

Recreation & Tourism Related Research at FWP

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A brief overview of reoccurring research for the...

- Fisheries Division
- Wildlife Division
- Parks Division

-and-

Other research:

1. External Contracted Research
2. Internal Research Assistance – FWP's Human Dimension Unit

Fisheries Division

- Creel Surveys
 - Typically onsite personal interview surveys with anglers and other water-based recreationists on individual waterbodies in Montana
- Biennial Angler Pressure Use Survey
 - Statewide
 - Mail survey
 - Identifies angler days information for most all lakes, reservoirs, rivers, streams in Montana
 - Angler days information identified for both residents and non-residents anglers



Wildlife Division

- Annual Hunter Harvest Survey
 - Statewide
 - Telephone survey
 - Identifies harvest success as well as hunter days information for most all species hunted in Montana
 - Data gathered at the hunting district level
 - Harvest success and hunter days information identified for both residents and non-residents hunters



Parks Division

- Montana State Park Visitor Comment Cards
- Montana State Parks Visitation Estimates
 - Record 2.65 million visits in 2016
- Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)...
Current Plan 2014-18 SCORP
 - This plan typically necessitate compiling considerable tourism and recreation related research data.



External Contracted Research (some research examples)

- Ongoing National Wildlife Values Study (Colorado State University and WAFWA)
- Facility and Natural Resource Recreation Area Needs: Facility Manager Responses 2012 (ITRR, University of Montana)
- Public Recreational Use Study: 2012 (ITRR, University of Montana)
- Resident Travel for Outdoor Recreation in Montana 2012 (ITRR, University of Montana)
- Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System: Outdoor Recreation and Resident Health 2012 (ITRR, University of Montana)
- 2010 Economic Impact Survey of Visitor to Montana State Parks (Bureau of Business and Economic Research, University of Montana)

Internal Research: FWP's Human Dimensions Unit

- HUMAN DIMENSIONS is the PEOPLE aspect of managing natural resources.
- The Human Dimensions Unit focuses on what PEOPLE think and do regarding Montana's fish, wildlife and park resources; understanding why; and, incorporating that insight into policy, planning, and management decision-making processes.
- The HD Unit provides assistance to all Divisions of FWP
- A major emphasis of the Human Dimensions Unit is to determine public attitudes, preferences, and opinions as they relate to FWP's long-term management of Montana's fish, wildlife, and park resources.



FWP's Human Dimensions Unit (some research examples)

- Upcoming survey of Montana households regarding aquatic invasive species and water-based recreation in Montana
- 2016-17 surveys of resident and nonresident anglers concerning the upper Madison river
- 2017 surveys of Montana households, resident deer/elk license holders, resident wolf license holders, and resident private landowners regarding wolves and wolf management in Montana
- 2006-07 water-based state parks study

FWP's HD Unit has a report that summarizes the work of the Unit (2000-2017).

FWP's Human Dimensions Unit (continued)

One more cool example:

- 2014 Baseline Hunter and Angler Expenditure Surveys

In combination with the results from the above study, FWP makes use of its angler days and hunter days information (from the Biennial Angler Pressure Use Survey and the Hunter Harvest Survey) to provide estimates of angler and hunter trip related expenditures in Montana.

Resident and nonresident hunters and anglers (combined) contribute approximately **\$1.3 BILLION DOLLARS** annually in trip related expenses to the Montana economy.

What about State Park visitors, watchable wildlife enthusiasts, and other recreationists in Montana?



Questions...

