

Appendix C
Oregon Resident Component of
Recreation Visitor Survey Results

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Visitor Survey Results**

**Lewis River Hydroelectric Projects
FERC Nos. 2111, 2213, 2071, and 935**

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OREGON RESIDENT COMPONENT OF RECREATION VISITOR SURVEY RESULTS: COMPARISON OF OREGON RESIDENT AND NON-OREGON RESIDENT VISITORS

This document, originally created as a technical memo, reports the results of a detailed analysis of recreation surveys based on the permanent residence of visitors to the study area. Interpretation of the results is limited in scope, as there were few significant differences determined by the analysis.

Study Objectives

The objective of this analysis was to describe potential differences between Oregon resident visitors to the study area and non-Oregon resident visitors to the study area.

Study Area

The study area can be defined as the upper Lewis River Basin (focusing on the project reservoirs) and portions of the Kalama River Basin. The study area for the surveys included developed recreation sites adjacent to the three project reservoirs.

Methods

A significance test was run for all of the variables in the surveys to determine if any differences in the results were statistically significant. Only results to questions where differences were significant are shown below. For those questions where every variable was not significant (see the first table), individual significance is shown. The methods for the various visitor surveys are described in the 1998 Lewis River Recreation Survey Results document.

Study Results

The results of the selected analyses performed are shown below. N values vary depending on question. Those with higher n values (n = 401 and n = 1100) are questions that were asked on both the 1998 Swift/Merwin long survey and the 1998 Yale short survey. Results with the lower n values (n = 173 and n = 599) are questions that were only asked on the 1998 Swift/Merwin survey.

Differences are mostly based on activities, destinations, frequency of visit, and fees. There are no differences on crowding, primary activity, age, gender, or activity specific questions.

Activity participation.

| Activity | Portland (n = 173) | Non-Portland (n = 599) | Significant |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Relaxation | 70.5 | 76.5 | |
| Spending time with family | 67.1 | 69.1 | |
| Sunbathing/swimming | 75.1 | 64.9 | * |
| Tent camping | 49.7 | 41.9 | |
| Picnicking | 47.4 | 41.6 | |
| Hiking/walking | 35.8 | 34.9 | |
| Sightseeing | 33.5 | 28.7 | |
| Power boating | 39.9 | 23.9 | * |
| Waterskiing | 41.6 | 22.4 | * |
| Fishing from shore | 14.5 | 26.2 | * |
| Fishing from boat | 17.9 | 23.0 | |
| RV camping | 15.0 | 20.5 | |
| Jetskiing/personal watercraft use | 20.8 | 12.0 | * |
| Mountain/road biking | 13.3 | 13.5 | |
| Kayak/canoe/row/raft/tube | 11.6 | 10.0 | |
| Nature study/photography | 9.2 | 6.3 | * |
| Caving/rock climbing | 5.8 | 2.7 | * |
| Hunting | 0.0 | 2.0 | |
| Backpacking | 1.7 | 1.2 | * |
| Sailing | 2.3 | 0.3 | * |
| Windsurfing | 0.6 | 0.3 | * |
| Horseback riding | 0.0 | 0.2 | |

Source: PacifiCorp and Cowlitz PUD, 2000.

Portland visitors participate in more active water-based activities.
Non-Portland visitors fish from shore more frequently.

Primary destination of visitors (of those planning on visiting areas other than the site they were contacted at).

| Destination | Portland (n = 133)¹ | Non-Portland (n = 405)¹ | Significant |
|--|---|---|--------------------|
| Mount St. Helens Nat. Vol. Mon./Ape Cave/Lava Canyon | 62.4 | 48.9 | * |
| Yale Lake | 36.8 | 39.8 | * |
| Lake Merwin | 27.1 | 35.3 | * |
| Swift Reservoir | 18.0 | 29.9 | * |
| Gifford Pinchot National Forest | 13.5 | 32.3 | * |
| Private RV parks/resorts | 9.0 | 13.1 | * |
| Merrill Lake | 7.5 | 17.5 | * |
| Lewis River area upstream of Swift Reservoir | 6.8 | 19.5 | * |
| Lewis River area downstream of Merwin Dam | 6.0 | 10.6 | * |
| Private timber lands in the Lewis River area | 6.0 | 6.9 | |
| Siouxon lands | 1.5 | 7.4 | * |

Source: PacifiCorp and Cowlitz PUD, 2000.

¹ Only those visiting areas other than the site contacted. Of Portland visitors 133 out of 401 (33.2%) were visiting other locations, while 405 out of 1100 (36.8%) of non-Portland visitors were visiting other locations. Visitors could indicate more than one destination.

In general, non-Portland visitors visit more locations, and are more mobile. The only location Portland visitors visit more than Non-Portland visitors is MSHNVM.

Number of visits to the area.

| Response | Portland (n = 173) | Non-Portland (n = 599) |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Once per year | 24.9 | 12.6 |
| 2 to 5 times per year | 49.1 | 39.5 |
| 6 to 10 times per year | 17.8 | 22.1 |
| Over 10 times per year | 8.3 | 25.9 |

Source: PacifiCorp and Cowlitz PUD, 2000.

Portland visitors do not come to the area as frequently

Number of times camping per year.

| Response | Portland (n = 173) | Non-Portland (n = 599) |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Once per year | 31.4 | 18.1 |
| 2 to 5 times per year | 61.8 | 54.8 |
| 6 to 10 times per year | 6.9 | 15.7 |
| Over 10 times per year | 0.0 | 11.4 |

Source: PacifiCorp and Cowlitz PUD, 2000.

Similar to overall visits, Portland visitors camp somewhat less per year.

Change in visitation due to fees.

| Response | Portland (n = 401) | Non-Portland (n = 1100) |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| I'll visit the area more | 3.0 | 3.2 |
| I'll visit the area the same amount | 77.2 | 64.7 |
| I'll visit the area less | 14.9 | 23.2 |
| I won't visit the area anymore | 4.8 | 8.9 |

Source: PacifiCorp and Cowlitz PUD, 2000.

Non-Portland visitors are more likely to visit the area less in response to fee increases. Portlanders are more likely to continue to come to the reservoirs despite fee increases.

Opinion of camping fees.

| Response | Portland (n = 173) | Non-Portland (n = 599) |
|-----------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Okay | 87.0 | 69.4 |
| Too High | 12.0 | 29.4 |
| Too Low | 1.0 | 1.2 |

Source: PacifiCorp and Cowlitz PUD, 2000.

Portland visitors are more accepting of fees, perhaps because they are used to higher prices and/or are more affluent.

Importance of issues to visitors.

| Response | Portland (n = 173) | Non-Portland (n = 599) |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Water level of lake | 34.7 | 20.9 |
| Number of other watercraft | 42.2 | 21.2 |
| Speed of other watercraft | 39.3 | 22.7 |
| Waiting time at boat ramp | 33.5 | 19.4 |

Source: PacifiCorp and Cowlitz PUD, 2000.

Percentages shown in table are a combination of visitor responses that these issues are either somewhat or very important.

Portland visitors boat more frequently, thus these issues are more important.

Waiting for a boat launch.

| Response | Portland (n = 173) | Non-Portland (n = 599) |
|-----------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Yes | 27.7 | 14.4 |
| No | 72.3 | 85.6 |

Source: PacifiCorp and Cowlitz PUD, 2000.

Same as above. Portland visitors participate more frequently in water-based activities and therefore are more likely to have to wait to use a boat launch.

Group size.

| Response | Portland (n = 401) | Non-Portland (n = 1100) |
|------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Number of people | 11.1 | 7.7 |

Source: PacifiCorp and Cowlitz PUD, 2000.

Bigger groups from Portland. Could be multi-family groups.