



Public Use Statistics - Monthly Report January to November 2005

Recreation Visits

Units of the National Park System received 259.1 million recreation visits from January-November 2005.¹ This is a 2.1% decrease in recreation visits, or 5.7 million fewer visits than in the same period in 2004.

September 2004's hurricanes are still adversely affecting public use visitation to units of the National Park System. Gulf Island National Seashore has a portion in Florida closed, resulting in a decrease of 2.6 million visits. Blue Ridge Parkway has a portion closed also, resulting in a decrease of 1.2 million. The decline at these two parks more than offset the growth at the six units with the greatest increases in visitation over the same period in 2004.

The largest year-to-date increases (in thousands) in recreation visits were reported at:

Statue of Liberty National Monument	+610	Lake Meredith National Recreation Area	+324
Castle Clinton National Monument	+493	Hawaii Volcanoes National Park	+309
Big Cypress National Preserve	+379	Golden Gate National Recreation Area	+309

The largest year-to-date decreases (in thousands) in recreation visits were reported at:

Gulf Islands National Seashore	-2,583	Cuyahoga Valley National Park	-768
Blue Ridge Parkway	-1,166	National Capital Parks East	-582
National World War II Memorial	-896	G. Washington Memorial Parkway	-581

The following November 2005 changes in visitation over the same month in 2004 are notable:

National World War II Memorial	-181,000 (-42%)	Decreasing visitation compared to last year's grand opening.
National Capital Parks East	-174,000 (-74%)	Administrative error in 2004.

¹ NPS Public Use Statistics Office, Preliminary data, 2005. Data are adjusted for delinquent reports and comparisons are made against the same time period in 2004.

Non-Recreation Visits (Commuters)

Units of the National Park System received 137.7 million non-recreation visits in the first 11 months of 2005. The 1.7% decrease in non-recreation visits was 2.3 million fewer commuter visits than in January-November 2004.

National Capital Parks East in Washington, DC accounted for the decrease in commuter traffic, reporting a decrease of 3.2 million year-to-date. This was the result of administrative errors in August and October of 2004.

Overnight Stays

Yellowstone National Park reported 34,000 fewer overnight stays in Old Faithful Inn (concessioner lodging) due to reconstruction. Sixty-four percent of the units reporting recorded a decrease in concessioner camping overnight stays (28 of 44 units). Death Valley National Park reported 39,000 more tent overnight stays and 34,000 more recreation vehicle overnight stays than in 2004 due to their unusual wildflower blooms and increased use of Lake Manly in Badwater Basin. Gulf Islands National Seashore has had 121,000 fewer overnight stays in tents and recreational vehicles due to the severe damage inflicted by the September 2004 hurricanes. Grand Teton National Park has shifted management of their tent and RV sites to concessioner camping, a change of 200,000 overnight stays. Sixty-one percent of the units reporting recorded a decrease in backcountry overnight stays (63 of 104 units).

Change in Overnight Stays in NPS Units 2004-2005

(through November 2005, numbers in thousands)

Overnight Stay Category	Year-To-Date 2004	Year-To-Date 2005	Difference	% Change
Concessioner Lodging	3,399	3,323	-76	-2
Concessioner Camping	950	1,168	218	23
Tents	3,092	2,936	-156	-5
Recreational Vehicles	2,279	2,122	-157	-7
Backcountry	1,689	1,633	-56	-3
Groups & Boats	1,992	2,035	43	2
Non-recreation	274	276	2	1

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Public Use Statistics Office Web site: <http://www.nature.nps.gov/stats>

Social Science Program Web site: <http://www2.nature.nps.gov/socialscience>