

Questionnaire:

A central goal of the symposium is to develop a comprehensive picture of current and future recreation and tourism related research on the Tongass and Chugach National forests, and within the state of Alaska as a whole. Another objective is to facilitate communication amongst researchers and between researchers and interested audiences. To this end, we ask you to answer the following questions. The responses will be compiled and distributed to all participants at the symposium. Please limit your response to approximately 500 words and submit them electronically to Guy Robertson at grobertson02@fs.fed.us no later than February 16. If email is a problem you can call Guy at 907-586-8809.

1. What is your agency's or organization's interest and involvement in recreation/tourism in Alaska?
2. Is there any recreation/tourism research that your agency or organization is currently engaged in or has recently completed, and if so can you briefly describe it?
3. What are your information needs in regards to recreation and tourism, and which needs do you think are the most important?
4. What specific data and other information sources you have found to be especially useful?

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Questionnaire:

5. What is your agency's or organization's interest and involvement in recreation/tourism in Alaska?

My agency is the University of Alaska Fairbanks. We maintain the Alaska Tourism Institute within the School of Management, as well as a variety of recreation and tourism research projects.

6. Is there any recreation/tourism research that your agency or organization is currently engaged in or has recently completed, and if so can you briefly describe it?

I personally have conducted a handful of recreation and tourism research projects, including a Demand Analysis for visitors to the Chena River State Recreation Area. This study looked at a number of things, including an estimation of visitation loss if a user fee were implemented.

7. What are your information needs in regards to recreation and tourism, and which needs do you think are the most important?

As a university faculty member, my needs pertain to the research and service goals of the university. Namely, I need to publish peer-reviewed scientific research articles and conduct research that is useful to the community.

8. What specific data and other information sources you have found to be especially useful?

Any data that can be tortured into a journal article.

Kim Kiefer, Director, Juneau Parks and Recreation

Juneau Parks and Recreation

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Questions:

1. Juneau Parks and Recreation is involved with recreation/tourism in Juneau in many ways but primarily in providing a variety of recreational opportunities for residents and visitors. In the past few years we have become more and more involved with commercial use of parkland. We are currently planning a new trail to be used extensively by commercial users and thus not displacing residents from an existing trail.

2. Juneau Parks and Recreation staff are members of the Trails Working Group (TWG) which completed a survey last spring that was mailed out to every household in Juneau. The questionnaire asked which of the trails listed should be considered for commercial use, and if so how big should the groups be and how many groups per day. The TWG is continuing work this year to recommend guidelines for agencies on the amount of use on 19 trails supported by the survey results as trails for commercial use. I can provide copies of the survey results, although the written comments are 15 pages long. Let me know what you would like.

The TWG is made of members from the CBJ Assembly, USFS, State Parks, CBJ Parks and Recreation, Trailmix, community members and commercial operators.

3. What are the trends, where can we anticipate growth or new technology that will impact the use, how are others permitting for commercial use on local public lands.

4. I feel like we are doing a lot of breaking ground in these areas.

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SuzAnne M. Miller, Dunrovin Research

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Questionnaire Response

Responses to the following questions are by the US Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station and Dunrovin Research:

- 1. What is your agency or organization's interest and involvement in recreation/tourism in Alaska?*

Since 1985, the Rocky Mountain Research Station (RMRS) has been participating in research efforts on recreation and tourism involving wildlife related activities in Alaska. Attached is a list of reports and publications that have resulted from those efforts. Originally, scientists from RMRS went to Alaska to consult with R-10 and Tongass National Forest staff on the Tongass Land Management Planning efforts. The RMRS connection with Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game (ADFG) began with providing technical assistance to researchers in the ADFG to study the economic value of hunting several species of big game in Southeast Alaska. That initial involvement led to a long-term cooperative research project between the Station and ADFG to document and analyze economic and social values associated with the wildlife related activities throughout the state of Alaska (SuzAnne Miller, the principal ADFG investigator for this project is now with Dunrovin Research while Dan McCollum remains the RMRS principal). The project looked specifically at four user-activity combinations: consumptive and nonconsumptive uses of wildlife by both residents and nonresident visitors. All four combinations involve recreation and tourism generated by an interest in wildlife. In studying the nonresident, nonconsumptive group, project researchers heavily used the data resulting from Phase III of the Alaska Visitor Statistics Program (AVSP).

- 2. Is there any recreation/tourism research that your agency or organization is currently engaged in or has recently completed, and if so can you briefly describe it.*

The in-depth understanding of the AVSP data that researchers at the Rocky Mountain Research Station and Dunrovin Research had developed led them to cooperate with the Alaska Department of Community and Economic Development and members of the

Alaska Land Managers Forum in conducting an AVSP IV Planning and Coordination Project to strengthen and broaden both the research quality and scope of the AVSP to include consideration of natural resource issues related to recreation and tourism. A Steering Committee of representatives from 13 different cooperating organizations or agencies involved in natural resource management or the tourism industry was formed to assess tourism and outdoor recreation information needs relative to nonresident visitors. As a result of this effort, the AVSP IV will contribute significantly to more and better information being available for both tourism industry and natural resource planning. The Steering Committee also recommended a similar study of resident Alaskans be conducted. The Rocky Mountain Research Station and Dunrovin Research continued their cooperation with the same entities (and added additional participants) to conduct a feasibility study for developing and implementing a research effort on Alaska resident travel and outdoor recreation. The decision to proceed with such an effort is pending.

3. *What are your information needs in regards to recreation and tourism, and which do you think are the most important?*

Through our recent experiences with the AVSP Planning and Coordination Project and the resident travel and outdoor recreation feasibility study, we have had an opportunity to discuss tourism and outdoor recreation information needs with many state, federal, private, and nonprofit organizations. Several basic research themes have emerged from our discussions: 1) Documenting both resident and nonresident recreational, business, and personal travel patterns in Alaska, and the motives, levels of satisfaction, and expenditures associated with that travel; 2) Exploring the relationship between different travel activities and purposes; 3) Identifying and describing different travel market segments; 4) Estimating the economic contribution of travel and outdoor recreation to local communities; 5) Understanding social and economic values associated with public lands as a source of recreational opportunities and quality of life; 6) Understanding attitudes and opinions of both nonresident visitors and Alaska residents towards public land management policies, programs, and options related to outdoor recreation; and 7) Developing an understanding of how the inevitable growth of tourism in Alaska can successfully occur in a sustainable manner, consistent with residents' attitudes and values. The latter involves understanding conflicts and potential conflicts between residents and nonresidents, between tourism development and perceived quality of life by residents, and between alternative uses of resources, among others.

4. *What specific data and other information sources have you found to be especially useful?*

Most of our work has relied on primary data collected using surveys administered by the ADFG. The nonresident nonconsumptive component of our studies also relied on data from the Alaska Visitor Statistics Program (AVSP) Phase III. Phase IV of the AVSP has been modified to address a number of important data gaps that we identified with respect to the relationship between nonresident tourism and resource management. We strongly support efforts to develop and implement a similar study focused on Alaska resident travel and outdoor recreation.

Mary Beth Moss, Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve

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Questionnaire:

1. What is your agency or organization's interest and involvement in recreation/tourism in Alaska?

Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve is a 3.3 million acre marine wilderness park at the northern end of Alaska's inside passage. Glacier Bay is consistently mentioned in surveys as one of the top attractions in the state, and approximately 450,000 people visited the park last year (2000). While the majority of those were cruise ship passengers, other activities that attract visitors include boating, kayaking, hiking, camping, sport fishing, river running and mountaineering. Managing the resources of this large wilderness area to protect its coastal and marine ecosystems while providing for recreation and tourism is a major challenge to park management. Therefore park managers have a vested interest in trends and issues in recreation and tourism, as well as in the research and information efforts being conducted by other land management agencies and communities statewide.

2. Is there any recreation/tourism research that your agency or organization is currently engaged in or has recently completed, and if so can you briefly describe it?

- 1) **Backcountry Visitor and Vessel Distribution Study:** A comprehensive effort to collect data on visitor use patterns in the Bay. This data along with future visitor surveys will be used to determine what level of visitor use is appropriate for the carrying capacity of Glacier Bay's backcountry.
- 2) **Research on effects of vessel traffic:** The Vessel Management Plan, published in 1996, requires that the National Park Service investigate the potential effects of vessels on park purposes and values. Numerous research projects have been initiated (see attached table) including:
 - a) **Whale Monitoring Program:** NPS monitors the abundance and distribution of endangered humpback whales and regulates vessel traffic accordingly.
 - b) **Harbor Seal Monitoring Program:** NPS monitors the abundance and productivity of harbor seals at selected sites over time to provide early detection of trends that may require management action to protect critical seal habitat.
 - c) **Interactions between vessels and harbor seals, Steller sea lions, and whales:** NPS has implemented, or collaborated on several studies to determine if vessels affect the distribution, abundance, or behavior of these marine mammals.

3) Bear Habitat Use and Campsite Risk Assessment: Efforts include mapping critical bear habitats, risk assessment of frequently used camp sites, monitoring bear-human activity, and analysis of bear-human interaction at sites of varying risk assessment. The goal is to enable managers to direct human activities so they minimize conflict between bears and people.

3. What are your information needs in regards to recreation and tourism, and which do you think are most important?

Most of the park's research questions are so interlinked that it is difficult to say which is the most important. Below are listed the key important issues and the questions they raise:

- 1) Marine Mammals and Bird Issues :** Do vessels affect the distribution, abundance, or behavior of marine mammals or seabirds in GBNP? How much variation in the distribution, abundance and behavior of marine mammals or seabirds can be attributed to vessel distribution, abundance and behavior?
- 2) Air Quality Issues:** Do cruise ship stack emissions adversely affect visitor experience or the environment?
- 3) Visitor Experience/Satisfaction Issues:** What is the social carrying capacity for GBNP? (i.e., how many visitors of each kind can the Park support without adversely impacting the experience of other visitors?)
- 4) Shoreline Impacts:** How are marine shorelines affected by changes in vessel levels and distribution?
- 5) Cultural Issues:** How does vessel traffic affect cultural resources in GBNP?

4. What specific data and other information sources have you found to be especially useful?

Information generated from a coordinated research program focused on the information needs of management allows for science-based decisions that best protect park resources. This process is a critical component for effective management of tourism-related effects in a large national park. Park managers also recognize the importance of incorporating traditional ecological knowledge and local resident/historical knowledge into their management decisions.

Don Pendergrast, Gates of the Arctic & Yukon-Charley Rivers NP&P

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Research Activities

Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve (GAAR) contains 7.2 million acres of designated Wilderness. No other National Park was established with such a strong emphasis on wilderness purposes so that GAAR represents the most primitive end of the Recreational Opportunity Spectrum (ROS). As Alaska tourism develops and as Wilderness experiences are in greater demand, GAAR wants to maintain its place as one of the most primitive wilderness areas in the world. Along the Kobuk River in the Preserve portion of GAAR a very high quality sport hunting and fishing opportunity exists. Understanding both types of users will allow GAAR to continue to offer the highest quality of non-consumptive and consumptive outdoor recreation.

GAAR has three distinct sub-populations of backcountry users: independent visitors, commercially guided visitors, and consumptive users (hunting and fishing). Compared to other recreation destinations in Alaska, visitation to GAAR is very low. There are less than two thousand backcountry recreation users a year, and less than half of those are commercially guided. Even at these levels resource and social impacts are noticeable. If GAAR is to continue to offer quality Wilderness experiences, maintain the resource in pristine condition, and avoid the crises that can occur with recreation and tourism it must be pro-active in its management and planning efforts.

GAAR's data on recreational use will be supplemented by research done by the Aldo Leopold Wilderness Institute. Two studies of backcountry use are currently in the planning stage: one during the summer of 2001 deals with sport hunting on the Kobuk River, the second spanning two seasons of 2001-2 is a study of commercial and independent non-consumptive recreational use. The research will discover more about visitors' characteristics, motivations, experience, and desires. It will illuminate what meanings wilderness holds for visitors and how their experience in GAAR effects those meanings. It will help management develop indicators of visitor use, and standards for acceptable levels of use at the most primitive end of the ROS. Research with sport hunters will yield information about why the Kobuk experience so desirable, and what management actions can keep it so. Potential social or resource issues will be identified. This research will guide GAAR in making acceptable management decisions about visitor use.

Other tourism issues.

Flight seeing has occurred over GAAR. Although flightseeing is not currently happening, it will undoubtedly occur again.

Winter dog mushing commercial trips have occurred in the GAAR for many years and are currently being offered with snowmachine support.

In Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve (YUCH). There are small scale Incidental Business Permit holders that operate "Six pack" boats along the Yukon between Eagle and Circle. It is only a matter of time before larger boats (e.g. sternwheelers) begin to operate in this area and utilize private property along the river for associated development.

The Coal Creek Historic District Site is currently used for administrative and educational purposes, but it is likely to become a tourist stop for commercial river tours.

Public use cabins are utilized along the Yukon River, one of which, Slaven's Roadhouse is a checkpoint on the Yukon Quest Dog Race.

Bill Romberg, Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game

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Questionnaire Response

1). What are your agency or organization's interest and involvement in recreation/tourism in Alaska?

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game is mandated by state law to management fish and wildlife resources in Alaska. The primary goals of the agency are to ensure that Alaska's renewable fish and wildlife resources and their habitats are conserved and managed on the sustained yield principle, and **the use and development of these resources are in the best interest of the economy and well-being of the people of the state.** The Division of Sport Fish is responsible for the state's recreational fishery resource including: the conservation of self-perpetuating populations of fish; management of sport fisheries in both salt and fresh water; and hatchery production and release of fish for sport fishing. The goals of the Division of SF are: conserve naturally reproducing populations of sport fish species, **provide a diverse mix of sport fishing opportunities, and, optimize the social and economic benefits of Alaska's recreational fisheries.** One of "Guiding Principles" is that we will provide for the greatest long-term opportunities for people to use and enjoy Alaska's fish, wildlife and habitat resources.

In a nutshell: we are interested and involved in recreation/tourism issues in Alaska because it is our job to provide opportunities for Alaskans to engage in recreational fishing, and to manage that activity for the long-term benefit of the state and its people. In recent years, we have taken steps to start developing a better understanding of the sport fishing public (resident and nonresident) and a growing number of issues/trends related to this important recreational activity in order to provide the Division and fishery decision-makers with better information for planning and management of recreational fisheries in Alaska.

2) Is there any recreation/tourism research that your agency or organization is currently engaged in or has recently completed?

We are currently in the middle of a research project aimed at identifying factors that influence sport fishing participation and license purchasing behavior among Alaska residents. A mail survey of 8,400 Alaskan residents stratified by participation level (active, inactive, non-anglers) is in the process of being mailed right now. Attached is a brief synopsis of the research effort. Results of this study should be available in late 2001.

In addition, we completed an extensive mail survey of resident and nonresident sport fishing license holders in 1997 to collect baseline information on resident and nonresident sport fishing license holders for market identification. A findings abstract for the nonresident portion of this study is attached. The resident data is still being analyzed and combined with the nonresident data to develop a single database.

3) What are your information needs in regards to recreation and tourism, and which do you think are most important?

Due to our specific mandate, obviously our most of our information needs related to Alaska resident recreation and travel relate to recreational fishing participation. Specifically, we are most interested in participatory, preference, and satisfaction data, as well as information on management attitudes and opinions from time to time. Currently we collect information annually on # of anglers, # of angler days fished, and number of each species fished (at the fishery level). However, we are also interested in expanding our data collection efforts to include variables such as (in order of importance) # individual fishing trips taken per year, # household trips (and differentiating among those trips primarily for fishing and those that simply included rec. fishing as one component for some members of the household), demographic characteristics of persons who participate in rec. fishing, satisfaction with specific fishing opportunities, as well as recreational fishing expenditures. Given the decentralized nature of our agency, it is important that such data is available with a known degree of precision at the regional, watershed, and (often) fishery-specific levels. We have conducted a few studies recently that have provided some of these variables for current sport fishing license holders. However, the Division is interested in understanding the inactive and non-fishing public and their travel and recreation patterns as well. From a tourism standpoint, the Dept has been grappling with the growth in popularity of sport fishing among visitors to Alaska, particularly along the road system. Increasingly, we hear that some residents are foregoing participation in accessible sport fisheries often due to increased numbers of participants, so our interest in tourism development and efforts to manage sport fisheries to meet expectations of all potential participants (resident and nonresident) will only increase.

4) What specific data and other information sources have you found to be especially useful?

Although the Division has conducted several studies related to the economics of sport fishing in Alaska over the years, only recently have we expanded our horizon to include sources of data external to the agency when it comes to planning and management of recreational fisheries. Data sources developed by ADF&G that relate to recreation and tourism issues in Alaska include our Alaska Guide Registration database, Historical Sport Fishing License database, and Sport Fishing Statewide Harvest Survey database which are updated annually. In addition, we are building a database from the Responsive Management surveys conducted in 1997 that will contain a considerable amount of cross sectional data for resident and nonresident sport fishing license holders.

As far as external data/information sources, we have access to and have used the Permanent Fund Database as a sample frame for survey research. We participated in the planning of the ongoing Alaska Visitor Statistics Program IV survey and are looking forward to the results of that effort to provide us with additional information on nonresident participation, interest, and satisfaction with sport fishing in Alaska. I personally have used the AK Dept. of Labor's current population and census data for reports and comparisons to ADFG information. I'm currently reviewing a recently-published book entitled: Trends in Outdoor Recreation, Leisure and Tourism (Gartner & Lime, 2000), which may provide some useful information for long-range planning for our Division as well as this study. Recommended reading.....

Barbara Sheinberg, AICP, Sheinberg Associates

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Questionnaire

1. What is your organization's interest and involvement in recreation/tourism in Alaska? We are a Juneau-based community planning firm. When working with Southeast Alaska communities, we almost always are considering recreation and tourism land use, development, impacts and management as part overall community land use and economic development planning.

2. Is there any recreation/tourism research your organization is currently engaged in or has recently completed, and if so can you briefly describe it? We assist communities in defining what does "appropriate tourism" mean for their community. After defining this, we will look at land use policy and economic development actions to respond. We have most recently assisted Skagway, Pelican, Angoon and Petersburg with this.

3. What are your information needs in regard to recreation and tourism, and which do you think are most important? My biggest need is a policy and planning process concern, not research or data issue per se - State, federal and local government land managers, need to work with native corporations, users and industry to make compatible decisions on recreation and tourism land use and economic development policies.

4. What specific data and information sources have you found to be useful? I find clear information on industry trends and on what tourism providers intend to do and where they intend to go helpful. I need data on commercial tourism use numbers, areas used, and needs. As a business whose entire focus is NOT recreation and tourism, I sometimes don't know where to find the recreation and tourism data I need. A clear distribution point or source would be great. It would be helpful to know what data has and is being gathered. I look forward to understanding this better as a result of the March 1 meeting.

Nonna Shtipelman, City and Borough of Juneau

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Questionnaire

1. What is your agency or organization's interest and involvement in recreation/tourism in Alaska?

The City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ) has been dealing with tourism management and growth issues, which have generated much controversy in the last decade, and continue to do so today. Much of this controversy stems from the fact that CBJ is working with a already well established industry, which may limit its ability to make initial choices on a number of important issues:

- Does Juneau want to focus on tourism as an economic development tool?
- What kinds of tourism does Juneau want to encourage?
- Where does Juneau want tourism activities to occur?
- Should infrastructure accommodate growth or should infrastructure decisions direct and manage growth instead?

Juneau is already home to a flourishing tourism industry. A substantial contributor to the local economy, tourism generates jobs, income, sales and hotel taxes, port fees, passenger fees, visitor spending, etc. Economists identify tourism and associated jobs as one of the few growth areas in the regional economy.

However, some residents question whether the benefits of tourism outweigh its costs and have criticized CBJ leaders for not doing enough to address tourism growth and its impacts to the community. Others maintain that those bothered by tourism represent a small minority and do not represent the entire community. Unfortunately, in today's contentious climate, even the most valid concerns may be lost in disagreements fueled by emotion and controversy. The end result is one of little progress in a polarized community which reacts based on opinion rather than fact.

The CBJ has addressed tourism management and growth in a variety of ways over the last decade: the CBJ has an established tourism policy; funded a substantial amount of tourism research; established a Voluntary Compliance program and Tourism Hotline; and created working groups to address tourism issues. Most recently, the CBJ has released a Request for Proposals for a Tourism Management Plan intended to identify specific strategies for sustainable tourism growth and development.

Is there any recreation/tourism research that your agency or organization is currently engaged in or has recently completed, and if so, can you briefly describe it?

Please see City and Borough of Juneau Tourism Management History and Review (attached).

What are your information needs in regard to recreation and tourism, and which do you think are the most important?

The CBJ s especially interested in the following:

Trends in visitor types (cruise, independent, business/pleasure, etc.)

Trends in modes of travel (large/small cruiseship, ferry, air, etc.)

Visitor impacts to local communities (infrastructure, natural resources, etc.)

Economic trends and impacts associated with various visitor types

Local controls and means by which communities may regulate or otherwise address the types of tourism/activities and associated impacts

What specific data and other information sources have found to be especially useful?

The work of others is helpful in assessing how best to manage tourism growth and in modeling various growth scenarios in our community. Most of this information is easily accessible on line.

For more information please see CBJ Tourism Management History.doc on the symposium website

Alan Watson, Aldo Leopold Institute

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Research Activities:

1. Cooperator with Alaska Wilderness Recreation and Tourism Association (AWRTA) and Rocky Mountain Research Station on “Wilderness and Wildlife” module in Alaska Visitor Statistics Program survey of non-resident tourists to Alaska (2000-2001). Worked cooperatively with other members of survey planning team to develop a module to establish baseline knowledge on the importance of federally protected wilderness to recreation trip decisions and allow segmentation of visitor population based upon commitment to protection of wilderness character.
2. Received financial support from USDA Forest Service, International Programs Office, University of Montana Wilderness Institute, and the Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute for “Circumpolar North Wilderness Workshop: Protecting Traditional, Ecotourism and Ecological Values in Alaska,” hosted by the University of Alaska, Anchorage, May 15-17, 2001. Also submitted a proposal to the National Science Foundation for additional funding to expand this attempt to bring together science interests in the circumpolar north to provide input to long-range wilderness value research in Alaska. Drs. Watson and Alessa were invited and participated in a NSF sponsored workshop in Seattle in January of 2001 to provide input on social science priorities in arctic and sub-arctic research sponsored by NSF.
3. Cooperatively funding project with US Fish & Wildlife Service and the University of Idaho at Togiak Wilderness in Alaska on local values assigned to wild river uses in wilderness. Also cooperating with FWS and providing OMB information collection clearance on repetition of recreation floater study from 1995 for input to planning process.
4. Providing scientific oversight and OMB information collection clearance for NPS visitor study at Noatak Preserve. Information collection is accomplished with NPS employees.
5. Cooperatively funding project at Gates of the Arctic National Park, with NPS, on recreational sport hunters in the Gates of the Arctic Preserve, along the Kobuk River.

6. Cooperatively funding project at Gates of the Arctic National Park, with NPS and the University of Montana, on commercial guided visitors and the meanings and values they attach to visitation to this wilderness, with special interest in anticipated benefits and impacts of management policy changes to protect wilderness values, including subsistence.
7. Conducting interagency training on wilderness use estimation and monitoring of use and user characteristics in April of 2001, sponsored by the Alaska Recreation and Park Association.

Wendy Wolf, The Andrews Group, Inc.

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Questionnaire:

#1) I work with a variety of clients interested in the visitor industry and its relationship to their communities and nearby public lands.

#2) Not applicable.

#3) In assisting my clients to plan and manage tourism, a myriad of research data would be useful, such as:

- visitor travel patterns and expenditures in specific locations as well as statewide
- visitor perceptions of their experiences and their sources of information while planning and taking their trip
- resident perceptions of the benefits as well as impacts of tourism in their communities
- documented impacts to resources used by visitors and residents
- case studies of community efforts to develop strategies or plans to deal with growth/change in resident as well as visitor populations

#4) AVSP in the past...but not enough information for rural communities due to sample size