Visitor Services Project

Delaware Water Gap National Recreational Area

Volume 1 of 2

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Dwight L. Madison

Gary E. Machlis

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Dwight Madison is the VSP Eastern Coordinator, and Dr. Machlis is Sociology Project Leader, both with the Cooperative Park Studies Unit, National Park Service, University of Idaho. We thank the VSP interview team; Dana Dolsen, Jean McKendry, Ginny Aley and the staff at Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area for their assistance with this study. The VSP acknowledges the Public Opinion Lab of the Social and Economic Sciences Research Center, Washington State University for its technical assistance.

Visitor Services Project Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Report Summary

- This report describes the results of a study of visitors to Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area during July 22-30,1989. Six hundred forty-eight questionnaires were distributed and 457 returned, a 71% response rate.
- Volume 1 profiles Delaware Water Gap visitors. Volume 2 has their comments about the park and their visit. A summary of these comments is included in both volumes.
- Fifty-four percent of visitors were in family groups. Thirty-six percent of visitors were 26 to 40 years old. Thirty-nine percent of visitors were on their first visit to Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.
- Visitors from foreign countries composed 1% of the visitation to Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. Eighty-nine percent of American visitors came from New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania.
- Forty-seven percent of visitors stayed four hours or less in the park, while 16% of visitors stayed 13 hours or more. Sightseeing (56%) and picnicking (35%) were the most common activities of visitors.
- Thirty-five percent of visitor groups stopped at the Dingmans Falls Visitor Center, 28% stopped at the Peters Valley Craft Village and 21% stopped at Dingmans Ferry Access.
- Fifty-five percent of visitors obtained information about the park from previous visits, 42% from friends and/or relatives and 29% from maps.
- Fifty-one percent of visitors used the road signs and 46% used the park staff for interpretive/information services. Both the park staff and the road signs received high usefulness ratings.
- Thirty-nine per cent of the visitors reported that they attended the Peters Valley Craft Fair. Fifty percent of those who attended said that this was the primary purpose of their visit.
- Visitors liked the scenic beauty of the park, the well maintained and/or clean park facilities and the peace and tranquility. They disliked traffic, the lack of signs to points of interest and unclean restrooms.
- Visitors made many more general comments about their visits to the park.

For more information about the Visitor Services Project, please contact Dr. Gary E. Machlis, Sociology Project Leader, University of Idaho Cooperative Park Studies Unit, College of Forestry, Wildlife and Range Sciences, Moscow, Idaho 83843 or call (208)885-7129.

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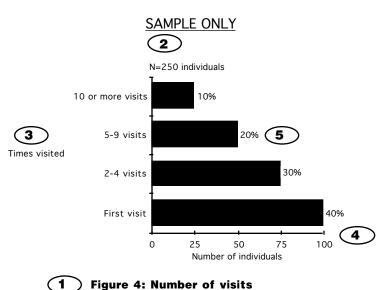
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INTRODUCTION

This report describes the results of a Visitor Services Project (VSP) study undertaken at Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (referred to as "Delaware Water Gap"). The study was conducted the week of July 22-30, 1989, by the Cooperative Park Studies Unit of the University of Idaho. A list of VSP publications is on the inside back cover of this report.

After this introduction, the <u>Methods</u> are presented, along with the limitations to the study. The <u>Results</u> follow, including a summary of visitor comments. Next, a <u>Menu for Further Analysis</u> is provided to help managers in requesting additional analyses. Finally, the <u>Appendix contains</u> the questionnaire used. Volume 2 of this report contains a comment summary as well as the unedited comments made by visitors who returned the questionnaires.

Many of the graphs in this report are like the example below. The large numbers refer to explanations below the graph.



- 1: The figure title is a general description of the information contained in the graph.
- 2: A note above gives the 'N', or number of cases in the sample, and a specific description of the information in the chart. Use **CAUTION** when interpreting any data where the sample size is less than 30 as the results may be unreliable.
- 3: The vertical information describes categories.
- 4: The horizontal information shows the number of items that fall into each category. In some graphs, proportions are shown.
- 5: In most graphs, percentages are included to provide additional explanation.

METHODS

General strategy

Front-end interviews were administered and questionnaires distributed to selected visitors entering Delaware Water Gap during July 22-30, 1989. Visitors completed the questionnaire during or after their trip and then returned it by mail. Returned questionnaires were analyzed and this report developed.

Questionnaire design

The questionnaire design followed the standard format used in previous Visitor Services Project studies. See the Appendix for a copy of the questionnaire.

Sampling

Visitors were contacted at twelve sites: the Kittatiny Point Visitor Center,
Dunfield Parking Area, Depew Recreation Site, Watergate Recreation Area, Millbrook
Village, Peters Valley Craft Village, Dingmans Ferry Access, Dingmans Campground,
Childs Recreation Site, Dingmans Falls Visitor Center, Bushkill Access, and
Smithfield Beach. Visitors entering the park were sampled by using selected intervals to
contact entering vehicles or people. The number of contacts for each site reflected the
site's portion of the park's total visitation.

Questionnaire administration

Visitor groups were greeted, briefly introduced to the purpose of the study and asked to participate. If visitors agreed, the front-end interview took about two minutes. These interviews included asking the number of people in the group and the age of the adult who would complete the questionnaire. This person was then requested to supply their name, address and telephone number so that a reminder-thank you postcard could later be mailed.

Data analysis

Two weeks after the survey, a postcard reminder was mailed to all visitors. Questionnaires arriving within a ten week period were coded and entered into a computer. Frequency distributions and cross-tabulations were calculated using a standard statistical software package. Respondents' comments were summarized.

Methods (continued)

Sample size, missing data and reporting errors

This study collected information on both visitor groups and on individual group members. Thus, the sample size ('N'), varies from figure to figure. For example, while information is shown in Figure 1 for 452 groups, Figure 3 has data for 1442 individuals. A note above each figure's graph specifies the information illustrated.

Occasionally, a respondent may not have answered all of the questions, or may have answered some incorrectly. Unanswered questions create missing data and cause the number in the sample to vary from figure to figure. For example, although 457 questionnaires were returned by visitors, Figure 1 shows data for only 452 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 which should be taken into account when interpreting the results.

- 1. It is not possible to know whether visitor responses reflect actual behavior. This disadvantage is applicable to all such studies and is reduced by having visitors fill out the questionnaire <u>as they visit</u> the park.
- 2. The data reflect the use patterns of visitors to the selected sites during the designated study period of July 22-30, 1989. The results do not necessarily apply to visitors using other sites, or using the national recreation area during other times of the year. The Peters Valley Craft Festival, a popular annual event, occured during the last two days of the study period. Hence, the study reflects a higher than normal visitation for the Peters Valley Craft Village.
- 3. Caution is advised when interpreting any data where the sample size is less than 30, as the results may be unreliable. Whenever data presented for a sample is smaller than 30, the word "**CAUTION**" is included in the title.

RESULTS

A. Visitors contacted

A total of six hundred eighty-four visitor groups were contacted; 648 agreed to participate. Thus, the acceptance rate was 95%. Four hundred and fifty-seven visitor groups completed and returned their questionnaires, a 71% response rate. Table 1 shows the percentage of returned questionnaires distributed at each site.

Table 1: Distribution of returned questionnaires by site

Site	Percentage of returned questionnaires
Kittatiny Point Visitor Cen	ter 13%
Dunfield Parking Area	1%
Depew Recreation Site	2%
Watergate Recreation Area	1%
Millbrook Village	1%
Peters Valley Craft Village	19%
Dingmans Ferry Access	16%
Dingmans Campground	3%
Dingmans Falls Visitor Cen	ter 20%
Childs Recreation Site	5%
Bushkill Access	3%
Smithfield Beach	16%
Total	100%

Table 2 shows a comparison of information collected from both the total sample of visitors contacted and the final sample of visitors who returned their questionnaires. Non-response bias is insignificant.

Table 2: Comparison of total sample and actual respondents

Variable	Total	Actual
	sample	respondents
	N Avg.	N Avg.
Age of respondent	648 38.3	453 39.7
Group size	648 4.5	452 4.7

Results (continued)

B. Characteristics

Figure 1 shows group sizes, which varied from one person to 85 people. Thirty-three percent of Delaware Water Gap visitors came in groups of two people, 21% came in groups of four. Fifty-four percent of visitors came in family groups, as shown in Figure 2; 37% came in groups of friends or family and friends.

Figure 3 shows a wide range of age groups; the most common being adults aged 26-40 (36%). Thirty-nine percent of visitors were at Delaware Water Gap for the first time, 32% percent had visited 2-4 times, and 10% had visited 10 or more times as seen in Figure 4.

Foreign visitors comprised 1% of all visitation. Map 1 and Table 3 show that these foreign visitors came from Canada and Colombia. Map 2 and Table 4 show that most American visitors came from New Jersey (49%), New York (22%) and Pennsylvania (18%).

N=452 visitor groups; percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding. 7% 11+ people 6-10 people 14% 7% 5 people Group size 4 people 21% 3 people 33% 2 people 1 person 6% 0 25 50 75 100 125 150 Number of respondents

Figure 1: Visitor group sizes

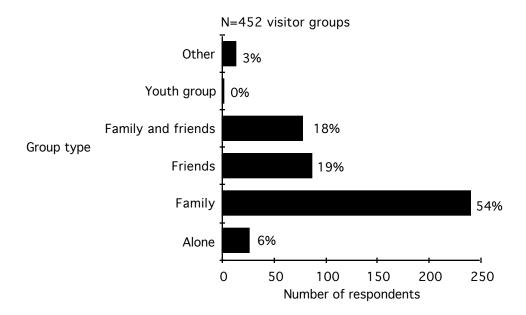


Figure 2: Visitor group types

N=1442 individuals; percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding. 76 or older 71-75 yrs. 66-70 yrs. ■ 2% 5% 61-65 yrs. 5% 56-60 yrs. 51-55 yrs. 46-50 yrs. 5% 6% 8% Age group 41-45 yrs. 12% 36-40 yrs. 31-35 yrs. 12% 12% 26-30 yrs. 21-25 yrs. 10% 5% 16-20 ýrs. 6% 11-15 yrs. 10 or younger 20 40 60 80 100 120 140 160 180 Number of individuals

Figure 3: Visitor ages

N=1288 individuals; percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding. 18% 10 or more visits 12% 5-9 visits Times visited 32% 2-4 visits 39% First visit 0 100 200 300 400 500 600 Number of individuals

Figure 4: Number of visits

Map 1: Proportion of foreign visitors by country

Table 3: Proportion of visitors from foreign countries

N=17 individuals from foreign countries

CAUTION

Country	Number of individuals	% of foreign visitors
Canada	5	29
Colombia	5	29
Kuwait	2	12
Portugal	2	12
France	1	6
Germany	1	6
Italy	1	6

Map 2: Proportion of visitors from each state

Table 4: Proportion of visitors from each state

N=1309 individuals;

individual state percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

State	Number of individuals	% of visitors
New York	288	22
New Jersey	640	49
Pennsylvania	231	18
Connecticut	29	2
Massachusetts	20	2
Others (20 states < 2% eac	h) 101	8

C. Length of stay

Figure 5 shows that 47% of visitor groups stayed four hours or less at Delaware Water Gap. Sixteen percent of visitors stayed thirteen hours or more.

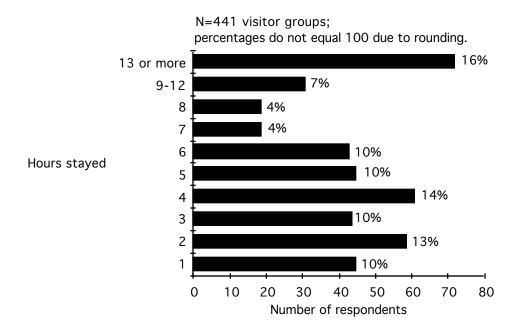


Figure 5: Number of hours visitors spent at Delaware Water Gap

D. Activities

Figure 6 shows the proportion of visitor groups who participated in each activity during their visit. Common activities were sightseeing (56%), picnicking (35%), swimming (32%) and hiking (30%). Some "other" activities were identified as attending the Peters Valley Craft Fair, rafting and relaxing.

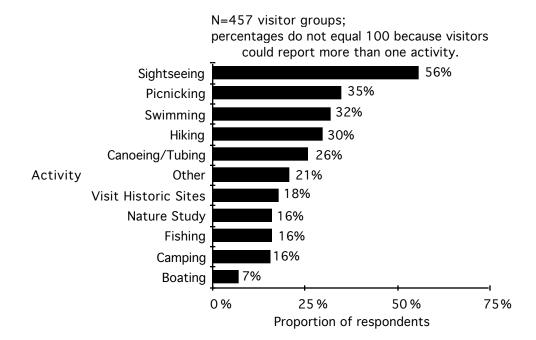


Figure 6: Proportion of visitor groups participating in each activity

E. Locations

Map 3 shows the proportion of visitor groups that visited selected sites in Delaware Water Gap. Thirty-five percent of visitor groups visited the Dingmans Ferry Visitor Center, 28% visited Peters Valley Craft Village and 21% visited Dingmans Ferry Access.

N=457 visitor groups; percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could visit more than one site.

Millbrook village-9%

Watergate Recreation Area-7%

Depew Recreation Site-4%

Appalachian Trail-6%

Kittatinny Point Visitor Center-17%

Dunfield Parking Area 4%
Childs Recreation Site-12%
Peters Valley Craft Village-28%
Dingmans Campground-10%
Dinmans Falls Visitor Center-35%
Dingmans Ferry Access-21%
Bushkill Access-17%
Milford Beach-10%

Smithfield Beach-17%

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area

Map 3: Proportion of visitor groups that visited each site

F. Visitor orgins on their arrival day

Visitors were asked where they started their trip on the day they arrived at Delaware Water Gap. Table 5 shows the states from which visitor groups arrived; 43% of the visitor groups arrived from New Jersey. Table 6 shows that they started their trips from many different towns.

Table 5: State of visitor origins on their arrival day

N=423 visitor groups;

State	Number of respondents	<u>%</u>
New Jersey	181	43
Pennsylvania	172	41
New York	52	12
Connecticut	8	2
Other states	10	2

Table 6: Places of visitor origin on their arrival day

N=422 visitor groups;

percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding.

Place of Origin	Number of re	spondents	%
Dingmans Ferry	31		7
Milford	17		4
Stroudsburg	15		4
Bushkill	12		3
Shawnee	9		2
New York City	8	2	
Marshals Creek	6		1
Peters Valley	6		1
Allentown	5		1
Delaware Water Gap	5		1
Hacketts Town	5	1	
Other places	< 5 res	pondents per place	76

G. Visitor departure day destinations

Visitors were asked their planned destination for the day they left Delaware Water Gap. Table 7 shows their state destinations; 45% were staying in New Jersey that day. Table 8 shows that many different locations were planned destinations.

Table 7: Destination states on the day of departure

N=420 visitor groups

State	Number of respondents	%
New Jersey	190	45
Pennsylvania	141	34
New York	66	16
Connecticut	8	2
Other states	14	3

Table 8: Visitor destinations on their departure day

N=413 visitor groups;

percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding.

Destination	Number of respondents		<u>%</u>
Dingmans Falls	25		6
New York City	13	3	
Allentown	8		2
Stroudsburg	8		2
Bushkill	6		1
Parsippany	5		1
Smithfield	5		1
Other places	< 5 respondents per place		83

H. Information sources prior to visit

The survey asked visitors how they obtained information about Delaware Water Gap prior to their visit. Fifty-five percent of the visitor groups obtained their information from previous visit(s), while 42% received information from friends/relatives.

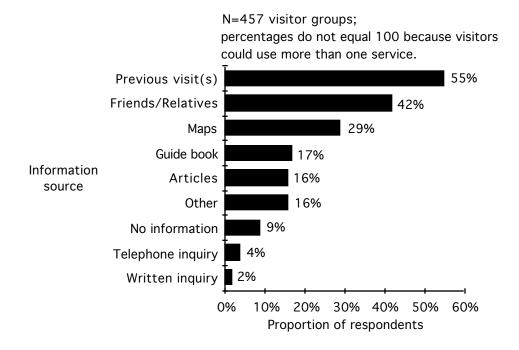


Figure 7: Information sources prior to visit

I. Interpretive/information services evaluation

Figure 8 shows that 51% of visitor groups used the road signs, 46% asked the park staff and 40% used the park folder/map. "Other" sources of information were identified as state of Pennsylvania booklets, and the Peters Valley newsletter.

Visitors rated the usefulness of each service. Figures 9-19 show that visitors commonly rated several services from "very" to "extremely useful": contact with park staff (68%), park folder/map (63%), and road signs (59%). The service rated lowest, from "somewhat" to "not useful", was the slide program/video (35%).

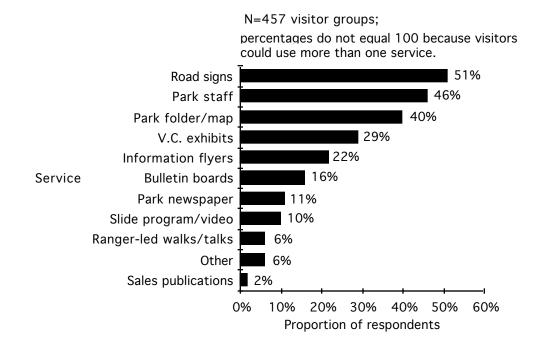


Figure 8: Proportion of visitors that used each information and interpretive service

I. Interpretive/information services evaluation (continued)

N=176 visitor groups; percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding. Extremely useful 37% 26% Very useful 16% Rating Moderately useful Somewhat useful 7% Not useful 15% 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 Number of respondents

Figure 9: Visitor ratings of park folder/map

N=93 visitor groups; percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding. 22% Extremely useful 32% Very useful 29% Rating Moderately useful Somewhat useful 7% Not useful 9% 0 5 10 15 20 25 30 Number of respondents

Figure 10: Visitor ratings of information flyers

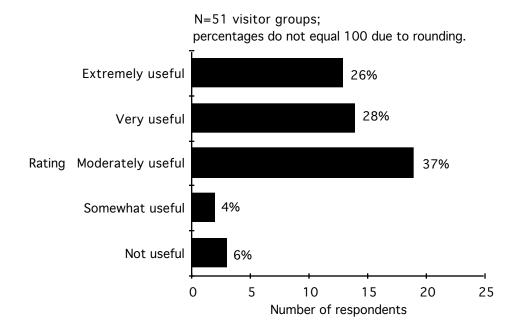


Figure 11: Visitor ratings of park newspaper

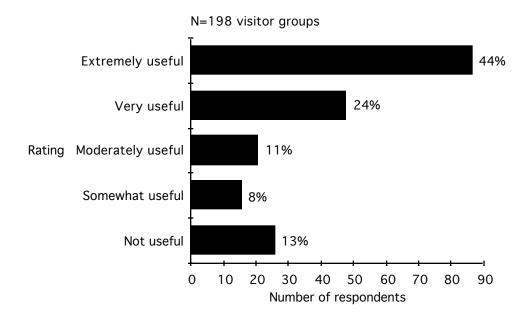


Figure 12: Visitor ratings of contact with park staff

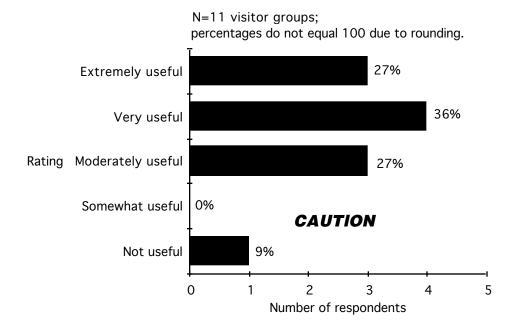


Figure 13: Visitor ratings of sales publications

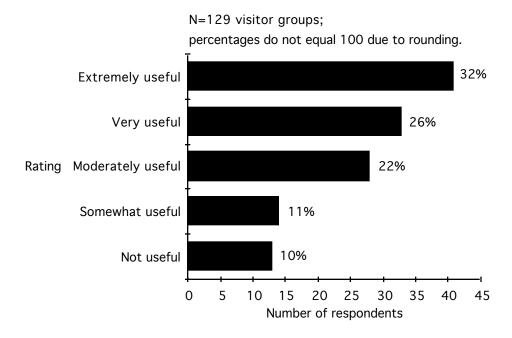


Figure 14: Visitor ratings of visitor center exhibits

N=42 visitor groups; percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding. 26% Extremely useful 17% Very useful 21% Rating Moderately useful 21% Somewhat useful Not useful 14% 0 9 3 6 12 15 Number of respondents

Figure 15: Visitor ratings of slide program/video

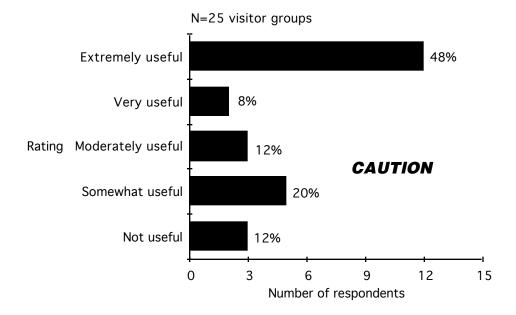


Figure 16: Visitor ratings of ranger-led walks/talks

N=221 visitor groups; percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding. Extremely useful 33% 26% Very useful 20% Rating Moderately useful Somewhat useful 12% 10% Not useful 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 Number of respondents

Figure 17: Visitor ratings of road signs

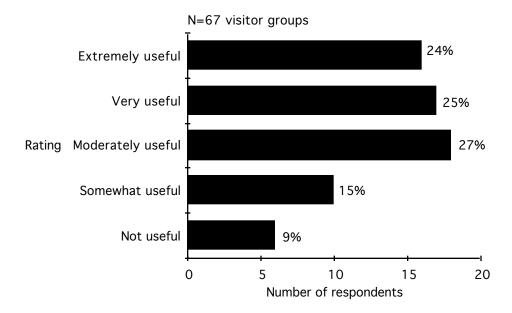


Figure 18: Visitor ratings of bulletin boards

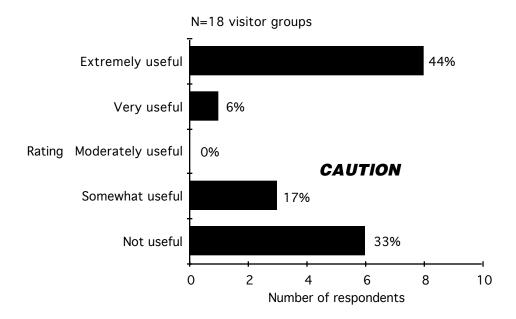


Figure 19: Visitor ratings of other sources of information

J. Visitors attending the Peters Valley Craft Fair

On the days of the Peters Valley Craft Fair (July 29-30), visitors were asked if they attended the Peters Valley Craft Fair. Figure 20 shows that 39% said yes and 61% said no. Those visitors who answered yes were then asked if this was the primary purpose of their visit. Figure 21 shows that 50% said yes and 50% said no.

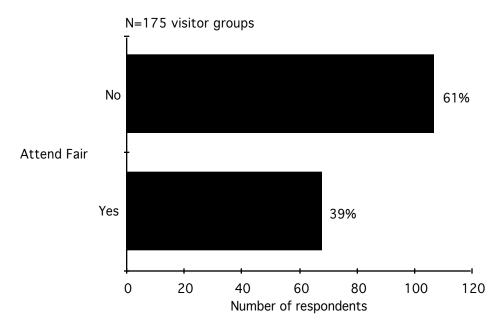


Figure 20: Did you attend the Peters Valley Craft Fair during your visit?

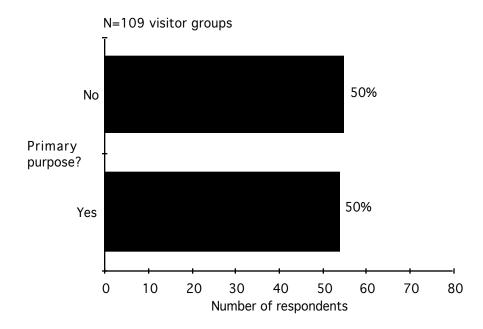


Figure 21: If yes, was this the primary purpose of your visit?

K. Visitor likes

Visitors specified what they liked most about their visit to Delaware Water Gap. Visitors especially liked the scenic beauty of the park, the park's well maintained and clean facilities, plus the peace and tranquility of Delaware Water Gap National Recreational Area (see Table 9).

Table 9: Visitor likes

N=863 comments; many visitors made more than one comment.

Comment	Number of times mentioned
PERSONNEL	
National Park Service	
Park staff friendly and helpful Helpful and friendly rangers Helpful/friendly lifeguards Visibility of rangers Dedication of staff Well staffed	21 12 4 2 1 1
Concession	
Canoe concessioners friendly and helpful Friendly bus driver Friendly canoe guides	1 1 1
INTERPRETIVE SERVICES	
Nonpersonal	
Visitor center Easy access to exhibits Visitor center exhibits Park well mapped out Information at visitor center	3 2 2 1 1
Personal	
Millbrook Village Ranger-led activities Craft workers Blacksmith at Millbrook	10 3 2 1

K. Visitor likes: FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE

FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE

uen	ierai	
 	Well maintained and clean park facilities Clean restrooms River accessibility Beach facilities Boat landing Easy access to area Restrooms nearby Resting places for elderly Signs in English Lots of trash containers	77 16 6 5 3 2 2 1 1
Roa	ds and Trails	
- ! -	Trails well kept Trails accessible Roads Trails well marked Shaded parking areas	15 5 3 2 1
Can	npgrounds and Picnic Areas	
	Campgrounds Picnic areas Size of campsites Childs Recreation Site Limited accessibility to campsites Firewood at campsite Limited number of campsites Secluded campsites Charcoal disposal facilities	8 7 6 2 2 1 1 1
POL	LICIES	
- : : :	Banning alcohol Traffic control Safe park Radios not loud Park well patrolled No fees for canoeing Being able to canoe without permission from park Supervised beach Crowd control	4 3 2 1 1 1 1 1

K. Visitor likes: CONCESSIONS

CONCESSIONS

Craft fair	12
Craft fair well organized	4
Craft village	4
Crafts for sale	3
Dingmans Campground	3 3 2
Peters Valley store	2
Canoe rentals	2
Craft classes	1
Anagama Kiln	1
Gun store	1
Milford theater	1
River trip	1
Greek food at craft fair	1
Singing at craft fair	1
Bookstore books informative	1
Food selection at craft fair	1

VISITOR SERVICES PROJECT

Sending a second questionnaire 1

GENERAL IMPRESSIONS

Scenic beauty of park	106
Peace and tranquility	59
Natural areas	31
Water falls	30
Clean river	27
Dingmans Falls	25
Wading and swimming	24
Nondeveloped commercial free space	20
Not crowded	20
Wildlife	20
Canoeing	19
Fishing	16
Hiking	12
Close to home	10
Nature trails	9
River	9
Weather	8
Rafting and tubing	8
Availability of recreation activities	8
Everything	7
Friendly people	7
Fresh air	7
Sightseeing	6
Camping	6
Childs Recreation Site	6

K. Visitor likes: GENERAL IMPRESSIONS (continued)

Woods Picnicking	6
Nature study	5 5
Silver Thread Falls	4
Lakes	4
Mountains	4
Flora	4
Boating	
History of area	3
River activities	3
Plan to return	3
Fun for children	3
Appalachian Trail	4 3 3 3 2 2 2 2
Getting exercise	2
Bushkill Falls	2
Inexpensive	2
Easy climbs	1
Access by foot	1
People watching	1
Buttermilk Falls	1
Horseback riding	1
Accessibility to beach	1
Photo opportunities	1
Shopping	1
Stop light on one lane road	1
No cars	1
Blueberries	1
Walpack area	1
New Jersey	1
Great show at craft fair	1

L. Visitor dislikes

Visitors specified what they disliked most about their visit to Delaware Water Gap. They especially disliked a lack of signs to points of interest, the restrooms not being cleaned, traffic and the bugs in the park (see Table 10).

Table 10: Visitor dislikes

N=414 comments;

many visitors made more than one comment.

Comment	Number of times mentioned
PERSONNEL	
National Park Service	
Unfriendly NPS personnel Kittatiny Point Visitor Center ranger uninformed Rangers on boat patrol not friendly	1 1 1
Concession	
Peters Valley store personnel rude Teenage tour guide at local park	1 1
INTERPRETIVE SERVICES	
Nonpersonal	
Not enough park brochures available Maps/brochures confusing Visitor center needs repairs Visitor center bookstore too commercial	3 3 1 1
FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE	
General	
Lack of signs to points of interest No directional signs on river for canoeist Not enough swimming areas Hard to find drinking fountains Climbing steps Cobblestone river area slippery Thunder Mountain Boat pass too shallow and narrow No playground area for children Water Gap overlook Not enough trash cans at Childs Recreation Site	20 4 3 2 2 2 1 1 1 1

L. Visitor dislikes: FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE (continued)

Steps on trails too far apart	1
Steps at Dingmans Falls	1
Fence not safe at falls	1
Not enough trash cans on trails	1
Falls area not accessible to handicapped	1
Signs should only be in English	1
River buoys	1
Signs not in other languages	1

Roads and Trails

Bumpy roads	3
Narrow roads	
Lack of parking spaces	3
Highway 209 traffic light	1
Highway 209 traffic	1
One lane road to Peters Valley	1
Lack of benches on trails	1
Trails not accessible	1
Lack of marked trails	1
No reflectors on roads for night driving	1
Potholes	1

Buildings and utilities

Restrooms not clean	20
Not enough restrooms	3
No running water in restrooms	1
Lack of facilities for handicapped and senior citizens	1
Open more buildings	1
Restrooms hard to find	1
Restrooms at Dingmans Falls closed too early	1
Childs Recreation Site restrooms closed	1
No showers	1

Campgrounds and Picnic Areas

Too much litter at campgrounds	9
Not enough picnic tables	6
Camping sites not separate	1
Campsites not accessible by river	1
Not enough campsites	1
Grills unsatisfactory	1
No barbecue grills	1
More charcoal grills and picnic tables at access areas	1
No pavilions in park	1

L. Visitor dislikes: ENFORCEMENT

ENFORCEMENT

Traffic	21
Noisy and drinking youth at campsite	4
Loud radios	4
People drinking on river	3
No access to emergency facilities	3 2
Noisy groups on river	2
Bridge tolls	2
People using foul language	1
Dogs at craft fair	1
Roped in area at Catfish Pond	1
Quiet time should be 11:00 P.M.	1
Enforce stiff fines on people who litter	1
People forced to sell houses on river	1
No park rangers on river	1
People spear fishing and throwing fish back	1
People swimming in boat access areas	1
Nude males at Sunfish Pond	1

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Bugs	16
Area being overdeveloped	8
Too much litter in river	6
River polluted	5
Dead fish in river	4
Oil film on river	4
Lousy fishing	3
Shore needs more sand and cleaning	2
Lack of beach areas	1
Flowers not in bloom	1
Rocks in water	1
Abandoned run-down buildings	1
Park not large enough	1
Steep hills	1
Wasps	1
Acid rain on trees	1
Cut down trees at lookout point	1
River unfit for swimming	1
Polluted water at Dingmans Falls	1
Traffic noise	1
Vandalism to Trai bridges	1

CONCESSIONS

General

Lack of refreshment stands in the park	8
Peters Valley Craft Village	3

L. Visitor dislikes: CONCESSIONS (continued)

Millbrook Village closed Lack of refreshment stand at Dingmans Falls Dingmans Campground too close to highway Dingmans Campground too expensive Not enough gas stations Peters Valley shops closed Dingmans Campground run down Dingmans Campground store does not open until 10 a.m. No good spots to swim at Dingmans Campground Dingmans Campground gate closes too soon Dingmans Campground has limited camping areas Outhouses at Worthington State Park Shawnee breakfast	3 2 2 2 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
Canoe and Raft Rentals	
Canoe rental prices too high Waiting for vans after raft trip Canoe trip had no current and no breeze Canoe trip too short	4 1 1 1
Craft Fair	
Craft items too expensive Too crowded Not enough variety No restaurants nearby Long food lines Weather too hot Provide water at craft fair Too much jewelry displayed Poor choice of food vendors Entrance fee too high Bus tour to kiln Lines too long at porta-johns Not enough craft demonstrations Craft demonstrations not raised up over crowd Parking arrangements	4 4 3 2 2 2 1 1 1 1 1 1
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE	
NPS needs to run campground NPS needs to advertise better NPS a blend of amusement park and a police state	2 1 1
GENERAL IMPRESSIONS	
No complaints Too crowded Weather	51 10 <i>7</i>

L. Visitor dislikes: GENERAL IMPRESSIONS (continued)

Storm	6
People in motor boats	4
Too many canoes on river	3
Not enough time	2
Smithfield Beach too crowded	2
Everything	1
Fishhook in friend's foot	1
Tipping canoe over in river	1
Obnoxious city people	1
Scenery	1
Too many private holdings in park	1
No entrance fees	1
Camping and picnic activities	1
Vandalism of fire rings	1
Not much to do on rainy days	1
Leaving	1
New Yorkers in the area	1
Jet skis	1
Visitors climbing falls	1
Everything closes too early	1
Park incohesive	1

M. Comment summary - Introduction

Volume 2 of this report contains unedited comments made by visitors. A summary of these comments appears below, and is included in Volume 2. Some comments offer specific suggestions regarding what visitors feel is necessary for the park's survival, others reflect perceived needs for policies, programs, services and facilities toward the improvement of visitor experiences. A wide variety of topics are mentioned, including natural features, personnel, maintenance and regulations.

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Concession	
Dingmans Campground residents give bad impressio Artist friendly and helpful	n 1 1
INTERPRETIVE SERVICES	
Nonpersonal	
Park needs to publicize its events & services better Park brochure/map not clear Would like to be on park mailing list Need more information on primitive camping areas Set up information booths at park entrances Improve slide show at Dingmans Visitor Center Place Raymondskill Falls on map Appreciate receiving park newspaper in mail	4 3 2 2 1 1 1

М.	Comment summary: INTERPRETIVE SERVICES (continu	ued)
	Need a self-guided auto tour through Walpack Exhibit centers fun for children Park needs to advertise phone number better	1 1 1
Рe	rsonal	
	More park sponsored concerts	1
FA	CILITIES AND MAINTENANCE	
Ge	neral	
	Clean, well maintained park Remove stones from beaches Need more boat launches Beaches need sand not rocks More activity areas needed More garbage cans needed Park needs more handicapped facilities Increase scenic pull off areas Childrens playground needed Overlook of Gap needed More "Caution Bicycles" signs needed More markers on river	16 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
Ro	ads and Trails	
	Need better trail signs More river access More parking areas Trails in good shape Appalachian Trail is clean Too much toilet paper on Appalachian Trail More water fountains along Appalachian Trail Enjoyed trails Need better road signs Need more road signs Park roads need bigger shoulders Fix blinking traffic light at 739/209 intersection Appreciate easy river access Fix road at Crater Lake More access roads needed More access to fishing areas needed	3 3 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
Bu	ildings and utilities	
	More restrooms needed Restrooms dirty Water pump at Dunfield parking area broken More water pumps needed Preserve Millbrook Village buildings better	7 5 1 1

M. Comment summary: FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE (continued)

Campgrounds and Picnic Areas

More picnic facilities needed	3
More campsites on river	2
More signs on where to camp	2
Install showers	2
Better maintenance at campsites	2
Need more grilling areas	1
Dump station needed	1
Campsites nice	1

POLICIES

Do not allow development inside park	15
Don't make park a reservoir	2
Patrol river more	2
Appreciates no alcohol policy	1
Restrict radio noise pollution	1
Opposes commercialization of park	1
Closing 209 to heavy traffic a good idea	1
Fix traffic light on 209	1
Increase speed limit on 209	1
Keep patrolling 209 for speeders	1
Canoeists need to be better regulated	1
Childs Recreation Site name too confusing	1
Appreciate speed limit on boats	1
Stop soccer playing at Smithfield Beach	1
Keep Dingmans Campground open until midnight	1
Impose stiffer penalties for river polluters	1
Approves of 45 miles an hour speed limit	1
Keep power boats off river	1
Need a strict catch and release policy	1
Enforce leash law	1
One fishing license should cover whole park	1
Too many drunken boaters	1

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Expand park boundaries	3
Encourage recycling in the park	2
Distribute garbage bags to canoeists	1
Drop seeds from helicopters to plant foliage for animals	1
Caught a twenty inch, two pound, ocean striped bass	1
Pick up dead animals on park roads	1
River too polluted	1
Sell firewood to prevent deforestation	1
Label plants, caught poison ivy	1
Publicize lyme tick problem more	1

M. Comment summary: CONCESSIONS

CONCESSIONS

General

Gonordi	
Need more food services Peters Valley needs to offer horseback riding Peters Valley complex inappropriate for area Craft classes need to be better advertised Upgrade Peters Valley to a real craft village Peters Valley a great place to visit Keep supporting craft workshops Post mechanical and towing services in park Build a dock and gas station on Smithfield Beach Build a hotel at Smithfield Beach Dingmans Camp ground too expensive Dingmans toll bridge too noisy Enjoyed Stokes State Park	3 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
Canoe and Raft Rentals	
The park should have its own canoe rentals Canoe trip too expensive	1 1
Craft Fair	
Craft fair too expensive Will not return to craft fair Need a better variety of novelties to purchase Craft fair a disappointment Likes new craft fair location Enjoyed craft fair Wants craft fair twice a year Craft fair needs better directional signs	4 4 3 3 1 1 1
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE	
NPS does a good job at DWGNRA NPS should buy more undeveloped land NPS needs to be more involved in the community NPS should sell park back to N.J. utility and farmers Bring back the Youth Conservation Corps	1 1 1 1
VISITOR SERVICES PROJECT	
Thanks for asking opinions Survey a good idea Thanks for sending replacement questionnaire Sorry took long to return questionnaire	4 1 1 1

1

M. Comment summary: GENERAL IMPRESSIONS

GENERAL IMPRESSIONS

Enjoyed visit	61
Hope or plan to return	36
Come here often	31
Keep up the good work	15
Scenery beautiful	15
Not enough time	7
Keep park beautiful	6
Glad park is close to home	5
Park becoming over crowded	5 5 3
Saw wildlife	3
More of our tax money should go to parks	1
Reroute I-80 due to noise pollution	1
Never realized park was so large	1
Keep all areas of park open on weekdays	1
Provide less services	1
Liked canoeing alone	1
Don't build a miniature golf course	1
Would like to live here	1
Some park visitors ignorant	1

MENU FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS

Park personnel who wish to see other tables, graphs, and maps in order to learn more about their visitors may request such information from the VSP. Two kinds of analyses are available:

- 1) Two-way comparisons compare two characteristics at a time. For example, if knowledge is desired about which information services a particular age group consulted, request a comparison of <u>information services</u> by age group; if knowledge about how the use of information services varied among group types is required, request a comparison of information services by group type.
- 2) Three-way comparisons compare a two-way comparison to a third characteristic. For example, if knowledge is desired about participation in activities by different group types, and sizes, request a comparison of <u>visitor activities</u> by group type by group size; if knowledge about which activities different age groups by group size participated in is needed, request a comparison of <u>visitor activities</u> by age group by group size.

Consult the complete list of the characteristics for which information was collected from Delaware Water Gap visitors. Simply select the variables from the list and write them in the spaces provided for either two-way or three way comparisons. Blank order forms follow the example below.

SAMPLE

Analysis Order Form Visitor Services Project Report 26 (Delaware Water Gap)

Date of request:	//	
Person requesting a	analysis:	
Phone number (cor	mmercial):	
survey conducted in	n your park. Consult thi	bles available for comparison from the visitor s list for naming the characteristics of ay and three-way comparisons.
• Group size	 Number of visits 	Trip destination
• Group type	Length of stay	 Interview distribution site
• Age	Activity	 Information/interpretive service used
• State residence	·	
• Entry day	·	
• Entry time	• Trip origin	• Fair purpose for visit
Two-way compariso	ons (please write in the	e appropriate variables from the above list)
	by	
	by	
	by	
Three-way compari	sons (please write in tl	ne appropriate variables from the above list)
	by	by
	by	by
	by	by
Special instructions	s.	
opecial instructions	3	

Mail to:
Cooperative Park Studies Unit
College of Forestry, Wildlife, and Range Sciences
University of Idaho
Moscow, Idaho 83843

APPENDIX

Questionnaire

Publications of the Visitor Services Project

A number of publications have been prepared as part of the Visitor Services Project. Reports 1-4 are available at cost from the University of Idaho Cooperative Park Studies Unit upon request. All other reports are available from the respective parks in which the studies were conducted.

Report #	<u>Title</u>
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, 1984.
3.	Mapping interpretive services: A follow-up study at Yellowstone National Park and Mt. Rushmore National Memorial, 1984.
4.	Mapping visitor populations: A pilot study at Yellowstone National Park, 1984.
5.	North Cascades National Park Service Complex, 1985.
6.	Crater Lake National Park, 1986.
7.	Gettysburg National Military Park, 1987.
8.	Independence National Historical Park, 1987.
9.	Valley Forge National Historical Park, 1987.
10.	Colonial National Historical Park, 1988.
11.	Grand Teton National Park, 1988.
12.	Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, 1988.
13.	Mesa Verde National Park, 1988.
14.	Shenandoah National Park, 1988.
15.	Yellowstone National Park, 1988.
16.	Independence National Historical Park: Four Seasons Study, 1988.
17.	Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, 1989.
18.	Denali National Park and Preserve, 1989.
19.	Bryce Canyon National Park, 1989.
20.	Craters of the Moon National Monument, 1989.
21.	Everglades National Park, 1989.

For more information about the Visitor Services Project, please contact Dr. Gary E. Machlis, University of Idaho Cooperative Park Studies Unit, College of Forestry, Wildlife and Range Sciences, Moscow, Idaho 83843 or call (208) 885-7129.

Visitor Services Project

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area

Volume 2 of 2

Visitor Services Project

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area

Volume 2 of 2

Dwight L. Madison

Gary E. Machlis

Report 26

January 1990

This volume contains a summary to Questions 9, 10, 11, made by visitors who participated in the study. This summary is followed by their unedited comments.

Dwight Madison is the VSP Eastern Coordinator, and Dr. Machlis is Sociology Project Leader, both with the Cooperative Park Studies Unit, National Park Service, University of Idaho. We thank the VSP interview team: Dana Dolsen, Jean McKendry, Ginny Aley and the staff at Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area for their assistance with this study. The VSP acknowledges the Public Opinion Lab of the Social and Economic Sciences Research Center, Washington State University for their technical assistance.

K. Visitor likes

Visitors specified what they liked most about their visit to Delaware Water Gap. Visitors especially liked the scenic beauty of the park, the park's well maintained and clean facilities, plus the peace and tranquility of Delaware Water Gap National Recreational Area (see Table 9).

Table 9: Visitor likes

N=863 comments; many visitors made more than one comment.

Comment	Number of times mentioned	
PERSONNEL		
National Park Service		
Park staff friendly and helpful Helpful and friendly rangers Helpful/friendly lifeguards Visibility of rangers Dedication of staff Well staffed	21 12 4 2 1 1	
Concession		
Canoe concessioners friendly and helpful Friendly bus driver Friendly canoe guides	1 1 1	
INTERPRETIVE SERVICES		
Nonpersonal		
Visitor center Easy access to exhibits Visitor center exhibits Park well mapped out Information at visitor center	3 2 2 1 1	
Personal		
Millbrook Village Ranger-led activities Craft workers Blacksmith at Millbrook	10 3 2 1	

K. Visitor likes: FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE

FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE

delleral	
Well maintained and clean park facilities Clean restrooms River accessibility Beach facilities Boat landing Easy access to area Restrooms nearby Resting places for elderly Signs in English Lots of trash containers	77 16 6 5 3 2 2 1 1
Roads and Trails	
Trails well kept Trails accessible Roads Trails well marked Shaded parking areas	15 5 3 2 1
Campgrounds and Picnic Areas	
Campgrounds Picnic areas Size of campsites Childs Recreation Site Limited accessibility to campsites Firewood at campsite Limited number of campsites Secluded campsites Charcoal disposal facilities	8 7 6 2 2 1 1 1
POLICIES	
Banning alcohol Traffic control Safe park Radios not loud Park well patrolled No fees for canoeing Being able to canoe without permission from park Supervised beach Crowd control	4 3 2 1 1 1 1 1

K. Visitor likes: CONCESSIONS

CONCESSIONS

Craft fair	12
Craft fair well organized	4
Craft village	4
Crafts for sale	3
Dingmans Campground	3 3 2
Peters Valley store	2
Canoe rentals	2
Craft classes	1
Anagama Kiln	1
Gun store	1
Milford theater	1
River trip	1
Greek food at craft fair	1
Singing at craft fair	1
Bookstore books informative	1
Food selection at craft fair	1

VISITOR SERVICES PROJECT

Sending a second questionnaire 1

GENERAL IMPRESSIONS

Scenic beauty of park	106
Peace and tranquility	59
Natural areas	31
Water falls	30
Clean river	27
Dingmans Falls	25
Wading and swimming	24
Nondeveloped commercial free space	20
Not crowded	20
Wildlife	20
Canoeing	19
Fishing	16
Hiking	12
Close to home	10
Nature trails	9
River	9
Weather	8
Rafting and tubing	8
Availability of recreation activities	8
Everything	7
Friendly people	7
Fresh air	7
Sightseeing	6
Camping	6
Childs Recreation Site	6

K. Visitor likes: GENERAL IMPRESSIONS (continued)

Woods	6
Picnicking	5 5
Nature study	5
Silver Thread Falls	4
Lakes	4
Mountains	4
Flora	4
Boating	4
History of area	3
River activities	3
Plan to return	3
Fun for children	3
Appalachian Trail	3 3 3 2 2 2 2
Getting exercise	2
Bushkill Falls	2
Inexpensive	
Easy climbs	1
Access by foot	1
People watching	1
Buttermilk Falls	1
Horseback riding	1
Accessibility to beach	1
Photo opportunities	1
Shopping	1
Stop light on one lane road	1
No cars	1
Blueberries	1
Walpack area	1
New Jersey	1
Great show at craft fair	1

L. Visitor dislikes

Visitors specified what they disliked most about their visit to Delaware Water Gap. They especially disliked a lack of signs to points of interest, the restrooms not being cleaned, traffic and the bugs in the park (see Table 10).

Table 10: Visitor dislikes

N=414 comments;

many visitors made more than one comment.

Comment	Number of times mentioned
PERSONNEL	
National Park Service	
Unfriendly NPS personnel Kittatiny Point Visitor Center ranger uninformed Rangers on boat patrol not friendly	1 1 1
Concession	
Peters Valley store personnel rude Teenage tour guide at local park	1 1
INTERPRETIVE SERVICES	
Nonpersonal	
Not enough park brochures available Maps/brochures confusing Visitor center needs repairs Visitor center bookstore too commercial	3 3 1 1
FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE	
General	
Lack of signs to points of interest No directional signs on river for canoeist Not enough swimming areas Hard to find drinking fountains Climbing steps Cobblestone river area slippery Thunder Mountain Boat pass too shallow and narrow No playground area for children Water Gap overlook Not enough trash cans at Childs Recreation Site	20 4 3 2 2 2 1 1 1 1

L. Visitor dislikes: FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE (continued)

Steps on trails too far apart	1
Steps at Dingmans Falls	1
Fence not safe at falls	1
Not enough trash cans on trails	1
Falls area not accessible to handicapped	1
Signs should only be in English	1
River buoys	1
Signs not in other languages	1

Roads and Trails

Bumpy roads	8
Narrow roads	5
Lack of parking spaces	3
Highway 209 traffic light	1
Highway 209 traffic	1
One lane road to Peters Valley	1
Lack of benches on trails	1
Trails not accessible	1
Lack of marked trails	1
No reflectors on roads for night driving	1
Potholes	1

Buildings and utilities

Restrooms not clean	20
Not enough restrooms	3
No running water in restrooms	1
Lack of facilities for handicapped and senior citizens	1
Open more buildings	1
Restrooms hard to find	1
Restrooms at Dingmans Falls closed too early	1
Childs Recreation Site restrooms closed	1
No showers	1

Campgrounds and Picnic Areas

Too much litter at campgrounds	9
Not enough picnic tables	6
Camping sites not separate	1
Campsites not accessible by river	1
Not enough campsites	1
Grills unsatisfactory	1
No barbecue grills	1
More charcoal grills and picnic tables at access areas	1
No pavilions in park	1

L. Visitor dislikes: ENFORCEMENT

ENFORCEMENT

Traffic	21
Noisy and drinking youth at campsite	4
Loud radios	4
People drinking on river	3
No access to emergency facilities	3
Noisy groups on river	2
Bridge tolls	2
People using foul language	1
Dogs at craft fair	1
Roped in area at Catfish Pond	1
Quiet time should be 11:00 P.M.	1
Enforce stiff fines on people who litter	1
People forced to sell houses on river	1
No park rangers on river	1
People spear fishing and throwing fish back	1
People swimming in boat access areas	1
Nude males at Sunfish Pond	1

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Bugs	16
Area being overdeveloped	8
Too much litter in river	6
River polluted	5
Dead fish in river	4
Oil film on river	4
Lousy fishing	3
Shore needs more sand and cleaning	2
Lack of beach areas	1
Flowers not in bloom	1
Rocks in water	1
Abandoned run-down buildings	1
Park not large enough	1
Steep hills	1
Wasps	1
Acid rain on trees	1
Cut down trees at lookout point	1
River unfit for swimming	1
Polluted water at Dingmans Falls	1
Traffic noise	1
Vandalism to Trai bridges	1

CONCESSIONS

General

Lack of refreshment stands in the park	8
Peters Valley Craft Village	3

L. Visitor dislikes: CONCESSIONS (continued)

Millbrook Village closed Lack of refreshment stand at Dingmans Falls Dingmans Campground too close to highway Dingmans Campground too expensive Not enough gas stations Peters Valley shops closed Dingmans Campground run down Dingmans Campground store does not open until 10 a.m. No good spots to swim at Dingmans Campground Dingmans Campground gate closes too soon Dingmans Campground has limited camping areas Outhouses at Worthington State Park Shawnee breakfast	3 2 2 2 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE	
NPS needs to run campground NPS needs to advertise better NPS a blend of amusement park and a police state	2 1 1
GENERAL IMPRESSIONS	
No complaints Too crowded Weather	51 10 <i>7</i>

L. Visitor dislikes: GENERAL IMPRESSIONS (continued)

Storm People in motor boats	6 4
Too many canoes on river	3
Not enough time	2
Smithfield Beach too crowded	2
Everything	1
Fishhook in friend's foot	1
Tipping canoe over in river	1
Obnoxious city people	1
Scenery	1
Too many private holdings in park	1
No entrance fees	1
Camping and picnic activities	1
Vandalism of fire rings	1
Not much to do on rainy days	1
Leaving	1
New Yorkers in the area	1
Jet skis	1
Visitors climbing falls	1
Everything closes too early	1
Park incohesive	1

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Dingmans Campground residents give bad impressio Artist friendly and helpful	on 1 1	
INTERPRETIVE SERVICES		
Nonpersonal		
Park needs to publicize its events & services better Park brochure/map not clear Would like to be on park mailing list Need more information on primitive camping areas Set up information booths at park entrances Improve slide show at Dingmans Visitor Center Place Raymondskill Falls on map Appreciate receiving park newspaper in mail	4 3 2 2 1 1 1	

М.	Comment summary: INTERPRETIVE SERVICES (c	ontinued)
	Need a self-guided auto tour through Walpack Exhibit centers fun for children Park needs to advertise phone number better	1 1 1
Pe	rsonal	
	More park sponsored concerts	1
FΑ	CILITIES AND MAINTENANCE	
Ge	neral	
	Clean, well maintained park Remove stones from beaches Need more boat launches Beaches need sand not rocks More activity areas needed More garbage cans needed Park needs more handicapped facilities Increase scenic pull off areas Childrens playground needed Overlook of Gap needed More "Caution Bicycles" signs needed More markers on river	16 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
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	Need better trail signs More river access More parking areas Trails in good shape Appalachian Trail is clean Too much toilet paper on Appalachian Trail More water fountains along Appalachian Trail Enjoyed trails Need better road signs Need more road signs Park roads need bigger shoulders Fix blinking traffic light at 739/209 intersection Appreciate easy river access Fix road at Crater Lake More access roads needed More access to fishing areas needed	3 3 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
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	More restrooms needed Restrooms dirty Water pump at Dunfield parking area broken More water pumps needed Preserve Millbrook Village buildings better	7 5 1 1 1

M. Comment summary: FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE (continued)

Campgrounds and Picnic Areas

More picnic facilities needed	3
More campsites on river	2
More signs on where to camp	2
Install showers	2
Better maintenance at campsites	2
Need more grilling areas	1
Dump station needed	1
Campsites nice	1

POLICIES

Do not allow development inside park	15
Don't make park a reservoir	2
Patrol river more	2
Appreciates no alcohol policy	1
Restrict radio noise pollution	1
Opposes commercialization of park	1
Closing 209 to heavy traffic a good idea	1
Fix traffic light on 209	1
Increase speed limit on 209	1
Keep patrolling 209 for speeders	1
Canoeists need to be better regulated	1
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Appreciate speed limit on boats	1
Stop soccer playing at Smithfield Beach	1
Keep Dingmans Campground open until midnight	1
Impose stiffer penalties for river polluters	1
Approves of 45 miles an hour speed limit	1
Keep power boats off river	1
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Enforce leash law	1
One fishing license should cover whole park	1
Too many drunken boaters	1

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Expand park boundaries	3
Encourage recycling in the park	2
Distribute garbage bags to canoeists	1
Drop seeds from helicopters to plant foliage for animals	1
Caught a twenty inch, two pound, ocean striped bass	1
Pick up dead animals on park roads	1
River too polluted	1
Sell firewood to prevent deforestation	1
Label plants, caught poison ivy	1
Publicize lyme tick problem more	1

M. Comment summary: CONCESSIONS

CONCESSIONS

General

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Need more food services Peters Valley needs to offer horseback riding Peters Valley complex inappropriate for area Craft classes need to be better advertised Upgrade Peters Valley to a real craft village Peters Valley a great place to visit Keep supporting craft workshops Post mechanical and towing services in park Build a dock and gas station on Smithfield Beach Build a hotel at Smithfield Beach Dingmans Camp ground too expensive Dingmans toll bridge too noisy Enjoyed Stokes State Park	3 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
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NPS does a good job at DWGNRA NPS should buy more undeveloped land NPS needs to be more involved in the community NPS should sell park back to N.J. utility and farmers Bring back the Youth Conservation Corps	1 1 1 1
VISITOR SERVICES PROJECT	
Thanks for asking opinions Survey a good idea Thanks for sending replacement questionnaire Sorry took long to return questionnaire	4 1 1 1

1

M. Comment summary: GENERAL IMPRESSIONS

GENERAL IMPRESSIONS

Enjoyed visit	61
Hope or plan to return	36
Come here often	31
Keep up the good work	15
Scenery beautiful	15
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Keep park beautiful	6
Glad park is close to home	
Park becoming over crowded	5 5 3
Saw wildlife	3
More of our tax money should go to parks	1
Reroute I-80 due to noise pollution	1
Never realized park was so large	1
Keep all areas of park open on weekdays	1
Provide less services	1
Liked canoeing alone	1
Don't build a miniature golf course	1
Would like to live here	1
Some park visitors ignorant	1