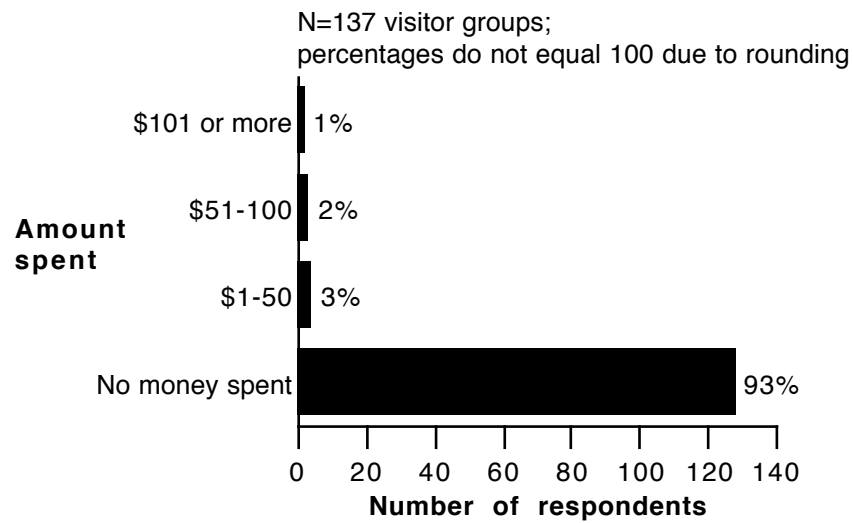
**Figure 113: Expenditures for restaurants and bar outside the preserve**



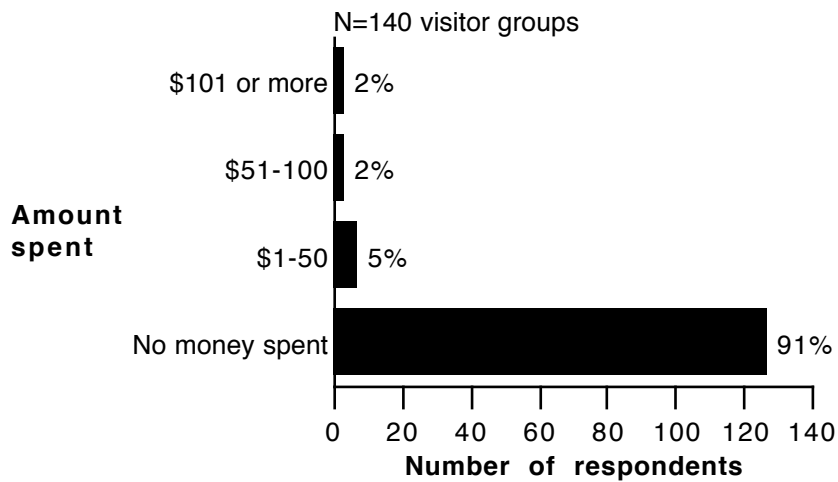
**Figure 114: Expenditures for groceries and take-out food outside the preserve**



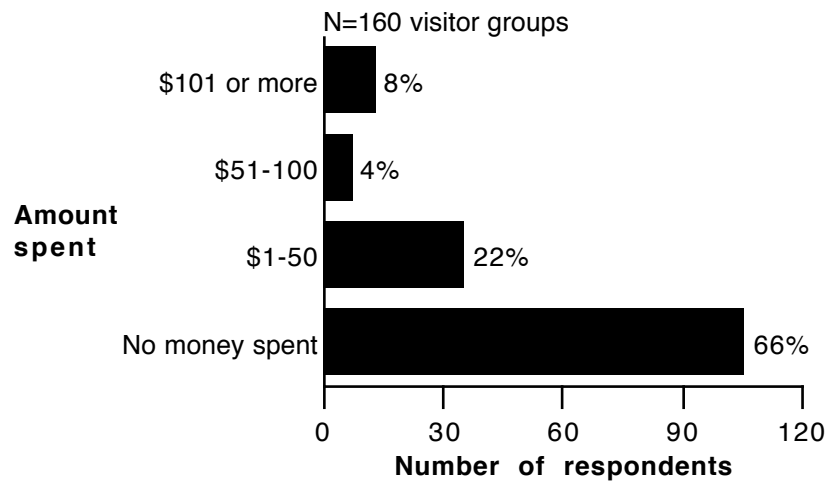
**Figure 115: Expenditures for gas and oil outside the preserve**



**Figure 116: Expenditures for other transportation expenses outside the preserve**



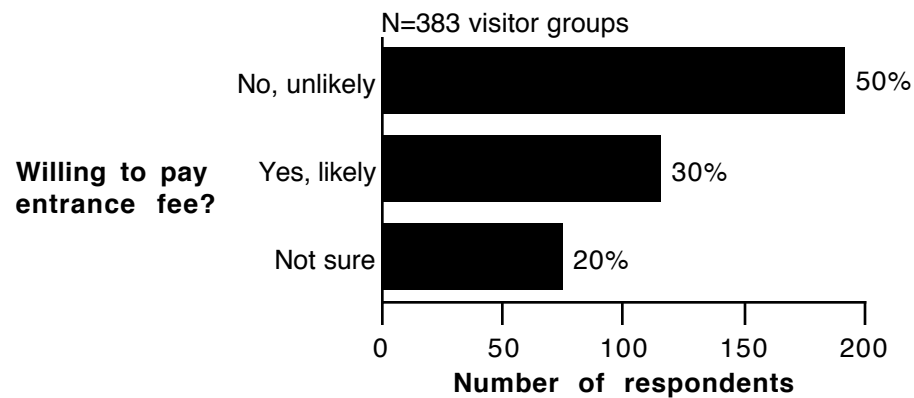
**Figure 117: Expenditures for admission, recreation, and entertainment fees outside the preserve**



**Figure 118: Expenditures for all other purchases outside the preserve**

**Opinions about entrance fee**

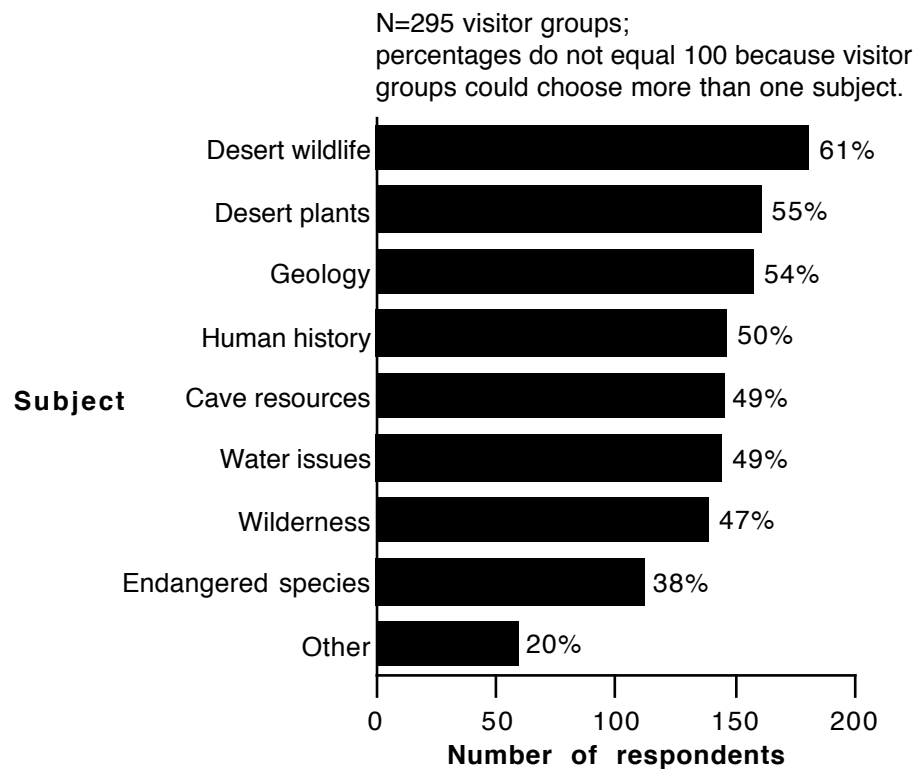
Currently, there is no charge to visit Mojave National Preserve. Visitor groups were asked if they would be willing to pay an entrance fee of \$5 to \$10 per vehicle on a future visit. One-half (50%) of visitor groups responded that it was unlikely that they would pay an entrance fee on a future visit, as shown in Figure 119. Thirty percent of visitor groups reported that they would likely pay an entrance fee and 20% were “not sure.”



**Figure 119: Willing to pay \$5 to \$10 entrance fee per vehicle on a future visit?**

**Preferred subjects to learn on a future visit**

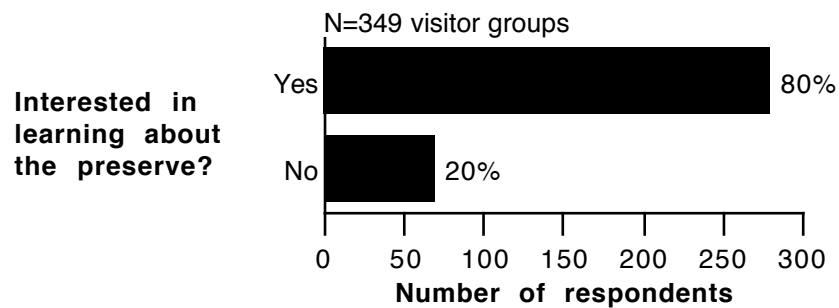
Visitor groups were asked, "On a future visit to Mojave National Preserve, what subjects would you and your group like to learn more about?" Desert wildlife (61%), desert plants (55%) and geology (54%) were the subjects that visitors were most interested in learning, as shown in Figure 120. "Other" subjects visitors described included trains and (Kelso) depot history, water resource for wildlife, prehistoric human habitation, 4-wheeling areas and conditions, rock climbing, roads condition and improvement, birds, astronomy, desert survival, sites to explore, water resources for wildlife, and areas for hunting.



**Figure 120: Preferred subjects to learn on a future visit to Mojave National Preserve**

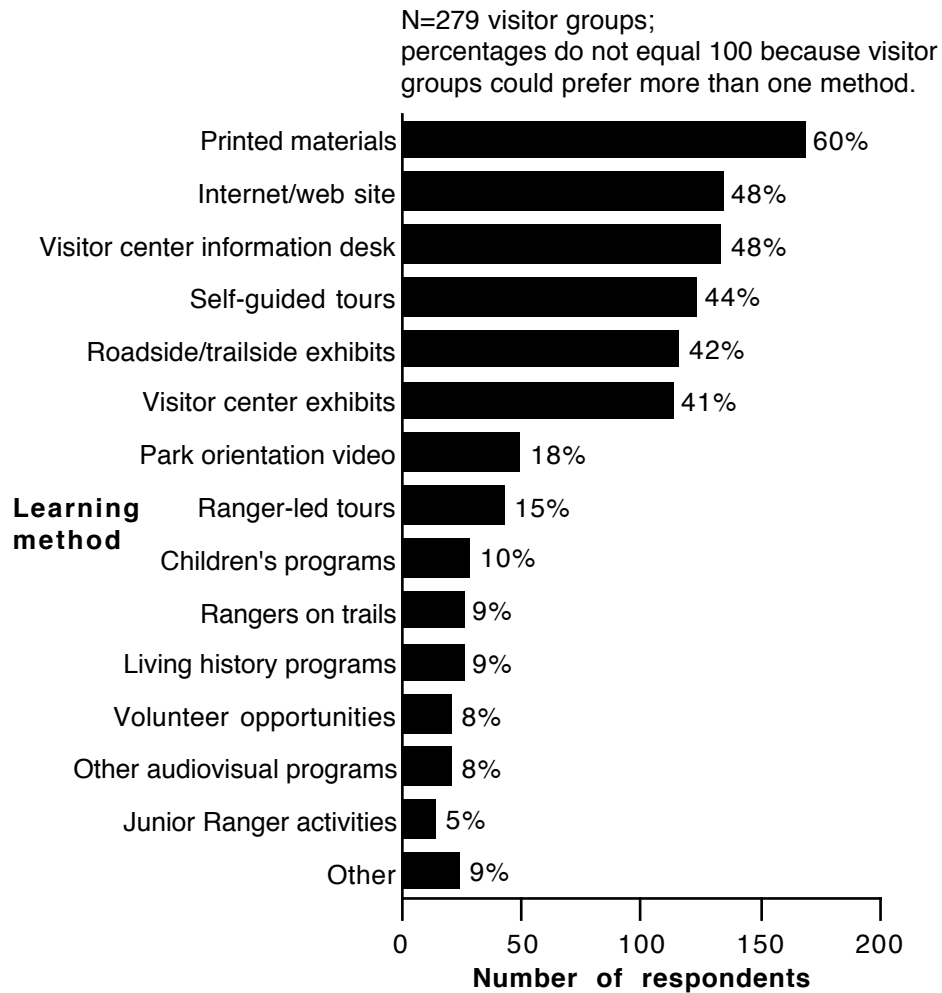
**Preferred methods of learning about the preserve**

Twenty percent of visitor groups were not interested in learning about the Mojave National Preserve (see Figure 121). Of those who interested in learning about the preserve, the most frequently selected methods were printed materials (60%), internet/website (48%), and visitor center information desk (48%), as shown in Figure 122. “Other” responses consisted of personal experience, existing literature, map of the preserve, and signs.



**Figure 121: Visitor groups who were interested in learning about the Mojave National Preserve**





**Figure 122: Preferred methods of learning about Mojave National Preserve**

### Preferred number of facilities on a future visit

Visitor groups were asked about whether they would like to see more, less or the present number of facilities at the Mojave National Preserve on a future visit. Table 9 summarizes the responses from visitors. The facilities that most visitors (56%) wanted to see more were restrooms and roadside exhibits (47%). Fifty-three percent of visitor groups wanted to keep the present number of paved roads and 10% wanted less paved roads.

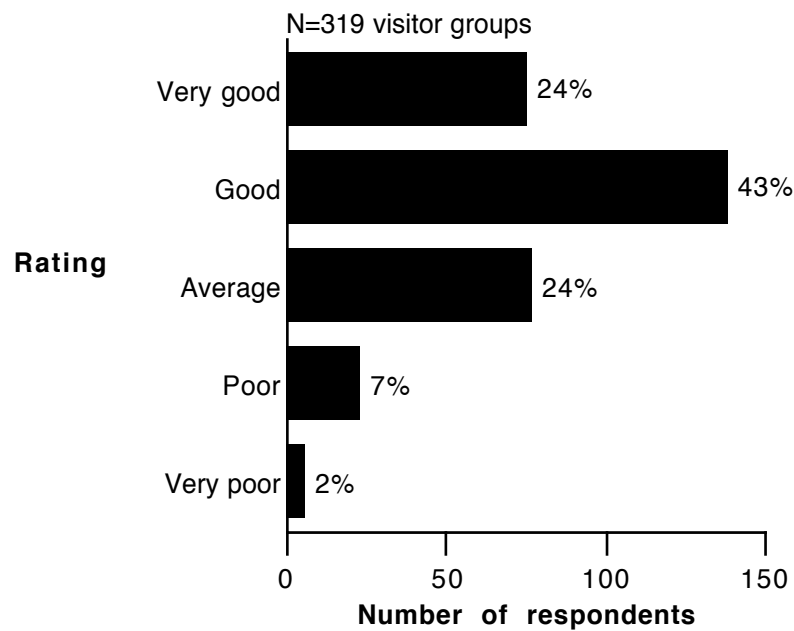
**Table 9: Visitor opinions about number of facilities**

N=number of visitor groups who rated each facility;  
percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding.

Facility	N	More (%)	Present OK (%)	Less (%)	Don't know (%)
Information centers	265	41	32	9	18
Restrooms	287	56	28	5	12
Campgrounds	240	18	45	6	31
Picnic areas	242	23	40	8	29
Paved roads	252	26	53	10	12
Unpaved roads	232	19	48	8	25
Pullouts	248	36	41	3	19
Directional signs	261	43	40	5	12
Roadside exhibits	245	47	27	6	20
Trails	234	35	34	1	30

**Overall quality of visitor services**

During this visit, most visitor group (67%) rate the overall quality at Mojave National Preserve as “very good” or “good,” as shown in Figure 123. Seven percent of groups rated the overall quality as “poor” and 2% rated the overall quality as “very poor.”

**Figure 123: Overall quality of visitor services**

### Visitor opinions of the preserve's significance

Sixty-four percent of visitor groups (255 groups) responded to the question concerning their opinions about the national significance of Mojave National Preserve. The comments are included in the separate appendix of this report. Table 10 summarized visitor opinions.

**Table 10: Visitor opinions of the preserve's significance**

N=273 comments;  
some visitors made more than one comment.

Comment	Number of times mentioned
Unspoiled/undisturbed natural area	36
Protect wildlife habitats	26
An open desert area	26
Preserve the natural beauty of area	26
Historical significance	24
Don't know	19
Preserve resources for future generation	15
Unique ecology system	13
Maintain an access to the wilderness	11
None	10
Very important	9
Special geology	8
Hunting area	6
Just a shortcut	6
Provide recreational opportunities	6
Another area that government closed from us	5
The Joshua trees	4
National treasure	3
Solitude	2
Regional significance, not national	2
Clean air	2
Other comments	14

<b>Planning for the future</b>
--------------------------------

Visitor groups were asked, "If you were a manager planning for the future of Mojave National Preserve, what would you propose?" Sixty-one percent of visitor groups (243 groups) responded to this question. A summary of their responses is listed below in Table 11 and complete copies of visitor responses are contained in the appendix.

---

**Table 10: Planning for the future**

N= 334 comments;  
some visitors made more than one comment.

Comment	Number of times mentioned
<b>PERSONNEL</b>	
Add/increase roving rangers	7
More staff	3
Use volunteers	2
<b>INTERPRETIVE SERVICES</b>	
More interpretive signs	9
Educate people about the desert ecosystem	9
Advertise more	9
Add a central visitor center	6
Provide more pamphlets/brochure about park	5
More detailed maps showing the area and trails	5
More ranger-guided tours	4
Keep Hole-in-the-Wall visitor center	2
Open a museum at Kelso	2
Turn Kelso into a visitor center	2
Other comments	3
<b>FACILITIES/MAINTENANCE</b>	
Better road maintenance	20
More trails	13
Maintain as is	12
Keep 4x4/OHV (off-highway vehicles) access	12
Better road mileage markers/signage	9
More restrooms	8
No more paved road	6
Add phones/callbox	6
Better campgrounds	6
More pullout/overlook	5
More tourist amenities (lodging, gas stations)	4
Put more facilities at Kelso	3
Good work restoring the Kelso Depot	3
Other comments	1

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**Table 11: Planning for the future (continued)**

Comment	Number of times mentioned
<b>MANAGEMENT/POLICIES</b>	
Preservation is priority	13
Don't commercialize the park	12
Restrict off-road driving	12
Limit number of visitors	10
Less government control	8
Open the area for multiple recreational use	7
Raise penalty for littering and strictly enforce it	6
Charge fee for funding	6
Attract more visitors to increase funding	4
Do not charge fee	3
No military in the area	2
No smoking anywhere	2
Other comments	6
<b>RESOURCE MANAGEMENT</b>	
Keep it as pristine as possible	24
Concentrate on water resources for wildlife	13
No hunting	8
No cattle grazing	5
Continue allow hunting	4
Bring back ranch and cowboy as historical aspect of area	3
No mining	3
Other comments	4
<b>GENERAL IMPRESSION</b>	
Unique hiking experience	3

<b>Additional comments</b>
----------------------------

Forty-five percent of visitor groups (177 groups) wrote additional comments, which are included in the separate appendix of this report. Their comments about Mojave National Preserve are summarized below (see Table 12). Some comments offer specific suggestions on how to improve the park; others describe what visitors enjoyed or did not enjoy about their visit.

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**Table 12: Additional comments**

N=183 comments;  
some visitors made more than one comment.

Comment	Number of times mentioned
<b>INTERPRETIVE SERVICES</b>	
Did not know it was a preserve before this survey	5
Other comments	2
<b>FACILITIES/MAINTENANCE</b>	
Good job restoring the train depot at Kelso	8
Increase amenities	6
Continue maintaining paved roads	6
Better signage	4
Good campgrounds	4
Keep the current paved roads and close others	3
Clean	3
Other comments	4
<b>MANAGEMENT/POLICIES</b>	
Keep it untouched, minimum development	16
Go back to previous stage of management	7
A valuable resource need to be protected	6
Do not charge fee	4
The current management plan is well balanced	2
Protect the water resource	2
Less policy regulations	2
<b>GENERAL IMPRESSIONS</b>	
Just used the shortcut, no comment	22
Enjoyable	12
Great non-traffic road/way	11
The park is naturally beautiful	11
Will come back and explore more	10
Keep up the good work	9
Always love the desert scenery	6
Quiet/solitude	4
Other comments	11

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## Mojave National Preserve Visitor Study Additional Analysis VSP Report 151

The Visitor Services Project (VSP) offers the opportunity to learn more from VSP visitor study data. Additional analysis can be done using the park's VSP visitor study data that was collected and entered into the computer. Two-way and three-way cross tabulations can be made of any of the characteristics listed below. Be as specific as possible-you may select a single program/service/facility instead of all that were listed in the questionnaire. Include your name, address and phone number in the request.

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|---|--|--|
| • Awareness of land management                      | • Informational services used                    | • Number of visits from 1995 to this visit                 |
| • Sources of information prior to visit             | • Importance of informational services           | • English as primary language                              |
| • Activities participated in on this visit          | • Quality of informational services used         | • Spanish, Hispanic, Latino ethnicity                      |
| • Primary reasons for visiting the Mojave NP area   | • Visitor services/facilities used               | • Race   |
| • Length of stay (hours)                            | • Importance of visitor services/facilities used | • Importance of elements/qualities of the park             |
| • Length of stay (days)                             | • Quality of visitor services/facilities         | • Number of days spent within a 1/2 hour drive of the park |
| • Number of times entering the park                 | • Group type                                     | • Expenditures within the park                             |
| • Personal group type                               | • With guided tour group                         | • Expenditures outside the park                            |
| • Number of nights inside Mojave National Preserve  | • With school/educational group                  | • Number of adults covered in expenses                     |
| • Number of nights outside Mojave National Preserve | • Group size                                     | • Number of children covered in expenses                   |
| • Type of lodging in/out of the park                | • Vehicles per group                             | • Preference of number of facilities on future visits      |
| • Sites visited within the park                     | • Age  | • Preference of subjects to learn on future visits         |
| • Opinions about crowding                           | • Zip code/state of residence                    | • Preference of learning methods on future visits          |
| • Opinions about safety                             | • Country of residence (other than U.S.)         | • Willingness to pay an entrance fee                       |
| • Opinions about Mojave Desert                      | • Number of visits before 1995                   | • Overall quality of visitor services                      |

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## **QUESTIONNAIRE**



## Visitor Services Project Publications

Reports 1-6 (pilot studies) are available from the University of Idaho Park Studies Unit (UI PSU). All other VSP reports listed are available on the UI PSU web site: <<http://www.psu.uidaho.edu>>. All studies were conducted in summer unless otherwise noted

### 1982

1. Mapping interpretive services: A pilot study at Grand Teton National Park.

### 1983

2. Mapping interpretive services: Identifying barriers to adoption and diffusion of the method.
3. Mapping interpretive services: A follow-up study at Yellowstone National Park and Mt Rushmore National Memorial.
4. Mapping visitor populations: A pilot study at Yellowstone National Park.

### 1985

5. North Cascades National Park Service Complex
6. Crater Lake National Park

### 1986

7. Gettysburg National Military Park
8. Independence National Historical Park
9. Valley Forge National Historical Park

### 1987

10. Colonial National Historical Park (summer & fall)
11. Grand Teton National Park
12. Harpers Ferry National Historical Park
13. Mesa Verde National Park
14. Shenandoah National Park
15. Yellowstone National Park
16. Independence National Historical Park: Four Seasons Study

### 1988

17. Glen Canyon National Recreational Area
18. Denali National Park and Preserve
19. Bryce Canyon National Park
20. Craters of the Moon National Monument

### 1989

21. Everglades National Park (winter)
22. Statue of Liberty National Monument
23. The White House Tours, President's Park (summer)
24. Lincoln Home National Historical Site
25. Yellowstone National Park
26. Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area
27. Muir Woods National Monument

### 1990

28. Canyonlands National Park (spring)
29. White Sands National Monument
30. National Monuments, Washington, D.C.
31. Kenai Fjords National Park
32. Gateway National Recreation Area
33. Petersburg National Historical Park
34. Death Valley National Monument
35. Glacier National Park
36. Scott's Bluff National Monument
37. John Day Fossil Beds National Monument

### 1991

38. Jean Lafitte National Historical Park (spring)
39. Joshua Tree National Monument (spring)
40. The White House Tours, President's Park (spring)
41. Natchez Trace Parkway (spring)
42. Stehekin-North Cascades NP/Lake Chelan National Recreation Area
43. City of Rocks National Reserve
44. The White House Tours, President's Park (fall)

### 1992

45. Big Bend National Park (spring)
46. Frederick Douglass National Historical Park (spring)
47. Glen Echo Park (spring)
48. Bent's Old Fort National Historical Park
49. Jefferson National Expansion Memorial
50. Zion National Park
51. New River Gorge National River
52. Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park (AK)
53. Arlington House-The Robert E. Lee Memorial

### 1993

54. Belle Haven Park/Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve (spring)
55. Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (spring)
56. Whitman Mission National Historical Park
57. Sitka National Historical Park
58. Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore (summer)
59. Redwood National Park
60. Channel Islands National Park
61. Pecos National Historical Park
62. Canyon de Chelly National Monument
63. Bryce Canyon National Park (fall)

### 1994

64. Death Valley National Monument Backcountry (winter)

**Visitor Services Project Publications (continued)****1994 (continued)**

- 65. San Antonio Missions National Historical Park (spring)
- 66. Anchorage Alaska Public Lands Information Center
- 67. Wolf Trap Farm Park for the Performing Arts
- 68. Nez Perce National Historical Park
- 69. Edison National Historical Park
- 70. San Juan Island National Historical Park
- 71. Canaveral National Seashore
- 72. Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore (fall)
- 73. Gettysburg National Military Park (fall)

**1995**

- 74. Grand Teton National Park (winter)
- 75. Yellowstone National Park (winter)
- 76. Bandelier National Monument
- 77. Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve
- 78. Adams National Historical Park
- 79. Devils Tower National Monument
- 80. Manassas National Historical Park
- 81. Booker T. Washington National Monument
- 82. San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park
- 83. Dry Tortugas National Park

**1996**

- 84. Everglades National Park (spring)
- 85. Chiricahua National Monument (spring)
- 86. Fort Bowie National Historical Park (spring)
- 87. Great Falls Park, Virginia (spring)
- 88. Great Smoky Mountains National Park
- 89. Chamizal National Memorial
- 90. Death Valley National Park (fall)
- 91. Prince William Forest Park (fall)

**1997**

- 92. Great Smoky Mountains National Park (summer & fall)
- 93. Virgin Islands National Park (winter)
- 94. Mojave National Preserve (spring)
- 95. Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historical Park (spring)
- 96. Lincoln Boyhood Home National Memorial
- 97. Grand Teton National Park
- 98. Bryce Canyon National Park
- 99. Voyageurs National Park
- 100. Lowell National Historical Park

**1998**

- 101. Jean Lafitte National Historical Park & Preserve (spring)
- 102. Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area (spring)

**1998 (continued)**

- 103. Cumberland Island National Seashore (spring)
- 104. Iwo Jima/Netherlands Carillon Memorials
- 105. National Monuments & Memorials, Washington, D.C.
- 106. Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park (AK)
- 107. Whiskeytown National Recreation Area
- 108. Acadia National Park

**1999**

- 109. Big Cypress National Preserve (winter)
- 110. San Juan National Historical Park (Puerto Rico)
- 111. Saint Croix National Scenic Riverway
- 112. Rock Creek Park
- 113. New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park
- 114. Glacier Bay National Park & Preserve
- 115. Kenai Fjords National Park & Preserve
- 116. Lassen Volcanic National Park
- 117. Cumberland Gap National Historical Park (fall)

**2000**

- 118. Haleakala National Park (spring)
- 119. White House Tour and White House Visitor Center (spring)
- 120. USS Arizona Memorial
- 121. Olympic National Park
- 122. Eisenhower National Historical Park
- 123. Badlands National Park
- 124. Mount Rainier National Park

**2001**

- 125. Biscayne National Park (spring)
- 126. Colonial National Historical Park (Jamestown)
- 127. Shenandoah National Park
- 128. Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore
- 129. Crater Lake National Park
- 130. Valley Forge National Historical Park

**2002**

- 131. Everglades National Park (spring)
- 132. Dry Tortugas National Park
- 133. Pinnacles National Monument
- 134. Great Sand Dunes National Monument and Preserve
- 135. Pipestone National Monument
- 136. Outer Banks Group (Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Wright Brothers National Monument)
- 137. Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Park
- 138. Catoctin Mountain Park

## **Visitor Services Project Publications (continued)**

### **2002 (continued)**

- 139. Hopewell Furnace National Historical Park
- 140. Stones River National Historical Park

### **2003**

- 141. Gateway National Recreation Area
- 142. Cowpens National Battlefield
- 143. Grand Canyon National Park (North Rim)
- 144. Grand Canyon National Park (South Rim)
- 145. Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historic  
Park
- 146. Capulin Volcano National Monument
- 147. Oregon Caves National Monument
- 148. Knife River Indian Villages National Historic  
Site
- 149. Fort Stanwix National Monument
- 150. Arches National Park
- 151. Mojave National Preserve

For more information about the Visitor Services Project, please contact  
the University of Idaho Park Studies Unit; phone (208) 885-7863.

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