

# Mt. Hood National Forest

## Visitor monitoring . . .

### . . . in your national forest!



Reliable, science-based information about the type, quantity, quality, and location of recreation use in the National Forest helps us make sound decisions that serve the public and protect natural resources. To this end, Mt. Hood National Forest participated in the National Visitor Use Monitoring (NVUM) project in 2003.

### Lessons Learned

From asking visitors about their 4,981,333 “site visits,” including 137,184 Wilderness visits, we learned the:



#### Top Five Recreation Activities

- Relaxing
- Viewing wildlife
- Hiking/walking
- Viewing natural features
- Driving for pleasure

#### Primary Recreation Activities

- Downhill skiing
- Relaxing
- Hiking/walking
- Non-motorized activities
- Viewing natural features

#### Top Five Most Used Facilities

- Forest Service lodge
- Downhill ski area
- Forest trails
- Scenic byway
- Forest roads



From an economic perspective, we learned that 80.25 percent of visitors chose Mt. Hood National Forest as their primary trip destination. (In the year before the survey, the typical visitor came to the Forest 17 times, including 10.5 times for their primary recreation activity.) Nearly 23 percent said they spent less than \$500 per year to do so, and a little less than 9 percent said they spent over \$10,000 per year.

### Satisfaction

The study also asked visitors to rate their satisfaction with recreation facilities and services, their perception of crowds, and for suggestions of accommodations or assistance that would be helpful or improve their recreation experience. More than 65% of visitors rated their level of satisfaction in all categories as good or very good.

*Sampling Cycle Two . . . October 2005 – September 2006.*



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