



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Visitor Use Estimates





Who do we count as a BLM recreational visitor?





Definitions

Recreation Visit

- *the entry of a person onto lands or waters, administered by the BLM for the pursuit of recreational experiences regardless of duration until they leave for the last time.*





Definitions

Recreation Visit

- *the entry of a person onto lands or waters, administered by the BLM for the pursuit of recreational experiences regardless of duration.*





Definitions

Non-Recreation Visit

- *the entry of a person onto lands or waters, administered by the BLM not for recreational purposes.*





Definitions

Non-Recreation Visit

– *the entry of a person onto lands or waters, administered by the BLM not for recreational purposes.*

Do Not Report





Definitions

Visitor Hour

- a unit of measure of the presence of one or more persons in an area for continuous, intermittent, or simultaneous periods totaling one hour

(i.e. one person for one hour; two people for 30 minutes each; or 10 people for 6 minutes each).





Definitions

Visitor Day

– a unit of measure equal to 12 visitor hours.

This is a common unit used by many state and federal agencies.





What does BLM count?

In RMIS

- Recreation Visits
- Average Length of Stay
- Recreation Activities (99 different activities)
- Activities Participation in, shown as a percent
- Recreation Use Permits
- Special Recreation Permits





Top Ten RMIS Activities

1. Camping
2. Hiking/Walking/Running
3. Picnicking
4. Fishing – Freshwater
5. Hunting – Big Game
6. Photography
7. Viewing – Wildlife
8. Row/Float/Raft
9. OHV – ATV
10. Horseback Riding



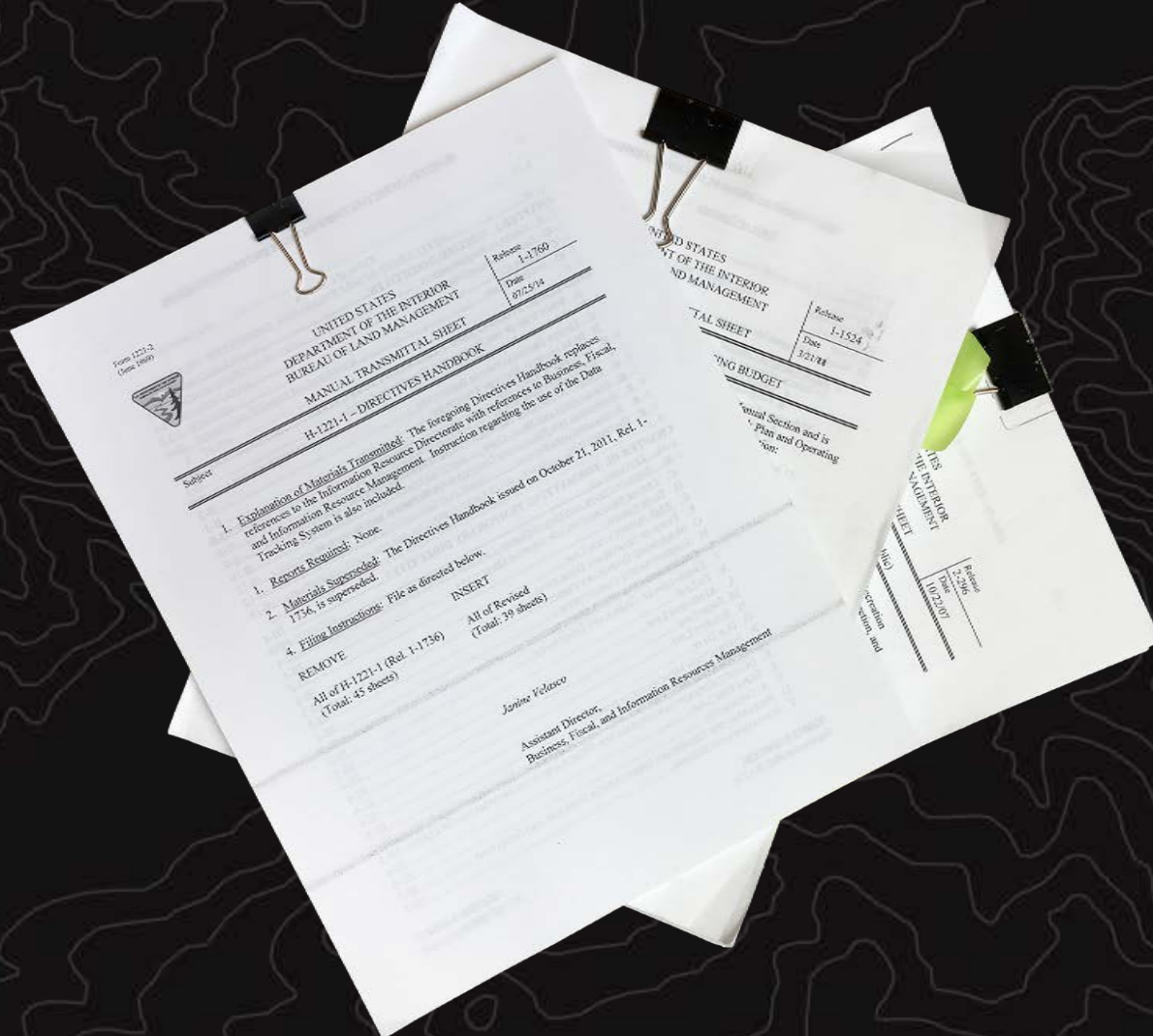
How and Where do we count people?



- Only the field office recreation planner knows.



Is there BLM Guidance?





Is there BLM Guidance?

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

August 8, 2003

In
Reply Refer To:
8300 (250) P
Ref. IM No. 2001-155

EMS TRANSMISSION 08/12/2003
Instruction Memorandum No. 2003-245
Expires: 09/30/2004

To: All State Directors, Field Office Officials
Attn: State Recreation Leads

From: Assistant Director, Renewable Resources and Planning

Subject: Guidelines for Reporting Recreation Visitation

Program Area: Recreation.

Purpose: This Instruction Memorandum updates the guidance for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) set of guidelines for reporting recreation visitation in the Recreation Management Information System (RMIS). The purpose for publishing these guidelines is so all specialists responsible for counting and estimating visitation on public lands will use consistent definitions while doing so. The attachment to this memorandum is titled: *Guidelines for Reporting Recreation Visitation-Bureau of Land Management*.

Policy/Action: All field office recreation specialists are requested to familiarize themselves with the governing concepts contained in this guidance and to incorporate these concepts into the all future Recreation Management Information System data collection.

Time Frame: This 2003 IM updates the expired WOIM No. 2001-155.

Budget Impact: There is no budget impact.

- Yes -

IM-2003-245 - Guidelines
for Reporting Recreation
Visitation

(with an attachment
of details)



Where do we collect this information?

- It all starts with selecting a place to track visitor use.

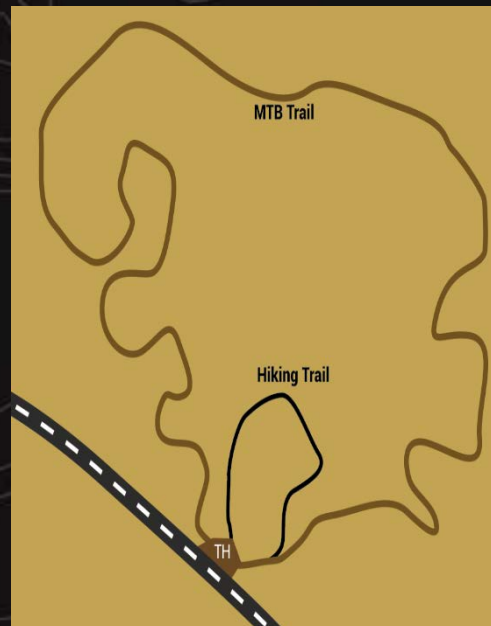




Where do we collect this information?

Controlled Access Sites / Areas

This can be a day use site, a campground, a river corridor, a fairly large area with multiple rec. sites, or an area where people visit but there are no recreation facilities.





Where do we collect this information?

Dispersed Sites / Areas

Estimating use at dispersed sites is more difficult.

- Un-staffed
- Multiple access points
- Limited opportunities for observing visitor use

However, you must make these estimates to get a complete picture of the recreation use occurring in your office.



Where do we collect this information?

Know your workload, but understand your visitor

Once a confident estimate is made for an area, this number can be reported for multiple years unless more current data is obtained.





How to convert Counts to Visitation?

Systematic Observations

There's no way to short cut this part of the workload.





How to convert Counts to Visitation?

Systematic Observations

There's no way to short cut this part of the workload.

Note the following:

- Rec vs Non-Rec Use
- People per vehicle
- Length of Stay
- Activities





We Have Estimates – What Next?

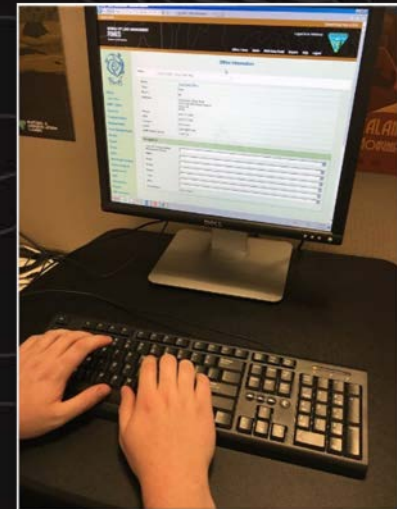
Document (write it down) this information so someone other than you knows how and where these numbers were collected and how the estimates were made.





Visitor Use Reporting Plan

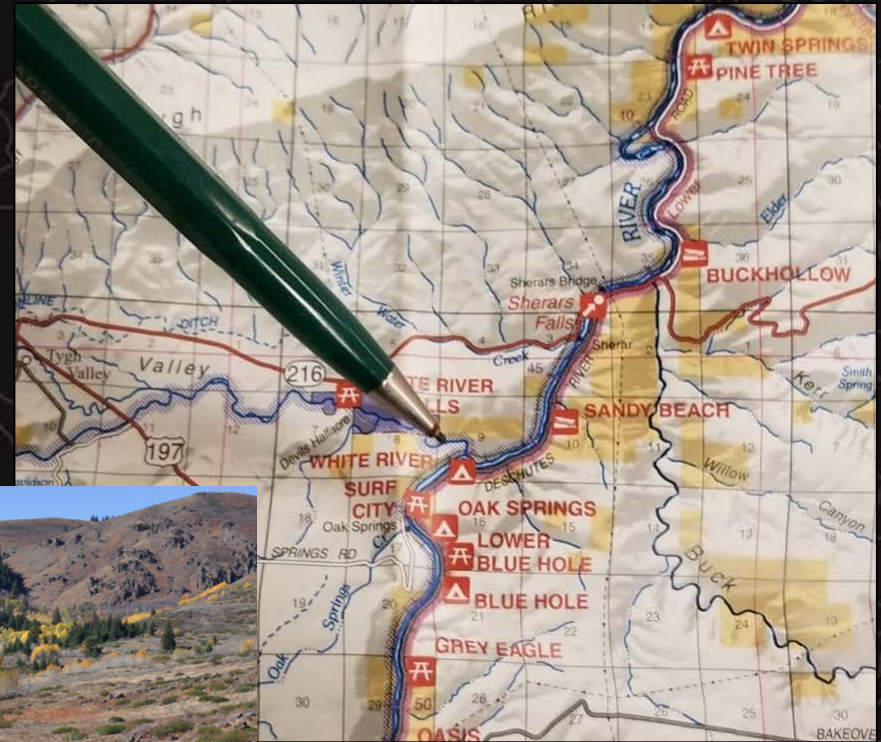
1. What data is collected, how collected, how often, and where
2. How data is interpreted to convert counts to visits,
3. How the visits are recorded into the RMIS.





Visitor Use Reporting Plan

1. Description of the Area: boundary, special areas, zones, recreation use patterns.





Visitor Use Reporting Plan

2. Data Collection:

- a) Data sources used including the location (traffic or trail counters, trail registers, ranger logs, other agency data, etc.).
- b) Data collection schedule: timing of data collection.
- c) Improvements to data collection: Identify possible changes to current methods or additional resources that are needed to improve visitor counts or estimates.





Visitor Use Reporting Plan

3. Data Interpretation:

- a) Explain how raw data counts are converted to use estimates
(average people per vehicle, non-compliance of registrations, estimate extrapolated over period of time, weekly average reported across a season, etc.)
- b) List any assumptions made about use, patterns, or trends.
- c) RMIS formula worksheet:
this will match visitor formula in RMIS. Show multiple formulas if used (i.e. seasonal, day use vs overnight use).

Visitor Use Formula Worksheet

Name: (Site, Area, River, Road, Trail or SRP) Red Gulch Dinosaur Tracksite

Formula Name: Red Gulch Summer Use

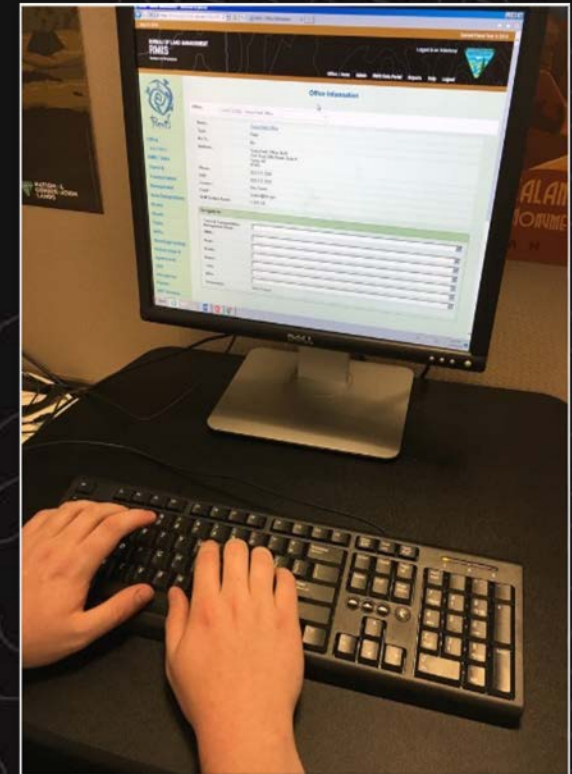
Average visitor stay: 1 hours

Visitor Activity	Average Hours	Percentage	Average stay
Viewing -Interpretive Exhibit	0.75	100	45 minutes
Picnicking	1.0	30	18 minutes
Geocaching	.25	15	2 minutes
Total			65 minutes



Visitor Use Reporting Plan

4. How the visits are recorded into the RMIS database.
 - a. Explain the basic RMIS structure for the reporting area.
 - b. Show each RMIS formula to be used.
 - c. Detail the frequency of data input into RMIS



Visitor Use Formula:

Formula Name : [Big Bend BOR/BLM Campground](#)

Referenced by this Formula:

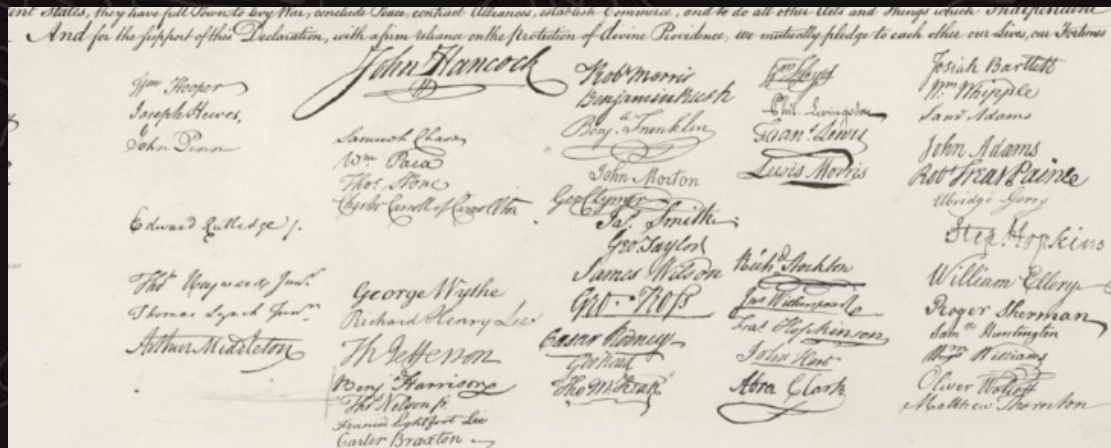
RMA : Lower Crooked W&S SRMA
Site Name : Big Bend Campground

Visitor Activity	Average Hours	Percentage
Camping	22	70%
Fishing - Freshwater	6	80%
Hiking/Walking/Running	4	5%
Picnicking	2	25%
Social Gathering/Festival/Concert	2	15%
Swimming/Water Play	1	5%
Viewing - Scenery/Landscapes	3	10%



Visitor Use Reporting Plan

5. Review and Approval.
 - a. Simple statement saying this plan has been reviewed and approved.
 - b. Signatures
 Accepted by: Rec. Planner
 Approved by: Field Office Manager
 Implementation Date:





Let's look at how to create, edit and choose a Formula in RMIS

RMA :	Egan Field Office-Dispersed
Site Name :	Egan Canyon Cemetery

Visitor Activity	Average Hours	Percentage	One Participant Time
Viewing - Other	0.5	100%	0.5

Total Time of One Participant: 0.50 hours

Total Time: 0.5

[Save as Master](#) [Save](#)



Questions?

