

# Anza Borrego Desert State Park Visitor Study



## Final Report

---

Wayne A. Freimund Ph.D.  
Stephen Peel M.S.

School of Forestry  
The University of Montana  
Missoula, Montana

October 2001

## Acknowledgements

This visitors' study was sponsored by California State Parks, under a cooperative agreement with the School of Forestry, University of Montana. The information collected for and reported in this study involved the work of many people, among them: Dave Van Cleve, Mat Fuzie, Marsha Henderson, Mark Jorgensen, Jim and Kathy Dice, LLoise Jee, George Jefferson, and Joanie Cahill at the Park; Clay Phillips, Jeanice Davis, and Bob Patterson at the Southern Service Center; and survey takers Claude Casey, John Dougherty, and Scott Himes.

An expression of appreciation is likewise offered to those others not named who worked mostly behind the scenes to make this undertaking a success. Also extended is a heartfelt thanks to all of the visitors to the Park who spent time in the hot sun, or in inclement weather to fill out a long and complicated survey.

**40**  
**Contents**

Contents .....	3
Executive Summary .....	4
About the Study.....	6
Purpose of the Visitor Study .....	6
Methodology.....	7
Timeline .....	7
Population.....	7
Sampling Strategy .....	7
Table 1. Sample size by site and season .....	8
Survey Instrument .....	8
Non-participation Bias .....	9
Data Analysis.....	9
Characteristics of the Visitors.....	10
Seasonal And Site Differences.....	10
Origin of Park Visitors.....	10
Education.....	16
Size of Community of Origin.....	18
Visitor Household Income.....	19
Group Size.....	21
Group Type.....	22
Length of Visit.....	24
Awareness of the Park .....	27
Plans to Return to the Park .....	29
Accommodations Used.....	30
What Experiences do Visitors Seek in a Trip to Anza-Borrego? .....	33
Anza Borrego Values and Visitor Motivation .....	33
Measurement of the Values Visitors Place on Anza Borrego.....	33
Measurement of the Reasons for Visiting Anza Borrego.....	35
How do Visitors Evaluate the Management of Anza Borrego Desert State Park? .....	39
Measurement of Management Support .....	39
How do Visitors view the Acceptability of Ecological, Managerial and Social Conditions within the Park?.....	43
The Photo Series.....	43
Acceptability of Vegetation Loss at Coyote Canyon.....	43
Acceptability of Visitor Density at Blair Valley .....	50
Acceptability of Visitor Density at Fish Creek .....	54
Acceptability of Trail Standards at Borrego Palm Canyon.....	60
Acceptability of Trail Standards at Mountain Palm Springs.....	65
Management Actions to Achieve/Maintain Acceptable Conditions.....	70
Summary.....	71
Appendix A: Sample Questionnaire .....	73
Appendix B: Cover Letter from Superintendent .....	82
Appendix C: Visitor Comments .....	85
comments: Fall visitors to the visitor center.....	86
Comments: Fall visitors to Borrego Palm Canyon.....	88
Comments: Fall Visitors to Blair Valley.....	90
Comments: Fall visitors to Coyote Canyon .....	92
Comments: Fall visitors to Fish Creek.....	95

Comments: Fall visitors to Mountain Palm Springs ..... 96  
 Comments: Spring Visitors to Visitor Center ..... 97  
 Comments: Spring Visitors to Mountain Palm Springs..... 98  
 Comments: Spring visitors to Borrego Palm Canyon ..... 101  
 Comments: Spring Visitors to Coyote Canyon ..... 103  
 Comments: Spring Visitors to Blair Valley ..... 106  
 Comments: Spring Visitors to Fish Creek..... 107

## Executive Summary

Beginning November 2000 through March 2001 a survey of visitors to Anza-Borrego Desert State Park (ABDSP) was conducted by ABDSP and researchers from the University of Montana. The purpose was to gather information regarding characteristics of the visitors and their trip, motivations for coming to the Park, their perceptions of why the Park is important to them, and an assessment of the Park’s Management. In all, 2400 surveys were administered, with 1894 surveys returned. The surveys were administered at six locations within the Park: the Visitors’ Center, Borrego Palm Canyon, Coyote Canyon, Blair Valley, Fish Creek, and Mountain Palm Springs.

The visitors came from 39 states and 21 foreign countries. Eighty-four percent (1440 of 1709) surveyed reported California as their home state. Over 56% of the California visitors were from San Diego County. The gender distribution of Park visitors was 55% male to 45% female, with Blair Valley (70.0%) and Fish Creek (73.9%) having the largest majority of males, and the Visitors Center evenly distributed between males and females. Over half of the sampled visitors (1032 of 1775) were between the ages 36 and 60 years, although there were discernable differences in age distribution between the fall and spring sample groups. The visitors surveyed were generally highly educated. More than 60% (1136 of 1843) reported having completed four years of college or more. The education level was statistically consistent across seasons and sampling locations. As a group, Park visitors were mostly from medium to large cities. Over 57% (1104 of 1908) reported living in hometowns with a population of 75,000 or larger. This characteristic prevailed across seasons and sites. Visitors reported generally mid- to high-level household income as well. Over 69% of the visitors (1206 of 1747) reported annual household incomes of \$50,000 or more, and more than 25% (442 of 1747) reported incomes in excess of \$100,000. Visitors’ income was generally consistent across seasons and sites.

More than 55% (1052 of 1910) of the visitors came alone or with one other person. There was no significant difference in group size between the fall and spring samples, but among sites, Blair Valley and Mountain Palm Springs did demonstrate significantly larger overall groups than the other four locations. Eighty-seven percent of the visitors (1703 of 1956) reported their group association as one of family or friends, or both. Stay lengths were generally short; day visits were the most-often reported stay length. Over 70% (1310 of 1864) reported stays of two nights or less. There were no significant differences in stay length across season, but the Visitors’ Center demonstrated a large proportion of day use activity. More than 47% (852 of 1797) reported having visited the park at least once in the previous year. About 26% (476 of 1797) of the visitors surveyed reported the current visit as their first. There were slight differences among sites, but the time since last visit was comparable across the two seasons. Word of mouth is the most

common medium of first awareness of the Park. More than 62% (1081 of 1722) of the visitors surveyed reported word of mouth as the medium of their first exposure to information about the Park. Less significant sources of information were guidebooks and road maps. This characteristic was consistent across both seasons and all sites. Visitors reported their intention to return to the park at a rate of 87% (1619 of 1851). This ranged from a low of 79% at the Visitors' Center to high of over 93% at Coyote Canyon, Fish Creek, and Blair Valley. Over 59% of the visitors surveyed reported that their visit included at least one overnight stay in the Park. Nevertheless there was considerable variability across sites, ranging from a low of 34% at the Visitors' Center (122 of 359) to a high of over 80% at Blair Valley (117 of 146). This question was asked in the spring survey only, so no comparison can be made between seasons. A majority (54%) of Park visitors (410 of 754) stayed in primitive or developed campsites within the Park. An additional 20% (157 of 754) reported staying in open camping areas within the Park during their visit.

When asked about their reasons for visiting the Park, respondents consistently ranked a cluster of motivations: scenic beauty, unique characteristics, wildness, nature displays and sanctuary for wildlife. According to visitors, the Park's role as an economic resource, a place to be free from society's rules and regulations, and a place for social interaction were relatively less important. Measurements of the importance of the Park to visitors also displayed themes, although there was more variability across seasons and sites than seen in the visitors' motivations to visit. This variability in the responses suggests that there is a rather wide range of opinions about the role the Park should occupy. Visitors' assessments of how the Park is managed were generally positive and supportive. As a group, visitors expressed an interest that the Park be managed as a refuge, and as a showcase for displays of nature. The general trend in the data is that actions related to the preservation of the Park's resources are viewed as more important than changes in facilities, or development targeting recreational use, visitor concerns or local interests.

In all sites except the Visitors' Center, additional questions in the survey included presenting the visitors with a series of photos portraying a range of ecological or management conditions, and asking them to rank each photo according to acceptability. In general, visitors preferred more natural, less impacted conditions, but were accepting of less than optimum conditions. In Coyote Canyon, the photos depicted a range of off-road impacts to vegetation, from pristine conditions to heavily scarred. A majority of visitors were accepting of a small amount of impact, the result of minor intrusions of off-road vehicles, but at increasing levels visitors judged conditions to be unacceptable.

Surveys at Blair Valley and Fish Creek used the same approach to gauging acceptability, but the issue in these two locations was crowding. The photo series in this case portrayed a span of conditions ranging from solitude to extremely crowded conditions. In both sites, visitors displayed some tolerance for a certain amount of crowding but exhibited a threshold at which conditions became unacceptable. In general, the fewer the number of other groups in the photo, the higher the rating of acceptability.

The Borrego Palm Canyon and Mountain Palm Springs surveys included a photo series depicting a range of trail standards from primitive and unmarked to heavily signed and paved. The results from this set of questions were enigmatic; visitors were mostly accepting of all conditions except for the most extreme—the signed and paved trail. In fact, the rating of acceptability increased with the conditions represented by photos

depicting less primitive conditions. Rock trail margins, wide paths, and some signing seemed to be preferred by a majority of visitors. The pattern of results was consistent between seasons and across the two sites.

## **About the Study**

### **Purpose of the Visitor Study**

Anza-Borrego Desert State managers are currently in the process of developing a general management plan for the park. In support of that plan, managers desired an understanding of the visitor impression of the park and their experience within it. To that end, Wayne Freimund and Stephen Peel, researchers from the University of Montana (UM) worked with California State Parks (CSP) officials from the Southern Service Center, and park staff from Anza-Borrego Desert State Park (ABDSP) in Borrego Springs, CA. and developed the following objectives for the study:

1. Inform CSP about the nature of park visitors: their demographic characteristics, motivations, values, preferences, and evaluation of management.
2. Identify salient visitor and management issues; both park wide and specific to individual areas of the park.
3. Provide a sample of park visitors from a representative range of park settings. Six sites were identified: Coyote Canyon, Borrego Palm Canyon, Visitor's Center, Blair Valley, Fish Creek, and Mountain Palm Springs/Bow Willow.

The ultimate objective for undertaking the visitor study was to give the CSP staff insight into their visiting clientele at the park, and to use that knowledge to contribute to informed management decisions.

In cooperation with park staff and CSP planners, UM researchers constructed a visitor survey for the park. Survey questions and categories were drawn from issues raised in CSP-conducted public meetings and identified by ABDSP and CSP staff.

Consequently, the study focused on five major features. First, to characterize park visitors and where they come from; second, to describe the nature of their visit; third, to determine visitors' motivations for coming to the Park; fourth, to discover the significance of the Park to visitors; and fifth, to ascertain visitors' perceptions of how the Park is being managed, or should be managed.

## Methodology

The Study began in July of 2000 and concluded in August of 2001. Data were collected at six sites within the park during the peak visitation periods in the Fall of 2000 and Spring of 2001.

### Timeline

2000	
June	UM approached to do study.
August	UM 1 <sup>st</sup> visit to ABDSP. Study plan outlined.
October	Survey instrument constructed and approved.
November	Fall data collection.

2001	
January	Fall data entered. Descriptive statistics.
February	Preliminary results reported for fall data. Survey instrument updated.
March	Spring data collection.
April	Spring data entered, merged with Fall.
May	Descriptive statistics. Internal draft report generated.
June	Internal draft circulated for review.
August	Present results of study to CSP and ABDSP

### Population

The target population for this study includes all adult visitors (age 18 and over) to ABDSP from November 4 to November 30, 2000, and from March 7 to March 28, 2001. Two seasons of data collection were desired, to obtain a more representative sample of the park visitors. The intent was to obtain a sufficient sample  $n$  to ensure representation of the Park's visitor population at six key sites within the park.

Participants in the study included only those visitors who were approached by the interviewers and agreed to complete the survey. The number of Park visitors who were unavailable or declined to participate is not known.

### Sampling Strategy

The sampling design was systematic with a random start. Days at the sampling sites were scheduled a priori, with a random, non-replacement approach. For each day park visitors were surveyed, a number  $n$ , between 1 and 6, was randomly selected by the interviewer, as determined by a random number generator. Accordingly, the  $n^{\text{th}}$  visitor became the first person to be approached that day and was asked to take the survey. Throughout the remainder of the day, every 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, or 5<sup>th</sup> person was selected and invited to participate, depending on the expected visitation at the particular site that day. Persons who initially declined were encouraged but not pressured to participate.

It was determined that the study would obtain roughly equivalent sample sizes (about 300 each) at each site, to be split between seasons. This sample size provided a

balance among the ability to generalize the results and subdivide the populations and the burden on park visitors, staff finances, etc.

Using park visitation records, a sampling schedule was designed such that comparatively more days would be spent administering the survey in less visited sites. In addition, for sites that returned comparatively fewer completed surveys in the fall, an attempt was made to sample more heavily during the spring data collection period. At Mountain Palm Springs, for example, visitation was significantly lower during the fall survey period than at the other sites. Given the statistical power tradeoff of randomness and adequate sample size, sample  $n$  was judged to be of more value than random selection. Consequently, one member of every group who agreed to participate was sampled. This strategy was retained at Mountain Palm Springs for the spring data collection period. As can be seen (Table 1), visitation improved in the spring and resulted in an adequate overall sample  $n$  of 178. Table 1 illustrates the valid number of surveys completed at each site, for both seasons. All sites produced a sufficient sample population to make the results statistically significant. Total number of visitors to the park during the sample periods is unknown. However, it is clear that some areas such as the Visitor Center receive higher visitation than others. This means that the proportion of the visitation sampled varies across the park. Thus the results have a slightly higher confidence level in the backcountry than the frontcountry sites. Assuming that total visitation to the visitor center does not exceed 500,000, the accuracy for these results are generally within +/- 5%. Less used areas will have a tighter confidence interval on the means. Results and generalizations are limited to periods of peak visitor use.

**Table 1.** Sample size by site and season

Site	Fall	Spring	Total
Visitor's Center	242	242	484
Coyote Canyon	172	172	344
Borrego Palm Canyon	176	170	346
Fish Creek	114	180	294
Blair Valley	99	149	248
Mountain Palm Springs	50	128	178
Total	853	1041	1894

### Survey Instrument

For all locations but the Visitors Center, the survey instrument was a 7-page document consisting of 21 questions. The Visitors Center survey was identical with the exception of questions 17-20, which asked the respondents to assess conditions within a series of photos. The questions were organized into 5 sections to reflect the major themes outlined previously (visitor demographics, characteristics of the visit, motivations, significance of the Park, and perceptions of management). See Appendix A: Example survey.

Included inside the survey was a cover letter explaining the purpose and significance of the study. See Appendix B: Cover letter.

Other information collected by the interviewers included: type of vehicle, date of contact, location of contact, and interviewer. As they were completed, the surveys were numbered and dated by each interviewer.

Twelve hundred surveys were administered during the November sampling period. Of these, 1000 surveys (83% of total) were returned, and 853 (71% of total) were entered into the database. The same numbers of surveys was also administered during March, 1100 of which (91%) were returned. One thousand, forty-one (86%) spring surveys contained valid responses and were added to the data set. The rest of the surveys were not usable for various reasons: incomplete responses, indeterminate responses, illegible writing, etc.

The core aspects of the questionnaire were used at all six sample sites. One group of questions, evaluating the acceptability of a range of environmental or management conditions, was specific to each site. To judge preferred park conditions, visitors were asked to view and rate the acceptability of a set of six computer-manipulated photos depicting a range of potential conditions. The conditions presented in the six scenarios were pre-selected, based on management issues and concerns communicated by Park staff and by the public. In the Fish Creek and Blair Valley surveys, respondents rated the acceptability of congestion in a large campground area. Photos depicted scenarios ranging from no visible groups, to approximately 100 distinct groups. In Mountain Palm Springs and Borrego Palm Canyon, visitors rated the acceptability of a range of trail conditions, from primitive (low maintenance) to signed and paved (high maintenance and engineering). In Coyote Canyon, respondents rated the acceptability of vegetation loss due to off-road vehicle traffic. Scenarios presented in the six photos in the Coyote Canyon series ranged from no visible impacts, to extensive vegetation loss. The Visitors' Center survey did not include questions of acceptability using the photo series.

### **Non-participation Bias**

Determined efforts were made by the interviewers to encourage selected visitors to take the survey, especially those who were selected but seemed undecided about participating. Once the visitor declined however, no further effort was made. Consequently, it is possible that a degree of non-participation bias may be a factor in the results. In any case, we consider that the relatively large sample size, coupled with the randomization of sample sites, interviewers, and respondents would tend to reduce the potential for non-response bias. A response rate of 70% (non-response = 30%) is generally considered sufficient for most statistical and scientific rigor (Creswall, 1994, Keppel, 1991; Salant and Dillman, 1994). Daily tallies and anecdotal information from the interviewers suggests that the response rate in this study was greater than 70%.

### **Data Analysis**

Data were coded using standard procedures and entered into a computer database. Responses for each question, or category within a composite question, were entered into the database. Fall data were entered from mid-January through mid-February 2001. Spring data were entered April 2001 and both data sets were then merged into a combined set, containing both seasons of data.

## Characteristics of the Visitors

### Seasonal And Site Differences

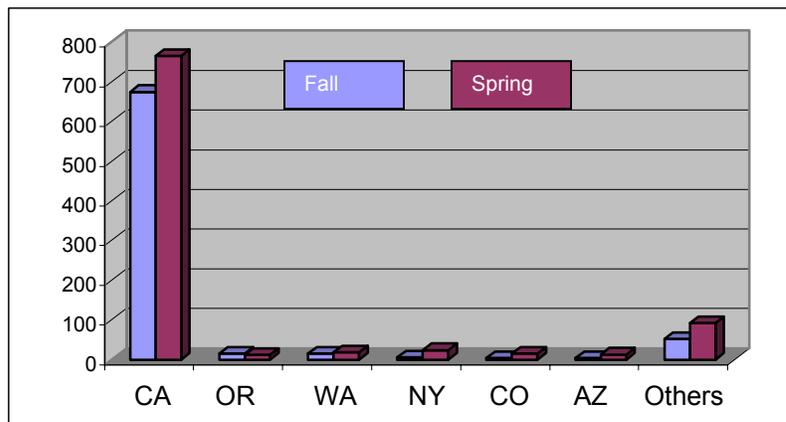
This section describes six characteristics of the visitors who visit the Park: residence, gender, year born, level of education, and household income. The data is intended to offer insight into a cross section of the visiting public and demonstrate the range of visitors to the park.

### Origin of Park Visitors

The Park is a local, regional, and national attraction. The large majority of visitors sampled in the study indicated they were from within the state of California (84%). A small, but substantial, proportion of visitors came to the Park from nearby states as well. With the exception of New York, the next largest groups of visitors came from neighboring western states: Washington, Oregon, and Arizona (Table 2, Figure 1).

**Table 2.** Visitor’s state of residence (by season)

Season	State	Number	% total
Fall	CA	675	87.7
	AZ	15	1.9
	WA	15	1.9
	25 others	64	8.3
Total	28 states	769	100.0
Spring	CA	765	81.3
	OR	24	2.5
	WA	19	2.0
	NY	15	1.6
	CO	13	1.3
	AZ	12	1.2
	29 others	92	9.7
Total	35 states	940	100.0



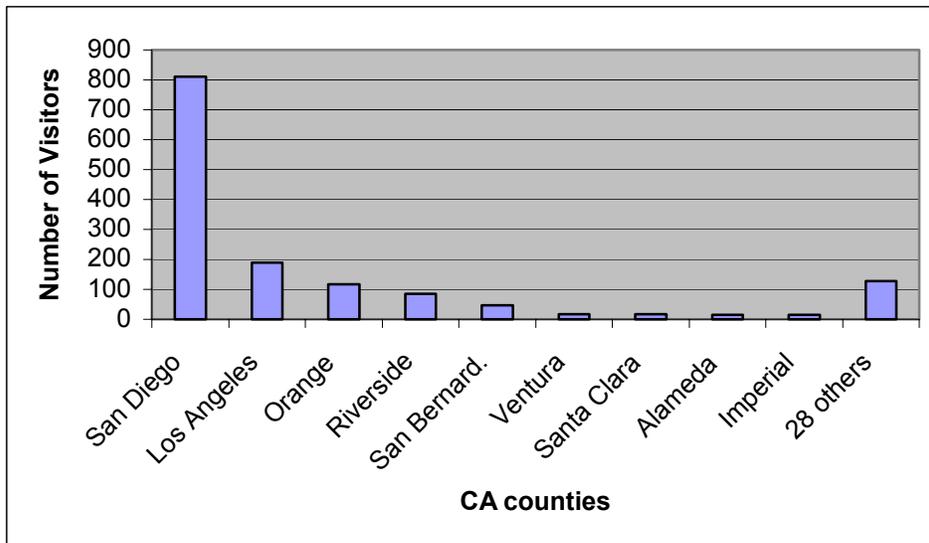
**Figure 1.** Residency by state (by season)

This local influence can be extended at the county scale within California as well. Of the visitors who reported themselves as California residents, more than half came from San Diego County (Table 3, Figure 2). Another quarter came from southern California communities in Los Angeles, Orange, and Riverside Counties. In sum, about 6 out of every 7 visitors to the Park are California residents, and more than half of that number are from San Diego County.

This information was extracted from the full data set, consequently, no seasonal or site differences are reported here.

**Table 3.** Residence California counties (all sites, both seasons)

County	Number	% total
San Diego	811	56.3
Los Angeles	189	13.1
Orange	118	8.1
Riverside	86	5.9
San Bernard.	46	3.1
Ventura	18	1.2
Santa Clara	16	1.1
Alameda	14	0.9
Imperial	14	0.9
28 others	128	8.8
Total	1440	100.0

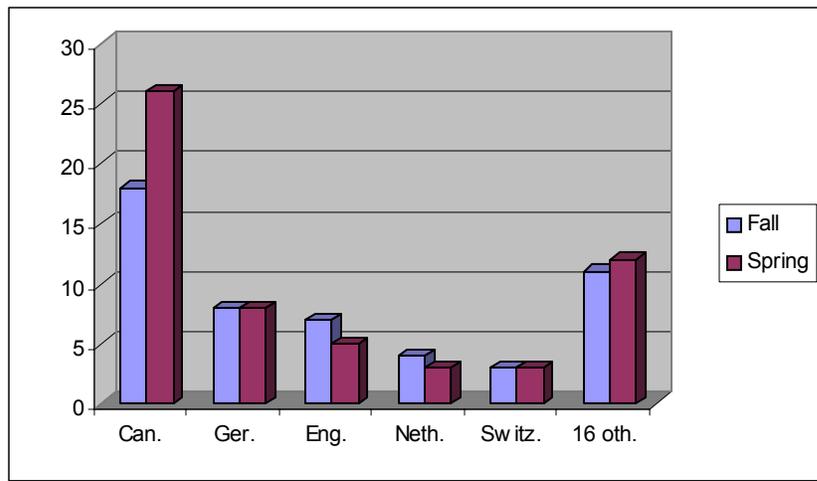


**Figure 2.** California residents by county (all sites, both seasons)

International visitation to the Park accounted for about 5% of the total visitation in the fall (51 of 853) and spring (57 of 1041) sampling periods. Most of these international visitors were from Canada, but 20 other countries (mostly European) were represented in the sample as well (Table 4.).

**Table 4.** International visitors (country of residence)

	Fall	Spring
Canada	18	26
Germany	8	8
England	7	5
Netherlands	4	3
Switzerland	3	3
16 others	11	12



**Figure 3.** International visitors (by season)

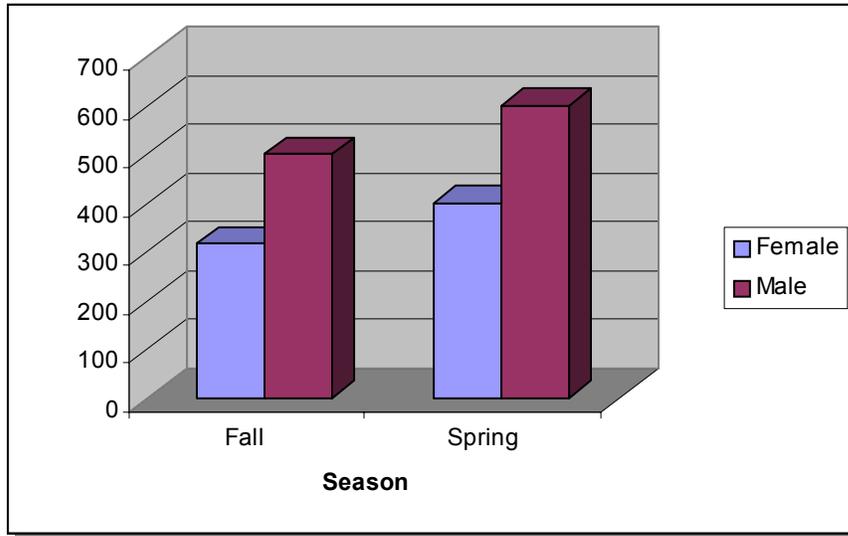
About 55% of Park visitors surveyed were male (Table 5). These results were consistent across both the fall and spring sampling period.

After this result was identified in the fall data analysis, it was suspected that sampling biases could reasonably account for this result, and that it may not be reflecting the true gender distribution of the Park’s visiting public. To test the validity of the fall result, we retooled the interviewer protocol to this extent: when a group was selected, the interviewer would make the determination as to which member would complete the survey. In each subsequent group, the selection of the respondent would be alternated according to gender, where possible. For instance, for the first group selected on a particular day, the interviewer would select a male member of the group to fill out the survey. On the next group identified, the interviewer would suggest a female member of the group complete the survey. In this manner, it was expected that a selection bias could be filtered out somewhat to give a more accurate result.

The predominance of males in the spring sample was reduced, but only by 1.20%, from 61.2% to 60.0%. Whether the Park does indeed have a male-dominated visiting public is unclear from the results of this study. It is possible that a sampling bias of an indeterminate nature is still operative making it more likely males would be approached and asked to participate.

**Table 5.** Gender of park visitors (by season)

Gender	Fall		Spring	
	No.	%	No.	%
Female	317	38.8	402	40.0
Male	501	61.2	602	60.0

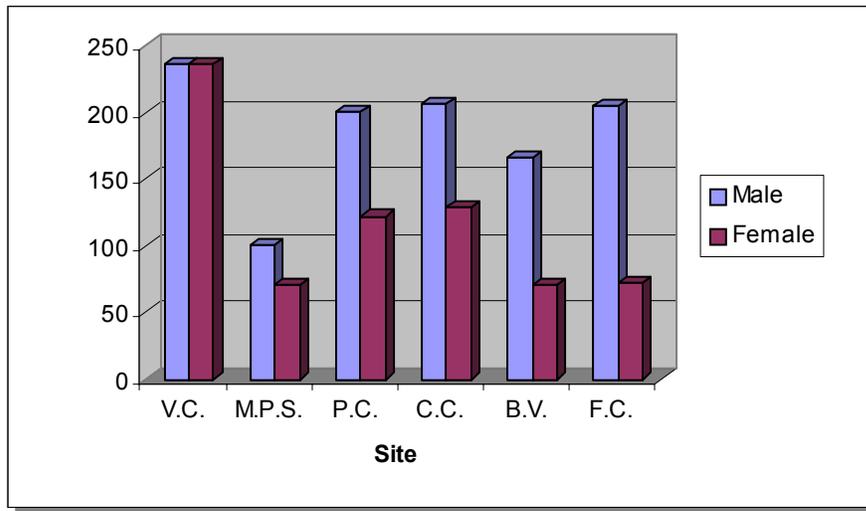


**Figure 4.** Gender of park visitors (by season)

The apparent male predominance of the sample is consistent for all sites except the Visitor’s Center (Table 6, Figure 5). If this in fact proves to be accurate, several variables might account for such a distinction. First, the Visitors’ Center receives more visitation than any other single site within the Park. Sheer numbers and a less specialized population may account for the even gender distribution at the Visitors’ Center. Second, most first-time visitors likely visit the Visitors’ Center as their first stop. Again, this could indicate a less specialized population of Park visitors. The supposed male predominance in other areas around the Park could in fact be a phenomenon that occurs as visitors become more decided on the type of experience they are seeking, and that the outlying areas of the Park are lent to a distinct category of activities.

**Table 6.** Gender of park visitors (by site)

Survey Site	Male		Female	
	No.	%	No.	%
Visitors Center	236	50.0	236	50.0
Mountain Palm Springs.	101	58.7	71	41.3
Borrego Palm Canyon.	200	62.1	122	37.9
Coyote Canyon	206	61.5	129	38.5
Blair Valley	166	70.0	71	30.0
Fish Creek	204	73.9	72	26.1
Total	1113	61.4	701	38.6



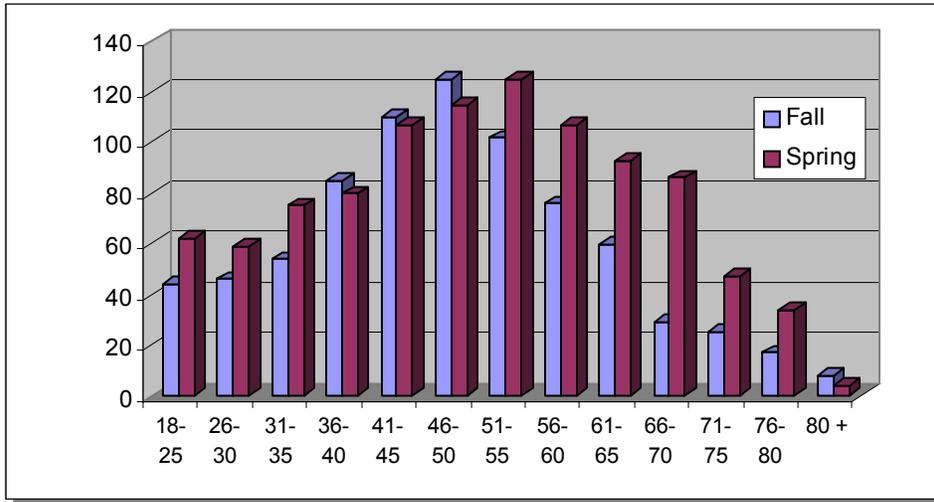
**Figure 5.** Gender of park visitors (by site)

There are age differences between the fall and spring sampling periods (Table 7, Figure 6). The fall data shows a relatively higher proportion (40%) of visitors between the ages of 36 and 50 (320 of 781) compared with the spring visitors (30%) of the same age range (302 of 994). Conversely spring data show a comparatively equal proportion of Park visitors between the ages 18 to 35 compared to the fall (19% to 18% respectively). There was a noticeable difference in the age range 51 to 80 years between fall and spring however (49% to 39%).

The fall and spring seasons are distinct with respect to the age of Park visitors. The largest group of fall visitors falls within the ages 31 to 50, and the distribution is unimodal. In spring, the curve is still unimodal but there is a pronounced shift toward a comparatively older population. The reason for this is unclear, and may even be somewhat suppressed because of Spring Break visitation during the March data collection period by college-age Park visitors.

**Table 7.** Age of park visitors (by season)

Age Range	Fall		Spring	
	No.	%	No.	%
18-25	44	5.6	62	6.2
26-30	46	5.9	59	5.9
31-35	54	6.9	75	7.5
36-40	85	10.9	80	8.0
41-45	110	14.1	107	10.8
46-50	125	16.0	115	11.6
51-55	102	13.1	125	12.6
56-60	76	9.7	107	10.8
61-65	60	7.7	93	9.4
66-70	29	3.7	86	8.7
71-75	25	3.2	47	4.7
76-80	17	2.2	34	3.4
80 +	8	1.0	4	0.4
Total	781		994	



**Figure 6.** Age of park visitors (by season)

A one-sample t-test suggests that there are significant differences in age-class categories among Fall and Spring visitor groups, at  $p \leq .0005$ .

When visitor’s ages are compared among the six sites, there are slight differences, but variability within sites is generally large enough to make these distinctions inconsequential (Table 8). Mountain Palm Springs and Fish Creek are the possible exceptions. The median age (52 years) at Mountain Palm Springs is slightly higher than the overall median (49 years); the median age (46 years) of visitors surveyed at Fish Creek is slightly below (Table 9, Figure 7).

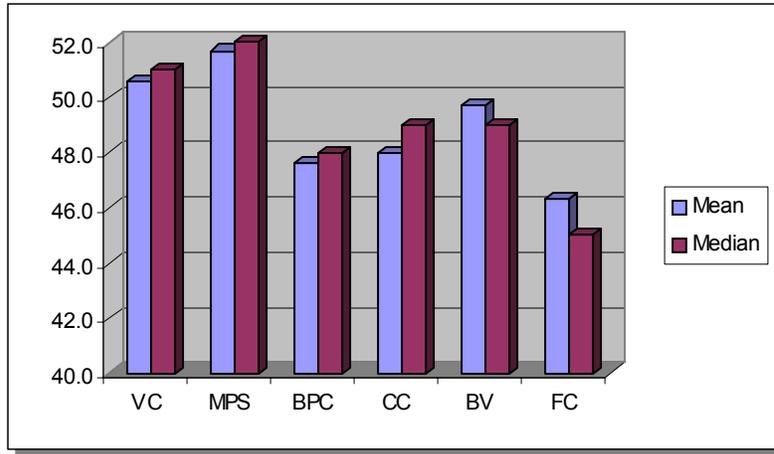
**Table 8.** T-test of age differences (by season)

	t	df	Sig (2-tail)	Mean diff	95% Confidence Int.	
					Lower	Upper
Fall	95.735	779	.000	46.94	45.97	47.90
Spring	104.391	990	.000	49.13	48.21	50.05

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Fall	780	46.94	13.69	0.49
Spring	991	49.13	14.82	0.47

**Table 9.** Age of park visitors by site (both seasons)

Site	Mean Age	Median Age	Std. Deviation (yrs)
Visitors Center	50.6	51.0	15.4
Mountain Palm Spr.	51.7	52.0	14.9
Borrego Palm Cyn.	47.6	48.0	15.4
Coyote Canyon	48.0	49.0	14.3
Blair Valley	49.7	49.0	12.1
Fish Creek	46.3	45.0	13.3



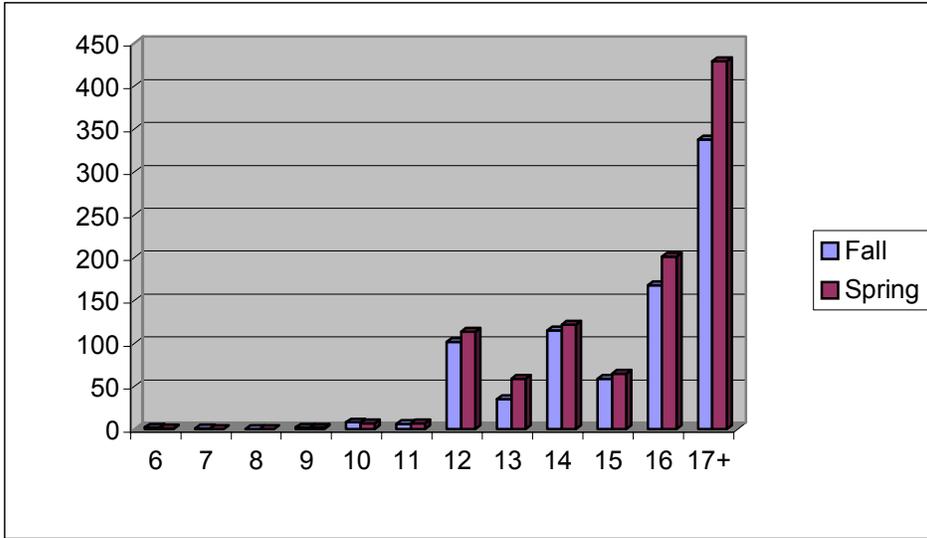
**Figure 7.** Age of park visitors (by site)

**Education**

As a whole, the visiting public is highly educated. Ninety-seven percent of Park visitors (817 of 836) in the fall sample reported an education of 12<sup>th</sup> grade or above (Table 10, Figure 8). Sixty percent (506 of 836) reported at least four years of college. Ninety-eight percent (990 of 1007) of the visitors in the spring sample reported at least completing high school, and 62% (630 of 1007) reported completing at least four years of college. The median level of education for the entire sample (both seasons) was sixteen years.

**Table 10.** Education level of visitors (by season)

Education Level (yrs)	Fall		Spring		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
6	2	0.2	1	0.1	3	0.2
7	1	0.1	0	0.0	1	0.1
8	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
9	2	0.2	2	0.2	4	0.2
10	8	1.0	7	0.7	15	0.8
11	6	0.7	7	0.7	13	0.7
12	102	12.2	114	11.3	216	11.7
13	35	4.2	59	5.9	94	5.1
14	115	13.8	122	12.1	237	12.9
15	59	7.1	65	6.5	124	6.7
16	168	20.1	201	20.0	369	20.0
17+	338	40.4	429	42.6	767	41.6

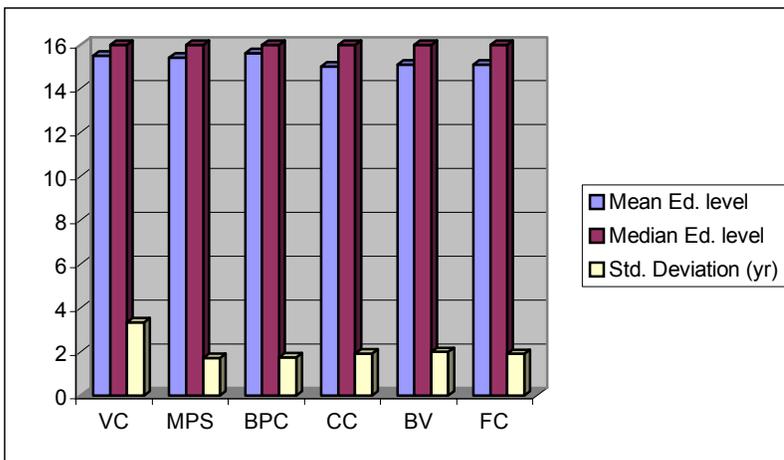


**Figure 8.** Education level of visitors (by season)

The level of education reported by the respondents was consistent across sites (Table 11, Figure 9). A distinctive value that appears among sites is the comparatively larger standard deviation in the education level reported at the Visitor’s Center. This indicates a wider range in the values reported and may mean that, in terms of education, the population at the Visitor’s Center is slightly more diverse.

**Table 11.** Visitor’s education level (by site)

Site	Mean Ed. level	Median Ed. level	Std. Deviation (yr)
Visitors Center	15.5	16.0	3.35
Mountain Palm Spr.	15.4	16.0	1.73
Borrego Palm Cyn.	15.6	16.0	1.76
Coyote Canyon	15.0	16.0	1.92
Blair Valley	15.1	16.0	2.00
Fish Creek	15.1	16.0	1.91



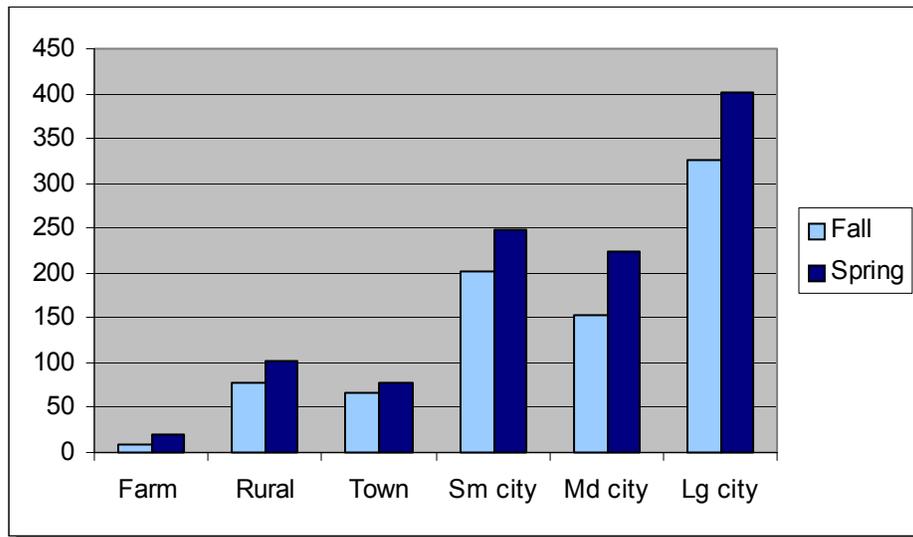
**Figure 9.** Visitor education level (by site)

### Size of Community of Origin

A significant proportion of the Park’s visiting public consists of urban or suburban residents. A majority of Park visitors sampled (57% in the fall and 58% in the spring), reported their residences in cities of 75,000 population or larger (Table 12, Figure 10). This characteristic is consistent at each of the six sites. In all cases, the majority of visitors at each site were from communities with populations greater than 75,000 people (Table 13 and Figure 11).

**Table 12.** Visitor’s home community (by season)

Community	Population Size	Fall		Spring	
		No.	%	No.	%
Farm		9	1.0	20	1.8
Rural	To 1000	78	9.3	103	9.6
Town	To 10,000	67	8.0	78	7.2
Sm city	To 75,000	201	24.1	248	23.1
Md city	To 1 million	154	18.4	224	20.8
Lg city	Over 1 million	325	38.9	401	37.3
Total		834		1074	



**Figure 10.** Size of visitor’s home community (by season)

**Table 13.** Visitor’s home community (by site)

Community	MPS		VC		BPC		CC		BV		FC	
	No.	%										
Farm	1	0.5	4	0.8	9	2.6	6	1.7	4	1.6	5	1.7
Rural	12	6.9	51	10.8	25	7.3	38	11.2	26	10.6	28	9.7
Town	22	12.7	35	7.4	25	7.3	27	7.9	13	5.3	23	7.9
Sm city	43	24.8	110	23.5	75	21.9	94	27.7	56	23.0	71	24.6
Med city	23	13.2	88	18.8	67	19.5	47	13.8	46	18.9	53	18.4
Lg city	72	41.6	180	38.4	141	41.2	127	37.4	98	40.3	108	37.5
Total	173		468		342		339		243		288	

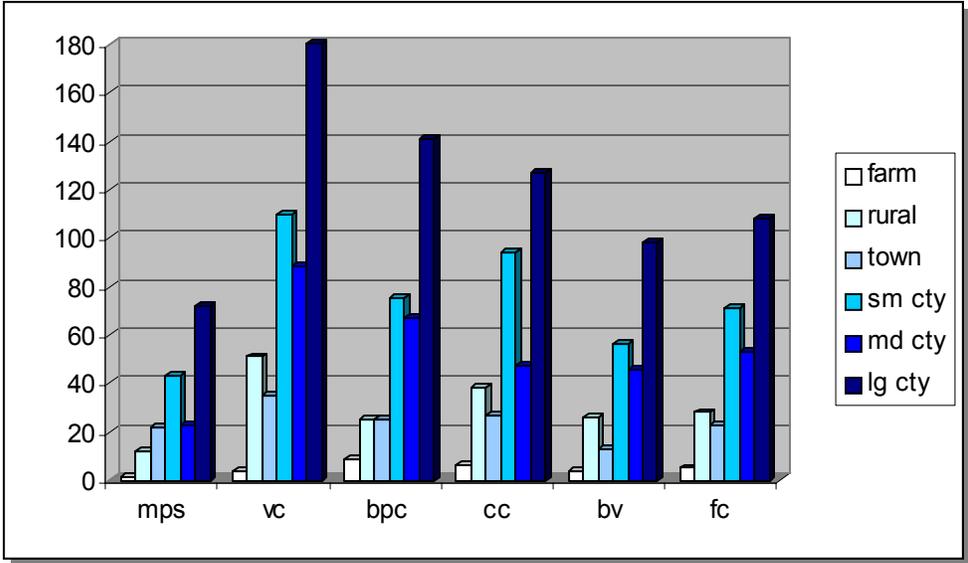


Figure 11. Size of visitor's home community (by site)

**Visitor Household Income**

Overall, visitors' household income did not vary widely across Season (Table 14, Figure 12) or the six sites (Table 15, Figure 13). Seventy percent of Park visitors intercepted in the fall (558 of 796) and 68% of visitors in the spring survey (648 of 951) reported annual household incomes in excess of \$50,000. However, Park visitors intercepted at Mountain Palm Springs reported a slightly lower median household income than visitors interviewed at other sites in the Park. There, 58.7 percent of visitors reported incomes in excess of \$50,000, compared to 69 percent park wide, and 74.9 percent at Blair Valley.

Table 14. Visitor income (by season)

Income	Fall		Spring		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
< 25k	56	7.0	68	7.1	124	7.1
< 50k	182	22.8	235	24.7	417	23.9
< 100k	339	42.5	425	44.6	764	43.7
100k +	219	27.5	223	23.4	442	25.3
Total	796		951		1747	

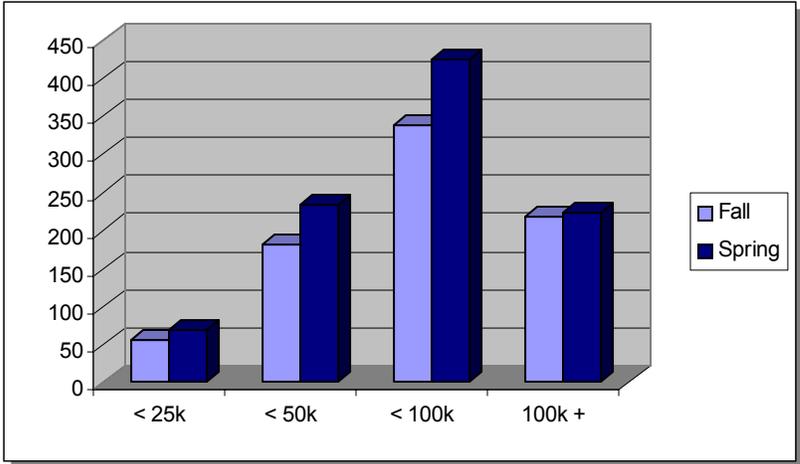


Figure 12. Visitor income (by season)

Table 15. Visitor income (by site)

Income	MPS		VC		BPC		CC		BV		FC	
	No.	%										
< 20k	17	10.6	27	6.2	23	7.3	30	9.2	14	6.1	13	4.7
< 50k	59	30.7	115	26.4	68	21.6	82	25.1	44	19.0	59	21.2
< 100k	61	38.1	188	43.3	141	44.8	139	42.5	110	47.6	124	44.6
100k +	33	20.6	105	24.1	83	26.3	76	23.2	63	27.3	82	29.5
Total	160		435		315		327		231		278	

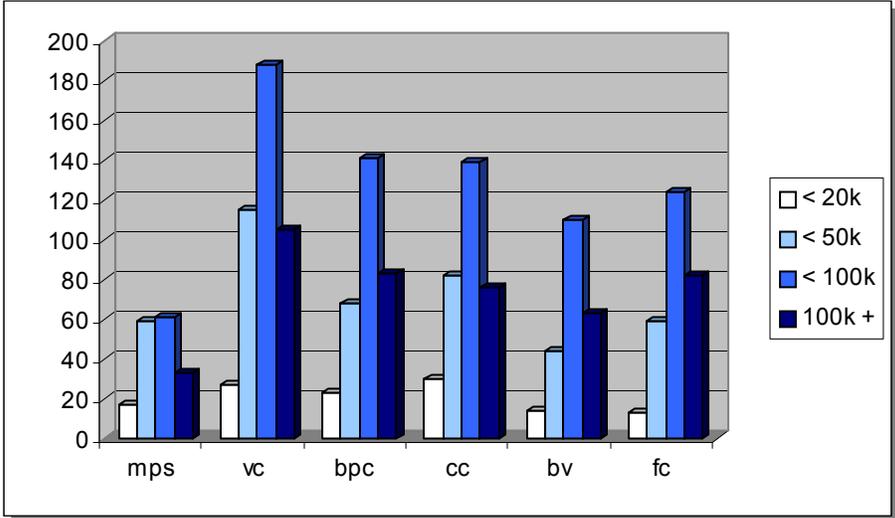


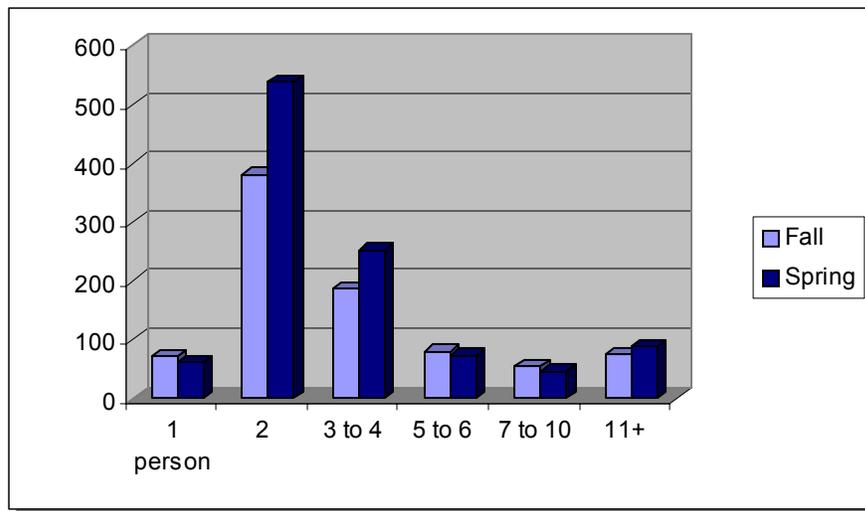
Figure 13. Visitor income (by site)

**Group Size**

Forty-eight percent of visitors (920 of 1910) surveyed were in groups of two (Table 16, Figure 14), which was the mode (most-often seen). The spring data set showed comparatively more respondents in groups of 2 to 4 people, (50.8% or 539 of 1061), than did the fall sample (44.8% or 381 of 849). Seventy-eight percent of visitors (1492 of 1910) surveyed were in groups of 4 or less. Park visitors in groups of 7 or more accounted for 13% (264 of 1910) of overall visitation. There were also comparatively more respondents in the fall sample who came to the Park individually, and in groups of 5 to 6 people, than in the spring sample.

**Table 16.** Group size (by season)

Season	1 person		2		3-4		5-6		7-10		11+		Season Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Fall	71	8.3	381	44.8	187	22.0	80	9.4	55	6.4	75	8.8	849
Spring	61	5.7	539	50.8	253	23.8	74	6.9	46	4.3	88	8.3	1061



**Figure 14.** Group size (by season)

A two-tailed t-test of the fall and spring data indicates there is no significant statistical difference in the mean group size between the two seasons (Table 17).

**Table 17.** T-test for significant differences in mean group size (by season)

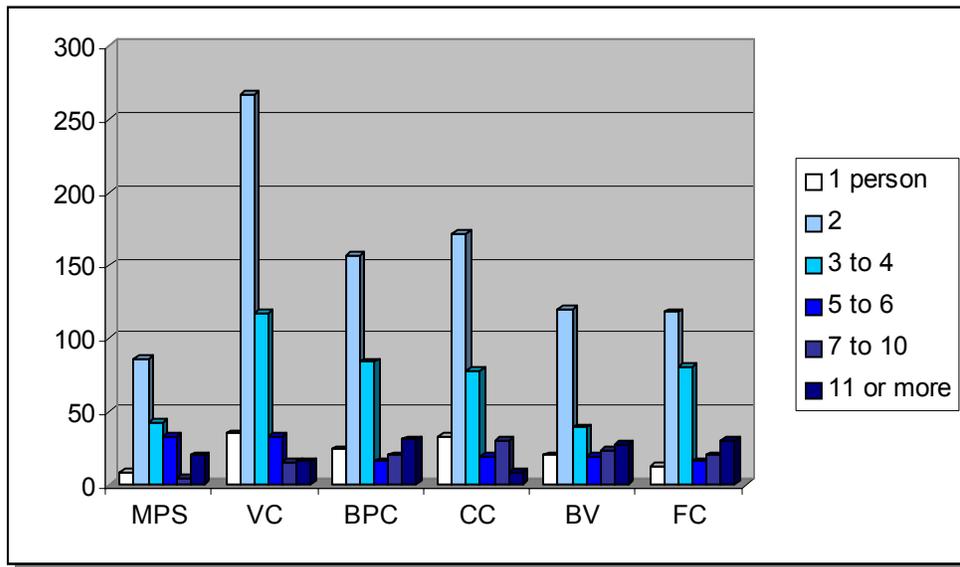
Season	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error
Fall	850	2.872	1.3840	4.747E-02
Spring	1052	2.690	1.1934	3.715E-02

Season	t	N	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean diff.	95% Conf. Interval of the difference	
					Lower	Upper
Fall	60.519	849	.000	2.8729	2.7798	2.9661
Spring	72.434	1051	.000	2.6909	2.6180	2.7638

There are, however, group size differences among sites. With the exception of the Visitor’s Center, groups of 4 people or fewer accounted for at least 70 % of the Park’s visitation (Table 18, and Figure 15). The two-person group is the median at all sites, although there are nominal variations in the proportion and distribution of groups of other sizes. Blair Valley and Mountain Palm Springs tend to have the highest proportion of larger groups (27.6% and 29.3%, respectively), compared to the other sites. The Visitor’s Center tends to have the lowest proportion of larger groups (13.2%).

**Table 18.** Group size (by site)

Group Size	MPS		VC		BPC		CC		BV		FC	
	No.	%										
1 person	8	4.2	35	7.2	24	7.2	33	9.6	20	8.0	12	4.3
2	86	44.5	267	55.2	157	47.2	172	50.4	120	48.3	118	42.5
3-4	42	21.7	117	24.2	84	25.3	78	22.8	39	15.7	81	29.2
5-6	33	17.0	33	6.8	16	4.8	19	5.5	19	7.6	16	5.7
7-10	4	2.0	15	3.1	20	6.0	30	8.7	23	9.2	20	7.2
11 or more	20	10.3	16	3.3	31	9.3	9	2.6	27	10.8	30	10.8
Total	193		483		332		341		248		277	



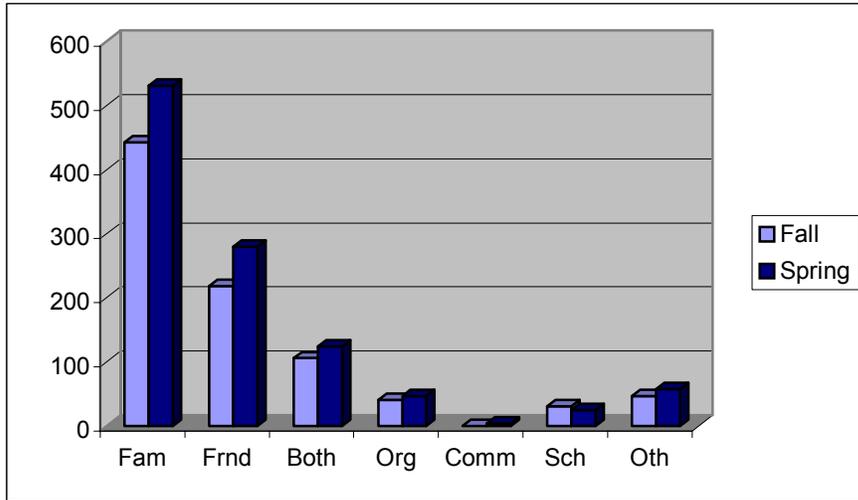
**Figure 15.** Group size (by site)

**Group Type**

Groups who visit the Park are predominantly made up of family and/or friends (87% or 1703 of 1956 visitors responding). In all cases, the group type distributions for fall and spring are essentially identical (Table 19, Figure 16).

**Table 19.** Type of group (by season)

Season	Family		Friends		Both		Org. grp.		Commer.??		School		Other	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Fall	443	49.9	219	24.6	106	11.9	41	4.6	0	0	31	3.4	47	5.2
Spring	531	49.6	280	26.1	124	11.5	47	4.3	4	0.3	25	2.3	58	5.4
Total	974		499		230		88		4		56		105	



**Figure 16.** Type of group (by season)

When group type is considered across sites, the distribution remains fairly consistent, with family and friends accounting for the most visitor group types. The one highlight is the comparatively high proportion of “organized” and “other” groups reported at Blair Valley (Table 20, Figure 17).

**Table 20.** Type of group (by site)

Type	MPS		VC		BPC		CC		BV		FC	
	No.	%										
Family	74	40.2	289	59.8	185	53.0	163	46.6	118	46.1	139	44.1
Friends	51	27.7	111	23.0	68	19.5	116	33.1	57	22.3	86	27.3
Fam & frnd	42	22.8	38	7.9	28	8.0	44	12.6	26	10.2	52	16.5
Org. group	2	1.1	6	1.2	19	5.4	13	3.7	30	11.7	15	4.8
Commerc.	2	1.1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.3
School	7	3.8	11	2.3	24	6.9	1	0.3	1	0.4	12	3.8
Other	6	3.3	28	5.8	24	6.9	13	3.7	24	9.4	10	3.2
Total	184		483		349		350		256		315	

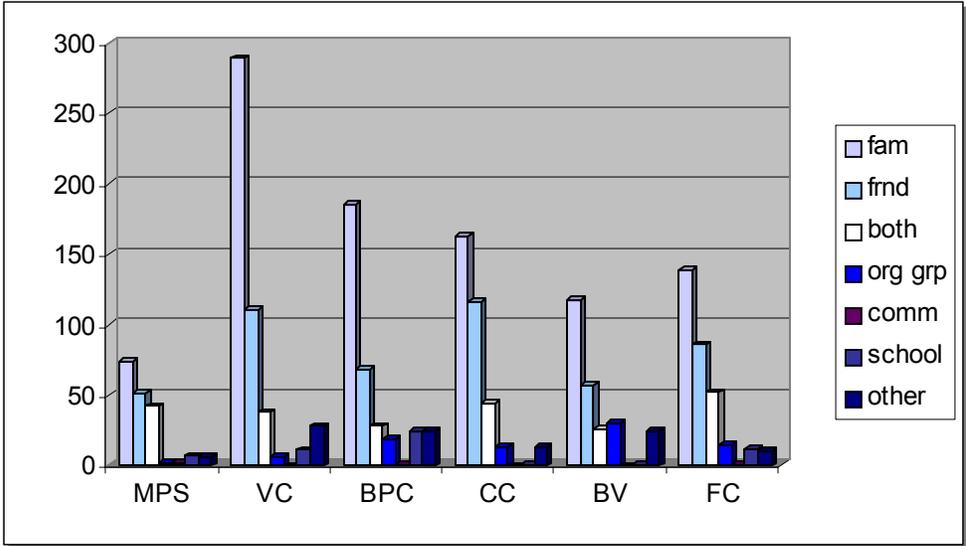


Figure 17. Type of group (by site)

**Length of Visit**

Day use accounted for more than a fourth of total Park visitation, according to visitors taking the survey (Table 21, Figure 18). The median length of stay for Park visitors was 3 nights, and 70 % of visitors responding to the survey reported stays of 2 nights or less. Length of stay across both seasons was fairly constant. Stay length for visitors participating in the spring survey was slightly shorter.

Table 21. Stay length (by season)

Season	Day		1 night		2 nights		3 nights		4-6		7-13		14 or more	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Fall	241	28.9	133	16.0	193	23.2	114	13.7	98	11.8	28	3.3	26	3.1
Spring	314	30.5	197	19.1	232	22.5	127	12.3	104	10.1	30	2.9	27	2.6
Total	555		330		425		241		202		58		53	

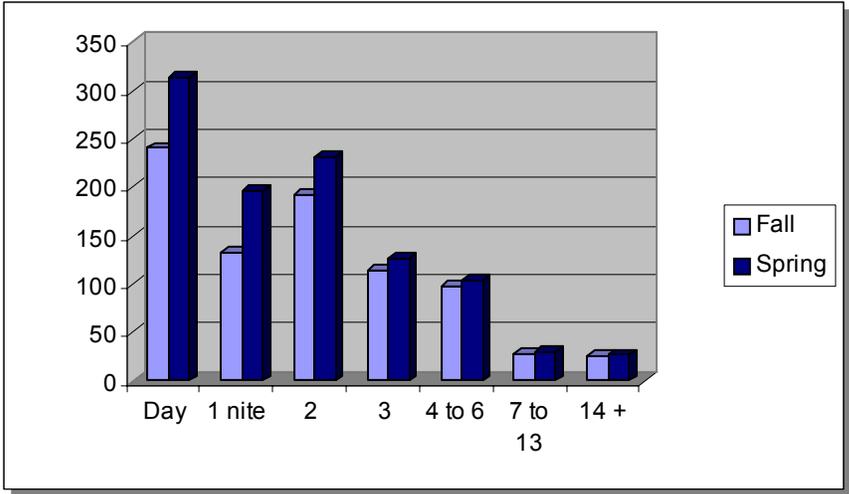
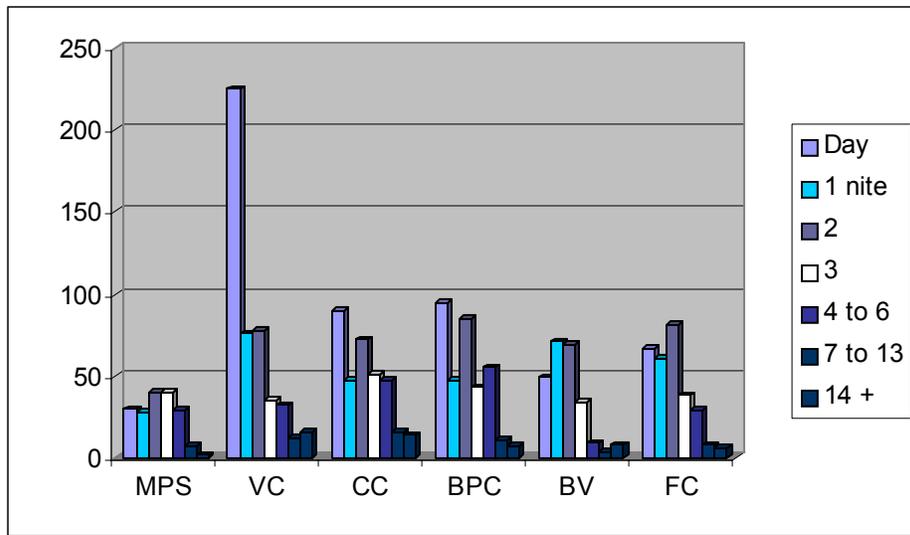


Figure 18. Stay length (by season)

Stay length compared across the six survey sites is fairly evenly distributed, except for the very high peak of day-use visitors attending the Visitor’s Center (Table 22, Figure 19). In fact, this extremely high value may mask the stay length overall when the site data is pooled. In any case, respondents who were interviewed at the Visitor’s Center tended to have shorter visits to the Park than survey respondents elsewhere.

**Table 22.** Stay length (by site)

Site	Day		1 night		2 nights		3 nights		4 to 6		7 to 13		14 or more	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
MPS	30	5.4	28	8.5	40	9.4	28	12.2	29	14.4	7	12.1	2	3.8
VC	225	40.5	76	23.0	78	18.4	35	15.3	32	15.9	12	20.7	16	30.2
CC	90	16.2	47	14.2	72	16.9	51	22.3	47	23.4	16	27.6	14	26.4
BPC	95	17.1	47	14.2	85	20.0	43	18.8	55	27.4	11	19.0	7	13.2
BV	49	8.8	71	21.5	69	16.2	34	14.8	9	4.5	4	6.9	8	15.1
FC	67	12.1	61	18.5	81	19.1	38	16.6	29	14.4	8	13.8	6	11.3
Total	556		330		425		229		201		58		53	

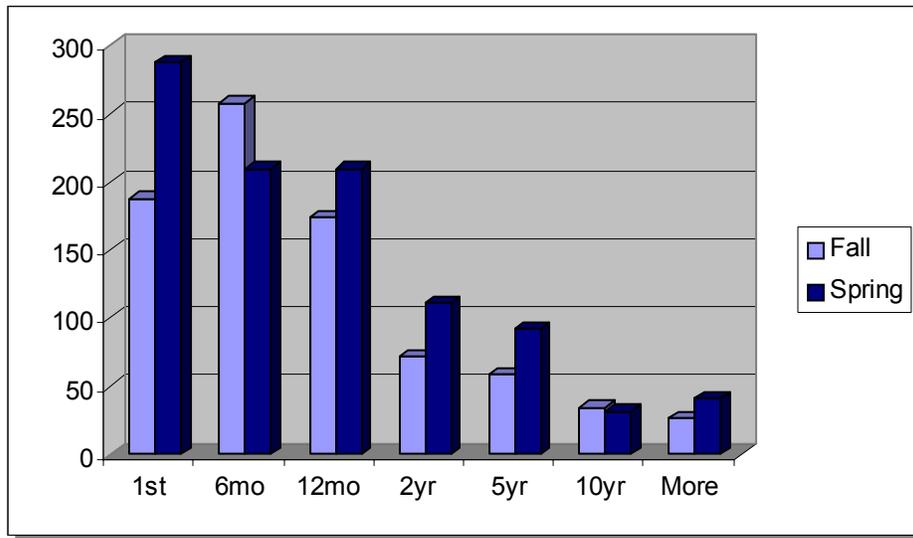


**Figure 19.** Stay length (by site)

About a quarter of people surveyed were first-time visitors to the Park. An additional twenty-five percent reported that they had been to the Park within the previous year (Table 23). A noticeable difference between the fall and spring survey population is that the latter included more first-time visitors, whereas the fall sampled more recent visitors—those who had been to the Park within the previous six months.

**Table 23.** Time since last visit (by season)

Season	1st		< 6 mo		< 12 mo		< 2 yr		< 5 yr		< 10 yr		More	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Fall	188	23.1	258	31.7	174	21.4	72	8.9	59	7.3	35	4.3	27	3.3
Spring	288	29.3	210	21.3	210	21.3	111	11.3	92	9.3	32	3.3	41	4.2
Total	476		468		384		183		151		67		68	



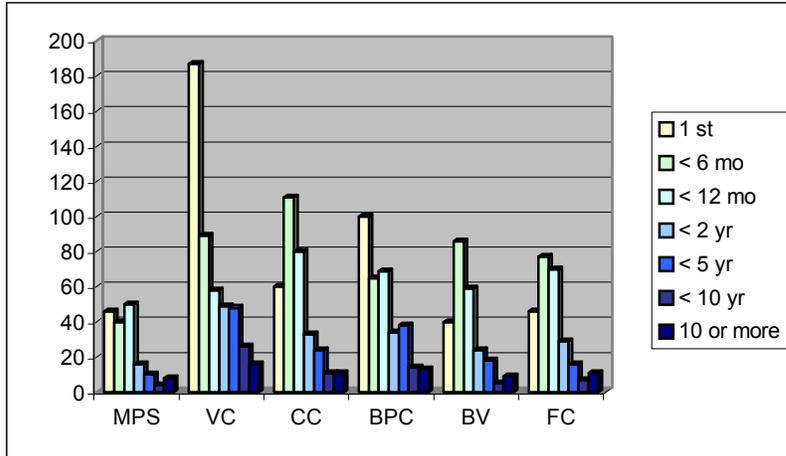
**Figure 20.** Time since last visit (by season)

Visitor patterns regarding time since last visit are consistent across sites (Table 24, Figure 21). In all cases, 70% or more of the visitors responding to this item indicated this visit as being their first or having visited the Park within the previous year. This ranged from a high of 78.1% at Mountain Palm Springs (136 of 174), to a low of 70.2% at Coyote Canyon (251 of 330).

A higher proportion of Visitor’s Center and Borrego Palm Canyon visitors surveyed reported the current visit as their first (Table 24). In other sites, repeat visitors were more evenly distributed, with 6 to 12 months the median time elapsed since their previous visit.

**Table 24.** Time Since Last Visit (by site)

Site	1 <sup>st</sup>		< 6 mo		< 12 mo		< 2 yr		< 5 yr		< 10 yr		10 or more	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
MPS	46	26.4	40	23.0	50	28.7	16	9.2	10	5.7	4	2.3	8	4.6
VC	187	39.5	89	18.8	58	12.3	49	10.4	48	10.1	26	5.5	16	3.4
CC	60	18.2	111	33.6	80	24.2	33	10.0	24	7.3	11	3.3	11	3.3
BPC	100	30.0	65	19.5	69	20.7	34	10.2	38	11.4	14	4.2	13	3.9
BV	40	16.6	86	35.7	59	24.5	24	10.0	18	7.5	5	2.1	9	3.7
FC	46	18.0	77	30.1	70	27.3	29	11.3	16	6.3	7	2.7	11	4.3
Total	479		468		386		185		154		67		68	



**Figure 21.** Time since last visit (by site)

### Awareness of the Park

Word of mouth is by far the most commonly reported source of initial knowledge about the Park for visitors surveyed (Table 25, Figure 22). This medium accounts for 63.4% (492 of 776) in the fall sample and 62.3% (589 of 946) in the spring sampling period. This distribution persists when considered by season and by site (Table 26, Figure 23). Maps and books were a less commonly reported source of initial awareness about the Park.

**Table 25.** Visitor's first awareness of park (by season)

Source	Fall		Spring	
	No.	%	No.	%
Signs	11	1.4	15	1.5
Road maps	42	5.4	59	6.2
Guidebook	74	9.5	94	9.9
Internet	13	1.6	22	2.3
Travel agency	0	0.0	2	0.2
Newspaper	10	1.2	32	3.3
Broadcast media	4	0.5	6	0.6
CSP info	22	2.8	33	3.4
Word of mouth	492	63.4	589	62.3
Hotels etc.	7	0.9	2	0.2
Other	101	13.0	92	9.7

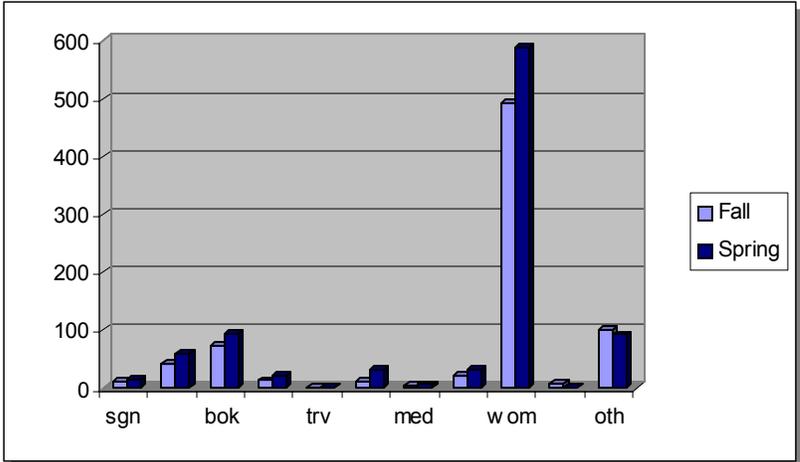


Figure 22. Visitor's first awareness of park (by season)

Table 26. Visitor's first awareness of park (by site)

Source	MPS	VC	CC	BPC	BV	FC
Signs	5	6	3	3	3	2
Road maps	10	20	23	11	10	15
Guidebook	19	25	20	43	16	16
Internet	2	9	5	7	1	3
Travel agency	1	1	0	0	0	0
Newspaper	4	8	9	5	2	7
Broadcast media	0	2	1	3	2	1
CSP info	2	10	7	17	10	4
Word of mouth	103	122	195	184	152	187
Hotels etc.	1	1	0	6	1	0
Other	14	16	47	34	26	34

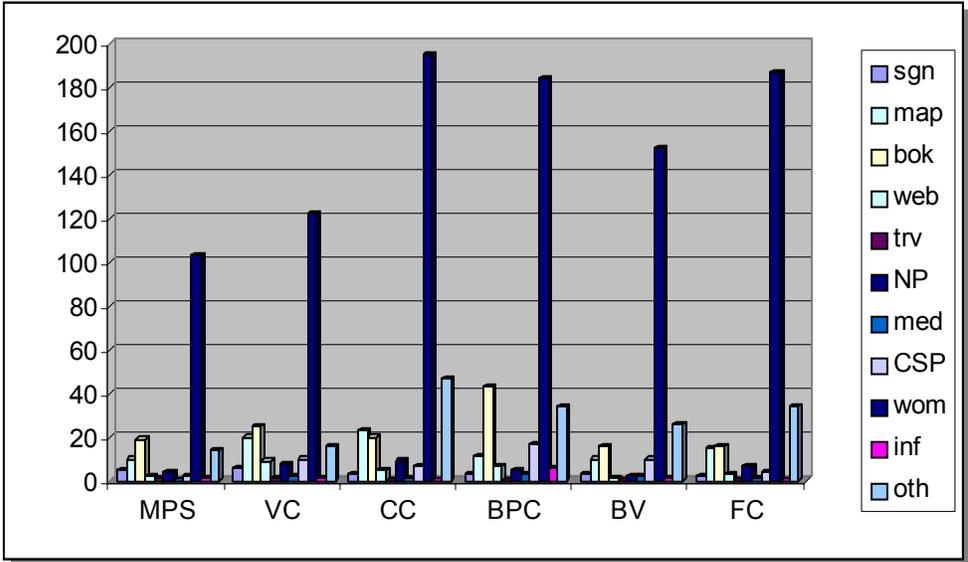


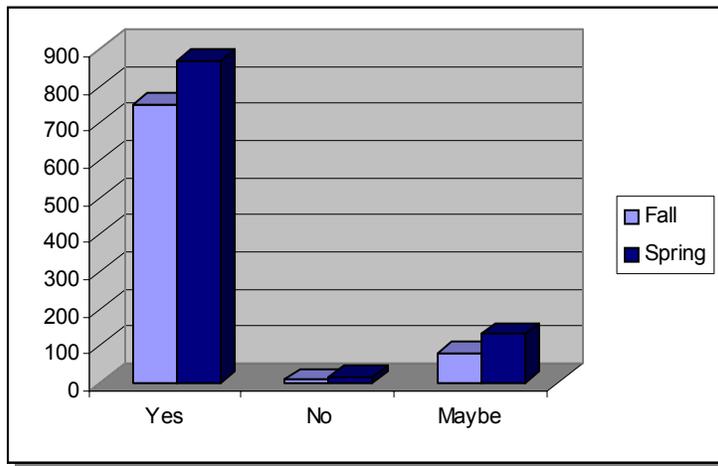
Figure 23. Visitor's first awareness of park (by site)

**Plans to Return to the Park**

The number of visitors participating in the survey who indicated they would return to visit the Park was generally very high and consistent among the fall and spring populations (Tables 27 and 28, Figures 24 and 25). The “Yes” responses ranged from 79.4% at the Visitor’s Center to 93.4% at both Blair Valley and Coyote Canyon. This repeat visitation may have important implications for management of the Park, as visitors who return to the Park may have specific expectations about the conditions within the park.

**Table 27.** Plan to visit park again (by season)

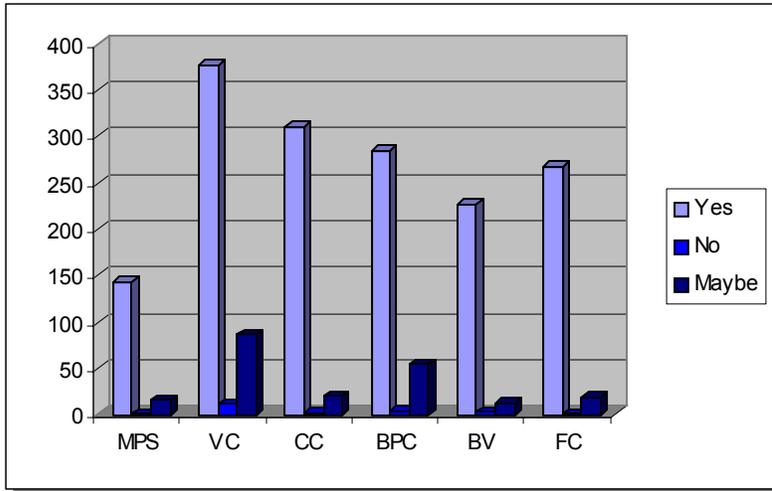
Season	Yes		No		Maybe		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Fall	750	89.7	7	0.8	79	9.4	836
Spring	869	85.6	15	1.8	131	12.9	1015



**Figure 24.** Plan to visit park again (by season)

**Table 28.** Plan to visit park again (by site)

Site	Yes		No		Maybe		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
MPS	143	89.4	1	0.6	16	10.0	160
VC	377	79.4	11	2.3	87	18.3	475
CC	310	93.4	2	0.6	20	6.0	332
BPC	285	83.1	4	1.2	54	15.7	343
BV	227	93.4	3	1.2	13	5.3	243
FC	267	93.0	1	0.3	19	6.6	287



**Figure 25.** Plan to visit park again (by site)

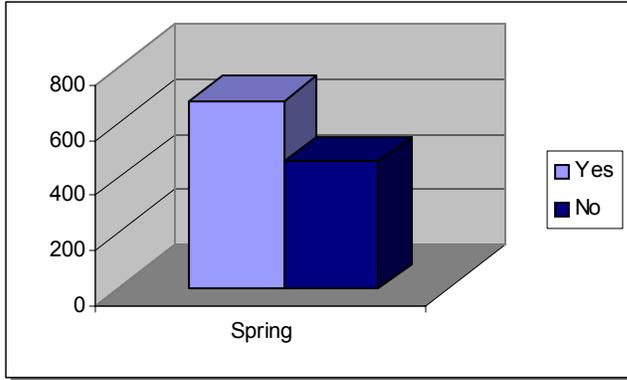
**\*The following questions in this section were added to the spring survey. As such, they represent results for spring data only.**

### Accommodations Used

Visitors participating in the spring survey reported on their visit to the Park, and whether they stayed the night within the Park. There was a wide latitude of affirmative responses, ranging from a low of 34% at the Visitors' Center (122 of 359) to a high of over 80% at Blair Valley (117 of 146) (Table 29, Figure 26).

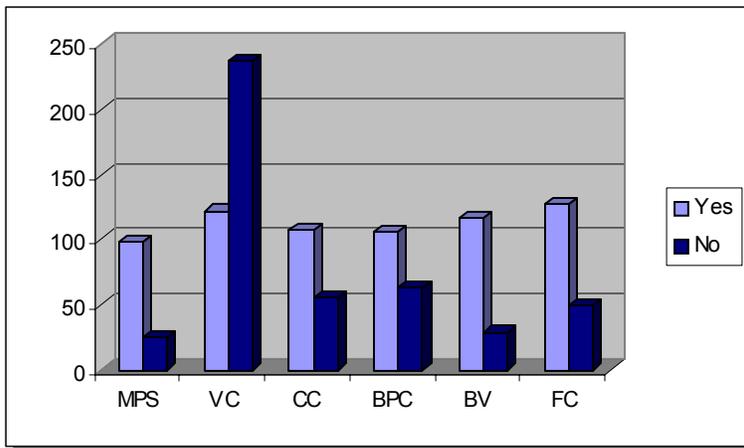
**Table 29.** Stay overnight in the park

Site	Yes		No		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	
MPS	98	79.7	25	20.3	123
VC	122	34.0	237	66.0	359
CC	107	65.6	56	34.4	163
BPC	106	62.7	63	37.3	169
BV	117	80.1	29	19.9	146
FC	127	71.8	50	28.2	177
Total	677		460		1137



**Figure 26.** Stayed overnight in the park (spring only)

A majority (59%) of visitors surveyed reported that on their current visit they stayed in the Park for at least one night (Table 29, Figure 27). When segregated by site, the Visitor’s Center was the exception, with one-third reporting spending at least one night in the Park. This buttresses the previous data showing Visitor’s Center respondents tending to be more first-time visitors and day users.



**Figure 27.** Stayed overnight in park (by site)

All but a very few visitors sampled reported staying either in the Park or at a local hotel or motel (Table 30, Figures 28 and 29)

**Table 30.** Location stayed at while in park (by site)

Facility	MPS		VC		CC		BPC		BV		FC		Total
	No	%											
M/Hotel	16	14.8	47	35.9	19	14.5	36	31.0	11	8.5	16	11.5	145
Dv camp	34	31.5	26	19.8	41	31.3	49	42.2	22	17.1	24	17.3	196
Pr camp	45	41.7	19	14.5	32	24.4	16	13.8	56	43.4	46	33.1	214
Op camp	12	11.1	18	13.7	34	26.0	10	8.6	38	29.5	45	32.4	157
My perm	0	0.0	1	0.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	1.6	3	2.2	6
My seas	0	0.0	7	5.3	1	0.8	1	0.9	0	0.0	1	0.7	10
Oth perm	0	0.0	3	2.3	0	0.0	1	0.9	0	0.0	1	0.7	5
Oth seas	0	0.0	4	3.1	2	1.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.7	7
Other	1	0.9	6	4.6	2	1.5	3	2.6	0	0.0	2	1.4	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>108</b>		<b>131</b>		<b>131</b>		<b>116</b>		<b>129</b>		<b>139</b>		<b>754</b>

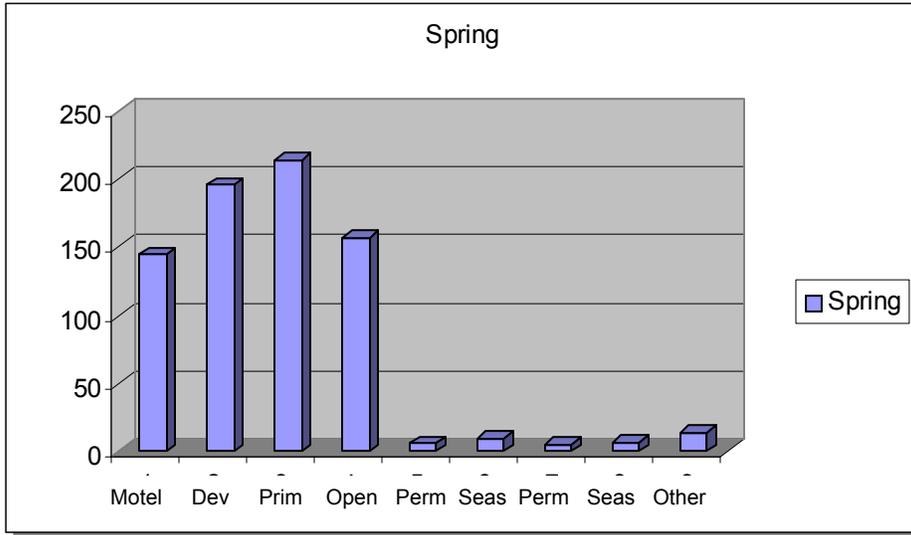


Figure 28. Location stayed at while in park (total)

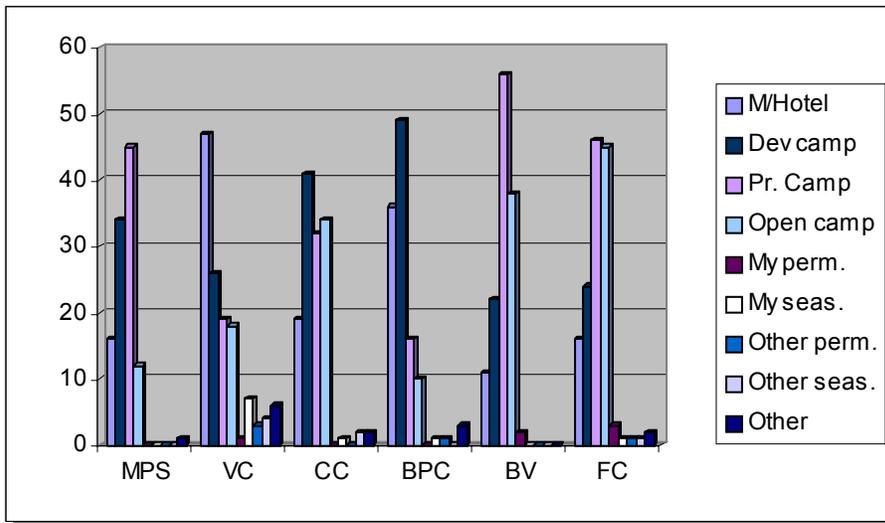


Figure 29. Location stayed at while in park (by site)

## What Experiences do Visitors Seek in a Trip to Anza-Borrego?

### Anza Borrego Values and Visitor Motivation

Exploring the values visitors place on Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and identifying the reasons visitors come to the Park are ways that managers can better provide opportunities for quality experiences to a diverse group of visitors. In this section we describe how we measured the values visitors place on ABDSP, and the reasons visitors come to ABDSP. We provide tables of descriptive statistics that demonstrate the overall ratings of the items we asked respondents to consider.

### Measurement of the Values Visitors Place on Anza Borrego

Visitors place a wide variety of values on Anza-Borrego. Many have different opinions about the role the Park should serve. Exploring these philosophical values can help managers to understand what visitors expect from their experience and from the way in which the Park is managed. Gaining insight into the values visitors deem important to the Park offers managers a perspective on what the visitors may see as the priorities for the park.

The items for this inquiry were developed from a discussion of the historical origins of the park idea. The items represent properties of seven different broad categories of values commonly associated with national parks. These items were then randomly sorted within the question. Respondents were asked the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with each of the items importance to the overall value of Anza-Borrego. The scale ranged from one to five, one being “very unimportant” and five being “very important”. Table 31 shows the means, medians, and standard deviations of each of the items in the order the items were presented in the survey. All in all, respondents believe that Anza-Borrego is highly important as a place for scenic beauty, unique characteristics, wildness, nature displays and as a sanctuary for wildlife. According to visitors, the Park’s role as an economic resource, a place to be free from society’s rules and regulations, and a place for social interaction are relatively less important. Although the rankings and magnitude of responses are relatively consistent across sample sites (Table 31) and seasons (Table 32) the standard deviations suggest a fair amount of variability among respondents on these items. In other words, each value listed is highly important to some people and unimportant to others.

**Table 31.** Significance (importance) of Park

#18 Importance of the Park	Visitors Center			Mtn. Palm Springs			Borrego Palm Cyn		
	Mn	Md	Sd	Mn	Md	Sd	Mn	Md	Sd
Scenic Beauty	4.60	5.00	.88	4.62	5.00	.79	4.65	5.00	.67
Unique Characteristics	4.58	5.00	.84	4.58	5.00	.90	4.59	5.00	.74
Wildness	4.55	5.00	.84	4.56	5.00	.85	4.58	5.00	.70
Nature Displays	4.50	5.00	.84	4.55	5.00	.83	4.53	5.00	.82
Sanctuary for Wildlife	4.50	5.00	.84	4.42	5.00	.91	4.45	5.00	.83
Preserve for Endangered Species	4.46	5.00	1.04	4.41	5.00	1.02	4.33	5.00	1.03
Essential Wildlife Habitat	4.43	5.00	.87	4.39	5.00	.91	4.38	5.00	.84
Reserve for Natural Resources	4.37	5.00	1.03	4.18	5.00	1.23	4.26	4.00	1.01
Paleontological* Resources	4.34	4.00	1.31	4.20	4.00	1.41	4.16	4.00	1.11
Historic Value	4.17	4.00	1.20	3.99	4.00	1.20	4.12	4.00	.92
A Place Used for Enjoyment	4.13	4.00	1.15	4.13	4.00	1.13	4.25	4.00	.91
Nature Education	4.07	4.00	1.05	3.88	4.00	1.08	3.96	4.00	.93
Scientific Research	3.97	4.00	1.41	3.84	4.00	1.47	3.82	4.00	1.37
Recreation Opportunities	3.81	4.00	1.23	3.79	4.00	1.04	4.00	4.00	.96
As a Tourist Destination	3.39	3.00	1.40	3.20	3.00	1.32	3.45	3.00	1.26
Economic Impact on Community	3.37	3.00	1.65	3.10	3.00	1.50	3.40	3.00	1.49
Family Traditions and Values	3.35	3.00	1.55	3.51	3.00	1.25	3.73	4.00	1.29
A Place Free of Regulations	3.26	3.00	1.59	3.51	4.00	1.45	3.57	4.00	1.37
Social Interactions	3.04	3.00	1.41	3.24	3.00	1.41	3.33	3.00	1.20

**Table 31 (cont'd)** Significance (importance) of Park

#18 Importance of the Park	Coyote Canyon			Blair Valley			Fish Creek		
	Mn	Md	Sd	Mn	Md	Sd	Mn	Md	Sd
Scenic Beauty	4.62	5.00	.68	4.60	5.00	.78	4.61	5.00	.78
Unique Characteristics	4.59	5.00	.75	4.52	5.00	.80	4.60	5.00	.79
Wildness	4.54	5.00	.70	4.40	5.00	.90	4.56	5.00	.79
Nature Displays	4.49	5.00	.73	4.43	5.00	.89	4.51	5.00	.76
Sanctuary for Wildlife	4.41	5.00	.82	4.25	5.00	1.07	4.51	5.00	.81
Preserve for Endangered Species	4.38	5.00	.97	4.11	4.00	1.14	4.53	5.00	.87
Essential Wildlife Habitat	4.41	5.00	.83	4.23	5.00	1.02	4.42	5.00	.86
Reserve for Natural Resources	4.24	4.00	.95	4.17	4.00	1.10	4.37	5.00	1.04
Paleontological* Resources	4.08	4.00	1.09	4.02	4.00	1.25	4.34	4.00	1.29
Historic Value	4.02	4.00	1.06	4.01	4.00	1.11	4.16	4.00	1.16
A Place Used for Enjoyment	4.33	5.00	.90	4.22	4.00	.97	4.18	4.00	.92
Nature Education	3.97	4.00	1.04	3.88	4.00	1.00	4.10	4.00	.92
Scientific Research	3.80	4.00	1.31	3.70	4.00	1.40	4.00	4.00	1.43
Recreation Opportunities	4.22	4.00	.95	4.10	4.00	1.00	3.97	4.00	1.03
As a Tourist Destination	3.40	3.00	1.29	3.46	3.00	1.24	3.45	3.00	1.30
Economic Impact on Community	3.40	3.00	1.48	3.40	3.00	1.50	3.41	3.00	1.67
Family Traditions and Values	3.62	4.00	1.30	3.76	4.00	1.38	3.53	3.00	1.46
A Place Free of Regulations	3.68	4.00	1.29	3.53	4.00	1.39	3.25	3.00	1.37
Social Interactions	3.31	3.00	1.27	3.35	3.00	1.29	3.26	3.00	1.33

\* Paleontological resources was added to the Spring survey.

**Table 32.** Importance by season

#18 Importance of the Park	Fall			Spring		
	Mn	Md	Sd	Mn	Md	Sd
Because of its Scenic Beauty	4.59	5.00	0.81	4.63	5.00	0.74
Because of its Unique Characteristics	4.52	5.00	0.83	4.61	5.00	0.78
Because of its Wildness	4.51	5.00	0.84	4.55	5.00	0.77
Its Nature Displays	4.44	5.00	0.87	4.54	5.00	0.76
Sanctuary for Wildlife	4.40	5.00	0.94	4.46	5.00	0.83
Essential Wildlife Habitat	4.35	5.00	0.93	4.41	5.00	0.85
Preserve For Endangered Species	4.31	5.00	1.06	4.44	5.00	1.03
Reserve for Natural Resources	4.23	4.00	1.05	4.32	5.00	1.35
Paleontological Resources				4.20	4.00	1.25
A Place Used for Enjoyment	4.18	4.00	0.98	4.23	4.00	1.46
Recreation Opportunities	4.06	4.00	1.05	3.40	4.00	1.01
Because of its Historic Value	4.04	4.00	1.14	4.15	4.00	1.11
For Nature Education	4.04	4.00	0.99	3.47	4.00	1.31
For Scientific Research	3.83	4.00	1.40	3.95	4.00	1.25
Family Traditions and Values	3.68	4.00	1.34	4.32	3.00	1.07
As a Tourist Destination	3.42	3.00	1.26	3.40	3.00	1.46
For Social Interactions	3.40	3.00	1.34	3.92	3.00	1.39
A Place Free of Regulations	3.40	3.00	1.40	3.48	3.00	1.60
Economic Impact on Community	3.33	3.00	1.53	3.40	3.00	1.05

### Measurement of the Reasons for Visiting Anza Borrego

One of the objectives of this study was to identify what motivates people to visit ABDSP. This type of analysis depends on the selection of a wide range of motivations with which visitors could identify. Scale items were adapted from extensively tested Recreation Experience Preference (REP) scales (Driver 1970) and a similar studies examining visitors to several National Parks in the Desert Southwest.

The motive/experience items were randomly sorted within the question. Respondents were asked to rate the importance of each reason to them and their visit to the Park. The five-point scale provided ranged from one, “very unimportant” to five, “very important”. Table 30 illustrates the means, medians and standard deviations for each item. Descriptive statistics are provided by sample site and for reference, ranked by the visitors at the Visitors Center.

There is higher variability on desired motives that there is in the values visitors hold for the park. Mean motive scores do not exceed 4.65 and high means are generally closer to 4.0. Whereas there were several value means over 4.5 in each of the sample sites. There is also less agreement across sites as to the most important motivations for visiting. For example, at the Visitors Center, viewing scenery, seeing the desert, experiencing tranquility, learning about nature viewing wildlife and wildflowers in a new, quiet and historic area away from crowds are all very important. At Mountain Palm Springs, and Borrego Palm Canyon, the focus was more on learning about nature, helping others, environmental awareness and gaining thrills. At Coyote Canyon there is a higher importance on the opportunity to reflect, and both slow down yet experience

excitement. These data demonstrate that there is no average visitor to Anza Borrego. While there is strong agreement on the values of the park, there is greater variability in the visitors' motivations for experiences within it. Conflicts may occur when the motives for one visitor or group interfere with those of another. The broadest variability in motives appears to be occurring in Coyote Canyon. There are minimal differences among the motives of fall and spring visitors (Table 33).

**Table 33.** Reasons for visiting the Park  
Likert scale of 1 (very unimportant) to 5 (very important)

Motivation to Visit the Park	Visitors Center			Mtn Palm Springs			Borrego Palm Cyn		
	Mn	Md	Sd	Mn	Md	Sd	Mn	Md	Sd
Enjoy Natural Scenery	4.51	5.00	1.10	3.99	4.00	1.05	4.05	4.00	1.15
See the Desert	4.34	5.00	1.09	3.45	3.00	1.23	3.60	4.00	1.39
Experience Tranquility	4.21	4.00	1.10	4.14	4.00	1.38	4.19	5.00	1.30
Learn More About Nature	4.18	4.00	1.03	4.65	5.00	0.89	4.68	5.00	0.78
View Wildlife	4.17	4.00	1.07	3.85	4.00	1.35	3.91	4.00	1.47
Wildflower Display	4.14	4.00	1.15	3.91	4.00	1.20	4.00	4.00	1.21
Have a New Experience	4.10	4.00	1.11	2.92	3.00	1.41	3.11	3.00	1.44
Learn Area's History	4.09	4.00	1.07	4.16	4.00	1.04	4.23	4.00	0.99
Get Away from Demands	4.09	4.00	1.18	4.08	4.00	1.05	4.11	4.00	0.88
Have Peace and Quiet	4.09	4.00	1.19	3.64	4.00	1.11	3.76	4.00	0.97
Hike or Camp in Nature	4.06	4.00	1.33	2.83	3.00	1.21	2.88	3.00	1.26
Get Away from Crowds	4.05	4.00	1.21	4.00	4.00	1.12	4.04	4.00	0.89
To do something w/ Family	3.93	4.00	1.41	4.18	4.00	1.02	4.13	4.00	0.88
Have Fun	3.88	4.00	1.17	3.55	4.00	1.22	3.64	4.00	1.18
People w/ Same Interests	3.74	4.00	1.40	3.27	3.00	1.28	3.42	3.00	1.17
Learn Area's Culture	3.74	4.00	1.17	3.15	3.00	1.33	3.29	3.00	1.30
Have Adventure	3.71	4.00	1.31	3.68	4.00	1.15	3.82	4.00	0.99
View Bighorn Sheep	3.68	4.00	1.31	3.39	3.00	1.35	3.40	3.00	1.21
Be Physically Fit	3.65	4.00	1.21	3.57	4.00	1.25	3.46	3.00	1.17
Mind at a Slower Pace	3.55	4.00	1.40	4.18	4.00	1.05	4.21	4.00	0.99
Be with Group/Family	3.50	4.00	1.64	4.18	5.00	1.14	4.40	5.00	0.92
Be Creative, Photography	3.50	4.00	1.37	2.48	2.00	1.41	2.63	2.00	1.56
Reduce Built-up Tension	3.46	4.00	1.39	2.90	3.00	1.35	3.07	3.00	1.34
Rest Physically	3.43	4.00	1.40	3.33	3.00	1.38	3.78	4.00	1.30
Be Challenged	3.40	3.00	1.24	3.17	3.00	1.28	3.26	3.00	1.32
Reflect Personal Values	3.39	3.00	1.51	4.25	4.00	0.99	4.20	4.00	0.91
Develop Personal Skills	3.31	3.00	1.46	3.04	3.00	1.39	3.22	3.00	1.34
Bring Group Closer	3.30	3.00	1.46	3.65	4.00	1.34	3.72	4.00	1.26
Experience Excitement	3.20	3.00	1.41	4.41	5.00	0.95	4.41	5.00	0.86
Be More Productive	3.02	3.00	1.57	3.15	3.00	1.30	3.17	3.00	1.39
Be More Self-Confident	2.98	3.00	1.54	3.26	3.00	1.19	3.23	3.00	1.24
Make My Own Decisions	2.97	3.00	1.49	3.73	4.00	1.07	3.81	4.00	1.23
Share w/ Others	2.94	3.00	1.51	3.87	4.00	1.12	3.83	4.00	1.19
Meet New People	2.91	3.00	1.35	4.40	5.00	0.96	4.42	5.00	0.82
Environmental Awareness	2.91	3.00	1.59	4.31	5.00	0.97	4.20	4.00	0.95
Help Others Develop Skills	2.86	3.00	1.48	4.42	5.00	0.96	4.34	5.00	0.91
Have Thrills	2.85	3.00	1.49	4.36	5.00	1.03	4.38	5.00	0.92
Temporary Escape Family	2.58	2.00	1.57	3.16	3.00	1.48	3.32	3.00	1.34

**Table 33 (cont'd) Importance of reasons for visiting the Park**  
 Likert scale of 1 (very unimportant) to 5 (very important)

#17 Motivation to Visit the Park	Coyote Canyon			Blair Valley			Fish Creek		
	Mn	Md	Sd	Mn	Md	Sd	Mn	Md	Sd
Enjoy Natural Scenery	4.15	4.00	1.04	4.58	5.00	.97	4.58	5.00	1.01
See the Desert	3.42	3.00	1.26	4.30	5.00	1.03	4.34	5.00	0.99
Experience Tranquility	4.04	4.00	1.35	4.20	4.00	0.98	4.31	5.00	1.00
Learn More About Nature	4.55	5.00	0.99	4.04	4.00	0.98	4.16	4.00	1.00
View Wildlife	3.77	4.00	1.43	4.02	4.00	1.01	4.23	4.00	1.03
Wildflower Display	4.00	4.00	1.18	3.97	4.00	1.10	4.06	4.00	1.23
Have a New Experience	2.91	3.00	1.34	4.08	4.00	0.95	4.03	4.00	1.10
Learn Area's History	4.33	5.00	0.95	4.00	4.00	1.10	4.05	4.00	1.02
Get Away from Demands	4.02	4.00	1.06	4.15	4.00	1.05	4.11	4.00	1.19
Have Peace and Quiet	3.80	4.00	1.10	4.17	4.00	1.01	4.23	4.00	1.12
Hike or Camp in Nature	2.93	3.00	1.14	4.15	4.00	1.13	4.30	5.00	1.11
Get Away from Crowds	3.97	4.00	1.05	4.26	5.00	1.06	4.03	4.00	1.19
To do something w/ Family	4.04	4.00	1.02	4.36	5.00	1.41	4.05	4.00	1.47
Have Fun	3.54	4.00	1.23	4.24	5.00	1.03	4.10	4.00	1.07
People w/ Same Interests	3.55	4.00	1.08	4.07	4.00	1.22	3.86	4.00	1.32
Learn Area's Culture	3.51	4.00	1.18	3.65	4.00	1.08	3.69	4.00	1.09
Have Adventure	3.66	4.00	1.09	4.15	4.00	1.10	3.86	4.00	1.13
View Bighorn Sheep	3.37	3.00	1.18	3.53	4.00	1.35	3.82	4.00	1.26
Be Physically Fit	3.43	4.00	1.24	3.46	4.00	1.17	3.80	4.00	1.10
Mind at a Slower Pace	4.34	5.00	0.94	3.58	4.00	1.27	3.70	4.00	1.40
Be with Group/Family	4.34	5.00	0.94	3.95	4.00	1.30	3.88	4.00	1.58
Be Creative, Photography	2.51	2.00	1.31	3.43	4.00	1.26	3.38	3.00	1.34
Reduce Built-up Tension	2.88	3.00	1.20	3.58	4.00	1.26	3.51	4.00	1.31
Rest Physically	3.55	4.00	1.26	3.40	4.00	1.21	3.41	3.00	1.41
Be Challenged	3.20	3.00	1.27	3.52	4.00	1.18	3.50	4.00	1.21
Reflect Personal Values	4.15	4.00	1.01	3.26	3.00	1.22	3.40	3.00	1.35
Develop Personal Skills	2.94	3.00	1.19	3.43	3.00	1.29	3.30	3.00	1.26
Bring Group Closer	3.65	4.00	1.26	3.60	4.00	1.40	3.54	4.00	1.40
Experience Excitement	4.27	5.00	1.01	3.50	4.00	1.14	3.33	3.00	1.25
Be More Productive	3.09	3.00	1.36	2.89	3.00	1.32	3.14	3.00	1.47
Be More Self-Confident	3.21	3.00	1.31	3.00	3.00	1.28	3.12	3.00	1.34
Make My Own Decisions	3.79	4.00	1.28	3.05	3.00	1.30	3.11	3.00	1.45
Share w/ Others	3.92	4.00	1.17	3.02	3.00	1.25	2.98	3.00	1.38
Meet New People	4.32	5.00	1.02	2.98	3.00	1.18	2.99	3.00	1.20
Environmental Awareness	4.01	4.00	1.16	3.25	3.00	1.45	3.19	3.00	1.50
Help Others Develop Skills	4.35	5.00	0.99	3.19	3.00	1.41	3.06	3.00	1.31
Have Thrills	4.33	5.00	1.11	3.20	3.00	1.32	2.91	3.00	1.34
Temporary Escape Family	3.09	3.00	1.33	2.47	2.00	1.55	2.60	2.00	1.67

**Table 34.** Motivation by season

#17 Motivation to Visit the Park	Fall			Spring		
	Mn	Md	Sd	Mn	Md	Sd
Enjoy Natural Scenery	4.56	5.00	1.01	4.59	4.00	0.97
Experience Tranquility	4.28	5.00	1.06	4.28	4.00	0.96
See the Desert	4.28	5.00	1.06	4.40	5.00	0.98
Have Peace and Quiet	4.24	5.00	1.09	4.25	4.00	1.04
Get Away from Demands	4.23	4.00	1.07	4.15	4.00	1.08
Get Away from Crowds	4.23	5.00	1.10	4.19	5.00	1.11
Hike or Camp in Nature	4.22	5.00	1.17	4.26	5.00	1.10
Have Fun	4.14	4.00	1.05	4.13	4.00	1.09
View Wildlife	4.14	4.00	1.04	4.19	4.00	1.00
Learn More About Nature	4.09	4.00	1.02	4.15	4.00	0.98
To do Something w/ Family	4.05	4.00	1.38	4.13	4.00	1.42
Learn Area's History	4.04	4.00	1.08	4.07	4.00	1.01
Have New Experience	4.02	4.00	1.05	4.04	4.00	1.04
Have Adventure	3.97	4.00	1.16	3.95	4.00	1.18
People with Same Interests	3.90	4.00	1.26	3.93	4.00	1.30
View Wildflower Display	3.87	4.00	1.22	4.29	5.00	1.00
Mind at a Slower Pace	3.81	4.00	1.23	3.65	4.00	1.34
Be with Group/Family	3.75	4.00	1.49	3.80	4.00	1.51
View Bighorn Sheep	3.74	4.00	1.34	3.63	4.00	1.26
Learn Area's Culture	3.72	4.00	1.08	3.70	4.00	1.12
Reduce Built-up Tension	3.72	4.00	1.21	3.54	4.00	1.35
Be Physically Fit	3.68	4.00	1.16	3.63	4.00	1.12
Bring Group Closer	3.58	4.00	1.32	3.46	4.00	1.41
Rest Physically	3.56	4.00	1.30	3.44	4.00	1.29
Be Challenged	3.49	4.00	1.18	3.43	3.00	1.20
Develop Personal Skills	3.45	3.00	1.31	3.36	3.00	1.35
Be Creative, Photography	3.44	3.00	1.29	3.48	4.00	1.27
Reflect on Personal Values	3.43	3.00	1.29	3.34	3.00	1.34
Experience Excitement	3.40	3.00	1.24	3.30	3.00	1.30
Environmental Awareness	3.28	3.00	1.42	2.99	3.00	1.48
Make Own Decisions	3.22	3.00	1.35	3.03	3.00	1.38
Be More Self-Confident	3.20	3.00	1.36	3.02	3.00	1.36
Be More Productive	3.19	3.00	1.41	2.96	3.00	1.44
Have Thrills	3.14	3.00	1.37	2.96	3.00	1.43
Share w/ Others	3.09	3.00	1.35	2.87	3.00	1.33
Help Others Develop Skills	3.09	3.00	1.35	2.98	3.00	1.38
Meet New People	3.02	3.00	1.28	2.85	3.00	1.18
Temporary Escape from Family	2.69	3.00	1.58	2.45	2.00	1.47

## How do Visitors Evaluate the Management of Anza Borrego Desert State Park?

An aspect of management equally important as identifying and characterizing Anza Borrego's visitors is examining visitor support for management actions. Gaining insight into support for potential management actions is invaluable to managers who must make decisions that would greatly affect visitor experience in the park. Likewise, management actions that have little support from visitors may prove to cause future conflict if implemented.

### Measurement of Management Support

Respondents were asked to express their support of or agreement with various management actions. Respondents were to rate their support from one, "strongly oppose" to five, "strongly support" on a series of management actions given the conditions of the Park on their visit. The management actions were generated from information supplied by Anza-Borrego Staff, planning, and policy documents.

Table 35 illustrates the most and least supported management actions on average (sorted in descending order by the ranking of the visitor center respondents). The means range from "oppose" (2.0) to "strongly support" (4.7). The general trend in the data is that actions related to the preservation of the park's resources are viewed as more important than changes in facilities, or development targeting recreational use, visitor concerns or local interests. That the resources should be protected gained (on average) the most support in four of the six sample sites. This item was among the top three in the remaining two sites as well. On average, visitors "support" the current management of camping and traffic. The least supported management actions are related to providing more camping or off-road use and offering more emphasis to locals on decision making. Differences in mean and median indicate a skewed distribution in the data. An example of this can be seen in the Visitor Center respondents' assessment of horseback, off-road and mountain bike management. While the medians are five, indicating that at least half of the respondents strongly support the current management, the means are closer to neutral. This indicates that a sizable minority opposes the action and strongly opposes the current management of these recreation types. In most other cases, the assessment of management actions is quite constant across actions and sites. There is little seasonal difference in the respondents' reactions to these questions (Table 36).

**Table 35. Visitors Support for Management Actions (by site)**

Quality of the Park Management	Visitors Center			Mtn Palm Springs			Borrego Palm Cyn.		
	Mn	Md	Sd	Mn	Md	Sd	Mn	Md	Sd
Resources Should be Protected	4.73	5.00	0.65	4.67	5.00	0.67	4.52	5.00	4.65
Wildlife Populations should be Protected	4.72	5.00	0.64	4.62	5.00	0.78	4.50	5.00	0.78
Solitude Should be Protected	4.66	5.00	0.67	4.64	5.00	0.68	4.67	5.00	0.67
Ecosystem a Management. Priority	4.56	5.00	0.76	4.39	5.00	0.86	4.17	5.00	0.94
Wildlife a Management. Priority	4.53	5.00	0.74	4.38	5.00	0.80	4.24	5.00	0.80
Historical Sites Should be Protected	4.45	5.00	0.76	4.54	5.00	0.76	4.42	5.00	0.75
History a Management. Priority	4.10	4.00	0.83	4.03	4.00	0.85	3.85	4.00	0.93
Camping is Managed. Effectively	4.06	4.00	0.82	4.18	4.00	0.73	4.07	4.00	0.87
Traffic is Managed. Effectively	4.05	4.00	0.81	4.05	4.00	0.80	4.02	4.00	0.77
Park's Culture a Mgmt. Priority	3.96	4.00	0.85	3.90	4.00	0.86	3.82	4.00	0.88
More Info on Off-road Impacts	3.94	4.00	0.97	3.94	4.00	0.99	3.77	4.00	1.04
Recreation Should be Protected	3.92	4.00	1.00	4.18	4.00	0.93	4.18	4.00	0.92
Safety a Mgmt. Priority	3.91	4.00	0.91	3.82	4.00	1.02	3.67	4.00	1.01
More Info on Area's Ecology	3.89	4.00	0.90	3.85	4.00	0.91	3.80	4.00	0.90
More Info on Area's History	3.82	4.00	0.91	3.88	4.00	0.89	3.79	4.00	0.89
More Info on Visitor Impacts	3.80	4.00	0.94	3.71	4.00	0.90	3.73	4.00	0.95
Horseback is Managed. Effectively	3.77	5.00	0.93	3.91	4.00	0.83	3.81	4.00	0.93
Off-road is Managed. Effectively	3.76	5.00	1.12	3.95	4.00	0.96	3.91	4.00	1.06
Mountain Biking is Managed. Effectively	3.74	5.00	1.01	3.95	4.00	0.89	3.81	4.00	0.92
More Info on Area's Culture	3.70	4.00	0.90	3.79	4.00	0.88	3.70	4.00	0.87
Decisions Include Community	3.60	4.00	0.95	3.68	4.00	0.98	3.79	4.00	0.96
Recreation a Management. Priority	3.54	4.00	1.12	3.76	4.00	1.06	3.86	4.00	1.06
Decision Involve Park Visitors	3.52	4.00	0.88	3.58	4.00	1.03	3.89	4.00	0.87
Decisions Reflect Visitor's Desires	3.33	3.00	1.00	3.53	4.00	1.07	3.82	4.00	1.03
More Hiking Trails	3.23	3.00	1.07	3.36	3.00	1.06	3.47	3.00	1.13
More Interpretive Displays	3.23	3.00	0.94	3.27	3.00	0.90	3.51	3.00	0.98
More Signs	3.03	3.00	1.05	3.14	3.00	1.05	3.47	3.00	1.08
More Area for Camping	2.83	3.00	1.08	3.01	3.00	1.04	3.34	3.00	1.15
Local Residents Take Priority	2.78	3.00	1.10	3.02	3.00	1.06	3.18	3.00	1.13
More Off-Road Use	2.14	2.00	1.19	2.47	3.00	1.23	3.08	3.00	1.36

**Table 35 (continued)**

Management Actions	Coyote Canyon			Blair Valley			Fish Creek		
	Mn	Md	Sd	Mn	Md	Sd	Mn	Md	Sd
Resources Should be Protected	4.60	5.00	0.63	4.67	5.00	0.69	4.71	5.00	0.63
Wildlife Populations should be Protected	4.58	5.00	0.67	4.66	5.00	0.72	4.72	5.00	0.58
Solitude Should be Protected	4.55	5.00	0.73	4.59	5.00	0.75	4.66	5.00	0.63
Ecosystem a Management. Priority	4.29	5.00	0.91	4.45	4.00	0.78	4.47	4.00	0.68
Wildlife a Management. Priority	4.38	5.00	0.82	4.42	5.00	0.81	4.41	4.00	0.76
Historical Sites Should be Protected	4.40	5.00	0.71	4.44	5.00	0.81	4.43	5.00	0.75
History a Management. Priority	3.93	4.00	0.85	4.08	4.00	0.87	3.89	4.00	0.81
Camping is Managed. Effectively	4.10	4.00	0.78	3.95	5.00	0.79	3.98	4.00	0.84
Traffic is Managed. Effectively	4.09	4.00	0.79	3.97	4.00	0.81	4.03	4.00	0.78
Park's Culture a Mgmt. Priority	3.88	4.00	0.87	3.91	4.00	0.90	3.77	4.00	0.79
More Info on Off-road Impacts	3.77	4.00	1.01	3.94	4.00	1.00	3.89	4.00	0.96
Recreation Should be Protected	4.27	4.00	0.83	3.84	4.00	1.08	3.93	4.00	1.08
Safety a Mgmt. Priority	3.71	4.00	1.04	3.85	4.00	0.95	3.72	4.00	1.01
More Info on Area's Ecology	3.78	4.00	0.88	3.80	4.00	0.97	3.90	4.00	0.81
More Info on Area's History	3.75	4.00	0.89	3.77	4.00	0.96	3.86	4.00	0.80
More Info on Visitor Impacts	3.68	4.00	0.90	3.73	4.00	1.01	3.78	4.00	0.86
Horseback is Managed. Effectively	3.87	4.00	0.97	3.60	5.00	0.92	3.61	4.00	0.97
Off-road is Managed. Effectively	3.94	4.00	1.01	3.59	5.00	1.05	3.61	4.00	1.18
Mountain Biking is Managed. Effectively	3.82	4.00	0.97	3.58	5.00	0.96	3.79	4.00	0.95
More Info on Area's Culture	3.68	4.00	0.90	3.66	4.00	0.96	3.72	4.00	0.77
Decisions Include Community	3.85	4.00	0.92	3.76	4.00	0.96	3.62	4.00	0.98
Recreation a Management. Priority	3.83	4.00	0.98	3.54	4.00	1.09	3.57	4.00	1.08
Decision Involve Park Visitors	3.76	4.00	0.92	3.55	4.00	0.94	3.83	4.00	0.84
Decisions Reflect Visitor's Desires	3.72	4.00	1.03	3.50	4.00	1.03	3.57	4.00	1.08
More Hiking Trails	3.29	3.00	1.02	3.24	4.00	1.06	3.31	3.00	1.10
More Interpretive Displays	3.32	3.00	0.92	3.27	4.00	1.06	3.28	4.00	0.96
More Signs	3.18	3.00	1.03	3.05	3.00	1.11	3.04	4.00	1.19
More Area for Camping	3.08	3.00	1.03	2.87	3.00	1.12	3.08	3.00	1.23
Local Residents Take Priority	3.16	3.00	1.14	2.92	3.00	1.15	2.84	3.00	1.04
More Off-Road Use	2.91	2.00	1.35	2.39	3.00	1.31	2.30	3.00	1.28

**Table 36.** Support for Management Actions (by season)

Management Actions	Fall			Spring		
	Mn	Md	Sd	Mn	Md	Sd
Camping is Managed Effectively	4.83	4.00	1.69	4.85	4.00	1.76
Off-road is Managed Effectively	4.73	4.00	1.97	4.89	4.00	2.07
Traffic is Managed Effectively	4.73	4.00	1.68	4.77	4.00	1.70
Resources Should be Protected	4.70	5.00	0.82	4.70	5.00	0.77
Wildlife Should be Protected	4.69	5.00	0.87	4.69	5.00	0.78
Solitude Should be Protected	4.60	5.00	0.88	4.67	5.00	0.81
Hist. Sites Should be Protected	4.53	5.00	0.95	4.49	5.00	0.86
Ecosystem a Management Priority	4.49	5.00	1.09	4.49	5.00	0.96
Wildlife a Management Priority	4.44	4.00	1.03	4.49	5.00	0.88
More Info on Off-road Impacts	4.24	4.00	1.53	4.31	4.00	1.56
More Info on Area's Ecology	4.21	4.00	1.45	4.20	4.00	1.50
Recreation Should be Protected	4.18	4.00	1.16	4.06	4.00	1.08
More Info on Area's History	4.17	4.00	1.41	4.19	4.00	1.52
More Info on Visitor Impacts	4.14	4.00	1.53	4.19	4.00	1.60
Horseback is Managed Effectively	4.12	4.00	2.14	4.37	5.00	2.17
History a Management Priority	4.09	4.00	1.09	4.08	4.00	1.01
More Info on Area's Culture	4.09	4.00	1.46	4.09	4.00	1.54
Mt. Biking is Managed Effectively	4.01	4.00	2.08	4.20	5.00	2.16
Park's Culture Priority	4.00	5.00	1.13	3.96	4.00	1.00
Decisions Include Community	3.88	4.00	1.28	4.01	4.00	1.36
Safety a Management Priority	3.86	4.00	1.19	3.89	4.00	1.10
Decisions Involve Park Visitors	3.84	4.00	1.23	3.86	4.00	1.28
Recreation a Management Priority	3.79	5.00	1.27	3.77	4.00	1.22
More Hiking Trails	3.79	3.00	1.73	3.83	3.00	1.79
Decisions Reflect Visitor's Wants	3.78	4.00	1.39	3.78	4.00	1.39
More Interpretive Displays	3.74	3.00	1.62	3.70	3.00	1.61
More Area for Camping	3.53	3.00	1.88	3.70	3.00	1.97
More Signs	3.51	3.00	1.65	3.62	3.00	1.75
Local Residents Take Priority	3.23	3.00	1.51	3.29	3.00	1.63
More Off-Road Use	3.04	3.00	2.00	3.10	3.00	2.05

## How Do Visitors View the Acceptability of Ecological, Managerial and Social Conditions Within the Park?

In addition to the information gathered to this point, managers are interested in the specific reactions of Park visitors when presented with a range of conditions that might be found within the Park. The issues presented were:

1. Off-road use, vegetation loss – Coyote Canyon
2. Crowding, solitude – Blair Valley, Fish Creek
3. Trail standards – Borrego Palm Canyon, Mountain Palm Springs

### The Photo Series

For the last set of questions in the survey, six images were used to measure the acceptability of a range of ecological or managerial conditions. To do this in a meaningful way, UM researchers worked with Park staff to produce a possible progression of scenarios depicting a reasonable scope of conditions. In Coyote Canyon, the photo set portrayed a range of vegetation loss due to off-road vehicle use (Panel 1). For Blair Valley and Fish Creek survey locations, a similar photo collection was used depicting a range from solitude to highly crowded conditions (Panels 2 and 3). For Mountain Palm Springs and Borrego Palm Canyon, the photo series depicted a continuum of trail conditions spanning low use and low standard, to very high use, the trail signed and paved (Panels 4 and 5). Respondents at each site were asked to judge the acceptability of the six photos along a nine-point scale, from -4 (very unacceptable) to +4 (very acceptable), with a neutral zero point.

The photos used in each of the three sets were artificially enhanced by computer. An original photo was scanned for each photo set and then elements were added, removed, or otherwise manipulated in order to create the effect. For example, in the Coyote Canyon photo set, Photo 1 is the original image, with a sign removed for simplicity. All other characteristics in the subsequent photos in that set were airbrushed or otherwise manipulated to depict increasing levels of vegetation loss and impacts associated with off-road vehicle use. For Blair Valley and Fish Creek, the original image is Photo 6, with other photos showing a progression of more campers, from none in Photo 1 to extremely crowded conditions in Photo 6. In the photo set for Borrego Palm Canyon and Mountain Palm Springs, Photo 5 is the original, with more or less trail development and maintenance portrayed in the other photos.

### Acceptability of Vegetation Loss at Coyote Canyon

We used two different methods to evaluate the visitors' responses to the photo series of questions. First, the mean of the responses for both fall and spring were plotted for each of the photos. A positive mean score indicates that the conditions represented in the photo were acceptable, while a negative mean score suggests that the conditions represented in the photo were unacceptable to most visitors who participated in the study. Second, we evaluated the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile of respondents and the photo in the series where they shifted from "acceptable" to "unacceptable" (Tables 37 and 38)

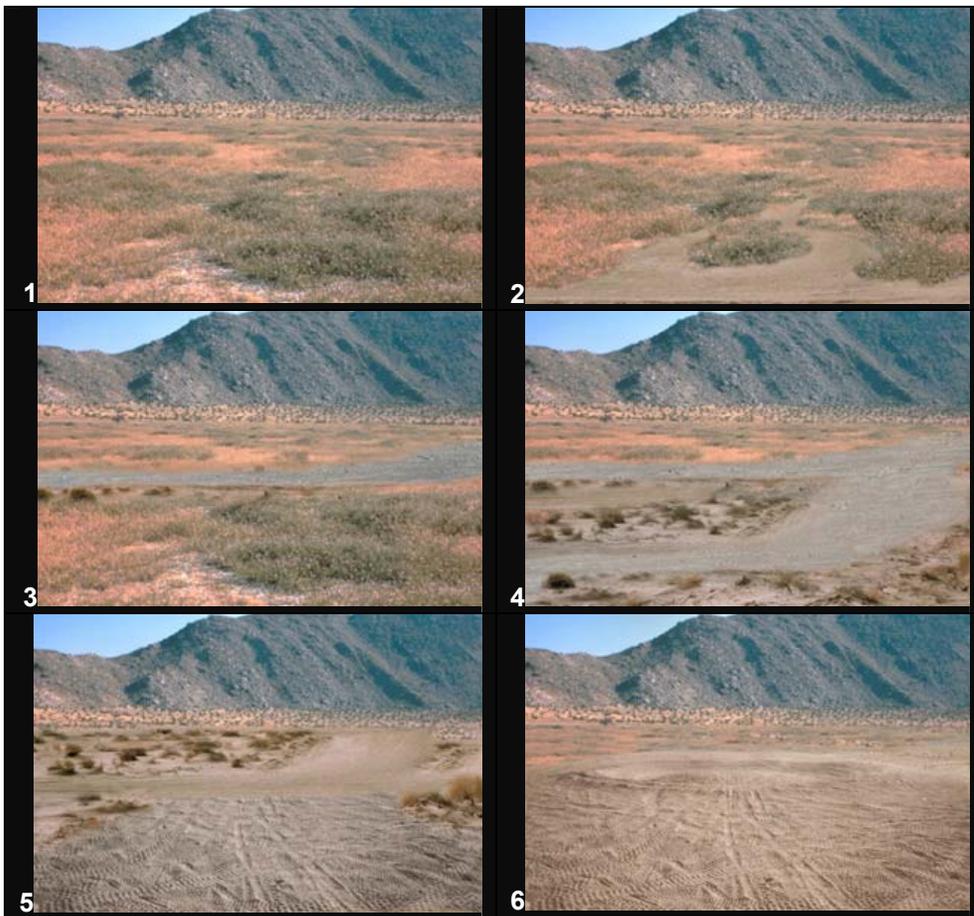
The question asked in the Coyote Canyon survey is as follows:

One of the issues in managing Anza-Borrego Desert State Park is to balance recreational use with the loss of vegetation. The computer-generated photographs simulate a range of vegetation loss that can result from recreational use. The managers are interested in your opinion on **how vegetation loss affects your experience**. To help us assess this, please indicate the **acceptability of the conditions** represented by each photo. A rating of -4 signifies conditions are very unacceptable; a rating of +4 is very acceptable.

In Figure 30 below, the zero line serves as a standard to measure the point at which conditions become unacceptable to the majority of visitors. In the case of Coyote Canyon, this point came between Photos 3 and 4. This can also be seen in the box plot (Figure 31), where the box (50<sup>th</sup> percentile) does not cross the zero line until Photo 4. Tables A and B demonstrate this as well; the median acceptability does not drop below 0 until Photo 4, when conditions apparently become unacceptable for most people.

Because Coyote Canyon was unique, in that the vegetation loss questions were only used at the one site, we tested for significant differences in the mean acceptability scores between fall and spring samples. For this test, analysis of variance was used (Table 39) to compare between groups (fall, spring) and among the photos (1 through 6). A significant difference would suggest that people in one season ranked a photo much differently than participants in the other season. At a  $p \leq .05$ , there was only a significant statistical difference with Photo 2 in the fall and spring populations, with the fall sample giving the photo a higher acceptability ranking than did the spring sample (Tables 39 and 40).

Photos 1 and 2 were judged to be acceptable to a majority of Park visitors. By Photo 3, there was a wide range of reaction to the acceptability of the conditions represented, but the majority still found it acceptable. Beginning with Photo 4, conditions became unacceptable for the majority of visitors participating in the survey. Seventy-five percent (205 of 272) of visitors participating in the survey found conditions unacceptable by Photo 5 (Table 38). This number increased to nearly 80% of visitors (217 of 272) who found conditions unacceptable by Photo 6. The results suggest that a majority of Park visitors are not appreciably affected by the impacts to the vegetation until conditions resemble those depicted in Photo 4.



**Panel 1.** Photo series representing different levels of vegetation loss due to off-road motor vehicles – Coyote Canyon

**Table 37.** Summary statistics of photo series by season and total – Coyote Canyon

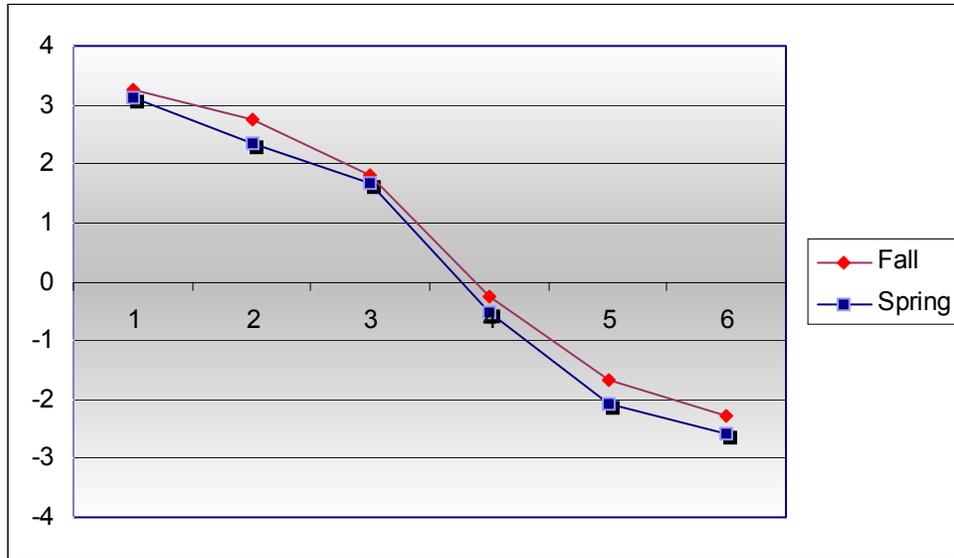
CC (fall)		Photo 1	Photo 2	Photo 3	Photo 4	Photo 5	Photo 6
N	Valid	143	142	140	141	142	142
	Missing	29	30	32	31	30	30
Mean		3.27	2.74	1.79	-.26	-1.66	-2.28
Median		4.00	3.00	2.00	.00	-3.00	-4.00
Std Dev		1.46	1.50	1.92	2.49	2.61	2.48

CC (spring)		Photo 1	Photo 2	Photo 3	Photo 4	Photo 5	Photo 6
N	Valid	132	133	131	132	130	130
	Missing	53	52	54	53	55	55
Mean		3.12	2.36	1.68	-.52	-2.09	-2.57
Median		4.00	3.00	2.00	-1.00	-3.00	-4.00
Std Dev		1.60	1.57	1.96	2.39	2.39	2.50

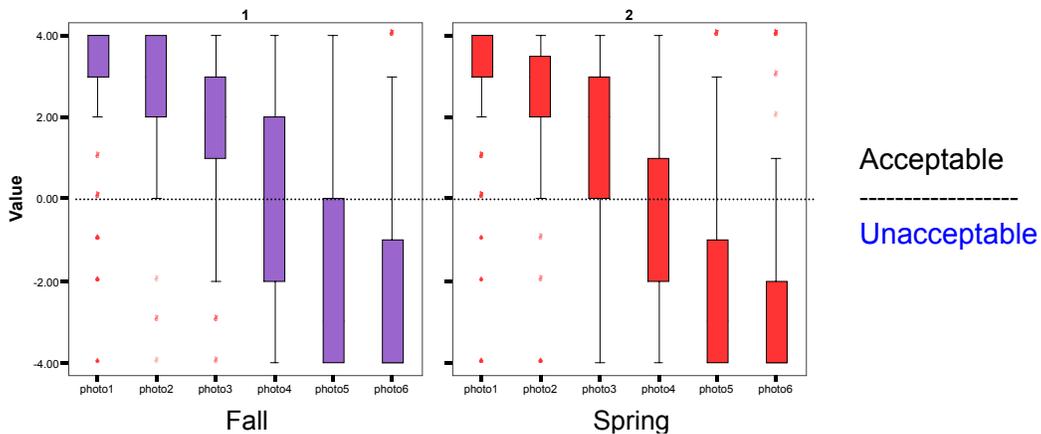
CC (total)		Photo 1	Photo 2	Photo 3	Photo 4	Photo 5	Photo 6
N	Valid	275	275	271	273	272	272
	Missing	82	82	86	84	85	85
Mean		3.20	2.56	1.74	-.38	-1.87	-2.42
Median		4.00	3.00	2.00	-1.00	-3.00	-4.00
Std Dev		1.53	1.54	1.94	2.44	2.51	2.49

**Table 38.** Range of acceptability of photos 1 through 6 – Coyote Canyon

Increasing Vegetation Loss	Acceptable		Neutral		Unacceptable		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Photo 1	251	91.2	14	5.1	10	3.6	275
Photo 2	249	90.5	16	5.8	10	3.6	275
Photo 3	205	75.6	30	11.1	36	13.3	271
Photo 4	102	37.6	34	9.5	137	50.2	273
Photo 5	49	18.0	18	5.0	205	75.4	272
Photo 6	40	14.7	15	4.2	217	79.8	272



**Figure 30.** Acceptability of photos 1 through 6 –Coyote Canyon



**Figure 31.** Box plot of acceptability of photo series – Coyote Canyon

**Table 39.** Analysis of variance of the mean responses – Coyote Canyon (photo by season)

		Sum sq.	D.f.	Mean sq.	F	Sig.
Photo 1	Between groups	1.7	1	1.7	0.7	0.393
	Within groups	642.8	273	2.3		
	Total	644.5	274			
Photo 2	Between groups	9.8	1	9.8	4.1	0.043
	Within groups	645.8	273	2.3		
	Total	655.6	274			
Photo 3	Between groups	.7	1	.7	0.2	0.655
	Within groups	1021.1	269	3.7		
	Total	1021.9	270			
Photo 4	Between groups	4.6	1	4.6	0.7	0.380
	Within groups	1622.2	271	5.9		
	Total	1626.8	272			
Photo 5	Between groups	12.1	1	12.1	1.9	0.166
	Within groups	1704.3	270	6.3		
	Total	1716.4	271			
Photo 6	Between groups	5.9	1	5.9	0.9	0.331
	Within groups	1684.4	270	6.2		
	Total	1690.3	271			

**Table 40.** Measures of association – Coyote Canyon (photo by season)

Photo by Season	Eta	Eta <sup>2</sup> *
Photo 1	.052	.003
Photo 2	.122	.015
Photo 3	.027	.001
Photo 4	.053	.003
Photo 5	.084	.007
Photo 6	.059	.003

\*Eta<sup>2</sup> = Proportion of the explained variance. Varies between 1 (completely accounted for by the second variable) and 0 (no effect).

Spring visitors were slightly more sensitive to the first intrusion (Photo 2). Overall however, there were no other significant differences in the responses to the photos among the fall and spring survey groups.

Respondents were asked:

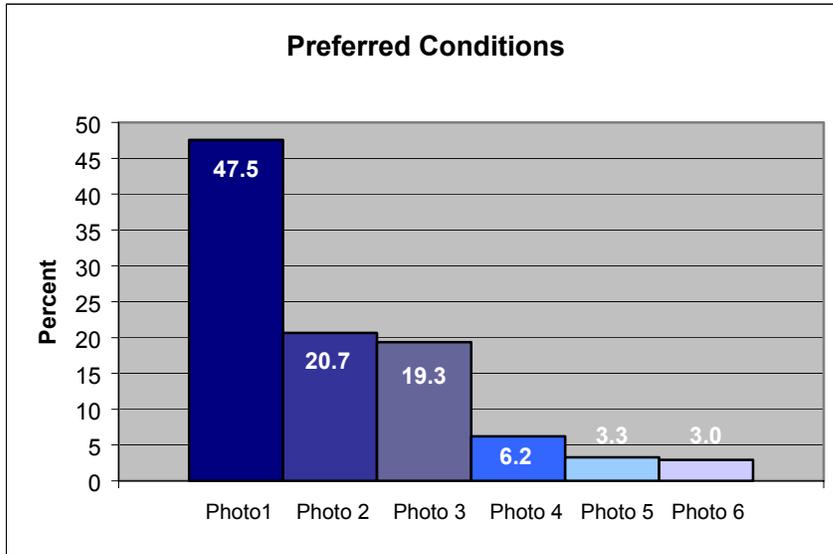
“Of the six photos, which one represents the conditions you would **prefer**?”

The majority of visitors preferred vegetation to be in at least as good condition as that illustrated in Photo 2 (Figure 32).

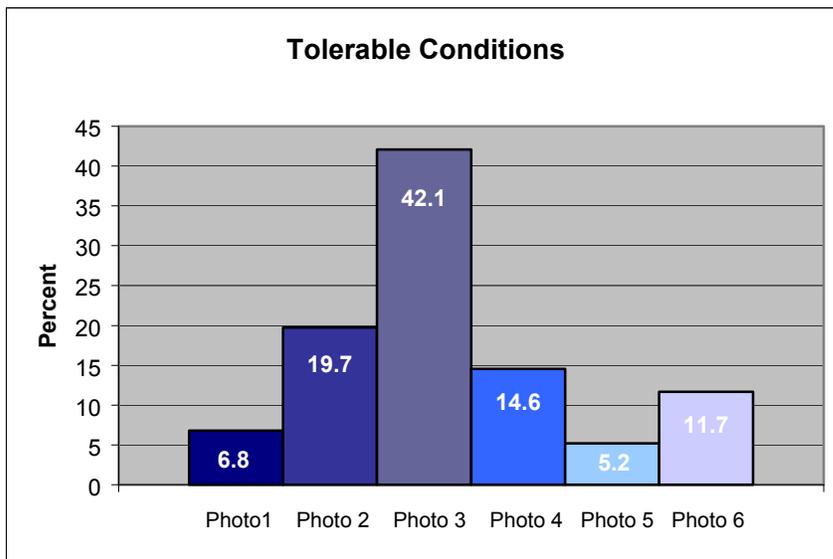
Question 22 asked the visitors to respond to the following:

Which photo represents the **highest level of vegetation loss** the Park should allow, to maintain the quality you prefer?

In Table 41, the majority of visitors surveyed found the maximum level of vegetation loss they would tolerate was best illustrated by the conditions portrayed in Photo 3. In other words, they would put up with some degree of additional impact beyond the conditions which they favored most (Figure 33).



**Figure 32.** Percent of visitors preferring conditions in photo



**Figure 33** Highest level of vegetation loss tolerated – Coyote Canyon

**Table 41.** Preferred ecological condition – Coyote Canyon

CC (fall)		Preferred Conditions	Tolerable Conditions
N	Valid	160	160
	Missing	166	166
Mean		2.08	3.34
Median		2.00	3.00
Std Dev		1.31	1.36

CC (spring)		Preferred	Tolerable
N	Valid	145	149
	Missing	181	177
Mean		2.03	3.19
Median		2.00	3.00
Std Dev		1.29	1.32

CC (total)		Preferred	Tolerable
N	Valid	305	3.9
	Missing	52	48
Mean		2.06	3.27
Median		2.00	3.00
Std Dev		1.30	1.34

The Coyote Canyon questionnaire focused on the management action that should be taken to limit desert vegetation impacts to an acceptable level.

In order to maintain **vegetation loss** at a tolerable level in this area, what management actions should the Park undertake?

**Table 42.** Management action to maintain tolerable vegetation loss (Coyote Canyon).

1 = strongly disagree 5 = strongly agree	Mean	Median	Std. Dev.
Increase ranger patrols	3.61	4.00	1.12
Information about alternative sites	3.80	4.00	0.98
Permit system	3.13	3.00	1.34
Zoning for different uses	3.80	4.00	1.12
Contain motorized use (curb, fence)	2.86	3.00	1.31
Close some roads to vehicles	3.50	4.00	1.34
Prohibit roadside camping	3.20	3.00	1.33

**Table 43.** Management action to maintain tolerable vegetation loss (Coyote Canyon – by season).

1 = strongly disagree 5 = strongly agree	Mean		Median		Std. Dev.	
	Fall	Spr	Fall	Spr	Fall	Spr
Increase ranger patrols	3.55	3.68	4.00	4.00	1.20	1.03
Information about alternative sites	3.79	3.82	4.00	4.00	1.01	0.95
Permit system	3.04	3.22	3.00	3.00	1.36	1.31
Zoning for different uses	3.83	3.78	4.00	4.00	1.14	1.09
Contain motorized use (curb, fence)	2.80	2.92	3.00	3.00	1.35	1.28
Close some roads to vehicles	3.56	3.44	4.00	4.00	1.35	1.33
Prohibit roadside camping	3.16	3.25	3.00	3.00	1.36	1.29

Increasing ranger patrols, providing information about alternative (perhaps more resilient or less-popular) sites, and zoning were generally more acceptable to visitors surveyed

than were permits or containing vehicle travel through various means (Table 42). There were no significant seasonal differences (Table 43).

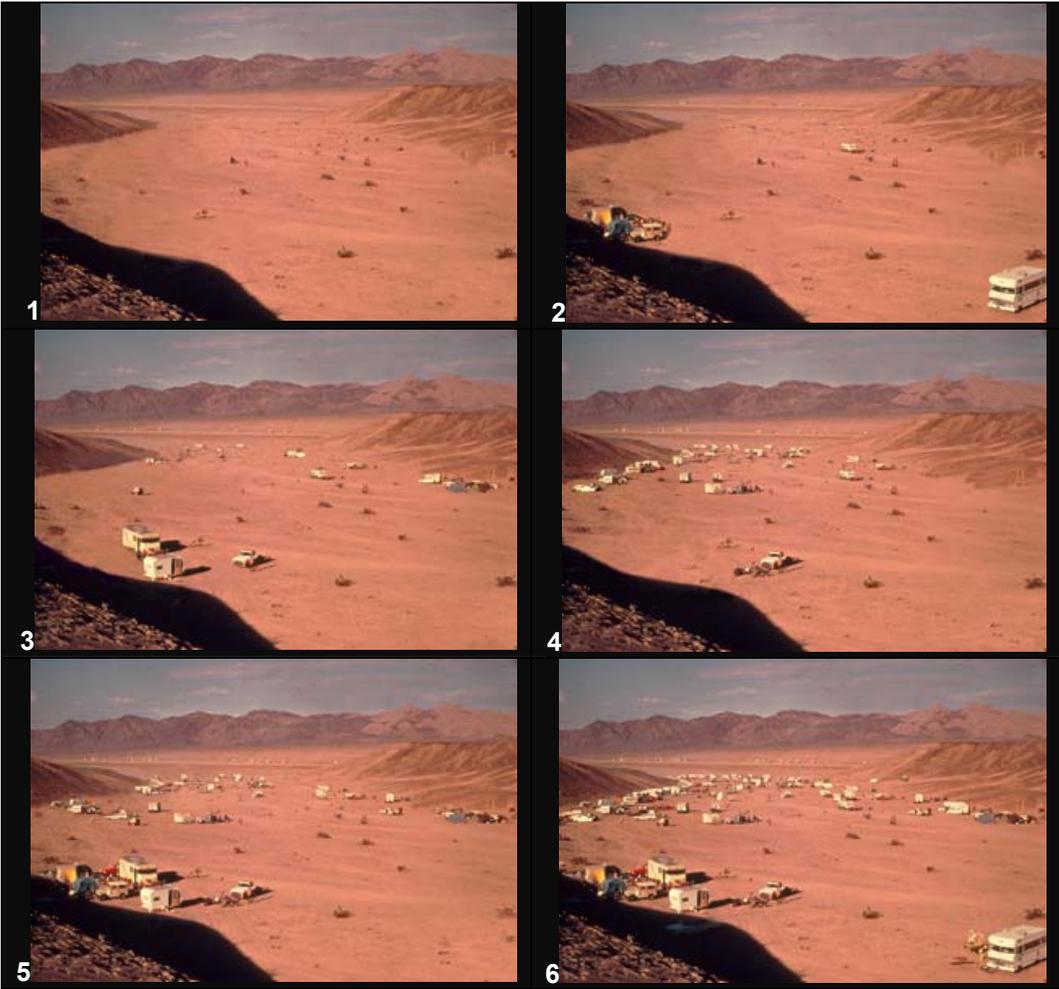
### **Acceptability of Visitor Density at Blair Valley**

Management issues at Blair Valley include concerns about crowded conditions and opportunities for solitude and especially in and around camping areas. Consequently a photo series was constructed to portray conditions ranging from nearly complete solitude to very crowded surroundings. In the first photo (Panel 2), no other groups are visible. In order, beginning with Photo 2, the number of groups increases from 4, to 16, to 32, 64, and finally 140 other groups in Photo 6.

The question for the Blair Valley photo series was:

One of the issues in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park is to provide recreation opportunities while maintaining solitude in the more remote camping areas. The computer-generated photographs simulate a range of levels of recreational use. The managers are interested in your opinion of **how the number of other groups affects your feelings of solitude**. To help us assess this, please **indicate the acceptability of the conditions** represented by each photo. A rating of –4 signifies conditions are very unacceptable; a rating of +4 is very acceptable.

Visitors' responses were overall positive for conditions represented in Photos 1 through 3. In fact, the drop in acceptability from Photo 1 to Photo 2 is rather small (Tables 44 and 45, Figures 34 and 35). Photo 3 demonstrates a larger decrease in acceptability, but the majority of visitors surveyed still found conditions acceptable. In Photo 4 however, conditions depicted became unacceptable to a majority of the respondents. It also appears that the fall population surveyed in Blair Valley might be slightly more sensitive to crowding conditions, judging by how the fall acceptability ratings (red line) drops below the spring scores (blue line) at the conditions depicted in Photo 3.



Panel 2. Photo series representing increasing levels of crowding – Blair Valley.

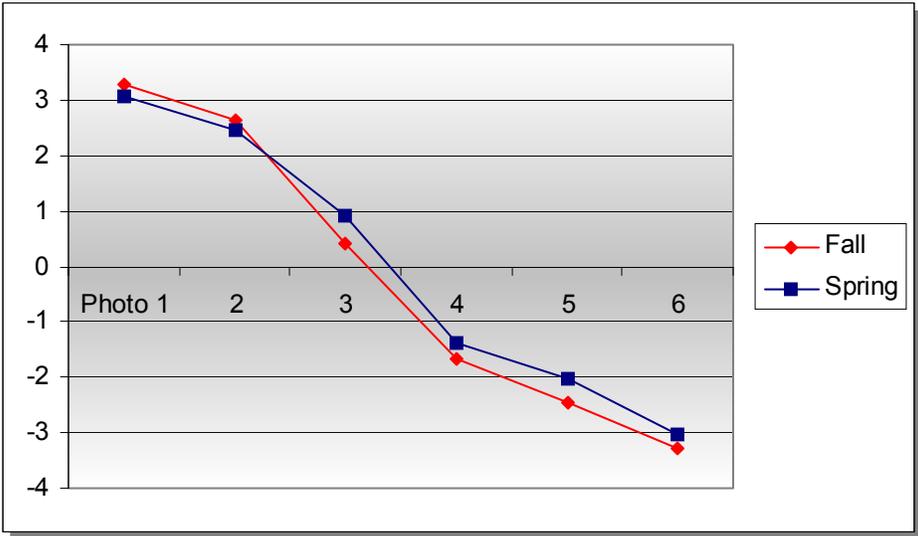
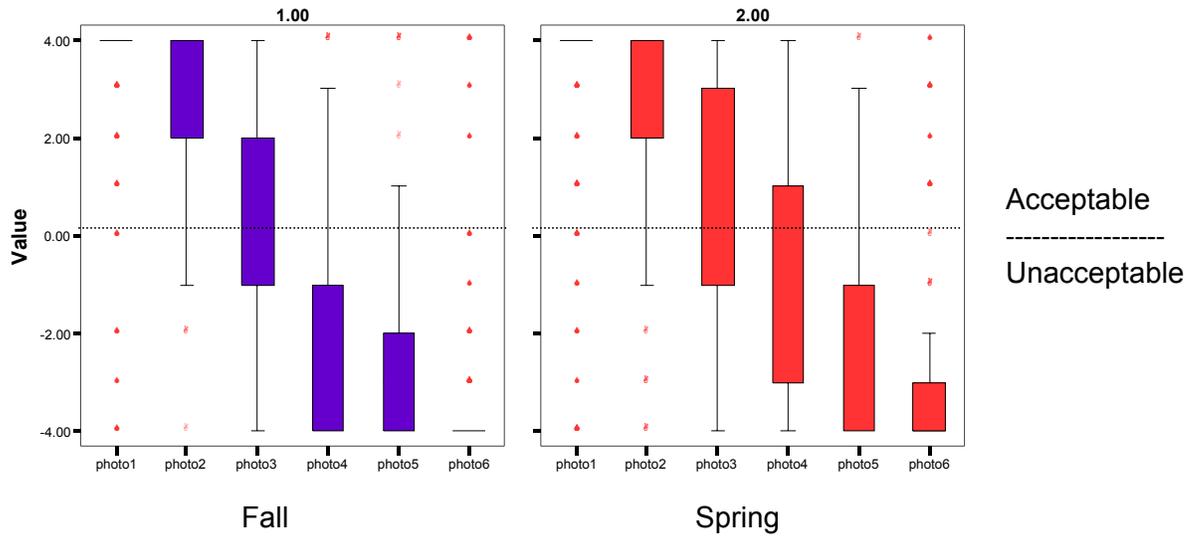


Figure 34. Acceptability of photos 1 through 6 – Blair Valley



**Figure 35.** Box plot of acceptability of photo series – Blair Valley

The acceptability measures discussed previously are reinforced by the mean and median scores given each photo. Table 44 illustrates where the median score (most often assigned) is within the acceptable range (green) and where it falls below the range of acceptability (red). Table 45 demonstrates the break-point where the majority of people responding found conditions unacceptable.

**Table 44.** Summary statistics of photo series by season and total – Blair Valley

Blair Valley (fall)		Photo 1	Photo 2	Photo 3	Photo 4	Photo 5	Photo 6
N	Valid	90	89	88	88	89	89
	Missing	264	265	266	266	265	265
Mean		3.27	2.62	.42	-1.67	-2.45	-3.28
Median		4.00	3.00	1.00	-2.00	-3.00	-4.00
Std Dev		1.78	1.74	2.41	2.22	2.09	1.83

Blair Valley (spring)		Photo 1	Photo 2	Photo 3	Photo 4	Photo 5	Photo 6
N	Valid	118	119	116	117	117	118
	Missing	236	235	238	237	237	236
Mean		3.06	2.46	.91	-1.38	-2.03	-3.02
Median		4.00	3.00	2.00	-1.00	-3.00	-4.00
Std Dev		2.09	1.89	2.53	2.47	2.11	1.85

Blair Valley (total)		Photo 1	Photo 2	Photo 3	Photo 4	Photo 5	Photo 6
N	Valid	137	135	137	137	136	138
	Missing	217	219	217	217	218	216
Mean		3.31	3.21	2.95	-1.12	-1.10	-3.48
Median		4.00	3.00	2.00	-1.00	-3.00	-4.00
Std Dev		2.57	1.80	1.86	1.73	2.50	3.10

**Table 45.** Range of acceptability of photos 1 through 6 – Blair Valley

Increasing Crowding	Acceptable		Neutral		Unacceptable		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Photo 1	187	89.9	6	2.9	17	7.2	210
Photo 2	185	88.9	7	3.4	16	7.7	208
Photo 3	122	59.8	16	7.8	66	32.4	204
Photo 4	53	25.8	20	9.8	132	64.4	205
Photo 5	25	12.0	13	6.3	168	81.6	206
Photo 6	15	7.2	4	1.9	188	90.8	207

Question 21 asked the visitors to respond to the following:

Of the six photos, which one represents the conditions you would **prefer**?

In Table 46 and Figure 36, the majority of visitors responding preferred the conditions depicted in Photo 1, with another significant portion (28.19%) of visitors preferring Photo 2. The crowded conditions portrayed in Photos 5 and 6 were disliked by virtually everyone.

Question 22 asked the visitors to respond to the following:

Which photo represents the **highest number of other groups** the Park should allow, to maintain the quality you prefer?

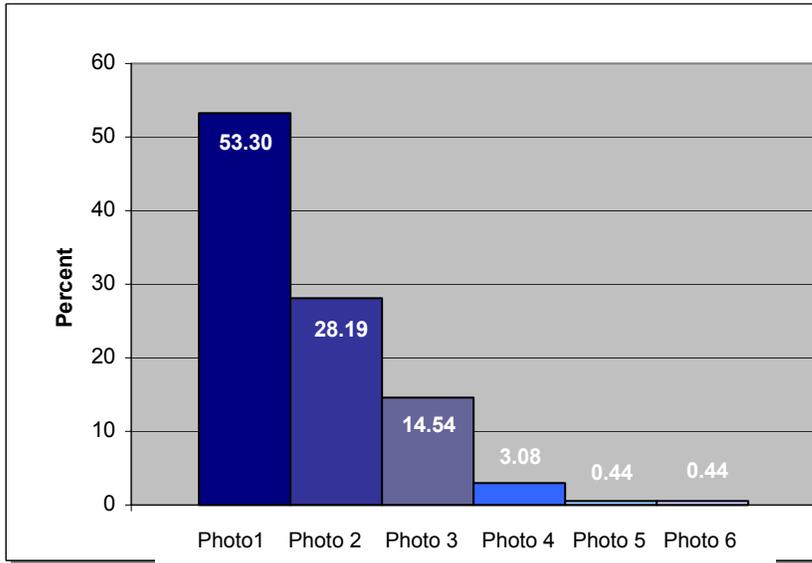
In Table 46 and Figure 37, the maximum tolerated level of crowding was reported by the visitors surveyed to be best represented by the conditions depicted in Photo 3.

**Table 46.** Preferred level of solitude/crowding – Blair Valley

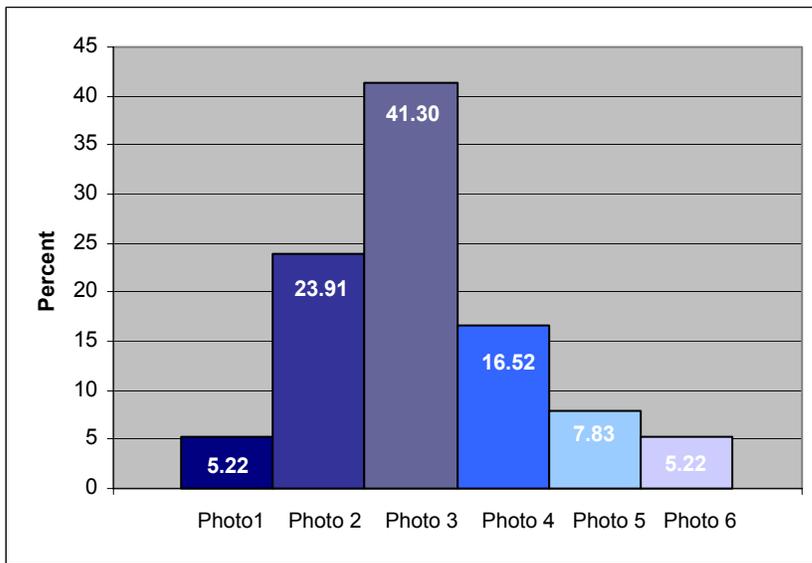
BV (fall)		Preferred Conditions	Tolerable Conditions
N	Valid	98	99
	Missing	165	164
Mean		1.65	3.06
Median		1.00	3.00
Std Dev		0.86	1.13

BV (spring)		Preferred	Tolerable
N	Valid	130	132
	Missing	34	32
Mean		1.74	3.19
Median		1.00	3.00
Std Dev		0.94	1.21

BV (total)		Preferred	Tolerable
N	Valid	227	230
	Missing	36	33
Mean		1.70	3.13
Median		1.00	3.00
Std Dev		0.91	1.18



**Figure 36.** Percent of visitors preferring photo – Blair Valley



**Figure 37** Highest level of crowding tolerated – Blair Valley

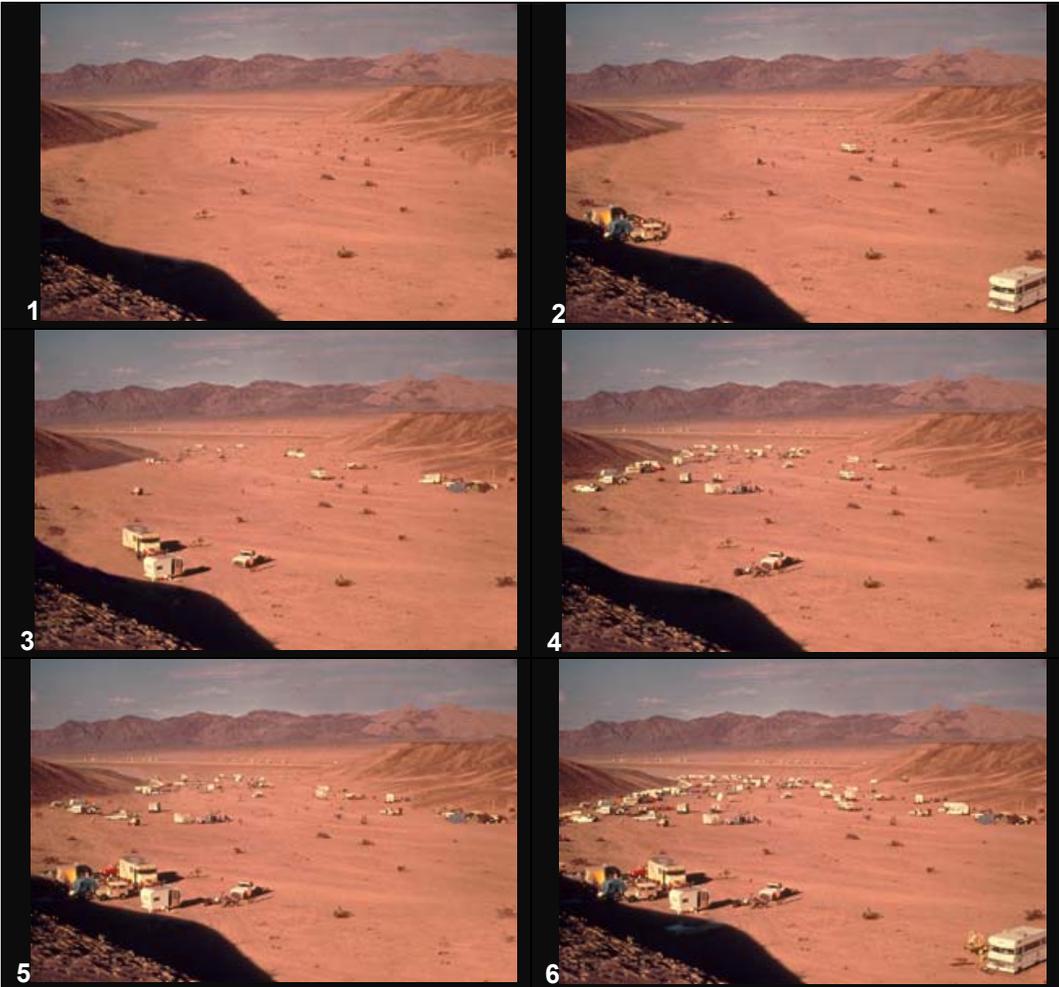
### Acceptability of Visitor Density at Fish Creek

Management issues at Fish Creek are similar to Blair Valley in that they include concerns about crowded conditions and opportunities for solitude. An identical photo series as that used in Blair Valley was used at Fish Creek to portray conditions ranging from nearly complete solitude to very crowded surroundings (Panel 3).

The question for the Fish Creek photo series was identical as well:

One of the issues in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park is to provide recreation opportunities while maintaining solitude in the more remote camping areas. The computer-generated photographs simulate a range of levels of recreational use. The managers are interested in your opinion of **how the number of other groups affects your feelings of solitude**. To help us assess this, please **indicate the acceptability of the conditions** represented by each photo. A rating of –4 signifies conditions are very unacceptable; a rating of +4 is very acceptable.

In the Fish Creek sample, visitors' responses were generally very similar to those collected from the Blair Valley participants (Tables 47 and 48, Figures 38 and 39). Photo 3 demonstrates a greater decrease in acceptability compared to the drop from Photos 1 to 2. This is also seen in the Blair Valley sample. Nevertheless, as in the other group, the majority of visitors surveyed still found conditions depicted in Photo 3 to be acceptable. Responding to the conditions depicted in Photo 4, a majority of visitors surveyed found the impacts unacceptable, just as they did in the Blair Valley survey population. In both locations, the fall visitors appeared to be a little more sensitive to the first intrusion than spring visitors were. The amount of variability in scores (range of responses) appears slightly larger among Fish Creek participants than those in Blair Valley, especially in the fall sample.



Panel 3. Photo series representing increasing levels of crowding – Fish Creek.

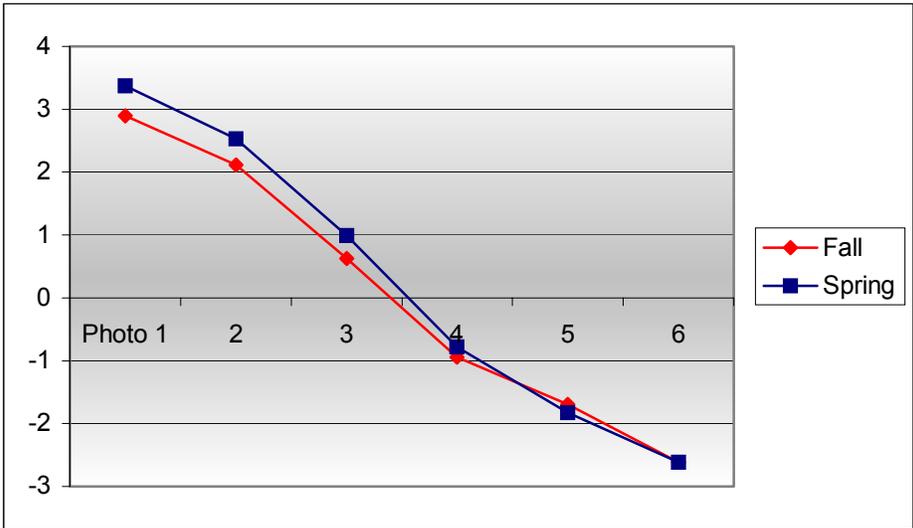
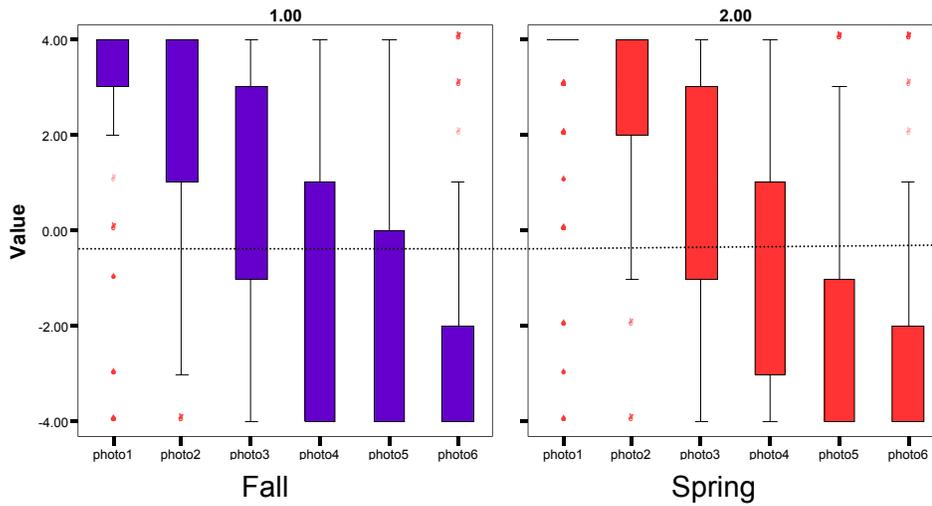


Figure 38. Acceptability of photos 1 through 6 – Fish Creek



**Figure 39.** Box plot of acceptability of photo series – Fish Creek

**Table 47.** Summary statistics of photo series by season and total – Fish Creek

Fish Creek (fall)		Photo 1	Photo 2	Photo 3	Photo 4	Photo 5	Photo 6
N	Valid	96	95	96	94	95	97
	Missing	219	220	219	221	220	218
Mean		2.90	2.12	.63	-.94	-1.69	-2.61
Median		4.00	3.00	1.00	-1.00	-3.00	-4.00
Std Dev		2.18	2.31	2.57	2.66	2.63	2.56

Fish Creek (spring)		Photo 1	Photo 2	Photo 3	Photo 4	Photo 5	Photo 6
N	Valid	139	137	138	137	139	140
	Missing	62	64	63	64	62	61
Mean		3.37	2.53	.99	-.78	-1.82	-2.61
Median		4.00	3.00	1.00	-1.00	-3.00	-4.00
Std Dev		1.54	1.79	2.46	2.56	2.53	2.39

Fish Creek (total)		Photo 1	Photo 2	Photo 3	Photo 4	Photo 5	Photo 6
N	Valid	235	232	234	231	234	237
	Missing	80	83	81	84	81	78
Mean		3.18	2.36	.84	-.84	-1.77	-2.61
Median		4.00	3.00	1.00	-1.00	-3.00	-4.00
Std Dev		1.84	2.03	2.50	2.59	2.57	2.45

**Table 48.** Range of acceptability of photos 1 through 6 – Fish Creek

Increasing Crowding	Acceptable		Neutral		Unacceptable		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Photo 1	212	90.2	10	4.3	13	5.5	235
Photo 2	199	85.8	11	4.7	22	9.5	232
Photo 3	136	58.1	32	13.7	66	28.2	234
Photo 4	68	29.4	25	10.8	138	59.7	231
Photo 5	43	18.4	16	6.8	175	74.8	234
Photo 6	30	12.7	8	3.4	199	84.0	237

Question 21 asked the visitors to respond to the following:

Of the six photos, which one represents the conditions you would **prefer**?

In Table 49 and Figure 40, the majority of visitors responding preferred the conditions depicted in Photo 1, with another significant portion (27.41%) of visitors preferring Photo 2. The crowded conditions portrayed in Photos 5 and 6 were disliked by most visitors.

Question 22 asked the visitors to respond to the following:

Which photo represents the **highest number of other groups** the Park should allow, to maintain the quality you prefer?

In Table 49 and Figure 41, the conditions depicted in Photo 3 best represented the maximum tolerated level of crowding, as reported by the visitors surveyed. More than a quarter (25.97) of the visitors judged the conditions in Photo 2 as the maximum the Park should allow. Essentially this means that while the visitors generally preferred the uncrowded conditions represented by Photo 1, they would be willing to settle for the conditions portrayed in Photo 3.

**Table 49.** Preferred, tolerable level of solitude/crowding – Fish Creek

Fish Creek (fall)		Preferred Conditions	Tolerable Conditions
N	Valid	108	108
	Missing	6	6
Mean		1.94	3.23
Median		1.00	3.00
Std Dev		1.31	1.29

FC (spring)		Preferred	Tolerable
N	Valid	151	150
	Missing	50	51
Mean		1.77	3.13
Median		1.00	3.00
Std Dev		0.98	1.19

FC (total)		Preferred	Tolerable
N	Valid	259	258
	Missing	56	57
Mean		1.84	3.17
Median		1.00	3.00
Std Dev		1.13	1.23

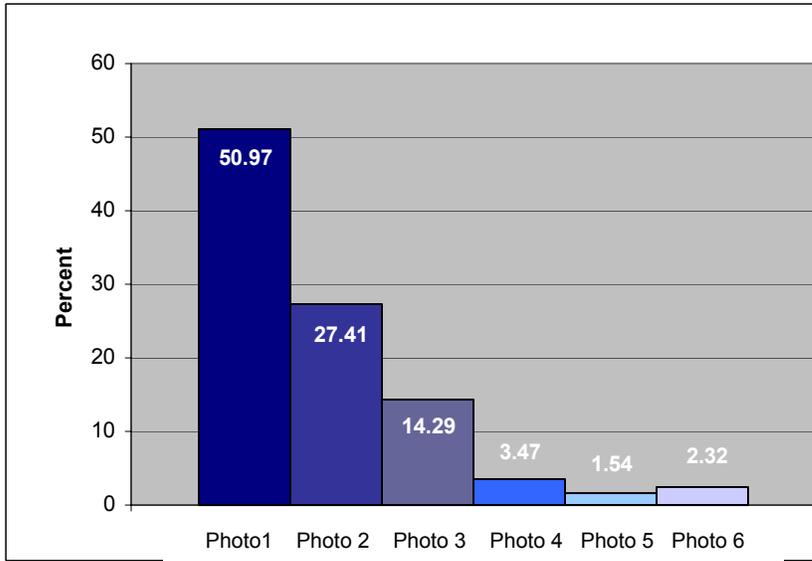


Figure 40. Percent of visitors preferring photo – Fish Creek

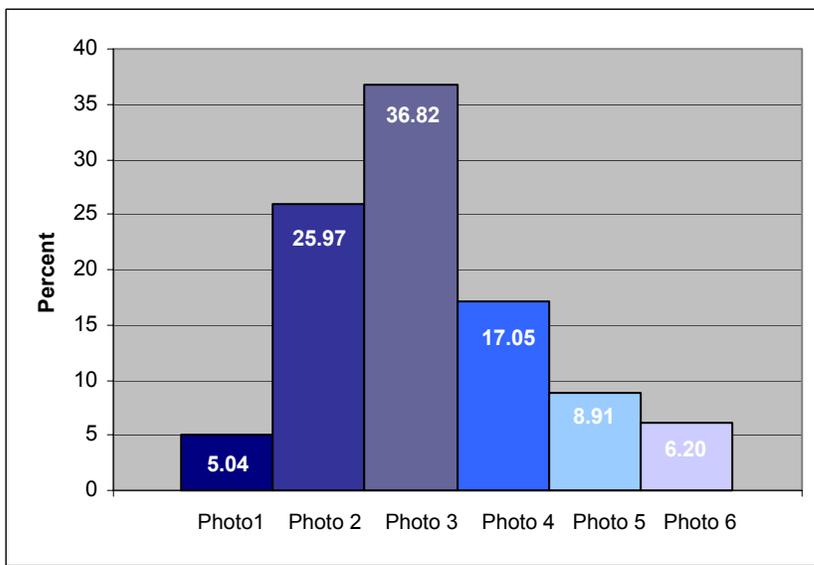


Figure 41. Highest level of crowding tolerated – Fish Creek

At Fish Creek and Blair Valley survey sites, questionnaires focused on the visitors' perception of the management action that should be taken to maintain crowding at a tolerable level.

In order to maintain the **number of other groups** at a tolerable level in this area, what management actions should the Park undertake?

**Table 50.** Management action to maintain tolerable crowding conditions (Fish Creek, Blair Valley).

1 = strongly disagree 5 = strongly agree	Mean		Median		Std. Dev.	
	FC	BV	FC	BV	FC	BV
Encourage dispersed camping	3.99	3.91	4.00	4.00	1.23	1.14
Information about alternative sites	4.14	4.18	4.00	4.00	1.03	0.85
Limit number of groups	3.66	3.91	4.00	4.00	1.29	1.10
Increase camping availability	3.85	3.79	4.00	4.00	1.19	1.11
Close some roads to vehicles	2.99	3.31	3.00	4.00	1.46	1.42
Prohibit roadside camping	3.16	3.41	3.00	4.00	1.47	1.24

In comparison to survey respondents in Blair Valley, visitors surveyed at the Fish Creek location were slightly less accepting of limiting use, closing of access roads, or regulations prohibiting roadside camping (Table 50). Overall, visitors at both sites appeared more accepting of dispersed camping, being given information about alternative sites, limiting the number of other groups, and increasing the availability of camping opportunities than they would accept restrictions on road access or roadside camping.

**Acceptability of Trail Standards at Borrego Palm Canyon**

The issue identified by ABDSP staff for Borrego Palm Canyon included questions of trails and the standard of trail maintenance visitors preferred to see. To assess these preferences, a photo series (Panel 4) was used to depict trail conditions ranging from a small sandy path with evidence of few hikers (Photo 1), through increasing amounts of use and trail engineering (Photos 2 through 5), and ending up with Photo 6 representing heavy use, and heavy maintenance conditions.

The question presented to visitors taking the survey was:

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park provides a variety of trails. The computer-generated photographs simulate a range of trail conditions that the Park can provide. The managers are interested in your opinion on **how trail standards may affect your experience**. To help us assess this, please indicate the **acceptability of the conditions** represented by each photo. The photo indicates **what the trail would be like all the way to Borrego Palm Springs**. A rating of -4 signifies conditions are very unacceptable; a rating of +4 is very acceptable.

The responses to this question and set of scenarios was very mixed (Tables 51 and 52). The acceptability rating of Photo 1 (67.5%) was lower than that of Photo 2 (84.8%). And by Photos 3 (80.3%) and 4 (80.6%), acceptability was still significantly higher than that of Photo 1. It isn't until Photo 5 (58.6%) that acceptability drops below that of Photo 1 for the first time. There was a very strong reaction by the visitors surveyed to the conditions depicted in Photo 5. Notwithstanding, conditions in Photo 5 were still acceptable to a majority of visitors. The difference between Photos 5 and 6 is that the latter depicts one additional sign and the trail appears to be paved.

Instead of describing a sigmoid form as do the previous curves, this has an almost parabolic shape (Figure 42). Interestingly, there were very few unacceptable ratings for

Photos 2 through 4, compared to Photos 1, 5 and 6 (Figure 43, Tables 51 and 52). Another significant feature is the much stronger negative response to conditions in Photo 6 among the fall survey group than the spring population. Essentially the results indicate that a reasonable amount of trail improvement is acceptable within a fairly wide range. However, as seen in the strongly negative reaction to Photo 6, there are limits to this amount of alteration.



**Panel 4.** Photo series representing increased trail standard – Borrego Palm Canyon

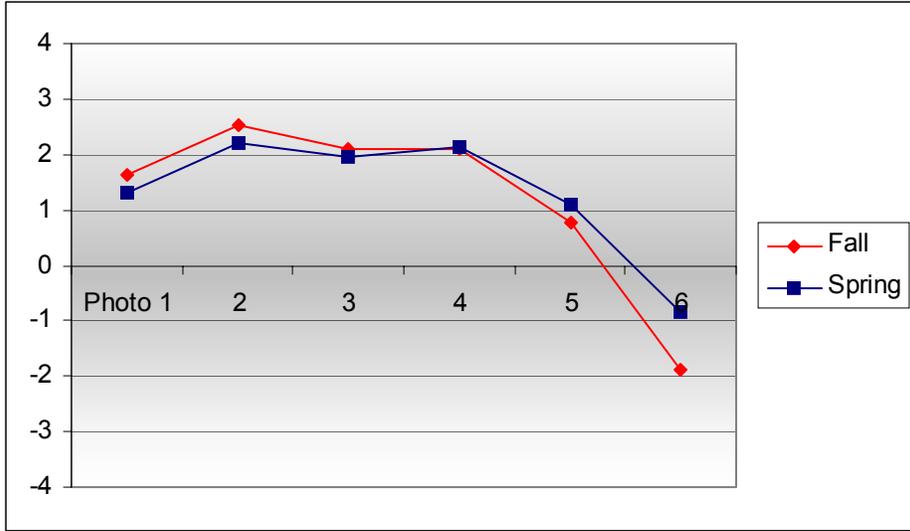


Figure 42. Acceptability of photos 1 through 6 – Borrego Palm Canyon

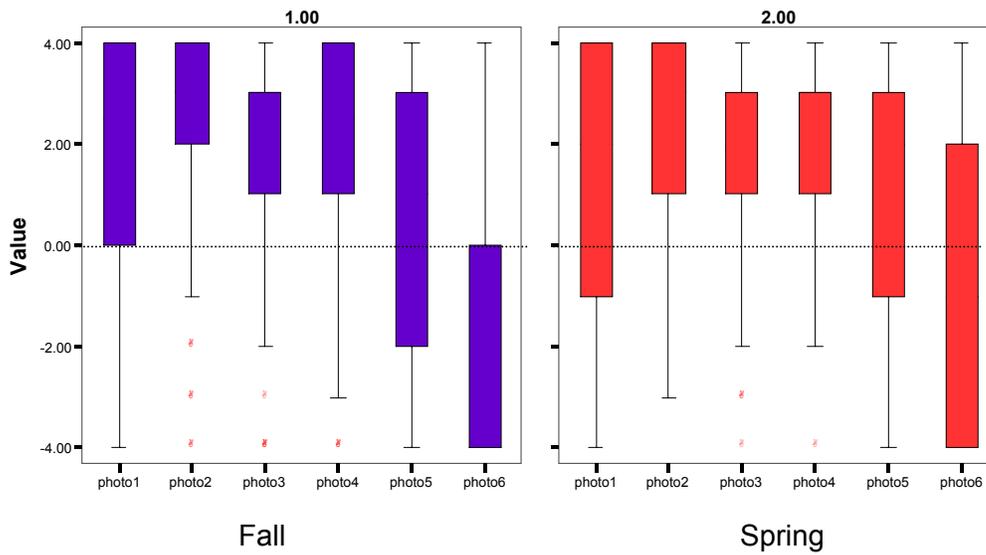


Figure 43. Box plot of acceptability of trail photo series – Borrego Palm Canyon

**Table 51.** Summary statistics of photo series by season and total – Borrego Palm Canyon

BPC. (fall)		Photo 1	Photo 2	Photo 3	Photo 4	Photo 5	Photo 6
N	Valid	146	147	147	146	144	145
	Missing	208	207	207	208	210	209
Mean		1.63	2.52	2.10	2.10	.76	-1.89
Median		2.50	3.00	3.00	2.50	1.00	-4.00
Std Dev		2.51	1.79	1.83	1.92	2.73	2.95

BPC (spring)		Photo 1	Photo 2	Photo 3	Photo 4	Photo 5	Photo 6
N	Valid	137	135	137	137	136	138
	Missing	41	43	41	41	42	40
Mean		1.31	2.21	1.95	2.12	1.10	-.85
Median		2.00	3.00	2.00	3.00	2.00	-1.00
Std Dev		2.57	1.80	1.86	1.73	2.49	3.10

BPC (total)		Photo 1	Photo 2	Photo 3	Photo 4	Photo 5	Photo 6
N	Valid	283	282	284	283	280	283
	Missing	71	72	70	71	74	71
Mean		1.48	2.37	2.02	2.11	.93	-1.38
Median		2.00	3.00	2.00	3.00	1.00	-3.00
Std Dev		2.54	1.80	1.84	1.83	2.62	3.06

**Table 52.** Range of acceptability of photos 1 through 6 – Borrego Palm Canyon

Increasing Trail Standard	Acceptable		Neutral		Unacceptable		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Photo 1	191	67.5	23	8.1	69	24.4	283
Photo 2	239	84.8	18	6.4	25	8.9	282
Photo 3	228	80.3	28	9.9	28	9.9	284
Photo 4	228	80.6	32	11.3	23	8.1	283
Photo 5	164	58.6	32	11.4	84	30.0	280
Photo 6	75	26.5	25	8.8	183	64.7	283

Question 21 asked the visitors to respond to the following:

Of the six photos, which one represents the **minimum level of trail standards** the Park should maintain, to provide the experience you expect?

In Table 53 and Figure 44 below, the majority of visitors preferred conditions represented by Photos 1 and 2, although Photo 4 appealed to more than 18% of those surveyed.

Question 22 asked the visitors to respond to the following:

In order to maintain that level, **what management actions** should the Park undertake? Please mark your level of agreement or disagreement with the following.

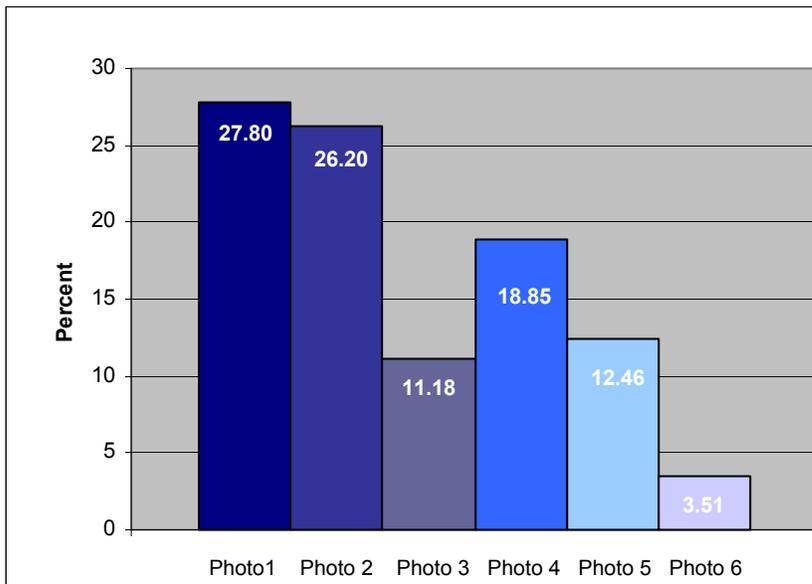
In Table 53 and Figure 45, the majority of visitors responded that the maximum level of trail engineering they would tolerate was represented by Photos 1 and 2. Like the responses from the Mountain Palm Springs sample, the responses to the ‘tolerance’ question here were more crystallized around Photos1 and 2 than were the responses to the ‘preference’ question.

**Table 53.** Preferred ecological condition – Borrego Palm Canyon

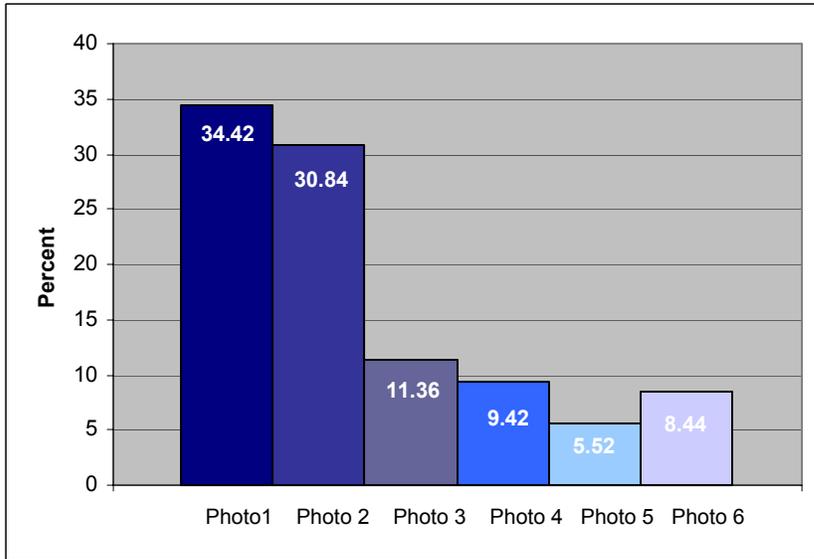
BPC (fall)		Preferred Conditions	Tolerable Conditions
N	Valid	161	162
	Missing	194	193
Mean		2.74	2.47
Median		2.00	2.00
Std Dev		1.54	1.58

BPC (spring)		Preferred	Tolerable
N	Valid	152	146
	Missing	27	33
Mean		2.71	2.45
Median		2.00	2.00
Std Dev		1.49	1.58

BPC (total)		Preferred	Tolerable
N	Valid	313	308
	Missing	42	47
Mean		2.73	2.46
Median		2.00	2.00
Std Dev		1.52	1.47



**Figure 44.** Percent of visitors preferring photo – Borrego Palm Canyon



**Figure 45.** Highest level of trail standard tolerated – Borrego Palm Canyon

### Acceptability of Trail Standards at Mountain Palm Springs

The issue identified by ABDSP staff for Mountain Palm Springs also included questions of trail standards and maintenance, as at Borrego Palm Canyon. To assess these preferences, a photo series identical to that used at Borrego Palm Canyon (Panel 5) was used portraying a range of trail conditions (Photos 1 through 6),

The question presented to visitors taking the survey was:

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park provides a variety of trails. The computer-generated photographs simulate a range of trail conditions that the Park can provide. The managers are interested in your opinion on **how trail standards may affect your experience**. To help us assess this, please indicate the **acceptability of the conditions** represented by each photo. The photo indicates **what the trail would be like all the way to Borrego Palm Springs**. A rating of -4 signifies conditions are very unacceptable; a rating of +4 is very acceptable.

The responses to this question and set of photos was very mixed (Tables 54 and 55). The acceptability rating of Photo 1 (71.7%) was lower than that of Photo 2 (85.9%) in a similar way as occurred in the Borrego Palm Canyon results. In Photos 3 (77.1%) and 4 (73.2%), acceptability was still higher than that of Photo 1, but not to the degree of the Borrego Palm Canyon results. This may indicate that the Mountain Palm Springs survey participants were less accepting of the additional trail engineering and evidence of impacts portrayed in Photos 3 and 4, compared to the Borrego Palm Canyon sample. At Photo 5 however, acceptability drops below 50%, although the mean is still barely above the zero-line (Figures 46 and 47, Tables 54 and 55). By the time trail conditions depicted in Photo 6 are reached, a large majority of visitors (75.2%) find the trail unacceptable.

Like the results of the Borrego Palm Canyon group, the shape of the acceptability curve for the Mountain Palm Springs sample is parabolic. Similarly, it indicates the preferred trail conditions for most visitors lie somewhere in the range of conditions portrayed in

Photos 2 through 4. And like the results in the Borrego Palm Canyon sample, these results indicate that a reasonable amount of trail improvement is acceptable within a fairly wide range. In both the Mountain Palm Springs and Borrego Palm Canyon samples, there was a noticeable dip in acceptability for conditions represented in Photo 3. The major difference between it and Photos 2 and 4 is that the latter two have a recognizable trail border made of stones, whereas Photo 3 has none. This may suggest that visitors prefer to see a well-defined pathway. However, as seen in the strongly negative reaction to Photo 6, there are limits to the amount of alteration visitors are likely to tolerate. The drop below 50% with Photo 5 may suggest that the Mountain Palm Springs visitors were more sensitive to the signs along the trail than were those visitors at Borrego Palm Canyon.



**Panel 5.** Photo series representing increased trail standard – Mountain Palm Springs

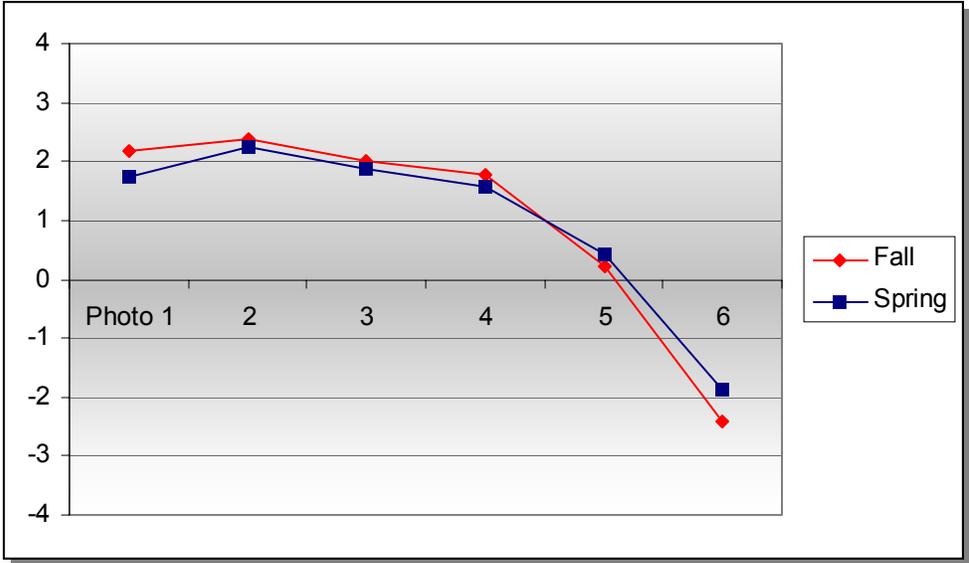


Figure 46. Acceptability of Photos 1 through 6.

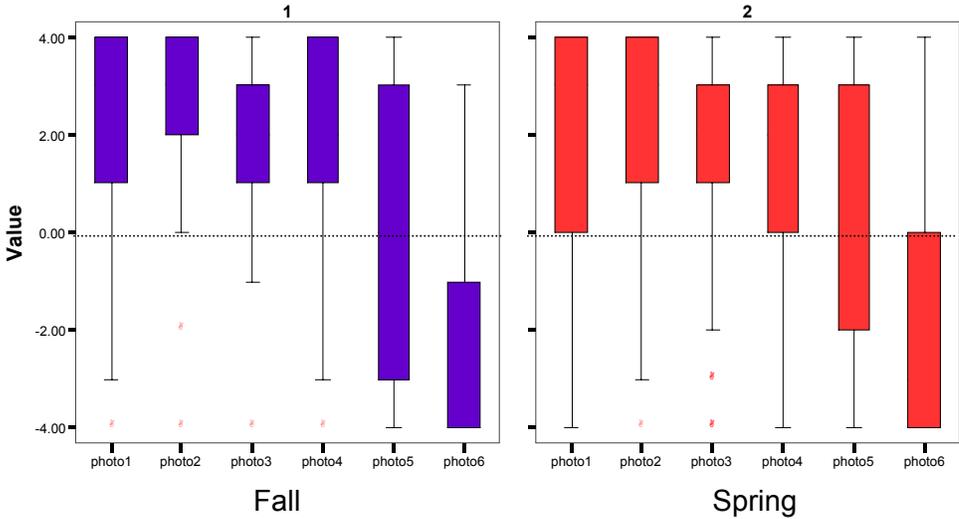


Figure 47. Box plot of acceptability of photo series – Mountain Palm Springs

Table 54. Summary statistics of photo series by season and total – Mountain Palm Springs

MPS (fall)		Photo 1	Photo 2	Photo 3	Photo 4	Photo 5	Photo 6
N	Valid	45	45	45	44	43	45
	Missing	143	143	143	144	145	143
Mean		2.18	2.38	2.02	1.77	.23	-2.42
Median		3.00	3.00	2.00	2.00	.00	-4.00
Std Dev		2.19	1.68	1.76	2.14	2.85	2.31

MPS (spring)		Photo 1	Photo 2	Photo 3	Photo 4	Photo 5	Photo 6
N	Valid	114	111	112	109	113	112
	Missing	25	28	27	30	26	27
Mean		1.75	2.25	1.86	1.58	.41	-1.87
Median		3.00	3.00	2.00	2.00	.00	-3.00
Std Dev		2.66	1.95	2.04	2.16	2.64	2.75

MPS (total)		Photo 1	Photo 2	Photo 3	Photo 4	Photo 5	Photo 6
N	Valid	159	156	157	153	156	157
	Missing	30	33	32	36	33	32
Mean		1.87	2.29	1.90	1.63	.36	-2.03
Median		3.00	3.00	2.00	2.00	.00	-3.00
Std Dev		2.54	1.87	1.96	2.15	2.69	2.63

**Table 55.** Range of acceptability of photos 1 through 6 – Mountain Palm Springs

Increasing Trail Standard	Acceptable		Neutral		Unacceptable		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Photo 1	114	71.7	12	7.5	33	20.8	159
Photo 2	134	85.9	8	5.1	14	9.0	156
Photo 3	121	77.1	19	12.1	17	10.8	157
Photo 4	112	73.2	15	9.8	26	17.0	153
Photo 5	76	48.7	15	9.6	65	41.7	156
Photo 6	31	19.7	8	5.1	118	75.2	157

Question 21 asked the visitors to respond to the following:

Of the six photos, which one represents the **minimum level of trail standards** the Park should maintain, to provide the experience you expect?

In Table 56 and Figure 48 below, the majority of visitors preferred conditions represented by Photos 1 and 2, although there was a rather wide distribution about Photos 1 through 4.

Question 22 asked the visitors to respond to the following:

In order to maintain that level, **what management actions** should the Park undertake? Please mark you level of agreement or disagreement with the following.

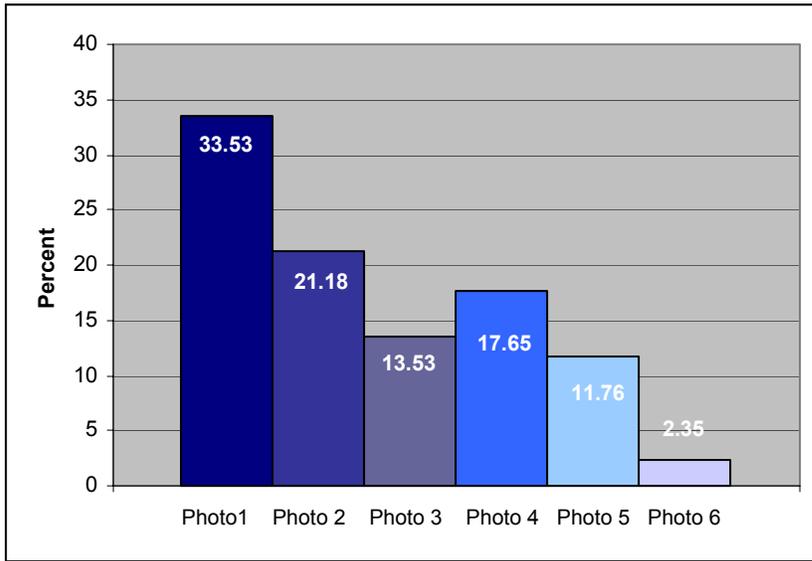
In Table 56 and Figure 49 below, the majority of visitors responded that the maximum level of trail engineering they would tolerate was represented by Photos 1 and 2. Interestingly, the responses to the ‘tolerance’ question were more crystallized around Photos 1 and 2 than were the responses to the ‘preference’ question.

**Table 56.** Preferred trail standard – Mountain Palm Springs

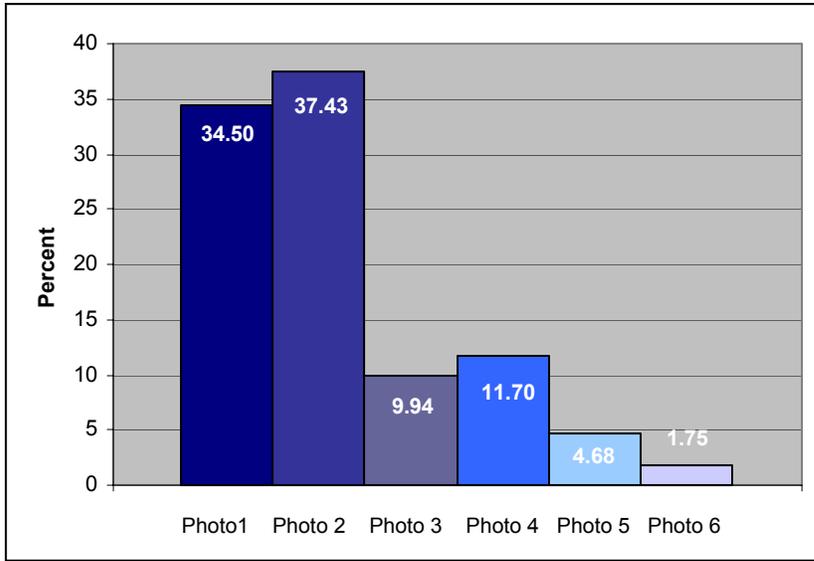
MPS (fall)		Preferred Standards	Tolerable Standards
N	Valid	49	50
	Missing	1	0
Mean		2.64	1.84
Median		2.00	2.00
Std Dev		1.45	0.89

MPS (spring)		Preferred	Tolerable
N	Valid	121	121
	Missing	18	18
Mean		2.59	2.35
Median		2.00	2.00
Std Dev		1.53	1.35

MPS (total)		Preferred	Tolerable
N	Valid	170	171
	Missing	19	18
Mean		2.60	2.20
Median		2.00	2.00
Std Dev		1.51	1.26



**Figure 48.** Percent of visitors preferring photo – Mountain Palm Springs



**Figure 49.** Highest level of trail standard tolerated – Mountain Palm Springs

**Management Actions to Achieve/Maintain Acceptable Conditions**

At Mountain Palm Springs and Borrego Palm Canyon survey sites, questionnaires focused on the visitors’ perception of the management action that should be taken to maintain trail impacts at a tolerable level.

In order to maintain the level of **trail standards** you prefer in this area, what management actions should the Park undertake?

**Table 57.** Management action to achieve tolerable trail standard (Mountain Palm Springs, Borrego Palm Canyon)

1 = strongly disagree 5 = strongly agree	Mean		Median		Std. Dev.	
	MPS	BPC	MPS	BPC	MPS	BPC
Increase ranger patrols	2.67	3.01	3.00	3.00	1.15	1.03
More info on trail conditions	3.80	3.59	4.00	4.00	1.02	0.88
Increase trail maintenance	3.04	3.28	3.00	3.00	0.91	0.87
Encourage off-peak use	3.70	3.57	4.00	4.00	0.94	0.96
More well-defined trail	2.83	2.90	2.50	3.00	1.32	1.25
Return to more natural condition	3.77	3.71	4.00	4.00	1.26	1.09

Comparing the two sites, visitors surveyed at Borrego Palm Canyon were slightly more accepting of increased ranger patrols and trail maintenance than those surveyed at Mountain Palm Springs (Table 57). Conversely, they were slightly less likely than their Mountain Palm Springs counterparts to report wanting more trail information. At both sites, providing more complete information on trail conditions, encouraging off-peak use, and allowing the trails to return to a more natural condition were more often preferred by survey respondents.

## **Summary**

Overall, the purpose of the study was to capture certain characteristics of the visitors and the nature of their visits, their reasons for coming to the Park, the importance of the Park to them, how they viewed management, and an evaluation of the Park conditions they preferred to see. While some differences were noted among responses to some of the questions, when compared by season and by site, the population of visitors was reasonably consistent. Nevertheless the differences did offer some insight into the different opportunities offered within the two seasons and by the six sites. These differences may help managers understand the range of opportunities provided by the Park to its visiting clientele.

**Literature Cited:**

Creswall, J. W. Research Design. Sage, Thousand Oaks, CA.

Keppel, G. 1991. Design and Analysis: A Researcher's Handbook. Prentice Hall, Englewood Cliffs, NJ.

Salant, P and D. A Dillman. 1994. How To Conduct Your Own Survey. Wiley, New York, NY.

## **Appendix A: Sample Questionnaire**

## Anza – Borrego Desert State Park® Visitor Survey

### I. Describe yourself

1. Where do you live?  
 Zip code, if US resident \_\_\_\_\_  
 Country, if International \_\_\_\_\_
2. Gender:  
 Male  
 Female
3. In what year were you born? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Circle the number of the highest year of formal education you have completed.  
 6    7    8    9    10    11    12    13    14    15    16    17+
5. Which of the following best describes the community in which you currently live?  
 Farm or ranch  
 Rural or small town (under 1,000 population)  
 Town (under 10,000 population)  
 Small city (under 75,000 population)  
 Medium city (under 1 million population)  
 Large city, metropolitan area (over 1 million population)
6. What is your approximate total annual household income?  

<input type="checkbox"/> Less than \$ 5,000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25,000 to \$ 34,999
<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 5,000 to \$ 9,999	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35,000 to \$ 49,999
<input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000 to \$ 14,999	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 50,000 to \$ 74,999
<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 15,000 to \$ 19,999	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 75,000 to \$ 100,000
<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 20,000 to \$ 24,999	<input type="checkbox"/> Over \$ 100,000



### II. Describe your visit

7. How many members of your group are there, including yourself?  
 1                                     5-6  
 2                                     7-10  
 3-4                                     More than 10
8. Which of the following best describes the group you are with? (please check all that apply)  
 Family                                     Commercial tour group  
 Friends                                     School group  
 Family and friends                     Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 Organized group                                    please describe

9. What will be the length of this visit to Anza - Borrego?  
 Today only                       4 – 6 nights  
 Overnight                               7 – 13 nights  
 2 nights                                   14 nights or more  
 3 nights
10. Approximately how long has it been since your last visit to Anza - Borrego?  
 First visit                               More than 12 months, less than 2 years  
 6 months or less                       More than 2 years, less than 5 years  
 7 – 12 months                           More than 5 years, less than 10 years  
 10 years or more
11. Including this visit, how many times have you been to Anza - Borrego?  
 1     5 – 7  
 2     8 – 10  
 3     More than 10 times  
 4
12. Which of the following best describes your primary mode of transportation while in the Park?  
 Automobile, minivan                       Tour bus  
 Sport utility, 4wd truck, Jeep               School bus  
 Passenger van                               Motorcycle  
 Motor home                                   Bicycle  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_
13. How did you first become aware of Anza - Borrego?  
 Signs                                       Broadcast media (radio, television)  
 Road maps                                   Information from California State Parks  
 Guide books                                   Word of mouth (friends, family, association)  
 The Internet                                   Information from hotels/motels/campgrounds, etc.  
 Travel agency                               Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 Newspaper feature
14. Do you plan to visit Anza - Borrego again?  
 Yes     Maybe  
 No
15. Did you stay overnight in the Park?  
 Yes  
 No
16. If "Yes", where did you stay?  
 Local hotel/motel                               My permanent, local residence  
 Developed campsite in Park                       My seasonal, local residence  
 Primitive campsite in Park                       Permanent residence of family/friends  
 'Open' camping within Park                       Seasonal residence of family/friends  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

III. Tell us about your reasons for visiting Anza – Borrego

17. People visit Anza – Borrego Desert State Park for a number of reasons, and many people feel they benefit from their experiences at Anza –Borrego. Listed on the following page are some possible reasons why people might visit and what they might enjoy.

In the table on the following page, rate how **important** each reason is for *you and your visit* to Anza – Borrego. A rating of “1” means the reason was very unimportant and a “5” means the reason was very important to you (circle one number for each item). If you are unsure or don’t know how important the item is to you, mark the “X.”

Reason/Experience	Very unimportant	Unimportant	Neutral	Important	Very important	Don't know
To have adventure	1	2	3	4	5	X
To develop my own skills & abilities	1	2	3	4	5	X
To do something with my family	1	2	3	4	5	X
To enjoy natural scenery	1	2	3	4	5	X
To be with members of my own group	1	2	3	4	5	X
To be with people who enjoy the same things as I	1	2	3	4	5	X
To have thrills	1	2	3	4	5	X
To have fun	1	2	3	4	5	X
To learn about the area's natural history	1	2	3	4	5	X
To keep (or get) physically fit	1	2	3	4	5	X
To meet and talk to new people	1	2	3	4	5	X
To experience new and different things	1	2	3	4	5	X
To learn more about nature	1	2	3	4	5	X
To rest physically	1	2	3	4	5	X
To be challenged	1	2	3	4	5	X
To experience excitement	1	2	3	4	5	X
To learn more about the area's cultural history	1	2	3	4	5	X
To reflect on and clarify personal values	1	2	3	4	5	X
To do something creative, such as photography	1	2	3	4	5	X
To get away from the usual demands of life	1	2	3	4	5	X
To get away from crowds	1	2	3	4	5	X
To escape the family temporarily	1	2	3	4	5	X
To share what I know with others	1	2	3	4	5	X
To bring my family/group closer together	1	2	3	4	5	X
To feel more self-confident	1	2	3	4	5	X
To view wildlife	1	2	3	4	5	X
To help others develop their skills	1	2	3	4	5	X
To view desert bighorn sheep in a natural setting	1	2	3	4	5	X
To experience the tranquility in the park	1	2	3	4	5	X
To be more productive at work/school/home	1	2	3	4	5	X
To be at a place where I can make my own decisions	1	2	3	4	5	X
To reduce built-up tension	1	2	3	4	5	X
To allow my mind to move at a slower pace	1	2	3	4	5	X
To experience peace and quiet	1	2	3	4	5	X
To experience the wildflower display	1	2	3	4	5	X
To see the desert	1	2	3	4	5	X
To camp or hike in a wild, natural setting	1	2	3	4	5	X
To teach environmental awareness to members of my group	1	2	3	4	5	X

IV. Describe why Anza – Borrego is important to you

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park is particularly important:

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Because of its wildness	1	2	3	4	5	X
Because of its scenic beauty	1	2	3	4	5	X
Because of its unique characteristics	1	2	3	4	5	X
As essential habitat for animals	1	2	3	4	5	X
Because of its outstanding displays of nature	1	2	3	4	5	X
As a sanctuary for wildlife	1	2	3	4	5	X
Because of its historical value	1	2	3	4	5	X
Because of its paleontological resources	1	2	3	4	5	X
For scientific research	1	2	3	4	5	X
For social interaction	1	2	3	4	5	X
For education about nature	1	2	3	4	5	X
Because of its recreational opportunities	1	2	3	4	5	X
For carrying on family traditions and values	1	2	3	4	5	X
As a tourist destination	1	2	3	4	5	X
As a reserve of natural resources	1	2	3	4	5	X
Because of its economic impact on the community	1	2	3	4	5	X
As a place to be free of society and regulations	1	2	3	4	5	X
As a place for the use and enjoyment of everyone	1	2	3	4	5	X
As a preserve for threatened and endangered species	1	2	3	4	5	X

V. Tell us what you think of the quality of Park management in Anza – Borrego.

In the following table are a number of statements regarding how you think Anza Borrego is being managed, or how it should be managed. Please mark your level of agreement or disagreement with each statement.

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
A functioning natural ecosystem should be a management priority	1	2	3	4	5	X
Recreation opportunities for visitors should be a management priority	1	2	3	4	5	X
Healthy wildlife populations should be a management priority	1	2	3	4	5	X
Interpreting the Park's cultural history should be a management priority	1	2	3	4	5	X
Ensuring the safety and security of visitors should be a management priority	1	2	3	4	5	X
Interpreting the Park's natural history should be a management priority	1	2	3	4	5	X
Off-road vehicle use within the Park is being managed effectively	1	2	3	4	5	X
Mountain bike use within the Park is being managed effectively	1	2	3	4	5	X
Horseback use within the Park is being managed effectively	1	2	3	4	5	X
Camping within the Park is being managed effectively	1	2	3	4	5	X
Traffic within the Park is being managed effectively	1	2	3	4	5	X
Peace and solitude should be protected within the Park	1	2	3	4	5	X
Natural features and resources should be protected within the Park	1	2	3	4	5	X
Wildlife populations should be protected within the Park	1	2	3	4	5	X
Recreational opportunities should be protected within the Park	1	2	3	4	5	X
Important cultural/historical sites should be protected within the Park	1	2	3	4	5	X
The Park should provide more information on visitor impacts	1	2	3	4	5	X
The Park should provide more information about off-road impacts	1	2	3	4	5	X
The Park should provide more information on the area's culture & history	1	2	3	4	5	X
The Park should provide more information on the area's natural history	1	2	3	4	5	X
The Park should provide more information on the area's ecology	1	2	3	4	5	X
The Park should provide more areas for camping	1	2	3	4	5	X
The Park should provide more hiking trails	1	2	3	4	5	X
The Park should provide more opportunities for off-road recreation	1	2	3	4	5	X
The Park should provide more interpretive displays	1	2	3	4	5	X
The Park should provide more signs	1	2	3	4	5	X
Park planning decisions should include input from the local community	1	2	3	4	5	X
Input from local residents should take priority in Park planning decisions	1	2	3	4	5	X
Park planning decisions should involve Park visitors	1	2	3	4	5	X
Park planning decisions should reflect the public's desires	1	2	3	4	5	X

One of the issues in managing Anza-Borrego Desert State Park is to balance recreational use with the loss of vegetation. The computer-generated photographs simulate a range of vegetation loss that can result from recreational use. The managers are interested in your opinion on **how vegetation loss affects your experience**. To help us assess this, please indicate the **acceptability of the conditions** represented by each photo. A rating of -4 signifies conditions are very unacceptable; a rating of +4 is very acceptable

Photo	Very Unacceptable					Very Acceptable			
	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
1	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
2	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
3	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
4	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
6	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4

Of the six photos, which one represents the conditions you would **prefer**?

Photo:            1            2            3            4            5            6

Which photo represents the **highest level of vegetation loss** the Park should allow, to maintain the quality you prefer?

Photo:            1            2            3            4            5            6

In order to maintain that quality, what management actions should the Park undertake? Please mark your level of agreement or disagreement with the following:

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Increase ranger patrols and law enforcement to keep people on roads	1	2	3	4	5	X
Provide information about less-used sites in the Park	1	2	3	4	5	X
Institute a permit system for off-road backcountry visitors	1	2	3	4	5	X
Designate certain areas (zones) for specific recreation purposes	1	2	3	4	5	X
Provide an edge (curb, fence, rocks) to roads to contain motorized travel	1	2	3	4	5	X
Close some roads and trails to motorized vehicles	1	2	3	4	5	X
Prohibit roadside camping in certain areas	1	2	3	4	5	X

VI. Additional comments about issues related to the Park

If you have other comments or suggestions about Anza–Borrego Desert State Park, please tell us in the space below.

## **Appendix B: Cover Letter from Superintendent**



Anza - Borrego® Desert State Park

Visitor Survey

November, 2000

Sponsored by California State Parks, in collaboration with the University of Montana.

November, 2000

Dear Visitor:

Thank you for your participation in this survey of Park Visitors. The Managers of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park™ are committed to providing continued opportunities for high quality experiences. The purpose of this research is to better understand the people who visit Anza-Borrego™ and discover what kinds of things they expect when they come.

The best source of that knowledge is you and your participation in this survey is critical to the quality of our results. All information is anonymous and confidential, and will be used only for the purposes of this study. If you have any questions about this study, please contact Dr. Wayne Freimund, Associate Professor, The University of Montana, at 406-243-5184.

Once again, thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

Stephen Peel  
Research Assistant  
The University of Montana

David H. Van Cleve  
District Superintendent

## **Appendix C: Visitor Comments**

<b>Comments: Fall visitors to the visitor center</b>
Wonderful-peaceful -exciting!
What is the plan for the fee system now? The signs and machines are no longer here. I enjoy it here but what is the affect that could come later? Higher fees? Lower fees? No fees? Or some kind of pass?
Well I am from Texas and I feel that the Anza-Borrego state park is nothing compared to any state parks in Texas. I haven't even seen any water since I've been here. What the f*** is up with that?
I feel that the trails should be better for people who enjoy offroading.
We love it the way it is-should like more Indian coming in with their ___ as happened several years ago.
We just got here.
We enjoy low impact backpacking. We do have a 4x4 and carefully (as much as possible) enjoy car camping. I think the permit system is great but worry about too many restrictions and other side --too many people and cars. Preservation of cultural sites is important too.
Visitors survey should be given when visitors leave - not when they first arrive. Thanks.
Very nicely taken care of all stuff members very helpful
Tough to answer many of the questions based on one short visit.
Too Long
To have distance notes on the poles marks, Thank you.
This is a unique & beautiful place we love it!
There were very few signs. We almost missed the state park.
The trails are poorly marked. Public is poorly educated on the WHY of the rules and regulations. They do not understand a ground fire scars the rocks and changes the dirt forever. The public thinks the parks just hate dogs -- They do not understand the dangers of cactus; coyote or the fact dogs spread illness to our Bighorn sheep. They do not understand that the tracks in closed areas remain for many years. People love to learn, Educate them!
The presence of park ranger staff is a lot more noticeable since the early 1960s With so many people here now I can understand that the park is getting over run. I like that the off-road ATVs are kept in one area and not allowed in the rest of the park. It detracts from the park experience to see all the signs and kiosks around the park. I guess these are the result of increased usage on a massive scale. So yes, it's disturbing to see so many signs of use in the backcountry. I don't know where the balance is or whether it will just be necessary to find another place where fewer people go.
The park is a great asset as an easy and economical escape from the nearly urban area during the cooler season. It should be kept as natural and open as present for the long term.
The Anza Borrego state park is one of the wildest areas in California where off road vehicles are restricted & this restriction must remain. The vehicles should never be allowed to destroy the beautiful setting of the Anza Borrego park.
Sell food, fruit, drinks, something
Sandstone canyon itself we feel should be a hiking trail. The passage of vehicles disrupts the tranquility of the site. Thank you for eliminating the backcountry fee. The only suggestion I have is for more hiking trails. We love the park!
Protect 4WD: It is this park's Heritage!
Preserve the natural environment/eco-& wildlife areas of our planet!!
Preserve natural beauty, peace and availability
Please preserve the natural beauty of this entire area.
Please keep it wild and rugged, protected from Autos as much as possible.
Please allow increased 4 wheeling opportunities. Do not close current roads while opening additional roads. When visiting Utah last summer, they had bathroom facilities on dirt roads. A

great idea for this park! Keep 4 wheeling Anza-Borrego's' premiere activity!!!
People want more signs and directions posted in the park, but I think signs clutter the natural beauty of the park. I like AB because it's not a tourist trap yet like Yosemite. Solution: Build small info stations (non-manned) at all road entrances into the park. Make available free maps, and free pamphlets that can teach about the cultural history, natural wildlife, geological history, etc...
Open up Coyote Canyon to area
Need a map for Jeepers
More hiking information (i.e. length of trails at pull offs)
Make a big lake or river or something
Let the "wild" horses remain as is, or neuter them if they need to go, but please don't take (sell, move, give away, kill) them. Keep maximum mileage of dirt roads OPEN to 4 wheeling" have public hearing, public input and public sensitivity before closing any roads or portion of roads: ie Horse Canyon, Horse camp Road to 2 houses Keep open camping forever. Reduce, or better eliminate hassle and high cost and bulk paperwork relating to applying for special events and group permits. CA state parks and recreation Dept. is suppose to support educational and recreational uses, and many outing leaders and organization representatives can share the load (happily) with the Park in performing its mission. It shouldn't matter if groups, as well as individuals, should be held accountable for their actions Visitor Center staff is great (although the Volunteers don't seem to be familiar with the park), but with rare exception, contact between me (a visitor) and Park Management re:(offers to do volunteer work, re asking questions regarding unfolding new park policy) has been responding to with insults and impoliteness. Customer service skills in addition to their standard assembly line PR needs to be improved. It's all a matter of attitude.
Leave it as it is
Keep park off limits for off road vehicles but allow legal 4wd vehicles on all trails
Keep it wild and primitive!
Keep it open!
Keep all parts open
Increase preserved protected areas, no more badges & off road use.
If bighorn sheep are threatened by too many people-would it not be best to keep people out of this area!?
I visit the park to ____? Photograph alone photograph with friends, be alone to contemplate nature and my nature. Be with friends to enjoy the park's beauty, teach my son about nature & respect for the earth to hike.
I think there should be opportunities for ATVs & Dirt bikes in this area.
I love this park because it is large and understated. I would be very disappointed to see much in the way of development, unless it we, say. Another visitor center in another area of the park. I think visitor information is important, however, this area should not be made into an amusement park.
I love this park & visit often-for solitude, for beauty, for occasional family & group trips, and alone. It is quite well managed. If it always stayed like it is now, I'd be happy with that.
I love the park because it is so under populated & still quiet. I'm glad that there are no KOA campgrounds or big Best Western hotels or miniature golf, water parks etc.
I had difficulty reaching visitor center. Needs better road signs.
I feel the park should always be a place to come and enjoy the wild desert-not an off-road park
I am very against allowing off road vehicles (motorcycles, etc.) in the park. Cars on roads to camp sites are okay, but ATVs & such are not in natural areas like the washes & trails
I am sufficiently impressed with the park that I will return to see more of the area. I am pleased that the park includes (and preserves) such a large area.

I am a science teacher (8th grade). I'm interested in geology/paleontology workshops with small groups. Greatly enjoyed and appreciated workshops of past 2 years (George Jefferson et al.)
Hiking signs @ pull offs so that people know how far a walk it is to a specific destination
Good luck with your research!
First time, yet to discover
Few places remain in South California to be still & quiet. Keep it as nature would. No hotels, water parks, etc.
Even though I love to visit here--need to look a long way without seeing man-made things--if it came to people's needs or keeping this eco-system working, I'd close the gate on it and keep all of us out.
Enjoy the natural state it is in & would like to see it stay that way.
Don't mess with success. Let it stay how it is now!
Do not expand- Take care of what you have
Curious about Salton Sea?? History, present state, future. Impact on the environment?? Thanks for the opportunity to appreciate this unique & fascinating piece of nature.
Cannot comment yet. Good luck with your survey.
Big horn sheep
Atv, Dirt bikes, SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED
Walk/horseback the only way
Let nature be nature and give us a place to come and enjoy

<b>Comments: Fall visitors to Borrego Palm Canyon</b>
You're doing great, perhaps 3-4 additional trail markers-
Wonderful park, keep up the great work.
Why aren't there more Ranadas? In the campground?
In responses 17-19 my responses reflect the need to ___ the trail to keep people from randomly wondering through the canyon.
I think their needs to be better management of the vehicle in unimproved part of park (e.g. Collins Valley/Coyote Canyon) Education to encourage drivers to stop on road & signs & rangers to do the same.
We love to come here
We love it! A great place for a day hike.
We have been coming her for over 30 years. It is a wonderful place, restful & relaxing. We plan on returning as often as we can.
Water should be available at all trailheads. Even a first aid kit & snake bite remedy would be desirable
Try to keep natural, but because of the older population still accessible.
TOO LONG!
This survey is too long. Needs to get to the point to keep taker's attention.
This is my first visit and I love it! I will definitely come back
This is a wonderful park- keep up the present level of care & planning!
The geology is exquisite!
Thanks for the good park maintenance
Shoot Poachers!
Remind people to clean up after dogs-Excellent park.
Put extremely strict limits on 4-wheel drive off roaders.
Provide better road signs along highway about where campgrounds are. I personally like trails in a natural & primitive state, but think there should be a variety of types for all levels of experience & ability.

Priority #1 Wildlife, #2 Educate people/hikers so they respect wildlife - trail-survival of the wilderness. (No fences on trail, but educate hikers that don't need fences to stay on it.
Please preserve and sustain the natural beauty. Limit & control off road destruction
Please continue to ensure the peacefulness of the park sound-wise.
No dogs is great! Thanks!
Newspaper map is useless for finding Yaqui Wells!
Natural settings such as this are rapidly decreasing. An emphasis should be placed on maintaining a natural setting and wildlife protection while still having multi-use facilities in selected areas.
My favorite place to visit!
More info on baby palms More sectioning off of palm nursery More attractive walls/fences.
Many answer conditional:" it depends on various circumstances." Slide show at VC has music, too distracting
Make it easier to know where the trail is.
Love it. Survey too complicated for accurate answers.
Love it!
Less populated condition is good. Not so many rules enforced unless people start abusing rules.
Keep up the work!
Keep up the good work.
Keep up the good work!
Keep up the good work!
Keep up the good job you've been doing
I've been coming here for 10 years & I think the park staff does a terrific job. I would like to see it stay a natural environment & habitat with minimal signs & controls but with subtle non-visual control of people that may abuse the environment. I like the way the current paths are delineated. Just enough to keep you on track.
It's my 5th trip here- it's stayed as beautiful as it was in 1996. Thank you. Especially for the great clean bathrooms & showers.
It's been lovely for years & we appreciate it!
I think that I would enjoy the hike that I took if I was a little older.
I love this place in all seasons! Thanks for the great work! Good Luck!
I love the park. Stop excessive development.
I love Borrego just the way it is!
I like the Borrego Palms Trail just as it is. We also enjoyed Last gems (1999) Geology Field Trips run by Park Rangers.
I like & enjoy the trail as it is.
I have a comment to make about signs shown at some trailheads regarding the fact that no dogs are allowed on trails. We have had several experiences with people who insist the sign indicates no horses rather than dogs. Your choice of picturing a great Dane is a poor one. It bothers us a lot when we see dogs on the trails.
I appreciate the Palm Canyon Trail very much the way it is! Although we were sometimes not 100% sure where the trail exactly goes, it was no problem to follow the existing footprints (without them, it would have been more difficult) Congratulations that there were no beer cans, coke cans etc. beside the trail.
Having been here only 2 days, no firm suggestions yet.
Great visitor center.
Great Place!

Ensure that there is less off trail impact from vehicles & foot visitors
Don't even think of opening the hiking areas to RVs!
Visitors, rangers, should make decisions and eco-friendly people who have mother earth's interests at heart. NOT tourists and developers!
It's beautiful. Keep it as wild as possible. No DEVELOPMENT!
Best place on the planet!
Beautiful-unspoiled area
Beautiful place! Good job!!
A few more arrows or signs would have been helpful, We weren't sure where to go a few times. I realize you can't pave it all the way up. However it is hard for physically challenged people.

<b>Comments: Fall Visitors to Blair Valley</b>
Would like to see camping fees reinstated with 100% returned to Anza-Borrego system.
Wonderful quiet areas, easy access
Where can we find out more about the history of the people (Smith family and Native Americans) that were residents of this area many years ago? Williams, 2650 Country Club Dr., Glendon, CA 91741 dwilliams@costellobrothers.com
We had a great time!
We enjoy the quiet and solitude that may sometimes be found in parts of Anza-Borrego State park. We hope that this level of activity may be maintained for years to come at least in some areas of this great state park.
We enjoy the park immensely!
This is my first visit/first day but I'm sure after a few days I'll have lots of suggestions. P.S. Get rid of Ocotillo Wells Rec. Area, what a disgusting display of desert destruction in such a beautiful and irreplaceable environment.
This is beautiful open space. Please preserve it.
There has been a wonderful balance of human use & facilities & nature for the past 14 years. It has been as clean & "untrashed" & hopefully people will continue to respect this sacred place. Good Luck. She's a land worthy of preservation as a "last bastion" in So. Cal.
The wildlife is of permanent importance. Whatever that takes should take priority.
The visitor center is excellent! I love the park. So many good memories. But DON'T open too much of the backcountry to offroad vehicles. No MOTORCYCLES!!! within the park. They have Ocotillo Wells. More info on backcountry camping & hiking/backpacking would be great!
The park should be used as a natural resource, where vehicle access is limited as much as possible. In particular off road vehicles should be limited only to areas with existing trails & roads.
Thanks for the opportunity to provide answers to these questions!
Thanks for protecting and preserving such a beautiful place. Keep up the good work! Keep cool
Simplify payment process - more availability. Park is kept clean - good!
Short visit, but impressed with the park & Cuyanaca
RV access should be limited
Re open Mt Palm Springs.
Rangers are very friendly, Portable toilets very clean - thank you
Quite happy visitor for 7 years
Quality control should be in control but should be handled in a way that each person feels ok with the manner in which it is used.
Please keep the park as close to its natural environment as possible.
Open coyote canyon to 4 wheel drive vehicles
Open camping policy is a big plus for Anza-Borrego
Off-road rules OK as they are, Heavy fines for being off established roads. I am happy with the

policies now and hope they may continue.
Not in favor of any payment. Keep Anza Borrego Primitive. No facilities. Bathroom etc.
Not for now...
Not familiar with the management of the park at this time.
No other comments other than this Do not charge for Backcountry use!
No fees for moot use.
More Road signs so you know what trail you are on
More mountain bike access
More camping locations
Keep out the dogs
Keep it Quiet, Keep is Dispersed
Keep it peaceful and remote keep crowds manageable size to limit impact.
Keep it clean, keep it wild & natural & keep it up
Keep Anza-Borrego primitive. One Yosemite is enough.
It's the best.
Increase the number of patrols. Don't improve access to coyote Creek area. In fact, access should be closed to vehicles (both North and south entrances)
I wish my answers to reflect: 1. I enjoy the solitude that can be found, 2; I appreciate that the park is NOT OVER REGULATED it is a fine line between protection & regulation, 3. I wish that other people can experience the beauties of the park as I have
I was happy to pay the park fee. If it's needed don't hesitate to bring it back.
I think the park should remain in as natural a state as possible.
I really like the fact there is no longer a fee. I just hope that the quality of the park is maintained to the same level. Penalties should be installed to people who don't help keep the park clean.
I love this place. very peaceful.
I love this entire area!
I love the primitive & naturalness of this area. Last visit it was so quiet I could hear the wings of the bird flying overhead. I love being able to visit the petrograph without feeling it's a tourist attraction.
I like the work the park management is doing this for - that is the least intrusion into natural environments I.e. limited signs, developed camping areas etc.
I like the idea of fees or annual fees if funds stay in park.
I like the feel that the fee has been stopped.
I like it the way it is! Mostly, people that want to cluster, do. People that want to be alone, do. No one should leave any trash, so do education about environmental impacts.
I like being able to camp/hike/backpack in areas that are in the "deep" backcountry.
I filled out the generic portion of this inventory at the visitor's center 2 weeks ago.
I enjoy the Park immensely. RV's & offroad vehicles should be outlawed. Public input is important, but a majority of the public would probably enjoy a resort & golf course, or other development. The more most important decisions & necessary, are sometimes the most unpopular.
Have always enjoyed our stop in Anza-Borrego
Great Place - Well Managed
Grade Blair Valley road more often.
Good job so far
First time here - very nice park. We went up the Ghost Mountain trail - excellent!
Dump Station on South end of 52
Continue careful control of where off road vehicles are permitted. Possible enlargement of

improved campgrounds.
Consider wide variety of age groups
Beautiful park
1. Issue more citations for littering! Esp. glass 2. Prohibit glass containers 3. Happy for free primitive camping 4. Keep up the great work. Thanks!
1. In general, off-road access is just about right. Would not want more access. 2. I can accept that some areas will be more impacted. 3. If at all possible, leave the access to all areas for camping. 4. I am not in favor of increasing access for RV's.
1. Continue to preserve the state park for cultural & recreational use for current & future generations of Americans
- Keep disallowing off road vehicles & - camping fees to reduce numbers of campers

<b>Comments: Fall visitors to Coyote Canyon</b>
You're doing a good job.
Years ago I used to ride my 250 lb dirt bike on trails in the park. Since you have changed the rules, now I must drive my 4500 lb. 4x4 because it is highway legal if I want to see the park. Regulate off road vehicle use, but don't ban it!
Would like to keep open to vehicle & motorcycle use
Work to ensure park remains pristine and protected and damage to area prevented. Wonderful park! Please keep it that way!
We have been coming to the park for many years & we enjoy the solitude of the desert. We would like to see the recreational opportunities in the park remain open to the public; Too many public lands are being closed. Our children need to be able to experience their natural settings.
Very quiet.
Very nice park.
Try to keep existing trails well maintained. Alcoholic pass this year is much better than previous times. Erosion will be thwarted and trails last longer.
Trail maintenance needs to be worked out for the horses. What happens to those nice signs on the trail pointing out the vegetation--Interpretive stuff? Maybe a sign a trail heads about conditions of the trail.
This is my first visit. So far I enjoy that the backcountry is open to backpacking & exploration without a lot of signs or paved roads.
There should be more off-road areas designated. Stop closing all the roads. The effect of vehicles is non-noticeable.
There should be more Jeep roads for those not healthy enough to hike real far. It's OK to restrict them to the jeep trails, and to not allow non-street legal vehicles.
The vastness of the area will require vehicles access to as many areas as possible.
The rule about street legal vehicles only is fine. And it is fine to stay on the jeep trails, but there should be more trails.
The park is well run & managed without being too authoritarian and too policed. Please keep up the good work.
The park is a wonderful immense area. I feel strongly that all types of activities-- from off roading to nothing more than hiking trail or even completely closed areas--can be implemented to satisfy most all the parks visitors. Thank you!
The park is (or should be) for people--to close the park or restrict it to such an extreme that areas are off limits to careful visitors does not serve the true interests of the taxpayers.
The existing trail system should be maintained to a passable level. Crews should clean & clear trails on a yearly basis. It's a wonderful horse experience. 10 years and I have never seen a big horn sheep. Keep the wild horses in the park.
The desert park must be maintainer in its current state. This wonderful place is soooo important to my personal well being.

Thank you for doing this survey.
Stop infringing on a free peoples ability to responsibly enjoy their nation's open spaces. I've been visiting Anza-Borrego my entire life -hiking, riding, specifically
So far, I really like it! I know I will make it back!
Repair tire tracks in washes and alike (Raking it would do) so others would be less likely to travel there. Tear down five rings in dispersed coming areas.
Re open the upper willows in Cougar Canyon for off-road access.
Purpose of this visit is to drive 4WD roads.
Preserve this open space for use of all. Restrict off road use to specific areas and strictly enforce rules to preserve open space for all and to protect wildlife.
Post off roading signs & rules. Have off roading maps.
Please open up road to Anza.
Please make a new trail "around" middle willow, which would be easier to maintain than cutting thru M-willow. Preferably a hiking trail only!
Please do not develop the area. The reason we love it so much is its pristine areas--a best-kept secret. Keep the habitat of the big horn sheep as the main concern. More off road signs would help though. The areas near the Carrico stagecoach should be closed to vehicles.
People are nice. This survey is a little long.
Open Coyote Canyon upper willows for vehicles access.
Off roading is an activity in which family members can get together with fun and excitement.
More maintenance of the by pass road to Collins Valley in Coyote Canyon so I can enjoy the area more often. It is so bad that only people in jeeps, humvees or on horseback can use it.
Love this place. Like the fact you can camp just about anywhere without permits
Love the horse camp. Horsemen have very few places like this where we can bring our horses, camp for several days and ride. We love it. We enjoy nature & treat the area with respect. We need more horse camps. We need more trails. Trails in lower willows needs to be cleared & reopened.
Keep up the fantastic park in its management. We love it!!
Keep the recreational off-roaders out (dune buggies, quads, etc.)
Good luck with this!
Keep the off-road vehicles OUT! Keep bikes on roads ONLY!
Keep open & free but controlled within reason
Keep making improvements in off road vehicle activities. Stronger enforcement of rules keeping traffic in designated areas. More signs to keep people from getting lost & driving where they're not suppose to.
Keep it open for 4 wheel drive vehicles. Thanks
Keep it beautiful-don't let over popularity destroy this national treasure.
Just perfect now. Don't change!
It's beautiful as it is
It is a wonderful natural treasure. People should be allowed to enjoy it without destroying it. The public input should not be carried out to the detriment of the park.
If you close off very much of the desert, the terrain will look like photo #6
I would like to see wilderness expanded. Keep Coyote Canyon as it is with no vehicle access between missile and upper willows. Keep OHVs out of the whole park.
I would like the willows cleared for a trail.
I wish they would open up Coyote Canyon all the way for general vehicle access leading to and from Anza.
I think you should let everyone go almost anywhere on foot, but no off-road vehicles anywhere.
I think those noisy 3 wheel & dune buggies are horrible-Let them all crowd together in one small spot.

I think the park has struck a good balance between public access & protection. I am 100% against any further closing down of roads, areas, etc. All in all, a very well managed state park.
I think protecting Coyote Canyon from vehicle use by NOT maintaining roads and using gates is a good thing. I am for restricting access to maintain quality of natural environment. I feel that restriction should be by difficulty of access not permit.
I love to drive my jeep off-road. Maybe signs to keep people on trails and roads which say "stay on road" or Stay on Trail" to keep from destroying vegetation
I love the park, but I am leery about regulations of any kind.
I love it because you can camp anywhere, of its open feel. We just can't lose that too many parks are so regimented...too many visitors, so I guess its necessary.
I like to be able to explore off-road and get to some places that I have never seen before. I like having the dune buggies and motorcycles in their own area. Now we can all enjoy the park.
I like the idea of camping responsibility anywhere in the park! I believe the park is being managed properly but would get rid of the dirt bike riding & off-roading vehicle use too much destruction of land!!!
I have been visiting ABSP since 1960. Even though there are a few more people now, the experience is still excellent. Additional emphasis should be given to education/enforcement of staying on roads but existing roads should be left open and accessible. I agree there should or could be an off-road fee/permit. This is an opportunity to educate users about danger and responsibility. It's not broken. Don't fix it. The Nazis who run Grand Canyon and Zion's National Parks are way over the line.
I enjoy coming here enormously-perhaps one more primitive campsite
Human impact should be minimized. Preservation of open space & wildlife habitat should be maximized.
Great interpretive center Great employees Beautiful area, well done Like to comeback when I have more time
Grade the road coming in/out
Going fine, little change in the last 15 years. Keep all as it is.
Glad to see someone attending the entrance!!!
For only the second time I've been here, it seems that the park management is very efficient. I notice no deterioration in the beautiful conditions. It would be a serious shame to allow the natural beauty to be lost.
Fix the access road to CC!
Don't know Anza Borrego well, (1st visit) but have been visiting National Parks, Preserves, & BLM wilderness in the deserts for several years. The degree of environmental degradation seems to me directly proportional to ease of access. The most trashed wilderness I've seen (e.g. Mecca Hills) are right on the road. The closest to pristine are the little known and hard to find. Given the fragility of the deserts, I fully support closures and restrictions on use activities in wilderness & preserves.
Develop different areas for different uses (i.e.) backpacking, horses, camping, 4 wheeling, motorcycles & quads.
Continue to provide multi use areas i.e. off road access to foot traffic areas only.
Consider additional remote-offroad 4x4 access camping by permit
By closing off certain areas you create more traffic in the remaining areas. This will create a scene like Photo #6 As an initially, I feel people are careful & do stay with in the boundaries & their limits. It's beautiful out here.
Beautiful Place! Solitude! Challenge!
A few more signs would be helpful along dirt roads. Please keep it special wild, and undeveloped.

<b>Comments: Fall visitors to Fish Creek</b>
Well-done survey. Love living in Borrego Springs (the hole in the doughnut of Anza-Borrego Desert Park).
We love visiting Anza Borrego for the openness, Peace & quiet.
We found the park a beautiful and interesting experience - a wonderful contrast with our own country Scotland.
This is our 24th Turkey Day camping in our spot. We love it!
This is an incredibly unique and beautiful area. Please help to keep it so.
This is a fun place! I hope that the purpose of this survey isn't exclusively to obtain governmental funding. Further regulation of this park would not be enjoyed, as it would prohibit me in my quest to drink beers in nature.
-There should not be any offroad vehicle in the park. - Road conditions should be posted at entrance to all washes.
The park should be for all to enjoy. Vehicle travel should not be limited any more. Vehicle travel should be managed but not eliminated! Mountain bikes, horses, 4x4 and motorcycles should all be managed. No off-trail usage should not be allowed in the park. Great park, keep up the great work.
Thank you!
Provide more detailed maps, with more backcountry information.
Provide a "lights discouraged" camping area focused on amateur telescope use & sharing. Use "observatory campground" (forest service) near Polomar Observatory as model.
Prevent closure or mark areas to OHV use. Increase areas open to OHV use. Move protected plants, species etc. to a singular protected area for all protected species.
Please protect it as much as possible I believe in Maximum restrictions- to keep the place wild.
Please keep the natural beauty as undisturbed as possible (only leave foot prints)
Patrol more & penalizing the people who trash or destroy the desert- not make everyone suffer by shutting down the deserts. We clean up after others that leave junk behind. We leave it clean! And so do our kids! Thanks
More signs on the roads, presence of more rangers, enforce illegal vehicles in the park.
More rock crawling trails
More & More people are being confirmed to smaller spaces. We use to be able to travel all the small canyons in Split Mtn. Area.
Limit or prohibit generator use in backcountry. Give more info re: cryptobiotic crust. Signs to encourage respect for nature and natural resources.
Limit dune buggies, cycles, & noisy vehicles. Clearly post natural areas to be maintained. Signage @ AZ is usually very good - our map we've never had a problem. One-way areas need to be clearly posted. We have 36' RV & like our ability to Primitive camp in AZ when we are in the area. We are FT Rivers & have seen all areas of US & Canada & we still enjoy the beauty of AZ.
Less restrictions, closing down glomis didn't help. Just drove more people here.
Keep the off-roaders out.
Keep off Highway area open. People are priority over plants.
Keep it clean and natural!
It's beautiful! Let's keep it that way.
It's a nice place to be. Thanks
I would like to recommend that the drop off be accessible from both directions so I don't have to back track.
I would like it back open to off-road vehicles.
I think it is important to have areas for off-road vehicles as well as separate wilderness & primitive hiking & camping areas. The ecosystem, natural landscape & wildlife should be maintained at healthy levels at all costs though. I think off-road vehicles should be limited &

monitored to ensure the ecosystem stays healthy.
I really like the freedom of wilderness camping.
I love the way the park has been managed. Everybody's interests are taken into account "motorcycles, 4x4, camping (primitive), camping (motor homes). I have been coming since 1969 and it has been wonderful. PS The visitor center and the personnel there are very informed and helpful
I love the area & have been coming here for the past 10-12 years!
I feel that the park is doing a very good job of balancing different interests and use groups. Keep up the good work.
I am concerned about the great use of dirt bikes & quads. To me this park is a wilderness & should remain so (except perhaps extremely limited areas). Vehicles should not have the run of the place.
Don't let it get too out of control.
Display signs for Radio Station
Could use a few restrooms and a few more rangers.
Control under age drinking & drug use, unsafe vehicle operators of vehicles
Awesome. I'm in a Jeep Sahara.
1. Allow green sticker operations of established trails & roads -enforcing regulations. 2. Allow children to operate small bikes under parent supervision near camp areas. 3. Keep parents responsible for children under Age 13. 4. More permanent signage (informative & descriptive in addition to regulatory) 5. Have a good reason for closing established trails - maintain them for access or allow interested groups to repair (flood) damage. 6. Be quick to cite offenders. 7. So far as animal & plant life, let nature take its course. Prohibiting off road activity (enforced) should keep human interference to a minimum. 8. Ask me any other questions @ 619-303-1432 Paul Webster.
? ___ signs to arrow areas with the park like Split Mtn. And Badlands.

<b>Comments: Fall visitors to Mountain Palm Springs</b>
Web site- more maps of park interest areas
This is quite a luxury so near to a major metropolitan population center. Excellent use of our state taxes.
This is our favorite desert park.
The park should be left natural as is possible.
Since we gather each Thanksgiving weekend, about 25 of us, we would like to reserve an area for us. We have camped at Mt. Palm springs for about 25 years. If a motor home or 2 comes here first they take up room that 4 tents can fit in or 2 small campers. What to do? Park folks could ask them to park at the end of a site instead of in the middle, or maybe we could reserve. It is a concern. If the folks are friendly we ask the to join us but some don't want to. Of course, we understand that. It is a dilemma.
Since the San Diego & Arizona railroad runs through the park at least part of it, any attempt to pull-up rails should not be allowed to happen. The railroad is a great achievement with historical significance, also provides a scenic route too areas otherwise inaccessible (Carrizo gorge, trestle) Would like to see more primitive campgrounds in the park that are trailers & RV usable.
Reflecting on the park canyon trail pictures. I think a lightly accessible (maybe even handicapped) track is good. But the rest of the park should remain with very primitive trails and facilities
Re open Coyote Canyon road to Anza. That was my favorite trip. Park is for all users not for people that can hike 30 miles a day.
Provide more undeveloped camping locations for highway legal vehicles. Simple dirt roads may require 4-wheel drive, with spread out pullouts for camping.
Nice job! I love it here. It's a treasure and an important annual family event.

Needed -1. More campsites needed 2. More trail signs along way 3. More water 4. RV dumps 5. Trail maps/ handouts
Love the park!
Love the natural views, keep it natural!
Keep up the good work.
It is beautiful as it is. Try to control off-road vehicle use to minimum.
Have been camping here for almost 20 years. A beautiful unspoiled place of beauty a place to reflect on nature- the meaning of life.
Great Park, beautiful scenery, great trails love the area
Friendly folks, beautiful country, nice and quiet- I appreciate that.
Fee structure too high
Do not pave please
Coming to Anza-Borrego with friends has been an important part of my life for many years. I love the sunsets, the sunrise vistas, the cold nights and warm days and the peaceful desert ambiance.
Careful management of park areas used by visitor during Bighorn sheep lambing season should be priority. Border patrol over flights of wilderness areas should be curtailed.
Better maintain 4 wheel roads. Perhaps better law enforcement on ranger patrols to ensure trails for 4x4s are used correctly
As this is only my 2nd visit to the park, I feel I am not qualified to assert strong opinion. However, I would like to commend the park on their way marking & the camping site at Bow Willow is pleasantly secluded.
A beautiful natural area

<b>Comments: Spring Visitors to Visitor Center</b>
We have been here quite a few times and it is always beautiful, peaceful, relaxing, and informative.
We came here to play golf for 2 months.
To me it is a great destination doe off road camping, relaxation and exploration and discovery.
This is not a random sample of the park's visitors.
This is a wonderful and unique place. It should not be developed further no more camp or RV sites, no more of anything - keep it simple!
This is a poorly designed survey - its very repetitious
The park should be preserved with as little human damage as possible. Park management should listen more to professional employees and their expert advice. A permanent separate open file of suggestions should be maintained and available to everyone.
Thanks for the opportunity to experience the desert.
Really appreciate guided walks - Bob, Geri, Susan (especially) do a fabulous job at making us feel welcome on hikes, bird-walks, campfires etc. Terrific. Keep it up.
Postcards, books, etc. Should be priced comparatively to other areas - tee shirts \$16.00? I don't think so!
Please keep it as wild as possible.
Overall, this park provides a good balance between access and protection. Not sure off roading needs to occur anywhere.
Overall I believe that you do an outstanding job of management on all levels. Suggestion: for public comfort and safety sell 4 1/2" brimmed hats.
Much of California's natural ecosystems have been destroyed AB deserves a strict management policy which reflects scientific, decisions made by resource management professionals. Public impact is necessary but not the final word.
Less emphasis of vehicular recreation and more on trails, and interpretation.

Leave it alone it's a wonderful place and should not have any more development as this will negatively impact the major reasons that people came here.
Keep as pristine as possible.
I would like to see the park managed for upland bird hunting; I think it can be done. Greg Kunde San Luis Obispo, CA.
I believe the park is being handle in a very responsible and professional way and I appreciate the many attractive signs and displays.
Great place, excellent displays; well-informed staff.
Great job being done at visitors center.
Love to camp here - quiet and refreshing and different.
Like the volunteer programs - a wealth of knowledge and interest is passed on.
Slide shows I see each time and bring guests over.
Great job
Good job, please continue! Thank you!
Enjoyed the park and the interpretive centers, the video and the clean facilities. Soap and paper towels in the restrooms would be nice.
Disagree with Coyote Canyon being closed. Our family homesteaded and used canyon for winter cattle and like to go thru from Anza periodically - not many people would even attempt - so traffic isn't the issue.
Decisions should reflect the animals and plants needs before it reflects the rest of us!
As a 60-year-old Canadian I am pleasingly impressed with your Park.
A very nice park.
A unique experience for a visitor. Thanks.
A treasure!
4 1/2" wide brim hats for sale at visitors center for people that have no sun hat. (Hat is called "life guard" hat in San Diego)
33
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Increased information on birding.</li> <li>2. Better tasting water and more drinking fountains.</li> <li>3. Offer shade and benches near desert walking trails.</li> <li>4. We love the Visitor's Center and the "friendly personal."</li> </ol>

**Comments: Spring Visitors to Mountain Palm Springs**

Anza-Borrego is my favorite place in SoCal because of its unique geology, wildlife and plant communities and the peace and quiet it can provide. However, over the past 8 years I have seen the park changing in dramatic ways. The most obvious: more people. While I do understand that the cities are getting more crowded and people look for opportunities to get away from it all and have fun I truly believe that the park management should not cater to the masses. Keep primitive campgrounds primitive and you won't have a serious problem in the future. Since the impact on the park is already heavy developing more campgrounds will only make it worse. While I do believe the park should be accessible to everyone I also believe that those who wouldn't mind putting up with more primitive and "park friendly" conditions. To keep the park managed effectively I would be happy to pay either a general entrance fee or more for overnight camping.

A word regarding off-road use. I don't think it is managed very well. The problem will only get worse. With more desert land getting protective status people who used to drive their dune buggies and other vehicles in the Mojave etc. Will start looking for alternative places. I have seen things happening here: motorcycles not staying on dirt roads, dune buggies being driven around the campground in Bow Willow for hours. This has only happened recently. Suggestion: Have potential problems areas patrolled frequently by rangers and tell people what's allowed and what isn't. Write tickets if necessary. It would be very helpful to have a campground host at Bow Willow (as you used to) to keep things in check. Educate people more about the impacts their

<p>park visit has. Make it very clear that this is not just a pile of sand - every footprint stays where it is for a very long time before rain and wind wash it away.</p> <p>This is a very special place and I truly believe it is for most people a place to find quiet, peace, solitude and a unique nature experience. Don't take this away by developing campgrounds and trails; people (especially I) will hate you for this. Visitors should know that this is not a wilderness and not a city park. I love to come here rather than Joshua Tree NP (although that's unique in it's own right) because of the unique geology and ecology - don't change that only because Anza - Borrego has transitioned from a rather obscure identity known by locals only to State Park status. Don't make it a second Yosemite! The "primitive" = non-developed condition of A-B make it special and contribute to its unique characters.</p>
<p>Would be interested in obtaining collecting permits for rock sample in the future.</p>
<p>Wonderful setting very peaceful</p>
<p>Well managed- so peaceful and quiet. We'll be back next year.</p>
<p>We would like to see more camping facilities in the park.</p>
<p>We were walking in Little Blair Valley yesterday, and our goal was to see the meteors and pictographs. We saw no signage for the meteors and the signs for the pictographs were too few and far between. At forks in the road they were often missing just when they were most needed. Including distance would be helpful and logical. We never saw either.</p>
<p>We really like being able to camp nearly anywhere. You could probably provide more information on roads suitable for mountain bikes. Hiking trail info is also a bit scanty and trail markings on some trails are missing. Keep it primitive and do not allow OHV use!</p>
<p>We love the shelter covers at Bow Willow, would like to see more at other campgrounds.</p>
<p>We have stayed at Bow Willow once or twice a year for over 10 years. It is a more enjoyable experience when there is a campground host to keep the area clean and keep a lid on inappropriate activity such as loud noise, excessive generator use, free - ranging dogs, etc. Also, I disagree with the "free" use of developed campgrounds as happened this year. I think people should pay for extra cars and dogs and the money used to maintain the park. I hope those ATM machines for overnight stays and dog use fees do not come back.</p>
<p>We are fortunate to be retired and can access the park features anytime - though? Must be here on weekends - midweek use should be encouraged to reduce weekend impact.</p>
<p>Very pleased to take away the fee.</p>
<p>This park looks and feels great. Change as little as possible.</p>
<p>This is a wonderful, natural park! I do not want it developed any more than necessary!</p>
<p>The priority of the park should be of protecting native plants and wildlife. Increasing recreational facilities, developed campgrounds, bathrooms, etc. diminishes the experience of a pristine environment. Off-road vehicle recreation is destructive, wasteful, and extremely unnecessary. It should be outlawed completely, as it contributes nothing to a healthy desert experience. This should be a place for appreciation of the natural environment, not an amusement park.</p>
<p>The major threat by cougars to the big horn sheep should immediately be dealt with by the aggressive removal of a large percentage of the cats until the sheep population can stabilize or increase. Also threats to the large underground water in Borrego Springs should be confronted directly and stopped since the lowering of all the aquifers are the true threat to the overall ecosystem (such as the increasing threat of mistletoe to weakened mesquite and others).</p>
<p>The less developed here the better - priority should be to protect and preserve natural habitats of plants and wildlife in a fragile ecosystem.</p>
<p>Survey is too long- you are not going to get accurate info past two pages. Get what you really want to know. Get professional research (survey) help.</p>
<p>Survey is too long.</p>
<p>Should be allowed to build fires if there is a large clearing.</p>
<p>Please keep the park as natural and wild as possible. Allow open-fire camping anywhere. If there are more campgrounds developed, please space the sites out so you can't see and hear others. I like to hike and camp in a natural and wild setting with solitude from others. If you are</p>

worried about fires, maybe have people pass unsafe-camp fire course allowing those who pass to camp anywhere for free.
Park should be managed for wilderness and wildlife; no off-road vehicles or new RV parks or new roads. Bring back natural wild fire patterns. My experience of solitude and silence was very disturbed by flyovers of planes and helicopters.
Open up more primitive campsites with Porto Potties.
No
Need for more parking and camping.
More trails and more camping spots. Have control over rules over visitor's animals.
More off road tracks
Love the natural feel of the park. Appreciate not having it "groomed" into amusement park condition.
Limit amount of people entering Park as population increases. Also, tell them to quit having so many babies.
Less is more! Inform people of the danger but do not cater to idiots or RV's! Nature should be kept as natural as possible.
Keep up the great work! Perhaps a few more developed campsites, like Palmer Canyon and Tamarsle (??). Portable drinking water at campsites. More hiking trails. More enforcement of rules, reg, i.e. dog trails. More trash and recycling bins (larger)
Keep park primitive
Keep it natural and primitive!
It is our favorite place to come in all of the Southwestern USA. It's peaceful, restful - yet challenging hikes keep us going every day. We hope our grandchildren will find the joys we have here in Anza - Borrego State Park.
We hope you provide more primitive camping. For example, parking spots for RV's are very limited at Mt. Palm Springs campground.
I think that banning the use of off-road vehicles will ensure some of the peace and solitude that people come here for. I think that it also ensures that the ecology of the desert will also be protected. I am a herbalist/ecologist who came here with a group of 27 others to observe and study some important medicinal plants of the region. To me, their protection is of the utmost importance. I also feel the same way about the entire ecosystem that includes the families of four-legged creatures, the slithering and crawling beasts and the rocks and sand that binds everything together. Some places should be managed for the habitat, not people - I think this is a place to manage not for its resources for humans, but for the critters and plants. The Southwest School for Botanical Medicine comes yearly to observe and study.
I miss the handout that tells how Indians used various plants.
Have people pick up trash along the highways and in the park (cans, bottles, etc.) Please.
First visit - very impressed
Enjoyed our visit
Rangers were very helpful when our car got stuck on a rock.
Enjoy our stay
Build and maintain trails beyond the attraction. i.e. beyond palm canyon grove
Beautiful Park - but there are really rams here? (We've looked for two years in a row and haven't seen any!)
Be careful of letting us "love it to death"!
Ban the use of generators.
As frequent visitors to the area I would like to see a few more developed sites. I believe this would increase the visitors to the area as well as provide enough space for peak travel.
Allow park to remain as natural as possible.
AB is wonderful! Thanks for taking such good care of it and asking me what I thought.

I like undeveloped areas generally - FYI I was here to study the herbs in the area for medicinal use.
- Staff has been courteous and helpful. - Slide show is nicely done. - Bookstore adds to understanding and enjoyment to park. - Update the web site more often - also provide info on net as to accommodations in the area. - Beautiful park!
I'm not that familiar with the desert - the help (visitor center) is phenomenal.

<b>Comments: Spring visitors to Borrego Palm Canyon</b>
What a wonderful day! Thank You!
We started the "alternative route" but after a while the trail wasn't clear enough to follow anymore, so we had to cross the river and follow the first route. It was great fun!
We had a wonderful time.
We feel you are doing an excellent job - Thanks.
Very enjoyable experience. When we were up at the Oasis, many people were traveling beyond restricted areas. Maybe station a ranger up there to make sure problems like this doesn't persist. Thanks and I enjoyed the park very much.
Train the wildlife to pose for the camera and train the sheep to appear! Seriously we had a great 4 days in the park.
This was my first visit to Anza and I had a great time! Anza has excellent examples of the fault zone, which were very educational. I hope to visit Anza again and share this beautiful country with any future family I have.
This questionnaire is too long.
This is a beautiful place and should be maintained. The park personnel do not follow their own rules, i.e., driving over the speed limit, allowing more than two vehicles in each campsite, non-enforcement of speed limit, exp. when there are children around.
This has a great trail. I would not improve it too much. It will lose its natural beauty. Thank you.
The desert is a wonderful place, and you're doing a great job protecting it. Keep it up.
Thank0you and god bless. Beautiful, very full, spiritual.
Staff is always courteous and helpful. This is important because we are already aware that we are in a sensitive wilderness area. We need to encourage more day trips and primitive camping and do not expand the number of developed campsites.
Thank You!
Special place - needs protective management.
Provide better thermostatic control of temp. Your park is great!!
Protect, preserve and keep people from driving all over the place.
Please strictly limit ORV use as it destroys the experience of nature.
Please continue to keep up the visitor centers. Thank You
Nothing else like it in the world.
Not enough experience in AB park to provide informed feedback, am especially interested in muscle-powered sports, wildlife viewing, and limited off road driving.
None
Nice place. Special.
Nice Place.
More input next visit.
Maybe a few more signs.
Manage park for natural views, wildlife, etc. Keep park wild and natural. This is what attracts visitors, people basically want to be in a wild environment but feel safe. Too many signs spoil the wildness most people do not need them. Encourage people to experience the wild beauty of

nature. God knows it's going fast!
Lovely trail and habitat. Wish we could have seen the sheep.
Love the place. Don't change anything!
Limit access. Too many people ruin the natural experience.
Level of difficulty of trail should be marked @ trailhead.
It's beautiful keep it natural. Spread as much as you need to keep it ecologically healthy and natural. Thanks!
It's a great park. I have been coming here for 30 years. Keep it as it is.
It would be wonderful if more can be made accessible to the disabled.
Issues 20 on: We think the trail should be as intensively managed as necessary (e.g. photo 6) but only as necessary to protect the park. For example, even intrusive signs would seem to be appropriate at the palm canyon oasis. In the backcountry, trails should be minimal consistent with environmental protection e.g. picture 2.
***note this maybe more clear, if I (m.kern)note that the 2nd photo (qu. 22) the surveyor chose 1 and 2.
I really enjoyed my stay in Anza-Borrego. Thank you for keeping this an enjoyable place. Loved the trails, they have every natural look and makes you feel like your hiking in the jungle, that's cool. We also went to the waterfall and enjoyed the freezing water falling on my hair, but my pager, radio and wallet got wet (which is cool). Felipe Ibescas 562-908-9875
I loved living where I could explore all over the desert not just @ trails But I understand need to contain. As a "desert rat" I understand how to protect myself, but I know these are idiots who'd get lost and you'd have to find them = expensive.
I love this place. Born and raised in San Diego, I have appreciated Anza-Borrego as a natural wonder all my life.
I love the park and the way it is maintained. I use my 4x4 but only to access areas such as rock horse canyon to get back pacing places. Don't allow any RV camping. EVIL!
I love coming here!
I like a marked trail that is not too "perfect." I've hiked most parks in the west. Anza Borrego is very nicely kept.
I enjoyed the hike. The right length for a family of 5.
Hiking is one thing and fairly nondestructive and also not noise producing. Bird/flower watching is great. Mountain bikes on trails are not acceptable; They should stay on roads - paved/unpaved. ORV's are horrible. It makes me sick to see the destruction around Octotillo Wells. The noise is horrendous, too. My opinion is that ORV's (and their drivers) are just too noisy and destructive to be anywhere in the park. They refuse to stay on established roads and continue to destroy more areas. I come to Anza-Borrego for the peace and solitude of the desert and to see the flowers, birds, and geology - and the desert in general. To me that is recreation, but I fear that it is not that of some. On the whole I think most visitors really appreciate its ecology. Those who don't should go elsewhere.
Hard-working volunteers should be better compensated (\$and other "perks).
Great and beautiful trails.
Good so far, thanks.
Generally I am very happy with how the park is managed -- the park should be "accessible wilderness" which is an oxymoron, requiring skill in achieving necessary trade-offs. It's very important not to let the park become commercialized or over-developed or over-published and marketed as a "tourist destination." Some guidance on what to do if we observe others violating important park rules would be welcomed. e.g. I saw a man walking a (unleashed) dog along walking trails near Bow Willow - I mentioned the rule and how dogs scare off wildlife; he was polite but not particularly concerned.

Create more trailheads that can be driven to in regular passenger cars. All trails need to be more clearly marked and signed.
Change high admission fee to thin out the use.
Better trail signs in Palm Canyon loop like in South West Canyon.
AS a MNDNR Park naturalist - compliments to "the park." A few more id plant signs on the VC roof. Biodegradable toilets! Better picture postcards (25 cent type) Recycle policy park wide!!!!
Thanks to the volunteers who know so much and relate so well to all the visitors. Need education of USA public to the budget and natural resources of CA ST. PK's.
As a family, we frequently camp on primitive areas of the park. We would love to keep it that way. Some of these areas are unmarked from the road and we like that these areas are not accessible to everyone.
A place of incredible natural beauty keep it pristine!
A great experience, Thank You.
A great experience, enjoyed it a lot.

<b>Comments: Spring Visitors to Coyote Canyon</b>
We've loved Anza-Borrego ever since we first came here. We've camped here, Joshua Tree, and Death Valley on spring camping trips but it's Anza-Borrego we keep coming back to. We like its peace, solitude. It's a place to explore, see birds and flowers. We've brought our daughters and their friends here and now this trip we've brought our 4yr. old grandson.
WE should be respectful of nature and conservation while keeping in mind that this is our (humans) planet and should allow our judgment on how to use it without plants and animals dictating out activities.
We love this park and area.
We love it.
We enjoy the park very much. Anza Borrego and Ocotillo Wells OHV park is where we like to go. We enjoy 4 wheeling and the backcountry that excludes others and the larger crowds but agree it should be protected and patrolled. Responsible 4x4 is the best way to get away, be with nature, and have a chance to see and enjoy the wildlife.
Thanks; you are all doing a great job. Fees are ok; maps are great it keeps us knowing the rules.
Update the movie to include various earthquakes and off road abuse - photo possibilities - otherwise fantastic.
This park is one of the greatest things in this area. I am an off-roader and have few places to go legally. Thanks
This is my second visit to Anza Borrego, I am not aware of what goes on "behind the curtains" so to speak. What I see everywhere at this time is just the way I would like to see it year after year. And we do plan to return yearly, but sudden beginnings of more growth would probably make us go elsewhere. The town of Borrego Springs is perfect just the way it is. I would encourage as much private land to be purchased as is possible.
This desert park is truly an oasis just as it is. My husband and I marvel at the fact that no matter where we've driven in the park, and /or walked we have not seen a single (almost) piece of litter. I don't want this are to change or grow.
This is my first visit to Anza-Borrego. Although, the wildflowers blooming hasn't reached its peak yet I am overwhelmed! I will definitely come back!
This is a very beautiful and unique park and its wildness must be preserved! At present it seems fairly unspoiled even by most visitors - good public awareness of managing resources is important - continuing education of the public. And crack down on people who litter/abuse the park!
This is a unique resource. With the number of people using it in this day and age I would be prepared to accept considerable restrictions on personal freedoms to protect it for ourselves and

future generations. Thank You
The opportunity for primitive camping is great! I hope it is not abused too often. What a unique and gorgeous area. Being Swiss expatriates who have been living 2 (of 5) years in the bay area, this is quite an experience.
The open free camping policy is a real attraction to this area. Where I have camped, I have not noticed any abuses. Leaving the area natural and do-it-yourself is part of the beauty of this area.
The Flower displays are worth seeing.
Thank you for allowing me to participate in your survey.
Signs on some plants in hiking areas. What wildlife to look for.
Showers (solar-possibly) for non-campers. More info on natural H2O sources in the Park.
Reopen Coyote Canyon to through traffic! Control cougar populations to benefit the sheep.
Random solar showers. Showers for non-campers.
Questionnaire is too long!
Please leave exciting roads open and police them better for people who abuse the privilege.
Please keep the park as natural and preserved as possible. The untouched feelings is great. Good for the soul. God country (I'm not some religious nut)
Permit with no fees.
This is unfair exercise. Use has an effect but can be restricted to specific areas are managed.
No use (the preferred photo 1) in effect no use. Both should be goals.
(Park planning decisions reflecting the public's desires):
It should reflect the preservation of the ecology first!
Open Coyote Canyon all the way! Stay in washes should be ok!
None
None
Need more information about park areas. E.g.: what are the back road trails line, what are the (important areas) like. Most parks supply more information maps. I think the off road use in the park is excellent. If you stop it, few if any people will see many of the areas. Don't let a few ruin it for all. They will go off the beaten path anyway!
Moved to San Diego four years ago. I have enjoyed my first visit two springs ago and previous visit in the fall last year. Thanks for the service you do for all of us.
More signs in off road areas would be nice.
More outhouses
More hiking trails.
Mark campsites (rough) at least 10yrds. Off road would be nice and probably cut down on indiscriminate destruction of vegetation.
Love this place and I have mixed feelings about adding bureaucracy to its use - however, we need to preserve what we have. I don't "know" the answers; we can't please everyone!
Love the place.
Love the desert.
Less is the best.
Keeping roads open is important. Keeping open camping is important. Major violations involving overly destructive behavior should incur stiff penalties, with violations (and violators) well publicized at visitor's center, local papers and guidebooks. A picture of a (later convicted) suspect in "handcuffs), and "\$10,000 fine" would help, but only for the most egregious violations. I can accept someone accidentally running into a cactus. I can accept someone vandalizing a campsite, or creating a new "road" up to a ridge top. Should open suitable trails to mountain bikes.
Q17 Depends on the what you mean by "thrills" I get plenty of thrills hiking and rock scrambling. Others may think dune buggies, which I object to off road except in designated areas, e.g.,

Ocatillo Wells.
Keep areas open for off road, street legal vehicles to see all areas of the park.
I've been coming to this park my whole life. I love it. I think they are currently doing a good job at keeping things as natural as possible. Maybe off road activity needs to be better marked and keep bikes off of hiking trails.
It is another whole type of environment such as the ocean, mountains, etc. It is away from the big city traffic, rush and noise. It is a place that I can get away from business, phone, email etc. It is close enough from home to get to quickly.
If we can't use the park, it will be of little use and will lose funding.
I think this park is beautiful!
I love this place.
I like it the way it is! `
I have been here about every spring since 1984.
1. Good website could be improved. How about putting camping stations on it? (opps sorry if it already is)
2. I like the ability to do camping out of the formal sites this is imp! Keep it up i.e. allow it
3. Beautiful place; please protect it from off road motorcycles and dune buggies.
I feel so lucky to live so close to this little piece of heaven.
Great place- keep up the good work.
Enforce the rules and the common courtesy standards. Do not restrict, punish, curtail, harass, intimidate those who are behaving appropriately and observing rules of common sense. There are only a few real offenders. Its a beautiful and memorable natural area. Keep up the good work!
Eliminate "concession" vending machine fee machines! They are very impersonal, offensive, and an eyesore! Also, we know that little of the money collected this way actually returns to the park! Concessionaires are interested in profits, not park protection.
Safety is the responsibility of visitors to a wild area. Provided info, but make visitors accountable for their own actions. If a rescue is necessary due to blatant stupidity, bill the "victim." The desert is a place to respect and enjoy on its terms, don't over-regulate! Preserve the "world" experience.
If visitors damage roads, kill wildlife, vandalize facilities, etc. and get caught, make penalties extremely high as a general deterrent. That way visitors will think... "I probably won't get caught, but I'm not going to do this because if I am caught I'll get the book thrown at me... It's not worth the risk."
At all cost, protect the park; however, use common sense in preserving existing access, enroute camping, and the solitude visitors value.
For casual, "weekend" visitors during "wildflower season," plant a wildflower/botanical trail (with info signs) around the visitor center (expand the one there). This will reduce pressure on remote areas by poorly equipped "city folk" in shorts and sneakers, who only want to "see the flowers."
Don't need any more golf courses.
Desert closers discriminate against Americans with disabilities.
Continue to encourage others to support the State system and parks!
Can you put a hitching post by the water crossing and maybe a bench or table?
Beautiful park
At trailheads, a more detailed map of the length and time to complete trails markings area vague.
Anza Borrego is a great place to visit, for 2 things - the wildlife and desert experience and at the same time, still less "controlled" (do it yourself nature experience) and less presented, formally - the mix of loose control and protectionist control is great! We surely can do both!
Protection and recreation!
A very enjoyable place to visit.

<b>Comments: Spring Visitors to Blair Valley</b>
www.ilbean has a better web site for parks than the states parks.
Why is mountain lion protected so it can't eat endangered bighorn sheep but you can shoot one if it looks at a horse?
We've been camping out here since the 1970's and I've been very happy with the way this park has been handled. From primitive camping to off roading the beauty as remained.
We love it in the desert it is so peaceful and quiet and beautiful. We come out from San Diego just to make a bed on the ground for 8-10 family members and sleep looking at the sky for hours.
We have been in a desert for the first time and we found park management, facilities on campgrounds (developed and undeveloped) and the information programme excellent.
We enjoyed the park!
Were not real enthused about the idea of restoring the rail line through the park. Too noisy also an access for illegal immigrants. Makes the park less safe when these folks are going through primitive campsites.
We enjoy visiting this area.
This is a beautiful place, tranquil and quiet. It is a wonderful place for security and peace, hoping that those that come here respect the land and appreciate what god and nature has given to us. Self-awareness is vital to the preservation of this area only through constant enforcement can this be achieved. Hope all those involved inform the less aware of how to take care of it. Have a good day and keep up the great work ranger, I sure do appreciate it.
The vallecito campground is very beautiful and well maintained.
The park is fairly set up to allow all types of people to enjoy the area.
The lack of restrictions is refreshing.
Thanks.
Thanks for getting rid of the fee. It's not fair unless it is collected in all state parks.
Thank You?
Sorry just passing through uniformed comment I consider danger on misleading
Recreational vehicle areas should be kept separate from tent campers.
Put solar bathrooms in crowded camping areas (primitive).
Limit the size of the groups. Large groups should be in places where there won't impact other campers.
Put in several fire rings in Blair Valley.
Put waste container at the entrance to Blair Valley.
Provide for mountain bicycle trails.
Provide fire ring in Blair Valley and a waste container at the entrance.
Prohibit off-road vehicles.
Pretty much covered in the question are-survey.
Please clean up chemical toilet at Mountain Palm Springs Campground more often. Thank You. Love the Park!
Never-ever bring back the day use fee.
N/A
More restrooms needed in camping areas.
Maps need to be more scale in terms of scale/topography. ) Large map is good with topography, though.) Hiking maps are not as clear as they could be, and more information on whether to drive/walk to a trailhead is helpful. Also, a few more markings on trailheads would help. We couldn't successfully find all pts. We wanted to on either of our hikes. But, we would learn from this and come back to try again!
Thanks!
Keeping most of RV's together is good as at Borrego Springs. Allowing those who prefer to be alone is great.

I've been here a lot. I like it the way it is, pretty much.
I very much enjoy camping in my motor home in Anza-Borrego. I enjoy the natural beauty of the area and the peace and quiet. I been coming here for the last 6 years and for the last 2 years have also had a jeep which has allowed me to see many sights that I couldn't before visit by motor home and bike alone. This park is by far my favorite destination and I usually stay for several months. Thanks for making it possible.
I have been traveling through the area since I was 6 years old. I happy my grandchildren can enjoy as much as I have.
I have been coming to this Park since 1978 and the years have taught me one thing! The harder, the more rewarding Keep it tough to get to.
I guess I'm unsure how to accomplish overuse. Since I love the access the park provides and would not like to see intervention with the present accessibility.
Great state park
Great place, lots of fun!
Great natural setting with too many visitors.
Glad you stopped the \$5 fee.
First time here and impressed. We did run across areas where off-road vehicles were doing damage - but ran into others who were using ATV's appropriately. Don't think people should be able to drive vehicles up into "The Slo."
Enforced ground fire rules- provided ash disposal receptacles
Beautiful park! Please keep it open for all to enjoy.
As it is we enjoy it here.
1. In the campgrounds need pegs or hooks in the toilet cubicles, showers and Ramadas. The more the better! 2. Roadside signs. Signs need to face the traffic from each direction and not face the roadway. By the time one has seen a roadway facing sign it's too late and there is never a convenient turn around nearby. 3. Pull outs: Could use more pullouts to allow passing convince of the fast travelers and to let those of us that like to dawdle do that.
1. \$5 visitor fee. Where do you pay it if you enter from I8 (Ocotillo)? 2. More info on the impact of illegal immigrants crossing within park. Is any area more likely to be a crossing point for them? ?
(Comments from previous pages)
16 year old teenager, fun lovin fool, like offroading. I'm here with the BSA to hike Mormon Batallica Trail. Here to pick up hikers. It's good to have a natural unpolluted area and because its relaxing and good for family groups. It's a great place to go I enjoy it.

<b>Comments: Spring Visitors to Fish Creek</b>
We moorly enjoyed the Ocotillo and have no trouble getting away!
We like the freedom to be able to drive around the park and camp in so many different areas. It is the most beautiful park and we want to keep it that way. We should limit where not to let ATV's ruin the desert.
Too much land is being closed. Leaving land open gives families something to do. This helps children grow without drugs and law breaking. You take too much away and it leaves nothing for the kids to do. There needs to be more open spaces to ride off road vehicles. To confine the space make to many people in too small a space.
To a large extent, people are like sheep. If you allow them to find their own recreation within the park, 90% of them will go no further than the visitors center, nature walks and well developed

<p>campgrounds. Don't provide further information and leave the backcountry and 4x4 roads and hiking trails to those who actively seek out such places. This will be your own natural filter with no further "management" required.</p> <p>PLEASE DO NOT pave roads and upgrade 4x4 trails this is one of the few places where such activities are encouraged - and your backcountry is in good shape. Do Not do a National Forest Adventure Pass type scheme and use the funds to turn your park into Disneyland with a nice, safe, clean, paved backcountry "experience" for the sheep.</p> <p>The park staff - while they are friendly and try to assist, few of them are able to provide accurate information of "their park" Some sort of familiarization would be good - although their lack of information perfectly fits my first part!</p>
<p>This area is peaceful and relaxing. Impact on natural habitat should be of priority to management with the increase in population in SD county of 1 million people in 20 yrs. Requires Anza-Borrego to be managed properly for the future.</p>
<p>This park represents recreational activities that represent a varied interest of activities to include camping, backpacking, and off-roading. This should be continued...</p>
<p>This is the first time and the RV's haven't bothered me yet. But then again I'm not aware of the damages they are causing.</p>
<p>This is a great park. A combination of access by off-road vehicles and preservation is important to me. As long as the visitor count is manageable and the recreation vehicles are considerate of the accepted access routes, it's important to provide vehicles (of all types) (Suva's and motorcycles) access to this wonderful area. Also, non-highway legal vehicles should be considered for access.</p>
<p>The park is for everyone including people who like to explore in vehicles.</p>
<p>The park is doing a good job. Keep up the good work!</p>
<p>The Palm Desert Campground is a prime place to camp. The facilities are well maintained. We've enjoyed many of the programs offered, one favorite was a 'condor' talk at the evening campfire and another was a hike offered in a new area closed to the public.</p>
<p>The level of management is a perfect balance between freedom of access and preservation of resources.</p>
<p>The elimination of the \$5 fee would make me more likely to come back in the future.</p>
<p>Thank You.</p>
<p>Survey too long.</p>
<p>Solitude and minimal human impact are my primary concerns. You can see by my answers I like being alone.</p> <p>Thanks</p>
<p>Seems good to me, but I have not toured the entire park</p>
<p>Seems generally to be well managed. Increased demand in the future may develop less-desirable conditions.</p>
<p>Require payments for overnight backcountry camping sites.</p>
<p>Provide information on where to target and shoot and where not to.</p> <p>Provide areas to go target shooting.</p>
<p>Please reopen Coyote Canyon and other off road routes in park.</p>
<p>Please refrain from further vehicle/horse/hiking trail closures. Educate backcountry ethics - not enforce backcountry restrictions. Reduce on site management and signage. Attempt to attract on-site staff that are genuinely interested in their environment.</p>
<p>Please keep open camping - it's the best thing about the camp.</p> <p>Please mark roads, washes better.</p> <p>More primitive camps would be great.</p> <p>Stricter rules on pack it in - pack it out</p> <p>More info on geology, ecology</p>
<p>Please allow the off-road enthusiast's (the respectable and polite ones) to continue to use the areas that we use. Areas that were open for years and all of a sudden are closed tend to cause more of a gap (I feel in a bad way) between hikers, bicyclers, horseback riders, etc. The Blue</p>

Ribbon coalition and other groups are trying to come up with ways for all of us to get along - that means we can off-road responsibly along with responsible hikers, bikers, nature lovers (which most of us (99%) appreciate nature). It is upsetting for me as a tax paying law-abiding citizen to see areas like 54% of Glamis closed over the BLM giving in to a lawsuit instead of seeing the other side. Please consider this.
Perhaps more info for visitors on low impact camping techniques.
Maybe something people have to sign with dos and don'ts on camping backcountry.
Our 8th year of visit here. Always enjoy the park and its beauty. Would like better information to be available on the more remote hiking trails.
Open Coyote Canyon for a limited number of permitted users per year to trek from Anza-Borrego to Anza.
Take ranger guided tours through the main road in the Carrizo Impact Area in the winter months.
Off roading is fun!
Off road motorcycles (dirt bikes) should be better controlled, they don't belong when people go to camp and enjoy peace and quiet.
The park and its rangers are excellent; I have been coming here for 20 years and still find it to be an extraordinary place.
No comment
No camp fires
Nice primitive camping!
Nice park. I like it very much, I'll be back.
Need more water excess and trash cans.
More distance info on signs for driving and hiking.
Manage car/truck/ATV speeds. Drivers drive too fast.
Limit travelers by a permit system. Thank you for your service to the park and information to visitors!
Limit offroad vehicles
Improve primitive roads 2wd - vehicles
Keep all land open for riding and off road recreation and camping.
It's a wonderful park! Husband's family has been camping here for 35 years. Our special interests are #1 wildflowers, #2 geology.
Freedom of access to remote areas is wonderful - for children and adults.
Do not like the noise and destruction where motorcycles and off-road vehicles go up the hills and dunes and damage the environment.
Love the beauty, privacy, quiet, flowers, solitude, etc.
It must be a balance and there must be a policy to protect those areas, which are pristine as you are doing to Coyote Canyon.
I wish someone would organize trips into Harper, Oriflamme, etc. because in many families there one person who wants to be more adventurous and one who would prefer to remain with very tame hikes.
I hate off road vehicles ban them.
I come for the backcountry camping, and the solitude. Limiting the number of visitors I think would be good.
I appreciate the availability of the park and the accessibility. I really can't complain about the visitors because most are friendly open people. The camping areas are well maintained and the park rangers are helpful.
I am enjoying the level of park attendance today. I do see an increase in off road use in a newly sign "off road areas" near Salton city. With the additional sign and toilet, it has increased the impact on this area marked.
Glad you took this survey. Let's help the environment.
Develop as it is now with different areas with different uses - some areas. High density off road -

other areas more limited use - backcountry/primitive camping - other areas for RV's etc.
Allow the existing and preexisting roads to back areas to be accessed. Not all people are capable of long hikes. Have more access to potable water in remote and trash cans.
Allow people to adventure and explore with freedom yet keep dignity in the environment.
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Keep the back area roads reasonably graded for SUV vehicles.</li><li>2. Have more interpretive signs.</li><li>3. Have a warning at entrance if conditions in the backcountry are dangerous.</li></ol>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Information on closest gas stations.</li><li>2. Accurate maps of trails.</li><li>3. More signs</li></ol>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Better signage</li><li>2. More natural trails with brochures</li></ol>