



## Shoshone National Forest

### News Release \* News Release \* News Release

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## Forest Service seeks Shoshone National Forest visitor input

**Cody, Wyo.** (September 24, 2008) - Starting in October, when you visit the Shoshone National Forest, you may see bright orange signs that say "Traffic Survey Ahead." Forest Service employees wearing bright orange vests will be out in all kinds of weather conducting voluntary visitor surveys.

"The interview will tell us locally how many visitors come to the Shoshone, how long they stay, where they come from, what activities they participate in, how much money they spend in local communities, and how satisfied they are with the services," said Shoshone National Forest survey coordinator Catherine Pinegar. "All responses are totally confidential. In fact a person's name is never written anywhere on the survey."

Counting visitors on a specific day gives the Forest Service a picture of the site's usage. Visitors are counted even if they don't want to complete the survey. "Survey information helps us see what draws people to the Shoshone and helps us prioritize," said Pinegar.

Previous visitor surveys were conducted between October 2002 and September 2003. If managers find that use at a particular site has risen in recent years, they can refocus their efforts on maintaining that area better. Nationally, the survey is an invaluable tool to help determine more efficient ways to distribute funds over all the nation's forests.

The basic interview lasts about 10 minutes. Some visitors will be asked a few additional questions, which may take an additional 5 minutes.

Locals are asked to stop each time they see the survey signs to help the Forest Service get a representative sample of local use as a proportion of the total use of the Shoshone.

For more information about the National Visitor Use Monitoring program, visit <http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/nvum> or call Catherine at (307) 578-5126.

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