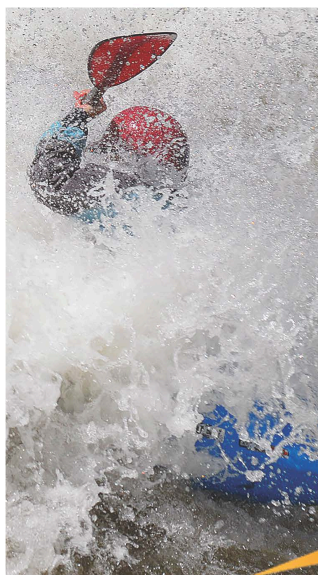




Chaffee Recreation Survey Results & Assessment

Prepared for the
Chaffee Recreation Council
and outdoor enthusiasts
everywhere





Envision Chaffee County Recreation Survey - October 2020

Executive Summary

Recreation is at the center Chaffee County culture and quality of life. Natural beauty, outdoor recreation and a friendly small-town feel are considered the county's most important assets, according to Envision Chaffee County data. The county includes the most-rafted river in America, a fifth of the state's fourteeners, access to 102 miles of Gold Medal trout water, Ski Monarch, 390 miles of maintained trails and 440 miles of roads on public lands. Hiking, biking, hunting, motorized sports, river parks, splash parks, downtown historic and art districts - Chaffee offers something for everyone.

The secret is out. Outdoor recreation use in Chaffee County grew an average of 13% every year from 2015 to 2019, or 54% in total, according to visitor spending data from the Colorado Tourism Office. The data shows that up to 4 million people are visiting each year. Continued growth is inevitable, as the state is projected to add millions of new residents. **If growth continues at the pre-pandemic pace, 4 million visitors will double by 2025.** Agency and city recreation staff indicate growth in recreation use greatly accelerated during 2020 as a result of the pandemic.

How we grow matters. The Chaffee Recreation Survey was professionally designed to inform an all-lands Chaffee Recreation Plan. Survey data supports collaborative planning, so that the most valued aspects of recreation today will also be available tomorrow.

The survey collected data from 3,836 respondents. Respondents demonstrated a passion for the topic, **entering over 17,000 thoughtful responses to open-ended questions.** Participants represent 41 states, with balanced representation from outside of Colorado (35%), from Colorado outside of Chaffee County (30%), and from Chaffee County (36%). People engaged in many recreation types from primitive areas to towns are well represented. Survey analysis was via a peer reviewed process by Mesa State College, Envision Chaffee County and Smoyer and Associates.

The top 5 survey takeaways are these:

1. What respondents like most about places they recreate in Chaffee County are beautiful natural landscapes where they can get away from it all and find solitude.
2. Respondents agree outdoor recreation growth delivers economic benefits by supporting local business, jobs, tax revenues and amenities.

3. **Respondents are very concerned about increasing impacts related to recreation growth.**
 - 70% of residents and over half of all respondents say the benefits of visitors coming to recreate do not outweigh the negative impacts.
 - 80% of residents and half of visitors say local forest and wildlife health have degraded over time, citing “overuse,” and “irresponsible use” as the top reasons.
 - 63% of residents and 41% of respondents say recreation is not being managed sustainably.
4. **Respondents are split on how growth has impacted their recreation experiences.** A little more than half (66% of visitors and 47% of residents) say their experiences have improved. These respondents celebrate improved town amenities (restaurants, shops), town recreation (river parks, splash parks, pickleball courts), expanded trails near towns and improved river corridor facilities. The other 53% of residents and 33% of visitors say their experiences have diminished. Top factors are increased (and often irresponsible) users, increased trash and human waste and increased ATV/Side-by-Side vehicle use resulting in concern about noise, dust, safety and road damage.
5. **Respondents strongly support management action to protect the natural resources and experiences they treasure, and are willing to pay an average of \$44/year to help.**
 - 95% indicate that protecting healthy forests, waters and wildlife is important,
 - 94% that maintaining quality experiences is important, and
 - 75% to 95% support limiting recreation development in areas most critical to wildlife; closing inappropriate campsites; prohibiting fires near timberline; requiring fire pans in vehicle-access campsites; and additional enforcement.

Read on to learn more. Details follow, including survey methods, demographics, analysis of recreation groups, discussion of survey data and next steps. Raw data by question are provided in Appendix A.

Survey Methods

The Chaffee Recreation Survey collected data from 3,836 respondents, including 2,543 complete responses and over 17,000 write in responses. The survey sample was opportunistic, with information and an online link widely distributed through local media and shared via social media channels, the contact lists of the Chaffee County Visitors Bureau, local businesses, nonprofit organizations and popular community Facebook pages. The survey was in the field 26 days, from Aug. 24 to Sept. 18, 2020.

Survey questions were developed to minimize any question format bias by Joanna Zarach, Glean Consulting, Patricia Champ, Rocky Mountain Research Station and Cindy Williams, Envision. Analysis was completed using a collaborative peer-review method by Cindy Williams (MSc, Envision Chaffee County), Brian Parry (PhD Mesa State College) and Kim Smoyer (Smoyer and Associates). Report editing is by Kim Marquis (Rivertown Copy). The survey was offered in English and Spanish, with translation provided by USFS.

The Chaffee Recreation Survey is part of the Envision Recreation in Balance project, led by Cindy Williams (Co-Chair Envision Chaffee County), Ben Lara (USFS Salida Ranger Recreation Staff) and Dominique Naccarato (Executive Director, Greater Arkansas River Nature Association – GARNA). The project is funded by Colorado the Beautiful (Colorado Parks and Wildlife and Great Outdoors Colorado), County of Chaffee, BLM, USFS and the Chaffee Common Ground Fund.

Survey Demographics

Survey demographics include a representative sample of Chaffee County residents and visitors from Colorado and across the U.S. who engage in a wide variety of recreation types, as follows:

- The sample represents 41 states in the U.S., including 35% from outside of Colorado, 30% from Colorado (outside of Chaffee County), and 36% from Chaffee County.
- The average respondent has been recreating in Chaffee County for over 8 years, and 57% of respondents have been recreating locally for more than 10 years.
- Respondents recreate year-round, with 60% of respondents recreating in winter, 72-75% in fall and winter and 93% in the summer.
- The survey captured respondents recreating in all parts of the county. Primitive and backcountry areas are preferred by 28% of residents and about 14% of visitors. Middle County areas accessed by unimproved dirt roads are favored by 30-34% of residents and visitors. Front Country areas accessed by improved and paved roads, are preferred by 12% of residents and 20% of visitors. The Arkansas River corridor is used by about 13-17% of residents and visitors. Towns are the primary place that 20% of visitors but only 8% of residents prefer.
- 9% of respondents indicate they own or are employed by a recreation-related business.

The sample population also has some biases:

- Younger recreationists, age 18 to 35, are slightly underrepresented.
- The sample had a higher percentage of higher income earners compared to the State of Colorado.
- The sample under represents ethnic minorities, with 2% Hispanic, 1% Asian, and 0.3% African American identifying respondents.

Overall, the demographics are reasonably representative and the biases are not seen as fatal flaws to the conclusions. Data were assessed for all questions considering residence and recreation user group.

Recreation User Groups

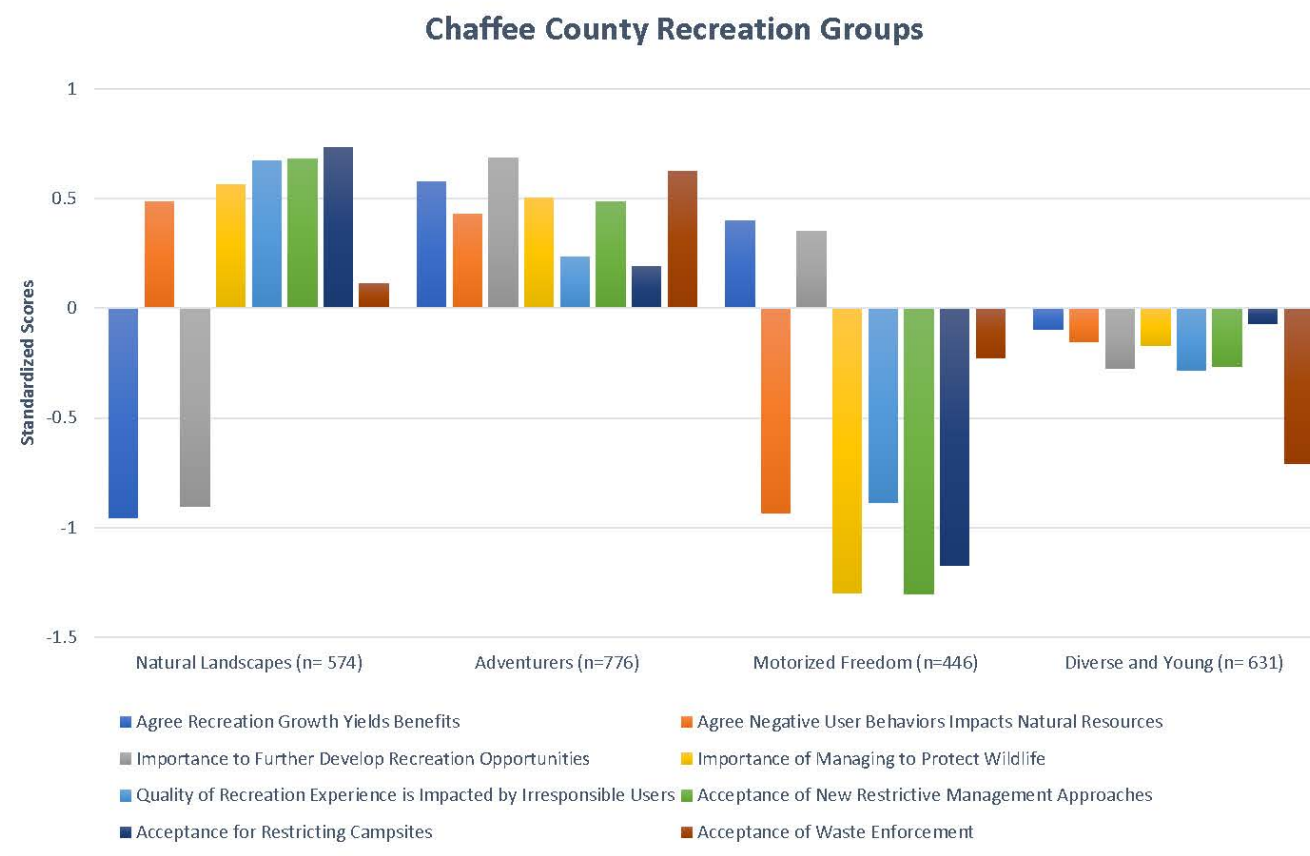
Different groups of recreation users may have different perspectives. To understand these potential views, Brian Parry of Mesa State University used cluster analysis of survey responses to develop “user groups.” The statistical analysis identified four user groups as follows:

1. **Natural Landscapes** – Participants in this group tend to recreate in backcountry and primitive areas, on and off trail. They most strongly feel that natural resources and quality of experiences are being degraded by growth. This group prioritizes protecting experiences and natural resources. They are generally supportive of all proposed actions to make this happen. 65% of members in this group are residents of Chaffee County. This group spends, by far, the most time recreating (164 times a year).
2. **Adventurers** – Members of this active group prefer hiking, biking, water activities, winter sports, and town activities and tend to recreate in “front county” near improved roads, along the river and near town. They indicate that the quality of their experiences are improving, as new assets like river put-ins and mountain bike trails are developed. This group thinks protecting natural resources and experience quality is important. They are generally supportive of all proposed actions to make that happen. Most out of state respondents are in this group, although 56% reside in Chaffee County. On average Adventurers recreate 87 days/year.
3. **Motorized Freedom** - Members of this group are most likely to prefer motorized use of trails. They recreate most in “middle county” accessed by unimproved dirt roads. Members of this group feel that the benefits of recreation growth outweigh any negative impacts and are in favor of additional recreation development. Unlike the two groups above, members do not perceive degradation of natural resources or experiences due to growth. They do not feel that protecting natural resources and user experiences is a priority and are not supportive of most assessed management actions. The majority of this group (46%) are from Colorado, outside of Chaffee County. This group spends the fewest days recreating, averaging 78 days/year.
4. **Young and Diverse** – Members of this group enjoy all types of recreation across all parts of the county. They are younger than other users. About half are residents, 30% from Colorado outside of Chaffee and 20% from out of state. This group generally thinks that recreation experiences and natural resource health are staying about the same. They are neutral on new management approaches. Members spend the second greatest time recreating, at 116 days/year.

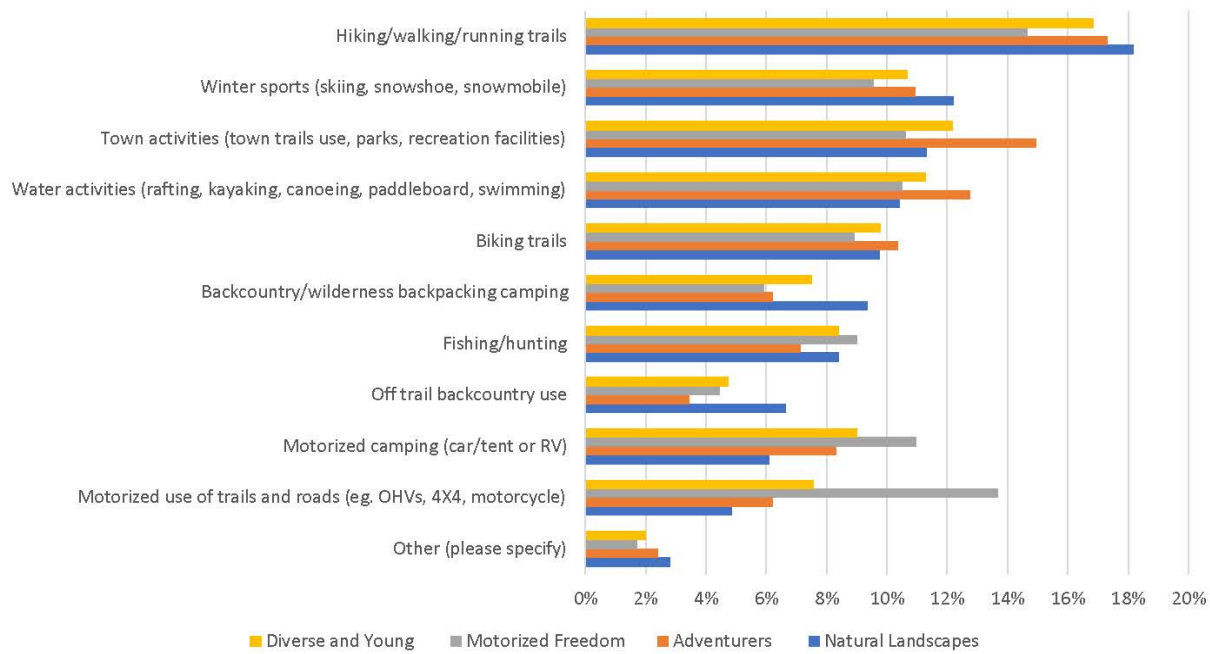
The groups share common ground. Natural beauty is what they all love most about the places they recreate in Chaffee County. All groups also indicate willingness to pay additional fees between \$33/year and \$50/year to support management protecting resources and experiences.

There are also important differences, as shown in the graphic below. Bars above the “0” line indicate agreement with each statement, while bars below the line indicate disagreement. The length of the bar indicates the strength of that conviction. For example, people in the “Motorized Freedom” group generally do not agree that negative user behaviors are impacting natural resources (orange bar), and agree that it is important to develop additional recreation opportunities (gray bar). The second graphic shows preferences of each group for different recreation activities. The table that follows shows key differences between the user groups.

Survey results in Appendix A include analysis by user group. Key differences are also noted in the report. The intent is to better understand the different stakeholder groups in order to find common ground and implementable solutions.



Activities Selected by Segments



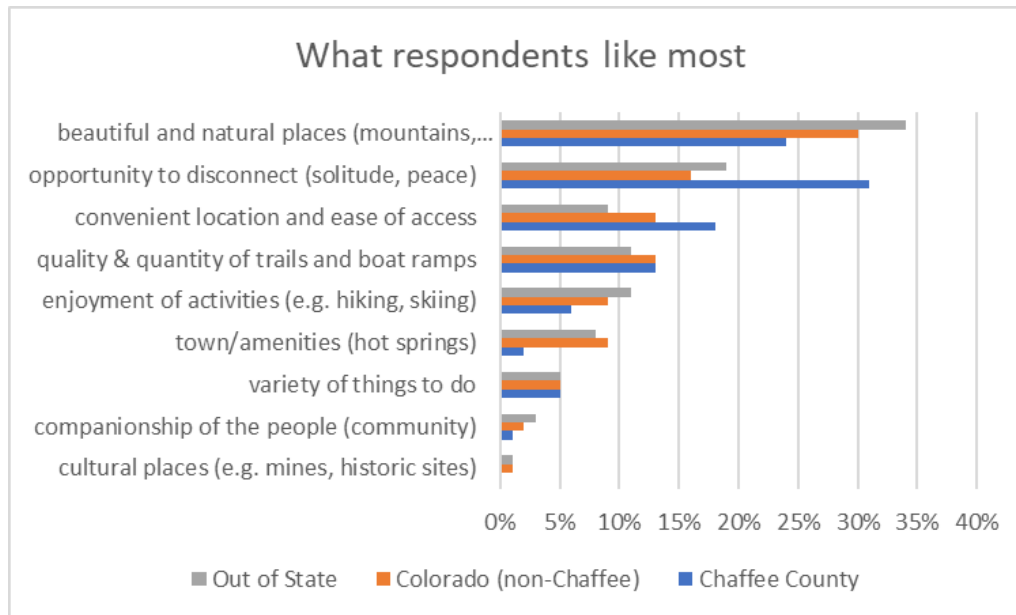
User Group Characteristics

	Natural Landscapes	Adventurers	Motorized Freedom	Diverse and Young
Preferred Setting	Highest Percentage of Primitive (51%) and Back Country (36%) Recreationists	Highest Percentage of Front Country (40%) Arkansas River (40%), and Town (44%) Recreationists	Highest Percentage of Middle Country (31%) Recreationists	Primitive (22%), Back Country (28%), Middle Country (27%), Front Country (27%), Arkansas River (24%), and Towns (24%) Recreationists
Age	Second Highest Percentage Over 50	Highest Percentage Over 50	Second Highest Percentage Under 35	Highest Percentage Under 18-35
Activities	Prefer backcountry/wilderness backpacking, and off-trail activities	Highly active (prefer hiking, biking, water activities, winter sports, and town activities)	Most likely to prefer motorized use of trails	Spread out evenly across all activities
Quality of Resources and Experiences	Perceived greatest degradation of resources and experiences	Perceived greatest improvement of resources and experiences	Perceive slight improvement of resources and experiences	Perceive no improvement of resources and slight improvement of experiences
Geographic Location	65% are from Chaffee County	Highest group from Colorado outside of Chaffee county (42%) and second highest from Chaffee County (32%)	Most likely to come from outside of Chaffee County, Colorado (46%)	Forty-four percent come from Chaffee county, followed by 35% from Colorado (non-Chaffee County).
Days recreating per year	164	87	78	116
Willingness to Pay Average	\$50 Annually	\$49 Annually	\$33 Annually	\$42 Annually

Survey Analysis by Question

1. What visitors and residents like and dislike (questions 7 and 8)

When we asked, “What do you love most about the primary area where you recreate in Chaffee County?” 2,633 answers were given and sorted into themes as shown on the graph below.



The most common theme is **natural beauty**, including scenic views, mountains and wildlife. Comments include: “Solitude, unspoiled nature, amazing views,” “Wilderness where you see wildlife and few people,” “the forest and animals,” “the beauty and pristine, untouched nature of it,” “Inherent uncrowded natural beauty, so very rare and special” and “wildflowers and wildlife.”

The second most common theme is the **opportunity to disconnect and find solitude**. This theme has notes suggesting an “authentic” Colorado experience is valued. Comments include: “It’s OLD Colo. One of only a few left,” “It’s NOT Summit County,” “Less people,” “Ability to escape crowds,” “Not overrun with people,” “I love getting away from noise and crowds,” “I LOVE being able to get to fairly low use areas that are pristine,” “solitude” and “limited development.”

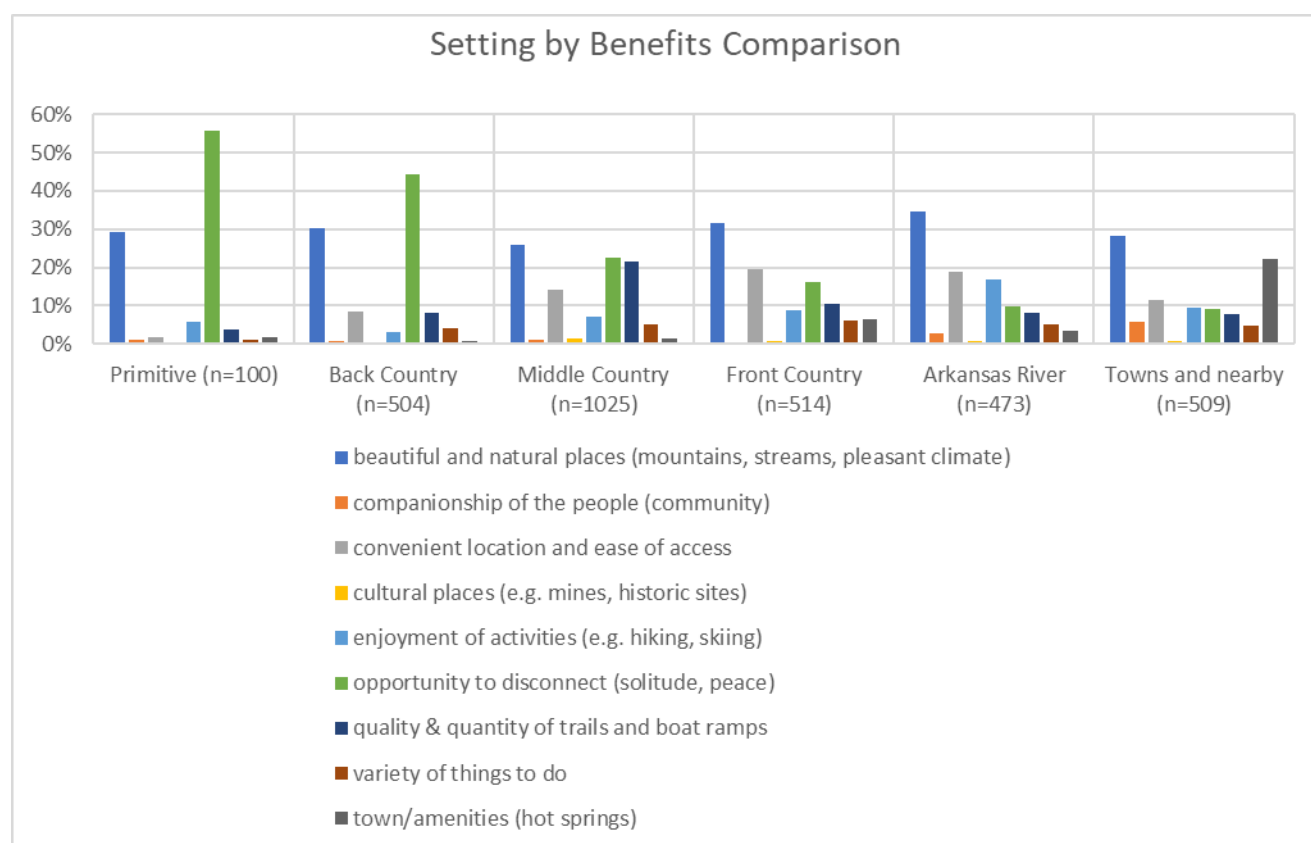
The third theme is **convenient access**. Here are a few of the comments: “I can ride my bike, hike & run from town without needing a car or shuttle,” “good hiking and mountain biking trails right from my house,” “That most of it can be accessed by 4wd or dirt bikes,” “River access and trails along the rivers and streams near the towns,” and “shopping, dining and trails all together” and “access to 14ers.”

Fourth, is the **diversity and quality of recreation experiences**. The comments here say it all: “Fantastic single track for riding bikes and dirt bikes!” “Superb whitewater,” “It’s beautiful and allows us to ride our OHV’s to country we could never see otherwise,” “Variety of terrain, river, alpine, some desert,” “Monarch Skiing, Salida Zip Line,” “Easy access to fishing and camping,” “Awesome 4x4 trails,” “campgrounds,” “fishing and rafting a Gold Medal river,” “The variety of trails,” “well laid out

trails and signage near town,” “multiple opportunities in a day – fishing, hiking, motorcycle riding,” and “golf, fishing, rafting, horseback riding.”

The last theme in the Top 5 is **appreciation for amenities** in and around towns, with 158 comments like: “Eclectic shops/restaurants and breweries, with great people,” “hot springs, cute towns,” “Great local shops,” “Small town, unique,” “small town feel,” “Love the Friendly & laidback vibe,” and “Love Salida and BV, such great, fun little towns.”

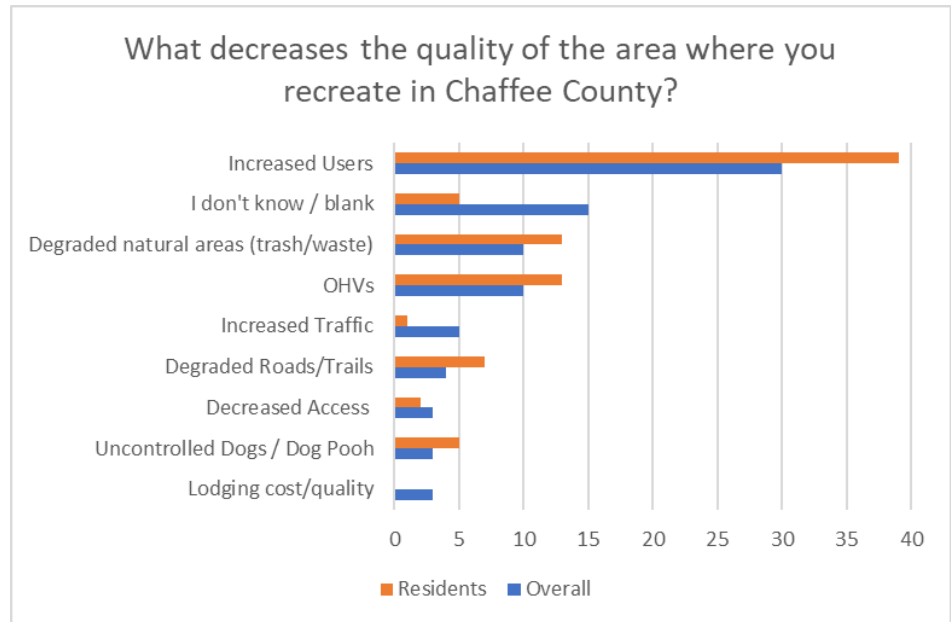
The preferences are different for respondents recreating in different areas, although for all groups natural beauty gets top billing. People primarily recreating in back country and primitive areas value solitude next. Middle country users on unimproved roads next prioritize solitude and the variety of things to do. Those recreating closer to town and the river place a premium on convenient access and town amenities. This data is summarized in the chart below.



The survey also tested for any **factors that diminish recreation** in Chaffee County by asking, “Is there one thing that decreases the quality of the primary area where you recreate in Chaffee County?” Survey respondents provided 2,395 comments to this fill-in question. 5% of residents and 18-28% of visitors entered “I don’t know” or did not entering a response. The comments were sorted into themes, summarized in the graph below.

The most common theme (30% of all responses, and 39% of residents) was **increased numbers of often irresponsible users**. Typical comments include: “More and more people and dogs off leash,” “Chaffee

County has become popular and it is more crowded,” “Too many rude visitors,” “Too many people on the trails,” “Congestion at boat ramps,” “More and more people over the last 2-3 years,” “Overuse of camping sites,” “Area is being trashed by the crowds,” “Too many people disrespecting/not taking care of public areas,” and “More people with a disregard for the fragility of our lands.”



The second most common response (10%) is the presence of **trash or human waste**. Comments are consistent: “Human feces left out in open at the lake next to camping spots. Horrible.,” “Trash, unnecessary fire rings, beaten down public lands,” “Increasing human poop in ALL of the camps we use,” “Trash and no personnel to enforce the rules” and “Trashed wilderness.”

The third most-common response (also at 10%) is related to increased numbers of ATVs and UTVs including side-by-sides, in some cases acerbated by poor behaviors. Concern was most expressed about impacts to other user groups, including noise, dust, safety/speeding and damage to roads/trails. Typical comments: “Increased ATV use degrades the experience for everyone else”, “Increased ATV/UTV usage and subsequent damage to fragile ecosystems,” “The roads have been destroyed by 4 wheelers for regular 4-wheel drive vehicles,” and “Inconsiderate ATV people with high speeds near camp sites.”

The next most-common themes are increased traffic (5% - mostly cited by visitors), degraded roads and trails (4%), dogs not under control (3%), the high cost/low quality of lodging (3%) and decreased access for motorized use (3%).

Increasing users is the top concern for all groups. The Motorized Freedom group expresses loss of access as their second most-common concern, while for other groups #2 is either ATVs or trash/waste.

2. Sustainable economic contribution – perceptions of growth (questions 12, 13 and 14)

Three survey questions explored perceptions on the costs and benefits of outdoor recreation use and “social license” for continued growth. In resource-dependent industries, “social license” is the level of acceptance an industry has from local stakeholders. In extractive industries, a loss of social license has been associated with eventual active community pushback.

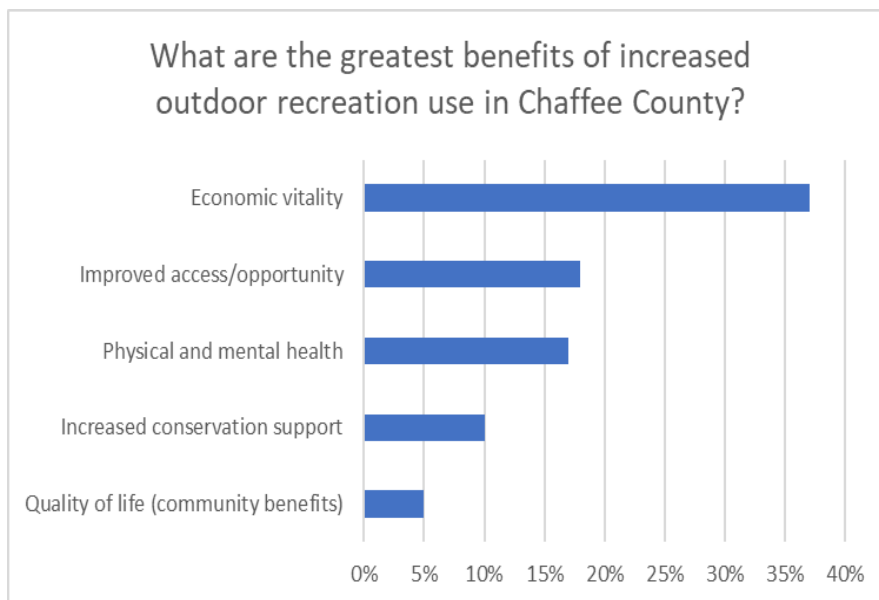
Respondents recognize the benefits of recreation growth, especially to the economy, quality of amenities and human health and well-being. However, a majority of survey respondents do not think that the benefits of recreation growth outweigh negative impacts. Responses also indicate sense of animosity toward visitors that threatens sustainability.

Chaffee Recreation Survey respondents recognize that outdoor recreation tourism supports meaningful jobs (86% agree), better shopping and dining (90% agree), and local business (96% agree).

When asked, “What do you think is the greatest benefit of increased outdoor recreation use in Chaffee County?” 2,182 responses group into five categories as shown in the graph below.

Economic vitality is the most commonly noted benefit (37%), including: Tax revenue, strong economy, dollars for local businesses, jobs, increasing property values, and support for businesses improves amenities for everyone (restaurants, shops).

Improved access and opportunities are the second most-common (18%). This category includes many comments relating to new mountain bike trails, more river activities, more fun areas to exercise, and better maintained trails near towns.



Third is **physical and mental health benefits** (17%). Comments include: “Exercise opportunities for locals and tourists,” “Good health and improved personal mental attitude,” “relaxing,” “general health,” “Can get out and exercise everywhere,” and “Healthier communities.”

Fourth, 10% of respondents say time spent recreating in the outdoors may increase **support for conservation**, as described by the comment, “People who use the lands tend to care for the land.”

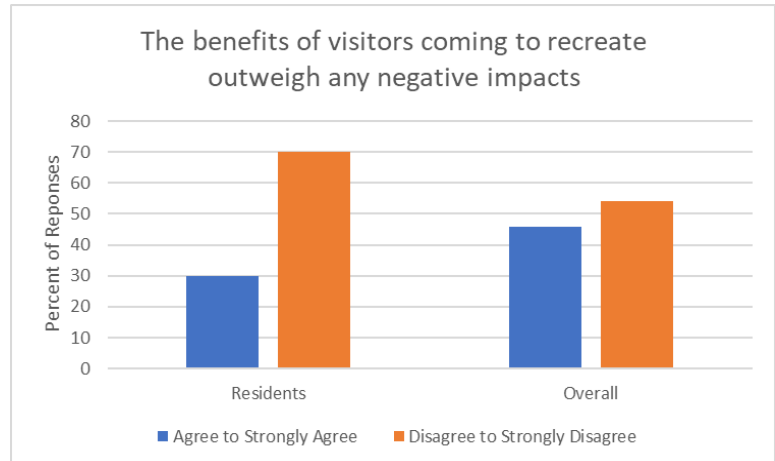
Finally, 5% of respondents note that recreation makes residents healthier, happier and more connected.

Interestingly, 12% of all respondents (260 comments) disputed the notion that recreation growth provides benefits, entering “None,” or responses such as, “For me personally, can't think of any,” “There is no benefit to increased outdoor recreation, the area is literally overrun and is being systematically ruined,” “There isn't any with the possible exception of tourist dollars to a select few entities,” and “There is no benefit to increase use when the result is trashed over used areas.”

There is concern about the impacts of growth. **70% of residents and 54% of all respondents disagree that “the benefits of visitors coming to recreate outweigh any negative impacts,”** as shown in the graph at right.

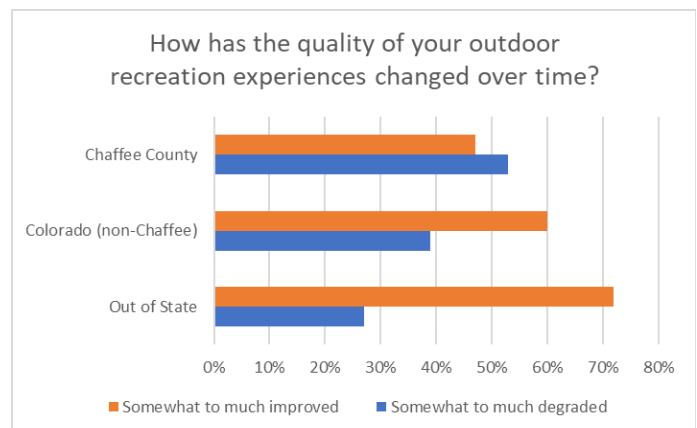
As detailed in other sections of this report, top concerns include: Degradation of natural resources, overuse and crowding, pollution (trash, human waste, noise, erosion) and impacts to recreation assets (degraded trails/roads). Respondents also express concern that Chaffee County’s sense of place or “brand” is at risk, including comments about the area becoming “like everywhere else,” “losing its sense of small town,” and beginning to feel “touristy,” “overused,” and “over promoted.”

Perhaps most concerning from an economic sustainability perspective, comments to many questions included a sense of animosity toward visitors. Hundreds of comments are given, such as: “Too much damage from out of towners,” “We have seen a great increase in visitation which degrades many aspects of our day to day life,” “Too many people coming here to enjoy and destroy,” “Area being overrun with tourists who do not follow rules and are rude!” and others using harsher language.



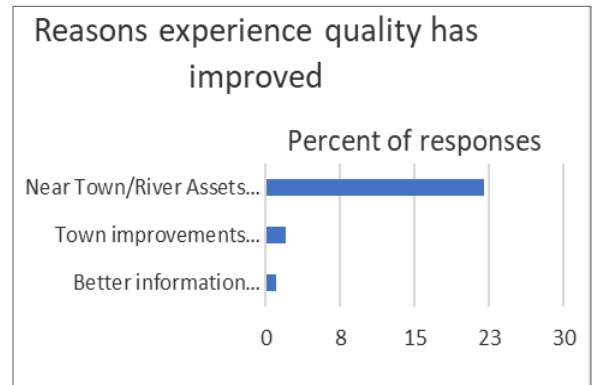
3. Recreation experience trends (questions 10 and 20)

Exceptional outdoor recreation opportunities in Chaffee County encompasses the most-rafted river in America, a fifth of the state’s 14ers, diverse motorized opportunities, hunting, Gold Medal fishing, skiing, mountain biking, river parks, the Colorado Trail and much more. Survey results show that **experience quality has improved for 58% of respondents but declined for the other 42%.** A majority of residents have experienced a decline while the majority of visitors – especially those from out of state — report improvement, as shown on the graph at right. Improvements are most common among people recreating on the river and in and around towns.



The top factor that has enhanced experiences are **new or improved recreation assets near towns and on the river.** Comments mention additional river water park features, new low-country motorcycle trails, more single-track trails with good maintenance, improved signage and improved river cleanliness and water quality.

For 42% of respondents, including 53% of residents, the quality of recreation experiences has declined. The top three factors that have diminished experiences for both residents and visitors are: Increased number of users, natural resource damage including trash and human waste and increasing ATV/UTV use, as shown in the word chart below and as detailed in section 1 above.

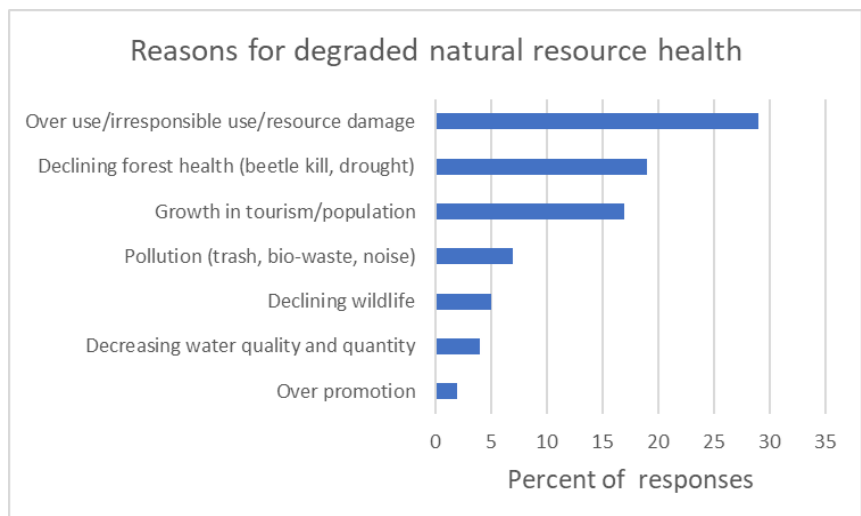


4. Healthy forests, waters and wildlife trends (questions 11 and 13)

Survey results indicate great concern about the impacts of recreation growth to natural resources. Healthy forests, waters and wildlife are the top factor that all recreation user groups most value about where they recreate in Chaffee County.

80% of residents and 50% of visitors indicate the quality of forests, waters and wildlife has somewhat to greatly declined since they have been recreating in Chaffee County.

The primary reason cited for the decline is **resource damage caused**



by **recreation over-use** and irresponsible use (see graph above). This theme includes damage to wildlife, such as: “The constant demand for new trails is reducing habitat available to wildlife.” Impact to water, such as: “high mountain streams and lakes are soiled by campsites and social trails on the banks.” Impact to forests, such as: “over use of many areas is causing damage to trees and vegetation.” There are also over 100 comments about over use and waste, such as: “overuse of camping areas; human poop everywhere.”

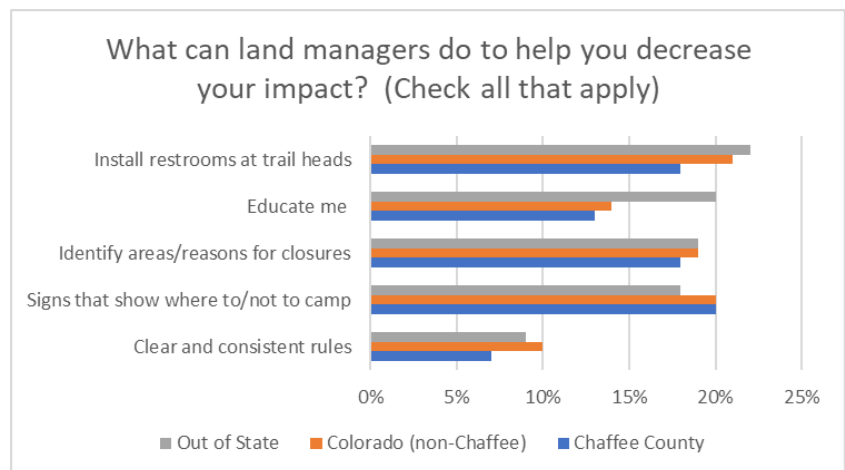
This is followed by the **general decline associated with beetle kill and drought**. Themes 3 and 4, **growth and pollution**, are heard again as concerns, as described above. Themes 5 is **declining wildlife**, such as “Far fewer sightings of large game (elk, bear, etc.) than 10 years ago” and “We see less wildlife (turkeys) and birds.” A final theme on water is focused on concern that climate change and drought are resulting in **lower flows in the Arkansas River**.

5. User behaviors and ideas to decrease impacts (questions 15, 16 and 17)

Several survey questions were designed to test awareness of how recreation is affecting the environment and experiences, and to identify ways users and managers can help.

Residents and visitors are aware of correct behaviors. Both residents and visitors agree:

- Dogs not under control can harm wildlife (88%),
- Using **ONLY** existing trails and motorized routes help natural areas stay natural (93%),
- Creating and leaving campfire rings is like leaving trash (88%),
- No one wants to see human waste or toilet paper – bury it! (98%), and
- If a campfire is too hot to touch it is too hot to leave (99%).



When asked what they can do to minimize their personal impact, respondents were thoughtful, providing 1,435 write-in responses. The most frequent ideas were:

- Practice Leave No Trace (28%),
- Better manage bio-waste from people, dogs and horses (23%),
- Improve behavior, including etiquette, kindness and following rules (14%),
- Practice sustainable recreation such as catch-and-release and driving less (10%), and
- Stay on approved routes and off social routes (7%).

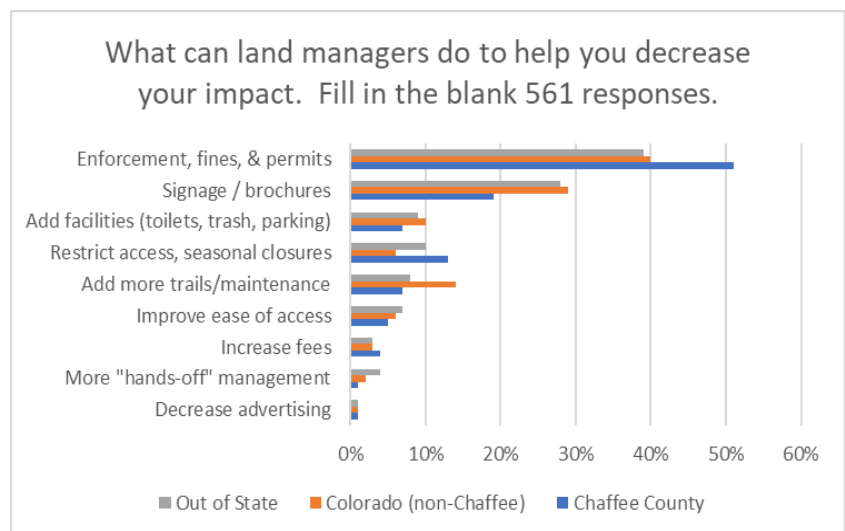
When presented with options for how land managers can help decrease impacts, respondents favored:

1. **Adding restrooms** at trailheads,
2. **Providing education** on how to decrease personal impact, especially to out-of-state visitors, and
3. **Adding signage** that explains closures and no camp areas.

The need to provide clear and consistent rules rated lower, with comments suggesting **people think the rules are clear, and the gap is enforcement**. See graph above.

In the next question, respondents were invited to write in additional ideas for how management agencies can help them decrease their negative impact. 561 answers identified additional ideas that are summarized in the graph below, and commentary is provided to ensure they are fully expressed:

1. **Add more enforcement**, fines and permits or designations, such as designated dispersed camping, to manage impact. This theme is strongly supported by residents and visitors, and includes ideas such as: “Citations for breaking rules,” “Hefty fines, Enforce!” and “ENFORCEMENT OF RULES!!! With no enforcement, people do what they want.”



2. **Add signage and business-supported education**, such as:

“Publicize fire bans with signs at businesses,” “Post signs with the rules and enforce” and “Brochures at all local businesses.”

3. **Add facilities** like toilets, trash and parking.

4. **Restrict access**. This theme includes a variety of ideas, such as: “Limit dispersed camping,” “Seasonal closures for wildlife protection,” “Limit OHV use to designated roads,” and “Limit party size per campsite.”

5. **Add trails/roads**, such as: “Create more OHV specific trails to avoid user conflict,” “add more trails near town,” “Open more ohv routes that connect roads and trails to spread users out,” “Separate walking and wheeled vehicle trails” and “Add trails to disperse use.” Increased access is most supported by visitors and the Motorized Freedom and Adventurer groups.

Improving access is a related theme, with ideas such as: “Build in town camping,” “Community organized shuttle/bus service,” “Create more developed camping,” and “Offer public transport to trails.”

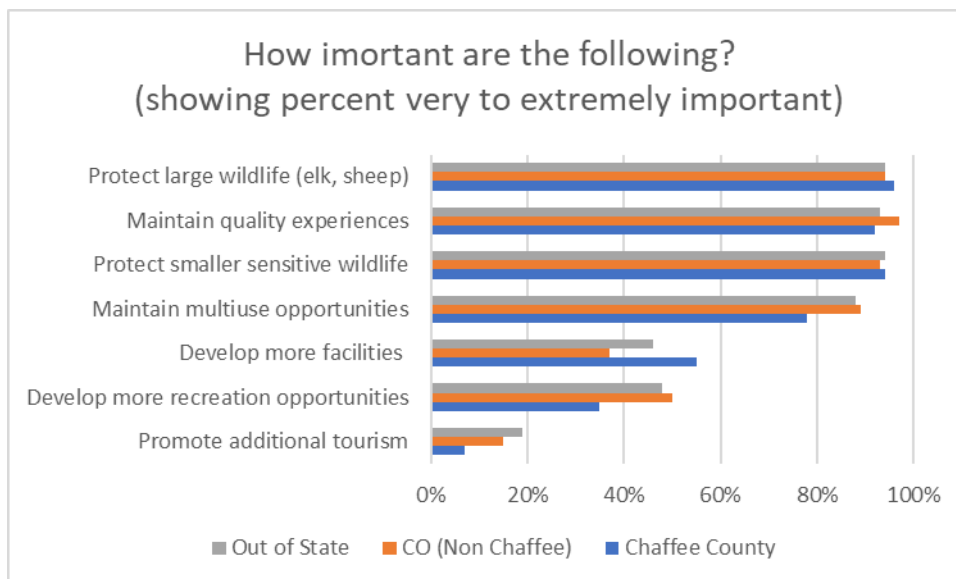
Finally, respondents wrote in ideas supporting increased fees, more hands-off management, and decreasing advertising/promotion.

6. Visitor and resident management priorities (question 18, 19 and 21)

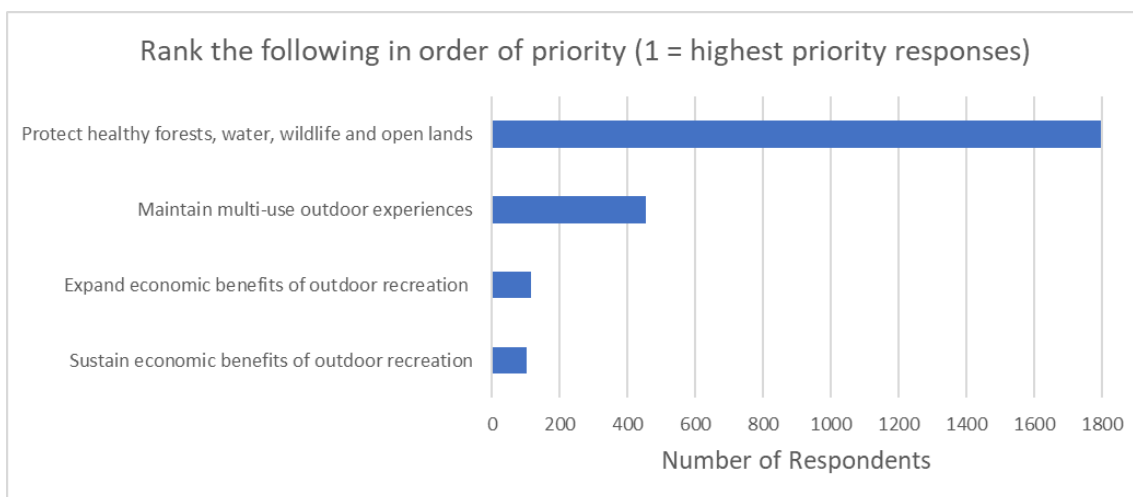
Understanding that resources are a constraint, three questions were designed to identify management priorities. The questions identified a **consistent prioritization to protect natural resources, wildlife and experience quality.**

The need for more enforcement was again seen as a top theme in write-in comments, as was the suggestion to slow/stop promotion.

Survey participants were asked, “In order to manage growth in recreation use in Chaffee County, rank the following” and provided a list of four potential priorities centered on protecting resources, maintaining experiences, and sustaining/expanding economic benefits.



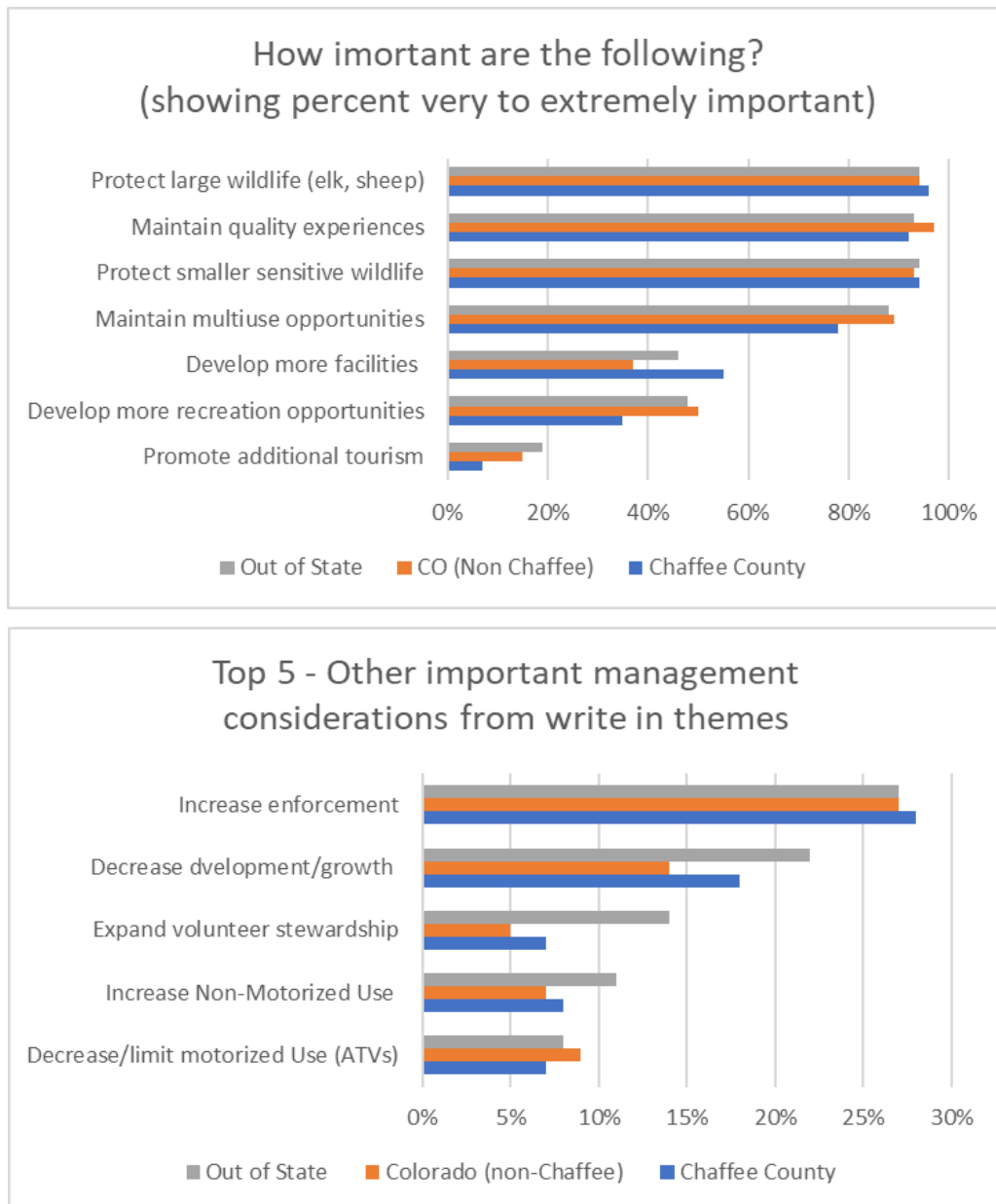
73% of respondents ranked healthy forests, waters and wildlife as their top priority.



Participants were also asked to go a level deeper, indicating how important a set of different potential priorities are to them. Results, in the graph below, show that:

- 94% say protecting wildlife (large & small) and maintaining quality experiences is important,
- 84% say maintaining current recreation opportunities is important.

- 43% to 53% say developing more facilities or recreation opportunities is important.

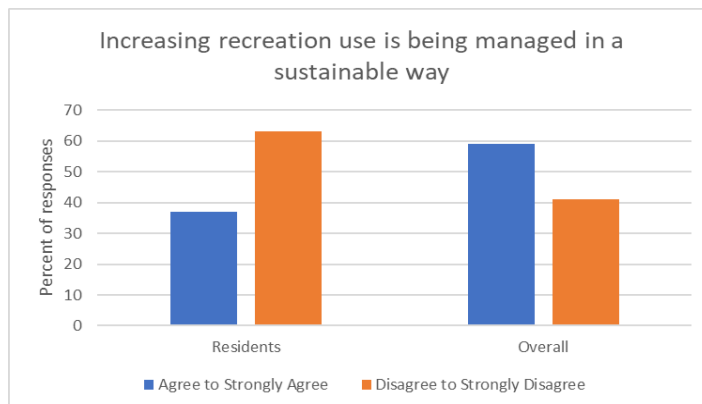


In the follow-on opportunity to add other ideas in an open box, 235 answers were received, as summarized in the graph above. **The top 5 themes are increased enforcement, decreased promotion, expanded volunteer stewardship and a mix of some who want to expand and some who want to limit motorized use.** One thoughtful comment: “Recreation and visitors have increased so much in the last few years, the county needs to take time to review how and where to do any increases to recreation options and slow promotion, before the county gets so overused it is not the place people want to come.”

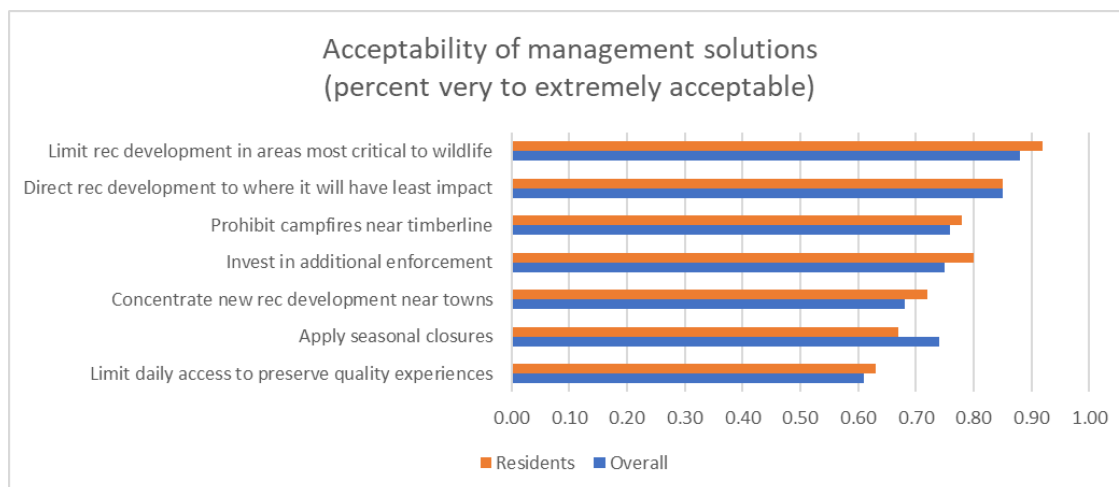
7. Receptivity to management action (questions 22, 23, 24, 25)

41% of respondents, including 63% of residents, say recreation growth is not being managed in a sustainable way, as shown in the graph at right.

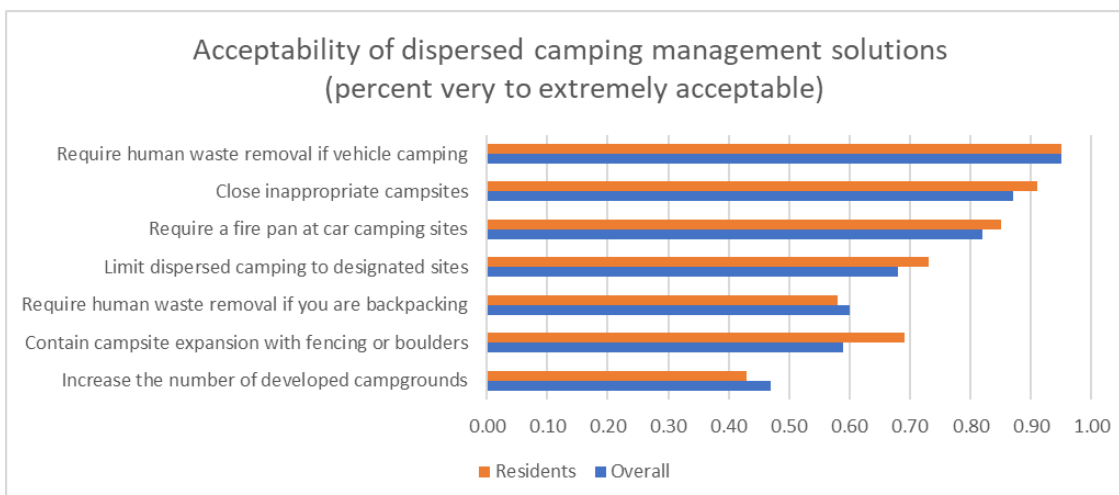
Residents and visitors are strongly supportive of more management action. More than 60% indicating all tested strategies are very to extremely acceptable, as shown in the graph below. Solutions that explicitly protect wildlife are most strongly supported. Support is fairly consistent with both residents and visitors.



88% say limiting recreation development in areas are most critical to wildlife is very acceptable.



Considering dispersed camping areas, residents and visitors are again supportive of management actions, as shown in the graph below. The strongest support is for requiring waste removal for vehicle camping

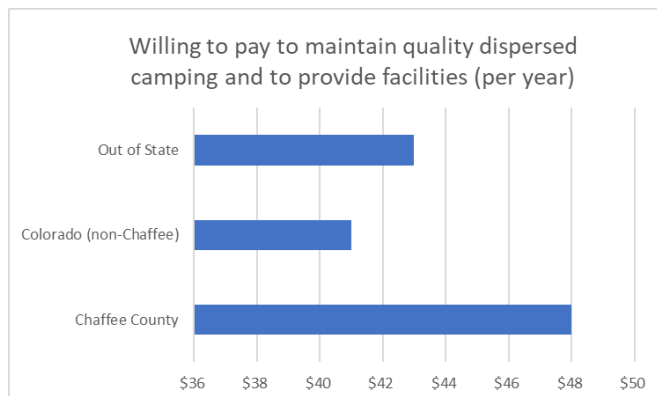


(95%), closing inappropriate campsites (87%), requiring fire pans (82%) and transitioning from open dispersed camping to camping only in designated sites (68%).

8. Willingness to pay for recreation facilities / camping management (question 24)

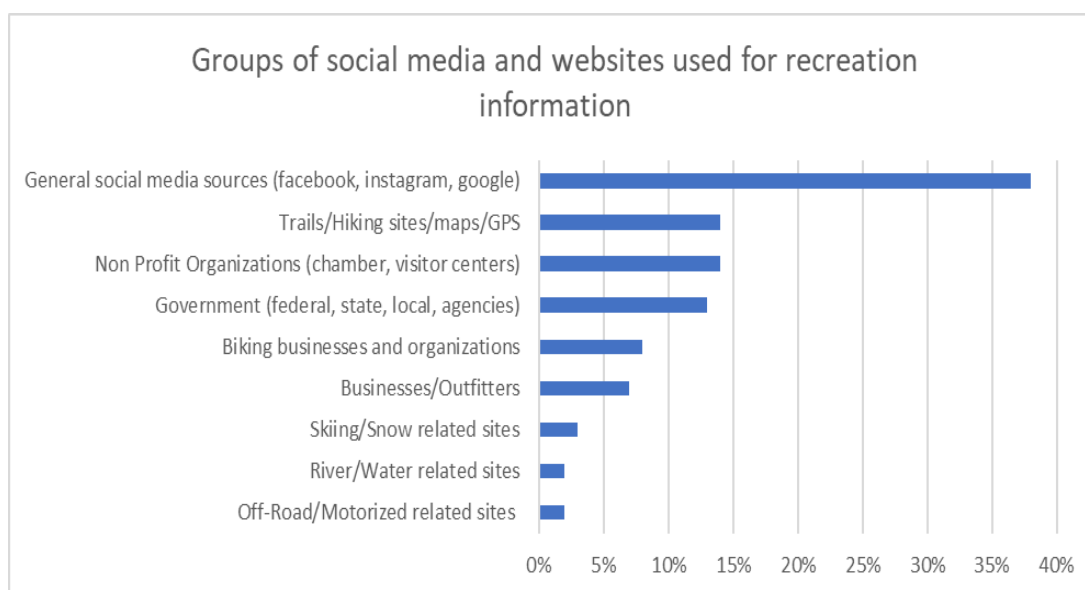
The survey also tested support for additional fees by asking, “How much would you be willing to pay on an annual basis to address needs such as to maintain quality dispersed camping experiences and/or to provide facilities such as restrooms at trailheads.”

The average willingness to pay is \$44/year, with strongest support from residents as shown in the graph at left.



9. Where respondents get their recreation information (questions 4 and 5)

The survey team wanted to understand where people get information about Chaffee County recreation. The most common source of information for respondents is word of mouth (36%), websites and social media (34%) and agency offices such as the USFS and Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area (AHRA) (20%). The numbers are similar for visitors and residents. A closer look yields an array of online sources (Facebook, Instagram), followed by over a hundred different websites and sport-specific social media pages (e.g. 14ers.com, Central Colorado Mountain Riders’ Facebook Page, mountainproject), state and local nonprofit organizations (eg. Chambers, County), municipalities and state government (e.g. buenavistacolorado.org, colorfulcolorado.com, COTREX, CPW.org), and local business (eg. Ski Monarch, Absolute Bikes, Ark Anglers). None of these individual sites were cited more than 50 times among 1,649 responses. Results emphasize the extreme complexity of distributing consistent messages or educational material to recreation users.



10. Insights from statistical analysis

Mesa State College professor Dr. Brian Perry is advancing statistical analysis of survey data to help understand what factors lead people to support management action and to inform management priorities in different areas of the county. The details of initial work are provided in Appendix B. Key initial conclusions suggest that the top three factors that lead people to support management action are: Desire to protect wildlife, desire to improve the behaviors of outdoor users with an enforcement focus, and desire to keep recreation experiences exceptional.

Conclusions and Next Steps

In the final survey question, respondents were asked to provide any additional comments about outdoor recreation in Chaffee County. 687 people still had more to say, indicating the exceptional degree of interest in and passion about this topic. Some re-emphasized themes described above, but a majority expressed appreciation for the work in progress and support for planning and action to maintain a special place for future generations. A few of the comments include:

“As is evidenced by the wanton destruction this year, something needs to be done. Chaffee County is not an amusement park, there are no people to go clean up after the tourists...this is an unsustainable model and needs to be changed, sooner rather than later.”

“Absolutely love Chaffee county and will do whatever I can to continue the beautiful county that it is so my kids can enjoy it just as I did as a kid.”

“Chaffee County is a fantastic place to live and recreate, we all need to work to maintain this special environment for future generations.”

“Chaffee County is close to our hearts and we want to help protect it too.”

A countywide all-lands **Chaffee Recreation Plan** has been convened by the Chaffee County Board of Commissioners. The Chaffee Recreation Council, a team of 21 leaders from management agencies, local government, nonprofits and the citizenry, is engaged to lead the collaborative effort. ***But the magic ingredient is you! Stay engaged and get informed*** by visiting envisionchaffeecounty.org. All data used in this report is available upon request to Envision Chaffee County at info@envisionchaffeecounty.org.

Acknowledgements

The Chaffee Recreation Survey is part of the broader Envision Recreation in Balance program led by Ben Lara (USFS), Kalem Lenard (BLM), Jamin Grigg (CPW), Dominique Naccarato (GARNA) and Cindy Williams (Envision). Funding is provided by Colorado the Beautiful, USFS, BLM, Chaffee County and the Chaffee Common Ground Fund. Joanna Zarach at Glean Consulting volunteered hundreds of hours in creating the survey tool and administering the survey.

Appendix A - Raw data by survey question

3,836 responded to all or part of the Chaffee Recreation survey. Respondents entered 16,728 written comments to questions with open box space, providing a rich set of data that deeply listens to residents and visitors. The full data set is available upon request to Envision Chaffee County. The data for each question is summarized below.

Question 1. Do you recreate in Chaffee County?

Yes – 3529

No – 306

Total – 3836.

Note, 3836 people entered the survey, answering this question. 2543 respondents continued to complete all questions.

Question 2. How many years have you been recreating in Chaffee County?								
Groups	0-2 yrs.	%	3-5 yrs.	%	6-10 yrs.	%	>10 yrs.	%
Chaffee County	49	4%	142	13%	187	17%	739	66%
Colorado (non-Chaffee)	63	7%	163	18%	172	19%	533	57%
Out of State	163	15%	233	22%	182	17%	506	47%
Natural Landscapes	18	3%	69	12%	93	16%	394	69%
Adventurers	91	12%	136	18%	132	17%	417	54%
Motorized Freedom	38	9%	82	18%	61	13%	264	59%
Young and Diverse	46	7%	111	18%	124	20%	348	55%
Overall	275	9%	538	17%	541	17%	1778	57%

Question 3. In the last 2 years, what seasons have you recreated in Chaffee County? Check all that apply

Groups	Winter	%	Spring	%	Summer	%	Fall	%
Chaffee County	1020	54%	1089	48%	1115	38%	1076	46%
Colorado (non-Chaffee)	443	24%	631	28%	849	29%	690	29%
Out of State	425	23%	539	24%	944	33%	587	25%
Natural Landscapes	430	28%	482	27%	545	24%	502	27%
Adventurers	452	29%	533	30%	707	31%	562	30%
Motorized Freedom	245	16%	321	18%	425	19%	342	18%
Young and Diverse	389	26%	462	26%	599	26%	474	25%
Overall	1888	60%	2259	72%	2908	93%	2353	75%

Question 4. Where do you get your info about recreation in Chaffee County? (please check all that apply)

Groups	Website	%	Word of Mouth	%	Forest Service or Agency	%	Other	%
Chaffee County	638	33%	909	44%	457	40%	298	50%
Colorado (non-Chaffee)	614	32%	526	26%	368	32%	143	24%
Out of State	693	36%	625	30%	322	28%	152	26%
Natural Landscapes	287	19%	383	24%	230	25%	160	33%
Adventurers	540	36%	506	31%	248	27%	134	28%
Motorized Freedom	277	18%	296	18%	187	20%	62	13%
Young and Diverse	403	27%	434	27%	258	28%	131	27%
Overall	1945	62%	2060	66%	1147	37%	593	19%

Question 5. What is the specific website or social media you've used to get information?

	Chaffee County	Colorado (non-Chaffee)	Out of State	Natural Landscape	Adventurers	Motorized Freedom	Young and Diverse	Overall
Benefits								
Social/Media Sources (radio, news, magazines, Facebook)	35%	31%	31%	39%	70%	36%	52%	38%
NPOs (GARNA, chamber, visitor centers)	12%	11%	13%	14%	28%	13%	19%	14%
Trails/Hiking (trails, maps, gps)	20%	9%	6%	17%	24%	13%	26%	14%
Government (federal, state, local, agencies)	8%	14%	11%	12%	24%	11%	17%	13%
Biking	13%	5%	3%	5%	16%	7%	17%	8%
Businesses/Outfitters	7%	6%	6%	7%	14%	4%	14%	7%
Skiing/Snow	4%	1%	2%	3%	5%	1%	5%	3%
River/Water	2%	2%	1%	3%	4%	2%	3%	2%
Off-Road/Motorized	1%	3%	1%	1%	2%	5%	2%	2%

Question 6. What type of area do you primarily use to recreate in Chaffee County?

Groups	Pri miti ve	%	Bac k Cou ntr y	%	Mid dle Cou ntr y	%	Fro nt Cou ntr y	%	Ark ans as Riv er	%	To wn s	%
Chaffee County	46	4%	272	24%	384	34%	138	12%	185	17%	91	8%
Colorado (non-Chaffee)	29	3%	101	11%	317	34%	164	18%	119	13%	19	21%
Out of State	25	2%	131	12%	324	30%	212	20%	169	16%	21	20%
Natural Landscapes	40	7%	150	26%	146	26%	78	14%	87	15%	69	12%
Adventurers	14	2%	100	13%	197	26%	155	20%	146	19%	16	21%
Motorized Freedom	7	2%	45	10%	253	57%	48	11%	46	10%	46	10%
Young and Diverse	17	3%	114	18%	219	35%	104	17%	86	14%	89	14%
Overall	100	3%	504	16%	1025	33%	514	16%	473	15%	50	16%

Question 7. What do you like best about the primary area where you recreate in Chaffee County? 2,633 answers were entered in the open box on this question, and sorted into themes summarized below.

Benefits	Chaffe e Count y	Col ora do (no n- Cha ffee)	Out of Stat e	Nat ural Lan dsc ape s	Adv ent ure rs	Mo tori zed Fre edo m	You ng and Div ers e	Ove rall
beautiful and natural places (mountains, streams, pleasant climate)	24%	30%	34%	30%	32%	25%	28%	29%
opportunity to disconnect (solitude, peace)	31%	16%	19%	37%	17%	15%	23%	22%
convenient location and ease of access	18%	13%	9%	13%	15%	13%	17%	14%
quality & quantity of trails and boat ramps	13%	13%	11%	7%	14%	22%	10%	13%

enjoyment of activities (e.g. hiking, skiing)	6%	9%	11%	4%	10%	9%	10%	9%
town/amenities (hot springs)	2%	9%	8%	4%	9%	3%	5%	6%
variety of things to do	5%	5%	5%	3%	5%	7%	6%	5%
companionship of the people (community)	1%	2%	3%	2%	3%	3%	2%	2%
cultural places (e.g. mines, historic sites)	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%

Question 8. Is there one thing that decreases the quality of the primary area where you recreate in Chaffee County? 2,395 answers were entered in the open box on this question, and sorted into themes summarized below.

	Chaffee County	Colorado (non-Chaffee)	Out of State	Natural Lands	Adventure	Motorized Freedom	Young and Diverse	Overall
Detriments								
Crowding (too many people, crowding, increased users, tourists)	39%	31%	22%	44%	25%	22%	33%	30%
Other	14%	18%	18%	11%	17%	20%	16%	16%
No response/I don't know	5%	18%	28%	5%	18%	19%	13%	15%
OHVs (on trails, loud vehicles, ATVs, OHVs, Side by Sides, Razors, noise from OHVs)	13%	7%	10%	16%	8%	6%	9%	10%
Trash/Bio-waste (trash, litter, human waste, pollution)	13%	9%	7%	10%	12%	7%	10%	10%
Increased Traffic / Limited Parking	1%	0%	1%	2%	5%	4%	4%	5%
Degraded Rec Assets - Roads (may also include trails/put ins)	7%	3%	4%	5%	4%	4%	5%	4%
Dogs - not under control, dog poop	5%	1%	1%	4%	3%	1%	3%	3%
Lodging - high cost, lack of good lodging, vacancy, pet policy)	0%	4%	5%	1%	4%	3%	3%	3%
Decreased motorized trails/motorized restrictions/ loss of motorized access	2%	5%	4%	0%	2%	13%	2%	3%
Campgrounds - lack of camping places, crowding, campgrounds	0%	3%	1%	1%	2%	1%	2%	1%

Question 9. Which of the following outdoor recreation activities do you enjoy in Chaffee County? Please mark all that apply

Activities	Chaffee County	Colorado (non-Chaffee)	Out of State	Natural Landscapes	Adventurers	Motorized Freedom	Young and Diverse	Overall
Hiking/walking/running trails	16%	17%	19%	18%	17%	15%	17%	17%
Biking trails	11%	9%	8%	10%	10%	9%	10%	10%
Motorized use of trails and roads (eg. OHVs, 4X4, motorcycle)	6%	9%	9%	5%	6%	14%	8%	8%
Water activities (rafting, kayaking, canoeing, paddleboard, swimming)	11%	12%	12%	10%	13%	11%	11%	11%
Motorized camping (car/tent or RV)	7%	10%	9%	6%	8%	11%	9%	8%
Backcountry/wilderness backpacking camping	8%	7%	7%	9%	6%	6%	7%	7%
Fishing/hunting	8%	8%	8%	8%	7%	9%	8%	8%
Winter sports (skiing, snowshoe, snowmobile)	13%	9%	8%	12%	11%	10%	11%	11%
Town activities (town trails use, parks, recreation facilities)	12%	12%	14%	11%	15%	11%	12%	13%
Off trail backcountry use	6%	3%	3%	7%	3%	4%	5%	5%
Other (please specify)	2%	3%	2%	3%	2%	2%	2%	2%

Question 10. How has the quality of your Chaffee County outdoor recreation experiences changed over time?

Groups	Somewhat Improved to Much Improved.	%	Somewhat Degraded to Much Degraded	%	No Change	Average Score
Chaffee County	458	47%	517	53%	12%	2.98
Colorado (non-Chaffee)	395	60%	262	39%	29%	2.70
Out of State	441	72%	170	27%	29%	2.39
Natural Landscapes	137	28%	357	72%	13%	3.48
Adventurers	452	76%	147	25%	22%	2.26

Motorized Freedom	185	59%	129	41%	29%	2.78
Young and Diverse	295	62%	184	38%	24%	2.64
Overall	1294	58%	949	42%	21%	2.71

Question 10a. Please describe the reason for your choice. 2,182 answers were entered in the open box on this question, and sorted into themes summarized below.

Reasons	Chaffee County	Colorado (non-Chaffee)	Out of State	Natural Lands	Adventure	Motorized Freedom	Young and Diverse	Overall
Crowding	36%	29%	21%	44%	16%	13%	21%	31%
New town trails, better maintained trails, better signage	24%	20%	17%	9%	26%	10%	21%	22%
Blank/I don't know/ not been visiting long	6%	16%	22%	5%	13%	7%	11%	12%
Degraded Natural Resources	12%	9%	7%	18%	5%	2%	8%	11%
Other	4%	9%	10%	4%	6%	5%	5%	7%
Trash	6%	3%	2%	7%	2%	1%	3%	4%
Increased OHVs	4%	3%	6%	5%	3%	0%	4%	4%
Decreased Access	3%	5%	5%	0%	2%	5%	3%	4%
In town facilities/improvements	0%	4%	5%	1%	2%	1%	2%	2%
Traffic increased/lack of parking	2%	1%	3%	2%	1%	1%	2%	2%
Degraded sense of place	2%	1%	2%	3%	1%	1%	1%	2%
Improved information	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%

Question 11. How have the quality of Chaffee County natural resources (water, wildlife, forests) changed over time?

Groups	Somewhat Improved to Much Improved.	%	Somewhat Degraded to Much Degraded	%	Average Score
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Chaffee County	161	21%	612	79%	3.35
Colorado (non-Chaffee)	208	47%	235	53%	2.65
Out of State	190	52%	174	48%	2.47
Natural Landscapes	56	13%	367	87%	3.55
Adventurers	205	51%	197	49%	2.54
Motorized Freedom	83	46%	99	54%	2.75
Young and Diverse	117	35%	215	65%	2.88
Overall	559	35%	1021	65%	2.87

Question 11a. Please describe the reason for your choice. 1,068 answers were entered in the open box on this question, and sorted into themes summarized below.

Reasons	Chaffee County	Colorado (non-Chaffee)	Out of State	Natural Landscapes	Adventurers	Motorized Freedom	Young and Diverse	Overall
Overuse and Resource damage	18%	23%	18%	20%	21%	15%	19%	19%
Growth tourism/population	13%	11%	15%	13%	9%	13%	11%	16%
Declining Forest Health	16%	9%	13%	11%	13%	17%	12%	10%
Other	7%	14%	7%	7%	10%	12%	6%	8%
Climate change, erosion, drought, heat	8%	8%	9%	8%	9%	6%	7%	7%
Pollution (Trash/Bio Waste/Noise)	11%	10%	4%	9%	6%	5%	8%	7%
No Change/Not Noticed	2%	10%	11%	2%	5%	9%	5%	5%
Declining Wildlife	5%	6%	5%	6%	5%	6%	5%	5%
Irresponsible use	9%	3%	5%	11%	4%	2%	5%	5%
Improving trails/ assets	2%	6%	8%	1%	5%	6%	5%	3%
Improving River health	3%	4%	3%	1%	4%	2%	5%	3%
Declining water quantity/quality	3%	1%	3%	3%	4%	4%	5%	3%

Poor Forest Management	2%	3%	1%	3%	3%	3%	1%	2%
Improving Access	2%	4%	2%	2%	2%	3%	2%	2%
Over Promotion	4%	1%	1%	4%	1%	0%	2%	2%
Increased amenities (signage, bathrooms, campgrounds)				1%	2%	3%	1%	1%
More wildlife	1%	2%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%

Question 12. In general, what do you think is the greatest benefit of increased outdoor recreation use in Chaffee County? 2,182 answers were entered in the open box on this question, and sorted into themes summarized below.

Benefits	Chaffee County	Colorado (non-Chaffee)	Out of State	Natural Landscape	Adventure	MotORIZED Freedom	Young and Diverse	Overall
economic growth (more resources)	36%	37%	27%	32%	36%	33%	35%	37%
improved access/opportunity	14%	20%	18%	9%	21%	24%	15%	18%
physical and mental health	19%	12%	18%	13%	18%	16%	18%	17%
There are none	14%	9%	11%	25%	4%	7%	10%	12%
increased conservation support	10%	10%	7%	11%	8%	7%	11%	10%
beautiful and natural places (e.g. mountains, streams)	4%	8%	13%	8%	8%	8%	5%	7%
quality of life (community benefits)	4%	4%	6%	2%	5%	4%	5%	5%

Question 13. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements related to recreation growth?

	Chaffee County		Colorado (non-Chaffee Cty.)		Out of State		Overall		
Statements	Agree to Strongly Agree	Disagree to Strongly Disagree	Agree to Strongly Agree	Disagree to Strongly Disagree	Agree to Strongly Agree	Disagree to Strongly Disagree	Agree to Strongly Agree	Disagree to Strongly Disagree	Average Score
Visitors coming to recreate provide meaningful jobs	77%	23%	93%	7%	92%	8%	86%	13%	3.81
Visitors coming to recreate support better shopping and dining opportunities	84%	17%	95%	5%	93%	7%	90%	10%	3.96
Outdoor recreation tourism supports locally- owned businesses	95%	5%	98%	2%	95%	5%	96%	4%	4.21
Increasing outdoor recreation use is being managed in a sustainable way	37%	63%	71%	29%	76%	24%	59%	41%	3.11
The benefits of visitors coming to recreate outweigh any negative impacts	30%	70%	55%	45%	61%	39%	46%	54%	2.91

Question 14. In general, what do you think is the greatest impact related to increased outdoor recreation use in Chaffee County? 2,264 answers were entered in the open box on this question, and sorted into themes summarized below.

Impacts	Chaffee County	Colorado (non-Chaffee)	Out of State	Natural Lands	Adventure Sports	MotORIZED Freedom	Young and Diverse	Overall
Degraded Natural Resources	23%	17%	18%	34%	20%	10%	23%	22%
Crowding	14%	17%	13%	19%	14%	19%	16%	16%
economic benefit to community (jobs, businesses, tax revenue)	9%	14%	15%	3%	18%	23%	11%	13%
Other	5%	6%	8%	4%	6%	11%	8%	9%
Increased Traffic	8%	9%	7%	6%	9%	11%	10%	9%
Increased Trash/Bio-Waste	8%	9%	7%	9%	10%	7%	9%	9%
Degraded Recreation Assets	7%	6%	6%	7%	7%	5%	10%	8%
Degraded Resident Quality of Life	7%	4%	5%	9%	4%	5%	6%	6%
Blank/I don't know	14%	14%	15%	2%	5%	5%	3%	4%
Degraded Sense of Place	3%	3%	2%	5%	3%	2%	4%	3%
Health/well-being benefit/fun for recreators	1%	1%	3%	0%	2%	3%	1%	2%

Question 15. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Chaffee County		Colorado (non-Chaffee Cty.)		Out of State		Overall		
Statements	Agr ee to Strongly Agree	Dis agr ee to Strongly Dis agree	Agr ee to Strongly Agree	Dis agr ee to Strongly Dis agree	Agr ee to Strongly Agree	Dis agr ee to Strongly Dis agree	Agr ee to Strongly Agree	Dis agr ee to Strongly Dis agree	Ave rag e Sco re
Dogs not under close control can harm wildlife	88%	12%	89%	12%	88%	12%	88%	12%	4.00
Using ONLY existing trails and motorized routes helps natural areas stay natural	93%	8%	93%	7%	94%	6%	93%	7%	4.25
Creating and leaving a new campfire ring is like leaving trash	90%	10%	87%	13%	85%	15%	88%	12%	4.07
No one wants to see TP or human waste-bury it	98%	2%	98%	2%	99%	1%	98%	2%	4.79
If a campfire is too hot to touch, it is too hot to leave	100%	0%	99%	1%	99%	1%	99%	.7%	4.87

Question 16. What is one thing you could do to reduce your impact when you recreate in Chaffee County? 2,136 answers were entered in the open box on this question, and sorted into themes summarized below.

Actions	Chaffee County	Colorado (non-Chaffee)	Out of State	Natural Landscapes	Adventure	Motorized Freedom	Young and Diverse	Overall
Leave No Trace/Low Impact	27%	29%	30%	25%	29%	27%	27%	28%
Waste Management (human, dogs, horses)	22%	24%	26%	19%	25%	23%	25%	23%
Human Behavior (kindness, etiquette, respect, follow the rules, ability)	15%	13%	11%	15%	15%	14%	13%	14%
Sustainable Practices (drive less, recycle, reuse, compost, catch & release)	9%	9%	12%	9%	10%	7%	13%	10%
Limit Visitation/Restrict Use	11%	8%	6%	14%	6%	9%	7%	9%
Trails (stay on them, maintenance, close off social ones)	8%	7%	6%	7%	8%	7%	6%	7%
Misc (nothings, don't know)	3%	4%	5%	3%	2%	7%	3%	4%
Educate Others/Stewardship	2%	2%	2%	3%	2%	2%	1%	2%
Conservation (respect nature,	2%	1%	2%	3%	1%	1%	2%	2%
Campfires (Monitor, Limit, None, Use Propane Pit)	1%	2%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%

Question 17. What could land management agencies do to support your efforts to reduce your impact when you recreate in Chaffee County? (select all that apply)

Supports	Chaffee County	Colorado (non-Chaffee)	Out of State	Natural Lands	Adventure	Motorized Recreation	Young and Diverse	Overall
Install restrooms at trail heads	18%	21%	22%	15%	22%	23%	21%	53%
Display signage to identify places that are/are not appropriate for dispersed camping	20%	20%	18%	20%	20%	17%	21%	52%
Issue clear and consistent rules	7%	10%	9%	21%	20%	20%	19%	52%
Clearly identify areas and reasons for closures	18%	19%	19%	19%	18%	18%	19%	49%
Educate me on how to decrease my impact	13%	14%	20%	13%	15%	12%	14%	37%
Other	11%	7%	5%	12%	5%	10%	7%	21%

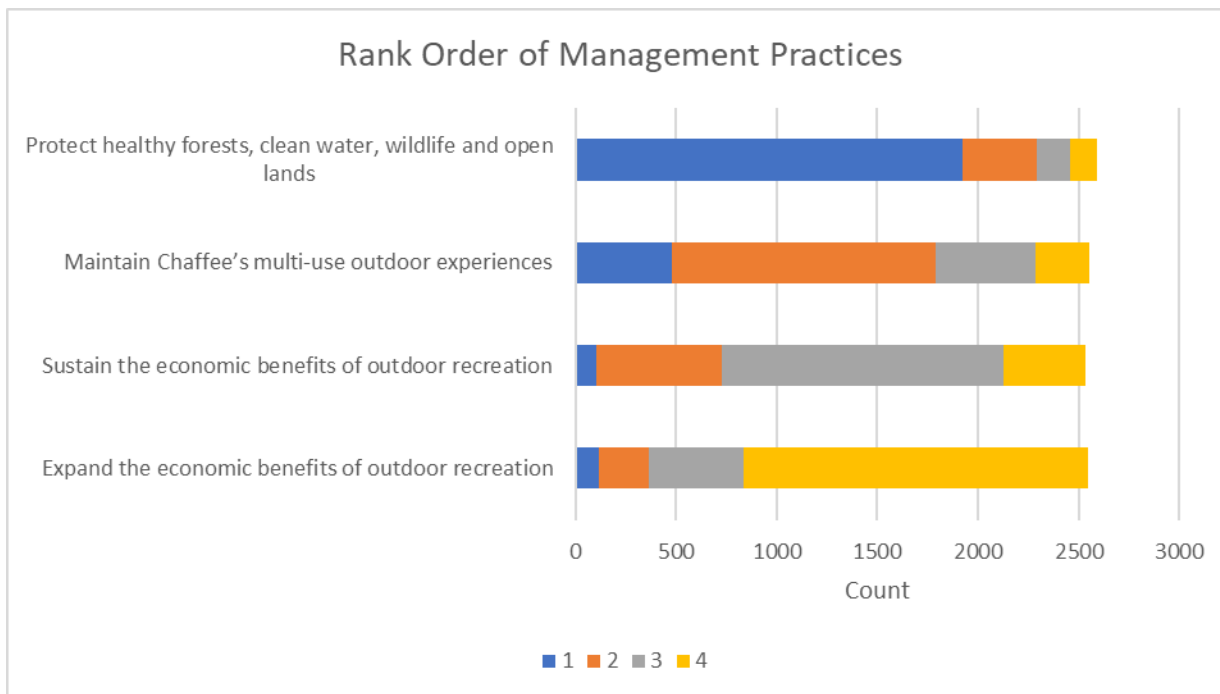
Question 17a. What could land management agencies do to support your efforts to reduce your impact when you recreate in Chaffee County? 561 answers were entered in the open box on this question, and sorted into themes below.

Supports	Chaffee County	Colorado (non-Chaffee)	Out of State	Natural Lands	Adventure	Motorized Recreation	Young and Diverse	Overall
more visitor and land use controls (enforcement, fines, & permits)	51%	40%	39%	55%	33%	14%	34%	40%
education on impact prevention (signage, websites, brochures)	19%	29%	28%	16%	34%	15%	19%	20%
develop more facilities (toilets, waste containers, parking)	7%	10%	9%	5%	15%	20%	17%	12%
restricted access, closures)	13%	6%	10%	14%	5%	5%	9%	9%
more trails/maintenance	7%	14%	8%	2%	6%	19%	14%	8%

improve ease of access	5%	6%	7%	1%	5%	16%	6%	5%
increased fees	4%	3%	3%	4%	1%	4%	2%	3%
more "hands-off" management	1%	2%	4%	1%	2%	6%	0%	2%
decrease advertising	1%	1%	1%	2%	0%	0%	0%	1%

Question 18. In order to manage growth in recreation use in Chaffee County, rank the following in order of priority

Practices	Chaffee County	Colorado (non-Chaffee)	Out of State	Natural Lands	Adventure	MotORIZED Freedom	Young and Diverse	Overall Rank
Protect healthy forests, clean water, wildlife and open lands	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1
Maintain Chaffee's multi-use outdoor experiences	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2
Sustain the economic benefits of outdoor recreation	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Expand the economic benefits of outdoor recreation	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4



Question 19. When managing increasing recreation use in Chaffee County, how important do you think each of the following considerations are:

	Chaffee County		Colorado (non-Chaffee Cty.)		Out of State		Overall		
Considerations	Very Important to Extr	Some what Important to All	Very Important to Extr	Some what Important to All	Very Important to Extr	Some what Important to All	Very Important to Extr	Some what Important to All	Average Score
Protect wildlife, such as elk and big horn sheep	96%	5%	94%	6%	94%	6%	95%	5%	4.33
Promote additional tourism	7%	93%	15%	85%	19%	81%	12%	88%	2.10
Protect smaller sensitive wildlife, such as eagles and trout	94%	6%	93%	7%	94%	6%	94%	6%	4.28
Maintain current multiuse recreation opportunities	78%	22%	89%	11%	88%	12%	84%	46%	3.69
Develop more recreation opportunities, such as trails and roads	35%	65%	50%	50%	48%	52%	43%	57%	2.87
Develop more facilities such as restrooms, campgrounds and parking	55%	45%	37%	63%	46%	54%	53%	47%	3.10
Maintain the quality of recreational experiences	92%	8%	97%	3%	93%	6%	94%	6%	4.02

Question 19a. When managing increasing recreation use in Chaffee County, how important do you think each of the following considerations are (other):

	Chaffee County	Colorado (non-Chaffee)	Out of State	Overall
Supports				
Increase enforcement	28%	27%	27%	26%
Decrease development/growth	18%	14%	22%	16%
Increase Non-Motorized Use	8%	7%	11%	8%
Decrease/limit motorized Use (ATVs)	7%	9%	8%	7%
Expand volunteer stewardship	7%	5%	14%	7%
Increase fees	9%	3%	3%	6%
Increase amenities (restrooms, signs)	2%	5%	0%	6%
Expand motorized Use	4%	8%	8%	5%
Promote sustainability	2%	2%	3%	4%
Manage pets	3%	5%	3%	4%
Roads (Less/No More/Close)	5%	2%	0%	3%
Development/Growth/Tourism (areas, population, tourism) (Increase)	2%	5%	3%	3%
Enforcement/Maintenance/Education (limits, research, more rangers) (Decrease)	0%	1%	0%	2%

Question 20. What is the impact of the following to the quality of your recreation experiences?

	Chaffee County		Colorado (non-Chaffee Cty.)		Out of State		Overall		
Impacts	Maj or to Extr em e	So me wh at to Not At All	Maj or to Extr em e	So me wh at to Not At All	Maj or to Extr em e	So me wh at to Not At All	Maj or to Extr em e	So me wh at to Not At All	Ave rag e Sco re
The number of users encountered	93%	7%	87%	14%	81%	19%	88%	12%	3.89
Seeing trash	99%	1%	98%	2%	97%	3%	98%	2%	4.51
Seeing human waste/TP	98%	2%	97%	3%	96%	4%	97%	3%	4.63
Damage to natural areas	99%	1%	98%	2%	98%	2%	98%	2%	4.58
Conflicts with other users	76%	23%	72%	28%	74%	26%	75%	25%	3.66

Question 21. How do you think land management agencies in Chaffee County should prioritize the following? (1=highest priority; 5=lowest priority)

Priorities	Chaffee County	Colorado (non-Chaffee)	Out of State	Nat ural Landsc ape s	Adv ent ure rs	Mo tori zed Fre edom	You ng and Div ers e	Ove rall Ran k
Protect healthy forests, water and wildlife	1.68	1.90	1.76	1.38	1.62	2.84	1.54	1
Maintain current roads, trails and campgrounds	2.67	2.66	2.56	2.83	2.77	2.31	2.56	2
Increase enforcement	2.69	2.98	3.04	2.16	2.90	3.65	2.94	3
Develop more recreation facilities, such as bathrooms, parking and campgrounds	3.79	3.53	3.66	3.96	3.59	3.28	3.80	4
Develop additional recreation, such as roads and trails	4.07	3.84	3.85	4.57	4.02	2.84	4.08	5

**Question 22. Chaffee County is considering new approaches to manage recreation growth.
How acceptable are the following to you?**

	Chaffee County		Colorado (non- Chaffee Cty.)		Out of State		Overall		
Approaches	Ver y Acc ept abl e to Extr em ely Acc ept abl e	So me wh at Acc ept abl e to Not At All	Ver y Acc ept abl e to Extr em ely Acc ept abl e	So me wh at Acc ept abl e to Not At All	Ver y Acc ept abl e to Extr em ely Acc ept abl e	So me wh at Acc ept abl e to Not At All	Ver y Acc ept abl e to Extr em ely Acc ept abl e	So me wh at Acc ept abl e to Not At All	Ave rag e Sco re
Direct new recreation development in areas where it will have the least impact	84%	16%	87%	14%	87%	13%	85%	15%	3.26
Concentrate new recreation development in and around towns	72%	28%	65%	35%	66%	34%	68%	32%	3.32
Limit recreation development in areas most critical to wildlife	92%	8%	85%	15%	87%	13%	88%	12%	3.41
Prohibit campfires near timberline	78%	22%	71%	29%	81%	19%	76%	24%	3.58
Apply seasonal closures	74%	27%	61%	39%	63%	38%	67%	33%	3.69
Limit daily access to certain areas to preserve quality experiences	63%	37%	58%	42%	61%	39%	61%	39%	3.78
Invest in additional enforcement	80%	20%	72%	28%	69%	31%	75%	25%	4.11

Question 23. The number of dispersed (undeveloped) campsites is doubling every 5 years. To maintain great camping experiences, how acceptable are the following?

	Chaffee County		Colorado (non-Chaffee Cty.)		Out of State		Overall		
	Very Acceptable to Extremely Acceptable	Some Acceptable to Extremely Acceptable	Very Acceptable to Extremely Acceptable	Some Acceptable to Extremely Acceptable	Very Acceptable to Extremely Acceptable	Some Acceptable to Extremely Acceptable	Very Acceptable to Extremely Acceptable	Some Acceptable to Extremely Acceptable	Average Score
Approaches									
Require human waste removal if you are vehicle/RV camping	95%	5%	95%	5%	96%	4%	95%	5%	4.51
Require human waste removal if you are backpacking	58%	42%	60%	40%	63%	37%	60%	40%	3.34
Increase the number of developed campgrounds	43%	57%	54%	46%	47%	53%	47%	53%	2.98
Limit dispersed camping to designated sites	73%	27%	62%	38%	67%	33%	68%	32%	3.47
Close inappropriate campsites	91%	9%	82%	18%	85%	15%	87%	13%	4.07
Contain campsite expansion with fencing or boulders	69%	31%	53%	47%	47%	53%	59%	41%	3.26
Require a fire pan at car camping sites to decrease wildfire risk	85%	15%	80%	20%	82%	18%	82%	18%	3.91

Question 23a. The number of dispersed (undeveloped) campsites is doubling every 5 years. To maintain great camping experiences, how acceptable are the following? 143 answers were entered in the "other" box on this question, and sorted into themes as below.

Approaches	Chaffee County	Colorado (non-Chaffee)	Out of State	Overall
more visitor and land use controls (proper waste disposal, enforcement, fines, & fire bans)	56%	38%	43%	49%
make more isolated (permits, closures, use of boulders as barriers)	19%	19%	13%	18%
education on impact prevention (signage, websites, brochures)	10%	33%	26%	19%
increased fees	6%	0%	0%	3%
more "hands-off" management	4%	0%	9%	3%
develop more facilities (toilets, waste containers, fire rings)	3%	7%	4%	4%
volunteer clean-up/maintenance	1%	0%	0%	1%
more campsite maintenance (weed control)	1%	0%	0%	1%

Question 24. Funding is currently not available to maintain quality dispersed camping experiences or to provide facilities, such as parking and restrooms, at major trail heads. How much would you be willing to pay on an annual basis to address these needs?

Groups	Average Amount
Chaffee County	\$48
Colorado (non-Chaffee)	\$41
Out of State	\$43
Natural Landscapes	\$50

Adventurers	\$49
Motorized Freedom	\$33
Young and Diverse	\$42
Overall	\$44

Question 25. Do you have additional ideas about how Chaffee County can manage recreation growth? 887 answers were entered in the open box on this question, and sorted into themes summarized below.

Ideas	Chaffee County	Colorado (non-Chaffee)	Out of State	Overall
Limit/decrease access	22%	23%	22%	22%
Charge fees	23%	16%	16%	20%
Education on impact prevention (signage, collaboration with user groups)	13%	14%	14%	14%
More visitor and land use controls (citations)	10%	11%	8%	11%
Nothing	5%	9%	21%	9%
Reduce/limit advertising	10%	3%	4%	7%
Increase access (dispersed camping, more services, more facilities)	5%	9%	6%	6%
Leave area as is (no new fees)	4%	6%	2%	4%
More trails/motorized routes/maintenance of settings	4%	6%	3%	4%
Donations/fundraising/volunteering	4%	2%	5%	3%

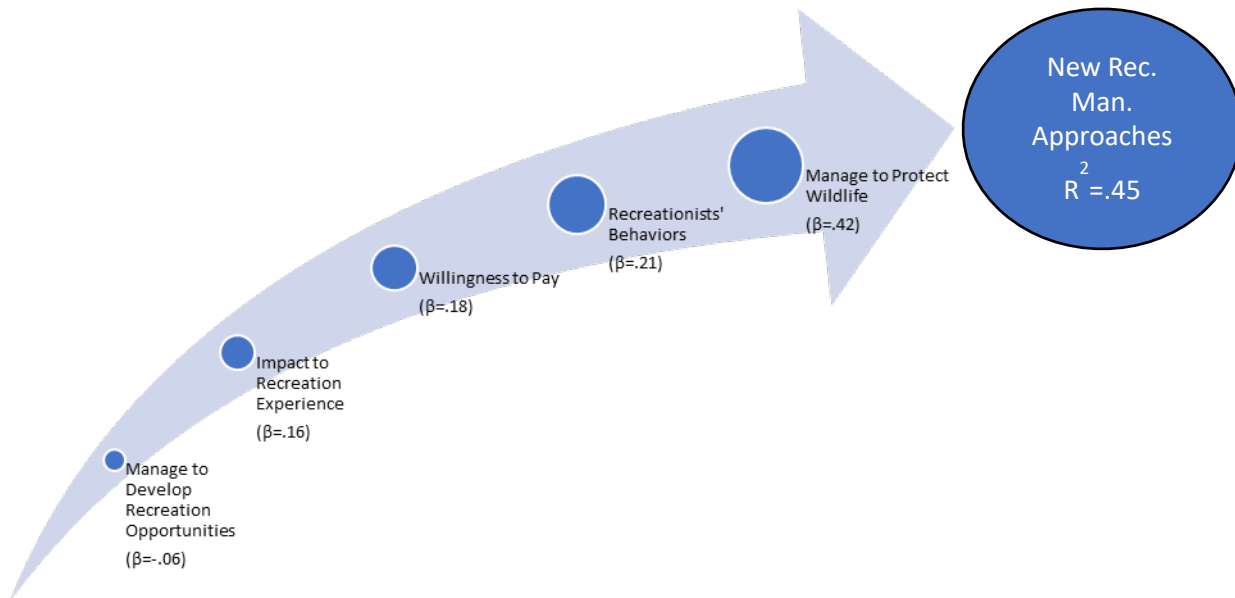
Demographics.

	18-35	36-50	51-65	65+
Age	9%	29%	37%	25%

	Wh ite	Bla ck	His pan ic	Asi an	Oth er
Ethnicity	70%	.3%	2%	1%	6%
Household Income	<\$5 0k	\$50 - \$99 k	\$10 0k+		
	12%	32%	37%		

Appendix B - Insights from Statical Analysis

Stepwise regression was conducted to determine which independent variables were the predictors of new recreation management approaches. Results indicate that an overall model of five predictors significantly predict new recreation management approaches. This model accounts for 45% of variance in acceptance of new recreation management approaches.



Stepwise regression was conducted to determine which independent variables were the predictors of new recreation management approaches. Results indicate that an overall model of four predictors significantly predict new recreation management approaches. This model accounts for 10% of variance in acceptance of new recreation management approaches.

