



Monongahela

National Forest

News Release

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National Forest Recreation Surveys Coming Your Way!!

Soon you may see more Forest Service employees working in developed recreation sites and along Forest Service roads. They will be wearing bright orange vests and be near a sign that says "Recreation Use Survey Ahead". Just like the mail carrier these interviewers may be out in all kinds of adverse weather conditions. These folks may be flagging you over to talk with you. What's this all about, you ask?

The Forest Service lacks good information about visitors to federal lands. Some of the information that would be useful for Forest planning and even local community tourism planning includes how many people actually recreate on federal lands and what activities they engage in while there. Other important information forest and tourism planners need includes how satisfied people were with their visit and how much money they spent during their visit.

This recreation visitor study will gather basic visitor information. All responses are totally confidential. Names are never asked or written anywhere on the survey. The basic interview lasts about 6 minutes. Every other visitor is asked a few additional questions which may take an additional 5 minutes. The questions visitors are asked include: where they recreated on the Forest, how many people they traveled with, how long they were on the Forest, what other recreation sites they visited while on the Forest, and how satisfied they were with the

facilities and services provided. Twenty-five percent of the visitors will be asked to complete a confidential survey on recreation spending during their trip.

Information collected in this national study will be used in local Forest planning, at the state planning level, and even by Congress. The more they know about the visitors, especially their satisfaction and desires, the better managers can provide for their needs.

Although the survey is entirely voluntary, we sure would appreciate it if visitors would pull up and answer a few questions. It's important for interviewers to talk with local people using the forest as well as out-of-area visitors so all types of visitors are represented in the study. If you have any questions about this study you can visit our web site at <http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/grograms/nvum> or call Carol Whetsell at 304.478.3251 extension 105.

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Additional information is available from the Monongahela National Forest, 200 Sycamore Street, Elkins WV 26241.