

Visitor Use Monitoring (VUM) Surveys

Engaging State Forest and State Parks Visitors



Visitor Use Monitoring (VUM) surveys are conducted by Penn State University to complete a systematic approach for answering questions about Pennsylvania State Forest and State Park visitors.

Pennsylvania is the first and only State Forest system to adopt this approach from the US Forest Service for monitoring recreational use. These reports are part of a current 5-year agreement with Penn State University which will evaluate 10 State Forest Districts and 30 State Parks. Previous surveys were also completed for the Bald Eagle, Tiadaghton and Tioga State Forests.

The objectives of the study are:

- To conduct surveys of visitors to selected Pennsylvania State Forest and State Park areas and develop a visitor profile
- To measure overall recreation use and specific visitation patterns within the selected State Forests and State Parks
- To identify visitor expectations and levels of satisfaction with various aspects of their visit
- To examine visitor opinions about possible future area management and facility development decisions
- To examine visitor reactions to Marcellus gas activities and the impacts of these activities on recreational visitation patterns and experiences
- To measure visitor expenditures and levels of economic impact on surrounding communities

Participating forests and completed reports include:

Study Year	Forest Evaluated	Report
1999	Bald Eagle	Complete
2008	Tioga & Tiadaghton	Complete
2011-12	Sproul & Susquehannock	Complete
2012-13	Forbes & Delaware	Complete
2013-14	Tioga & Tiadaghton	
2014-15	Elk & Moshannon	
2015-16	Michaux and Buchanan	

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**Recreation on the Tiadaghton and Tioga State Forests: A Survey of User
Characteristics, Behaviors, and Attitudes**

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Introduction

Resource managers in Pennsylvania's Bureau of Forestry have identified a need to better understand the recreational visitors who use the State Forests. This need includes understanding visitors' use patterns as well as their expectations, desires and satisfaction levels. Such understanding is particularly relevant in the State Forests within the PA Wilds region of Pennsylvania, due to the current high priority of marketing and planning for this part of the state.

The purpose of this study is to acquire recreation use data on Pennsylvania State Forest Land. Specifically, the study is being conducted on the Tiadaghton State Forest (District #12) and the Tioga State Forest (District #16) to measure recreation use and develop a profile of various types of State Forest visitors and their use patterns. This study is the initial phase of a planned multi-year project that will encompass other State Forest districts in Pennsylvania.

Objectives

1. To develop a profile of recreational trips to the two State Forests. This profile will include information on the origin of visitors, size and type of visiting groups, previous visitation history, length of stay in the area, activities pursued, and patterns of visitation across seasons and types of recreation areas within the forests.
2. To measure overall recreation use and specific visitation patterns within the two State Forests, including the number of visitors per vehicle and the distribution of use across different types of sites within the area.
3. To develop a demographic profile of State Forest visitors.
4. To identify visitor expectations and levels of satisfaction with various aspects of their visit.
5. To examine visitor opinions about possible future area management and facility development decisions.
6. To measure visitor expenditures and levels of economic impact on surrounding communities.

Methodology

Data were collected through the use of on-site interviews and use measurements at a stratified random sample of the forests' developed sites and dispersed areas open for recreation. The overall survey methodology and sampling design is directly comparable to and consistent with the procedures established for the U.S. Forest Service's national visitor use monitoring (NVUM) program. Details for the sampling and analysis approach for that program can be

found in a report titled “Forest Service National Visitor Use Monitoring Process: Research Method Documentation”, which is available on the NVUM website:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/nvum>. A detailed sampling schedule, which identified the site, day, and time of day for on-site interviewing, was established for each forest in consultation with NVUM coordinators and Bureau of Forestry personnel. The sampling schedule provided for a total of 200 sampling days per forest, allocated over about 10 sampling strata per forest, and distributed throughout the calendar year.

Sampling for the survey was designed to obtain a database that accurately describes overall use of the forests as well as use of selected types of sites and individual areas of particular interest within the State Forests. All on-site interviewing, data entry, and analysis were conducted by trained project staff. Concurrent with the visitor survey, area use patterns were measured through traffic and trail counters and observations of vehicles using the area. Both the visitor count data and visitor survey data will later be used to validate and calibrate visitor use monitoring methods for future application in the State Forests.

On-site face-to-face interviews were used to obtain data from a sample of recreationists visiting the Tiadaghton and Tioga State Forests. The on-site survey took approximately 5-15 minutes to complete, depending on the version of the instrument that was used in the interview. Approximately one-third of the visitors were interviewed with the basic version/experience addition, another third received the basic/satisfaction addition and the remaining third completed the basic/economic addition.

Organization of this Report

This report summarizes the results of visitor surveys conducted on the State Forests during the period May 16, 2007 through May 15, 2008. The results are organized by topic area, with different sections corresponding to different versions of the survey. Each section follows a consistent format, beginning with the overall results for the entire sample. Results are then broken down by forest. Appendices to the report include a copy of the survey instrument used, responses to open-ended questions in the survey, and a summary of the zip codes of forest visitors.

Survey Results

Field work was conducted during the period, May 16, 2007 - May 15, 2008. A total of about 180 sampling days were completed on each forest district. The sampling rates varied across strata from about 10 percent of days in the population to about 0.4 percent. In general, sampling rates were higher for days when greater volumes of visitation were expected; and lower when the volume was expected to be smaller. Over half of the sampling days occurred in General Forest Area sites; this type of site accounted for over 60 percent of all the days in the population for the two forests.

Overall, 590 interviews with forest visitors were conducted. All of the sampling for this study followed a detailed sampling schedule and took place between 8:00 am and 8:00 pm, during a morning shift or an afternoon shift. The morning sampling period ran from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm, while the afternoon sampling period ran from 2:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

A total of 541 of the 590 visitors approached for the study were willing to participate, for a response rate of 92%. Among these forest visitors, 83% stated they were visiting the forest for recreation, while the remaining individuals were working or commuting to work (6%), just passing through (7%), stopping to use the bathroom (2%) or there for some other reason (< 2%). Other reasons mentioned by respondents included cutting wood, bringing a trailer to someone else, getting their dog a drink of water, and stopping to see if fish had been stocked. Only those respondents who were visiting the forest for recreation were included in the estimates of recreation use and descriptions of visitors in this report.

Among the recreation visitors, 72% reported that they were leaving the forest for the last time during that visit. Use estimations were based on these exiting visitors, while the remaining 28% of the cases provided additional data on the characteristics of forest visitors.

Recreation Use Estimates

Following the NVUM protocols, recreation use of the State Forests was estimated through a process of obtaining mechanical traffic counts, calibrated by observation and on-site interviewing, at the sample of recreation sites and days scheduled throughout the study year. Mechanical traffic counts were obtained for a 24-hour period on the targeted sample days. Interviewers were on site for a 6-hour period. During that time, they would both visually calibrate the mechanical counter to exiting traffic, and interview a random sample of exiting traffic to determine what portion was finishing a recreation visit. State Forest sampling sites

included all potential places that recreation users could exit the forests, and were classified by types and exiting volume levels (Table 1). Most of the sampling days were conducted at general forest area (GFA) sites. Such sites provide access to the forest without concentrating use at the site itself, and include trailheads, river put-in and take-out points, forest roads, etc. Other sampling categories include day use developed sites (DUDS) such as picnic areas, scenic overlooks and the like, overnight use developed sites (OUDS) including campgrounds, cabins, resorts, etc., and “special areas.” The latter category includes designated “natural” and “wild” areas of the state forests, and is similar to the designated Wilderness areas within the national forests.

Since most recreation use of the State Forests is dispersed rather than focused at developed day use or overnight use areas, GFA sites accounted for over 75 percent of the total sampling days across both forests. These sites provided an even greater percentage of the interviews conducted (84.5%), reflecting the fact that interviewers collected more interviews per day with visitors at these sites than at other types of forest sites.

Table 1. Description of the Sampling Sites.

	Percent of Sampling Days	Percent of Interviews
Site Type		
General Forest Area (GFA)	53.9	84.5
Day Use Developed Site (DUDS)	13.0	9.9
Overnight Use Developed Site (OUDS)	21.7	2.3
Special Area	11.4	3.3
Total	100.0	100.0
Use Level Stratum		
High	40.4	29.0
Medium	32.8	35.5
Low	26.0	29.3
None	0.8	6.2
Total	100.0	100.0

Sampling of State Forest sites was also stratified by level of recreational use, including four use levels as estimated by Bureau of Forestry personnel (Table 1). More specifically, the sampling strata were defined by volume of exiting recreation visitation, and classified as None, Low, Medium, and High. These estimated levels were based on relative criteria for each type of site and based on the collective knowledge and experience of Bureau of Forestry personnel. Visits were counted as individuals exiting the forest for the last time for the day. Counting and

interviewing visitors as they finish their visit ensures consistency in describing the visit, and avoids several sampling bias issues.

Stratification was necessary to reduce the overall variance of the visitation estimate, and to ensure an adequate representation of varying levels of recreation throughout the study year. About one-third of the sampling days and corresponding interviews were completed during high, medium, and low use periods, with a small number occurring at sites where no use was expected or allowed. Survey results were weighted to correctly represent the use distribution across the various types of sites within the State Forests.

Pneumatic traffic counters were used where vehicular use could be counted (80% of the counts), such as forest roads and parking lots. Infrared trail counters were used at areas where road counters were not feasible and individual forest users could be counted, such as trails (20% of the counts). In both cases, field personnel recorded counts at the end of each 6-hour sampling period and again after 24 hours had elapsed. Comparing the mechanical and observational counts at the end of the 6-hour period provides exiting-to-total-traffic calibration that can be used with the 24-hour mechanical count to obtain total exiting traffic. The survey screening questions discussed above were used to determine the proportion of exiting traffic that was completing a recreation visit, as compared to other uses of forest sites. Additional survey questions were used to convert vehicle counts to visitor estimates, based on the number of people per vehicle.

The 6-hour vehicular traffic counts ranged from 0 to 189, with a mean of 12.9 vehicles counted (Table 2). About one-fourth of these counts were zero, reflecting no traffic during the 6-hour sampling period. The 24-hour counts ranged from 0 to 485, with a mean of 42.8. Only about 8% of the 24-hour counts were zero, and about one-fourth of them were between 1 - 10 vehicles. The hand tally counts for the 6-hour sampling periods averaged 4.9, with about one-third (32.5%) zero values. These counts were naturally lower than the corresponding mechanical counts because the observational counts included only one-way (exiting) traffic while the mechanical counters recorded traffic moving in both directions.

Visitor use counts from the infrared trail counters tended to be lower than the vehicular traffic counts, as many of the relevant sites were low use areas. As with the pneumatic traffic counters, the trail counters recorded movement in both directions rather than one-way traffic. Over two-thirds (70%) of the 6-hour trail counts were zero, and the average was 5.1 people. The corresponding hand clicker counts averaged 2 people per 6-hour interval. The 24-hour counts averaged 10.8, with nearly one-third (31.7%) zeros.

Table 2. Summary of Mechanical and Observational Counts at Sampling Sites

	Valid Percent
Pneumatic Traffic Counter	
6-hour Traffic Counts	
0	24.9
1 - 2	18.3
3 - 5	12.9
6 - 9	15.4
10 - 30	17.0
31 or more	11.6
Total	100.1
Mean	12.9
24-hour Traffic Counts	
0	7.9
1 - 5	14.2
6 - 10	13.3
11 - 25	25.8
26 - 40	12.5
41 - 60	6.2
61 or more	20.0
Total	99.9
Mean	42.8
Hand Clicker Counts (6-hour)	
0	32.4
1 - 2	21.6
3 - 5	20.3
6 - 10	10.8
11 or more	14.9
Total	100.0
Mean	4.9
Infrared Trail Counter	
6-hour Counts	
0	70.0
1 - 2	11.7
3 - 6	6.7
7 or more	11.7
Total	100.1
Mean	5.1
24-hour Counts	
0	31.7
1 - 2	20.0
3 - 6	21.7
7 or more	26.7
Total	100.1
Mean	10.8
Hand Clicker Counts (6-hour)	
0	73.3
1 - 2	11.7
3 - 6	8.3
7 or more	6.7
Total	100.0
Mean	2.0

Results from the traffic counts and completed surveys were used to estimate total recreational use of the State Forests (Table 3). Data were extrapolated from the sampled site-day combinations to all site-days within each stratum and totaled for the entire forest. The results include two measures of recreational use per forest: 1) the total number of individual site visits, and, since a number of forest visits include visits to several individual sites, 2) the total number of recreational forest visits. Since most visits to Tiadaghton and Tioga Forests tend to include visits to more than one different site during each visit, the total site visits are considerably higher than the number of forest visits.

Table 3. Recreation Use Estimates for the Tioga and Tiadaghton State Forests

	Tiadaghton	Tioga
State Forest Visits		
Number of Visits	177,316	331,193
90% Confidence Interval Width (as % of total visits)	28.4	28.4
State Forest Site Visits		
Number of Visits	262,630	534,246
90% Confidence Interval Width (as % of total visits)	27.7	26.1

The Tiadaghton State Forest received an estimated 177,316 recreational visits during the study year (May 2007- May 2008). Because of the relatively wide range of daily traffic counts within each sampling stratum, the 90% confidence interval width on the visitation estimate is plus or minus 28.4% of this estimate, or between 126,958 and 227,674. These forest visits accounted for a total of 262,630 individual site visits, or about 1.5 site visits for each State Forest visit. The 90% confidence interval for site visits on the Tiadaghton State Forest (plus or minus 27.7%) ranges from 189,881 and 335,379 site visits.

The Tioga State Forest received about 331,193 recreational visits and 534,246 individual forest site visits during the same period (1.6 site visits per forest visit). The 90% confidence interval for forest visits ranges from 237,134 and 425,252. The 90% confidence interval range for total site visits on the Tioga State Forest was between 394,808 and 673,684 visits.

The total site visitation estimates include use of different overnight facilities, day use areas, and undeveloped areas within a State Forest visit. Table 4 provides more details on these use patterns, and Appendix B includes a listing of specific sites reported by forest visitors.

Trip Visitation Patterns on the State Forests

- About four-fifths of the visitors contacted (78.1%) were repeat visitors to the State Forest.
- Among those who were repeat visitors, nearly half (46.2%) had made their first visit to the Forest prior to 1980. Another one-quarter (24.6%) made their first visit during the 1980s and 7.8% first visited during the 1990s. About one-fifth (21.5%) were relatively new visitors, reporting their first visit between 2000 and 2008.
- Over half (54.8%) of the visitors contacted indicated that they typically make between 0 and 10 visits to the State Forest per year, and the average number of trips to the forest per year was about 21.
- Likewise, the majority (61.7%) of the visitors contacted indicated that they typically make between 0 and 10 visits to other forest areas each year, and the average number of trips to other forests per year was about 16.
- About one-third (31.3%) of the respondents had spent the previous night in the State Forest.
- Of those respondents who were overnight visitors, about two-thirds (67.8%) had spent only one or two nights, and the remaining one-third (32.2%) had stayed for three or more nights.
- About half of the respondents (54.2%) reported that they had used no overnight facilities during this trip, while 41.0% indicated that they used one overnight facility during this trip. Very few visitors (1.3%) reported using more than one overnight facility (These overnight facilities can include accommodations that are or are not located on the State Forest, including private cabins and both public and private campgrounds).
- About two-thirds of visitors (68.1%) indicated that they used no day use facilities during their visit, while the remaining visitors used one or more day use facilities on this trip.
- About one-half of the respondents (49.6%) reported spending one or more days in undeveloped areas of the Forest on this trip.
- About two-thirds (68.8%) of the respondents had just one or two people in their vehicle, while nearly one-fourth (22.8%) had 3-4 persons in their vehicle on this trip. The average number of persons per vehicle was 2.3.
- About one-fourth (22.6%) of the respondents reported that they had at least one child under the age of 16 with them.
- About one-third of the visitors contacted (34.2%) came to the Forest in family groups, with 26.6% coming in groups of friends and 14.9% in groups containing family and friends.
- Nearly one-fourth (23.9%) of the visitors came to the Forest alone.

Table 4. Trip Visitation Patterns in the State Forests

	Valid Percent*
Previous Visitation History	
First Time Visitor	21.9
Repeat Visitor	78.1
Total	100.0
Year of First Visit	
Prior to 1980	46.2
1980-1989	24.6
1990-1999	7.8
2000-2008	21.5
Total	100.1
Number of Visits to State Forest in Typical Year	
0-10	54.8
11-20	20.0
21-50	15.9
More than 50	9.4
Total	100.1
Mean	21.3
Number of Visits to Other Forests in Typical Year	
0-10	61.7
11-20	17.4
21-50	13.7
More than 50	7.2
Total	100.0
Mean	16.4
Length of Stay	
Overnight Visitor	31.1
Day User	68.9
Total	100.0
Number of Nights Spent (Overnight Visitors)	
1	33.9
2	33.9
3-5	16.9
6 or more	15.3
Total	100.0
Number of Overnight Facilities Used During This Trip	
0	56.2
1	42.5
2 or more	1.4
Total	100.1
Number of Day Use Facilities Used During This Trip	
0	68.1
1	14.2
2	7.0
3 or more	10.7
Total	100.0

Number of Days Spent in Undeveloped Areas During This Trip	Valid Percent
0	49.6
1	25.3
2	9.8
3-5	10.8
6 or more	4.5
Total	100.0
Number of People in Vehicle	
1-2	68.8
3-4	22.8
5 or more	8.4
Total	100.0
Mean	2.3
Number of People Less than 16 Years Old in Vehicle	
0	77.4
1	12.0
2	6.4
3 or more	4.2
Total	100.0
Type of Group	
alone	23.9
family	34.2
friends	26.6
family and friends	14.9
other	0.5
Total	100.1

*Percentages may not equal 100 because of rounding.

Demographic Characteristics of State Forest Visitors

- Nearly four-fifths (79.7%) of all the visits to these State Forests are made by males, and about 20.3% are made by females.
- Almost half of the visitors surveyed in the State Forests (47.3%) were between the ages of 30-49, while a similar proportion (45.5%) was 50 or older.
- The average age of State Forest visitors was 49.
- Almost all of the State Forest visitors surveyed (99%) reported their race/ethnicity as White/Caucasian.
- Other ethnicities reported by visitors included African-American (2), American Indian/Alaskan Native, Spanish/Hispanic, and Italian.
- Less than one-tenth of the visits (7.7%) included a person with a disability in their household.

Table 5. Demographic Characteristics of State Forest Visitors

	Valid Percent
Gender	
Male	79.7
Female	20.3
Age	
Under 20	0.5
20 to 29	7.6
30 to 39	20.3
40 to 49	26.0
50 to 59	19.0
60 to 69	18.7
70 or older	7.8
Mean	49
Ethnicity	
Caucasian	99.0
Other	1.0
Does anyone in your household have a disability?	
Yes	7.7
No	92.3

Activity Participation

The basic survey administered to all visitors included a detailed list of recreational activities. Respondents were asked to identify each activity that they had participated in (or planned to participate in) during their visit, as well as their primary activity on this trip (Table 6). The first column (activity participation) shows the range in numbers of visitors participating in the various activities, while the primary activity column reflects what the visitors considered their most important purpose for visiting the Forest on this trip.

- Many forest visits included various viewing and sightseeing activities, but relatively few people reported such activities as their primary recreation activity on the State Forests.
- About one-fourth of the visits (23.9%) involved biking as the primary recreation activity on the State Forests.

Table 6. Activity Participation of State Forest Visitors (during this recreation visit)

	Activity Participation*	Primary Activity ⁺
Viewing and Sightseeing Activities		
Viewing natural features such as scenery, flowers, etc.	28.7	3.4
General viewing activities, sightseeing	18.6	2.8
Driving for pleasure on roads	9.8	0.5
Viewing while traveling off-forest	5.0	0
Nature study	4.8	1.6
Visiting a nature center, nature trail or visitor center	1.9	0.2
Visiting historic and prehistoric sites	1.3	0
Recreational Activities		
Hiking or walking	29.4	7.6
Bicycling, including mountain bikes	28.4	23.9
Fishing all types	21.2	15.0
Primitive camping	6.8	3.0
Camping in developed sites	12.3	6.5
Picnicking and family day gatherings	8.1	2.9
Off-highway vehicle travel	3.3	0.8
Resorts, cabins, other accommodations on FS lands	8.6	2.8
Backpacking	2.9	1.7
Other non-motorized activities (swimming, sports, games)	1.0	1.0
Non motorized water travel (canoe, raft)	4.0	2.4
Horseback riding	0.6	0.1
Gathering mushrooms, berries, or other natural products	1.3	0
Other motorized activities	1.5	0
Hunting - all types	17.7	16.0
Motorized water travel	0	0
Downhill skiing	0	0
Snowmobile travel	6.3	6.3
Cross-country skiing	1.4	1.4

*Percentages do not equal 100% because respondents could report more than one activity.

⁺Percentages may not equal 100 because of rounding.

- Many of the sampled visitors did some hiking during their visit (29.4%), but relatively few (7.6%) reported hiking or walking as their primary activity.
- Hunting (16%) and fishing (15%) were the next most popular activities and both tended to be the primary activity for those who participated in them.
- Over one-tenth of forest visitors surveyed reported some type of camping as their primary activity.

Differences by Forest

- The most popular activity among visitors sampled in both forests was biking. About one-quarter of the visitors to both the Tiadaghton (24.8%) and Tioga districts (23.5%) reported biking as their primary activity.
- Fishing was more common as a primary activity on the Tiadaghton (24.1%) than on the Tioga State Forest (10.5%).
- Camping was a more popular primary activity in the Tioga Forest (14.6%) than in the Tiadaghton Forest (4.5%).
- Hiking or walking was the more popular primary activity in the Tiadaghton (13.2%) than in the Tioga State Forest (4.9%).
- A small minority of the visitors in both forests reported viewing-related activities as their primary forest activity.

Table 7. Primary Activity Participation by Forest (Percent)*

Primary Activity	Tiadaghton	Tioga	Total
Viewing activities	5.1	10.1	8.5
Hiking or walking	13.2	4.9	7.6
Camping	4.5	14.6	11.3
Fishing	24.1	10.5	15.0
Biking	24.8	23.5	23.9
Hunting	13.8	17.1	16.0
Other	14.5	19.3	17.7

*Percentages may not equal 100 because of rounding.

Satisfaction Addition

This section of the survey asked forest users about the importance they attached to, and their satisfaction with, fourteen customer service attributes in the State Forest they visited. Respondents were provided with the opportunity to choose “not applicable” for any attributes that they did not experience during their visit.

- The State Forests were generally rated highly on each of the fourteen satisfaction attributes, with over 50% of the scores in the “very good” or “good” categories.
- State Forest visitors were most satisfied with the scenery (99% good/very good) and attractiveness of the forest landscape (97% good/very good).
- Attributes receiving the most “poor” or “fair” ratings included the adequacy of signage (13% poor/fair), condition of forest roads (12% poor/fair), and cleanliness of restrooms (10% poor/fair).
- The items that received the most not applicable (N/A) responses included value for fee paid (87% N/A), helpfulness of employees (72% N/A), cleanliness of restrooms (44% N/A), and condition of developed recreation facilities (29% N/A). Generally these responses reflect the fact that the visitors did not encounter these attributes during their visits.

Table 8. Satisfaction Ratings for Customer Service Attributes in the State Forests (Percent)

Satisfaction Item	Poor	Fair	Average	Good	Very Good	Not Applicable	Mean ^a
Scenery			0.9	22.8	76.3		4.7
Availability of parking		5.6	6.7	32.9	50.6	4.2	4.3
Parking lot condition		6.6	11.2	25.5	47.6	9.2	4.3
Cleanliness of restrooms	1.2	8.7	8.2	13.0	24.6	44.3	3.9
Condition of the natural environment	0.1		9.5	28.1	62.0	0.2	4.5
Condition of developed recreation facilities		0.4	8.2	27.5	35.3	28.7	4.4
Condition of Forest roads	1.2	10.9	19.0	33.6	26.9	8.5	3.8
Condition of Forest trails	0.3	0.9	7.2	25.7	47.9	18.0	4.5
Availability of information on recreation	2.4	6.3	10.4	27.2	27.8	25.9	4.0
Feeling of safety		1.9	10.9	22.3	63.5	1.5	4.5
Adequacy of signage	3.4	9.8	21.7	26.2	36.9	1.9	3.9
Helpfulness of employees			1.8	11.3	14.6	72.2	4.5
Attractiveness of the forest landscape			2.8	25.2	71.5		4.7
Value for fee paid				5.2	8.2	86.6	4.6

^aResponse Code: 1="Poor" through 5="Very good"

Importance Ratings

- Importance ratings for the customer service attributes generally followed the same pattern as the satisfaction ratings across the attributes.
- The condition of the natural environment (97% very important/most important), attractiveness of the forest landscape (96% very important/most important) and scenery (94% very important/most important) were the most important attributes to the State Forest visitors.
- The least important items included parking lot condition and availability (12% and 9% not important/least important, respectively), availability of information on recreation (8% not important/least important), and condition of developed recreation facilities (7% not important/least important).
- The greatest numbers of not applicable (N/A) responses were noted for value for fee paid (57%), and helpfulness of employees (41%).

Table 9. Importance Ratings for Customer Service Attributes in the State Forests (Percent)

Importance Item	1	2	3	4	5	Not Applicable	Mean
Scenery			5.3	13.9	80.0		4.8
Availability of parking	4.0	5.3	16.8	17.4	54.5	2.0	4.2
Parking lot condition	1.9	10.2	20.0	14.8	47.4	5.4	4.0
Cleanliness of restrooms	4.8	0.4	14.4	13.1	38.0	29.4	4.1
Condition of the natural environment			2.3	13.9	83.5	0.2	4.8
Condition of developed recreation facilities	2.3	4.7	17.7	17.6	40.5	17.1	4.1
Condition of Forest roads		5.7	17.8	22.5	49.2	4.7	4.2
Condition of Forest trails	1.9	5.1	11.7	16.6	53.6	11.1	4.3
Availability of information on recreation	5.3	2.8	24.0	13.5	38.8	15.5	4.0
Feeling of safety	2.0	5.1	11.6	15.3	64.1	1.9	4.4
Adequacy of signage		1.2	14.1	27.6	53.1	3.9	4.4
Helpfulness of employees	1.3	2.8	19.4	10.4	25.6	40.6	4.0
Attractiveness of the forest landscape			2.3	20.1	76.1	1.5	4.8
Value for fee paid	1.3	0.4	11.7	7.0	22.9	56.8	4.2

Average Importance and Satisfaction Ratings

Comparing the importance and satisfaction ratings for customer service attributes (also known as “gap score analysis”) can help to identify how well the various attributes are meeting visitor expectations (Table 10). Items with very similar importance and satisfaction scores can be interpreted as matching visitor expectations. Those with positive differences (satisfaction greater than importance) may be exceeding their expectations, while those with negative differences (satisfaction lower than importance) may not be meeting expectations, and thus might be logical targets for managerial attention (Figure 1).

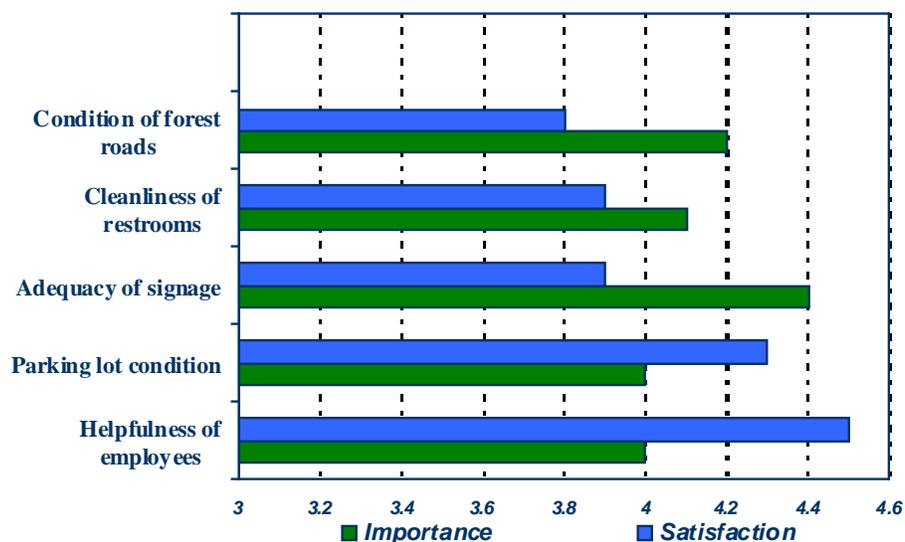
- Value for fee paid (.20), parking lot conditions (.17), and helpfulness of employees (.16) showed positive differences, suggesting that visitor expectations were exceeded for these attributes.
- Significant negative gap scores were found for three items: cleanliness of restrooms (-.47), condition of forest roads (-.41), and adequacy of signage (-.57). These results suggest there is room for improvement in the delivery of these services in the Forests.
- Gap scores for the remaining items were smaller, suggesting a closer match between visitor expectations and perceptions of on-site conditions.

Table 10. Summary of Importance, Satisfaction, and Gap Scores for Customer Service Attributes

Item	Average Satisfaction	Average Importance	Difference (Gap Score)*
Scenery	4.8	4.8	-.01
Availability of parking	4.3	4.2	.09
Parking lot condition	4.3	4.0	.17
Cleanliness of restrooms	3.9	4.1	-.47
Condition of the natural environment	4.5	4.8	-.29
Condition of developed recreation facilities	4.4	4.1	.17
Condition of Forest roads	3.8	4.2	-.41
Condition of Forest trails	4.5	4.3	.03
Availability of information on recreation	4.0	3.9	-.04
Feeling of safety	4.5	4.4	.12
Adequacy of signage	3.9	4.4	-.57
Helpfulness of employees	4.5	4.0	.16
Attractiveness of the forest landscape	4.7	4.8	-.07
Value for fee paid	4.6	4.2	.20

*Gap scores may not equal the apparent difference between importance and satisfaction scores due to “not applicable” responses (some respondents answering only the importance or satisfaction question).

Figure 1. Gap Score Analysis for Items Showing Significant Differences between Importance and Satisfaction.



Crowding Ratings

- Crowding scores tended to be relatively low, with about half of the respondents (57.5%) choosing 1 or 2, reflecting that they encountered “hardly anyone” during their visit.
- About one-fifth (17.5%) of the respondents chose a 3 or 4, indicating that they felt moderately crowded during this trip.
- Very few respondents indicated conditions near the “overcrowded” end of the scale.
- The average crowding score was 3.1 on the 10-point crowding scale.

Table 11. Summary of Perceived Crowding Ratings (Percent).

Perception of Crowding ^a	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	30.8	26.7	8.3	9.2	9.6	3.2	7.5	2.2	1.8	0.8

^a Response code: 1 = “hardly anyone” to 10 = “overcrowded”

Facility Use

- State Forest visitors were most likely to report using hiking, biking, or horseback trails (44.9%) and forest roads (44.2%).
- About one-tenth reported visiting designated wilderness (8.8%), probably referring to specially designated natural or wild areas within the Forests.

Table 12. Reported Facility Use by State Forest Visitors (Percent)

	Valid Percent
Developed campground	12.7
Swimming area	2.5
Hiking, biking, or horseback trails	44.9
Scenic byway	15.6
Designated wilderness	8.8
Visitor center, museum	1.2
Picnic area	13.4
Boat launch	11.4
Designated ATV area	2.7
Other forest roads	44.2
Interpretive sites	0.4

Differences by Forest – Satisfaction with Attributes

- Only one item (adequacy of signage) differed significantly between the two State Forests.
- In general, slightly higher satisfaction scores were reported in the Tiadaghton Forest.

Table 13. Differences in Satisfaction with Customer Service Attributes by Forest (Mean)

	Tiadaghton	Tioga
Scenery	4.7	4.8
Available parking	4.4	4.3
Parking lot condition	4.4	4.2
Cleanliness of restrooms	4.1	3.9
Condition of the natural environment	4.6	4.5
Condition of developed recreation facilities	4.5	4.3
Condition of forest roads	4.0	3.7
Condition of forest trails	4.4	4.5
Availability of information on recreation	4.0	4.0
Feeling of safety	4.5	4.5
Adequacy of signage*	4.1	3.7
Helpfulness of employees	4.5	4.4
Attractiveness of the forest landscape	4.6	4.7
Value for fee paid	4.8	4.5

^aResponse Code: 1="Poor" through 5="Very good"

* Differences between forests statistically significant

Differences by Forest – Importance of Attributes

- There were no significant differences in the importance ratings of customer service attributes between the two State Forests.

Table 14. Differences in Importance of Customer Service Attributes by Forest (Mean)

	Tiadaghton	Tioga
Scenery	4.6	4.9
Available parking	4.0	4.2
Parking lot condition	3.8	4.1
Cleanliness of restrooms	4.0	4.2
Condition of the natural environment	4.9	4.8
Condition of developed recreation facilities	4.1	4.1
Condition of forest roads	4.1	4.3
Condition of forest trails	4.1	4.3
Availability of information on recreation	3.9	4.0
Feeling of safety	4.1	4.5
Adequacy of signage	4.2	4.5
Helpfulness of employees	3.7	4.1
Attractiveness of the forest landscape	4.7	4.8
Value for fee paid	4.2	4.1

^aResponse Code: 1="Least important" through 5="Most important"

Differences by Forest – Perceived Crowding

- Perceived crowding did not differ significantly between users of the two State Forests.

Table 15. Differences in Crowding by Forest (Average)

	Tiadaghton	Tioga
Perceived Crowding ^a	2.6	3.3

^a Response Code: 1 = “hardly anyone” through 10 = “overcrowded”

Differences by Forest - Facility Use

- Facility use differed significantly between users of the two State Forests for only two types of facilities (developed campgrounds and picnic areas).
- Tioga State Forest visitors were about four times as likely (17%) as Tiadaghton visitors (4%) to use developed campgrounds.
- Tioga Forest visitors were also more likely (17%) than Tiadaghton visitors (6%) to report using a picnic area.

Table 16. Reported Facility Use by Forest (Percent)

	Tiadaghton	Tioga	Total
Developed campground*	3.8	17.0	12.7
Swimming area	2.2	2.6	2.5
Hiking, biking, or horseback trails	55.5	39.6	44.9
Scenic byway	14.3	16.2	15.6
Designated wilderness	7.1	9.6	8.8
Visitor center, museum	3.8	0	1.2
Picnic area*	6.0	16.7	13.4
Boat launch	10.7	11.7	11.4
Designated ATV area	2.6	2.8	2.7
Other forest roads	40.9	45.8	44.2
Interpretive sites	0	0.5	0.4

* Differences between forests statistically significant

Economics Addition

About one-third of the survey respondents were asked about their monetary expenditures during their trip to the State Forest. Additional questions in the “economics addition” focused on the respondents’ trip itinerary (Table 17). These questions were asked to establish a context for evaluation of the reported trip expenditures. Due to the small number of individuals answering some of these questions, only the overall results are presented for this section of the report. The number of respondents answering these questions was not sufficient for meaningful comparison of sub-groups of visitors.

- When asked what they would have done if, for some reason, they had been unable to go to the State Forest on this visit, the majority of the respondents (55.1%) stated that they would have gone somewhere else to pursue the same activity.
- Another one-fifth of the visitors (18.5%) said they would have come back another time.
- Very few of the visitors (4.2%) would have gone elsewhere for a different activity, but about one-fifth (21.3%) would have stayed home.
- Overnight visitors were mostly on trips of 3-5 days (48%) or longer (24.8%).
- Day visitors were more evenly divided in being away from their home for 1-2 hours (27.3%), 3-5 hours (28.1%), and more than 5 hours (44.6%).
- About four-fifths (79%) of the respondents surveyed were visiting only the State Forest on this particular trip, and 89% of them indicated that the State Forest was their primary destination.
- When queried about how they were paying their expenses, a variety of responses were noted. More than one-third of the visitors (39.2%) indicated that they were sharing expenses and another third (33.4%) were paying just their own expenses on this trip. The remaining 27.4% were paying expenses for themselves and others in their group.
- About three-fourths of the visitors (74.1%) reported visiting the State Forest specifically to participate in their primary activity 10 times or less during the previous year.
- Survey respondents reported spending between nothing and \$50,000 on outdoor recreation activities, including equipment, recreation trips, memberships, and licenses per year.

Table 17. State Forest Recreation Trip Profile (for economics section)

	Valid Percent
What Visitor Would have done if Unable to Visit SF	
Gone elsewhere for same activity	55.1
Gone elsewhere for different activity	4.2
Come back another time	18.5
Stayed home	21.3
None of these	0.9
Total	100.0
Time Away from Home (Days)	
1-2	27.2
3-5	48.0
6 or more	24.8
Total	100.0
Time Away from Home (Hours)	
1-2	27.3
3-5	28.1
6 or more	44.6
Total	100.0
Single or Multiple Destination Trip	
Visited State Forest only	79.0
Visited other places	21.0
Total	100.0
Was State Forest Primary Destination for Trip	
Yes	89.4
No	10.6
Total	100.0
Annual Trips to State Forest for Primary Activity	
0-10	74.1
11-20	13.9
21-50	7.5
More than 50	4.5
Total	100.0
Mean	13.3
How Trip Expenses were being Handled	
Respondent sharing expenses with other people	39.2
Respondent paying for just his/her own expenses	33.4
Respondent paying for him/herself and others	27.4
Some one else paying respondents' expenses	0.0
Total	100.0
Annual Dollars Spent on Outdoor Recreation Equipment	
\$500 or less	33.8
\$501-\$1,000	24.9
\$1,001-\$2,500	18.3
\$2,501 or more	23.0
Total	100.0

Expenditure Categories

In the economics addition, visitors were asked how much they spent for ten categories of expenditures on this trip within 50 miles of the site visited (Table 18).

- Many respondents indicated that they spent no money at all on many of the expenditure categories listed on the survey instrument.
- Few visitors reported any spending for “other transportation” and “activities” (including guide fees and equipment rental).
- The greatest single expenditure was for food/drink at restaurants/bars (mean = \$84.77) followed by gas/oil (mean = \$79.15).
- A lesser amount of money went to the category of “other food and beverages” (mean = \$38.85).

Table 18. Summary of Trip Spending Patterns of State Forest Visitors

Economic Expenditure Items	Proportion of Visitors Spending Something (percent)	Average Amount Spent
Government lodging	24.0	\$12.58
Privately-owned lodging	21.1	\$33.23
Food/drink at restaurants and bars	84.7	\$84.77
Other food and beverages	69.2	\$38.85
Gasoline and oil	95.0	\$79.15
Other transportation	6.2	\$2.22
Activities	8.2	\$13.99
Entry, parking, or recreation use fees	8.7	\$1.75
Souvenirs/clothing	37.0	\$21.27
Any other expenses	11.2	\$6.20

Experience Addition

This section of the survey asked a series of additional questions of interest to managers of the Pennsylvania State Forests. As was the case for the “satisfaction” and “economics” additions, about one-third of the respondents were asked these questions. Some of the questions enhanced other sections of the basic survey and have been reported earlier (e.g. previous visitation to the forest and group composition were reported with other visitor trip characteristics in Table 4). The results presented below focus on visitor motivations, feelings towards the Forest, and opinions about various topics in the Pennsylvania State Forests.

Other Visitor Satisfaction Ratings

- Most respondents indicated very favorable ratings (mean of 4.1 or above) for all of the items rated.

Table 19. Visitor Satisfaction Ratings for Various Forest Attributes (Percent)

	Awful	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent	N/A	Mean ^a
Sanitation and cleanliness	0.5		6.7	38.6	54.1		4.5
Safety and security			11.8	27.6	58.0	2.6	4.5
Condition of latrines, picnic pavilions & other facilities	3.7	1.2	12.9	21.7	37.4	23.0	4.1
Responsiveness of staff			6.4	3.9	22.7	67.0	4.5
Natural environment			5.1	18.2	76.6		4.7

^a Response scale = 1 (awful) to 5 (excellent)

Differences by Forest

- There were no significant differences in these ratings between the two State Forests.

Table 20. Differences in Satisfaction with Forest Attributes by Forest (Mean)^a

	Tiadahton	Tioga
Sanitation and cleanliness	4.3	4.5
Safety and security	4.6	4.4
Condition of latrines, picnic pavilions & other facilities	4.1	4.2
Responsiveness of staff	4.8	4.4
Natural environment	4.6	4.8

^a Response scale = 1 (awful) to 5 (excellent)

Forest Access

- Most respondents indicated favorable ratings for access to the State Forests by both roads and trails (mean of 4.5 – 4.6).

Table 21. Visitor Ratings of Access to the State Forests (Percent)

	1	2	3	4	5	Mean ^a
By roads			8.0	28.6	63.4	4.6
By trails	1.4	0.5	4.3	32.2	61.5	4.5

^a Response scale = 1 (poor) to 5 (very good)

Differences by Forest

- There were no significant differences in the accessibility ratings between the two State Forests.

Table 22. Differences in Satisfaction with Forest Attributes by Forest (Mean)^a

	Tiadaghton	Tioga
By roads	4.6	4.6
By trails	4.4	4.6

^a Response scale = 1 (poor) to 5 (very good)

Recreation Experience

- Most respondents indicated favorable ratings (mean of 4.1 or above) for all of the recreation experience items rated.

Table 23. Visitor Ratings for Various Recreation Experience Attributes (Percent)

	Awful	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent	N/A	Mean ^a
Opportunity to recreate without feeling crowded	2.8	7.6	5.2	41.4	43.1		4.1
Places to recreate without conflict from other visitors	5.7	5.6	3.6	37.5	47.4		4.2
Compatibility of recreation activities at the area	3.3	0.4	13.7	26.5	52.6	3.6	4.3
Helpfulness/courteousness of Forest employees			3.1	5.4	29.1	61.6	4.7
Helpfulness/courteousness of people in surrounding communities		0.5	6.0	29.5	44.6	19.3	4.5

^a Response scale = 1 (awful) to 5 (excellent)

Differences by Forest

- There were no significant differences in the outdoor recreation experience ratings between the two State Forests.

Table 24. Differences in Satisfaction with Outdoor Recreation Experience Attributes by Forest (Mean)^a

	Tiadaghton	Tioga
Opportunity to recreate without feeling crowded	4.2	4.1
Places to recreate without conflict from other visitors	4.3	4.1
Compatibility of recreation activities at the area	4.4	4.3
Helpfulness/courteousness of Forest employees	4.6	4.7
Helpfulness/courteousness of people in surrounding communities	4.5	4.5

^a Response scale = 1 (awful) to 5 (excellent)

Place Attachment

Visitors were asked to choose their most important reason for visiting the State Forest from a list of alternative choices.

- About one-fourth of the visitors (28.9%) said they went there because they “enjoy being in the forest.”
- Another one-quarter of the visitors (24.3%) went there primarily to “spend more time with my friends/family.”
- Most of the remaining respondents stated that the Forest is a good place for their chosen activity (hunting, hiking, biking, fishing, etc.).

Table 25. Which of the following was the most important reason for this visit to the State Forest?

	Valid Percent
I went there because I enjoy being in the forest	28.9
I went there because I wanted to spend time with friends/family	24.3
I went there because it's a good place to:	
Hunt	11.4
Hike	7.6
Bike	10.2
Fish	8.8
Horseback ride	0.0
Other Reason	8.6
Total	99.8

Differences by Forest

- Tioga State Forest visitors were more likely to select enjoying the forest or being with friends and family as their primary reason for visiting the forest, while Tiadaghton State Forest visitors were more likely to focus on their chosen activities.

Table 26. Differences in Primary Reason for Visiting by Forest (Percent)

	Tiadaghton	Tioga
I went there because I enjoy being in the forest	16.3	34.7
I went there because I wanted to spend time with friends/family	13.8	29.2
I went there because it's a good place to:		
Hunt	19.5	7.7
Hike	14.8	4.3
Bike	4.7	12.8
Fish	17.0	5.0
Horseback ride	0.0	0
Other Reason	13.9	6.2

Visitors also responded to a set of statements designed to measure the extent of place attachment to the State Forest.

- The vast majority of respondents (88.6%) agreed that the State Forest they visited “means a lot to them,” with almost half strongly agreeing.
- Most also reported that they enjoy recreating in the State Forest more than at other places, and get more satisfaction out of visiting the State Forest than from visiting other places.

Table 27. Summary of Place Attachment Scale Items (Percent)

Place Attachment Items	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	Mean^a
This place means a lot to me			11.4	41.7	46.9	4.4
I enjoy recreating at this place more than other places I could visit		9.9	26.5	32.6	30.9	3.9
I am very attracted to this place	1.3	12.2	29.8	21.3	35.4	3.8
I get more satisfaction out of visiting this place than from visiting most places	2.9	10.6	37.9	23.9	24.7	3.6

^a Response Code: 1="Strongly Disagree" and 5="Strongly Agree"

Differences by Forest

- In general, visitors to the Tiadaghton State Forest showed slightly more place attachment than those to the Tioga State Forest.

Table 28. Differences in Place Attachment Items by Forest (Mean)

	Tiadaghton	Tioga
This place means a lot to me	4.5	4.3
I enjoy recreating at this place more than other places I could visit	4.0	3.8
I am very attracted to this place	3.9	3.8
I get more satisfaction out of visiting this place than from visiting most places	3.8	3.5

^a Response Code: 1="Strongly Disagree" and 5="Strongly Agree"

Pine Creek Fishing

State Forest visitors were asked a series of questions about their participation and attitudes towards fishing in Pine Creek.

- About one-fifth of the respondents reported fishing an average of 19.3 days per year in Pine Creek.
- A notable proportion of this fishing effort was spent in special regulation areas (5.5 days for delayed harvest, 3.4 days for catch-and-release, and 2.6 days for trophy trout areas).
- Nearly all of these anglers reported that they normally fish for trout.

Table 29. Summary of Responses to Pine Creek Fishing Questions.

How many days per year do you go fishing in the Pine Creek Valley? (Mean)	19.3 days
How many of your fishing days are made to special regulation areas in the Pine Creek Valley? (Mean)	
Delayed Harvest	5.5 days
Catch-and-Release	3.4 days
Trophy Trout Areas	2.6 days
What species of fish do you fish for when visiting this natural area?	
Trout	97.6%
Smallmouth Bass	2.4%
Walleye	
Other	
What would encourage you to fish more often in this area?	
More special regulation areas	13.1%
Larger fish	34.4%
More fish	29.1%
Fewer or simpler regulations	16.2%
Other	7.1%

Motivations/Reasons for Visiting the State Forest

- Visitors' most important motivations (reasons for visiting) the State Forest were to be outdoors (mean = 4.8) and to experience natural surroundings (mean = 4.7).
- Visitors also attached great importance to the opportunity to relax (mean = 4.6) and get away from their regular routine (mean = 4.7).
- Moderately important motives for visiting the forest included the social motives of family recreation (mean = 4.0) and being with friends (mean = 4.2), as well as getting physical exercise (mean = 4.0).
- Visitors were more evenly divided on the importance of seeking challenge or sport (mean = 3.6) and developing their skills (mean = 3.7).

Table 30. Summary of Motivations/Reasons for Recreating in the State Forests (Percent)

Reasons	Not at all important	Somewhat important	Moderately important	Very important	Extremely important	Mean ^a
To be outdoors			3.9	14.5	81.7	4.8
For relaxation			5.8	26.7	67.4	4.6
To get away from the regular routine		3.6	2.2	16.0	78.2	4.7
For the challenge or sport	11.6	8.3	24.3	24.4	31.5	3.6
For family recreation	7.3	6.7	13.8	24.1	48.2	4.0
For physical exercise	4.7	9.0	13.0	27.0	46.4	4.0
To be with my friends	7.5	0.5	15.3	20.9	55.8	4.2
To experience natural surroundings		1.8	2.7	17.1	78.5	4.7
To develop my skills	3.8	14.9	26.7	18.2	36.5	3.7

^a Response Code: 1="Not at all important" and 5="Extremely important"

Differences by Forest

- The only noteworthy difference between forests in responses to the motivations/reasons questions was that Tiadaghton Forest visitors showed greater importance for challenge/sport (mean = 4.0) than Tioga Forest visitors (mean = 3.4).

Table 31. Differences in Motivations/Reasons for Visiting the Forest by Forest (Mean)^a

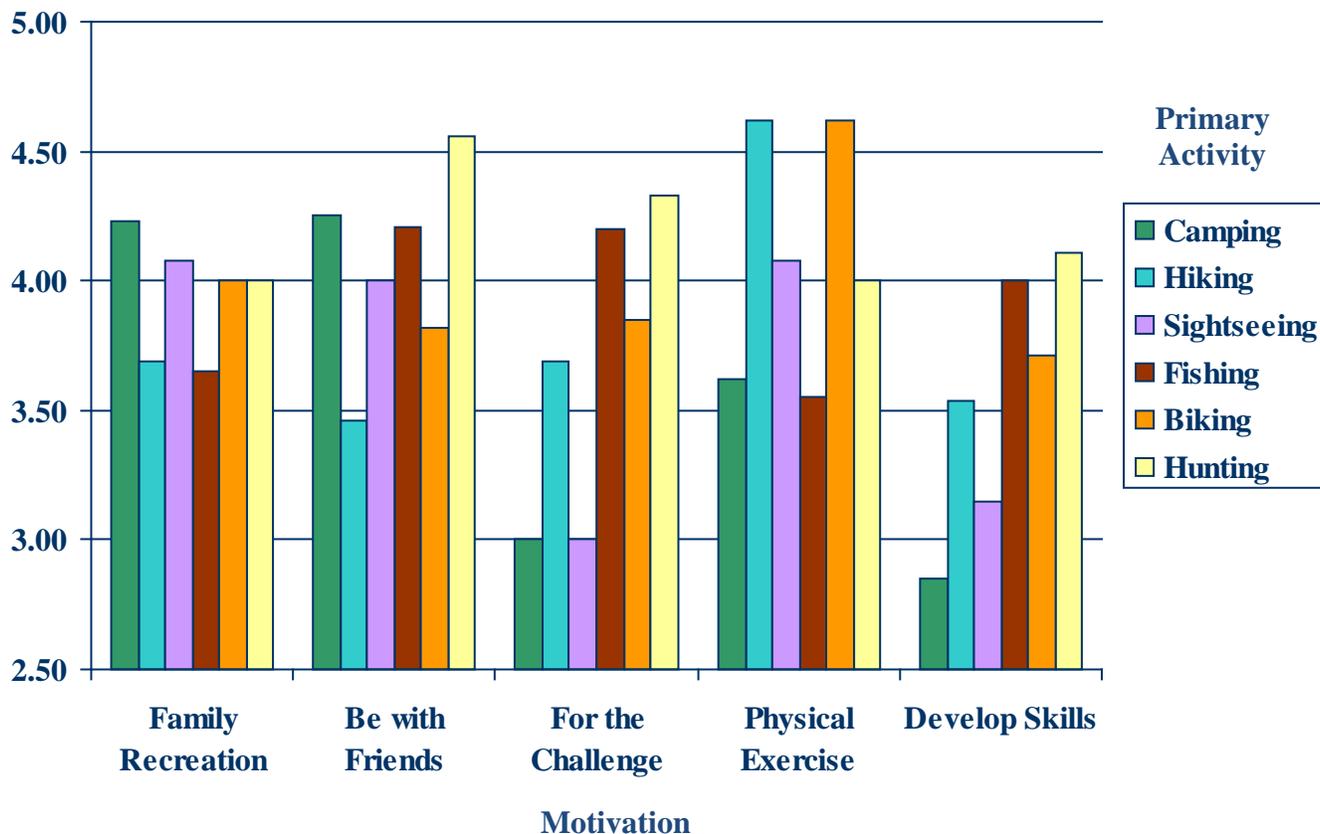
Reason	Tiadaghton	Tioga
To be outdoors	4.6	4.8
For relaxation	4.5	4.7
To get away from the regular routine	4.5	4.8
For the challenge or sport	4.0	3.4
For family recreation	4.0	4.0
For physical exercise	4.0	4.0
To be with my friends	3.9	4.3
To experience natural surroundings	4.5	4.8
To develop my skills	3.7	3.7

^a Response Code: 1="Not at all important" and 5="Extremely important"

Differences by Primary Activity

- There were several notable differences in the motivations of visitors participating in different primary activities (Figure 2).
- Campers attached the most importance to the social motives of family recreation and being with friends, and the least importance to challenge and skill development.
- Hikers and bikers were exceptionally motivated by getting physical exercise.
- Challenge and skill development were quite important to both the hunters and anglers.
- Campers and sightseers placed the least importance on challenge and skill development.

Figure 2. Differences in Motivations for Visiting the State Forests, by Primary Activity.



Visitor Response to Potential Facilities and Services

Visitors surveyed were asked what facilities/services in the State Forest are most important to them.

- The respondents attached the most importance to trails (mean = 4.4) and the Pine Creek Rail Trail in particular (mean = 4.0).
- Visitors also attached great importance to wildlife viewing areas or opportunities (mean = 3.9) and signs directing them to recreation facilities (mean = 3.8).
- Among the alternatives listed, they assigned the least importance to picnic areas (mean = 3.0).

Table 32. Visitor Importance Ratings for Various Types of Facilities and Services

	Not at all Important	Somewhat Important	Moderately Important	Very Important	Extremely Important	Mean^a
Wildlife viewing areas or opportunities	4.9	5.0	23.4	28.6	38.0	3.9
Picnic areas	19.1	18.4	24.2	21.4	16.9	3.0
Parking	5.3	18.2	28.0	21.6	26.9	3.5
Signs directing me to recreation facilities	8.5	9.0	14.4	29.9	38.1	3.8
Pine Creek Rail Trail	11.4	2.2	17.8	16.4	52.3	4.0
Printed interpretive information	11.6	6.4	27.4	23.6	31.0	3.6
Trails	2.6	2.4	6.0	34.0	55.0	4.4
Interpretive Information	17.1	7.9	19.6	29.1	26.3	3.4

^a Response Code: 1="Not at all important" and 5="Extremely important"

Differences by Forest

- There were no significant differences in the importance ratings for facilities and services between the two State Forests.

Table 33. Differences in Importance Ratings for Various Types of Facilities and Services by Forest (Mean)^a

	Tiadaughton	Tioga
Wildlife viewing areas or opportunities	3.8	4.0
Picnic areas	3.1	3.0
Parking	3.6	3.4
Signs directing me to recreation facilities	3.6	3.9
Pine Creek Rail Trail	4.0	3.9
Printed interpretive information	3.2	3.8
Trails	4.5	4.3
Interpretive Information	3.5	3.3

^a Response Code: 1="Not at all important" and 5="Extremely important"

Information Services

State Forest visitors were asked a series of questions about their use of various types of forest information.

- One-fifth of the visitors surveyed reported that they had obtained information about the area they visited during or in preparation for their trip.
- Nearly equal proportions of visitors sought the different types of information listed in the survey (maps, visitor guides, other information).
- Nearly all of those visitors who had obtained information did so before leaving home, in preparation for their trip.
- Nearly all of them also reported that the information obtained was helpful in planning their trips.

Table 34. Visitor Responses to Questions about Information Services

	Valid Percent
Did you obtain any information about this area during this trip or in preparation for it?	
No	79.4
Yes	20.6
What type of information did you obtain?	
State Forest map	20.5
Trail map	27.6
PA visitors guide	27.9
Other	24.0
When did you receive information?	
Before leaving home	86.0
After arriving here	14.0
Was the information you received helpful to plan your trip?	
Yes	97.4
No	2.6

PA Wilds

State Forest visitors were also asked a series of questions about the PA Wilds.

- Less than half of the visitors surveyed (37.4%) reported that they were familiar with the PA Wilds designation.
- Nearly all of the visitors surveyed (94%) indicated that the PA Wilds program did not influence their decision to visit the State Forest.
- Most of the respondents (92%) indicated they were not planning to visit any other areas in the PA Wilds during their forest visit.
- Among those who were familiar with the PA Wilds, most made favorable comments about the program. See Appendix B, page 53 for a listing of these comments.

Table 35. Visitor Responses to Questions about the PA Wilds

	Valid Percent
Are you familiar with the PA Wilds designation in North Central Pennsylvania?	
No	62.6
Yes	37.4
Did the PA Wilds program influence your decision to visit the state forest?	
No	94.0
Yes	6.0
Are you planning to visit any other areas in the PA Wilds during your visit?	
No	92.0
Yes	8.0

Conclusion

The results published in this report are a compilation of the data collected at numerous recreation sites during the period of May 16, 2007 through May 15, 2008 (n = 590 interviews). Besides the basic visitor use survey, three supplemental instruments were used to query visitors about their satisfaction levels, economic expenditures, and recreation experiences.

This report provides a summary of the characteristics, behaviors, and attitudes of visitors to the Tiadaghton and Tioga State Forests in north central Pennsylvania. The results indicate that the Tiadaghton and Tioga State Forests receive about 177,316 and 331,193 annual recreation visits, respectively. Forest visitors tend to go to more than a single site during their trips to the forests, resulting in a higher number of recreational site visits in each State Forest.

Most State Forest visitors are repeat users, and many have considerable years of experience in the forests. Regarding satisfaction levels, most respondents were clearly satisfied with their recreation experience and with the satisfaction attributes listed on the survey instrument. While the data suggest that there is room for some improvement in a few areas, it is equally important to recognize the numerous positive scores for various satisfaction attributes.

The economic section of the study asked visitors about their monetary expenditures in and near the State Forests. About half of the forest visitors indicated that they would have gone somewhere else to do the same activity if they had not been able to visit the State Forest, indicating that they were serious about pursuing their recreation activities on that trip. As expected, most visitors were not staying overnight, so there were few expenditures for lodging accommodations. The largest expenditures reported were for food/drink at restaurants and bars, gasoline and oil, and other food and beverages.

The experience section of the study was given to about one-third of the visitors, providing rich data about visitor attitudes, motivations, and management preferences. The data clearly show that State Forest visitors are interested in experiencing the outdoor natural surroundings available in the forest areas. Relaxing out of doors, getting away from the routine, and other nature-based social activities are very important to these recreationists. Motivations to recreate in the State Forests were different for those pursuing different activities. Hunters and anglers are more interested in pursuing outdoor recreation activities that involve skill development and challenge, while hikers and bikers seek physical exercise. All activity groups greatly value relaxing and getting away from their regular routine in an outdoor, natural environment.

Visitor responses to potential management options were examined to ascertain support or opposition to various management alternatives. The highest degree of support was seen for recreational trails, additional wildlife viewing areas or opportunities, and directional signs to recreation areas.

This report provides a representative snapshot of recreational use in two Pennsylvania State Forests. It thus provides a start on the development of baseline data on Pennsylvania State Forest visitors. It is hoped that Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry managers will continue to support the development of this visitor use database to assist in their efforts to meet the needs of their recreation constituency.

Appendix A

Zip Codes of State Forest Visitors

Recreation Use on the State Forests

Appendix

	Valid Percent
State Visiting From	
Pennsylvania	86.6
New York	73.0
Maryland	2.1
Other	4.5
Total	100
Pennsylvania Counties	
Lycoming	21.8
Tioga	11.3
Clinton	8.1
Lancaster	6.2
Bradford	5.4
York	4.9
Centre	3.8
Berks	3.5
Montgomery	2.7
Dauphin	2.4
Cumberland	2.2
Schuylkill	2.2
Northumberland	1.9
Allegheny	1.6
Chester	1.6
Lebanon	1.6
Other	18.8
Total	100.0
Lycoming County MCD	
Jersey Shore	39.5
Williamsport	22.5
South Williamsport	8.6
Montoursville	8.6
Muncy	4.9
Woodward	3.7
Cummings	3.7
Other	91.5
Total	100
Tioga County MCD	
Wellsboro	61.9
Mansfield	19.0
Covington	3.7
Other	1.1
Total	100
Clinton County MCD	
Lock Haven	60.0
Avis	16.6
Other	23.3
Total	1000
Mean Travel Distance to Forest for All Respondents	101.9 miles
Mean Travel Distance to Forest for PA Residents	68.8 miles

Appendix B

Visitor Responses to Open-Ended Questions

If you could ask the state foresters to improve some things about the management of the forest, what would you ask them to do? (Experience Addition, question #8)

Facilities

Bathrooms

more bathrooms and trash cans
 cleaner porta potties and more restrooms
 more restrooms at each trailhead or parking area
 more restrooms
 better restrooms with showers
 restroom access for kayakers, too difficult to get to from creek
 flush toilets, running water, link to horseback riding info on the web
 porta potties at all parking lots
 turn on the water
 more restrooms

Other

concrete area for accessibility
 playground areas
 parking at campsites to unload gear
 playground, tent camping at pavilion
 snack bar, drinks
 trash cans
 primitive campers only, too many regulations, no logging
 more benches
 benches along the trail at Ramsey, Slate Run, Clark Farm, picnic tables
 ease regulations for overnight camping, make it simpler to get permits
 trash cans at picnic areas
 more campgrounds with amenities
 more fire pits, lower restrictions
 don't allow camping in parking areas of trail heads such as red run

Information

Maps and Information

comprehensive website for DCNR and fish and boat
 maps available at sites
 biking club info, maps available at trail, open jersey shore restrooms
 friend of pine creek rail trail interactive web site
 telephone, more information, should charge a fee, more sites, separate areas for tents
 better maps along trail/ snowmobile information
 more maps

Recreation Use on the State Forests

snowmobile safety courses
 pamphlets on snakes
 better advertising, let people know what is here
 better maps at visitor area
 lack knowledge about trail with local government agencies

Signs

more wildlife identification signs
 better sign for Bradley Whales and west rim road
 signs informing people to not walk in ski tracks
 better signs
 more signs and better maps
 increased signage, drinking water on rail trail
 more signs and mile markers on rail trail

Ranger/patrols

rangers in campgrounds
 ranger at campground
 more rangers
 no guns on rangers

Trails and roads

remove gates on some of the forest roads
 open Trout Run to Cammal
 crosswalks at road crossings on rail trail
 more overlooks
 atv trails
 more rail trail access areas
 more access to logging roads
 atvs on trails
 allow more roads to be open
 keep gates closed to keep people off private property
 more water stops on rail trail
 groom the smaller trails
 better roads and trail maintenance
 cut brush
 more road pull offs, more camp grounds
 more roads open to public travel

Hunting/Fishing

fewer restrictions on fishing, more golf courses

Recreation Use on the State Forests

stop killing deer
more deer, no beaver dams
more deer, don't shoot does
more deer
limit doe tags
more deer
stock more deer
stop doe hunting
more deer, better marking of county boundaries for hunting regulation
more deer
more fishing access
more fish
more fish

Forest management

bug control
bug control, even out the rail trail
ban generators from County Bridge

Other

trap shooting range, pistol range
cell tower for better reception

Is there some accommodation or assistance we could offer that would be helpful to you or anyone else in your group to improve your recreation experience? (Satisfaction Addition, question #2)

Facilities

Bathrooms

clean restrooms
 more bathrooms
 more bathrooms
 cleaner bathrooms
 flush toilets
 hand sanitizer in bathrooms
 more bathrooms
 fix remote bathroom sites
 keep a watch on toilet paper levels
 more bathrooms
 bathrooms with working water pumps
 more restrooms for women

Other

cleanliness of facilities
 phones, water fountains
 add playgrounds
 bear proof containers or bear ropes
 clean graffiti on picnic tables
 more trash cans
 working water pumps
 fix water pump at black walnut bottom
 more pavilions at day use areas
 first aide station
 more recycling centers
 more places to get drinking water
 overnight parking at Tiadaghton camp
 more benches on trails
 be able to drive into Black Walnut to drop off gear
 water at lookouts
 allow people to drop gear at campsite (black walnut bottom)

Information and signage

more information signs, information center, mile markers
 maps at recreation sites
 printed information at trails

Recreation Use on the State Forests

- mile markers
- more historical markers
- more mile and trail markers
- more online information
- more information online
- more signs on trails
- better signs
- better signage
- maps and information about hiking
- more trail markers
- more maps

Ranger/patrol

- more ranger patrol in areas
- more rangers and dog control
- more rangers
- more rangers in the forest, especially on the rail trail
- more rangers
- more patrols

Trails and roads

- pave the rail trail
- pave rail trail
- more equestrian trails and camps
- fewer roads
- oil roads to reduce dust
- close open gates
- fewer roads
- update trail conditions
- check hiker registry
- open ATV trails
- more access to trails
- improve access to Tiadaghton picnic area
- maintain more trails
- more information about ATV trails
- better trails and campgrounds
- better roads
- more orange blazes on west rim trails
- more information about water stops on west rim

Hunting/fishing

keep hunters involved, more deer
stop killing deer, need more deer for hunting
introduce elk
more deer
more fish
more deer
fix the jack dams or build a few more for the brook
trout
more wildlife viewing
deer control, stop doe archery
more fish
raise deer levels
maintain Sundays as no hunting days
cheaper out of state fishing licenses
more access to fishing areas

Forest management

private landowners abuse the forest
manage development in the area
less development
more timber harvesting
more clear cuts and more undergrowth
have someone else maintain the forest and start charging for use
pest management, gypsy moths, Asian longhorn beetle, elan span
worm, etc
cut down over hanging trees
manage lumber sales more carefully
more chestnut trees
budget more money for gypsy moth spraying
more clear cuts

Other areas visited or plan on visiting for recreation on this State Forest Trip (Basic Addition, question #4)

Sites and Areas Visited	Frequency
Pine Creek Gorge/Valley	45
Slate Run	21
Blackwell	18
PA Grand Canyon	16
Little Pine Creek State Park and Area	14
Cedar Run	9
Asaph Area	8
Darling Run	7
Tiadaghton Picnic/Camp	6
Sproul State Forest	5
Black Walnut Bottom	5
Colton Point	5
Waterville	5
West Rim Trail	4
Black Forest Trail and Area	4
Ansonia	3
Camal	3
Ramsey	3
Leonard Harrison State Park	3
East Rim	3
Jersey Mills	3
Clark Farm	3
Potter County	3
Bonnell Flats	2
Cherry Springs	2

Recreation Use on the State Forests	
County Bridge	2
English Center	2
Francis Run	2
Jersey Shore	2
Turkey Path	2
Red Run	2
Barber Rock Trail	1
Big Meadows	1
Ross Run	1
Torbet Island Area	1
Whitetail	1
Wellsboro Area	1
Mill Run Road	1
Dire Road	1
Fishing Creek	1
Frying Pan Trail	1
Golden Eagle Trail	1
Hoffman Camp	1
Kettle Creek	1
Trout Run	1
Lebo Vista	1
Spring Brook	1
Stony Fork	1

List of other expenditures (Economics Addition, question #2)

Supplies for cabin

Heat

Wood

Motel

Other areas used or visited for recreation (Satisfaction Addition, question #4)

Lookouts

Areas for dog training

Cabin

Fishing Creek

Hunting

Pine Creek Rail Trail

Camp visit

Other most important reasons for this visit to the state forest (Experience Addition, question #4)

Driving through

Geocaching

Snowmobiling (2)

Skiing

Therapeutic healing

Solitude

Other species of fish sought while visiting the state forest (Experience Addition, question #4c)

Bass

Golden Trout

Trout (3)

Other reasons which would encourage you to fish more in the area (Experience Addition, question #4d)

More time (2)

Reduced cost of fishing license

Opinions about facilities for people with disabilities (Experience Addition, question #6a)

Set up really well and there are usually ramps

Yes, ramps are present

Yes, adequate (3)

Yes, but there need to be phones nearby in case of an emergency

Other type of information obtained for this trip (Experience Addition, question #11a)

Geocache guide

H2O levels online

Internet (2)

Rail trail pamphlet

Fishing conditions and phone numbers

Trail map

Travel guide

West Rim booklet (2)

Word of mouth

Where or from whom did you receive information (Experience Addition, question #11c)

Bureau of Forestry (3)

Book Shop

DCNR (2)

Friends (2)

Previous trips

Geocache.com

Internet (4)

Jersey Shore Library

Little Pine State Park

Local motel and people

Pine Creek Outfitters (3)

State Parks

Visitor Center (3)

What could have made the information more useful (Experience Addition, question #11d)

More detailed maps

Phones and cell phone coverage

Rules and regulations more clear

Other primary destination besides state forest (Experience Addition, question #14)

Allegheny National Forest

Golf Tournament in Wellsboro

Niagara Falls

Renovo

What do you think of the PA Wilds designation (question #15, Experience Addition)

Don't know much about it

Good (4)

Good for protection and bad for development

Good for some people

Good thing/idea (3)

Great (2)

Great for protection and tourism

Great idea, brings people into the woods

Great idea, made more public

Important

Helpful because there is more information on activities

Like it (2)

Nice to have designated areas

No opinion

Ok

Only heard of it, no opinion

Protects wildlife in the area

Vaguely familiar

Other areas visited in PA Wilds on this trip (Experience Addition, question #16)

Canyon Museum

Ives Run

Mt. Pisgah State Park

To see elk

Sproul State Forest

Worlds End

Appendix C

Survey Instrument

_____ State Forest:
2007 Recreational Use Survey
Developed Day Use and Overnight Version

Interviewer: _____ Site: _____ Date: _____

Time of Interview: _____ Vehicle Axle Count: _____ Clicker Count: _____

Section 1 (Screening Questions)

1. Would you be willing to take a few minutes to participate in this interview?

Yes No

 If yes, continue, if no thank visitor and end the interview

2. What is the primary purpose of your visit to this site?

- Recreation—CONTINUE INTERVIEW
- Working or commuting to work (stop interview)
- Just stopped to use the bathroom (stop interview)
- Just passing through, going somewhere else (stop interview)
- Some other reason (specify) _____

We are surveying only
people who are here

Complete 3 and 3a for DUDS, OUDS and Proxy ONLY

3. Are you leaving (site name) for the last time today or will you return later?

- Leaving for last time today—CONTINUE INTERVIEW
- Will return later (CONTINUE INTERVIEW FOR INTERNAL USE)

3a. When did you first arrive at (site name) on this visit?

Month _____ Day _____ Year _____ Time (military) _____

Complete for GFA ONLY

4. Are you leaving the _____ SF for the last time today or will you return later?

- Leaving for last time today—CONTINUE INTERVIEW
- Will return later (CONTINUE INTERVIEW FOR INTERNAL USE)

Section 2 (Basic Information)

Now I want to ask you some more questions about where you went on your whole visit to the _____ SF, which includes the use of this area and other portions of the _____ SF.

1. Did you spend last night in the _____ SF?

No Yes

If yes, how many nights in a row did you spend in the ____ SF? _____

2. When did you first arrive at the ____ on this recreation visit?
 Month _____ Day _____ Year _____ Time (military) _____
 Same as site arrival time

3. When do you plan to finish your visit to the ____ SF on this recreation visit?
 Month _____ Day _____ Year _____ Time (military) _____
 Same as site arrival time

4. What other areas did you visit, or do you plan to visit in the ____ SF for recreation on this trip?
 (List sites or areas visited)

4a. How many different overnight lodging facilities (like campgrounds, cabins, or lodges) will you use on this trip to the ____ SF? Number _____

4b. How many other developed day use sites (like picnic areas or visitor centers), not including trailheads, will you use on this trip to the ____ SF? Number _____

4c. How many different days will you enter into undeveloped areas of the ____ SF on this trip? Number _____

5. In what activities on this list did you participate during this recreation visit at the ____ SF?	6. Which of those is your primary activity for this recreation visit to the ____?
--	--

Question 5 answers		Question 6 answer
	Camping in developed sites	
	Primitive camping	
	Backpacking	
	Resorts, cabins, organization camp use, and other accommodations on FS managed lands (private or FS)	
	Picnicking and family gatherings in developed site (family or group sites) (circle one)	
	Viewing while traveling off-forest	
	Viewing natural features such as scenery, wildlife, birds, flowers, fish, etc. (on FS lands) (circle one)	
	Visiting historic and prehistoric sites/areas (circle one)	
	Viewing a nature center, nature trail, or visitor center (circle one)	
	Nature study	

Recreation Use on the State Forests

Appendix

	General viewing activities, sightseeing	
	Fishing—all types	
	Hunting—all types	
	Off-highway vehicle travel	
	Driving for pleasure on roads	
	Snowmobile travel	
	Motorized water travel	
	Other motorized activities	
	Hiking or walking	
	Horseback riding	
	Bicycling, including mountain bikes (circle one)	
	Nonmotorized water travel (sailboarding, kayaking, rafting, etc.) (circle one)	
	Downhill skiing or snowboarding (circle one)	
	Cross-country skiing, snowshoeing (circle one)	
	Other nonmotorized activities	
	Gathering mushrooms, berries, firewood, or other natural products (circle one)	

7. NOT including this visit, about how many times did you come to the _____ SF for recreation in the past 12 months? Number _____

8. What is your home ZIP code or Canadian postal code? _____

Visitor is from a country other than USA or Canada

9. How many people (including you) traveled here in the same vehicle as you? Number _____

9a. How many of those people are less than 16 years old? Number _____

11. What is your age? Age _____

12. Gender? Male Female

13. Which of the following best describes you?

- Black/African American
- Asian
- White
- American Indian/Alaskan Native
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- Spanish, Hispanic or Latino
- Other _____

Economics Addition**Section 1 (This Recreation Trip)**

1. If for some reason you had been unable to go to the _____ SF for this visit what you would you have done instead:

- Gone elsewhere for the same activity
- Gone elsewhere for a different activity
- Come back another time
- Stayed home
- Gone to work at your regular job
- None of these: _____

2. About how much time, in total, will you be away from home on this recreation trip?

- Days _____ or
- Hours _____

3. On this trip, did you recreate at just the _____ SF, or did you go to other State Forests, parks, or recreation areas?

- Just the _____ SF (go to section 2)
- Other places (go to question 4)

4. Was the _____ SF your primary destination for this recreation trip?

- Yes
- No

Section 2 (Annual Recreation Use and Spending)

1. How many times in the last year have you visited the _____ SF specifically to participate in the primary activity that you mentioned previously? Number _____

2. About how much money (to the nearest \$100.00) do you spend each year on all outdoor recreation activities, including equipment, recreation trips, memberships, and licenses? Dollar Amount _____

Section 3 (Trip Expenditure Profile)

1. For this trip are you:

- Sharing expenses with other people (report just what you spent)
- Paying just for your expenses (report just what you spent)
- Paying for yourself and others: How many others _____ (report what you spent for all these people)
- Someone else is paying for you (report your portion of the total that person spent)

Recreation Use on the State Forests

Appendix

. For the following categories, please report the amount spent within 50 miles of here on this trip.				
Government-owned lodging (campgrounds, etc)	Food/drink at restaurants and bars	Gasoline and oil	Activities (including guide fees and equipment rental)	Souvenirs and clothing
\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Privately-owned lodging	Other food and beverages	Other transportation (plane, bus, etc.)	Entry, parking or recreation use fees	Any other expenditures (list below)
List of "other" expenditures:				

4. Finally, while at the _____ SF, which of the following did you visit or use for recreation?

- Developed campground
- Swimming area
- Hiking, biking, or horseback trails
- Scenic byway
- Designated wilderness
- Visitor center, museum
- Picnic area
- Boat launch
- Designated ORV area
- Other forest roads
- Interpretive sites
- Other _____

State Forest Experience Addition**1. Is this your first visit to the state forest?**

- Yes No
- [If no] In what year did you make your first visit to the state forest _____ year
- In a typical year, how many days do you spend recreating in the state forest? _____ days
- In a typical year, how many days do you spend recreating at other forest recreation sites outside of the state forest? _____ days

2. Which of the following best describes the composition of your group? [check only one]

- Alone Family
- Friends Family & friends
- Commercial group (group of people who paid a fee to participate in this trip) Organized group (club or other organization)
- Other [please specify] _____

3. Overall, how would you rate the quality of each of the following at the state forest:

	Awful	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Not applicable
Sanitation and cleanliness	1	2	3	4	5	NA
Safety and security	1	2	3	4	5	NA
Condition of latrines, picnic pavilions & other facilities	1	2	3	4	5	NA
Responsiveness of staff	1	2	3	4	5	NA
Natural environment	1	2	3	4	5	NA

4. Which of the following was the most important reason for this visit to the state forest?**[Please check only one]**

- _____ I came here because I enjoy being in the forest
- _____ I came here because it is a good place to spend time with friends/family
- _____ I came here because it's a good place to :
- _____ Hunt _____ Hike
- _____ Bike _____ Horseback ride
- _____ Fish (if yes, answer below questions)
- _____ Other reasons for visit (cabin owner, private inholding):

4a. How many days per year do you go fishing in the Pine Creek Valley _____
4b. How many of your fishing days are made to special regulation area in the Pine Creek Valley, such as Delayed Harvest, Catch-and-Release and Trophy Trout Areas?

_____ Delayed Harvest _____ Catch-and-Release
 _____ Trophy Trout Areas

4c. What species of fish do you fish for when visiting this natural area:

Trout Smallmouth bass
 Walleye Other:

4d. What would encourage you to fish more often in this area?

More special regulation areas Larger fish, indicate species:
 More fish, indicate species: Other
 Fewer or simpler regulations Other:

5. On a scale of 1 to 5, how do you feel about access to the forest: [1 poor, 5 very good]

By roads	1	2	3	4	5
By trails	1	2	3	4	5

6. Does anyone in your household have a disability?

Yes No

6a. [If yes] Please tell us if you believe our facilities are adequate

7. Here is a list of possible reasons why people recreate at outdoor recreation sites. Please tell me how important each of the following benefits is to you when you visit a state forest in Pennsylvania.

[one is not at all important and five is extremely important] [N/A does not apply to this question. Should be able to answer for each]

REASON	Not at all Important	Somewhat Important	Moderately Important	Very Important	Extremely Important
To be outdoors	1	2	3	4	5
For relaxation	1	2	3	4	5
To get away from the regular routine	1	2	3	4	5
For the challenge or sport	1	2	3	4	5
For family recreation	1	2	3	4	5
For physical exercise	1	2	3	4	5
To be with my friends	1	2	3	4	5
To experience natural surroundings	1	2	3	4	5
To develop my skills	1	2	3	4	5

8. If you could ask the state foresters to improve some things about the management of the forest, what would you ask them to do?

9. We are interested in knowing what facilities/services in the state forest are most important to you. Please tell me how important each of the below listed items is to you.

	Not at all Important	Somewhat Important	Moderately Important	Very Important	Extremely Important	No Opinion
	1	2	3	4	5	x
Wildlife viewing areas or opportunities	1	2	3	4	5	x
Picnic areas	1	2	3	4	5	x
Parking	1	2	3	4	5	x
Signs directing me to recreation facilities	1	2	3	4	5	x
Pine Creek Rail Trail	1	2	3	4	5	x
Printed interpretive information	1	2	3	4	5	x
Trails	1	2	3	4	5	x
Interpretive information	1	2	3	4	5	x

10. Please look at this list of statements that address your feelings about the recreation area that you visited on this trip in the state forest. Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the statements listed below.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
	1	2	3	4	5
This place means a lot to me	1	2	3	4	5
I enjoy recreating at this place more than other places I could visit	1	2	3	4	5
I am very attached to this place	1	2	3	4	5
I get more satisfaction out of visiting this place than from visiting most places	1	2	3	4	5

11. Have you obtained any information about this area during this trip or in preparation for it?

Yes

No

[If yes] Please continue with follow-up questions

15. Are you familiar with the PA Wilds designation in North Central Pennsylvania?

Yes

No

[If yes] What do you think of this designation?

16. Did the PA Wilds program influence your decision to visit the state forest?

Yes

No

17. Are you planning to visit any other areas in the PA Wilds during your visit?

Yes

No

[If yes] Please indicate other areas you are planning to visit: