



Public Use Statistics - Monthly Report January-June 2009

Recreation Visits

Units of the National Park System received 127.7 million recreation visits in January-June 2009.¹ This was a 3.6% increase in recreation visits, or 4.4 million more visits than for the same period in 2008. Both the Intermountain and Southeast Regions reported increases of 1.4 million visits (8% and 5% increase, respectively) while the National Capital Region, buoyed by the 1.4 million people attending the Presidential inaugural, reported a YTD increase of 1.2 million more visits (5% increase).

The largest year-to-date increases (in thousands) in recreation visits were reported at:

National Mall and Memorial Parks	+1,184	Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park	+380
Gulf Islands National Seashore	+985	Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania Battlefields	+323
Amistad National Recreation Area	+501	Lincoln Memorial	+230

The largest year-to-date decreases (in thousands) in recreation visits were reported at:

Korean War Veterans Memorial	-326	Blue Ridge Parkway	-193
World War II Memorial	-283	Independence National Historical Park	-132
Lake Mead National Recreation Area	-195	Boston National Historical Park	-120

The following June changes in visitation (in thousands) over the same month in 2008 are notable:

Korean War Veterans Memorial	-107 (-23%)	6 th consecutive month with decreasing visits.
LBJ Memorial Grove on the Potomac	-27 (-54%)	20,000 fewer vehicles.
Gulf Islands National Seashore	+329 (+123%)	The Santa Rosa area is reporting again.
Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park	+142 (+46%)	Counting Instruction changes.
Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania Battlefields	+68 (+138%)	Counting Instruction changes.

Non-Recreation Visits (Commuters)

Units of the National Park System received 78.3 million non-recreation visits in January-June 2009. The 1.6% decrease in non-recreation visits was 1.3 million fewer commuter visits than in the same time period in 2008. Cumberland Gap National Historical Park reported a decrease of 0.9 million non-recreation visits (-19%, or 5,200 visits per day). The George Washington Memorial Parkway reported a decrease of 0.6 million, while Natchez Trace Parkway reported an increase of 0.7 million (+19%)

¹ NPS Public Use Statistics Office, preliminary data, 2009. Data are adjusted for delinquent reports and comparisons are made against the same time period in 2008.

Overnight Stays (Year-to-Date)

Seventy percent of the units which report concessioner lodging recorded year-to-date decreases in overnight stays, including Yosemite National Park (-41,500), Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (-13,800), and Yellowstone National Park (-13,000). Yosemite National Park counted 22,400 fewer tent stays, and Lake Mead National Recreation Area reported 9,000 fewer overnight stays in RVs. Among units experiencing increases in overnight stays, Joshua Tree National Park recorded 15,200 more tent stays, and Sequoia National Park counted 12,500 more backcountry overnight stays. Backcountry stays also increased in Glen Canyon YTD (+14,800) and in Grand Canyon (+10,700). Boat overnight stays rose by 81,200 at Glen Canyon and by 30,600 at Dry Tortugas National Park. Lake Mead reported a decrease of 42,200 in boat overnight stays compared to the same period in 2008.

Change in Overnight Stays in NPS Units 2008-2009									
(June 2009, numbers in thousands)									
Overnight Stay Category	Year-To-Date 2008		Year-To-Date 2009		Difference			% Change	
Concessioner Lodging	1,419		1,319		-99			-7	
Concessioner Camping	397		467		+70			+18	
Tents	1,053		1,065		+12			+1	
Recreational Vehicles	804		810		+6			+1	
Backcountry	670		711		+41			+6	
Groups & Boats	824		901		+76			+9	
Non-recreation	110		109		-1			-1	

For further information please contact:

Tom Wade by phone at 303-987-6951 or email at tom_wade@nps.gov,
Jim Gramann by phone at 202-513-7189 or email at james_gramann@partner.nps.gov

Public Use Statistics Office Web site: <http://www2.nature.nps.gov/stats>

Social Science Program Web site: <http://www2.nature.nps.gov/socialscience>