





# Utah State University's Institute of Outdoor Recreation and Tourism

- Research
  - 1) Human dimensions of natural resources management
  - 2) Wildland recreation on public lands and protected areas
- Extension
  - 1) Tourism and OR in Utah
  - 2) Community tourism development and management
  - 3) OR / tourism and public land policy, planning, and management
- Education
  - 1) Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Recreation Resource Management (RRM).
    - Distance delivery of undergraduate RRM degree through USU's Regional Campuses and Centers.





# Tonight's Goal:

- Introduce you to the Pleasant Grove Visitor Use Study
  - 1) Why the study was conducted.
  - 2) How the study was conducted.
  - 3) Examine and discuss some of the results.





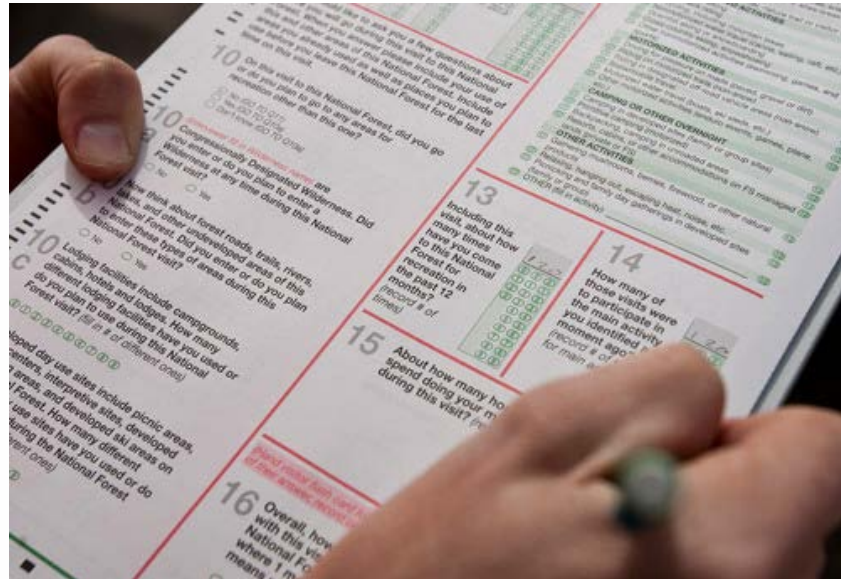
# Why the study was conducted

- American Fork Vision.
- Search for data.
  - National Visitor Use Monitoring (NVUM)—USDA Forest Service.
  - Two issues with NVUM:
    - Sample size was too small.
    - Not all data were applicable to the region and planning efforts.
- IORT was approached by Mountainlands Association of Governments.



# How this study was conducted

- This is IMPORTANT!
- Survey development
  - Collaborative effort.
  - NVUM, but more area and issue specific.



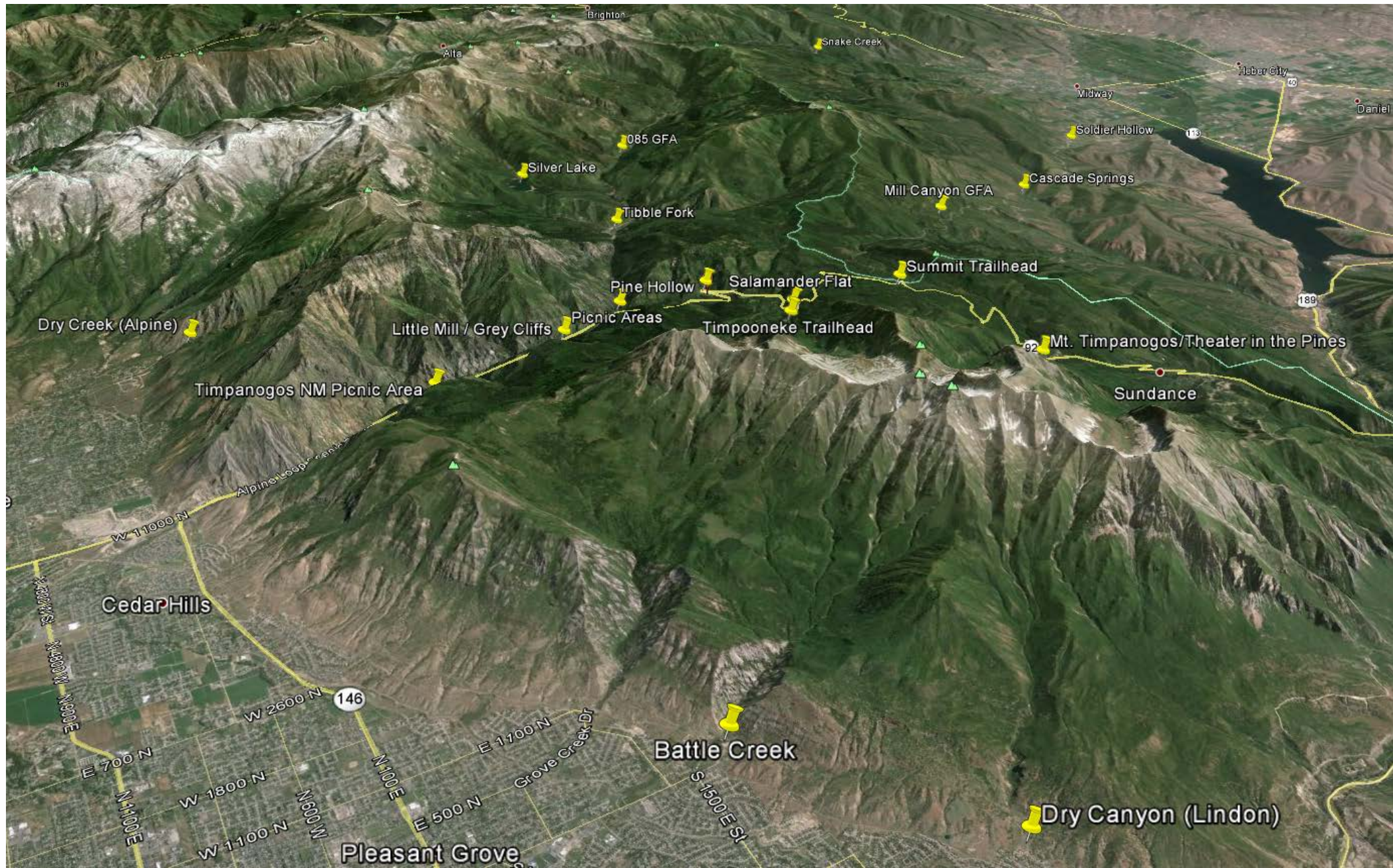


# How this study was conducted

- This is IMPORTANT!
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  - NVUM, but more area and issue specific
- Site selection
  - Capture the diversity of the area's geography and utility.









# How this study was conducted

- This is IMPORTANT!
- Survey development
  - Collaborative effort
  - NVUM, but more area and issue specific
- Site Selection
  - Capture the diversity of the area's geography and utility.
- Sampling methods
  - Generated survey schedules with random dates, times, and locations.





~ September 2015 ~						
◀ Aug 2015						Oct 2015 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Soldier Hollow (PM)	3 Mineral Basin/085 (AM)	4 Silver Lake (PM)	5
6 Tibble Fork (AM)	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Dutchman's Flat (PM)	14	15 Summit TH (AM)	16 Summit TH (AM)	17 Timpooneke TH (AM)	18 Cascade Springs (AM)	19 Little Mill/Grey Cliffs (PM)
20	21 Mt. Timpanogos /Theater in the Pines (AM)	22 Picnic Areas (AM)	23	24	25	26
27 Snake Creek (PM)	28 Cascade Springs (PM)	29 Timpooneke TH (AM)	30 Mt. Timpanogos /Theater in the Pines (PM)	<b>Notes:</b> <b>AM = 7:00-3:00</b> <b>PM = 1:00-9:00</b>		





# Results

- One full year of surveying.
- Representative sample for the PGRD.
- Completed 1,722 surveys.
- Complete 212 follow-up surveys.





# Who and How?





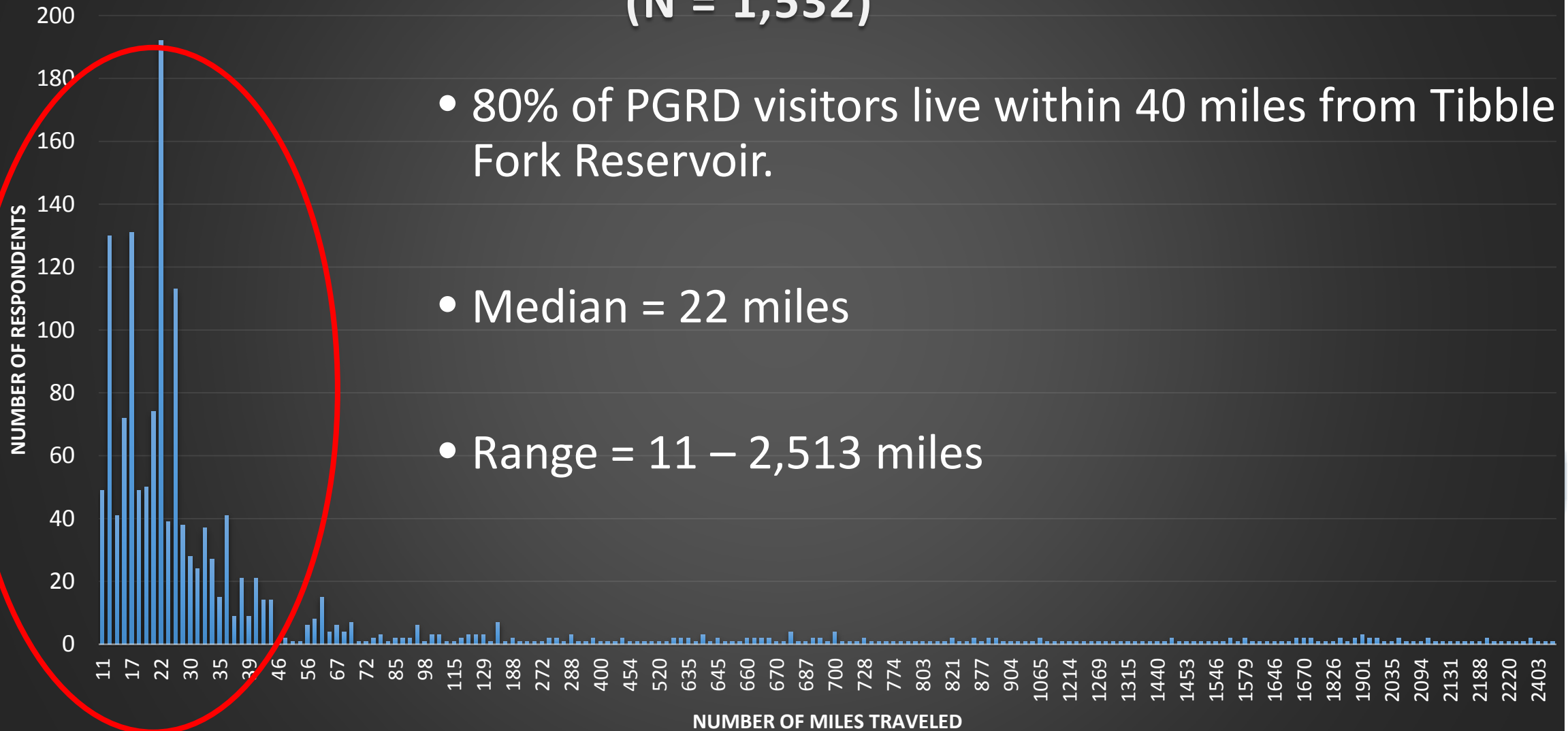
# Where are visitors coming from?

- ZIP codes
- Distance from Tibble Fork Reservoir





## Distance Respondents Traveled to Reach the PGRD (N = 1,532)



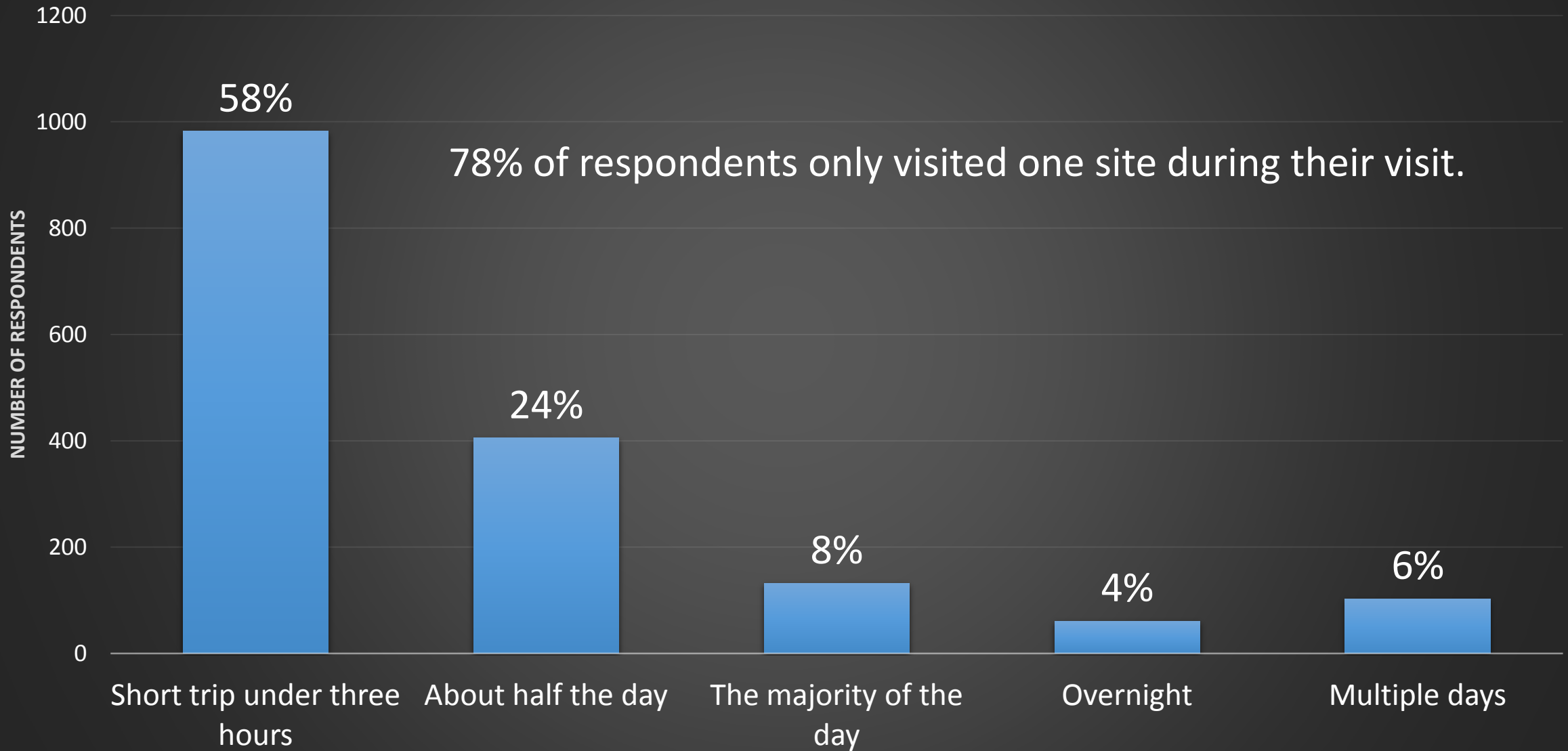


How long are they staying?





## Length of Time Spent Recreating (N = 1,683)



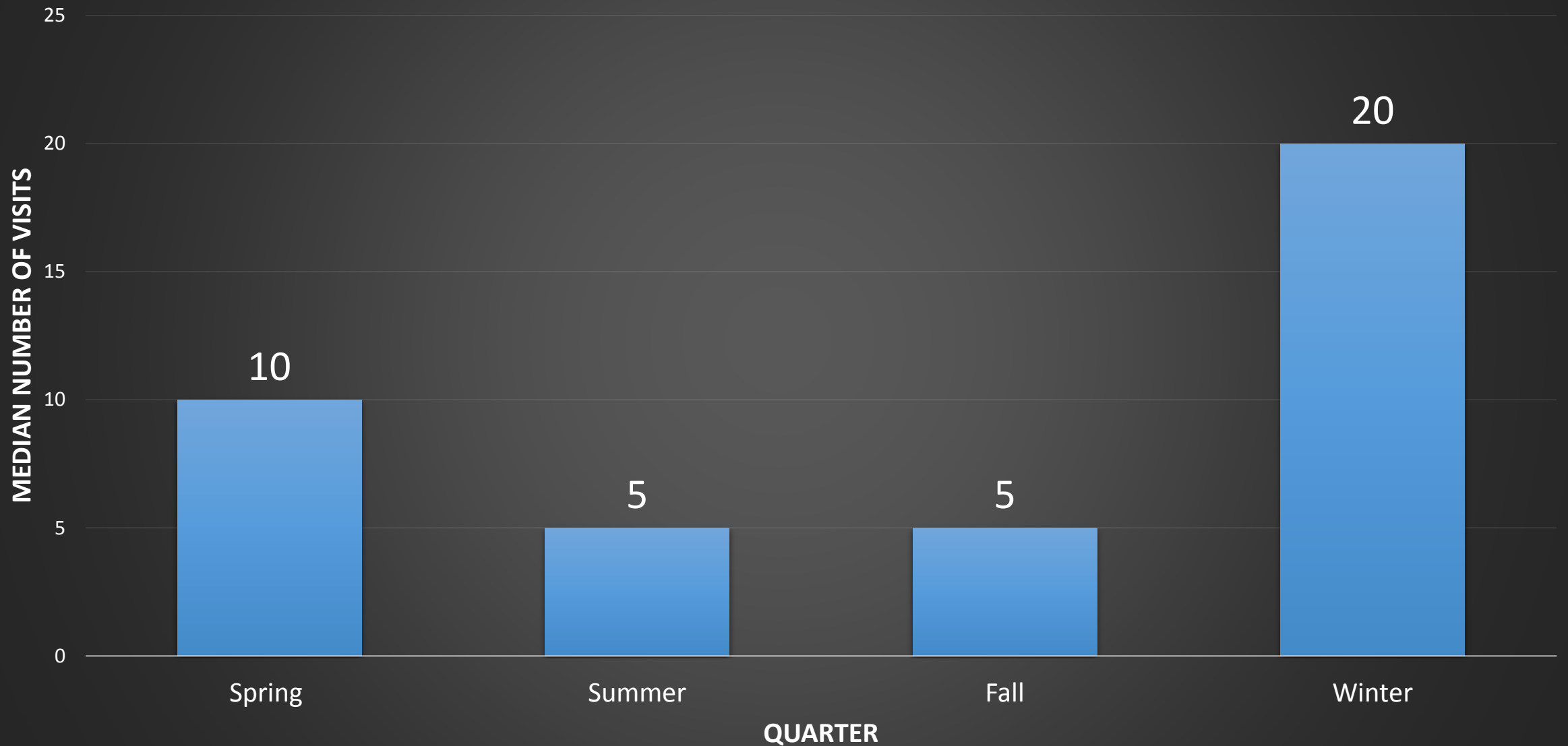


How often do they visit?





# Median Number of Visits Per Year (N = 1,690)



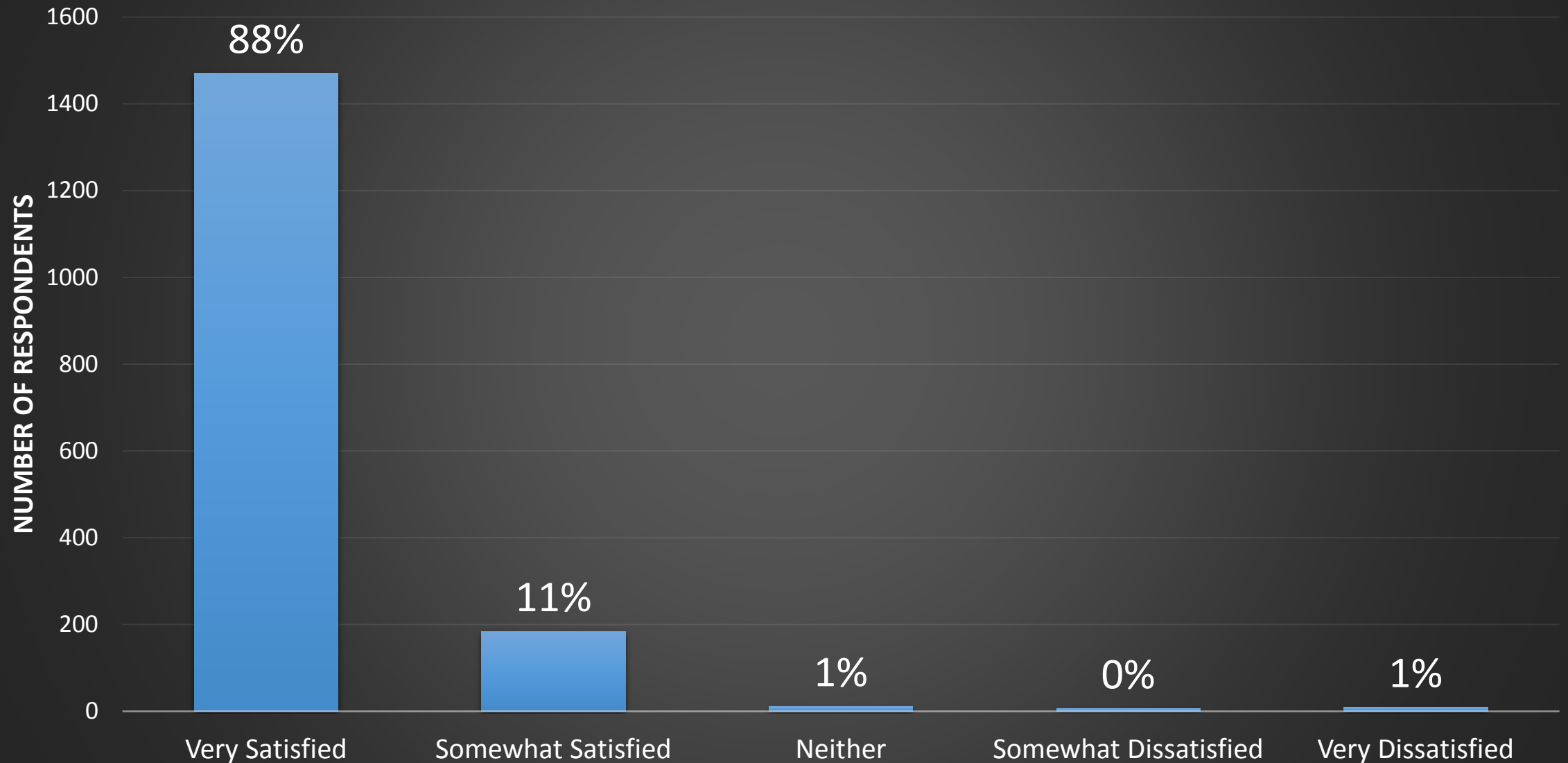


How satisfied are they with their visit?





## Respondents' Satisfaction (N = 1,680)





# Top four recreation activities

- Hiking (43.1%)
- Riding motorized vehicles (10%)
- Driving for pleasure (8.2%)
- Picnicking (6%)





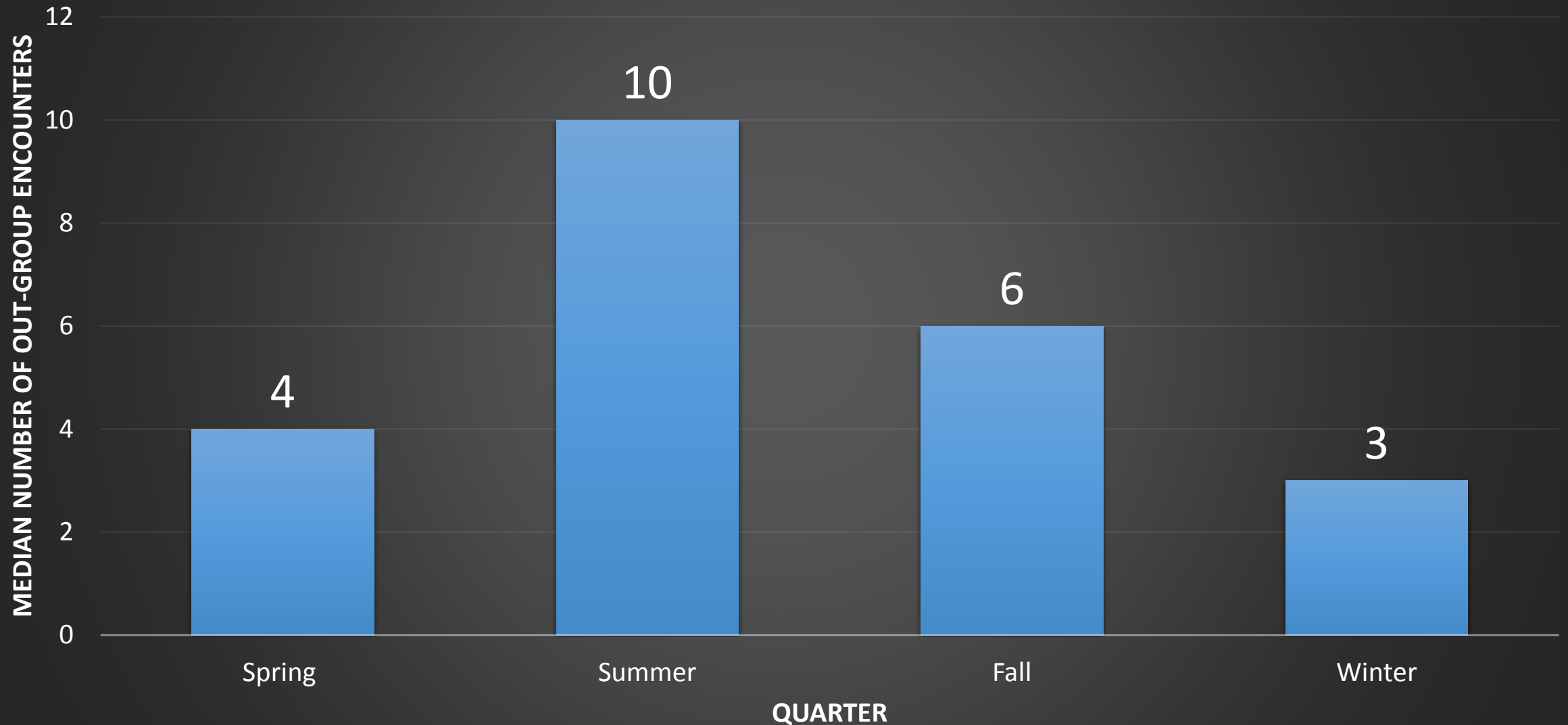
# Out-group encounters

- See, talk to, interact with, etc.
  - Vary greatly given time, location, weather, season, etc.
- Number of out-group encounters.
- Impact on experience.



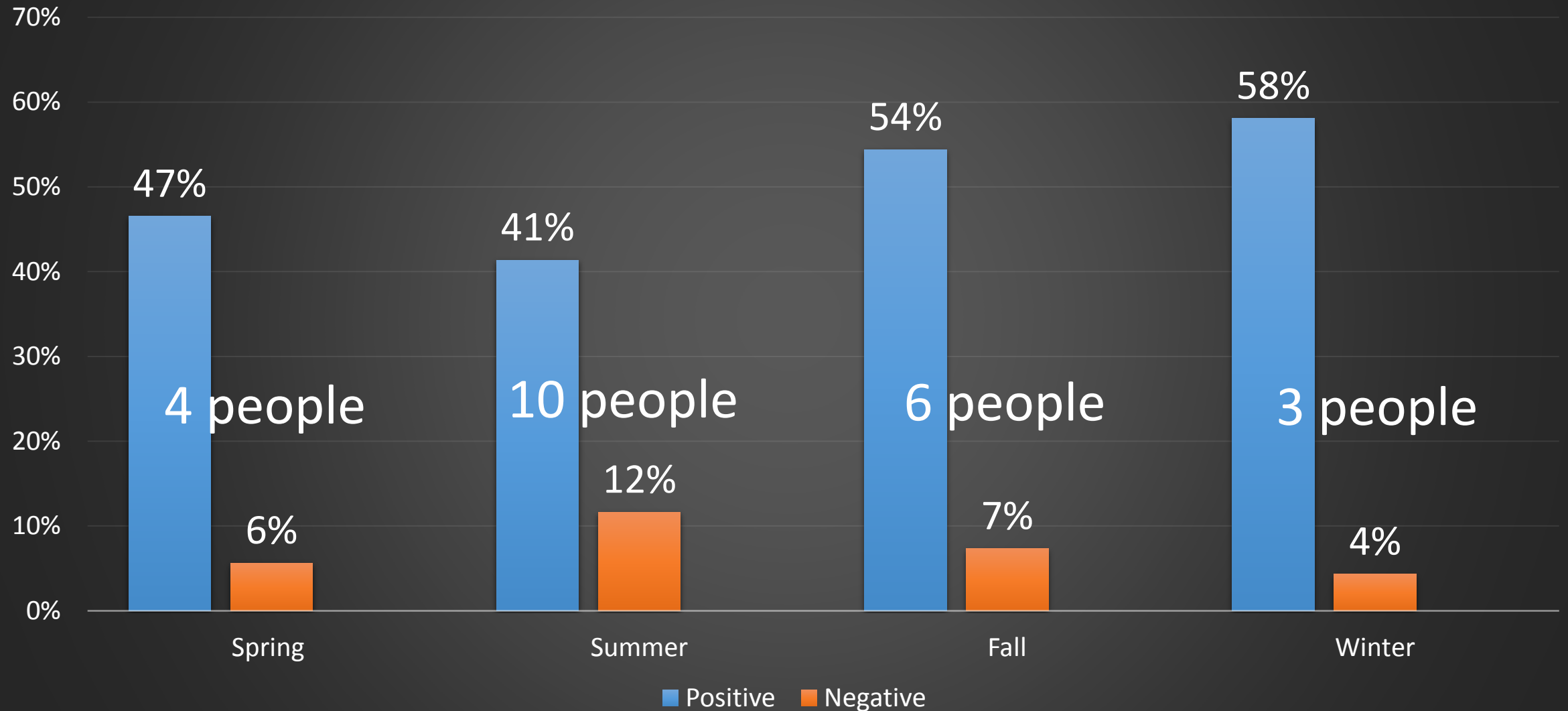


# Median Number of Out-Group Encounters





# Effect of Out-Group Encounters on Experience





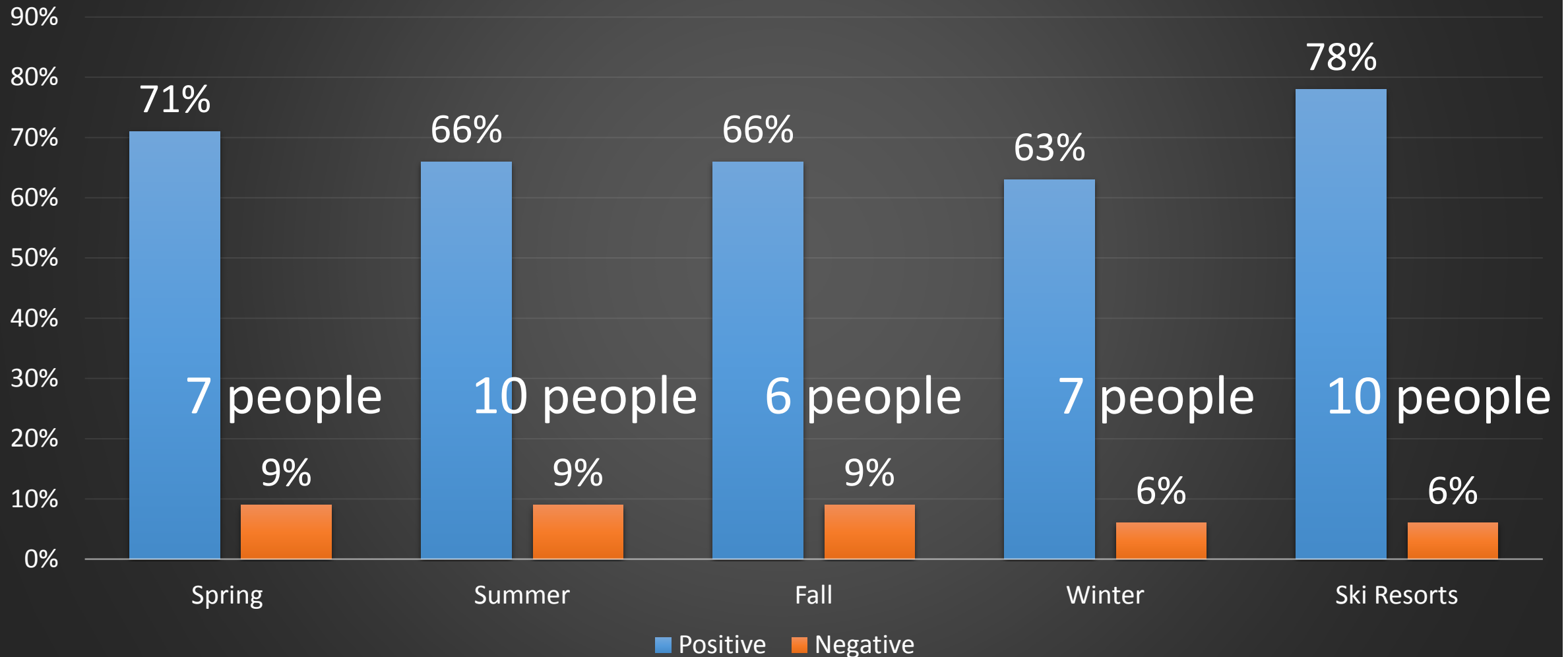
# Reasons for positive and negative encounters

- Reasons for positive encounters
  - Friendly
  - Helped or shared information
- Reasons for negative encounters
  - Crowding, noise, etc.
  - Motorized use/noise (noise, safety, etc.)





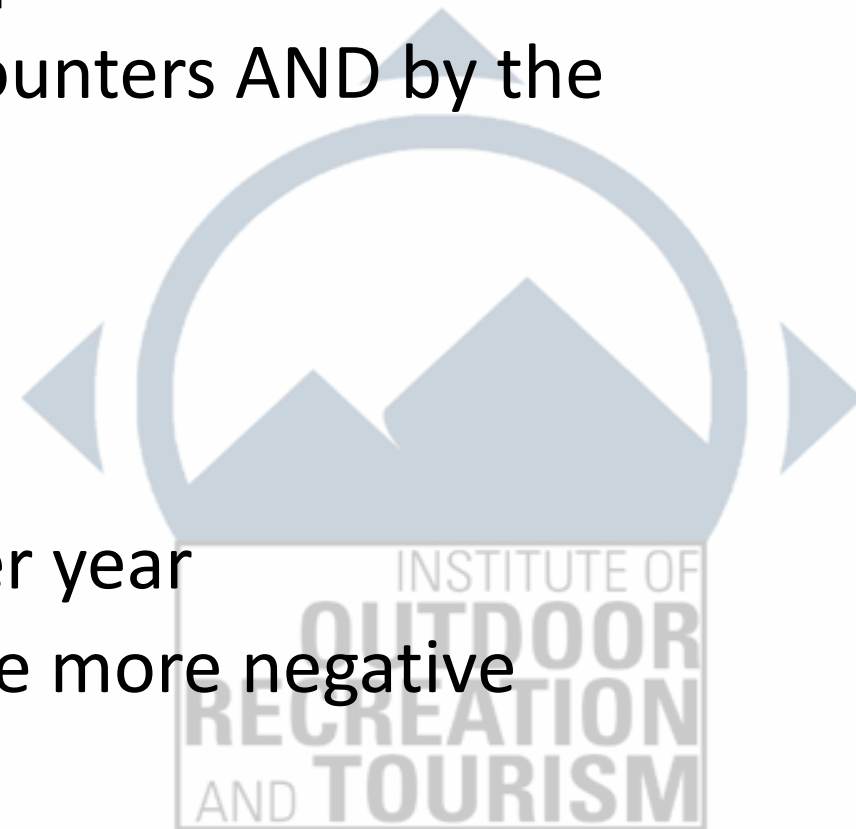
# Central Wasatch--Effect of Out-Group Encounts (N = 3,574)





# Carrying Capacity

- Experience correlates with # of encounters
- PGRD—10 encounters = 12% negative experiences
- Ski resorts—10 encounters = 6% negative experience
- Negative experiences are driven by # of encounters AND by the behaviors of other users.
- “like minded people”
- Expectations
- Diversity of use on the PGRD
- Influx of people who only visit 1 – 3 times per year
- Peak season use same as CWM, but there are more negative encounters on the PGRD.









# Landscape and opportunity composition



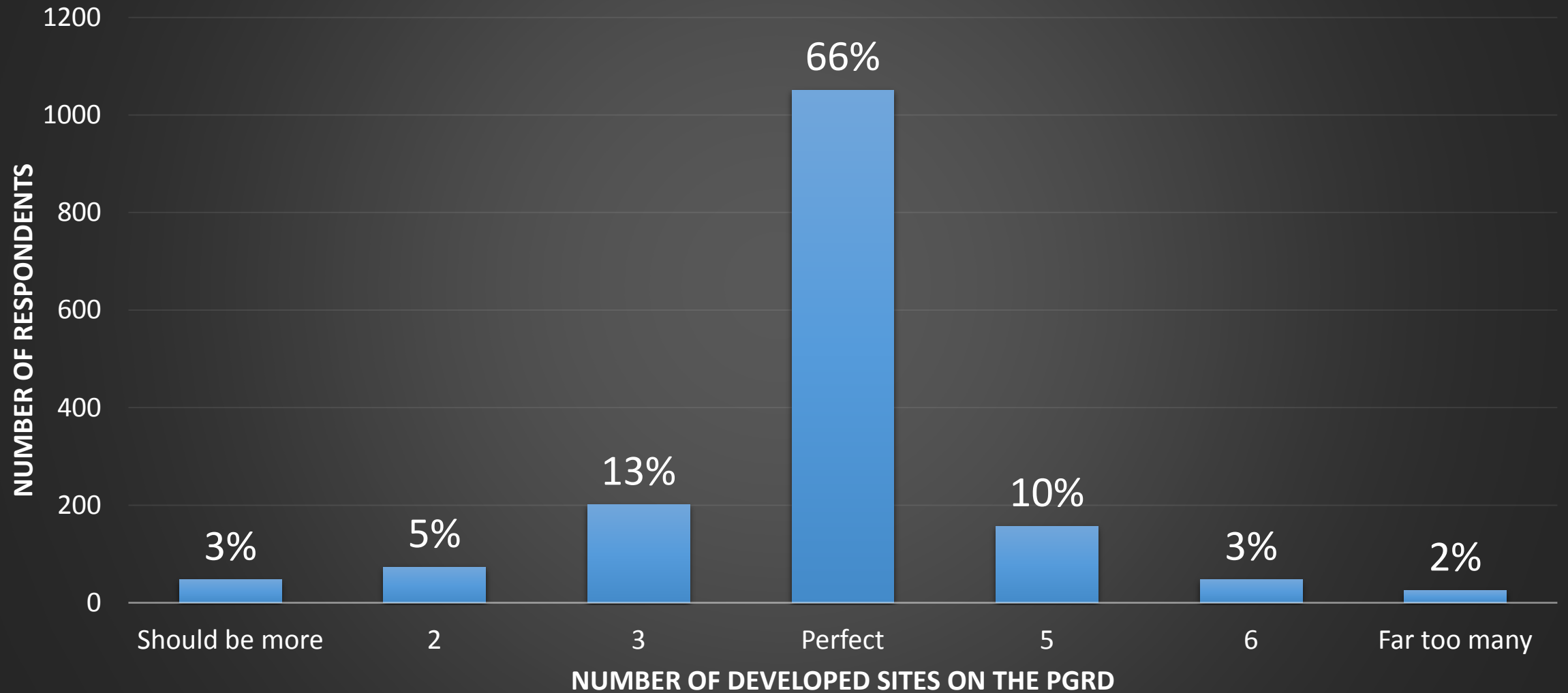


How do you feel about the current number of developed recreation sites (i.e., campgrounds, picnic areas, etc.)?





# Attitudes Toward the Number of Developed Sites on the PGRD (N = 1,601)



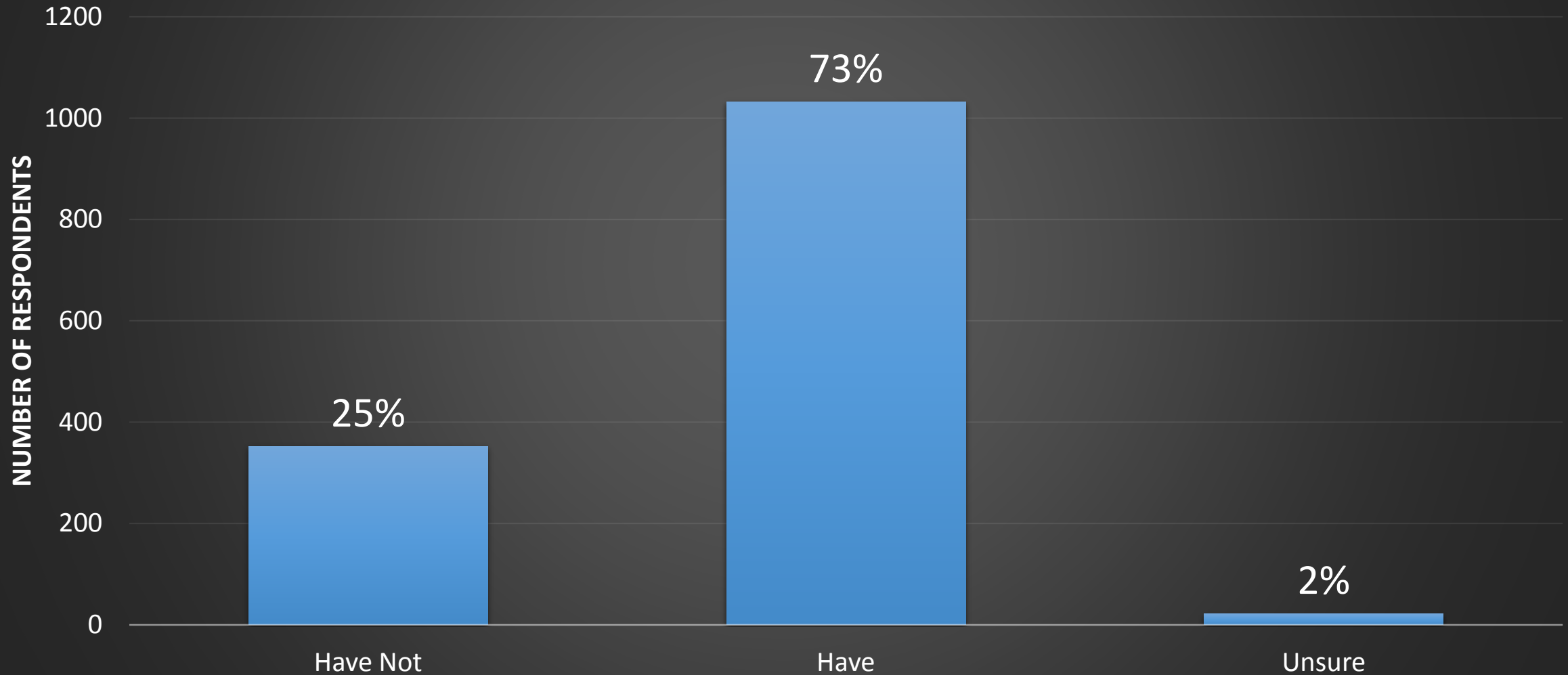


Have you ever recreated in congressionally designated Wilderness Areas?





# Number of People who have recreated in Wilderness (N = 1,406)



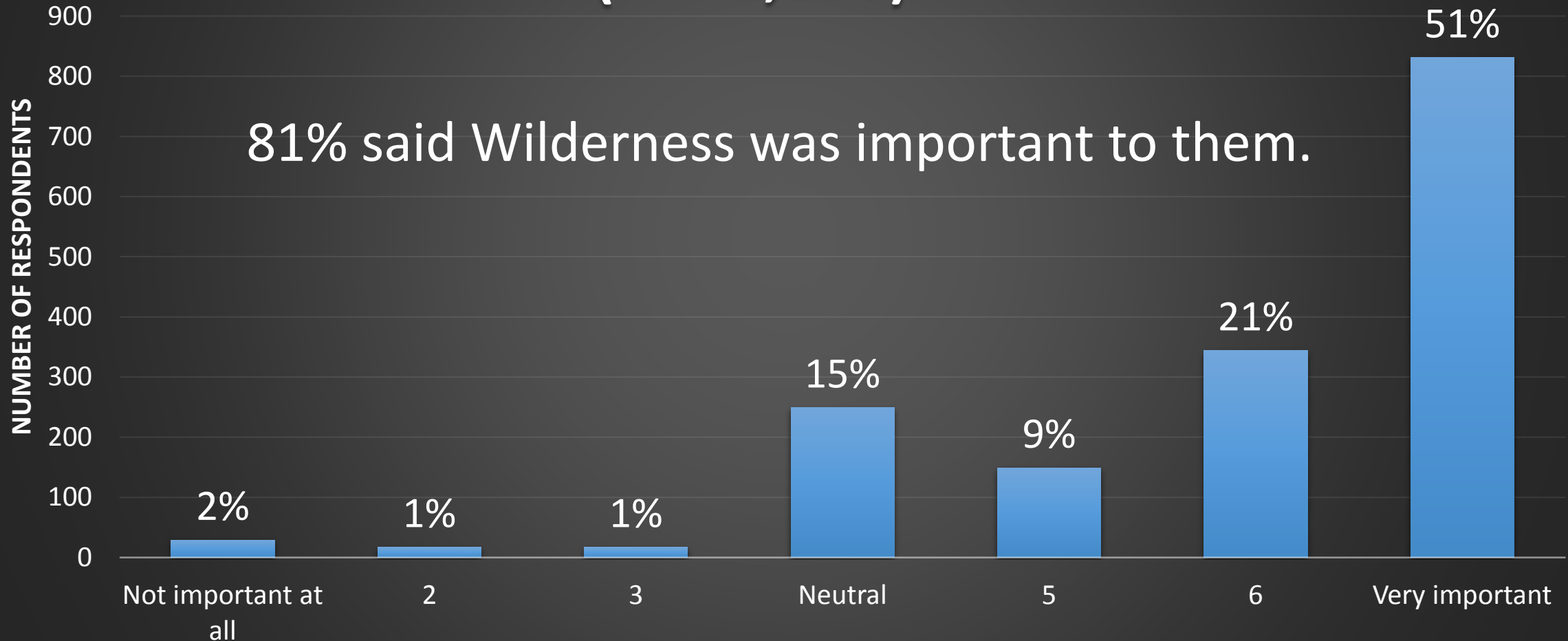


How important are congressionally designated  
Wilderness Areas to you?





# Importance of Wilderness to Respondents (N = 1,636)



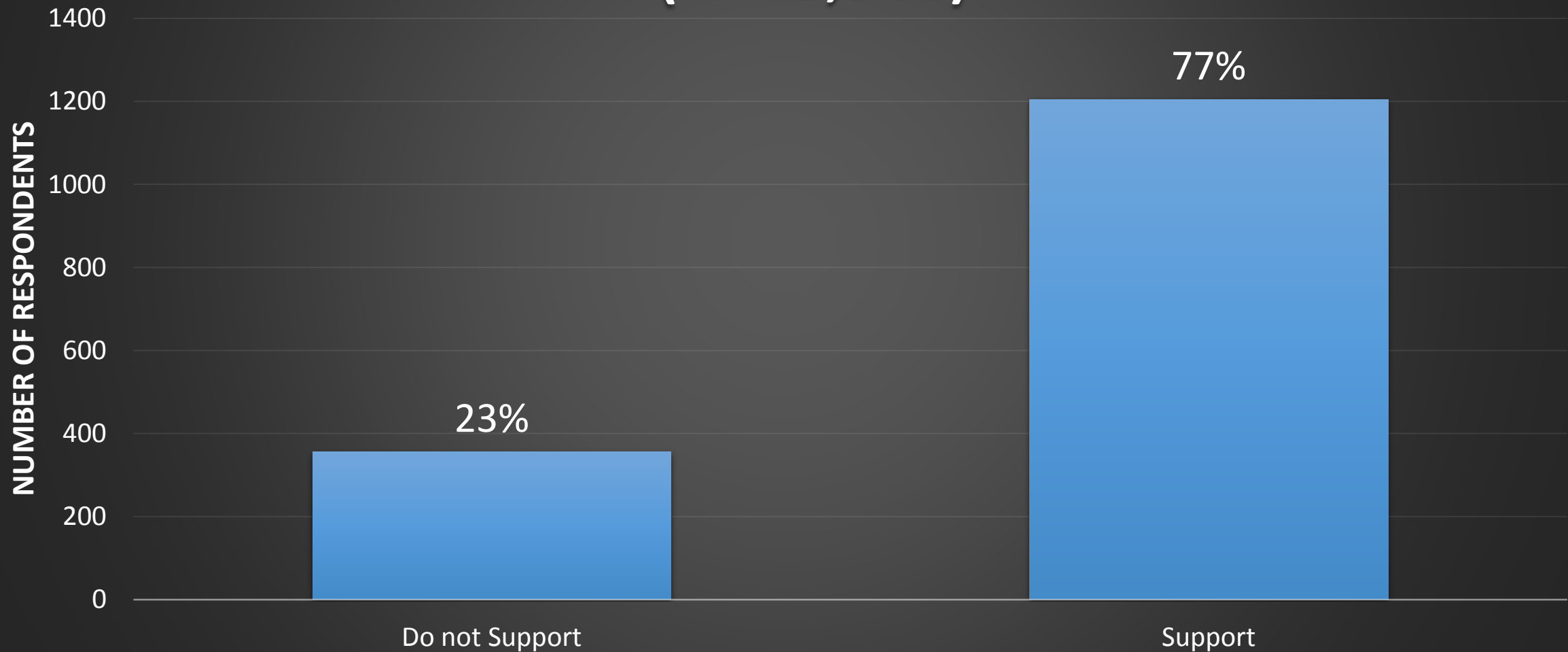


Would you support additional Wilderness designations on the PGRD?





# Support Additional Wilderness on the PGRD (N = 1,561)





# Comments

## Support Wilderness Designation

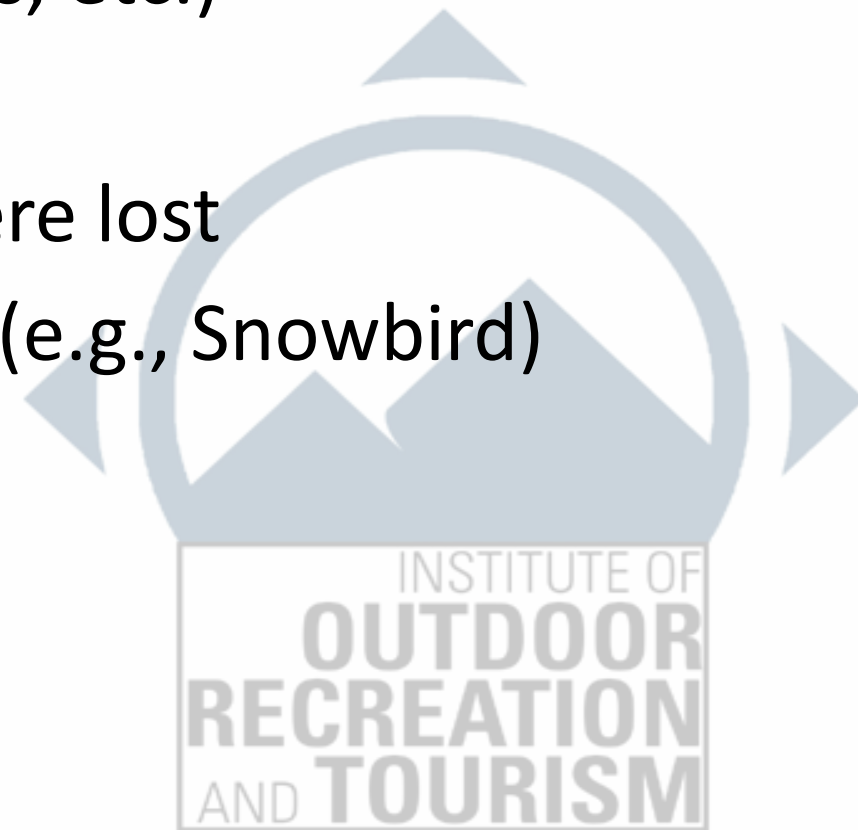
- Protection (development, Snowbird, OHVs, etc.)

## Stipulations

- As long as no recreation opportunities were lost
- As long as it blocked future development (e.g., Snowbird)

## Not support Wilderness Designation

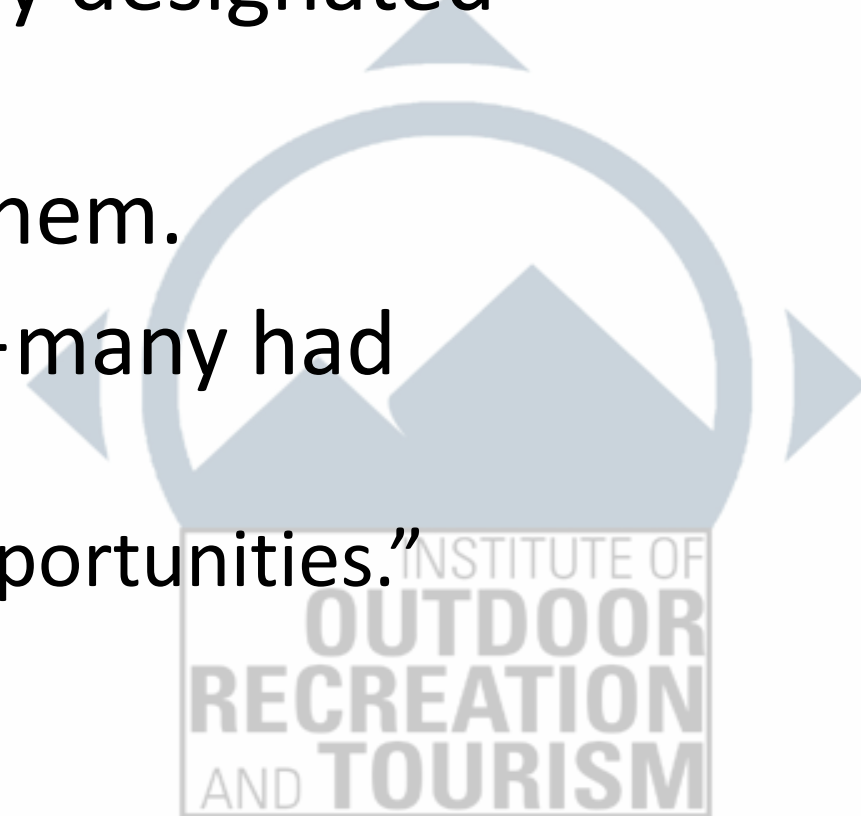
- Good balance as is
- Restrict access to OHVs and Mt. Bikes





# Landscape Composition Summary

- Perfect number of developed recreation area.
- 73% have recreated in congressionally designated Wilderness.
- 81% say Wilderness is important to them.
- 77% support additional Wilderness—many had stipulations.
  - “as long as it doesn’t cut recreation opportunities.”





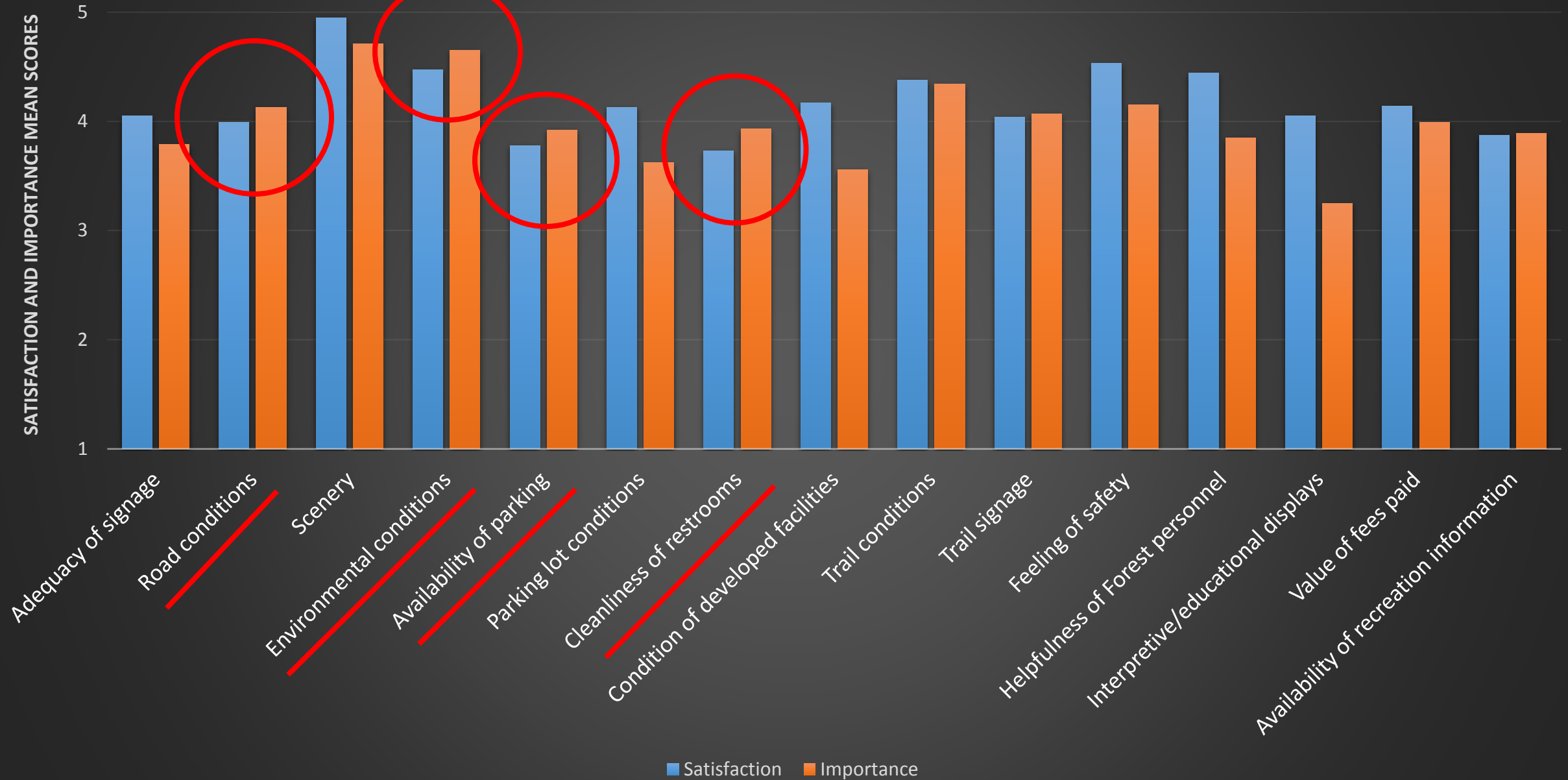
# Satisfaction and Importance





## Satisfaction and Importance (N = 170)

SATISFACTION AND IMPORTANCE MEAN SCORES



■ Satisfaction ■ Importance



# Not performing

- Road Conditions
- Environmental Conditions
- Availability of Parking
- Cleanliness of Bathrooms





# Road Conditions

- Main issue?
  - Safety for themselves, cyclists, and pedestrians.
  - “I am always scared I am going to hit a biker!”
  - “I think they could widen the road. In some spots two cars passing is very tight and dangerous. Some cars go too fast for conditions and cut into the other lane...I thought we were going to crash...not a very nice drive through the canyon.”



# Remedies

- Bus or shuttle system?



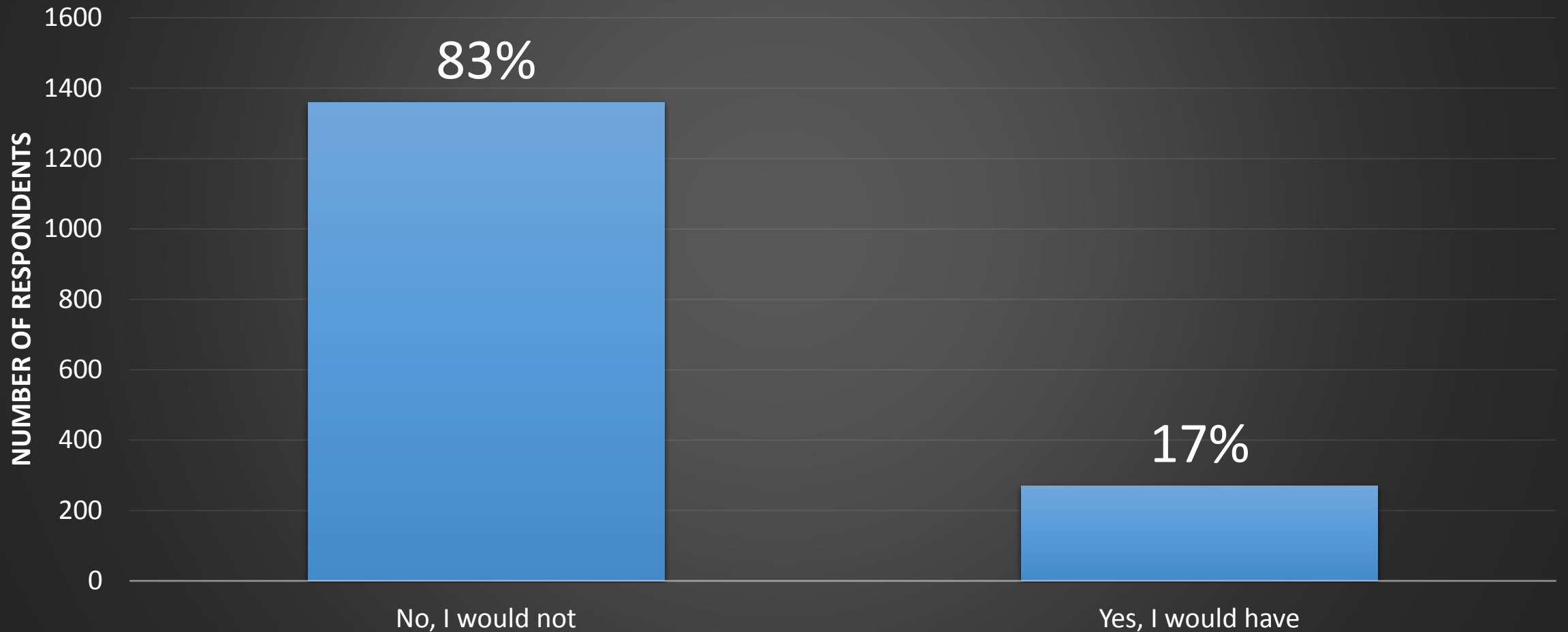


If public transportation were available, would you have used it today?





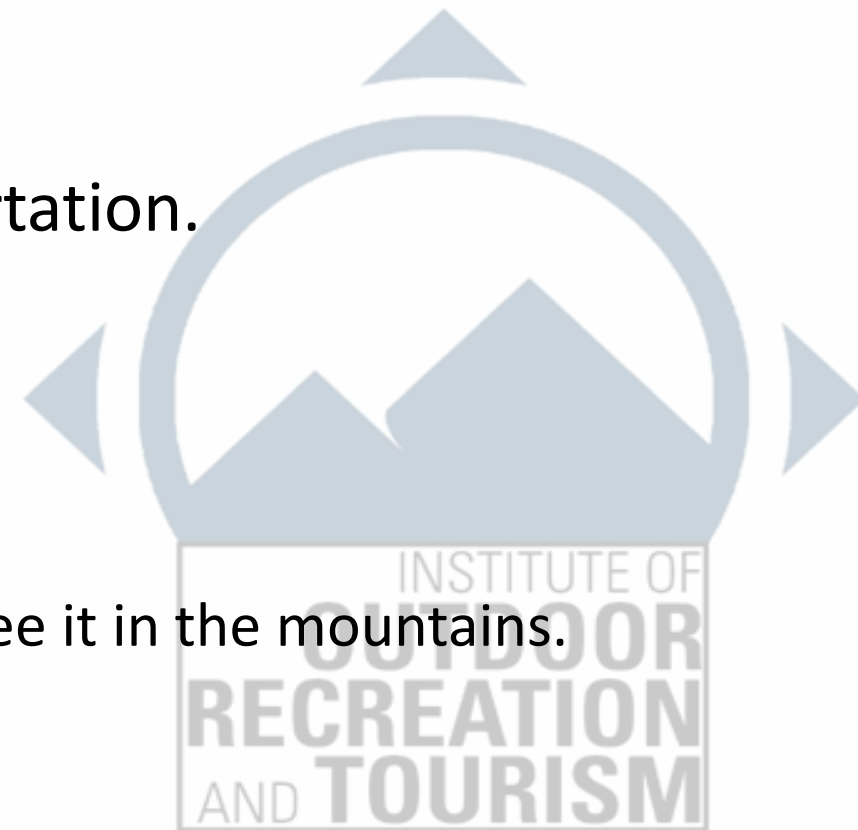
# Would Have Used Public Transportation (N = 1,630)





# Reasons

- Why they would have used public transportation.
  - Cut down on congested parking.
  - Less pollution.
  - Save them money on fuel.
- Why they would NOT have used public transportation.
  - Like driving themselves.
  - Not able to bring their gear, dogs, OHVs, etc.
  - No control.
  - Live so close that it doesn't make sense.
  - Don't like public transportation and don't want to see it in the mountains.





















Road shoulder should be widened to increase bicycle and pedestrian safety.













# Road Conditions Summary

- Public Transportation
  - Little support
- Widening of road shoulders or new bike/walking path.
  - Lots of support





# Environmental Conditions Comments

- Comments
  - Littler and trail erosion
  - Development
- Most development comments:
  - Snowbird Ski Resort expansion into Marry Ellen Gulch
- Not one comment supported this
- Strongly opposition
- Main cause of respondents' anxiety about environmental conditions





# Availability of Parking

- 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest in satisfaction
- Comments
  - Some comments asking for additional parking
  - More parking for trailers













# Cleanliness of Restrooms

- Lowest in satisfaction
- Generally low satisfaction
- Comments
  - More TP
  - Clean more often
- Cleaning schedule
- New strategies





# Summary

- Overall things are good
  - Good balance of opportunities
  - People are happy
- Some issues
- Crowding and Conflict
  - Monitor





# Summary

- Road conditions
  - No public transportation; wider road or bike/pedestrian path.
- Environmental conditions
  - No development.
- Parking
  - Mild support for additional parking; do not remove informal parking spaces.
- Bathrooms
  - More TP; cleaning; implement new strategy.





**2015-2016 Pleasant Grove Ranger District Visitor Use Follow-Up Survey Report**

*Prepared for:*  
Mountainland Association of Governments and the Pleasant Grove of the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Park

*Prepared by:*  
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Justin Leffler

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<https://extension.usu.edu/iort/>



SUMMER QUARTERLY



SPRING QUARTERLY R



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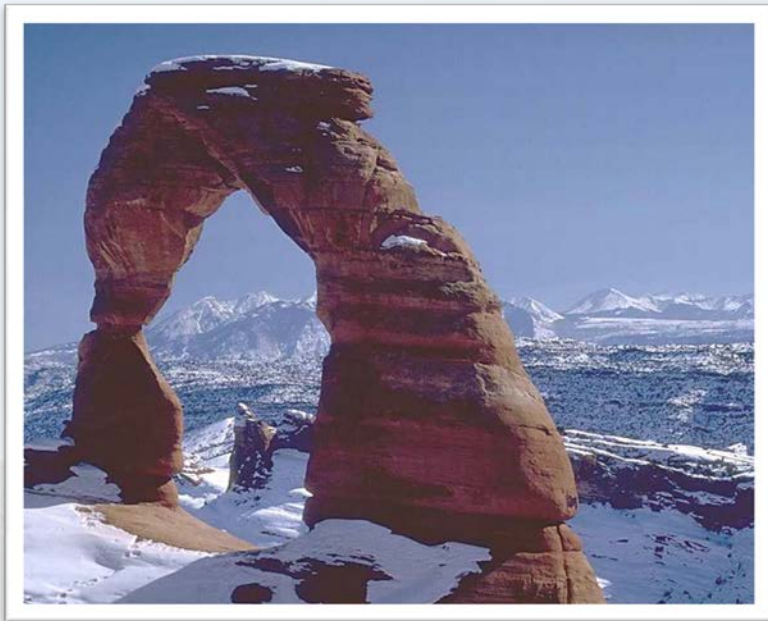
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[Survey Raw Data \(XLSX\)](#)



# Pleasant Grove Visitor Use Study



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