

**Final Research Report
for
2012 Headwaters Forest Reserve Visitor Study**

Report to the Bureau of Land Management
Arcata Field Office

by

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Executive Summary

We contacted 683 individuals at the Elk River Road trailhead access to the Headwaters Forest Reserve from May 26 to September 16, 2013. 631 individuals (92.4%) agreed to participate in the study. Of these 631 individuals, 609 provided useable addresses (USPS and/or e-mail) and were mailed a 16-page questionnaire (and/or sent a link to complete the survey online) after their trip. Of the 609 visitors sent a survey or online link, 434 completed the survey for a response rate of 71.3%.

Use and User Characteristics

Most groups who visited described themselves as “family” groups (53%), followed by “alone” (21%). The most common group size was two (48% of all groups), followed by people visiting alone (21%). Although women made up 55% of our respondents, only 38% of respondents who visited HFR alone were women. Conversely, the 45% of male respondents accounted for 62% of the solo respondents.

Almost exactly 25% of respondents reported that this was their first visit to HFR. 21% reported having visited 1 to 5 times previously, while another 25% were evenly split (12.5% each) between 6 to 10 and 11 to 20 previous visits. 13% reported having visited more than 50 times. The most common length of visit was 1 to 2 hours (57%), followed by 2 to 4 hours (25%).

Just over 44% of respondents reported having a dog with them on the day they were surveyed.

The most common distance hiked was to the Falk town site (32%), followed by the first bridge (26%). Only 5% reported having made it all the way to the end of the trail.

The most common age category was 50 to 59 years old (nearly 23% of respondents), though visitors 60 or older made up nearly 25% of all respondents. The median (50th percentile) age of all respondents was 48 years old. Nearly 88% described themselves as Anglo, white, non-Hispanic.

Average visitor use on weekdays was 52-53 people per day, and 76-77 people per day on weekends and holidays. The estimate of total visitor use during the study period of May 26 to September 16, 2012 is 6,875 people. This represents an increase in visitor use of just over 81 percent from 1999.

Only 6.7% of respondents indicated that they used the BLM website as a source of information. For trip planning purposes, visitors indicated the following types of information as most helpful: specific trail condition descriptions (59%), maps (39%), cultural/historical resource values of the area (36%), and directions to the trailhead (29%).

By far, hiking on trails was the most common reason for the visit (85%), followed by dog walking (45%) and viewing wildlife (34%). More respondents said that socializing was a major reason for their visit (31%) than said they were there to spend time alone (20%).

Just over 12% of respondents participated in a BLM-led interpretive hike, and 5.5% in an environmental education program at the Education Center.

Dog-related Issues

Just over half (53%) of respondents said they had brought a dog to HFR, though just 44% reported having a dog with them on the day they were surveyed.

Almost half (49%) of respondents said they knew what the dog policy was for the Headwaters Forest Reserve, though this number was much higher for people who had brought dogs (69%) than for those who had not (27%). However this still means that 31% of people who bring dogs to HFR do not know what the policy is for dogs.

Asked if they thought the rule requiring that dogs be kept under voice control was working, those who have brought dogs to HFR were twice as likely to say 'Yes' (75%) than were respondents who do not bring dogs to HFR (36%).

41% of respondents said that walking a dog was the primary reason for a previous visit to HFR, and of those respondents who said they had brought a dog to HFR, nearly half (48%) said they visit HFR specifically because no leash is required for their dog.

16% of all respondents reported having been bothered by dogs on a previous visit, though respondents who don't bring dogs were twice as likely (22%) to report this as were respondents who bring dogs (11%).

On the question "Do you believe the BLM should implement a more restrictive dog policy?" only 8% of respondents who bring dogs said Yes, while 36% of no-dog respondents thought the BLM should implement a more restrictive dog policy.

Regarding possible changes to the dog policy, nearly 79% of respondents who bring dogs supported maintaining the existing voice control policy, compared to a minority (42%) of respondents who don't bring dogs. There is little support, however, for a policy to prohibit dogs from HFR, with even respondents who don't bring dogs opposing such a policy by more than a 5 to 1 margin (68% oppose to 13% support). Allowing dogs only on weekends also garnered only 10% support even from those respondents who don't bring dogs. The only policy that had the support of a majority of no-dog respondents was to require that all dogs be on a leash, something that was supported by 62% of those respondents who don't bring dogs to HFR. However only 28% of those who do bring dogs supported a leash requirement.

A review of the answers that respondents gave to the dog-related open-ended questions on the survey (see Appendices E-I and K) reveals that a preponderance of comments were made about two particular issues – off leash dogs, and dog waste. These seem to be the two biggest issues in the minds of many visitors.

Perceptions of Problems

Fewer than 3% of respondents reported seeing too many other hikers; crowding does not appear to be a problem, although 8% of all respondents reported seeing too many dogs. For many or even most visitors, the number of other hikers (44%) or dogs (50%) that they see simply doesn't matter, though the highest crowding number reported was for seeing too many dogs by those respondents who don't bring dogs to HFR (15%).

However, 28% of respondents (up slightly from 25% in 1999) said they noticed resource impacts caused by other recreationists; the most common was dog excrement.

Only 8% of respondents (down from 12% in 1999) complained that the behavior of others interfered with their enjoyment; the most common problems cited were off-leash dogs, bikes on the trail, and people generally being too loud.

Visitors were asked about potential resource, social, and management problems. The resource problem thought most serious was trail erosion, which 8% of respondents thought was major or moderate. The only two social problems rated major or moderate by more than 10% of respondents were dog waste (15%) and dogs off leash (14%). "Not enough trails" was thought to be the most serious management problem, rated major or moderate by 22% of respondents.

Visitors were asked about the importance of services and facilities provided by the BLM, then were asked to grade the performance of the BLM with respect to these services and facilities. The services and facilities rated most important are: vehicle safe from vandalism, BLM staff are professional and competent, clean restrooms, BLM staff friendly and courteous, opportunity for personal freedom, signs at trailhead have necessary information, adequate parking, and managers notify visitors of hazards in the area.

The highest Performance scores were for the following items: BLM staff are friendly and courteous, BLM staff are professional and competent, opportunity for personal freedom without too many rules and regulations, access road in good condition, and adequate parking. The lowest rated item was "Able to find a BLM person when needed."

Public Sentiment Toward Possible Management Actions

Visitors were asked how much they would support or oppose several possible management actions. Charging a small user fee received, by a wide margin, the most opposition (59%), and conversely, by a wide margin, the least support (16%). None of the other options garnered a large amount of opposition. The actions receiving the most support included providing educational signs about the area's plants and animals, and about the area's history, installing a donation box at the trailhead, expanding the trail system, and acquiring more land to add to the Reserve.

Comparisons to 1999 Study

Visitor use of HFR has increased by over 81% since the summer of 1999.

The age of visitors has increased significantly since 1999. Both mean and median age has increased by four years from 1999 to 2012. 18 to 29 year olds made up 26% of respondents in 1999, but only 17% in 2012. Conversely, visitors age 60 or older made up 25% of respondents in 2012, compared to only 15% in 1999.

Family groups increased from 39% in 1999 to 53% in 2012, while Friends groups declined from 28% to 15%.

Average group size declined from 3.3 in 1999 to 2.5 in 2012.

Visitors are not hiking nearly as far in 2012 as they did in 1999. 77% of 1999 respondents hiked beyond the first bridge (2 miles), while only 28% of 2012 respondents did so. In 2012, 73% of respondents turned around at or before the first bridge, compared to 23% in 1999. Apparently return visitors (75%) who have hiked farther on previous visits in earlier years are no longer feeling the need to do so.

Hiking the trail remained the most popular recreational activity from 1999 to 2012, but several activities saw significant declines in participation rate – total participation in wildlife viewing dropped from 86% in 1999 to 71% in 2012, and nature study dropped from 85% to just 58%. In 1999, 28% of respondents said “spending time alone” was the major reason for their visit; this dropped to 17% in 2012. Dog walking, which was not even asked on the 1999 survey, had the second highest percentage (39%) of respondents listing it as the major reason for their visit in 2012.

2012 survey respondents were twice as likely (44%) to encounter 10 or more other visitors than were 1999 respondents (22%). Conversely, 1999 respondents were more than twice as likely (44%) to encounter 5 or fewer other visitors than were 2012 respondents (19%). This is

not surprising given 1) a much higher visitor use level in 2012, and 2) a greater concentration of visitors in the first mile or two of the trail.

Despite seeing more other visitors, however, fewer respondents in 2012 said they felt that they “saw too many” other visitors (8% in 1999 compared to less than 3% in 2012). There was a large increase in the percentage of 2012 respondents saying the number of other visitors they saw “did not matter to me” (from 29% in 1999 to 44% in 2012). Apparently, relatively few visitors are now seeking a visitor experience that depends on a low visitor density.

Visitors were asked to rate potential resource, social, and managerial problems. Mean ratings (i.e. perceived conditions) improved for all potential resource problems and for all potential social problems from 1999 to 2012. Ratings also improved for all potential management problems from 1999 to 2012, except for a slight decline in “adequate parking.”

Finally, visitors were asked to rate both the Importance and the Performance of a number of BLM facilities and services. Several items increased in Importance from 1999 to 2012 – cleanliness of restrooms, access road in good condition, adequate parking, and vehicle safe from vandalism. Of the 16 items rated, the average Performance rating given to the BLM by respondents increased (i.e. improved) for 10 items. The only items that saw a decline in performance rating were “vehicle safe from vandalism” and “able to find a BLM person when needed.”

Acknowledgments

We would like to acknowledge the support and cooperation of the Bureau of Land Management, Arcata Field Office, including (to name a few) Linda Roush, Chris Heppe, Leisyka Parrott, Julie Clark, Ben Blom, Casey Hague, and Bruce Cann. We also want to thank all the respondents who took the time to complete the questionnaire.

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Introduction

The Headwaters Forest Reserve (Reserve, or HFR), comprising approximately 7500 acres of primarily late seral stage and old growth redwood forest in the Elk River and Salmon Creek watersheds, is highly valued for its ecological importance. It is the home of marbled murrelets and northern spotted owls, and provides habitat for a variety of other species, including wild coho salmon. It is also a high profile parcel of land, having passed from private commercial timberland ownership into the public domain through government purchase. The mandate of that purchase was that resource preservation is of paramount importance, but that public use of the land would be permitted under strict management.

In the summer of 1999, a study of recreational trail users visiting the Headwaters Forest Reserve was conducted by Humboldt State University faculty in cooperation with, and under contract by, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Arcata Field Office (see Martin and Widner 2000). At that time, the Reserve had only recently become open to public recreational use, and was being managed under relatively restrictive interim management guidelines. Knowledge of recreationists and their use patterns, characteristics, and management preferences was needed to ensure a high quality recreational experience as well as to protect resources.

Summer 2012 was the 14th summer that the Reserve has been open to the public. In the years since the original visitor study, BLM management of the Reserve has progressed as visitor use has increased and facilities have been improved. The trailhead has been enlarged, a historic barn has been relocated and converted into an Environmental Education Center, both interpretive signage and personal interpretation has increased, and visitor use has increased significantly. Managing this increased visitor use so as to both protect ecological resources as well as provide high quality recreational experiences requires considerable knowledge of the recreationists, *e.g.* who they are; how they can be reached; which clubs or organizations they belong to; what their information sources are; their level of knowledge about resource opportunities, impacts, and conflicts; their desired recreation experiences; and their preferences for management actions.

Study Goal and Objectives

The overall purpose of the survey is to determine visitor use characteristics, experiences and perspectives in relation to the management of recreational and ecological resource values in the Headwaters Forest Reserve. A baseline study was conducted in 1999 providing comprehensive information about visitor demographics and their perspectives toward facilities, conflicts, existing or proposed management actions, resource conditions, and desires for the area. Since those initial studies, BLM has adopted the Headwaters Resource Management Plan (RMP), improved facilities and implemented several resource protection and interpretation projects. The number of visitors has increased steadily each year. A new visitor use study is needed to determine changes in visitor characteristics since the initial study and to help inform future management decisions.

Specific objectives include:

- 1) Gather accurate data about demographic characteristics of visitors.
- 2) Examine experiences and perceptions about social conditions, encounters and crowding.
- 3) Determine reasons for visiting the Reserve.
- 4) Examine visitors' level of satisfaction with existing recreational facilities, interpretation materials and programs.
- 5) Assess visitors' opinions of current resource conditions.
- 6) Assess how visitors obtain information about the Reserve and programs.
- 7) Collect information that will allow BLM to adapt or further develop effective education programs.
- 8) Provide an estimate of visitor numbers.

Methods

Development of the study's data collection instrument, field sampling plan, and data analysis procedures was a cooperative venture between study investigators at Humboldt State University and Bureau of Land Management staff.

Study Area and Population

The study population included all recreational visitors to the Elk River trail of the Headwaters Forest Reserve between May 26 and September 16, 2012.

Sampling Plan

Field personnel (Mr. White) employed by the HSU Foundation (HSUF) contacted Reserve visitors on a stratified random sampling basis. Stratification took into account weekdays, weekends, and holidays. HSUF staff conducted visitor contacts on assigned days according to a predetermined schedule. Table 1 summarizes how many days were sampled, how many mornings, afternoons, and evenings were sampled, and how many weekdays versus weekend days were sampled. Two daily sampling time blocks were used: 8:00 AM-4:00 PM, and 12:00 PM-8:00 PM. One block would be randomly selected for sampling per sample day. Mornings are defined as 8:00 AM-12:00 PM, afternoons as 12:00 PM-4:00 PM, and evenings as 4:00 PM-8:00 PM. Therefore, due to overlap, afternoons were sampled twice as often as mornings and evenings.

Data Collection Instruments

The study's two data collection instruments were a short on-site interview and a longer mail-back questionnaire. The on-site interview collected the following information: date, time, relationship among group members, group size, time of arrival, estimated duration of visit, estimated distance traveled along the Elk River Trail, whether this was the group's first visit, and if not how many previous times they had visited, and name and address (see Appendix A for a copy of this instrument). A 16-page mail-back questionnaire (Appendix B) was used to obtain the information described in the study objectives.

On-Site Data Collection

All on-site interviews were conducted at the Elk River trailhead and took only a few minutes to complete. The interviewer recorded the information described above. Interviews were conducted by Mr. White. A mail-back survey recipient was selected from each group based on their willingness to participate; for groups with members from multiple households, a second participant was selected if willing. Repeat visitors were not asked to participate (in the on-site interviews or mail-back surveys) on subsequent visits.

Table 1. Summary of sampling plan.

| Time/Day | # of days sampled | % of days sampled |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Mornings | 28 | 56 |
| Afternoons | 50 | 100 |
| Evenings | 22 | 44 |
| Total | 50 | |
| Weekdays | 25 | 50 |
| Weekends/Holidays | 25 | 50 |
| Total | 50 | |

Mail Return Data Collection

The study questionnaire was mailed to all sampled individuals from whom useable names and addresses were obtained (only a few of the people contacted refused to participate). The questionnaire was mailed within two to three weeks of the initial contact. The survey packet contained a cover letter (Appendix C), the questionnaire, and a self-addressed, stamped return envelope. One week after the initial mail-out, study participants were mailed a reminder postcard (Appendix C). If the questionnaire had not been returned within two weeks of the postcard mailing, another complete survey packet was mailed to the respondent. This packet was identical to the first with the exception of a somewhat stronger cover letter urging cooperation in the study (Appendix C). In addition to its physical form, the survey was also available for visitors to complete online. Each cover letter and reminder postcard that was mailed out contained a URL that visitors could enter and access the online version of the survey. The base URL was:

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Headwaters Forest Visitor Survey ?c=](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Headwaters_Forest_Visitor_Survey_?c=)

Each subject received a personalized URL in their survey packets and on their reminder postcards, with their unique subject ID number added to the end of the base URL. This ensured all surveys completed online were able to be distinguished from each other.

Response Rate

Table 2 shows that of the 683 subjects contacted at the HFR trailhead, 609 were both willing to participate and provided a useable address, and were thus mailed a questionnaire. Of these, 434 individuals, or 71.3%, returned their completed survey. These 434 respondents represent 6.3% of the study population. This means we have a completed survey from nearly 1 out of every 15 visitors to the Headwaters Forest Reserve for the study period. We believe this response rate and overall sample size are adequate to permit valid conclusions about the user population. Therefore, no additional follow-up contacts with non-respondents were conducted.

Table 2. Number of subjects contacted, and number of returned questionnaires.

| Total # of subjects contacted | # of subjects declining to participate | # of subjects providing undeliverable addresses | # of subjects with valid addresses | Total # of returned surveys | Total response rate (out of 609 subjects) |
|-------------------------------|--|---|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| 683 | 52 | 22 | 609 | 434 | 71.3% |

Margin of error

The sample size obtained provides a confidence interval (aka margin of error) of approximately 4.5% at a 95% confidence level. A 95% confidence level means you can be 95% certain that the true percentage of the population choosing a given response lies within the +/- 4.5% confidence interval. This +/- 4.5% margin of error is a “worst case scenario” confidence interval based on the maximum possible sample variance. In many or most cases, the actual margin of error would be smaller.

Limitations

The results of the survey, and the interpretations and conclusions reached from the data, are representative only of the study population for the time period indicated.

Analysis of On-Site Interview Data

For this section, we use data from all 609 valid on-site contacts. One on-site interview form was completed for each visiting group.

Group Type

Table 3 shows the type of social group, or relationship among group members; 52.7% of groups were family only; 14.6% were friends; 21.0% were alone; 6.6% were “other”, either self-identified couples or school/work groups; and 5.1% were a combination of family and friends.

Table 3. Group type based on relationship among group members. (n=609)

| Group type | % of groups |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| friends only | 14.6 |
| family only | 52.7 |
| family and friends | 5.1 |
| alone | 21.0 |
| Other (couple + work groups) | 6.6 |

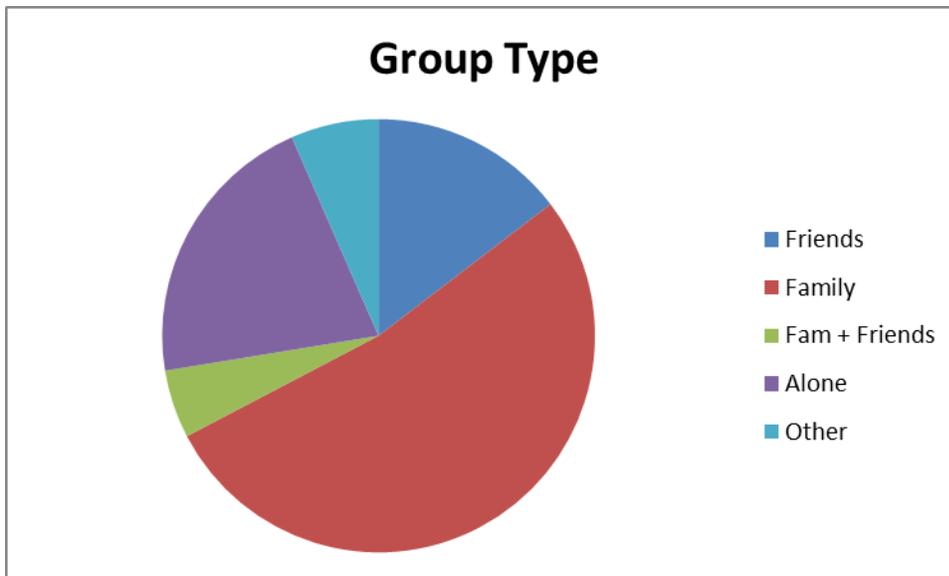


Figure 1. Relationship of group members to one another.

Group Size

Table 4 shows the size of groups. The most common group size was two, comprising 48.1% of all groups. The average group size was between 2 and 3 people per group.

Table 4. Group size. (n=609)

| Group size | # of groups | % of groups |
|------------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1 person | 129 | 21.2 |
| 2 people | 293 | 48.1 |
| 3 people | 82 | 13.5 |
| 4 people | 59 | 9.7 |
| 5 people | 20 | 3.3 |
| 6 people | 11 | 1.8 |
| 7 people | 8 | 1.3 |
| 8 or more people | 7 | 1.2 |

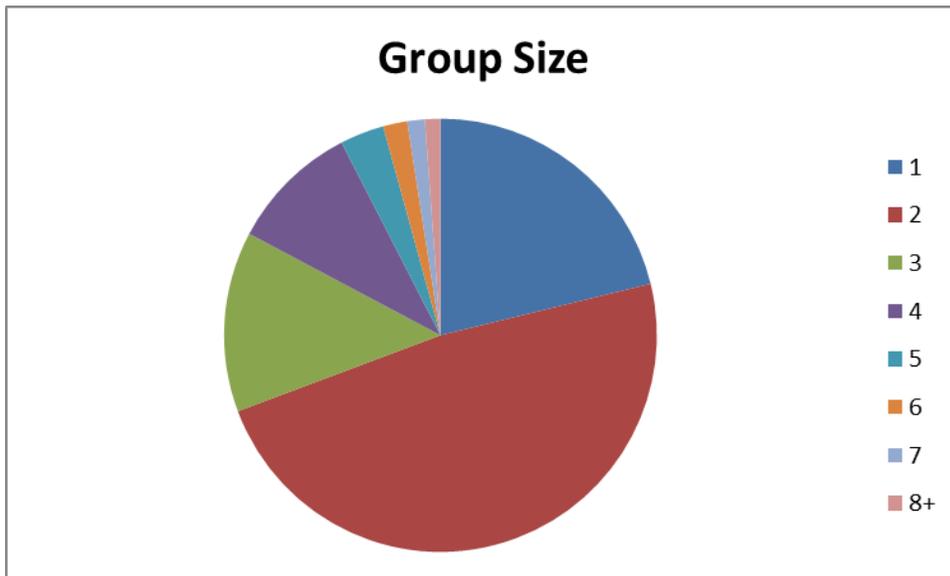


Figure 2. Group size.

First Visit

Table 5 shows the number and percentage of groups indicating that this was their first visit to the Headwaters Forest Reserve. About three-quarters of groups interviewed on-site (74.7%) indicated it was not their first visit to HFR, while 25.3% said it was. If any adult member of the group had visited previously, the group was considered to be repeat visitors (not first visit).

Table 5. Was this your first visit? (n=609)

| First Visit? | # of Groups | % of Groups |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| Yes | 154 | 25.3 |
| No | 455 | 74.7 |

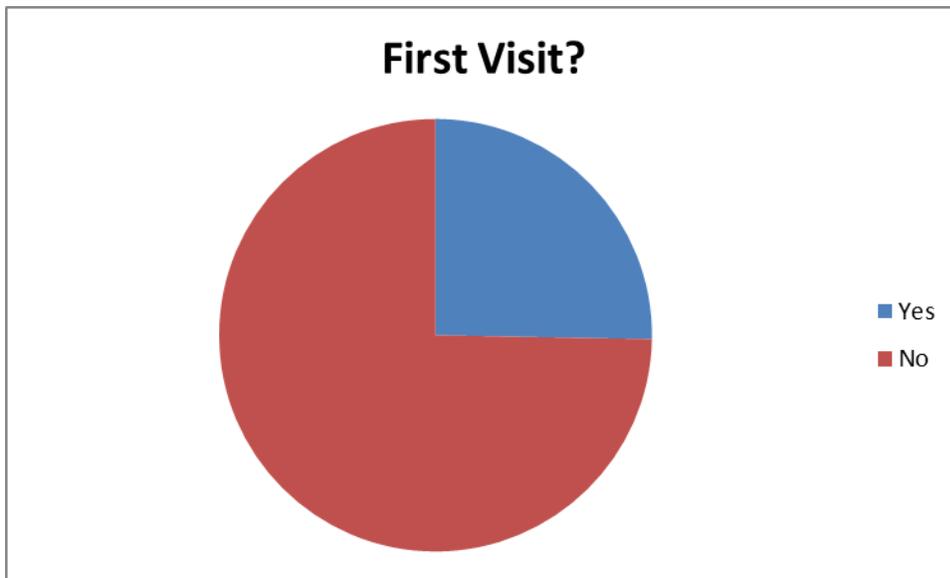


Figure 3. Was this your first visit to Headwaters Forest Reserve?

Number of Previous Visits

Table 6 shows the number of previous visits for all groups.

Table 6. Number of previous visits. (n=609)

| Number of previous visits | % of groups |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| None | 25.3 |
| 1-5 | 21.1 |
| 6-10 | 12.5 |
| 11-20 | 12.7 |
| 21-30 | 8.7 |
| 31-50 | 6.4 |
| 51-100 | 7.4 |
| More than 100 | 5.6 |

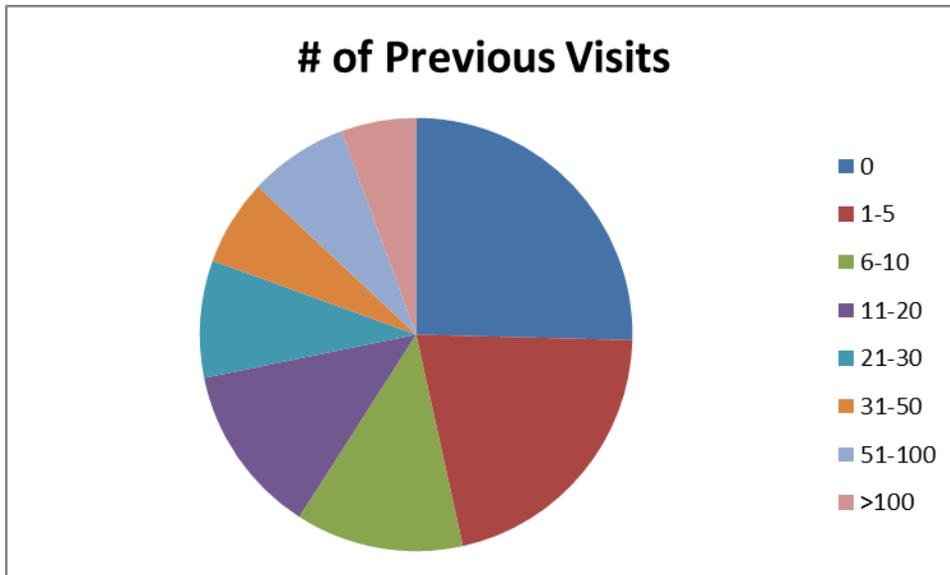


Figure 4. Number of previous visits to Headwaters Forest Reserve.

Estimate of Visitor Use

HSUF personnel sampling at the trailhead also kept a count of the number of individual visitors. All observed visitors were tallied, including repeat visitors. During the study period from May 25 to September 16, 200 weekday hours (25 total days) were sampled, with an average of 52.55 people visiting per weekday. Likewise, 200 weekend/holiday hours (25 total days) were sampled, with an average of 76.45 people visiting per weekend day/holiday. Extrapolated over the entire study period, a visitor use estimate looks like this:

Weekdays 52.55 people per day

52.55 people per day x 77 weekdays per season = **4046 total weekday visitors**

Weekends 76.45 people per day

76.45 people per day x 37 weekend days/holidays per season = **2829 total weekend/holiday visitors**

The estimate of total visitor use during the study period of May 26 to September 16, 2012 is **6875** people.

Additionally, we obtained visitor estimates for each of the three sample time periods used per sample day (mornings, afternoons, evenings, outlined in the earlier section of "Methods" titled *Sample Plan*):

Weekday Mornings (8-12): 21.1 people per sample period (n=12; 95% c.i. = 14 to 28)

Weekday Afternoons (12-4): 19.7 people per sample period (n=23; 95% c.i. = 16 to 24)

Weekday Evenings (4-8): 11.7 people per sample period (n = 11; 95% c.i. = 8 to 16)

Weekend/Holiday Mornings (8-12): 27.6 people per sample period (n = 11; 95% c.i. = 21 to 34)

Weekend/Holiday Afternoons 12-4): 43.3 people per sample period (n = 20; 95% c.i. = 35 to 52)

Weekend/Holiday Evenings (4-8): 5.6 people per sample period (n = 9; 95% c.i. = 3 to 8)

Converting (inflating) the 1999 daily use estimates from 9.5 hour days to 12 hour days so as to equal 2012 methods, and adjusting the beginning and ending dates of the 1999 season to match the 2012 season, the equivalent 1999 visitor use estimate would be approximately 3784 for the period May 26 to September 16. In 2012 we estimated visitation for this time period to be 6875, representing an increase in visitor use of over 81 percent from 1999 to 2012.

Mail-back Questionnaire Survey Results

The remainder of the report provides the results of the mail-back survey data analysis. We received 434 completed mail-back questionnaires from individual participants. In a very few number of cases, we received completed questionnaires from two members of the same visiting group, but only when those two participants represented different households.

Characteristics of Visits and Visitors

The next section describes characteristics of both the recreation visits, and the visitors (respondents). The most typical combination of recreation visit characteristics is someone who visits once every few months, or 1 to 3 times per month, stays for 1 to 2 hours, hikes to Falk, and does not bring a dog.

Frequency of visits to HFR

Table 7 shows how often visitors come to HFR. Most returning visitors indicated they visit HFR either once every few months (25.1%) or 1 to 3 times per month (24.7%). The largest percentage of respondents (27.2%) indicated that the visit about which they were surveyed was their first.

Table 7. Frequency of visitation. (n=434)

| Visit Frequency | % of respondents |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 time per week or more | 9.2 |
| 1 to 3 times per month | 24.7 |
| Once every few months | 25.1 |
| 1 to 2 times per year or fewer | 12.9 |
| This is my first visit | 27.2 |

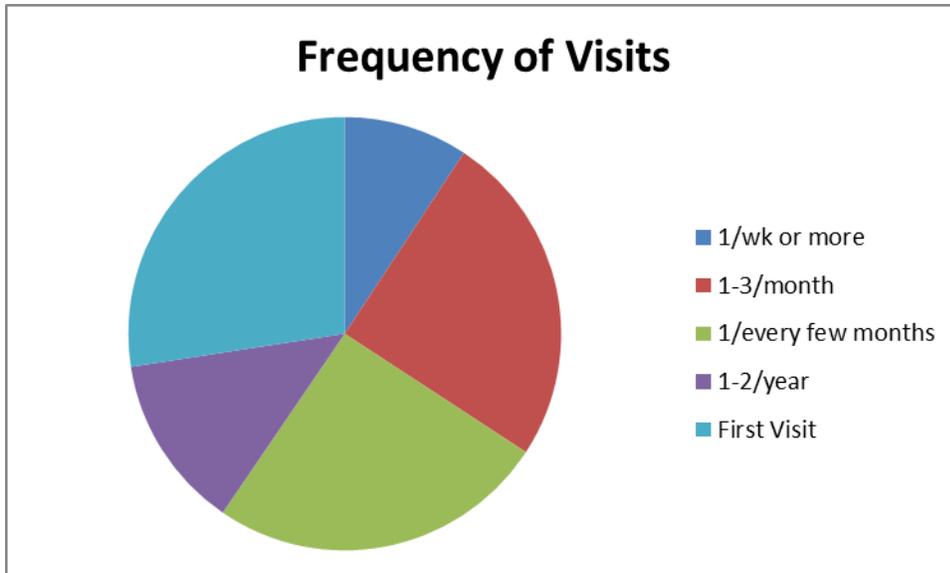


Figure 5. Frequency of visits to Headwaters Forest Reserve.

Trip Duration

Table 8 displays information about how long visitors' visits to HFR lasted. A vast majority of respondents (57.1%) indicated that their trip lasted between 1 and 2 hours, while 24.7% said their trip lasted between 2 and 4 hours. Only 5.6% of visitors stayed for longer than 4 hours.

Table 8. Duration of visit. (n=429)

| Length of Stay | % of respondents |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Less than 1 hour | 12.6 |
| Between 1 to 2 hours | 57.1 |
| Between 2 to 4 hours | 24.7 |
| More than 4 hours | 5.6 |

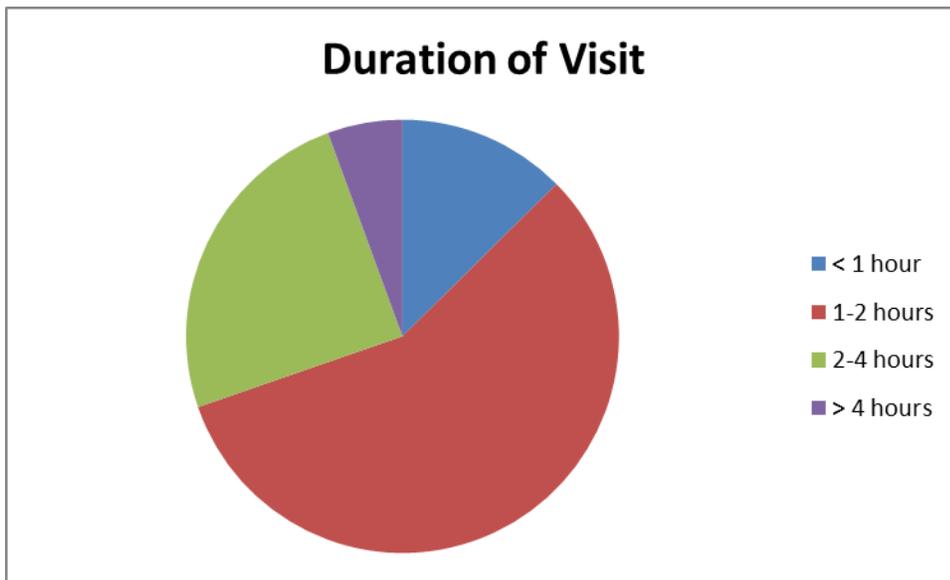


Figure 6. Duration of visits to Headwaters Forest Reserve.

Distance Hiked

We asked groups contacted at the Elk River trailhead to indicate to us how far they had hiked up the trail. We broke the choice into the following options: option A is from the trailhead up to the HFR Education Center, about 0.5 miles; option B is from the trailhead to the Falk town site/end of pavement, approximately 1 mile; option C is from the trailhead to the first bridge, approximately 2 miles; option D is from the trailhead to the second bridge, approximately 3 miles; option E is from the trailhead to the section of trail between the second bridge and the beginning of the old-growth redwood forest, approximately 3.5-4 miles; and option F is from the trailhead to the end of the trail (the old-growth forest loop), approximately 5.25 miles. Table 9 shows the distances hiked by groups. 46.9% of groups indicated that they hiked no farther than one mile; 25.6% hiked as far as the first bridge, and 16.1% hiked as far as the second bridge; only 11.4% hiked beyond the second bridge, with only 4.9% hiking all the way to the end of the trail.

Table 9. Trail distance hiked. (n=429)

| Trail distance hiked | % of respondents |
|---|------------------|
| A. Education Center (Barn) | 14.7 |
| B. Falk town site (end of pavement, 1 mile marker) | 32.2 |
| C. First bridge (2 mile marker) | 25.6 |
| D. Second bridge (3 mile marker) | 16.1 |
| E. Between 3 mile marker and before beginning of old-growth | 6.5 |
| F. End of trail (old-growth loop trail) | 4.9 |

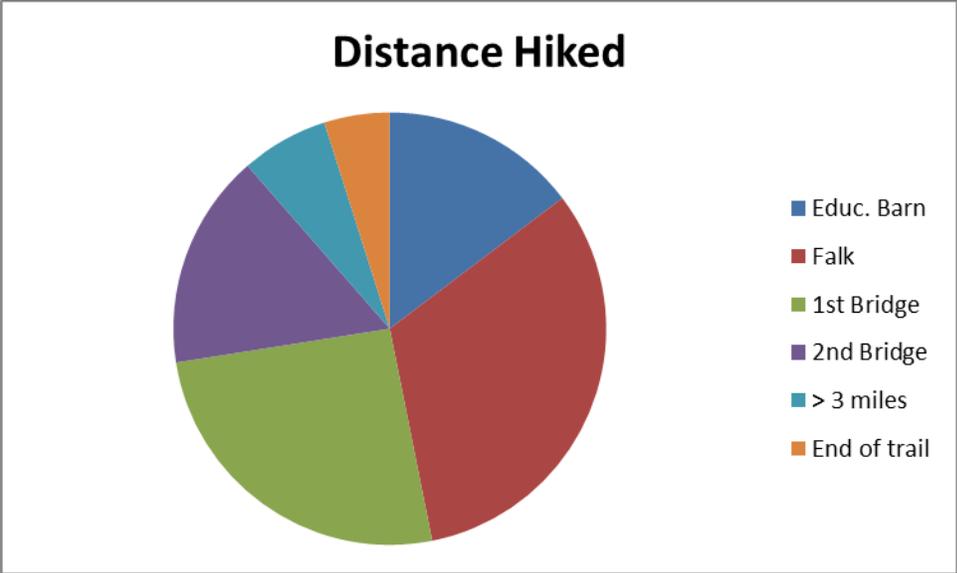


Figure 7. Distance hiked.

Did you bring a dog on this visit?

Table 10. Did you bring a dog on this visit? (n=432)

| Bring a dog? | |
|--------------|-------|
| Yes | 44.2% |
| No | 55.8% |

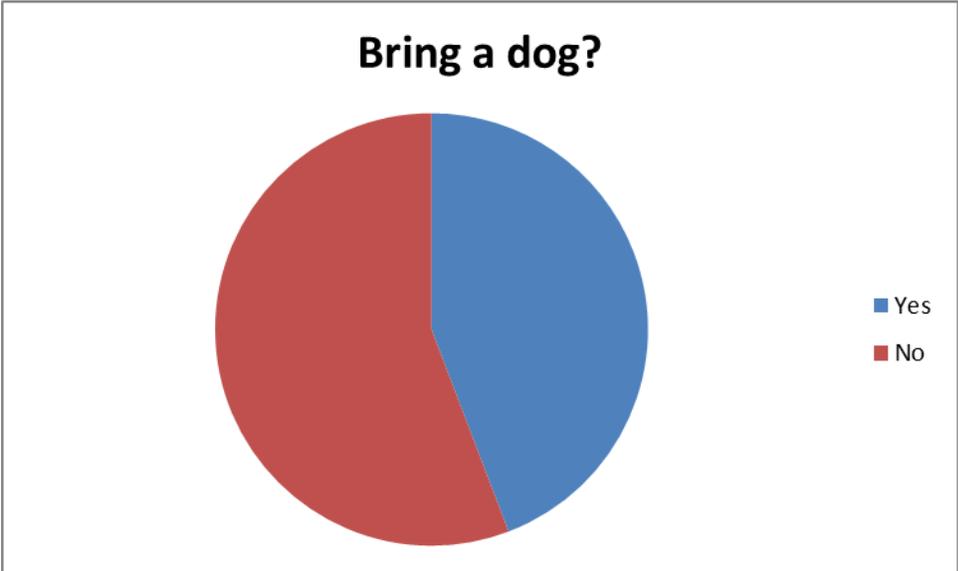


Figure 8. Did respondents bring a dog (or dogs)?

Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

Tables 11 through 16 describe the demographic characteristics of respondents. Of those that responded, 55% are female; 45% are male. The most common age category represented is 50-59 years of age, comprising nearly 23% of the respondents, followed by 30-39 and 60-69, comprising 19% and 18% of the sample, respectively. Almost 25% of respondents are 60 years or older, and 17% are under 30. The average visitor age was 47 years (the median, or 50th percentile, was 48 years). Nearly 88% of respondents describe themselves as Anglo, white, non-Hispanic. As with most samples of visitors to wildland recreation areas, the respondents in this study have a lot of formal education; 83% are college graduates, including almost 29% who have done post-graduate academic work. Only 16% of respondents have no post-high school education. Almost 12% of respondents were full or part-time students; about 9% belonged to a hiking club; nearly 24% belonged to a conservation or environmental organization; almost 7% belong to sportsman clubs or organizations; and 9% belong to historical/cultural groups or organizations.

Table 11. Age distribution of respondents. (n=412)

| Age Range | % of HFR respondents | Humboldt County 2010 Census ¹ |
|------------|----------------------|--|
| 18-29 | 17.2 | 22.0 ² |
| 30-39 | 19.4 | 16.8 |
| 40-49 | 16.0 | 15.4 |
| 50-59 | 22.6 | 19.8 |
| 60-69 | 18.2 | 14.3 |
| 70+ | 6.6 | 11.8 |
| | | |
| Mean age | 47 | N/A ³ |
| Median age | 48 | N/A ³ |

¹ Proportion of adult population, 18 and older.

² Census data for this age range included only 20-29.

³ Census data includes children under 18, so is not comparable.

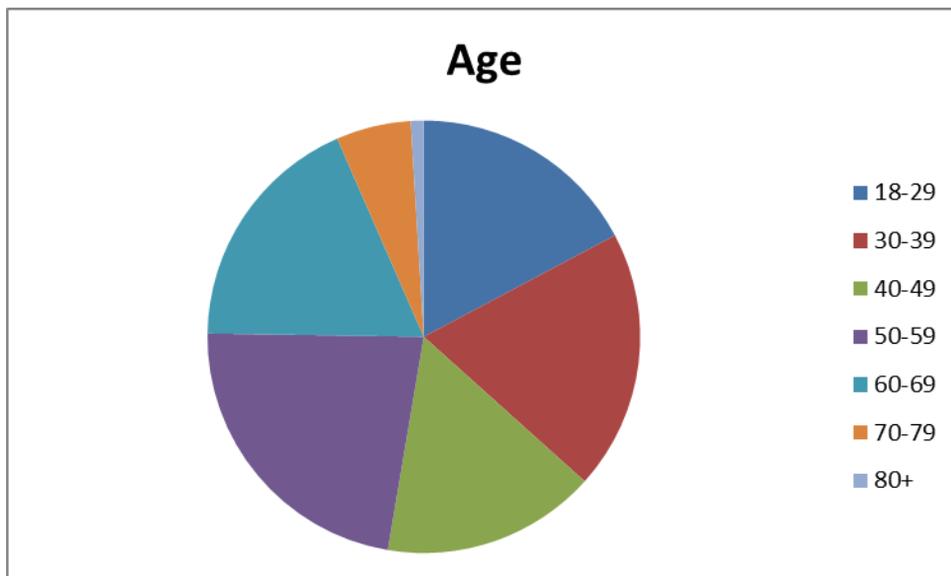


Figure 9. Age of respondents.

Table 12. Gender of respondents. (n=414)

| | % of HFR respondents | Humboldt County 2010 Census ¹ |
|--------|----------------------|--|
| Male | 44.9 | 50.2 |
| Female | 55.1 | 49.8 |

Table 13. Ethnicity of respondents. (n=434)

| | % of HFR respondents | Humboldt County 2010 Census |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Anglo, white, non-Hispanic | 87.6 | 77.2 |
| American Indian or Alaska Native | 3.0 | 5.2 |
| Hispanic/Latino | 4.4 | 9.8 |
| Asian | 0.5 | 2.1 |
| Black or African-American | 1.4 | 1.0 |
| Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander | 1.4 | 0.2 |
| Two or more races (and other) | 1.7 | 4.1 (0.5) |

Table 14. Education level of respondents. (n=411)

| | % of respondents |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Middle School | 0.7 |
| High School | 16.1 |
| College | 54.7 |
| Graduate School | 28.5 |

HFR visitors 2012: Bachelor's degree or higher = 83.2%

U.S. Census for Humboldt County, 2010: Bachelor's degree or higher = 26.3%

Table 15. Student status. (n=413)

| Are you currently a student? | % of respondents | Humboldt County 2010 Census |
|------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| No | 88.1 | 88.9 |
| Yes – Full Time | 8.5 | 11.1 |
| Yes – Part Time | 3.4 | |

Table 16a. Percentage of respondents who belong to various groups or organizations. (n=434)

| Type of group/organization | % of respondents |
|--|------------------|
| Hiking clubs | 8.8 |
| Sportsman clubs | 6.7 |
| Conservation/environmental organizations | 23.5 |
| Historical/cultural organizations | 9.2 |

Table 16b. Geographic origin of HFR visitors. (n=434)

| Locale | % of respondents | % of Humboldt County population |
|---|------------------|---------------------------------|
| Eureka | 63.0 | 20.2 |
| Arcata / Bayside | 6.9 | 12.8 |
| Fortuna | 4.4 | 8.9 |
| McKinleyville | 3.9 | 11.3 |
| Blue Lake/Ferndale/Cutten/Hydesville/Loleta | 2.1 | 5.8 |
| Total Local Origin | 80.3 | 59.0 |

Information use by and preferences of visitors

Table 17 displays the percentage of respondents who said they used each of 14 different sources of information when planning their trip. Note that the percentages total more than 100% because respondents could choose multiple sources of information. The most common source of information was friends or relatives, which nearly 70% of respondents said they used. 62% of respondents used previous personal experience, 27% said newspaper articles, and 20% used maps. Only about 7% got information from the BLM website, while another 5 to 6% used another Agency's website. Under the sources listed by respondents as "other," the most common were making an unplanned stop after driving past signs for the area, and re-visiting the area after knowing about it before the land was purchased by the government. It is interesting to note that only 12.5% of respondents indicated that the BLM was their primary source of information (either from the office or from the website). Considering that the BLM manages HFR, one might expect that number to be higher.

Finally, visitors were asked to indicate the three types of information they would find most helpful in planning their trip. Table 18 shows the responses for each of 11 different types of information. The type of information most desired was information on specific trail conditions and descriptions; this was chosen by 59.4% of all respondents as one of the three most helpful types of information. The next highest was information on maps, indicated by 38.7% of respondents, followed by information on the cultural and historical resource values of HFR at 35.9%.

The questions in the survey asked visitors to select their top 3 preferred information sources (Table 17) and preferred types of information (Table 18), which is why the percentages sum to greater than 100%.

Table 17. Information sources used for trip planning. (n=434)

| Information Source | % of Respondents |
|--|------------------|
| Newspaper articles | 27.0 |
| Friends or relatives | 69.6 |
| Personal experience | 62.2 |
| Information from the BLM | 5.8 |
| Information from other state or federal land management agency | 3.5 |
| Maps | 20.0 |
| Magazine articles | 8.5 |
| BLM Website | 6.7 |
| Books | 7.1 |
| Website of other state or federal and management agency | 5.5 |
| Local Chamber of Commerce | 2.8 |
| Outdoors Cool! or other non-agency website | 1.8 |
| TV ads | 1.2 |
| Other | 19.8 |

Table 18. Preferences for types of information about HFR. (n=434).

| Type of information | % Respondents |
|---|---------------|
| Specific trail descriptions | 59.4 |
| Natural resource values of the area | 24.9 |
| Directions to trailheads | 28.8 |
| Cultural/historical resource values of the area | 35.9 |
| Maps | 38.7 |
| Available facilities | 22.4 |
| Recreation opportunities | 21.0 |
| Recommended items to pack along | 6.9 |
| General weather conditions of the area | 13.1 |
| Rules and regulations | 12.0 |
| Safety | 15.9 |
| Other | 4.1 |

Recreational activity participation

Visitors were asked to report which recreation activities they participated in during their visit to the Headwaters Forest Reserve (see Table 19). Hiking, not surprisingly, was the most common; 85.0% of respondents indicated this was a major reason for their visit. Dog walking, wildlife viewing and socializing were also common activities; 45.1% of respondents said dog walking was a major reason for their visit, 33.5% said wildlife viewing was a major reason for their visit, and 30.9% said socializing was a major reason for their visit. Wildlife viewing received the highest percentage of responses as a secondary activity with 49.9%, followed nature study (45.6%), historical/cultural study (41.5%), and socializing (41.0%). Just over 24% of respondents indicated “other” as a major reason for their visit, and the most common responses were to run/exercise, spend time with family, relieve stress, and educate their family about the area.

Table 19a. Participation in recreational activities at HFR, all respondents. (n=434)

| Activity | % major reason for trip | % participated, but not a major reason for trip | % did not participate |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Hiking on trail | 85.0 | 10.2 | 4.8 |
| Spending time alone | 20.4 | 20.7 | 58.9 |
| Socializing | 30.9 | 41.0 | 28.1 |
| Nature study | 22.6 | 45.6 | 31.8 |
| Historical/cultural study | 15.1 | 41.5 | 43.4 |
| Wildlife viewing | 33.5 | 49.9 | 16.6 |
| Photography | 13.7 | 22.9 | 63.4 |
| Geocaching | 0.9 | 4.1 | 95.0 |
| Questing | 1.8 | 10.7 | 87.5 |
| Dog walking | 45.1 | 5.6 | 49.3 |
| Wheelchair use | 0.9 | 0.6 | 98.5 |
| Biking | 9.7 | 2.6 | 87.7 |
| Other* | 24.2 | 3.9 | 72.0 |

**Most common were to run/exercise, spend time with family, decompression/stress relief, educate children/family, and enjoy a picnic.*

Table 19b. Participation in recreational activities at HFR, by whether respondent has ever brought a dog or not. (n=434)

| Activity | % major reason for trip and (total participation rate) for respondents who <i>have</i> brought dogs n=230 | % major reason for trip and (total participation rate) for respondents who have <i>not</i> brought dogs n=203) |
|---------------------------|---|--|
| Hiking on trail | 85.4 (95.1) | 84.5 (95.3) |
| Spending time alone | 23.2 (45.4) | 17.1 (36.0) |
| Socializing | 27.4 (66.7) | 35.2 (78.2) |
| Nature study | 15.7 (64.6) | 30.6 (72.3) |
| Historical/cultural study | 10.9 (51.6) | 20.0 (62.4) |
| Wildlife viewing | 32.1 (83.2) | 35.1 (83.6) |
| Photography | 10.1 (33.3) | 18.0 (40.4) |
| Dog walking | 75.8 (84.9) | 1.9 (2.6) ¹ |

¹Logically, this cell should be 0.0.

A principal components (aka factor) analysis of these eight variables required only three iterations to converge on two factors. The two factors represent two distinct groups or combinations of activities that are most commonly participated in together. One group or combination is dog-walking and spending time alone; the second is nature study, historical/cultural study, wildlife viewing, and photography. Hiking was so common across both groups it did not contribute to differentiating the factors.

A K-means cluster analysis was then used to group individual respondents into two groups based on their participation in these eight activities; the results were the same, with nearly a perfect 50-50 split – 215 respondents were placed in a cluster that emphasized dog-walking and spending time alone, and de-emphasized socializing, while 213 respondents were placed in a cluster that emphasized nature study, historical/cultural study, wildlife viewing, and photography.

Since no questions were asked on the survey about visitors' recreational motivations or desired experience outcomes, one can think of these two activity-based factors/clusters as representing the two primary recreational experiences visitors seek at the HFR.

BLM-sponsored activities

Headwaters visitors were also asked about their participation in the following four BLM-sponsored activities (Table 20). Nearly 82% said they did not participate in any BLM-sponsored programs or activities, but 12% of respondents did participate in a guided interpretive hike.

Table 20. Participation in BLM-sponsored activities and programs. (n=434)

| Participated Activities | % of respondents |
|---|------------------|
| Interpretive/guided hike | 12.2 |
| Environmental education program at HFR Education Center | 5.5 |
| School group program | 1.4 |
| Lecture series event at HFR Education Center | 1.2 |
| None of the above | 81.8 |

Conflict

Conflict among users of the Headwaters Forest Reserve was measured twofold, first using an index of three conflict-related questions, and subsequently comprehensively surveying visitors on their knowledge of the current HFR dog policy and how dogs in general impact their visits to HFR. Each of the three measures was included based on existing literature on conflict and previous studies examining the issue. Crowding was the first method of measuring conflict. The crowding component of the conflict measure was whether or not visitors saw too many of another user group--seeing too many was considered to be "conflict."

The second component of the conflict index followed Jacob and Schreyer's (1980) definition of conflict and Owens' (1985) call for a cumulative measure of conflict. According to the literature, a simple measure of conflict based only on crowding could be missing a significant portion of visitors experiencing conflict due to the behavior of other visitors. This measure of conflict considers the behavior of others. For example, it may be that conflict is experienced not when a visitor sees too many of another user group, but when the behavior of that other user group interferes with their enjoyment of the area. This conflict measure asks visitors if the behavior of others interfered with their enjoyment of the area, and if so, to which user group did they attribute that behavior. If the behavior of others interfered with the enjoyment of the area it was considered to be "conflict."

The third element of the conflict index was awareness of resource impacts. This element was suggested by work that examined conflict and concluded that some visitors were experiencing conflict as a result of perceived resource impacts attributed to other users (Watson, Niccolucci and Williams, 1993; Hammitt & Cole, 1987). For this conflict measure, visitors were asked if they noticed any resource impacts to the Headwaters Forest Reserve environment, and if so, to what users they attributed those impacts. Perception of resource impacts due to other users was considered to be a form of conflict.

Finally, visitors were specifically asked to assess the current HFR dog policy, as BLM managers have considered revising it if there is sufficient need. Visitors were asked several questions about not only their knowledge of the current policy and how well they believe it is being enforced, but also about their dog walking habits at HFR. Additionally, visitors were asked about their support for several potential management strategies for dogs at HFR, and whether a more restrictive policy would reduce or increase the number of their visits to HFR.

Conflict in the Headwaters Forest Reserve could be the result of crowding, perceived resource impacts, or conflicting behaviors among user groups. Thus, a visitor was considered to have experienced conflict if they responded positively to any one of the three above indicators of conflict. As the following tables show, crowding does not appear to be a problem in the HFR. The behavior of others appears to be a relatively minor problem, with 8.3% of respondents indicating that the behavior of others, particularly off-leash dog and dog excrement, interfered

with their enjoyment. The bigger problem appears to be with visitors perceiving resource impacts caused by other visitors, particularly dog excrement, litter, and side trails, with 28% of respondents reporting perceived resource impacts. Appendix E, starting on page 112, contains descriptions of specific resource impacts reported by visitors.

Number of others seen

Respondents were asked to estimate the number of other visitors seen during their visit, as well as the number of groups with dogs. Tables 21 and 22 summarize these data. The average number of other visitors seen was 11.5, and the median was 10. The average number of groups with dogs encountered was 3.8, and the median was 3.

Almost no one (0.5%) reported seeing no other visitors, and few (7%) saw only 1 to 3 other visitors. The most common number of reported encounters was 10 or more (42%), followed by 7 to 10 (30%), and then 4 to 6 (20%). Most groups (53%) also reported seeing 1 to 3 groups with dogs, followed by 4 to 6 groups with dogs (31%).

Tables 21-22. Number of others seen.

| Number of other <i>visitors</i> seen (n=421) | % of respondents |
|--|------------------|
| 0 | 0.5 |
| 1 to 3 | 6.9 |
| 4 to 6 | 20.0 |
| 7 to 10 | 30.4 |
| More than 10 | 42.2 |
| Mean # of other visitors seen = 11.5 Median # of other visitors seen = 10 | |

| Number of other <i>groups with dogs</i> seen (n=418) | % of respondents |
|--|------------------|
| 0 | 4.5 |
| 1 to 3 | 53.1 |
| 4 to 6 | 31.4 |
| 7 to 10 | 9.3 |
| More than 10 | 1.7 |
| Mean # of groups w/ dogs seen = 3.8 Median # of groups w/ dogs seen = 3 | |

Feelings about number of others seen

Visitors were asked how they felt about the number of other visitors and dogs they saw (Table 23). About 50% said they saw “about the right number” of other visitors, while 38% saw “about the right number” of dogs. Almost 44% said the number of other visitors seen did not matter, while 50% said the same for dogs. Only 2.6% of respondents said they saw too many other visitors, although 8.2% said they saw too many dogs. Overall crowding does not appear to be a problem, but visitors do appear somewhat more sensitive to the number of dogs than to the number of other people. Comparing visitors who have brought dogs with visitors who have not brought dogs (Table 24), the main difference is that while only 2% of those who bring dogs said they saw too many dogs, almost 15% of visitors who don’t bring dogs said they saw too many dogs. Comparing first-time with repeat visitors (Table 25), again most respondents reported either that they saw “about the right number” or that it “does not matter,” though first-time visitors are twice as likely as repeat visitors (13.3% to 6.6%) to say they “saw too many” dogs.

Table 23. Evaluation of number of other visitors and dogs seen.

| Visitor evaluation of # of other visitors/dogs seen | % for number of other visitors seen (n=379) | % for number of dogs seen (n=365) |
|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| Saw too many | 2.6 | 8.2 |
| Saw about the right number | 49.6 | 38.4 |
| Saw too few | 4.0 | 3.3 |
| Does not matter to me | 43.8 | 50.1 |

Table 24. Evaluation of number of dogs seen, by whether or not respondents have brought a dog to the area or not.

| Comparison of visitor evaluation of # of dogs seen , by respondents who <i>have</i> or have <i>not</i> brought dogs to the area. | % of those who <i>have</i> brought dogs to this area (n=230) | % of those who have <i>not</i> brought dogs to this area (n=203) |
|---|--|--|
| Saw too many | 2.0 | 14.9 |
| Saw about the right number | 40.8 | 35.7 |
| Saw too few | 4.1 | 2.4 |
| Does not matter to me | 53.1 | 47.0 |

Table 25. Evaluation of number of dogs seen, by first-time versus repeat visitors.

| Comparison of visitor evaluation of # of dogs seen , by <i>first-time</i> visitors versus <i>repeat</i> visitors | % of First-time visitors (n=90) | % of Repeat visitors (n=271) |
|---|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Saw too many | 13.3 | 6.6 |
| Saw about the right number | 41.1 | 37.3 |
| Saw too few | 1.1 | 4.1 |
| Does not matter to me | 44.4 | 52.0 |

Perceived Resource Impacts

Visitors were asked if they noticed any impacts to resources that they believed were caused by other visitors; 28% indicated they had (Table 26). Appendix E, which starts on page 111, describes resource impacts thought to be caused by other visitors. A total of 128 comments were made, representing 30% of all respondents. Of these, 48 comments (38%, representing 11% of all respondents) specifically mentioned dog feces or bags of dog poop left on the trail; 8 comments mentioned dogs in the river. Other comments mentioned litter and side trails.

Table 26. Perceived resource impacts caused by other visitors. (n=428)

| Did you notice impacts caused by other visitors? | % of respondents |
|--|------------------|
| No | 72.0 |
| Yes | 28.0 |

Behavior of others

Visitors were asked if the behavior of any other group or individual interfered with their enjoyment of the Headwaters Forest Reserve on this visit; only 8.3% indicated yes (Table 27). Appendix F, which starts on page 118, describes the behaviors that interfered with enjoyment. A total of 46 comments were made, representing 11% of all respondents. Of these, 21 comments (46%, representing 5% of all respondents) were specifically about unleashed and/or uncontrolled dogs. Other comments mentioned people generally being too loud.

Table 27. Interference due to behavior of other visitors. (n=434)

| Did behavior of others interfere with your enjoyment? | % of respondents |
|---|------------------|
| No | 91.7 |
| Yes | 8.3 |

Assessment of current HFR dog policy

With both the popularity of HFR as a dog walking area and total visitor numbers increasing, we asked visitors to answer several questions regarding HFR's current dog policy, and whether changes may be needed to accommodate increases in visitor use, and to address visitor conflicts about, and/or resource disturbance by, dogs. Table 28 displays these data for all visitors; Table 29 contrasts visitors who have brought dogs with those who have not; and Table 30 contrasts first-time visitors with repeat visitors. Appendix G, starting on page 121, describes visitor disturbances by dogs. Appendix H, starting on page 127, describes resource impacts by dogs.

Of note are the differences in opinion between visitors who bring dogs to the area, and visitors who don't bring dogs to the area (we used question 10e on the survey to make this distinction). To preface these results, we point out that Williams et al (2009) documented quite convincingly that dog owners are not particularly objective about the impacts and problems that their dogs may create either for other visitors or the environment.

On the question "Do you believe the rule requiring dogs be kept under voice control is working?", visitors who don't bring dogs were only half as likely to say "Yes, the voice control rule works," and nearly three times more likely to say "No, the voice control rule does not work", as were visitors who bring dogs. When asked if they had ever been bothered by a dog, those who don't bring dogs were twice as likely (22% vs 11%) to say that they had been bothered by a dog. And on the question "Do you believe the BLM should implement a more restrictive dog policy?", only 8% of those who bring dogs answered "Yes", whereas 36% of those who don't bring dogs said "Yes."

We also compared first-time with repeat visitors. Repeat visitors are twice as likely to bring dogs to the area as are first-time visitors. Another main difference between first-time visitors and repeat visitors was that first-time visitors were much less likely to think that the voice control rule is working (40.5% of first-timers said "Yes it is working" compared to 63.5% of repeaters), but first-timers were also more likely to admit that they didn't know or weren't sure (45.7% to 22.3%); the percentage of each group saying "No, the voice control rule is not working" was nearly identical.

Table 28. Visitor knowledge of and sentiment toward current HFR dog policy, for entire sample (n=434).

| | % Yes | % No | % Don't Know/ Not Sure |
|--|-------|------|---------------------------|
| Did you know what the current dog policy was for HFR before taking this survey? | 49.0 | 46.4 | 4.6 |
| Do you believe the rule requiring dogs be kept under voice control is working? | 57.0 | 14.0 | 29.1 |
| Do you believe the rules and regulations concerning dogs are adequately displayed? | 54.4 | 18.3 | 27.3 |
| Do you believe the rules and regulations concerning dogs are adequately enforced by BLM law enforcement in the area? | 24.5 | 11.1 | 64.4 |
| Have you ever brought a dog to the area? | 53.1 | 46.9 | ----- |
| Has the primary reason for any of your previous visits to HFR been for dog walking? | 41.1 | 58.9 | ----- |
| If you visit with dogs, do you ever visit HFR specifically because no leash is required for your dog(s)? | 48.3 | 51.7 | |
| On any of your visits to HFR, have you ever been bothered by dogs? (see Appendix G for described incidents) | 16.1 | 83.9 | ----- |
| On any of your visits to HFR, have you witnessed a dog impacting the natural environment? (see Appendix H) | 16.4 | 83.6 | ----- |
| Do you believe the BLM should implement a more restrictive dog policy? | 19.2 | 80.8 | ----- |

Question 10h asked, “On any of your visits to HFR, have you ever been bothered by dogs?” Open-ended responses are found in Appendix G, beginning on page 121. A total of 84 comments were made, representing 20% of all respondents. Of these, 59 comments (70%, representing 14% of all respondents) were specifically about dogs being off-leash and/or not under voice control.

Question 10i asked, “On any of your visits to HFR, have you witnessed a dog impacting the natural environment? Open-ended responses are found in Appendix G, beginning on page 127. A total of 75 comments were made, representing 17% of all respondents. Of these, 26 comments (35%, representing 6% of all respondents) were specifically about dog waste not being properly disposed of; another comments 24 (32%, 6%) were specifically about dogs in the river.

If respondents felt that the BLM should implement a more restrictive dog policy (Question 10j), they were asked to explain what they felt should be done or changed. Those comments and suggestions are found in Appendix I, which starts on page 131. There were 56 suggestions (representing about 13% of all respondents) that “dogs should be leashed.” Ten more comments recommended stricter enforcement of the existing “voice control” policy.

Table 29. Visitor knowledge of and sentiment toward current HFR dog policy, contrasting visitors who *have* brought dogs to the area (n=230) versus visitors who have *not* brought dogs to the area (n=203).

| | % Yes | % No | % Don't Know/ Not Sure |
|--|-------|------|---------------------------|
| Do you believe the rule requiring dogs be kept under voice control is working? | | | |
| Yes, have brought dogs | 75.4 | 7.9 | 16.7 |
| No, have never brought dogs | 36.3 | 20.4 | 43.3 |
| Do you believe the rules and regulations concerning dogs are adequately enforced by BLM law enforcement in the area? | | | |
| Yes, have brought dogs | 36.7 | 9.2 | 54.1 |
| No, have never brought dogs | 10.8 | 13.3 | 75.9 |
| On any of your visits to HFR, have you ever been bothered by dogs? | | | |
| Yes, have brought dogs | 11.0 | 89.0 | |
| No, have never brought dogs | 22.0 | 78.0 | |
| Do you believe the BLM should implement a more restrictive dog policy? | | | |
| Yes, have brought dogs | 8.1 | 91.9 | |
| No, have never brought dogs | 35.8 | 64.2 | |

Table 30. Visitor knowledge of and sentiment toward current HFR dog policy, contrasting first-time visitors (n=118) with repeat visitors (n=312).

| | % Yes | % No | % Don't Know/ Not Sure |
|--|-------|------|---------------------------|
| Have you ever brought a dog to the area? | | | |
| First-time visitors | 23.7 | 76.3 | |
| Repeat visitors | 64.6 | 35.4 | |
| Do you believe the rule requiring dogs be kept under voice control is working? | | | |
| First-time visitors | 40.5 | 13.8 | 45.7 |
| Repeat visitors | 63.5 | 14.2 | 22.3 |
| Do you believe the rules and regulations concerning dogs are adequately enforced by BLM law enforcement in the area? | | | |
| First-time visitors | 11.9 | 5.9 | 82.2 |
| Repeat visitors | 29.4 | 13.2 | 57.4 |
| On any of your visits to HFR, have you ever been bothered by dogs? | | | |
| First-time visitors | 10.5 | 89.5 | |
| Repeat visitors | 18.0 | 82.0 | |
| Do you believe the BLM should implement a more restrictive dog policy? | | | |
| First-time visitors | 19.5 | 51.7 | 28.8 |
| Repeat visitors | 16.4 | 83.6 | 0.0 |

Tables 31-35 shows visitors' sentiments toward possible management actions and changes in dog policy at HFR, including comparisons between visitors who bring dogs to HFR and visitors who don't bring dogs to HFR, as well as between first-time and repeat visitors. Like the answers for the previous questions about dogs at HFR, there was a difference of opinion between the user groups.

When asked if the BLM should maintain its current voice control policy, 79% of people who bring dogs either strongly supported or somewhat supported that option, compared to only 42% of people who don't bring dogs. When asked if the BLM should require that all dogs be leashed, only 28% of people who bring dogs either strongly supported or somewhat supported that option, compared to 62% of people who don't bring dogs. There was almost no support for prohibiting dogs completely from HFR, even among non-dog respondents; likewise for allowing dogs only on weekdays.

Similarly, first-time visitors were more supportive of requiring that all dogs be leashed than were repeat visitors, which is not surprising given that repeat visitors are nearly three times as likely to visit with dogs than are first-time visitors. Again, there was almost no support for prohibiting dogs completely from HFR, even among first-time visitors; likewise for allowing dogs only on weekdays.

Tables 31. Visitor sentiment toward possible changes in dog policy, in percentages of respondents. For mean ratings, 1=strongly support; 2=support; 3=neutral; 4=oppose; 5=strongly oppose.

Overall (n=434)

| | Strongly support | Somewhat support | Neutral | Somewhat oppose | Strongly oppose | Mean rating |
|--|------------------|------------------|---------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Require all dogs to be on leash | 27.0 | 16.9 | 17.1 | 16.7 | 22.3 | 2.90 |
| Prohibit dogs from HFR | 1.9 | 4.2 | 9.4 | 11.1 | 73.3 | 4.50 |
| Allow dogs only on weekdays | 1.4 | 5.5 | 16.6 | 13.0 | 63.5 | 4.32 |
| Maintain existing voice control policy | 45.0 | 16.6 | 18.3 | 10.5 | 9.6 | 2.23 |

People who *have* brought dogs (n=230)

Tables 32. Visitor sentiment toward possible changes in dog policy, in percentages of respondents. For mean ratings, 1=strongly support; 2=support; 3=neutral; 4=oppose; 5=strongly oppose.

| | Strongly support | Somewhat support | Neutral | Somewhat oppose | Strongly oppose | Mean rating ¹ |
|--|------------------|------------------|---------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Require all dogs to be on leash | 13.2 | 14.5 | 15.4 | 19.7 | 37.3 | 3.53 |
| Prohibit dogs from HFR | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1.8 | 3.5 | 94.7 | 4.93 |
| Allow dogs only on weekdays | 0.0 | 4.0 | 5.8 | 9.3 | 81.0 | 4.67 |
| Maintain existing voice control policy | 63.3 | 15.3 | 11.4 | 4.8 | 5.2 | 1.73 |

People who have *not* brought dogs (n=203)

Tables 33. Visitor sentiment toward possible changes in dog policy, in percentages of respondents. For mean ratings, 1=strongly support; 2=support; 3=neutral; 4=oppose; 5=strongly oppose.

| | Strongly support | Somewhat support | Neutral | Somewhat oppose | Strongly oppose | Mean rating ¹ |
|--|------------------|------------------|---------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Require all dogs to be on leash | 42.6 | 19.8 | 19.3 | 13.2 | 5.1 | 2.18 |
| Prohibit dogs from HFR | 4.1 | 9.2 | 18.4 | 19.9 | 48.5 | 3.99 |
| Allow dogs only on weekdays | 3.1 | 7.2 | 29.2 | 17.4 | 43.1 | 3.90 |
| Maintain existing voice control policy | 23.9 | 18.3 | 26.4 | 17.3 | 14.2 | 2.80 |

¹The difference in mean ratings between the two groups is statistically significant for all four items, at the 0.01 level of significance.

First-time visitors (n=118)

Tables 34. Visitor sentiment toward possible changes in dog policy, in percentages of respondents. For mean ratings, 1=strongly support; 2=support; 3=neutral; 4=oppose; 5=strongly oppose.

| | Strongly support | Somewhat support | Neutral | Somewhat oppose | Strongly oppose | Mean rating ¹ |
|--|------------------|------------------|---------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Require all dogs to be on leash | 34.5 | 24.1 | 20.7 | 13.8 | 6.9 | 2.3 |
| Prohibit dogs from HFR | 3.5 | 6.2 | 15.9 | 18.6 | 55.8 | 4.2 |
| Allow dogs only on weekdays | 0.9 | 5.3 | 28.1 | 17.5 | 48.2 | 4.1 |
| Maintain existing voice control policy | 30.8 | 15.4 | 28.2 | 11.1 | 14.5 | 2.6 |

Repeat visitors (n=312)

Tables 35. Visitor sentiment toward possible changes in dog policy, in percentages of respondents. For mean ratings, 1=strongly support; 2=support; 3=neutral; 4=oppose; 5=strongly oppose.

| | Strongly support | Somewhat support | Neutral | Somewhat oppose | Strongly oppose | Mean rating ¹ |
|--|------------------|------------------|---------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Require all dogs to be on leash | 24.2 | 14.4 | 15.7 | 17.6 | 28.1 | 3.1 |
| Prohibit dogs from HFR | 1.3 | 3.6 | 6.8 | 8.1 | 80.1 | 4.6 |
| Allow dogs only on weekdays | 1.6 | 5.6 | 11.8 | 11.2 | 69.7 | 4.4 |
| Maintain existing voice control policy | 50.7 | 16.7 | 14.7 | 10.5 | 7.5 | 2.1 |

¹The difference in mean ratings between the two groups is statistically significant for all four items, at the 0.01 level of significance.

Likelihood of future visits with more restrictive dog policy

Visitors were asked about the likelihood of a return visit to the Headwaters Forest Reserve if more restrictive dog policies were in place. Of the respondents who answered the question, about 12% indicated “more likely,” 37% indicated “less likely,” and 51% indicated “no change” (Table 27). As with the previous responses to questions about the dog policy at HFR, there is a large difference of opinion between people who bring dogs and people who don’t, with 64% of the former group saying they would be less likely they would return to HFR if a more restrictive dog policy was in place, compared to only 6% for the latter group. Additionally, the vast majority (75%) of the latter group (those who don’t bring dogs) said there would be no change (i.e. increase) in their visitation if there was a more restrictive dog policy in place.

Table 36. Respondents’ intentions to return for a future visit with more restrictive dog policy in place. (n=427)

| If the policy on dogs was to be made more restrictive, would you be more likely or less likely to visit the area? | |
|---|----------------------|
| | % of all respondents |
| More likely | 11.7 |
| Less likely | 37.0 |
| No change | 51.3 |

Table 37. Respondents' intentions to return for a future visit with a more restrictive dog policy in place; comparison of those who do and those do not bring dogs.

| If the policy on dogs was to be made more restrictive, would you be more likely or less likely to visit the area? | | |
|---|--|---|
| | % of people who do bring dogs to the area (n=230) | % of people who don't bring dogs to the area (n=203) |
| More likely | 5.7 | 18.7 |
| Less likely | 64.0 | 6.1 |
| No change | 30.3 | 75.3 |

Table 38. Respondents' intentions to return for a future visit with more restrictive dog policy in place; comparison of first-time and repeat visitors.

| If the policy on dogs was to be made more restrictive, would you be more likely or less likely to visit the area? | | |
|---|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | % of First-time visitors (n=115) | % of Repeat visitors (n=308) |
| More likely | 15.7 | 10.1 |
| Less likely | 16.5 | 44.8 |
| No change | 67.8 | 45.1 |

Visitor perceptions of resource, social, and management problems

Visitor perceptions of 20 possible problems were assessed (Tables 39-41). Respondents were asked to indicate whether each item was no problem, a minor problem, a moderate problem, or a major problem. Respondents could also indicate that they did not know. Four of the items addressed resource problems (Table 39); eight were possible management-related problems (Table 40); the remaining eight dealt with possible social problems (Table 41).

Resource Problems

Most respondents did not perceive serious resource problems with trails or streams (Table 39). Trail maintenance and trail marking was thought to be a minor problem by 7.3% and 9.8% of respondents, respectively, and a moderate to major problem by only 2.4%. Trail erosion was thought to be a moderate or major problem by 8.4%, a minor problem by 22.6% and not a problem at all by 68.9%. This marks a large improvement from the 1999 survey results, where 23.7% of respondents thought trail erosion was a major or moderate problem. Polluted streams were thought to be a moderate or major problem by only 5.7%. The average rating for each of the four potential problems was between a “minor problem” and “not a problem.”

Management Problems

Table 40 presents results of questions regarding possible management problems encountered by visitors to the Headwaters Forest Reserve. The two items that visitors reported as the primary problems involved the trail system. Twenty-two percent (22.0%) of respondents felt that the lack of additional official trails was a major or moderate problem, and 20.9% felt it was a minor problem. While only 9.6% of respondents felt that a lack of trails information was a major to moderate problem, another 31.1% thought it was a minor problem, the highest percentage for any option marked as “minor problem.” Still, mean ratings for all items fell in the range between “minor problem” and “not a problem.”

Social Problems

Many times the visitor experience is impacted not by management or resource conditions so much as by the social conditions encountered during the recreational experience. Table 41 presents visitor perceptions of possible social problems in the Headwaters Forest Reserve. As with other types of problems, few of the potential social problems were perceived as major or moderate problems. Dog waste and dogs off leash were rated the most serious problems, with 14.7% of respondents indicating dog waste to be a major to moderate problem, and 14.4% indicating off-leash dogs to be a major or moderate problem.

Table 39. Visitor perceptions of potential resource problems, by percentage of respondents. Mean rating of problem: 1=major problem, 2=moderate problem, 3=minor problem, 4=not a problem. (n=434)

| Potential Resource Problems | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| | Major Problem | Moderate Problem | Minor Problem | Not a Problem | Mean rating |
| Trails poorly maintained | 0.5 | 1.9 | 7.3 | 90.0 | 3.87 |
| Trails poorly marked | 0.2 | 2.2 | 9.8 | 87.8 | 3.85 |
| Trail erosion | 0.7 | 7.7 | 22.6 | 68.9 | 3.60 |
| Polluted streams | 0.6 | 5.1 | 5.4 | 88.8 | 3.82 |

Table 40. Visitor perceptions of potential management problems, by percentage of respondents. Mean rating of problem: 1=major problem, 2=moderate problem, 3=minor problem, 4=not a problem. (n=434)

| Potential Management Problems | | | | | |
|---|---------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| | Major problem | Moderate problem | Minor problem | Not a problem | mean rating |
| Not enough trails | 5.0 | 17.0 | 20.9 | 57.1 | 3.30 |
| Not enough parking spaces at entry points | 2.2 | 6.5 | 16.9 | 74.4 | 3.64 |
| Not enough information on area's natural and cultural history | 1.2 | 7.6 | 18.3 | 72.9 | 3.63 |
| Too many rules and regulations | 0.7 | 1.2 | 3.6 | 94.4 | 3.92 |
| Area rules and regulations not well publicized | 1.3 | 3.6 | 19.1 | 76.1 | 3.70 |
| Not enough trails information | 1.2 | 8.4 | 31.1 | 59.3 | 3.48 |
| Not enough information on number of other users | 0.0 | 3.1 | 7.5 | 89.4 | 3.86 |
| Not enough information on when area is heavily used | 0.6 | 5.8 | 13.9 | 79.7 | 3.73 |

Table 41. Visitor perceptions of potential social problems, by percentage of respondents. Mean rating of problem: 1=major problem, 2=moderate problem, 3=minor problem, 4=not a problem. (n=434)

| Potential Social Problems | | | | | |
|--|---------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| | Major problem | Moderate problem | Minor problem | Not a problem | Mean rating |
| Litter | 0.2 | 3.9 | 23.9 | 72.0 | 3.68 |
| Dog waste | 3.5 | 11.2 | 31.0 | 54.3 | 3.36 |
| Vandalism | 1.7 | 5.3 | 13.4 | 79.6 | 3.71 |
| Pets off leash | 7.1 | 7.3 | 13.4 | 72.1 | 3.51 |
| Bicyclist Issues | .3 | 2.3 | 10.8 | 86.7 | 3.84 |
| Rowdy or noisy people | 0.0 | 2.0 | 8.9 | 89.1 | 3.87 |
| Too many large groups | 0.0 | 1.3 | 3.8 | 94.9 | 3.94 |
| Too many people in the area at the same time | 0.0 | 1.7 | 6.7 | 91.6 | 3.90 |

Visitor perceptions of services and facilities provided by the BLM

The following section reports visitor perceptions of BLM services and facilities related to the Headwaters Forest Reserve. Visitors first rated the importance of a service or facility, then graded the performance of the BLM with respect to that service or facility.

Importance of service or facility

Fourteen of the 16 services or facilities were rated as important or very important by a majority of respondents (Table 42). The items rated important or very important by the largest percentage of respondents (and receiving a mean rating of 3.0 or higher) include “vehicle safe from vandalism” (94.6%), “BLM staff are professional and competent” (84.6%), “clean restrooms” (82.6%), “BLM staff friendly and courteous” (81.4%), “opportunity for personal freedom” (79.9%), “trailhead signs have necessary information” (79.2%), “adequate parking” (79.0%), “Managers notify visitors of hazards in the area” (78.2%) and “brochures and maps clearly communicate information about recreation opportunities” (75.9%).

BLM’s Performance in providing the service or facility

Visitors were then asked to grade the BLM on each of the items (Table 43). The items rated “A=excellent” or “B=very good” by the largest percentage of visitors include “access roads in good condition” (86.2%), “adequate parking” (85.8%), “signs at trailhead have necessary information” (81.8%), “opportunity for personal freedom without too many rules and regulations” (71%), “brochures and maps provide clear information” (70.9%), and “helpful directional signs” (70.0%). The only item rated lower than 4.0 (very good) was the ability to find a BLM person when needed (3.47); performance on all other items was rated 4.1 or higher.

Table 42. Visitor perceptions of importance of services and facilities, by percentage of respondents (n=434). Mean importance rating: 1=not very important; 2=somewhat important; 3=important; 4=very important.

| | Very important | Important | Somewhat important | Not very important | Mean rating |
|--|----------------|-----------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Signs at trailhead have necessary information | 33.3 | 45.9 | 13.8 | 7.0 | 3.05 |
| Helpful directional signs | 27.2 | 41.2 | 22.8 | 8.8 | 2.87 |
| Clean restrooms | 41.3 | 41.0 | 12.3 | 5.5 | 3.18 |
| Access roads in good condition | 25.9 | 48.3 | 20.2 | 5.7 | 2.94 |
| Adequate parking | 27.8 | 51.2 | 16.7 | 4.3 | 3.02 |
| Phone requests handled without delay | 8.8 | 26.7 | 24.8 | 39.7 | 2.05 |
| Prompt response to written requests | 7.5 | 27.4 | 29.3 | 35.8 | 2.07 |
| BLM staff are professional and competent | 43.5 | 41.1 | 12.2 | 3.1 | 3.25 |
| BLM staff are friendly and courteous | 40.8 | 40.6 | 13.4 | 5.2 | 3.17 |
| Vehicle is safe from vandalism | 71.6 | 23.0 | 3.9 | 1.5 | 3.65 |
| Managers notify visitors of hazards in the area | 41.7 | 36.5 | 13.6 | 8.1 | 3.12 |
| BLM office open at convenient time | 15.3 | 33.8 | 27.7 | 23.1 | 2.41 |
| Able to leave phone message after hours | 11.4 | 29.2 | 29.5 | 29.8 | 2.22 |
| Opportunity for personal freedom | 37.9 | 42.0 | 13.8 | 6.3 | 3.11 |
| Able to find BLM person when needed | 14.1 | 36.8 | 32.4 | 16.8 | 2.48 |
| Brochures/ maps clearly communicate information about recreation opportunities | 30.4 | 45.5 | 18.1 | 6.0 | 3.00 |

Table 43. Visitor evaluation of BLM services and facilities (n=434). A=excellent, B=very good or above average, C=average; D=not very good or below average; F=failing. Mean importance rating: 5=excellent, 4=very good, 3=average, 2=not very good, 1=failing.

| | Grade given to BLM | | | | | | |
|---|------------------------|------|------|-----|-----|------------|------|
| | A | B | C | D | F | Don't Know | Mean |
| | Percent of respondents | | | | | | |
| Signs at trailhead have necessary information | 39.1 | 42.7 | 12.1 | 1.6 | 0.3 | 3.7 | 4.24 |
| Helpful directional signs | 36.4 | 33.6 | 17.6 | 1.3 | 0.8 | 5.3 | 4.15 |
| Clean restrooms | 28.5 | 27.4 | 12.5 | 2.7 | 1.9 | 26.9 | 4.07 |
| Access roads in good condition | 53.0 | 33.2 | 9.5 | 0.5 | 0.0 | 3.8 | 4.44 |
| Adequate parking | 55.3 | 30.5 | 12.1 | 0.8 | 0.5 | 0.8 | 4.40 |
| Phone requests handled without delay | 5.1 | 4.4 | 1.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 89.2 | 4.35 |
| Prompt response to email requests | 3.8 | 4.2 | 1.0 | 0.3 | 0.0 | 90.7 | 4.24 |
| BLM staff are professional and competent | 53.5 | 12.7 | 1.4 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 32.3 | 4.77 |
| BLM staff are friendly and courteous | 62.4 | 8.9 | 0.6 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 27.6 | 4.83 |
| Vehicle is safe from vandalism | 38.7 | 23.4 | 17.0 | 1.6 | 0.0 | 19.2 | 4.23 |
| Managers notify visitors of hazards in the area | 24.4 | 16.5 | 7.1 | 0.3 | 0.9 | 50.1 | 4.29 |
| BLM office open at convenient times | 8.0 | 5.9 | 5.9 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 80.2 | 4.11 |
| Able to leave phone message after hours | 5.8 | 3.9 | 2.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 87.7 | 4.26 |
| Opportunity for personal freedom without too many rules and regulations | 49.6 | 21.4 | 2.9 | 0.6 | 0.0 | 25.5 | 4.61 |
| Able to find a BLM person when needed | 9.3 | 9.0 | 9.6 | 4.8 | 3.0 | 64.3 | 3.47 |
| Brochures and maps provide clear information about recreation opportunities | 36.4 | 34.5 | 11.3 | 2.5 | 0.3 | 15.0 | 4.23 |

Visitor sentiment toward possible management actions

To guide the BLM’s future management of HFR, it is important to obtain a sense of what management actions and recreational activities the public will be most likely to support or oppose. Visitors were asked to indicate how much they would oppose or support a list of possible management actions (Table 44). Charging a small user fee received, by a wide margin, the most opposition (59%), and conversely, by a wide margin, the least support (16%). None of the other possible actions garnered a large amount of opposition; the action with the second most amount of opposition was providing more parking at the trailhead, with 21%. The actions receiving the most support included providing educational signs about the area’s plants and animals (76%) and the area’s history (75%), installing a donation box at the trailhead (75%), expanding the trail system (73%), and acquiring more land to add to the Reserve (70%).

Table 44. Visitor sentiment toward possible management actions, by percentage of respondents (n=434). For mean ratings, 1=strongly support; 2=support; 3=neutral; 4=oppose; 5=strongly oppose.

| | Strongly Support | Somewhat Support | Neutral | Somewhat Oppose | Strongly Oppose | Mean Rating |
|--|------------------|------------------|---------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Provide more parking at trailheads | 10.5 | 22.0 | 46.5 | 12.9 | 8.1 | 2.86 |
| Expand the trail system | 50.5 | 22.4 | 21.2 | 4.5 | 1.4 | 1.84 |
| Have a donation box at the trailhead | 44.7 | 30.6 | 18.8 | 3.1 | 2.9 | 1.89 |
| Acquire additional land to add to the Reserve | 44.1 | 25.5 | 25.5 | 1.9 | 3.1 | 1.94 |
| Charge a small use fee | 4.0 | 11.7 | 25.0 | 23.3 | 36.0 | 3.75 |
| Provide educational signs about the area’s history | 35.1 | 39.4 | 24.3 | 0.5 | 0.7 | 1.92 |
| Provide educational signs about plants and animals | 36.6 | 39.7 | 21.5 | 1.7 | 0.5 | 1.90 |

Liked Most and Least about Headwaters Visit

Appendix J (page 142) lists what visitors liked most about their visit to Headwaters; most respondents indicated the scenery, solitude, quiet, walking their dog, and simply being outside in nature.

Appendix K (page 164) lists what visitors liked least about their visit to Headwaters. Items mentioned most frequently included litter, dog excrement, uncontrolled dogs, the trail pavement (both too much and too little), and lack of more trails. A total of 235 comments were made, representing 54% of all respondents. Of these, 50 comments (21%, representing 12% of all respondents) were specifically about dogs – being off-leash, not being under voice control, and/or dog waste not properly disposed of.

Trip expectations and satisfaction

Table 45 shows the results of asking visitors if their Headwaters visit met their expectations; Appendix L (page 178) lists the reasons why the trip met, or did not meet, expectations. A vast majority of visitors (96%) expressed mostly to complete satisfaction with their trip, with only 1.2% saying their trip did not meet their expectations.

Table 45. Evaluation of trip expectations.
(n=425)

| Did this trip meet your expectations? | Percent |
|---------------------------------------|---------|
| Completely | 67.8 |
| Mostly | 28.2 |
| Somewhat | 2.8 |
| Not At All | 1.2 |

General Comments

Finally, Appendix M (page 190) lists all general comments made by respondents on the last page of the questionnaire.

Comparison of 2012 Survey Results to 1999 Survey Results

This survey was conducted as a follow-up to the first HFR survey conducted in 1999. Therefore, many of the questions asked in the 2012 survey were also asked in the 1999 survey. This section of the report will compare results of the same questions from the 2012 survey to the 1999 survey to assess changes in HFR visitor use patterns and attitudes.

Demographics

Visitors to HFR in 2012 tended to be from similar demographic groups as those visitors from 1999, but with a few notable differences, one of which is age (Table 46). The most common age range of 2012 visitors was 50-59 (23%), while for 1999 visitors it was 18-29 (26%). Only 17% of 2012 visitors were under 30 years old, compared to 26% for 1999 visitors. The average age of visitors increased from about 43 in 1999 to 47 in 2012. We suspect that more younger visitors visited the HFR when it was first opened to the public in 1999 after several years of being a high-profile environmental issue that was frequently in the news. That initial interest has since waned among this age group.

Table 46. Age of respondents, 1999 vs. 2012.

| Age Ranges | % of respondents 2012 (n=434) | % of respondents 1999 (n=411) |
|------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 18-29 | 17 | 26 |
| 30-39 | 19 | 15 |
| 40-49 | 16 | 24 |
| 50-59 | 23 | 21 |
| 60-69 | 18 | 10 |
| 70+ | 7 | 5 |
| | | |
| Mean age | 47.0 | 42.9 |
| Median age | 48.0 | 44.0 |

The 95% confidence interval for 2012 age is 45.5 to 48.5.
The 95% confidence interval for 1999 age is 41.4 to 44.4.
The difference in mean age is significant at 0.01.

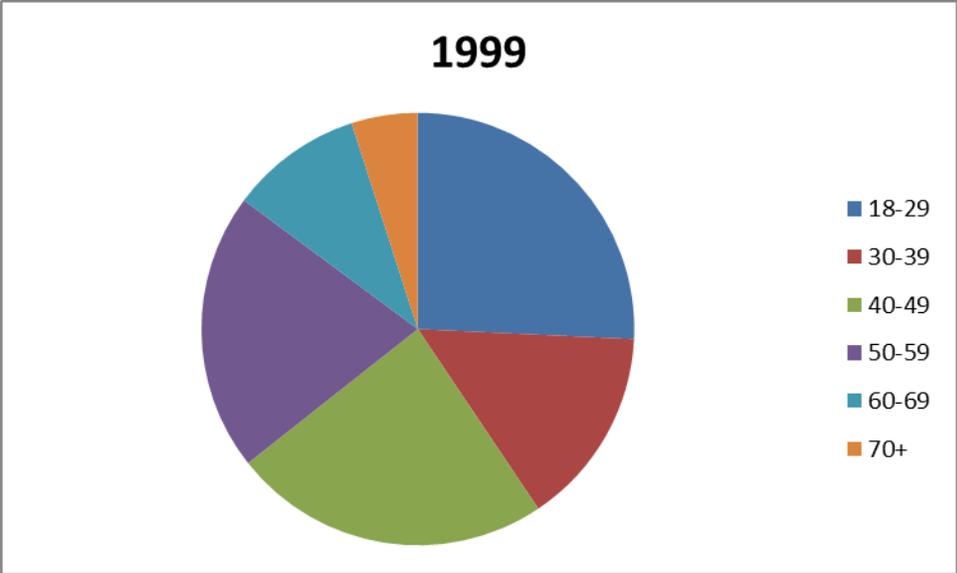


Figure 10. Age of respondents in 1999.

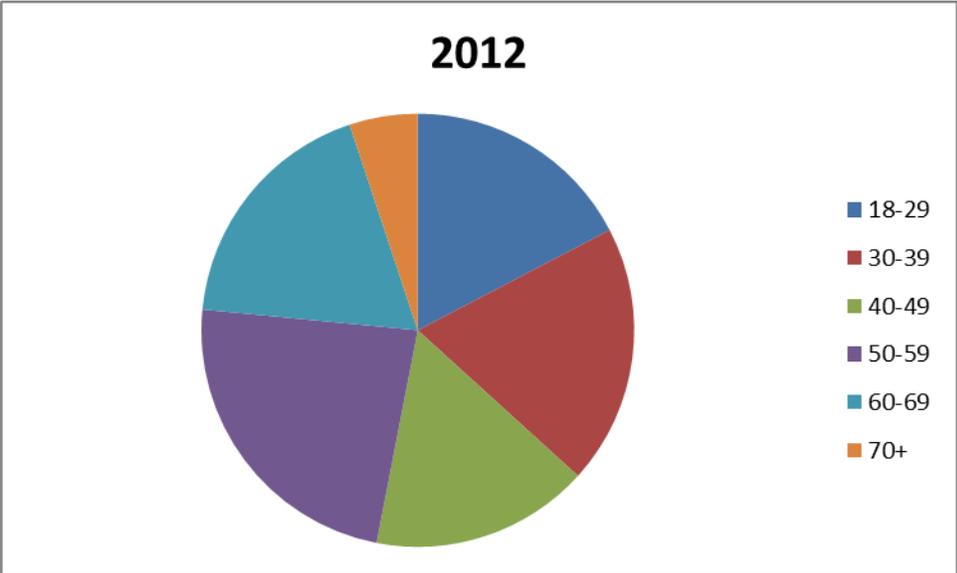


Figure 11. Age of respondents in 2012.

Gender and ethnic demographics remained quite similar. The proportion of female respondents increased slightly (Table 47), but the difference is within the margin of error for the sample, so it may simply be a sampling artifact. There was virtually no difference in the proportion of respondents who reported being white/Anglo/non-Hispanic between 2012 (87.6%) and 1999 (87.0%). Slightly more 2012 visitors reported being Hispanic, African-American, American Indian/Alaskan Native, and Pacific Islander than those from 1999, but this could well be the result of eliminating the “multiracial” and “other” categories in the 2012 survey.

Table 47. Gender of respondents, 1999 vs. 2012.

| | % 2012 (n=434) | % 1999 (n=411) |
|--------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Male | 44.9 | 48.0 |
| Female | 55.5 | 52.0 |

Table 48. Ethnicity of respondents, 1999 vs. 2012.

| | % 2012 (n=434) | % 1999 (n=391) |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Anglo, white, non-Hispanic | 87.6 | 87.0 |
| American Indian or Alaska Native | 3.0 | 1.3 |
| Hispanic/Latino | 4.4 | 2.8 |
| Asian | 0.5 | 1.0 |
| Black or African-American | 1.4 | <1 |
| Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander | 1.4 | 1.0 |

Visitors to HFR in 2012 reported higher levels of education compared to visitors in 1999 (Table 49). In 1999, the biggest group was High School graduates (40%, dropping to only 15% in 2012). In 2012, the largest group was College graduates, increasing from 24% in 1999 to 52% in 2012.

The response format was slightly different in 2012 compared to the 1999 survey, and there is a distinct possibility that some of the respondents indicated “College” if they had started college but never graduated, despite the question asking for the “highest level completed.” If this happened, it would at least partly explain the rather large difference in college “graduates” between 1999 and 2012.

Table 49. Highest completed education level of respondents, 1999 vs. 2012.

| Education | % 2012 (n=434) | % 1999 (n=397) |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Middle School | 1 | 1 |
| High School | 16 | 40 |
| College | 55 | 24 |
| Graduate School | 29 | 35 |

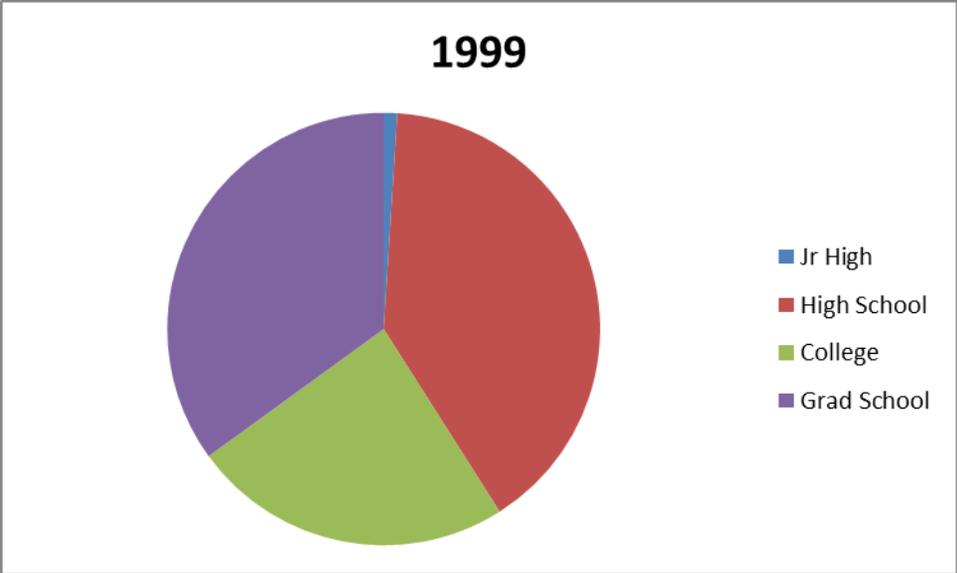


Figure 12. Levels of education of respondents in 1999.

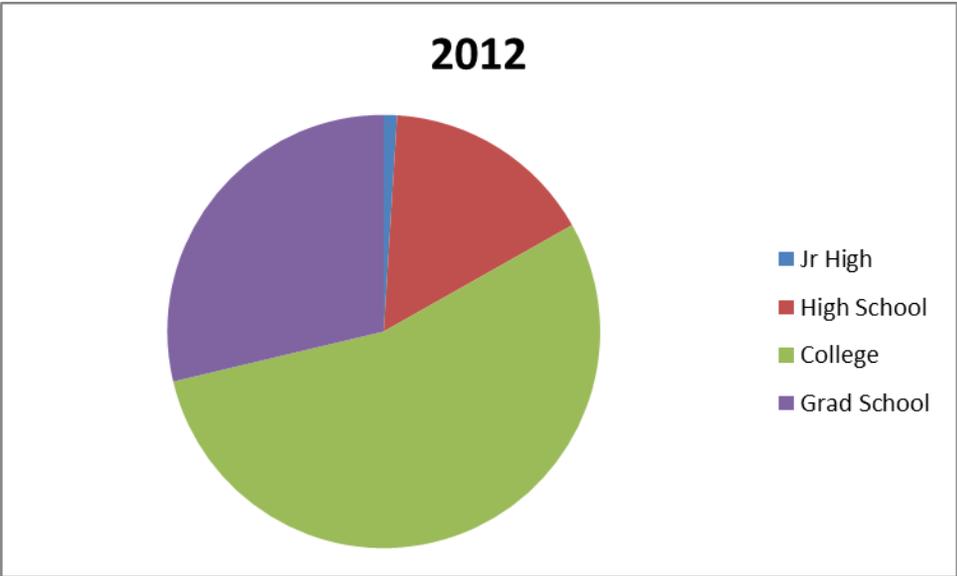


Figure 13. Levels of education of respondents in 2012.

Individual Trip Data

Questions regarding trip duration and trip length were asked in both the 2012 and 1999 surveys, as well as for both on-site interviews. Fewer and simpler questions regarding those topics were asked in the 2012 survey, however, and questions regarding travel distance and frequency to HFR and planning horizons for such visits to HFR were eliminated for the 2012 survey altogether. The respondent choices for the question regarding trip length were revised for the 2012 survey, but comparison to the 1999 survey is still relevant.

The following tables compare visitor data compiled during on-site interviews in relation to visitation patterns of groups to HFR. Data were also gathered in both years on group size, group type, number of previous visits to HFR, and distance traveled (hiked) during the visit to HFR.

Table 50 displays group type data collected during the on-site interview. Far more groups in 2012 were “family only” groups (52.7%) compared to 1999 (39%). The number of groups who were alone did not change much (24% in 1999 and 21% in 2012), but the number of groups who came as “friends only” was cut in half from 28% in 1999 to 14.6% in 2012. Essentially, there was a shift from “friends” groups to “family” groups.

Table 50. Group type based on relationship among group members, 1999 vs. 2012.

| Group type | % of groups, 2012 (n=609) | % of groups, 1999 (n=292) |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Friends only | 14.6 | 28.0 |
| Family only | 52.7 | 39.0 |
| Family and friends | 5.1 | 4.0 |
| Alone | 21.0 | 24.0 |
| Other (couples + work groups) | 6.6 | 5.0 |

Table 51 displays data collected during on-site interviews for group size. While the distribution of group size didn't change much at all from 1999 to 2012, the average group size did decline from 3.3 in 1999 to 2.5 in 2012.

Table 51. Group size comparison, 1999 vs. 2012.

| Group size | % of groups 2012 (n=609) | % of groups 1999 (n=292) |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 person | 21.2 | 23.0 |
| 2 people | 48.1 | 45.0 |
| 3 people | 13.5 | 15.0 |
| 4 people | 9.7 | 6.0 |
| 5 people | 3.3 | 5.0 |
| 6 people | 1.8 | 2.0 |
| 7 people | 1.3 | 1.0 |
| 8 or more people | 1.2 | 2.0 |
| | | |
| Mean group size | 2.5 | 3.3 |
| Median group size | 2.0 | 2.0 |

The 95% confidence interval for 2012 group size is 2.3 to 2.6.
 The 95% confidence interval for 1999 group size is 3.0 to 3.6.
 The difference in mean group size is significant at 0.01.

Tables 52 and 53 display data collected for distance traveled by each group during their visit to HFR. The choices for the 2012 version of the question asked were revised somewhat, but some comparisons to the 1999 data are still possible. Far fewer groups in 2012 (5%) made it to the end of the official trail than groups in 1999 (40%), and most groups (72.5%) in 2012 did not go beyond the first bridge, compared to 23% in 1999.

Table 52. Trail distance hiked, 2012. (n=434)

| | % of respondents |
|---|------------------|
| A. Education Center (Barn) | 14.7 |
| B. Falk town site (end of pavement, 1 mile marker) | 32.2 |
| C. First bridge (2 mile marker) | 25.6 |
| D. Second bridge (3 mile marker) | 16.1 |
| E. Between 3 mile marker and before beginning of old-growth | 6.5 |
| F. End of trail (old-growth loop trail) | 4.9 |

Table 53. Trail distance hiked, 1999. (n=234)

| | % of respondents |
|---|------------------|
| Section 1 – no farther than the first bridge | 23.0 |
| Section 2 – beyond the first bridge but shy of the end of the trail | 34.0 |
| Section 3 – all the way to the end of the official trail | 38.0 |
| Section 4 – off-trail beyond the end of the official trail | 2.5 |
| Section 5 – around the north side of the “hole” | 2.5 |

Information use by and preferences of visitors

Both surveys asked visitors questions regarding their preferences for obtaining information about HFR and for types of information about HFR that would help most for trip planning. Table 54 displays data collected on preferred sources of information on HFR that visitors used to help plan their trip. The biggest shift from 1999 to 2102 was from newspaper articles as a main source of information in 1999, to personal experience in 2012. This makes sense since 1999 was the first year the Reserve was open to the public, so fewer people would have had personal experience, but the Reserve was in the news very frequently. By 2012, the Reserve was no longer a frequent news item, but many more people had visited and thus had personal experience to use as a source of information.

The question in both years asked visitors to select their top 3 preferred information sources, which is why the percentages sum to greater than 100%.

Table 54. Information sources used for trip planning, 1999 vs. 2012.

| Information Source | % of respondents 2012 (n=434) | % of respondents 1999 (n=408) |
|--|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Newspaper articles | 27.0 | 57 |
| Friends or relatives | 69.6 | 56 |
| Personal experience | 62.2 | 42 |
| Information from the BLM | 5.8 | 22 |
| Information from other state or federal land management agency | 3.5 | 6 |
| Maps | 20.0 | 17 |
| Magazine articles | 8.5 | 14 |
| BLM Website | 6.7 | not asked |
| Books | 7.1 | 9 |
| Website of other state or federal land management agency | 5.5 | not asked |
| Local Chamber of Commerce | 2.8 | 2 |
| Outdoors Cool! or other non-agency website | 1.8 | not asked |
| TV ads | 1.2 | ----- |
| Internet (total sources) | not asked | 12 |
| Travel guides | not asked | <1 |
| Motel or resort | not asked | <1 |
| California Tourism Board | not asked | <1 |
| Travel agent | not asked | <1 |
| Other | 19.8 | 18 |

Table 55 displays data collected for types of information that visitors would prefer to have in order to plan their trip. While a number of the answer choices were revised for the 2012 survey, some of the preferences in 2012 were similar to those in 1999. For example, information on specific trail descriptions was the most popular selection for both surveys (59% in 2012 and 66% in 1999). Maps, and information about the cultural and historical values of the area, were not asked in 1999, but were the next two most preferred type of information in 2012. The need for directions to the trailhead was much lower in 2012 due to many repeat visitors by then. The question in both surveys asks visitors to select their top 3 preferred types of information, which is why the percentages sum to greater than 100%.

Table 55. Preferences for types of information about HFR, 1999 vs. 2012.

| Type of information | % of respondents 2012 (n=434) | % of respondents 1999 (n=403) |
|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Specific trail descriptions | 59.4 | 66 |
| Natural resource values of the area | 24.9 | not asked |
| Directions to trailheads | 28.8 | 54 |
| Cultural/historical resource values of the area | 35.9 | not asked |
| Maps | 38.7 | not asked |
| Available facilities | 22.4 | 18 |
| Recreation opportunities | 21.0 | not asked |
| Recommended items to pack along | 6.9 | 11 |
| General weather conditions of the area | 13.1 | 9 |
| Rules and regulations | 12.0 | not asked |
| Other | 4.1 | 9 |
| Access road descriptions and travel times | not asked | 31 |
| Nearby attractions | not asked | 6 |
| Natural history and features of area | not asked | 57 |

Recreational activity participation

Visitors were asked about which activities they participated in during their visit to HFR, and what level of importance each activity had in their trip. Table 56 displays these data. By far the most popular activity in both 2012 and 1999 was hiking, which more than 80% of respondents in both 2012 and 1999 marked as a major reason for their visit, and more than 90% said was an activity they participated in during their trip.

The activities seeing the largest declines from 1999 to 2012 (as the primary reason for the visit) were wildlife viewing and nature study. Wildlife viewing, as the primary reason for the visit, declined by 21 percentage points (49% to 28%), while nature study, as the primary reason for the visit, declined by 30 percentage points (49% to 19%).

Another notable difference from 1999 is the number of people who went to HFR to walk their dogs. Dog walking was not even an answer option on the 1999 survey, but was added to the 2012 survey. In 2012, dog walking was the second most popular activity after hiking, as the primary reason for the visit, with 39% of respondents indicating that walking their dog was the major reason for visiting HFR, and 44% of respondents participating in that activity.

Table 56. Recreational activity participation, 1999 vs. 2012.

| Activity | % 2012 major reason for trip and (total participation rate) n=434 | % 1999 major reason for trip and (total participation rate) n=372 |
|---------------------------|---|---|
| Hiking on trails | 82 (92) | 89 (100) |
| Spending time alone | 17 (34) | 28 (45) |
| Socializing | 26 (61) | 29 (73) |
| Nature study | 19 (58) | 49 (85) |
| Historical/cultural study | 12 (47) | not asked |
| Wildlife viewing | 28 (71) | 49 (86) |
| Photography | 11 (30) | 13 (35) |
| Geocaching | 1 (4) | not asked |
| Questing | 1 (10) | not asked |
| Dog walking | 39 (44) | not asked |
| Wheelchair use | 1 (1) | not asked |
| Biking | 8 (10) | not asked |
| Other | 12 (13) | not asked |

Attitudes toward other visitors

Visitors were asked to report how many other visitors they saw during their visit, and how they felt about the number they saw (Tables 58 and 59). Visitors in 1999 were much more likely to see 3 or fewer other visitors than were visitors in 2012 (23% to 7%), and far more visitors in 2012 reported seeing 7 or more other people (73%) than in 1999 (44%). Nearly twice as many 2012 respondents reported seeing more than 10 other visitors (42%) than did the 1999 respondents (22%). Despite this, 2012 respondents were generally content with or indifferent about the number of other visitors they saw during their visit, with 93% saying they saw “about the right the number” or “does not matter to me.” The percentage of visitors who said they “saw too many” declined from 8.0% in 1999 to only 2.6% in 2012, despite the increase in the number of visitors seen. Taken together, these numbers suggest that fewer visitors in 2012 are visiting the HFR in search of solitude, and although fewer are finding it, fewer are bothered by this, as more are indifferent to it. It may be that visitors in search of solitude have learned to seek it elsewhere.

Table 58. Number of others seen, 1999 vs. 2012.

| Number of other visitors seen | % of respondents 2012 (n=421) | % of respondents 1999 (n=405) |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 0 | 0.5 | 7.0 |
| 1 to 3 | 6.9 | 16.0 |
| 4 to 6 | 20.0 | 33.0 |
| 7 to 10 | 30.4 | 22.0 |
| More than 10 | 42.2 | 22.0 |

Table 59. Evaluation of number of others seen, 1999 vs. 2012.

| Evaluation of # of other visitors seen | % of respondents (2012; n=379) | % of respondents (1999; n=397) |
|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Saw too many | 2.6 | 8.0 |
| Saw about the right number | 49.6 | 61.0 |
| Saw too few | 4.0 | 3.0 |
| Does not matter to me | 43.8 | 29.0 |

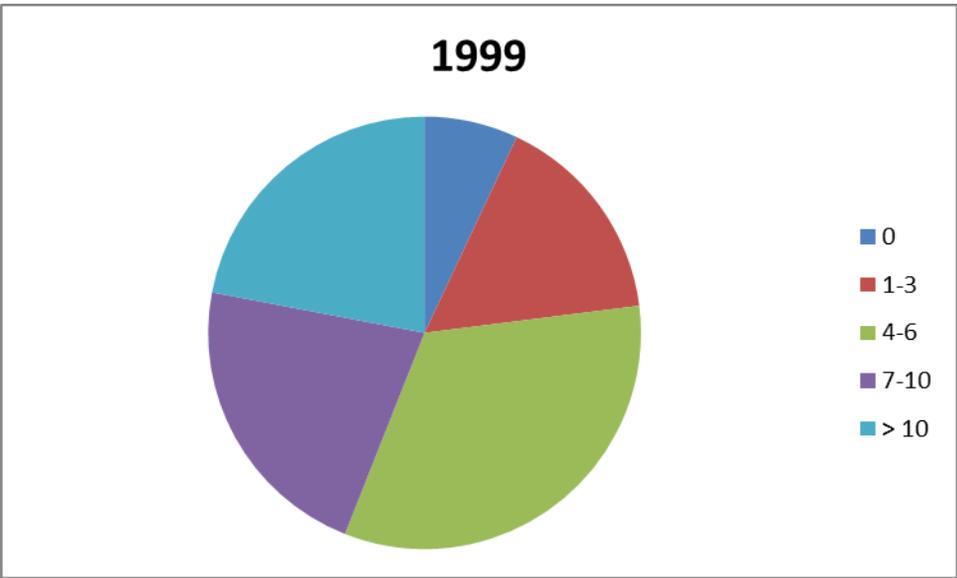


Figure 14. Number of other visitors seen in 1999.

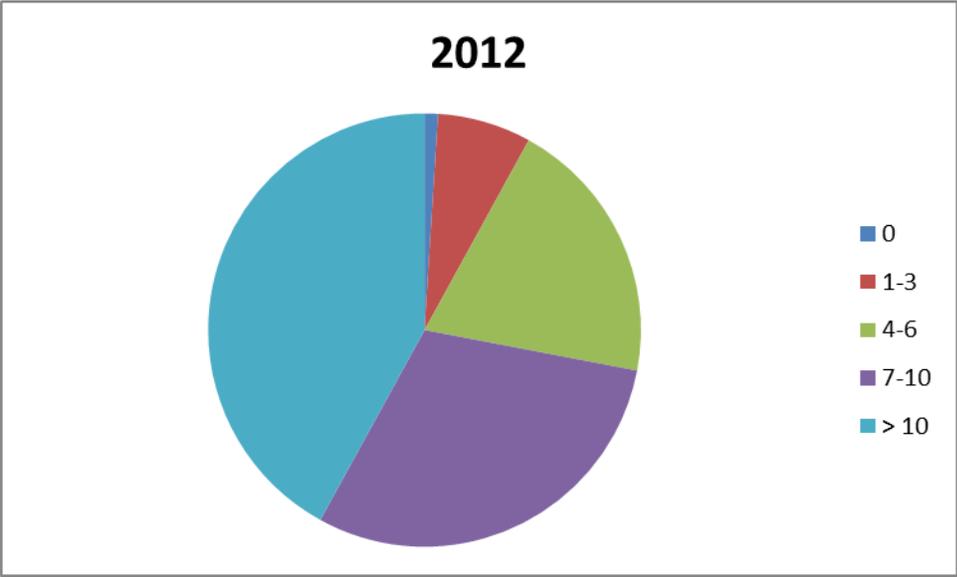


Figure 15. Number of other visitors seen in 2012.

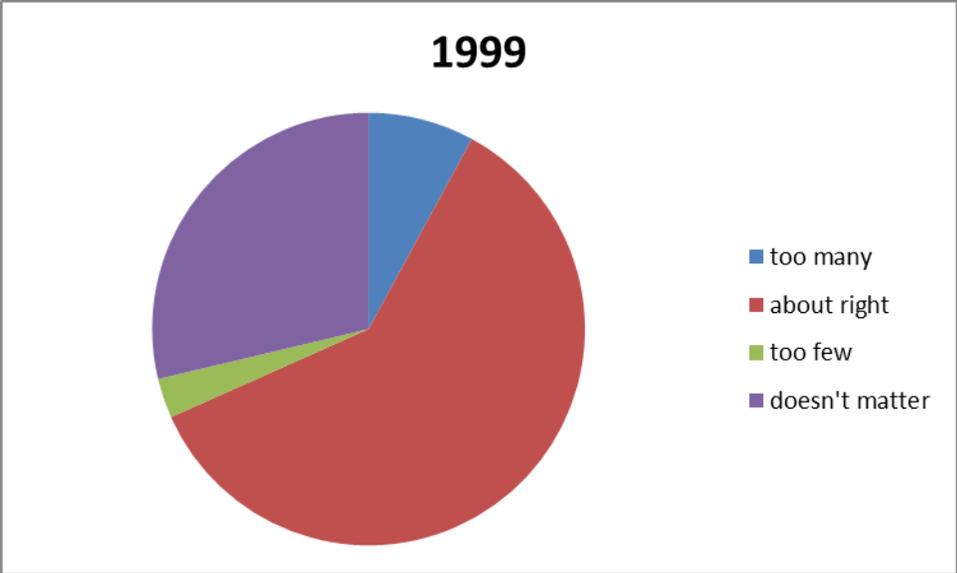


Figure 16. Evaluation of number of other visitors seen, in 1999.

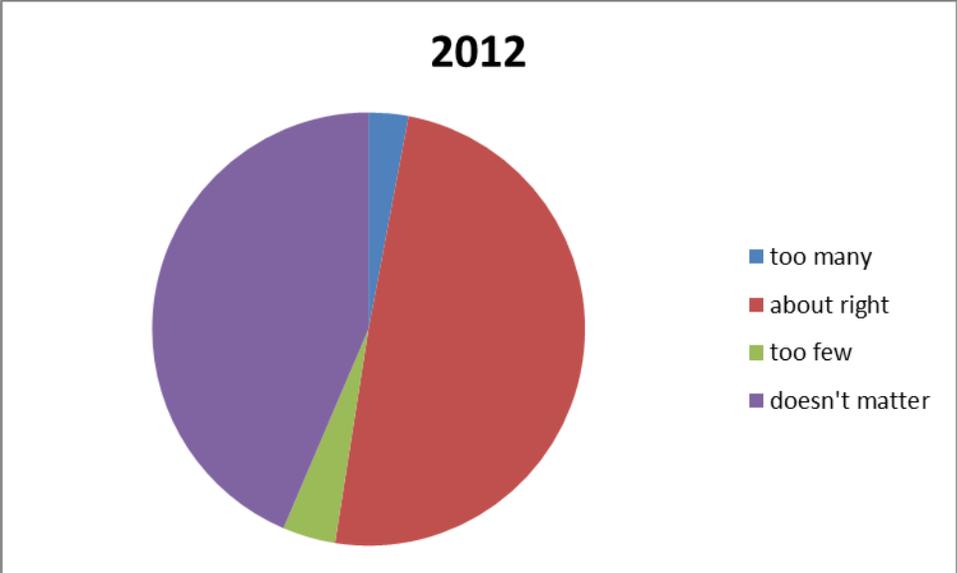


Figure 17. Evaluation of number of other visitors seen, in 2012.

Perceived Resource and Behavioral Impacts

Visitors were asked if they noticed environmental impacts that they believed were caused by other visitors, as well as whether the behavior of any other groups interfered with their visit (tables 60 and 61). There was little to no change in either of these measures from 1999 to 2012, despite total visitor numbers having increased significantly.

Table 60. Perceived resource impacts caused by other visitors, 1999 vs. 2012.

| Did you notice impacts caused by other visitors? | % of respondents 2012 (n=434) | % of respondents 1999 (n=396) |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| No | 72 | 75 |
| Yes | 28 | 25 |

Table 61. Did behavior of others interfere with your enjoyment?

| Did behavior of others interfere with your enjoyment? | % of respondents 2012 (n=434) | % of respondents 1999 (n=403) |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| No | 92 | 88 |
| Yes | 8 | 12 |

Visitor perceptions of resource, social, and management problems

Visitors were asked about potential problems at HFR, including resource problems, management problems, and social problems. Tables 62-69 display these results. There were 18 potential problems common to both surveys, and for 17 of these, visitor perceptions of conditions improved, with the difference in mean ratings being statistically significant for all 17. The only item for which visitors perceived a worsening in conditions from 1999 to 2012 (although the difference was not statistically significant), was regarding adequate parking at entry points. Particularly large improvements in conditions were noted for “polluted streams,” “not enough information on area’s history and culture,” and “litter.”

Table 62. Visitor perceptions of potential resource problems in 2012. (n=434)

| Potential Resource Problems, % of respondents | | | | | |
|---|---------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| | Major Problem | Moderate Problem | Minor Problem | Not a Problem | mean rating ¹ |
| Trails poorly maintained | 0.5 | 1.9 | 7.5 | 90.0 | 3.87 |
| Trails poorly marked | 0.2 | 2.2 | 9.8 | 87.8 | 3.85 |
| Trail erosion | 0.7 | 7.7 | 22.6 | 68.9 | 3.60 |
| Polluted streams | 0.6 | 5.1 | 5.4 | 88.8 | 3.82 |

¹ 1=Major problem; 2=Moderate problem; 3= Minor problem; 4=Not a problem.

Table 63. Visitor perceptions of potential resource problems in 1999. (n=411)

| Potential Resource Problems, % of respondents | | | | | |
|---|---------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| | Major problem | Moderate problem | Minor problem | Not a problem | mean rating ¹ |
| trails poorly maintained | 3.5 | 7.6 | 16.5 | 72.4 | 3.58 |
| trails poorly marked | 4.4 | 7.9 | 16.9 | 70.8 | 3.54 |
| trail erosion | 10.0 | 13.7 | 20.6 | 55.7 | 3.22 |
| polluted streams | 13.8 | 11.9 | 13.4 | 60.9 | 3.21 |

¹ 1=Major problem; 2=Moderate problem; 3= Minor problem; 4=Not a problem.

Table 64. Potential resource problems, mean ratings 1999 vs. 2012.

| | mean rating ¹ 1999 | mean rating ¹ 2012 | statistical significance of the difference ² |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| trails poorly maintained | 3.58 | 3.87 | < 0.01 |
| trails poorly marked | 3.54 | 3.85 | < 0.01 |
| trail erosion | 3.22 | 3.60 | < 0.01 |
| polluted streams | 3.21 | 3.82 | < 0.01 |

¹ 1=Major problem; 2=Moderate problem; 3= Minor problem; 4=Not a problem.

² values less than .05 are considered statistically significant

Table 65. Visitor perceptions of potential management problems in 2012. (n=434)

| Potential Management Problems, % of respondents | | | | | |
|---|---------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| | Major problem | Moderate problem | Minor problem | Not a problem | mean rating ¹ |
| Not enough trails | 5.0 | 17.0 | 20.9 | 57.1 | 3.30 |
| Not enough parking spaces at entry points | 2.2 | 6.5 | 16.9 | 74.4 | 3.64 |
| Not enough information on area's natural and cultural history | 1.2 | 7.6 | 18.3 | 72.9 | 3.63 |
| Too many rules and regulations | 0.7 | 1.2 | 3.6 | 94.4 | 3.92 |
| Area rules and regulations not well publicized | 1.3 | 3.6 | 19.1 | 76.1 | 3.70 |
| Not enough trails information | 1.2 | 8.4 | 31.1 | 59.3 | 3.48 |
| Not enough information on number of other users | 0.0 | 3.1 | 7.5 | 89.4 | 3.86 |
| Not enough information on when area is heavily used | 0.6 | 5.8 | 13.9 | 79.7 | 3.73 |

¹ 1=Major problem; 2=Moderate problem; 3= Minor problem; 4=Not a problem.

Table 66. Visitor perceptions of potential management problems in 1999. (n=411)

| Potential Management Problems, % of respondents | | | | | |
|--|---------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| | Major problem | Moderate problem | Minor problem | Not a problem | mean rating ¹ |
| not enough trails | 17.4 | 24.1 | 14.8 | 43.6 | 2.85 |
| not enough parking spaces at entry points | 2.4 | 5.1 | 12.4 | 80.1 | 3.70 |
| not enough information on area's history and culture | 15.5 | 23.6 | 30.3 | 30.6 | 2.76 |
| too many rules and regulations | 6.0 | 5.7 | 9.6 | 78.7 | 3.61 |
| area rules and regulations not well publicized | 5.1 | 9.6 | 20.7 | 64.6 | 3.45 |
| not enough trails information | 11.2 | 22.2 | 27.1 | 39.3 | 2.95 |
| not enough information on number of other users | 1.5 | 9.1 | 21.8 | 67.7 | 3.56 |
| not enough information on when area is heavily used | 3.7 | 12.4 | 27.6 | 56.3 | 3.37 |

¹ 1=Major problem; 2=Moderate problem; 3= Minor problem; 4=Not a problem.

Table 67. Potential management problems, mean ratings 1999 vs. 2012.

| | mean rating ¹ 1999 | mean rating ¹ 2012 | statistical significance of the difference ² |
|--|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| not enough trails | 2.85 | 3.30 | < 0.01 |
| not enough parking spaces at entry points | 3.70 | 3.64 | 0.18 |
| not enough information on area's history and culture | 2.76 | 3.63 | < 0.01 |
| too many rules and regulations | 3.61 | 3.92 | < 0.01 |
| area rules and regulations not well publicized | 3.45 | 3.70 | < 0.01 |
| not enough trails information | 2.95 | 3.48 | < 0.01 |
| not enough information on number of other users | 3.56 | 3.86 | < 0.01 |
| not enough information on when area is heavily used | 3.37 | 3.73 | < 0.01 |

¹ 1=Major problem; 2=Moderate problem; 3= Minor problem; 4=Not a problem.

² values less than .05 are considered statistically significant

Table 68. Visitor perceptions of potential social problems in 2012. (n=434)

| Potential Social Problems, % of respondents | | | | | |
|--|---------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| | Major problem | Moderate problem | Minor problem | Not a problem | mean rating ¹ |
| Litter | 0.2 | 3.9 | 23.9 | 72.0 | 3.68 |
| Dog waste | 3.5 | 11.2 | 31.0 | 54.3 | 3.36 |
| Vandalism | 1.7 | 5.3 | 13.4 | 79.6 | 3.71 |
| Pets off leash | 7.1 | 7.3 | 13.4 | 72.1 | 3.51 |
| Bicyclist Issues | .3 | 2.3 | 10.8 | 86.7 | 3.84 |
| Rowdy or noisy people | 0.0 | 2.0 | 8.9 | 89.1 | 3.87 |
| Too many large groups | 0.0 | 1.3 | 3.8 | 94.9 | 3.94 |
| Too many people in the area at the same time | 0.0 | 1.7 | 6.7 | 91.6 | 3.90 |

¹ 1=Major problem; 2=Moderate problem; 3= Minor problem; 4=Not a problem.

Table 69. Visitor perceptions of potential social problems in 1999. (n=411)

| Potential Social Problems, % of respondents | | | | | |
|--|---------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| | Major problem | Moderate problem | Minor problem | Not a problem | mean rating ¹ |
| litter | 15.7 | 12.2 | 22.9 | 49.2 | 3.06 |
| human waste | 12.6 | 6.6 | 11.7 | 69.1 | 3.37 |
| vandalism | 10.9 | 6.0 | 10.0 | 73.1 | 3.45 |
| pets off leash | 12.3 | 8.8 | 14.0 | 64.9 | 3.32 |
| rowdy or noisy people | 9.1 | 7.0 | 10.8 | 73.1 | 3.48 |
| too many large groups | 8.1 | 6.7 | 10.9 | 74.4 | 3.52 |
| too many people in the area at the same time | 9.8 | 6.3 | 10.9 | 73.0 | 3.47 |

¹ 1=Major problem; 2=Moderate problem; 3= Minor problem; 4=Not a problem.

Table 69. Potential social problems, mean ratings 1999 vs. 2012.

| | mean rating ¹ 1999 | mean rating ¹ 2012 | statistical significance of the difference ² |
|--|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| litter | 3.06 | 3.68 | < 0.01 |
| vandalism | 3.45 | 3.71 | < 0.01 |
| pets off leash | 3.32 | 3.51 | < 0.01 |
| rowdy or noisy people | 3.48 | 3.87 | < 0.01 |
| too many large groups | 3.52 | 3.94 | < 0.01 |
| too many people in the area at the same time | 3.47 | 3.90 | < 0.01 |

¹ 1=Major problem; 2=Moderate problem; 3= Minor problem; 4=Not a problem.

² values less than .05 are considered statistically significant

Importance and Performance Ratings of Services and Facilities

Visitors were asked to rate the importance of specific services and facilities provided by the BLM at HFR, and then to assess the performance of the BLM by assigning a letter grade to each specific service or facility. Tables 70-72 display the Importance ratings, while tables 73-75 display the Performance ratings.

“Keeping vehicles safe from vandalism” was rated as the most important service or responsibility in both 1999 and 2012. Items seeing the largest increases in mean Importance rating from 1999 to 2012 include “clean restrooms,” “access roads in good condition,” “adequate parking,” and “keeping vehicles safe from vandalism.”

Table 70. Visitor perceptions of importance of services and facilities in 2012; % of respondents. (n=434)

| | Very important | Important | Somewhat important | Not very important | mean rating ¹ |
|--|----------------|-----------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Signs at trailhead have necessary information | 33.3 | 45.9 | 13.8 | 7.0 | 3.05 |
| Helpful directional signs | 27.2 | 41.2 | 22.8 | 8.8 | 2.87 |
| Clean restrooms | 41.3 | 41.0 | 12.3 | 5.5 | 3.18 |
| Access roads in good condition | 25.9 | 48.3 | 20.2 | 5.7 | 2.94 |
| Adequate parking | 27.8 | 51.2 | 16.7 | 4.3 | 3.02 |
| Phone requests handled without delay | 8.8 | 26.7 | 24.8 | 39.7 | 2.05 |
| Prompt response to written requests | 7.5 | 27.4 | 29.3 | 35.8 | 2.07 |
| BLM staff are professional and competent | 43.5 | 41.1 | 12.2 | 3.1 | 3.25 |
| BLM staff are friendly and courteous | 40.8 | 40.6 | 13.4 | 5.2 | 3.17 |
| Vehicle is safe from vandalism | 71.6 | 23.0 | 3.9 | 1.5 | 3.65 |
| Managers notify visitors of hazards in the area | 41.7 | 36.5 | 13.6 | 8.1 | 3.12 |
| BLM office open at convenient time | 15.3 | 33.8 | 27.7 | 23.1 | 2.41 |
| Able to leave phone message after hours | 11.4 | 29.2 | 29.5 | 29.8 | 2.22 |
| Opportunity for personal freedom | 37.9 | 42.0 | 13.8 | 6.3 | 3.11 |
| Able to find BLM person when needed | 14.1 | 36.8 | 32.4 | 16.8 | 2.48 |
| Brochures/ maps clearly communicate information about recreation opportunities | 30.4 | 45.5 | 18.1 | 6.0 | 3.00 |

¹mean Importance rating: 1=not very important; 2=somewhat important; 3=important; 4=very important

Table 71. Visitor perceptions of importance of services and facilities in 1999; % of respondents. (n=411)

| | Very important | Important | Somewhat important | Not very important | mean rating ¹ |
|---|----------------|-----------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| signs at trailhead have necessary information | 47.5 | 42.9 | 7.8 | 1.8 | 3.36 |
| helpful directional signs | 32.3 | 45.6 | 14.8 | 7.3 | 3.03 |
| clean restrooms | 29.8 | 43.5 | 16.4 | 10.3 | 2.93 |
| access roads in good condition | 16.1 | 44.7 | 29.1 | 10.1 | 2.67 |
| adequate parking | 18.0 | 48.3 | 25.1 | 8.6 | 2.76 |
| phone requests handled without delay | 11.8 | 35.1 | 22.9 | 30.2 | 2.28 |
| prompt response to written requests | 14.7 | 38.0 | 25.4 | 21.9 | 2.46 |
| BLM staff professional and competent | 39.2 | 42.4 | 12.5 | 5.8 | 3.15 |
| BLM staff friendly and courteous | 43.6 | 42.7 | 9.5 | 4.3 | 3.26 |
| vehicle safe from vandalism | 54.3 | 34.2 | 7.8 | 3.7 | 3.39 |
| mangers notify visitors of hazards in the area | 39.9 | 44.4 | 10.7 | 5.0 | 3.19 |
| BLM office open at convenient time | 15.0 | 46.5 | 23.9 | 14.7 | 2.62 |
| able to leave phone message after hours | 9.4 | 34.3 | 29.1 | 27.2 | 2.26 |
| opportunity for personal freedom | 39.2 | 36.7 | 14.6 | 9.4 | 3.06 |
| able to find BLM person when needed | 14.5 | 38.9 | 29.1 | 17.5 | 2.50 |
| brochures/ maps clearly communicate information about rec opportunities | 42.4 | 44.3 | 10.1 | 3.3 | 3.26 |

¹mean Importance rating: 1=not very important; 2=somewhat important; 3=important; 4=very important

Table 72. Importance of services and facilities, 1999 vs. 2012.

| | mean rating ¹ 1999 | mean rating ¹ 2012 | statistical significance of the difference ² |
|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| signs at trailhead have necessary information | 3.36 | 3.05 | < 0.01 |
| helpful directional signs | 3.03 | 2.87 | < 0.05 |
| clean restrooms | 2.93 | 3.18 | < 0.01 |
| access roads in good condition | 2.67 | 2.94 | < 0.01 |
| adequate parking | 2.76 | 3.02 | < 0.01 |
| phone requests handled without delay | 2.28 | 2.05 | < 0.01 |
| prompt response to written requests | 2.46 | 2.07 | < 0.01 |
| BLM staff professional and competent | 3.15 | 3.25 | 0.11 |
| BLM staff friendly and courteous | 3.26 | 3.17 | 0.17 |
| vehicle safe from vandalism | 3.39 | 3.65 | < 0.01 |
| mangers notify visitors of hazards in the area | 3.19 | 3.12 | 0.25 |
| BLM office open at convenient time | 2.62 | 2.41 | < 0.01 |
| able to leave phone message after hours | 2.26 | 2.22 | 0.64 |
| opportunity for personal freedom | 3.06 | 3.11 | 0.40 |
| able to find BLM person when needed | 2.50 | 2.48 | 0.74 |
| brochures/ maps clearly communicate information about rec opportunities | 3.26 | 3.00 | < 0.01 |

¹ mean Importance rating: 1=not very important; 2=somewhat important; 3=important; 4=very important

² values less than .05 are considered statistically significant

Regarding visitor evaluation of the BLM's performance in providing services and facilities (Tables 73-75), the two highest (best) rated items in 2012 were "BLM staff professional and competent," and "BLM staff friendly and courteous;" these were also the two highest rated items in 1999. Individual items seeing the largest increase or improvement in mean Performance rating from 1999 to 2012 were: "signs at trailhead have necessary information," "helpful directional signs," "managers notify visitors of hazards in the area," "can find personal freedom without too many rules and regulations," and "brochures and maps provide clear information on recreational opportunities." There were two items for which mean Performance ratings declined from 1999 to 2012: "vehicle safe from vandalism" and "able to find BLM person when needed."

Table 73. Performance of BLM services and facilities 2012. (n=434)

| | Grade given to BLM ¹ | | | | | | | mean rating ² |
|---|---------------------------------|------|------|-----|-----|------------|------|--------------------------|
| | A | B | C | D | F | Don't know | | |
| | Percent of total | | | | | | | |
| Signs at trailhead have necessary information | 39.1 | 42.7 | 12.1 | 1.6 | 0.3 | 3.7 | 4.24 | |
| Helpful directional signs | 36.4 | 33.6 | 17.6 | 1.3 | 0.8 | 5.3 | 4.15 | |
| Clean restrooms | 28.5 | 27.4 | 12.5 | 2.7 | 1.9 | 26.9 | 4.07 | |
| Access roads in good condition | 53.0 | 33.2 | 9.5 | 0.5 | 0.0 | 3.8 | 4.44 | |
| Adequate parking | 55.3 | 30.5 | 12.1 | 0.8 | 0.5 | 0.8 | 4.40 | |
| Phone requests handled without delay | 5.1 | 4.4 | 1.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 89.2 | 4.35 | |
| Prompt response to email requests | 3.8 | 4.2 | 1.0 | 0.3 | 0.0 | 90.7 | 4.24 | |
| BLM staff are professional and competent | 53.5 | 12.7 | 1.4 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 32.3 | 4.77 | |
| BLM staff are friendly and courteous | 62.4 | 8.9 | 0.6 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 27.6 | 4.83 | |
| Vehicle is safe from vandalism | 38.7 | 23.4 | 17.0 | 1.6 | 0.0 | 19.2 | 4.23 | |
| Managers notify visitors of hazards in the area | 24.4 | 165 | 7.1 | 0.3 | 0.9 | 50.1 | 4.29 | |
| BLM office open at convenient times | 8.0 | 5.9 | 5.9 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 80.2 | 4.11 | |
| Able to leave phone message after hours | 5.8 | 3.9 | 2.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 87.7 | 4.26 | |
| Opportunity for personal freedom without too many rules and regulations | 49.6 | 21.4 | 2.9 | 0.6 | 0.0 | 25.5 | 4.61 | |
| Able to find a BLM person when needed | 9.3 | 9.0 | 9.6 | 4.8 | 3.0 | 64.3 | 3.47 | |
| Brochures and maps provide clear information about recreation opportunities | 36.4 | 34.5 | 11.3 | 2.5 | 0.3 | 15.0 | 4.23 | |

¹ A=excellent; B=very good/above average; C=average; D=not very good/below average; F=failing

² mean Performance rating: 1=F; 2=D; 3=C; 4=B; 5=A.

Table 74. Performance of BLM services and facilities 1999 (n=411).

| | Grade given to BLM ¹ | | | | | | | mean rating ² |
|--|---------------------------------|------|------|------|-----|------------|------|--------------------------|
| | A | B | C | D | F | Don't know | | |
| | Percent of total | | | | | | | |
| signs at trailhead have necessary information | 26.3 | 42.2 | 20.7 | 6.1 | 0.8 | 3.9 | 3.90 | |
| helpful directional signs | 20.9 | 29.7 | 30.2 | 10.2 | 3.1 | 5.9 | 3.59 | |
| clean restrooms | 23.3 | 24.2 | 12.8 | 4.4 | 2.6 | 32.7 | 3.91 | |
| access roads in good condition | 48.0 | 34.2 | 10.9 | 2.6 | 0.0 | 4.3 | 4.33 | |
| adequate parking | 61.5 | 27.9 | 8.4 | 0.6 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 4.50 | |
| phone requests handled without delay | 9.7 | 3.5 | 4.1 | 0.0 | 0.6 | 82.1 | 4.21 | |
| prompt response to written requests | 6.1 | 3.8 | 2.5 | 0.3 | 0.0 | 87.3 | 4.23 | |
| BLM staff professional and competent | 43.0 | 13.7 | 4.7 | 0.6 | 0.3 | 37.8 | 4.58 | |
| BLM staff friendly and courteous | 52.2 | 11.3 | 2.9 | 0.3 | 0.0 | 33.3 | 4.73 | |
| vehicle safe from vandalism | 39.7 | 19.4 | 7.5 | 0.6 | 0.0 | 32.8 | 4.46 | |
| managers notify visitors of hazards in the area | 12.4 | 17.8 | 13.3 | 3.0 | 2.2 | 51.4 | 3.73 | |
| BLM office open at convenient times | 10.6 | 8.7 | 8.1 | 0.0 | 1.2 | 71.3 | 3.96 | |
| able to leave phone message after hours | 3.2 | 4.8 | 4.8 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 87.2 | 3.88 | |
| can find personal freedom without too many rules and regulations | 34.0 | 20.9 | 11.0 | 3.6 | 0.6 | 29.9 | 4.20 | |
| able to find BLM person when needed | 17.3 | 13.6 | 9.9 | 1.9 | 1.5 | 55.9 | 3.98 | |
| brochures and maps provide clear information on recreational opportunities | 19.8 | 23.5 | 24.1 | 9.5 | 3.0 | 20.1 | 3.60 | |

¹ A=excellent; B=very good/above average; C=average; D=not very good/below average; F=failing

² mean Performance rating: 1=F; 2=D; 3=C; 4=B; 5=A.

Table 75. BLM's Performance of services and facilities, 1999 vs. 2012.

| | mean rating ¹ 1999 | mean rating ¹ 2012 | statistical significance of the difference ² |
|--|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| signs at trailhead have necessary information | 3.90 | 4.24 | < 0.01 |
| helpful directional signs | 3.59 | 4.15 | < 0.01 |
| clean restrooms | 3.91 | 4.07 | 0.08 |
| access roads in good condition | 4.33 | 4.44 | 0.06 |
| adequate parking | 4.50 | 4.40 | 0.09 |
| phone requests handled without delay | 4.21 | 4.35 | 0.48 |
| prompt response to written requests | 4.23 | 4.24 | 0.94 |
| BLM staff professional and competent | 4.58 | 4.77 | < 0.01 |
| BLM staff friendly and courteous | 4.73 | 4.83 | < 0.05 |
| vehicle safe from vandalism | 4.46 | 4.23 | < 0.01 |
| managers notify visitors of hazards in the area | 3.73 | 4.29 | < 0.01 |
| BLM office open at convenient times | 3.96 | 4.11 | 0.31 |
| able to leave phone message after hours | 3.88 | 4.26 | < 0.05 |
| can find personal freedom without too many rules and regulations | 4.20 | 4.61 | < 0.01 |
| able to find BLM person when needed | 3.98 | 3.47 | < 0.01 |
| brochures and maps provide clear information on recreational opportunities | 3.60 | 4.23 | < 0.01 |

¹ mean rating: 5=excellent; 4=very good/above average; 3=average; 2=not very good/below average; 1=failing

² values less than .05 are considered statistically significant

Conclusions and Recommendations

We'd like to start this final section with some excerpts from the 1999 study report (Martin and Widner 2000). From the 1999 study report:

“ . . .many people also said they visited primarily to exercise or walk their dog. This suggests that a sizeable number of visitors use HFR as they might use a local municipal park. This could potentially lead to conflicts between user groups who differ in their idea of what HFR is or should be—between those who see it and use it more as a nature preserve and those who use it more as a local park.

“The biggest problem (25% of visitors reported that this was a problem) appears to be with visitors perceiving resource impacts caused by other recreationists, particularly litter and dog excrement. It seems that making an effort to 1) get people to leash their dogs; and 2) get people to clean up after their dogs would go a long way toward resolving most of the user conflicts in the HFR.

“Visitors were asked to indicate how much they would support or oppose a list of possible management actions. Allowing pets off leash received, by a wide margin, the most opposition (64%), and conversely, by a wide margin, the least support (21%).”

Although the problem of litter has nearly vanished, the use of HFR as more of a local municipal park for dog walking (as opposed to a nature preserve) appears to have increased, and the problems associated with dogs, namely off-leash disturbance due to the voice control policy not being effective, and dog owners not picking up after their dogs, have not improved much if at all. A review of comments made in Appendices E-I and K will confirm this. Dogs not under control have a direct effect on the recreational experiences of others, as summarized by this comment: “I'd like to be able to hike and never have to think about dogs at all. As it is, whenever I see a dog off-leash, I need to pay attention to it in one way or another.”

That said, it is also clear that many visitors cherish the opportunity to bring their dogs to a place where the dogs can be off leash. (e.g. “My dog, who just died a few weeks ago, had her last long hike at HFR, and she loved it. So did my son and I. It meant a lot to us. I would STRONGLY object to restricting the dog policy at HFR.”) But it seems clear that as long as the BLM allows dogs off leash, there will be conflicts because of dogs not being kept under voice control, a policy that is clearly not effective (again – see comments in Appendices). The BLM will have to decide what type of recreation opportunity is to be provided by HFR, because off-leash disturbances and conflicts will continue (as they have persisted since first reported in 2000) as long as the voice control policy is in place. The problem of dog waste not being picked up is another problem mentioned prominently in the comments in the Appendices.

From a recreation activity perspective, the nature of the HFR visit and recreation experience has changed significantly from one that was, in 1999, focused more on longer hikes, viewing wildlife and studying/appreciating the natural environment, and to a lesser extent spending time alone, to one that is, for many visitors in 2012, more about short hikes, usually only one mile, and walking dogs. More visitors in 2012 also say that the number of other visitors they encounter “does not matter.”

The analysis presented on page 35 suggests that there are two main experiences being sought by two different groups of visitors, with the main distinguishing characteristic being whether they visit with dogs or not. These two groups of visitors are roughly equal in size, and about 1/3 of those who do not bring dogs (or about 15% of all visitors) appear to have significant concerns about (i.e. be bothered by) dogs that are not leashed and not under voice control, and/or dog waste that is not properly disposed of (based on responses to specific questions and comments in the Appendices). Relative to a wide spectrum of recreation visitor studies over a 25 year period that the primary author has either conducted himself, or is familiar with, this represents a fairly high level of concern or dissatisfaction.

A study that examined in great detail the issue of off-leash dogs (Williams et al 2009) found that dog owners “considered their own dog to be much less of a threat to wildlife and humans than they considered dogs in general” . . . “a general disbelief among dog owners that their own dog might have a negative impact that they consider to be true of dogs in general” . . . [and that] “strong emotional bonds with dogs may prevent dog owners from attributing negative behaviors to their own dogs.” In other words, dog owners are not objective about the impacts their own dog may be causing, either to the environment or to other visitors. Looking then at the responses of visitors who do not bring dogs to HFR, we found that 20% of those respondents who do not bring dogs to HFR feel that the voice control policy is not working, 22% report having been bothered by dogs on past visits to HFR, and 36% think that a more restrictive policy is called for. Again, these are relatively high percentages in the context of outdoor recreation visitor studies.

Recommendations

The Importance and Performance ratings suggest three things that the BLM should place more emphasis on: keeping the restroom clean, keeping vehicles safe from vandalism, and being available when people need to find an agency representative.

Additional benches along the trail were suggested by several respondents.

If BLM vehicles access the Educational Center on a regular (e.g. weekly) basis, then adding a receptacle clearly labeled for the disposal of dog waste to that location might help reduce the problem of undisposed-of dog waste.

In general, and given budget constraints this is almost certainly easier said than done, a greater management presence at the parking lot and along the first mile of trail could go a long ways toward addressing a number of the most important problems that respondents raised. Even if these Agency representatives are volunteers or interns, having more uniformed personnel at the trailhead and along the first mile of trail could address the issues of 1) people feeling that their vehicle is safe; 2) people being able to find an Agency representative when needed; 3) restroom being kept clean; 4) people may be more likely to pick up after their dog if they know an Agency person is in the area; and 5) visitors with dogs are more likely to be contacted about the need to keep their dog under control.

Additional educational/interpretive signage about keeping dogs under control and picking up after dogs should be considered for the trailhead. The previously-cited study that examined the issue of off-leash dogs (Williams et al 2009) found that dog owners are not objective about the impacts their own dog may be causing, either to the environment or to other visitors. Additional educational/interpretive signage could be used to counter this sometimes overly benign view visitors often have about the impact of their own dog, and create a new social norm for HFR in which visitors who bring dogs feel a greater obligation to make sure their dog isn't negatively impacting other visitors, whether it be from running toward and/or jumping on other visitors, or leaving behind dog waste that others find objectionable.

Additionally, if the voice-control policy for off-leash dogs is to remain in effect, an increased emphasis on enforcement of that policy will also be required. A review of comments in Appendices F, G and H suggest that the policy is currently not working very well.

If the BLM cannot effectively enforce the voice-control policy for dogs, then it is recommended that the Agency consider requiring dogs to be kept on leash during peak use periods of 10:00 am to 5:00 pm on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, and/or requiring dogs to be kept on leash to the end of the paved trail at the Falk town site. It is in this first mile of trail where the heaviest concentration of use occurs, including use by families with small children. Requiring that dogs be kept on leash on this heavy-use section of trail would, *if enforced*, greatly reduce the off-leash problems. It would also, admittedly, displace some visitors who specifically bring their dogs to HFR because of the off-leash policy.

This leads to the final point of this report. Ultimately, the BLM needs to decide what it wants the HFR's primary identity to be, and what type of recreational opportunity it wants to emphasize there. Many visitors seem to view and use the HFR more as a local municipal park. If that is the recreational niche it is to serve, that's fine, although visitor information about the area should reflect this. But if it is to serve as more of a nature preserve type of recreational setting, providing opportunities for wildlife viewing, nature appreciation, and peace and quiet, then steps should be taken to address the issue of unleashed dogs and dog waste.

Literature Cited

Martin, Steven and Carolyn Widner. 2000. Headwaters Forest Reserve Recreation Visitor Study. Final Research Report submitted to Bureau of Land Management, Arcata Resource Area. 176 pages.

Williams, Kathryn J. H., Weston, Michael A., Henry, Stacey and Maguire, Grainne S. 2009. Birds and Beaches, Dogs and Leashes: Dog Owners' Sense of Obligation to Leash Dogs on Beaches in Victoria, Australia. *Human Dimensions of Wildlife*, 14(2):89-101.

7. If you are now leaving, how far did your party travel on the trail on your visit? Please describe the farthest point you reached.

8. We would like to send a questionnaire to your home to get information on your use, enjoyment and management preferences for the Headwaters Forest. Could we do that? The BLM is trying to protect the Headwaters Forest and also provide the best possible recreational experiences. To do this we need your help. If we sent a questionnaire to you, would you be willing to fill it out and mail it back in the postage-paid envelope?

Collect up to two names and addresses from different households.

Name

Address (Street, City, State, Zip)

1. _____

_____ Zip _____

2. _____

_____ Zip _____

THANK YOU!

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 7 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, 1849 C Street, NW, Room 2134LM, Attention: Bureau Information Collection Clearance Officer (WO-630), Washington, D.C. 20240, and reference OMB #1004-0202.

Script: Hi, my name is Dan and I am a student at Humboldt State. I am working with my professor to gather some visitor information for the BLM, who manages the Headwaters Forest Reserve. We are studying visitor satisfaction levels to learn how we can improve the visitor experience here at Headwaters. Could I have just a few minutes of your time for a few questions?

Appendix B

Mail-back Questionnaire

Survey included in folder on back cover of report

Appendix C

**First Cover Letter,
Reminder Postcard, and
Second Cover Letter**

[on HSU letterhead]

Dear Headwaters Forest Reserve Visitor:

Recently we contacted you at one of the trailheads leading into Headwaters Forest Reserve (HFR), and asked you to participate in a study of use and users of HFR. We appreciate your willingness to participate. Enclosed is a follow-up questionnaire designed to gather more detailed information about that recent visit, perceptions of problems, and preferences for management. The Bureau of Land Management will use this information to manage HFR to protect its unique resources and the quality of your experiences.

This is your chance to express your opinions. Please help us obtain an accurate and representative sampling of HFR visitors by completing and returning the questionnaire. Relatively few visitors were randomly chosen for this study, so each returned questionnaire represents many HFR visitors. Your opinions are needed to represent the many others who were not selected. Therefore, your participation is vital.

All of your answers will be strictly confidential, and responses will be tallied in such a way that answers cannot be identified with individuals. The questionnaire does not advocate any particular viewpoint, and is not designed to elicit any particular answers. The questionnaire isn't short, but the 25 minutes or so that it will take you to complete it is a small investment in the future management of HFR. Once you've finished, just put the questionnaire in the enclosed postage-paid reply envelope and drop it in the mail.

If you would prefer to complete the survey online, please visit this website:
https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Headwaters_Forest_Visitor_Survey_?c=
Your online responses are just as confidential.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Steven R. Martin
Professor, Humboldt State University

Dear Headwaters Forest Reserve Visitor:

A week or so ago you received a questionnaire regarding your recent visit to Headwaters Forest Reserve. Perhaps you've already completed the survey and mailed it (or completed it online). If so, thank you. If you haven't, we would very much appreciate you doing so as soon as possible. Your opinions are important—please make them count.

If you would prefer to complete the survey online, please visit this website:
https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Headwaters_Forest_Visitor_Survey_?c=

Thank you for your cooperation!

Dr. Steven R. Martin, Professor, Humboldt State University

[on HSU letterhead]

Dear Headwaters Forest Reserve Visitor:

During your earlier visit to Headwaters Forest Reserve (HFR) we contacted you and asked you to complete a questionnaire regarding your use and enjoyment of the area. You were randomly selected for this study, and your participation is essential for guiding future planning and management decisions.

As of today we have not received your completed questionnaire. We hope it is in the mail, however we enclosed another copy of the questionnaire in the event the original was misplaced.

Humboldt State University, together with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), has undertaken this study because we believe that citizens' opinions should be taken into account in the formation of management policies for public lands. As an HFR user, you may be affected by future planning and management decisions made by the BLM. This study provides an opportunity for you to express your personal experiences and preferences as an HFR visitor.

Please make the small investment of time needed to complete the enclosed questionnaire. A self-addressed postage-paid envelope is provided so you may conveniently return the questionnaire to us. Your help is greatly appreciated.

If you would prefer to complete the survey online, please visit this website:
https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Headwaters_Forest_Visitor_Survey_?c=
Your online responses are just as confidential.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Steven R. Martin
Professor, Humboldt State University

Appendix D

Residence of respondents

Headwaters Forest Reserve Visitor Tally (includes respondents only, and only those who supplied their zip code)

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|---|---|
| Eastern United States..... | | | 1 |
| 22611 | Berryville, VA | 1 | |
| Mid-Western United States | | | 5 |
| 53022 | Germantown, WI | 1 | |
| 53228 | Greenfield, WI | 1 | |
| 54141 | Little Suamico, WI | 1 | |
| 61701 | Bloomington, IL | 2 | |
| Rocky Mountain States | | | 1 |
| 80461 | Leadville, CO | 1 | |
| 83855 | Potlatch, ID | 1 | |
| 84067 | Roy, UT | 1 | |
| Southwestern United States..... | | | 3 |
| 76226 | Argyle, TX | 1 | |
| 77399 | Livingston, TX | 1 | |
| 85262 | Scottsdale, AZ | 1 | |
| 86406 | Lake Havasu City, AZ | 1 | |
| California | | | |
| 90028 | Los Angeles | 1 | |
| 90715 | Lakewood | 1 | |
| 91030 | South Pasadena | 1 | |
| 91208 | Glendale | 1 | |
| 91335 | Reseda | 1 | |
| 92020 | El Cajon | 1 | |
| 92024 | Encinitas | 1 | |
| 92118 | Coronado | 1 | |
| 92324 | Colton | 1 | |
| 92373 | Redlands | 1 | |
| 92399 | Yucaipa | 1 | |
| 92530 | Lake Elsinore | 1 | |
| 92656 | Aliso Viejo | 1 | |
| 93013 | Carpinteria | 1 | |
| 93105 | Santa Barbara | 1 | |
| 93312 | Bakersfield | 1 | |
| 93635 | Los Banos | 1 | |
| 93940 | Monterey | 1 | |
| 94043 | Mountain View | 1 | |
| 94062 | Redwood City | 1 | |
| 94114 | San Francisco | 1 | |
| 94117 | San Francisco | 3 | |
| 94401 | San Mateo | 3 | |
| 94402 | San Mateo | 1 | |

| | | |
|-------|-----------------|-----|
| 94551 | Livermore | 1 |
| 94555 | Fremont | 1 |
| 94558 | Napa | 1 |
| 94904 | Greenbrae | 1 |
| 94952 | Petaluma | 1 |
| 95076 | Watsonville | 1 |
| 95125 | San Jose | 1 |
| 95211 | Stockton | 1 |
| 95401 | Santa Rosa | 1 |
| 95404 | Santa Rosa | 1 |
| 95405 | Santa Rosa | 1 |
| 95407 | Santa Rosa | 1 |
| 95436 | Forestville | 1 |
| 95437 | Fort Bragg | 1 |
| 95448 | Healdsburg | 1 |
| 95492 | Windsor | 1 |
| 95501 | Eureka | 91 |
| 95502 | Eureka | 5 |
| 95503 | Eureka | 161 |
| 95519 | McKinleyville | 16 |
| 95521 | Arcata | 26 |
| 95524 | Bayside | 2 |
| 95525 | Blue Lake | 1 |
| 95534 | Cutten | 1 |
| 95536 | Ferndale | 4 |
| 95540 | Fortuna | 18 |
| 95547 | Hydesville | 1 |
| 95551 | Loleta | 2 |
| 95553 | Miranda | 1 |
| 95554 | Myers Flat | 1 |
| 95563 | Salyer | 1 |
| 95565 | Scotia | 1 |
| 95570 | Trinidad | 4 |
| 95589 | Whitethorn | 1 |
| 95616 | Davis | 1 |
| 95678 | Roseville | 1 |
| 95682 | Shingle Springs | 1 |
| 95695 | Woodland | 1 |
| 95746 | Granite Bay | 1 |
| 95762 | El Dorado Hills | 1 |
| 95822 | Sacramento | 1 |
| 95831 | Sacramento | 1 |
| 95833 | Sacramento | 1 |
| 95945 | Grass Valley | 1 |

| | | | |
|--------------------|--|---|---|
| Hawaii..... | | | 1 |
| 96768 Makawao | | 1 | |
| Oregon..... | | | 3 |
| 97214 Portland | | 1 | |
| 97520 Ashland | | 1 | |
| 97702 Bend | | 1 | |
| Washington..... | | | 2 |
| 98362 Port Angeles | | 1 | |
| 98445 Tacoma | | 1 | |
| Alaska..... | | | 1 |
| 99513 Anchorage | | 1 | |

Appendix E

Visitor description of resource impacts caused by other visitors

Muddy dog tracks on sides of paved trail, torn up muddy areas with dog footprints

As a heads up... on question 12, i wanted to say does not matter to me on both questions, but it does not allow to answer two questions with the same answer.

Sometimes see some trash but not much.

Sometimes people don't clean up their dog's poop, though in general, they are much better about this at headwaters than other places locally.

Considerable side trail compaction in a few spots.

Mud at top pretty chewed up

Sometimes I see that visitors with dogs don't clean up after them.

Obvious trails people made accessing areas off of the main trail.

Burned tree.

Dog poop

Occasional litter.

People who don't clean up after dogs on walkways. It's ok if off trail/walkway but rude otherwise.

Broken branches and litter, dog poo.

The trail always looks nice to me. Well-maintained. People friendly and respectful.

Someone wrote on the paved trail with chalk.

There were chalk drawings on the pavement. It didn't bother me. I thought it was cute, but it was visitor caused.

Sometimes visitors ""forget"" to pick up after their dogs.

Dog poo left on trail that someone stepped in.

A few piles of dog feces, a few branches on the ground.

By visitors: No By clearcutting: Yes

I never have in all my visits.

Some soda cans on the trail.

Dogs wandering trail margins/tearing up soil/veg and spooking fauna.

Dog doo.

Debris around the railroad barn and restroom.

Unless you count the path and information plaques as impact.

Some dog poop and litter, but very little for such a popular trail.

Saw some side trails that led to the river. Didn't mind those. Saw lots of dog feces that owners hadn't picked up. Don't like that. I always bring my dogs to the park with me but I also pick up after them, many don't.

I was glad to see dog poop bags available at the beginning of the trail!

Logging! Ha... A bit of dog poo on the trail - not good. Love dogs but not owners who don't pick up after them - and especially because bags were provided on the trail.

Carving of names on trees, and littering.

I don't remember.

Trampled areas near trails.

Dog poop.

Some minor trash.

General trampling of herbacious vegetation by visitors leaving the trails.

At river access area, parents allowed children to throw rocks in the river. Large rocks.

I saw 3-4 squished banana slugs. I don't know if bicyclists didn't see them, kids were being malicious, or what, but it was sad.

Some littering - water bottles/snack wrappers and dog poop.

No but I'm sure there were some. I just wasn't focused on that or what to look for.

There were some off-trail paths, and there was one person smoking.

Ruts in the dirt along side the trail.

Dogs not on leashes running off trail and bringing mud back to trail (paved portion only).

Small trash, dog poop even though they provide bags and trash cans.

Someone left their dog poop bags by the trail at the education center.

Dog excrement on trail.

Occasional off route trails to riparian zone/river bed.

The burned Sitka Spruce!

Burning the Bachelor Tree.

A small amount of garbage.

Human impact is always noticeable if you look closely.

The burnt tree house!

Maybe a little trash. Generally very clean and well maintained.

Lots of dogs off leashes and some dogs in the rivers, despite the signs to keep them out.

Dog crap both open and in bags left along road and in parking lot.

Carving of names on benches and bridge handrails.

Some litter, but not severe.

Dog excrement on trails.

Dog poop bags hanging from trees.

Got to pick up after the dogs. Messy bag of something bloody in the bathroom.

Trash (not much), lack of open facilities other than at the trailhead, I appreciate the bags for picking up dog poo, but wish there were more trash cans. If there more trash cans perhaps people would use them.

Dog owners did not clean up (poop) after their dogs.

Trash, dog crap bags.

Dog feces.

Some trails to the creek. I don't care about this.

Muddy patches toward top are impacted by people - mostly trying to avoid mud, I suspect.

It troubles me that dogs are in the river stomping salmon spawning grounds - although the main reason I go is to walk my dogs, I don't let them go in the river.

People use dog poop bags, but leave them on the side of the trail.

Trails made by other visitors

Bike jumps on the side of the trail.

A few butts, and trash pieces; also, footprints in the extremely muddy sections.

Dog droppings.

Lunch paper ""wrappers"", toilet wipes

Some trash by the river.

People with large no. dogs that they can't control. I like dogs.

None detrimental. A few mountain bike trails adjacent to the main trail.

Dog feces not picked up by pet owners.

Dogs off leash and in Elk River.

I noticed trails which were made by visitors, where were not designated trails.

A little trash, off trail erosion - usually looked like dog tracks

We noticed digging spade/shovel handles off of the main trail where it looked like treasure hunters (illegal) had been looking for artifacts, etc....

Paved trails, bathrooms and other structures. :-)

Dogs without leashes and owners without (refuse) bags w/ resulting doggie doo on the trail.

Dog poop on trails.

Trash, mostly plastic food wrappers.

Dog poop bags on the side of the paved trail.

Dog litter left on the ground.

Doggy poo bag left on the main trail.

General wear from use, and the moron that burned the tree/stumphouse.

Dog waste left on trail.

There were 2 plastic bags at 2 different points on the trail that were sitting in the middle of the pavement. Possibly filled with dog poop...

Dog poop and trash

If dog poop off trail leave it there don't put poop in a plastic bag that goes to a land fill.

Erosion trails down to river (people and dogs)

Dog poop.

Much of side of trails are squished - usually like that when there's berries. I don't notice that most other seasons.

It may have been volunteers, but I noticed the brushes and trees were pruned very sloppy - maybe train them with a certified arborist before letting people cut the branches.

Dog poop not picked up.

I know some homeless have buried trash out there (maybe 1/4 mile in). Found battles and other metal objects.

Picked up some small trash items, and two bags of dog feces left on trail edge.

Dog feces and urine smell.

Off-designated trail usage, trampling of some vegetation.

Dogs in Elk River.

Several people picking blackberries (including us). Not a negative - they were fun to pick and pickers seemed pleased at safe picking location - not by road and not private property.

Persons going off trail impacts growth of plants.

Some trash, dog poop on trail.

Dog feces on side of pavement trail.

Lots of dog poop on the trail.

A small amount of wrappers and bottles.

I saw small amounts of trash on the side trails.

Previous visitors used the bags provided to pick up after their dogs but left them on the side of the trail instead of using the garbage can.

Dog poop bags - must have more trash recepticals! Saw poop bags in toilet by barn. Some people went off trail into the bushes looking for stuff.

A few cigarette butts.

Missing parts of old car - seems like every time I'm there, there is something else missing or broken.

Side trails off the main trail.

Dog poop bags left on trail, presumably by dog owners who will pick them up on their way BACK? and just lots of dog poop in general along the trail.

People letting their dogs in the creek and playing "throw the stick" in the water.

Some trail compaction.

Dog grab bags are provided at the beginning of the trail, thus preventing too much doggy-doo doo nature obstruction.

Lots of secondary paths/trails that appeared "al fresco".

Dog droppings that were not cleaned up and bags of droppings that were left along the trail.

Spike sticking up on plank at path leading downhill + old banksaw blades exposed blade.

I had not been to this trail in a year since I moved away - I was shocked to see so many visitors and dismayed at all the new "side trails".

Side trails.

Carvings in trees or fences.

Poop, extraneous trails.

Compaction/erosion from foot traffic along stream.

Possible reason for fire in tree

Burned tree used for housing. It made us sad because of its historical importance. Bits of litter on trail.

128 comments total (30% of respondents)

48 (38%, 11%) specifically mentioned dog feces or bags of dog poop left on trail

8 about dogs off leash and/or in the river

Appendix F

Visitor descriptions of behaviors that interfered with enjoyment

Some guys were smoking weed under the bridge. made me smile at Humboldt County

Bicyclists moving at high speeds and passing closely without warning (e.g. ""on your left"")

Bikers riding too fast for conditions

Except for 2 bicyclists w/dog running loose - tried to fight w/ my dog on leash.

Some dogs ate part of our picnic; owner let them run off leash and couldn't control them.

People always seem happy and kind here

Smoking cigarettes.

Most of the people I have met on the trail are super friendly just like many of their dogs.

I hate it when people take their dogs to public place and do not use a leash. Not everyone likes dogs (some kids are terrified of them). I don't want your dog in my space.

Dogs.

Cyclists speeding downhill almost hit us.

Dogs off leash. Large dogs on long leashes.

Dogs not on leashes were running - some charging - up to us.

An older man slipped on the stairs in one of the cultural areas and continuously swore loudly. Not very pleasant to hear out in public and especially out in nature.

Dogs not on leashes.

Other than seeing the squished slugs.

No, however in the past I have been annoyed by people with dogs off leash as I have a dog that I keep on a leash - he does not get along w/ other dogs and that could lead to a dog fight if other unleashed one approach too closely. Also - sometimes as women - my daughter and I, get concerned about potential stalkers alone on the trail.

I had a dog off leash and my daughter was frightened when he came close to us.

Dogs off leash. We have a small dog who is very friendly and expects other dogs to be also.

Bicyclist passed us in a very narrow area of trail.

The only negative behavior was the one person smoking. It was smokey around and smelled bad.

Smoking (others)

Dogs off leash.

Uncontrolled dog on walk into barn - jumped up on me.

I liked to see a group of school kids using this place.

Only when dogs are off leash and approach my children.

If the upper outhouse was locked because of past vandals.

Group with dogs off leash well up trail toward top.

People should keep their dogs on a leash.

Visitors with dogs who are afraid of other dogs.

Unleashed dogs - voice control is a joke and completely ineffective.

A group of people with 12+ dogs not under control.

A few unleashed dogs. that said, majority of dog owners were very responsible. Several cigarette smokers. Gag!

If I hadn't talked with a ranger I would of felt uncomfortable, not knowing the area.

Dog on leash lunged at me as i walked by

Unleashed dogs especially leashed dogs as well.

All people and dogs were friendly. Dogs were well-behaved and it was a good experience in all ways.

Loud and out of control kids. I had kids in my group, but another group allowed their children to scream as loud as they could.

Not that we witnessed, no

One group did not control their dogs very well.

Bratty loud children, clueless adults.

One person was not very dog friendly.

Some dogs chase runners.

Loose dog that came right up to us and our dog, even though I yelled at it. Owner laughed.

Need to keep area protect - too many areas changed to accomodate 2-legged animals.

Not this time. I have been concerned about the break-ins to cars in the lot.

46 comments total (11% of respondents)

21 (46%, 5%) were specifically about unleashed and/or uncontrolled dogs

Appendix G

Visitor descriptions of disturbances by dogs

It was a big dog and rushed at me, frightening me a little, it was just happy to see me and meant no harm as its master was just behind it around the curve

They come up to me and i pet them. not a bother to be but could affect others

Passing them they come to you and not knowing if that'll turn into an attack is difficult

Just dog feces.

I love dogs but I feel they should be on a leash at all times when on their walks - then control is pretty well guaranteed.

Aggressive dogs have chased our dogs, not the dogs' fault but the owner!

Other dogs running up to my leashed dog.

See previous pages. Dogs w/o leash disturbs me! Aggressive behaviors noted numerous times. People don't control dogs generally.

Only a minor annoyance. See answer to #9 [#14 on SM]. I think the current policy is good.

But it is owners fault if the dog they have is not trained well enough. I have had dogs run up and try to play with my dog who is a jerk and always on leash.

Dogs jumping up on us and having to walk around dogs.

Dogs are more fun to see than people.

Twice in the last 7 years - a dog has intimidated my dog; no injury occurred.

It wasn't bad but on this visit a woman didn't seem to have her dog under voice control. My dog can sometimes get a little sassy if an unleashed dog comes up to her. I asked the lady to hold onto her dog while we walked by. I felt she should have had a leash to use if needed.

Somewhat - not a big deal but it bothers me that a dog can come to my personal space (or picnic area) before being called away by the owner.

Dogs - one time encounter included 3 dogs off leash running and jumping on me and my kids w/ muddy paws. Frightened my young daughter.

Dogs off leash are threatening[?] to me. I would NEVER walk this trail alone.

See #14 (on SM).

A dog was not responding to its owners voice command. He kept nipping and barking at my dogs. Owner got mad at me when I shooed her dog away. The dog actually scared and bullied my dog so much she ran back to the car.

Was once startled by a growling dog while walking the trail. The dog's owner was not around.

One owner took his 2 ""barking and in general acting wild dogs"" (who were on leashes) off the pavement trail onto a side area so we could pass w/o them bothering us and our dog.

Just the dog poo previously mentioned. Otherwise thoroughly enjoyed seeing all the dogs. One of the best parts of the trip! :-)

I have been to HFR 60+ times. Many times unwelcome dogs run up to me. I do not like this.

Dog poop on ground. My son stepped in it.

Dogs have come too close to my dog and my dog starts to get upset (i.e. ready for a fight) and I have had to yell at the owners to get control of their dog.

Daughter scared by off leash dog who approached us.

Over friendly dogs.

I have encountered dogs (on-leash) that were aggressive which bothered me but there was no incidents or injuries.

There was one dog that walked very far ahead of its owner and didn't appear to be with anyone until the owner passed us later and we asked. I didn't like being approached by strange dogs with no leash/owner visible.

Most I've met keep there dogs under control (good owners).

1. Dog squatting on one side of trail defecated as owner watched from opposite side. 2. Chased by barking dog off leash where pavement changes to gravel path.

One time a guy brought a couple of angry pit bulls - not their fault, he was an asshole.

Nothing serious - they run up to me, while I am hiking, and I am never sure of their intentions. I have never been bitten but sometimes they jump on me.

We've been greeted by dogs and the people walking them, but have never had a problem.

Only a few times where dogs were unleashed and ahead of owner. We have children and there's always a concern w/ random dogs. Usually, dogs are close to owners and that's great.

No but the potential is there.

Not personally, but I was not happy with the dogs in the river because of the salmon spawning grounds.

Poop on trail unsightly and stinkie. Dogs jump up/knocked my friend over. I do not like to see the dogs in the stream.

Weekends seem to have high number of dogs off leash that are not well socialized or under voice control

Unleashed dog in parking lot while we were having lunch and owner's voice control was NOT working.

Note: Concerned about stray dogs at HFR.

I love all dogs!

Unleashed dogs not listening or under voice command/control

Once a week during school year while running with elementary age children we have encountered large dogs their owners could not voice control. No children have ever been hurt. However, large breeds and pit bulls can be intimidating and frightening to children.

Dogs running up to my children or in front of them while riding bikes

This time one dog barked at me somewhat menacingly. At least 50% of all unleashed dogs run up to me.

Over the years have been charged and scared by dogs out of control of their owners at least 4 times I can think of. Been going to HFR for 10 years w/ my dogs.

Owners aren't conscious of others with dogs. I keep mine on a leash and shouldn't have to defend my dog from other's dogs that don't listen. Those dogs need to be kept on a leash.

Not visited before

Dogs off leash running up to me/us...Never a serious problem but it has been a concern on occasion.

Sniffing me = owners calling dogs. Dogs running ahead = owners calling dogs.

Charged by a large group of dogs. I have seen leashed dogs attacked by unleashed dogs.

I did not see any dogs on HFR. On other trails I have had problems with. I was thankful not to have a negative encounter on HFR.

Now that we know we can let our little dog run free, just found out on last visit.

A couple of growlers and aggressive barkers. a few jumpers leaving me muddy. Tense situations when different dog walker groups have dogs get aggressive towards each other.

Doggie doo on the trail.

Getting barked at and trying not to step in dog poop.

A couple of dogs were unattended

I did not know they could be off leash. That really makes me uncomfortable.

Coming close to up and scaring grandchildren.

See above for most recent any dog off leash is a potential problem

Getting in way while running.

While riding bikes with my daughters, one ran in front of us almost causing a crash.

A dog ran up to the lady I work with and she screamed. I asked the owner to leash the dog because the lady is sycophrenic and she agreed and leashed the dog.

Loose dogs with bicyclists.

Unleashed dog verbal/physical intimidation

I have not but my wife is very nervous about large dogs - so I guess a possible bother to her, but never any incidents

One of my children does not like dogs and there are always unleashed dogs that come up to him, but the owners reassure us ""the dogs are friendly"".

Some dogs are not well trained by the owner and should be kept on a leash.

We always keep our dogs on leashes. There were other dogs that weren't on leashes and they started fighting with our dogs.

Dog owners let the dogs get too close if they are on a leash. If they are not on a leash - dog owners think it is funny if their dog runs up to you.

For F. question [Question #21 on SM] I had heard from other friends what a great place for dogs this is. After my first visit, I now go when the weather is nice on Sat or Sun.

Unleashed dogs - not controlled by owners coming after - I would visit more if aggressive dogs were not a problem.

Well, this was our first visit, so i can only say this once: we weren't disturbed by any dogs specifically, but just that there was a lot of dog poop along the trails. people weren't cleaning up after their dogs. this made blackberry picking ...um...hazardous.

Often having to move out of the way of someone's dog or always bracing in case one jumps on me.

Well, once someone's dogs were very inquisitive and I was relaxing up in a hill and they came and ran up and approached me, barking.

Owners should clean up after dogs!!

My puppy was off leash running around and ran up to a man, he was not happy about it so he told us off.

Chasing at runners

By the dog droppings.

Some folks don't leash their dogs when others approach like I do. My dog is friendly so it isn't a problem. Really, most folks seem responsible about theirs.

See #9 [#14 on SM]. Every time I have been here on or more loose dogs come up to me and my dog and bother us. Have seen loose dogs run up on small children.

First visit!

Dogs racing ahead of their owners have intimidated me.

84 comments total (20% of respondents)

59 (70%, 14%) were specifically about dogs being off-leash and not under voice control

Appendix H

Visitor description of resource impacts caused by dogs

Muddy areas along the paved trail

It runs off train, not much damage is done

I saw an owner picking up something natural and biodegradable and locking it in a plastic bag where it will last for decades, then adding to the landfill waste of humans. More the humans (or human culture) impacting the natural environment.

I let my dog swim in the river a few times before I realized you weren't supposed to do that.

Poop

Sometimes people let their dogs swim near the big leaf maples.

Dog owners should always carry clean up bags so after their dogs ""poo"" they can pick it up and dispose of it properly - more containers for waste would be helpful along trail. Kids and teenagers are WAY more destructive than dogs.

Dog poop

I know the dogs are not suppose to go in the water, yet people always let their dogs swim.

Wandering off trail - off base

The dog was in the river.

Dogs allowed and even encouraged by their owners to get in the river - disturbing fish habitat. People don't always ""pick up"" after their dogs.

See previous comments.

Defecating.

One time out of 100 visits a dog owner allowed his retriever to go down a steep bank to the river. This could cause unnecessary erosion.

Already mentioned - people not picking up after dogs on the trail.

Dogs having ""Bowel Movements"" and owners pick up poop with a bag and leaving the bag on the ground.

Some people don't respect the rules about keeping dogs out of the river.

Dog poop not picked up.

Dog poop.

I am sure that domestic animals have an impact on wildlife. Not sure what that impact might be.

Dog poop on trail that wasn't picked up.

Defecating and the owners not picking up afterward. Also, unleashed dogs could chase wildlife.

When finally controlled by owner, barking dog peed on flowering azalea and ran off again barking after small wild animal.

The dogs seem to have less impact than the human visitors save for any dog poop not p/u by owners.

I have heard dogs in the river and seen people take dogs down that way what else do they do.

Swimming in Elk River.

I have seen dogs running through the brush and into the river. Also, chasing wildlife like rabbits and birds.

The only bother would be dog poop....

Owner not cleaning up after their dog.

Off trail etc.

Dogs in river, dogs off the trails.

I do not believe dogs should pee and poop near stream - yes I've seen them do so and their owners do not pick it up or try to stop them.

Swimming in the river.

Digging, and some owners don't pick up after their dog(s).

One person wasn't cleaning up after his dog - other dogwalkers spoke to him along with the rangers.

This natural environment was impacted long ago, not by dogs but by logging.

Digging in wet/pond area.

In the river.

Going into the river might disturb eggs, fish, etc.

Dog was lost in woods; owners searching for it for hours. Felt sorry for them and dog. (Not sure which question this answer applies to...)

I usually try to ignore dogs, but there is of course dog shit, and dogs often run into the woods.

Stomping in river where salmon spawn.

People letting their dog swim in creek.

Dogs in the river on many occasions.

Dogs defecating in bush. Dogs exploring off trail.

Owners do not always clean-up dog poop.

Pet owners not picking up feces even though bags are provided (only this last time)

It was an owner picking up dog waste.

Dogs in Elk River.

Pooping and owner not picking it up.

Swimming in the river, bounding through the brush.

Running off trail, chasing wildlife, digging in dirt.

Fouling up the trail with excrement.

Digging holes.

Playing in a mud puddle on the side of the trail.

Poop

Down in water.

One trampled through the mud and tracked mud all over the trail.

Poop (one spot)

Some off-designated trail wandering, minorly impacting environment.

Dogs in Elk River.

Dog dropping on trail and the owner not cleaning up.

Swimming in Elk River

I see the owners impacting the area.

A dog walking around the woods has no greater impact than the already existing wildlife.

I see very rarely, that owners haven't picked up dog poop - but it's VERY rare.

The dogs we witnessed on our walk were all well behaved and sweet dogs.

Way too many dogs in the creek.

Chasing salmon in the river

Pooping

Well many people do nothing about dog feces on the trail.

But I am running, not really paying attention to others.

Dogs are great but such a rare habitat area must be protected from roaming dogs.

75 comments total (17% of respondents)

26 (35%, 6%) were specifically about dog waste

24 (32%, 6%) were specifically about dogs in the river

Appendix I

Visitor suggestions for more restrictive dog policy

***Note*:** The online version of the survey did not have a “Not Sure” option for the question “Do you believe the BLM should implement a more restrictive dog policy?” (Question #10j in the paper survey). Therefore, all answers that were marked “Not Sure” in the paper were left blank when entered in the database, and “Not Sure” was entered in the text box for the question. All comments of “Not Sure” listed below are of respondents checking “Not Sure” in the paper survey.

Not sure.

There was no evidence for any enforcement - but I also acknowledge seeing no problems.

We see so few people early in day and those with dogs seem to have dogs in control.

Not sure. Ensure poop pickup. [Possibly inaccurate translation, writing almost illegible]

Not sure. Just dug out a pamphlet (Headwaters Forest Reserve) and it explains policy differently, from way it is stated in #10 [#15 on SM] in this survey. No mention here of only on first 3 miles can dogs be allowed. Anyway, the pamphlet's requirements make sense to me.

Leash required at all times

I have never had issues but I'm sure other people and families do during peak hours.

Not sure.

I feel leashes should be required even the 16 ft. ones which are retractable. This guarantees control. I would hate to see dogs restricted from HFR. The question is how would BLM enforce this rule?

Not sure.

Dogs should be leashed.

Not sure. If there are going to [missing word] policies, i.e. leashes, no swimming, it should be enforced. However, I know funds are tight. but enforcement w/ fines would be a way of making money.

Not sure.

Because dogs are unpredictable and often aggressive. I saw a loose dog run after a kid on a bicycle. Also after my dog a few times. It's sad that a few can ruin it for others. I know my dog can be unruly - so I keep him on a leash in public. Others should too.

Not sure.

Not sure.

Distracting from natural environment.

Dogs running loose are ""threatening"" to small children, disable and frail people. Most parks do not allow dogs.

Dogs are chill.

A requirement to keep dogs on a leash seems reasonable to me.

Not sure.

Dogs ALWAYS on leash.

Not sure.

Not sure.

Wonderful that people can take dogs.

Not sure.

Not sure.

I feel all dogs should be on leashes in a public area.

Leash 100% time within HFR.

Keep them on leash.

Not sure. I don't own a dog. I am fearful of dogs so I am not an objective party.

Leash only, real simple. Allows those with phobias or other issues to be more relaxed. Less environmental impact.

Voice command"" is a very loose description - often the dogs would charge or run into us and THEN the owners would command them back. These were LARGE dogs that charged and butted us.

Not sure. I just wish the aggressive dogs be kept on a leash, but usually the poorly trained dogs have more careless owners.

I believe that dogs should be on a leash at all times in public areas.

Not sure.

I feel dogs should be allowed but should be on a leash as bites occur w/o warning.

Not sure. Well...I want people to respect the laws in place.

Not sure. People often let dogs off leash even though they don't respond to voice control, or are even aggressive. Not sure if that is a fixable problem, without making rules excessively restrictive.

I love the no leash policy of the HFR.

National and State parks already have lots of restrictions you can't take dogs there.

Not sure.

Not sure.

Not sure.

Not sure. Required to pick up dog poop.

As long as there is enforcement and public cooperation.

It has been my experience in the past in other parks/beaches, that dogs under ""voice control"" are not. While I did not see this at HFR, clearly there is potential for hikers to abuse this rule. Suggestion: Dogs on leash to end of paved trail at Falk town site.

Clean up dog poop.

Not sure.

Not sure. Things seem to be working. I do wonder how well the voice control will work, but so far as I've seen so good...

Not sure.

Pick up your dog's poop from the trail - or have areas for dogs to poop if owners are not going to clean it up! But I guess if they don't pick it up - they prob. would no use the specified poop area anyway-?

I think it is great for people to be able to walk their dogs but I think the leash laws should be strictly enforced.

All dogs on leash.

Feel more secure if dogs are leashed.

Not sure.

Two groups with dogs passed each other near us. The off-leash dog was rather hostile toward the other group's leashed animal and didn't respond well to vocal commands. Trails are too narrow for off-leash dog encounters.

Maybe seasonal depending on salmon spawning or wildlife cycles.

Not sure.

I think dogs should be kept on leashes.

Not sure.

Definitely not. Voice control is fine for most of the people that visit this trail.

I believe dogs should be required to be leashed at all times, not the option of having them under ""voice control"". This is not helpful for those of us w/ dogs who feel vulnerable on the leash, around dogs who are not leashed.

The reason I go there is to be away from signs and civilization!!!

Not sure.

Not sure.

Not sure.

NO dogs allowed off leash. No dogs beyond paved section. No dogs off path. A fee for bringing a dog, per dog, paid monthly or per visit. To pay for cleanup and habitat destruction \$30.00/month or \$10/visit. Finally stiff penalties for infracting dog rules. IE \$250 for not carry out dog feces.

Not sure.

Only leash.

Not sure.

Not sure. Perhaps they need only enforce the existing policy.

Not sure.

Not sure.

It needs to be enforced.

More restrictive during the salmon run/spawning season.

Dogs on leash at least to end of paved area to protect babies in strollers and older people who are in wheelchairs or are unsteady or have osteoporosis and brittle bones.

Leash required - voice control does not work in many cases.

Leash only, no ""voice control"".

Not sure.

Not sure.

Not sure.

Poop, I don't remember seeing dog bag sign regulations. Nor doggy bag dispensers.

Not sure.

All dogs should be on a leash for safety of other people and dogs.

Not sure.

Dogs should be on leash - at least for first mile. Most emphasis on dog owners to clean up pet feces.

It is one of the only places that is dog friendly in the area and I really appreciate that!

Better signs for owner to keep dogs on leash and out of rivers during spawning.

Not sure.

Not sure. I doubt it would do any good.

Not sure. Kinda. I don't think people follow the current policy (many dogs NOT under voice control) so maybe a leash policy would be better, or maybe just enforcing the current policy would be good - though I wouldn't want to be the ranger arguing about the definition of ""voice control"" with an irate owner.

Not sure.

Either no dogs at all should be allowed or dogs should only be allowed on leash. A policy that allows dogs under voice command in no dog policy at all.

But rules need to be enforced.

Dogs need to be leashed in order to protect wildlife, flora, other dogs and humans. Voice control doesn't work; I don't know how many times unleashed dogs ignore voice command and charge up to other dogs or people.

Not sure.

Dogs must be on leash at all times. Everyone thinks their dog is under voice control.

All dogs should be leashed.

Not sure.

But do emphasize that dogs need to be under voice control and that they not disturb any wildlife.

I am not sure. If people kept dogs on the leash that would be fine. My experience is they do not.

Not sure.

Dogs on leash only.

Not sure.

Not sure. All the dogs I have seen at HFR have been friendly and well behaved. There is always the possibility one will misbehave and that is a bit of a worry.

Leashes for all dogs. I'd prefer a separate dog trail, but admit that is very impractical.

Leash law

Not sure.

Dogs should be required to be on a leash!! Voice control can fail!!

Most groups I have seen with dogs have them on a leash. My dog, who just died a few weeks ago, was under voice control. She had her last long hike at HFR, and she loved it. So did my son and I. It meant a lot to us. I would STRONGLY object to restricting the dog policy at HFR.

All dogs on leashes and owners with having plastic refuse bags.

Not sure. You could write laws governing dogs and some idiot will still show up with a car load of dogs - let them run wild and shit everywhere.

Not sure.

When I was there one person had 5 dogs. Not everyone feels safe around dogs unknown to them.

As much I enjoy watching dogs play, I have noticed a few rabbits along the trail. It isn't easy to control a dog bent on chasing rabbits. Dogs should be on a leash.

Not sure.

One/visitors must never feel intimidated or threatened by dogs.

Definitely not! hard to find a place to bring our dog off leash in Humboldt County!
prohibit them from trail

Humans hurt nature more than dogs.

Not sure.

Not sure.

On leash only. I've seen dogs that don't get along with each other - not a good match for drawing in families, especially children and the elderly. Great that the 1st mile is paved for wheelchairs and toddlers with bikes - though dogs off leash are a bad, bad mix. More people would come if that were the rule - and we'd bring our little doggie, too.

They should stay on leashes and stay on trails. Emphasize picking up poop.

Not sure.

No dogs allowed. The county parks are filled with dog feces.

Because of the nature and purpose of the management area (i.e. watershed restoration and old-growth conservation) I believe that dogs should be required to be leashed.

My experience has always been that dog owners know their dogs and their limits pretty well. I did not come to the park because of the lack of leash privileges, but I DEFINITELY came to the park so I could hike with my dog. If you have to get rid of lack of leash, fine, but please don't restrict dogs entirely.

Dogs have to be on leashes, no matter if they are ""friendly"" or not.

Not sure. Risky to have dogs off leash, meeting other dogs. Unpredictable. On-leash would be safer. But wait and see if problems happen for now, though all it would take is one bad outcome/interaction to ruin current policy...

Not sure.

Not sure.

Not sure.

Not sure.

Not sure.

I think there should be a leash policy so people could control there dogs better.

Not sure.

I love having trails that allow dogs.

Just encourage better pet owner etiquette.

Not sure. Most dogs are kept under control. However, while walking the trail, I watched a small snake crossing, possibly a garter snake. I'm afraid even a well-controlled dog would have been a danger to that little bit of wildlife.

Don't change the policy!! Dog walkers here ARE responsible.

Leashes should be required.

Well, not really restrictive on the dog part, but maybe a little more demanding on the human part to clean up after their dogs. we like dogs. just not their poop. (we don't like human poop either)

Keep dogs out of the creek and keep them on leashes.

Dogs aren't any worse than kids whacking wildflowers with sticks.

Not sure.

Not sure.

I have managed a dog therapy program for Colo. Humane Soc. and was a foster pet parent from 2007-12 for Denver Dumb Friends League. Dogs are our friends, including pit bull varieties. Whenever I pass a dog I say "Hello, Friend." I have applied to volunteer at Humboldt Co. Animal Shelter. I've only been in Humboldt Co. for 7 weeks. I see this as a safety issue for the canines against animal predators. I cannot afford to care for animal companions presently, but I would hesitate to take a small dog to HFR.

An unleashed dog coming across an oncoming unleashed dog on this specific trail create a wonderful social environment and these dogs are generally non-aggressive. They run, sniff, say hello and go. And I firmly believe that a dog owner/walker, would not compromise human safety at the dogs expense.

Not sure. If there were a leash requirement they would make a huge difference. I like to let my (3) dogs run. I keep them under control by throwing a ball in opposite direction. If they do not obey well they are leashed. The issue is not dogs, it is owners. Can the BLM hope to "change" dog owners? The answer is leash or no leash.

Maybe dogs on leash during spawning season.

On leashes.

We love walking our dog there and we love being able to unleash her for at least some of the time.

No voice control only - Emphasize picking up their dog's feces.

Not sure. I don't know how BLM can change a mindset that doesn't include personal responsibility.

Not sure. I no longer feel safe bringing my preschooler to Sequoia Park because of poorly enforced dog policies. I would hate to see the same thing happen at BM; although I have not personally experienced any problems, I am relieved to see that this issue is being taken seriously.

Not sure. I do think most behave responsibly - those that don't wouldn't heed future regulations.

Leash only.

Not sure.

Not sure.

The rare nature and small of this preserve trumps loose dog policy.

I don't believe dogs should be permitted in wildlife areas. If they must be, they should be restricted to a leash.

Dogs should be on leash. ""Voice control"" is only as defined by the dog owner's ability to control their pet.

Not sure.

Many dog owners afford more civility and courtesy to their dogs than to their fellow man. Dogs have become more important than people. Maybe they are.

Not sure.

I've only visited once but I believe dogs should be on leash where other people and dogs are around. Not all dogs ""get along"" and not all people like dogs. Voice control is not adequate in my opinion. I have no problems with dogs, it is the owner of the dog - are they paying attention to their dog and do they really have voice control of their dog?

Not sure.

Not sure.

Not sure.

56 comments (representing 12.9% of all respondents) that dogs should be leashed
10 comments suggesting stricter enforcement of the "voice control" policy

Appendix J

What did you like most about your Headwaters experience?

The interpretive signs with information about the history of the area, and of its plants and animals.

The history and remnants of town/residents

being out in the woods in solitude

being outdoors

The beauty

legacy trees

it is a very pretty place to go on a hike/ride

Proximity to home, easy pleasant walk. I like seeing staff on the trails.

It's nature, there are fewer people and less human influence or human made structures.

Quiet.

I just like to walk in the woods, and I can do that at HFR. I'm a simple lady.

Exploring a new area and its history.

Lots of banana slugs.

Haven't been going there very long but seems well maintained. Beautiful greenery. Well paved path for jogging. Dogs can be off leash. Quiet and peaceful.

Quiet.

Beautiful relaxing hike

A chance to share a historic and beautiful natural area with my family. We enjoyed the friendliness and educational insights of the staff at the Education Center.

The quiet! You cannot hear any car noise. The air quality is very nice - sweet and fresh.

Loop at the top - [illegible]. A real gem of the area.

Walking with my daughter and reading the historical notes.

Love the proximity to my home - well maintained.

The HSU student at the restored barn was great - enthusiastic and well-informed.

Well-maintained trail about the right length (6 mi)

I had not been to HFR for about 16 months, and was very pleased with the amount of trail work done in that time.

While I have walked/hiked the entire Headwaters Loop in the past, now with small kids my wife and I rarely have time. So our weekly trips are just for the family to go on a nice nature walk with the dog. We enjoy being able to take our dog with us each trip and that it nice, peaceful and relaxing.

It is a beautiful area w/ great easy access for a quick hike.

clearly marked trails through wonderful scenery

Nearby, can walk dog under my control, few people if visited early in the day.

It's always a place I can go to get away from the city and feel like I'm in nature. Parking has never been an issue and it's fun to learn about all the educational history along the way. Also, very well kept and maintained.

The path up to the 1 mile mark is relatively flat, smooth, and great for dogs. There are also key locations by the riverbank to fuel up on water. The forest rangers, when seen, are always very pleasant and nice to talk to. Other dogs are usually kept under control, and the quiet, low-key environment makes for a great walk.

Away from town.

The historical interpretation of Falk - logging - and the caretakers' property. I like the solitude, the sounds of wind in the trees, bird sounds, and the sounds of the river.

I love that there's a place close by I can bike and walk safely with my son and dog and that safe and well trained dogs are allowed off leash. However some adults and children should maybe be required on leash.

Quiet

Beauty, history, close to town.

Dogs are allowed off leash. We have never had a problem with people. We did have a dog chase ours but really not a big deal when you have 50% of the people with dogs.

HFR's natural beauty

Nature, beauty, quiet, peaceful.

Peaceful and scenic.

The solitude. Not many people make the entire 10.5 mile round trip to the top and back.

The natural beauty

Having used the area to hike since the purchase, I've seen it developed into a lovely place to hike - great trail planning and landscaping.

I love our 100 acre wood because of the trees, stream - the entire experience.

Ability for safe hiking into the woods w/ my dog; able to learn about area's historical/cultural history while doing so.

Being outdoors in nature.

The beauty it's my favorite place to go not too far out of town!

Trails were kid friendly and fit a double stroller.

Nature, quiet, beauty of the trees

It provided a nice opportunity to enjoy a walk in the woods with my children and dogs.

Being outside in the fresh air!

It's always a beautiful experience, glad to see the interpretive center being used.

Knowing the land was being preserved/restored. It is a safe, easy accessible place for day trips for my children.

I love to walk my dog or my clients in a safe, clean, well-maintained outdoor environment.

The ability to hike all day, the river, trees and quiet.

It was a good six mile workout - always enjoy the views of the river.

Time spent with family.

Exercise in natural beauty.

I like how you can use the trails year round, they never seem to get too muddy. I also love how beautiful and quiet it is.

The scenery!

It was a good run day.

The available trails were in excellent condition. The free maps at beginning at trailhead were more than helpful.

I like the cement path because most trails you have to walk near grass - and I'm pretty allergic to most stuff and being outside is the best. HFR is one of my favorite trails in Humboldt! :)

Seeing the remnants of the town being erased by nature was really cool.

It is a nice easy hike that is close to town. I like that you can easily choose to make it longer or shorter.

Natural setting of local environment.

The peacefulness and beauty and the nice walk. I like that it is paved for a short walk for less strenuous hikers.

Hiking safely among the Redwoods by a river with my dog; without ticks/poison oak!

Informational signs about redwood burls.

I've always enjoyed it as an easy, pretty day hike.

Just the natural area.

I enjoy the historical aspects, the town remains/evidence. My son (10) and his friend (11) visited and spoke with an interpreter.

Being in a lovely place.

Fresh air, sunshine, forest.

It is a fantastic piece of land. Very interesting and varied terrain and forest.

It's a great hike - and the grove at the loop trail is worth it. You see a lot of 30-60 year old trees around the old stumps before you see the old growth area.

Nature.

The incredible beauty of the park. Take one whiff on that forest air is all this question needs!

Wide trails.

Remoteness.

Being in nature.

The paved trail makes it a great place the entire family can enjoy - easy for the stroller and an easy walk for my mother.

I appreciate that there is a place I can take my dog off leash.

Easily accessible - will bring elderly parents next time. Great trail - dog friendly. Beautiful scenery.

Well preserved trails, dog policy (voice control)

Educational Center was open and staffed with knowledgeable, enthusiastic person.

Somewhere we can still go with a dog.

It's close proximity to Eureka, well maintained trail and friendly staff.

It's a beautiful trail; a great walk.

The exercise, fresh air, and being in the woods.

Very little traffic.

The activities on the trail and learning about Falk.

The trail is great for walking my dogs and I enjoy the beauty of nature there. It is clean and well maintained and people seem to really respect the area.

Freedom.

The peace and tranquility and the beauty of the park.

The quiet. The birds and the trees and flowers. The breeze. The ferns. The moss on the oaks.

Nice wide trail...great for kids.

Seeing how well the riparian habitat is recovering from past damage. We enjoy the native flora and fauna and the feeling of being out in a natural area. Seeing coho runs are a treat.

The chance to see old growth forest and stages of forest recovery.

being alone with nature

The beautiful redwoods with an easy trail for children and wide path for dogs and people.

Beauty, accessibility, no leash for controlled dogs, it's about 1/2 mi. from my house. the sound of the creek and seeing a woodpecker

It's so beautiful! I like that only the 1st mile of trail is paved. I like that the trail is clearly marked but much of it is left ""raw"" and natural. I love that I can walk or run with my dogs and have them off the leash. I like that I can bicycle on trails. I like that I can walk down to the river.

Peaceful walk in the woods with my dogs.

Fresh air.

Beautiful scenery. The trail was wonderful and the ""Quest"" was fun.

The exercise and trails.

The history.

I enjoyed walking on the paved path - knowing it wouldn't be a muddy walking surface. Good job!

It is a beautiful area. The trail was great and we had no problems while running. I like the trail mile markers a lot.

Learning about the history of the area. Seeing all the dogs.

Balanced walkway.

Quietness Well-maintained trails Feeling of safety

Well maintained trails, relaxed dog walking rules, seems pretty safe.

The easy access on trails, and the informative signs along my hike. I also appreciated the benches and picnic tables that enable visitors to sit and enjoy the view.

Spending time with my doggy.

Info about the ""ghost town"" that used to be in the area.

Beautiful area, great for walking. One of the very few places to go on a walk w/ unleashed dog - really is nice to be free to do that.

Place to take the whole family (dog included) for a lovely walk in the woods.

Was only there for about 15 minutes. Very clean and quiet.

The trail after the bridge. Would've liked to know the road went 3 miles in to get to the trail, would've taken my bike.

Despite it historically being a logging town, etc. the forest has already obliterated a lot of the evidence.

Close to home.

Getting exercise while in nature.

I'm a stream guy - I like access to the water. I encountered a BLM biologist and he took time to answer questions and chat.

I love how fast nature (with some help from us) can retake an area, and HFR is a prime example of a recovering ecosystem.

Easy access to a lovely easy walk through a diverse eco-system with restrooms. When you are a senior, it matters.

Natural setting.

One of the closest places near by to get in a good trail run with sun.

Gorgeous area with freedom to enjoy it whether you own a dog, have children, just go to hike or bike...everyone is welcome and polite.

Just getting out and walking, enjoying nature.

Being outside.

Nice wide trail - enough room for bikes and walkers to be on trail together.

The sheer beauty of the area and the ease of trail.

Pretty quiet. Felt safe with children.

I just love the forest!

The solitude and natural beauty.

No one bothered us.

Most everything.

I most appreciate getting to bring my dog.

Long conversation with BLM people, enjoying nature, and being able to have our dog there.

I like that it is a well-maintained trail that isn't too crowded. It's sunny and mostly quiet.

Combination of natural history and human/cultural impacts.

Good for kids, free.

Solitude

This was the first time I had been to the Headwaters since my first time around 2000 and I was amazed at the difference. Good job!

The signage throughout - history, culture, flora and fauna...

Being able to hike a nice long distance. Beautiful the whole way and especially the old growth grove. Beautiful Education Center.

Enjoyed peace and quiet.

Pleasant place to walk and take our dog. Wished we could take our dog to the end-loop.

Remote. Quiet. This spring saw salmon running. Dogs allowed. People keep it pretty clean.

It was a clean, peaceful, well maintained area to enjoy nature.

Dog can run freely. Trails feels safe. Trail is predictable. It's often sunnier than other trails in the area.

Beautiful area close to Eureka.

1. Easy walking. 2. Many things that engaged the interest of the kids.

The trails are very well maintained and the park is always spotless.

That there was paved road access and a few picnic tables along the way, pretty to walk.

The primeval feel of time in and with the old growth forest. And the hope and potential for increasing the land holding surrounding the core.

The ability to let my dogs exercise off leash, to socialize with other dogs and people. As well as exercise in nature for myself.

It's a great place to walk the dogs.

It was quiet out there.

It is simply a pleasant walk for me and my friends (to the end of pavement and back).

Close access to hiking.

The sunshine, the small amount of other people, especially the farther you go.

I can walk the dog without a leash.

As always, to be able to walk without looking out for cars and trucks. Also to let my dog walk off leash when I feel it is safe.

The natural beauty of the area.

Nature viewing.

Pleasant, well maintained, hassle-free place to walk my dog.

Fresh air, exercise, and a place to relax.

Environmental and historic significance of area. Strongly support enlargement. I also think the park should emphasize the environmental battle that took place here.

Nice, easy opportunity to walk in a historically interesting place and a beautiful place.

The first mile being paved is wonderful! Easy for any age to access and enjoy.

Growing up in the area I remember how it was 40 years ago. I enjoy just being able to still go there.

Great, peaceful place to be.

Being able to walk into another world, free of stress and negative things. A very nice place.

Beautiful, clean, historical, paved (good for strollers), feels safe.

Being able to bike and bring dogs and beautiful area.

The side dirt walk off of the main trail.

Great hike, loved the ""off trails"" from the main path.

The fact that it was there at all.

Low volume of visitors on weekday mornings

The quiet forest.

Easy access to trail - near town - high quality walking - paved trail.

It's a nice place to walk my dog. Beautiful location with an interesting history.

Being able to walk dogs in the forest.

Natural beauty, quiet reflection, restoration efforts.

Viewing the natural environment.

The preserved habitat.

Cleanliness - just being out and about in such quiet beauty - close to home

Walking/exercise with family, having fun.

Well maintained trails with freedom for dogs.

The opportunity to be in a beautiful place in nature with my dog off leash.

That it is an extra place to go to and enjoy the outdoors.

Quiet walks with my dog and sometimes friends. I love the peace and greenness [sic] of the reserve.

It was a nice little walk for my friend and I. It was a good way to get some fresh air.
Off leash dog policy.

Smooth road for young children and the elderly to enjoy. Feeling safe in the presence of others.

The beauty, amazement to see what Falk was when it was a thriving lumber mill and community.

Hearing and seeing the nature - birds/animals/fauna...

Access and the ease for people who might have a hard time hiking. The river and natural surroundings.

Well-cared for land and trail, pleased to see real restoration taking place in actual REMOVAL of industrial sites. Air was fresh and clean, fun signs to read, family friendly.

Dog policy.

Solitude, opportunity for exercise.

The exercise and fresh air (and my chat w/ Dan White).

Beautiful nature. Interesting history. Dog friendly.

Being in redwoods. Easy hike. Used to bring mother in wheelchair. Very pleasant.

Great area to hike with my dogs.

That my dog and I can enjoy it together.

The forest, the sound of moving water, sun and shade, a great place to walk/jog/run. Also - love seeing the salmon during their run!

Nice day - beautiful walk. Liked reading about history of area.

It is beautiful and I love taking my dog for a walk amongst the redwoods.

Pretty walk, it's really nice and smooth trail.

We go to HFR often to take our toddlers and dogs for a walk in a beautiful outdoor setting. We love that it is not too crowded or overused and much of the trail is very accessible with our all terrain strollers. It is much better than walking on the street and offers a peaceful place to spend time with friends and family.

-Safe place for children to bike -Close hiking to my home

Natural beauty available.

Beautiful! Unique historical aspects. Close to home.

Trees, birds, flowers, butterflies.

I have been coming to HFR for over 10 years. It is more busy now, but still a really nice place to take out of town visitors because you can walk side by side and let kids ride bikes AND walk dogs.

Wide flat road easy to walk yet in nature.

Nice walk with kids and grandchildren.

Learning about the natural and cultural history of the area.

Nice scenery, quiet, outdoors. Paved trail, dogs allowed, historical value.

the woods, weather

The option to have my dog off leash.

The natural soundscape and the sense of remoteness/removal from development.

Nature

I love to hike in this beautiful area the great big leaf maples and of course the redwoods. The signs of past logging and the obvious lack of proper logging practices are very educational.

A beautiful walk, good exercise, deer and bird sightings on the loop. I'm somewhat familiar with the history - I appreciate efforts to preserve without the ""Disney"" effect.

History of town of Falk and relaxing hike.

Easy, nice walk.

To watch the Redwood trees. They are very high and big.

Peaceful, great hike w/ the dogs that goes several miles and not very challenging.

It is a beautiful trail, an easy walk not far from town.

Hiking trail

The beauty all around and the nice trail to the 3 mile bridge.

Pleasant walk, scenic, viewing wildlife.

Not crowded, peaceful, quiet, our dog was allowed off leash, good trail, some information about the history and plant life in the area.

The amazing water pathes through out the forested walk. Moss covered trees, and the fact that you have a paved option, but also still have the option to take a trail hike.

A well maintained trail in a natural setting to spend time with my adult son.

Length of the trail away from parking lot (penetrated INTO the forest, not just skirted the edge).

The beauty and solitude of the reserve - a good place to get a little exercise in a gorgeous setting.

I live in Eureka and have walked my dogs there for years. Everyone is pleasant (visitors) and I have never felt threatened. Traffic on the trails is not high - making a ""solo"" walk very enjoyable.

Quiet solitude

Falk.

The sunny trails, streams, nature

THE RIVER

The walk with friends and family.

Nice path, that there were personel there for any help if needed, environment, that my son was able to ride his long board and we could bring our dog.

I enjoy sharing this beautiful landscape with my children. The trail thru woods, down to the river is our favorite.

The beginning of the Headwaters Trail is beautiful and well maintained. The people who use it tend to be friendly and have their dogs under good control. I always enjoy our walks there.

Nice trail, signs of the history about the area.

The forest environment and company of my walking partner.

The solitude and combination of deciduous and coniferous forest.

History and natural beauty.

The history left (items) behind; the whole area was very accessible just beautiful.

Peaceful, shady, well maintained, not too many people.

It's a beautiful place. All the workers have been friendly and helpful. All the hikers I have met there are courteous and respectful. In any weather, I love being there. Thank you for preserving this place (Pass that on to appropriate folks).

I enjoyed the options of having the paved section for a nice stroll and the option to "get off road" and hike further if desired.

It is a pleasant, well-maintained place to hike.

Wildlife/Dogwalking

Peaceful place to walk and enjoy nature.

Being with my son and my dog in a beautiful, natural place. The peace I find at HFR is crucial to my state of mind.

Fresh air and nature.

Looking at the trees and river.

Beautiful and dog friendly.

Beautiful Area. First Time visit was very impressed.

It's a clean, safe place to take the grandchildren and/or dog for a walk. Short drive from home. Often sunny. Also like the interpretive signs.

I enjoyed the energy of the forest and the fact that the BLM has a more hands off approach than other government agencies.

At the times we have gone - it is a low-use area and enables our dogs to walk unleashed without interacting with other people.

Quiet

I like the peaceful, serene nature.

I enjoyed the peace and quiet. The trail was enjoyed by my 82 year old mother. Thank you.

Clean, quiet and peace, mostly. Nice, easy trail so far as I have only made it to the 2 mile bridge.

Dogs off leash, reading about history, seeing forest return in cut-over areas.

Enjoyable walk in the outdoors without lots of city noise.

I felt safe.

Proximity to home. Easy to get to. Enjoyed the interpretive signs.

Beautiful place - amazing to see how forest has taken over again since logging town dried up years ago.

Peace.

nice trail run w/ friends. dog is free to run off leash and meet other dogs on the trail.

Being outside, seeing the beautiful trees and ferns. Having my dog with me able to also enjoy the out of doors.

Ability to take my dog on long hikes w/out leash requirement.

Would have like a lot more info on the Falk townsite.

The ability to walk my dog off-leash.

The pavement, mostly flat first mile of the trail is easy to push a stroller through.

Dog off leash. Beautiful area!

solitude

Historical education on logging in the area. The barn and the natural beauty of the area. I loved exploring the wildlife, and all the trees. And seeing dogs there, because I love animals. I liked the freedom of being able to get out of my house and go somewhere nice.

I love that my dog gets to be off leash and other well behaved off leash dogs make for good afternoons.

Spending time w/ my friends and their kids in a safe an interesting place.

Being able to ride bikes with kids through a beautiful forest. Exploring the creek and looking for salamanders.

Nice scenery like local history of the mill

It's always clean - nice to have restrooms and that the parking lot fits just enough vehicles to allow a lot of folks to visit at once, but not allow for crowding.

The hike was fun, the area was gorgeous, and we learned a lot about the area. It was a lovely experience!

I like that it is quiet and easy walk

-Can bring dog -Paved bike trail

Walking my dog in woods with friends.

I like its remoteness, and I liked feeling the sun.

Being able to walk my dogs or ride along side the with no leash. Was able to metal detect with no harassment.

The natural environment - river bed.

Well maintained area, plenty of wildlife, and able to study it without intruding on habitat.

Beautiful, pleasant environment.

We are new to the area and went with friends for social reasons. Both of us had children in strollers and the first part of the trail was nice for that.

The opportunity to get out into a very natural setting and experience a heavily forested watershed area.

I learned about the area's history, I had a lovely walk, I shared the hike with my dog, it was beautiful and quiet, not crowded.

Experience the natural setting of Elk River and South Fork of Elk.

Being with family in a great setting.

It provided a chance to take a walk "in nature" relatively close to Eureka. We had 2-3 hours between activities, so could get there, take a 1-1/2 hour walk and get back.

Comparisons to other areas not paying fees to walk in the woods. Feels natural to walk as one with nature and not with management.

Being able to use at any time of the day and to use 7 days a week.

Letting kids explore by the river, we also enjoy the paved path for bikes.

Nature, love being in the woods w/ my family.

Good trails, had bathrooms. It's free, good parking.

The paved trail.

Quiet, solitude

The peace and the trees.

We just went for a short hike and enjoyed it.

History information, nice paved trail.

New, well kept facilities.

Peaceful time with my girl. Fell in love with the area. Beautiful place. Can't wait to return.

It was a nice peaceful walk.

Being in an accessible beautiful environment and able to share this experience with my husband who cannot walk trails more due to arthritis and being able to take our dogs with us.

Beautiful! Great fellow visitors. Good dog manners. Wonderful overall experience. Clean bathrooms. Great area history, natural history, signage.

Being able to explore and find the things that did not have a sign next to them. It was fun to think about a structures context without the aid of the BLM.

Quiet, not too many people.

The chance to get outdoors on a beautiful day and get some fresh air and exercise in a beautiful environment.

The beauty and mile markers for running.

Getting the dog out for a walk.

Nice paved trail for strollers.

Relatively uncrowded, could listen to silence, birds, streams, beautiful wide variety of vegetation, photo opps

I like the lack of restrictions and the hiking trail.

People we meet were friendly and well mannered.

Love that it was a nice easy hike but can enjoy the redwoods with not too many people.

The wilderness trail at the end. And the fact that BLM cares enough to send out a survey to ask the public their opinions on this matter.

It's nearby and an easy walk in the woods.

The freedom to wander with my dog. The beautiful environment.

Clean environment, good for walking/hiking.

Quiet and beautiful walk for all ages. Plants and bugs to check out.

The beauty of the area

this was a great trail for us since we have a baby in a stroller. most other 'stroller' friendly trails are along roads, or ARE roads.

The friendliness of all the other hikers I met along the way.

I liked that once you got past the bridge no dogs were allowed.

I use the trail because it is close to my home and because the area is incredibly beautiful and peaceful.

Beautiful place.

It's beautiful and peaceful.

Worked there years ago for Elk River Timber Co. Logged with my dad 1969-82.

When it was quiet no other people around you could hear the water and birds.

Family time :-)

Driving the road in and the walk but I was alone and thought no one else there (later I passed others both ways) so insecurity caused me to cut visit short.

It's very peaceful and since there are paved trails it's very stroller friendly. My kids love it out here.

My daughters perception of the nature of the trail, how comfortable and almost an ""at home"" walk my dog experiences. And finally the relaxation and meditation derived by their experience.

It was very peaceful and we enjoyed learning about the local history of the area. We plan on biking and dog walking in the near future!

Like the whole place and everything about it. I get the feeling I have never been to HFR while the Dark Side is in control.

The beauty of the hike with my dog off leash.

Running in such a beautiful forest. Love the place! I love there 3 times a week.

Being outside.

The environment, the nice trails with minimal impact.

Enjoying nature, next to the river and being able to take our dog off her leash.

Being in the fresh air on a sunny day.

The tranquility and natural beauty. Especially the trails along the water. Quiet.

Dog access and guided hike.

The land...

Privacy and safety

Being in a beautiful place which is near my home. I go running there w/ my dog, sometimes my wife goes on a walk.

The paved 1st mile is great for families. The entire trail has something for everyone. A fantastic nature hike!

Natural setting and paved bike path with option to bring dogs along.

Opportunity to be in a quiet, clean, natural environment that provides walking areas for myself and my family

Easy walking on level to sloping trails.

It is beautiful, peaceful and clean. Love all the great historical info signs.

Being outside, walking.

Serenity, quietness.

How quiet and peaceful our walk was.

I really enjoyed the variety of different paths and the freedom to roam.

Only had time to go to barn at N. entrance. Liked the Redwood Summer exhibit and remnants of old buildings along the way. Want Headwaters to be left intact - not traversed by lots of trails and more and more people!

Only was able to visit visitor center this time. Would like to see more history of the area including activist participation.

Love taking this hike - the trails are excellent and variety of foliage from different seasons.

Live in San Diego. Love the hike. Next time will allow time to go to bridge at 3 mile point.

Nice scenery.

Great hiking.

The natural beauty.

Being in our beautiful local environment. Listening to the birds. Reading about the Noah Falk and the early timber industry.

Having my well trained and obedient black lab off leash.

To see it become a reality after symbolizing the ""Timber Wars"".

Enjoyed a brisk walk through beautiful, fresh, and clean nature trail. In my past visits I encountered more families and dogs. I enjoyed seeing and visiting with them.

Quiet, beautiful scenery, no cars and paved so stroller rolled easily.

The beautiful weather and spending time with my family in the outdoors.

We just like getting in the outdoors and enjoy hiking in a natural setting.

Love that is an easy trail towards the lower end for 3 miles and then gets harder. Perfect for any level.

Fantastic scenery. Had a great trail run/hike.

Hiking in the peace and quiet of the area.

Being in nature - hiking.

The peace and serenity of the trail and good dog rules :-)

How it's far away from the noise of cars.

Experiencing the beauty of where I grew up. When I come back to visit it's wonderful to have this treasure.

Hiking. The trail is perfect length and a great workout! Also, I picked some berries on the way down which were yummy.

Appendix K

What did you like least about your Headwaters experience?

Note: Responses of “Nothing” or “N/A” or similar sentiments were removed, as were comments that had nothing to do with the use or management of the area (e.g. weather).

Perhaps too neat and tidy for an old mill town site. Like seeing the remnants.

it would be nice if the bathroom @ the barn would be open during midday.

I big cement blacktop path... in nature... Hurts joints, prevents running, I would think it increases runoff diversion with impermeable surface, it kills the natural feel. I had to cut my walk short because my dog started limping due to running on the blacktop path. I am sure cost is a factor, but I cannot remember another forest reserve or park that had a raised blacktop path over a road, gravel or dirt path. This single factor will likely keep me from going back and sticking to the lost coast trails, beach, or any other natural path or no path open park.

I felt the paths were so formed there was no sense of exploration, might as well stand in line with a million people. Made it feel like a developed area or amusement park or tourist attraction.

There wasn't anything in my experience I can include here. It was all great.

Lack of detailed maps.

A loop trail back to parking lot would expand experience - as opposed to [illegible] [illegible] back.

Better parking.

Now worry about vandalism because of stories I have heard.

I was disappointed at the size of old growth redwoods. I expected ones like at Lady Bird Grove.

I have trees (2nd growth) as large as ones I saw at HFR in my back yard in Arcata.

I have hiked the 11 miles 3 times. The trail has some really bad sections that need repair. Also - it should be closed during rainy season due to erosion caused by hikes.

Stinging nettles and lack of warning signs. There is a lot of stinging nettles that are immediately adjacent to the trail and sometimes overhang into the trail. Myself, my daughter and my dog have all been stung. It would be nice to post a sign showing what it looks like and that it is very common along the paved trails and dirt trails.

The trail is one-way in/out. It would be fantastic if a trail back to the parking lot was on the other side of the river so we could walk a loop.

bicyclists

After the 1 mile mark, the path is rocky. My dog has fragile paws and cannot go past that point, which ends the walk prematurely at times.

Nothing really to see...it's just a trail.

I would like to know so much more about the townsite - what was located where - more about the damming of the river, the little town of Sabrina (where the parking lot is), etc. History [underlined for emphasis]

Would be nice to have a good bike rack at the 1 mile (end of pavement) so you could lock up bikes and walk further up trails.

Being charged by off-leash dogs. None were vicious, but one doesn't know that at the time.

Bikers riding too fast for conditions

Weed whacked areas.

The pavement.

Dog issues w/o leash.

Concern about safety in remote ""back woods"" areas.

My son is handicapped and we've never made it to the old growth along Elk River because it's too far for him. Only recently found out about the trail from Fortuna that requires reservations.

Not well publicized, that.

The Educational Center is rarely open.

I would have liked to see more trail options.

I hate to see (domestic) cats in areas like that. The amount of birds, reptiles and cats kill far outweigh a little dog poop! Feral (domestic) cats are a huge problem in my educated opinion!

Seeing dogs in the river.

Usually there are too many people and dogs, but our last visit was good!

Worrying about possible vehicle vandalism/theft.

Lack of trails and it also seemed like some of the trails were starting to get over grown. I would like it if they would post signs if there has been any mountain lion or snakes sightings.

My dog not listening.

I want to see trails traverse the entirety of HFR. I want to be able to walk throughout entire reserve. Expand bike trails. I love mountain biking and would love more bike access.

Not enough bags for poop.

Nothing this trip, but would not like to see too many more people or more restrictions. Too many bicycles would be a problem.

The person smoking cigarettes.

Skateboarders going too fast on paved trail.

Signage from freeway to parking lot is very poor.

I'd prefer not to walk on pavement.

Very few signs on trail (distances).

Hearing logging equipment nearby. Seeing a couple of soda cans on the trail. Oh yea I just remembered seeing some full dog poop bags on the trail as well. I think the people were hopefully going to grab them on their way back to the parking lot.

Dogs not on leashes.

This past experience was great - only complaint would be of once or twice, a large group of loud rowdy teenagers walking through.

Dog owners not picking up after their pets.

Was not able to take our dog beyond the second bridge (mile 3). Would also like to see the area of Falk cleared of brush.

Inter/intra actions w/ unleashed dogs.

Too many dogs. Cyclists.

The dogs.

Not much educational signs along trails.

The big dogs running up to us.

No cell reception which raises safety concerns.

I only wished I could have had enough time to see the old growth.

The occasional noisy visitors that don't seem to appreciate listening to the birds, river and trees.

Stepping in dog shit.

Unknown dogs approaching.

Well...having to take time to fill out details and do this survey. This really sounds like an attempt to restrict dogs in the park, nothing was said about bikes. Please don't restrict the dog access, seems just right!

A mountain biker who was not slowing down when passing pedestrians.

I like that dog bags are provided . I wish more dog owners picked up after their dogs. I often pick up after other dogs just to keep the trails nice.

This survey.

Bikes going too fast.

I least enjoyed 1. That there were no BLM people around - but I will check to see when they are there and plan my next hike for that time. 2. Sound of trucks or equipment working somewhere close.

Dog poo on the trail and a man swearing loudly. Sad to hear about past pollution of the area.

It would be nice to have more benches on the trail - to sit and listen to the quiet. Also more trail spurs would be enjoyed in the first 2 miles.

The bags of dog poop that owners leave on the ground.

The bathroom did not have a unit/sink to wash my hands.

I like narrower, more "wild" trails, with fewer people. This was more groomed and had heavier traffic than I prefer.

The road. Would have liked a trail the whole way.

Sounds of logging on nearby property.

Need more trails.

Dog poop.

Not enough wheelchair access. I know that all areas cannot be ADA compliant but more would be nice.

I have a general disdain for paved trails, but I also understand that it opens up access for those who need it...

Dog waste on ground.

Security of vehicle.

More paved trails.

Parking lot was very busy - too small for amount of vehicles trying to park. People leaving dog poop on the trail!

Being nervous when too isolated.

Dog off leash.

Our experiences are generally good. The odd dog problem. Sequoia Park has a leash requirement though not always obeyed.

Fast moving bikes coming up on pedestrian without warning. No cell service in case of emergency.

I didn't like the dog that approached us with no owner or leash, and the man who was smoking.

The guided tour brochures were not clearly marked. Numbered posts would help to identify the stops.

Would like to have more kids activities like the Quest.

No drinking water.

Being worried about vandalism to my vehicle.

Muddy section on the upper trail. Would have liked more information on Falk.

Didn't have enough time to walk further.

When I pass someone smoking.

1. The feeling that I'm walking on a freeway - trail to Falk is WAY overdeveloped!! 2. The noise of timber harvesting trucks nearby.

Would like a longer paved route. There was a weird loud noise periodically while were there.

Owners of poorly controlled dogs allowed to destroy the reverie of others.

That the trail isn't a loop that at some point you have to turn around. I guess it's not something you can ""fix"" and more it's a psychological thing and it's almost nice you can choose when to turn around w/ dogs.

I moved to Elk River Rd. one month before the first mile was paved. It broke my heart to see it paved. I've never seen a wheelchair used on this stretch of road. I thought that's what it had been for.

Picking up my dog's poop.

I love coming out to HFR and the dog really loves it.

Worry about my vehicle being broken into.

Being charged by dogs.

The fact that I fear that it may become too much like a city walk.

Somewhat busy (not a deal breaker though), dogs off leash

Had to walk bike on some of the trail.

Would like more side trails for families on the first part on trail before Falk town.

Would have liked more info on trails and history.

Effects of industrial logging, bad behaved dogs.

Can't go past 3 mile bridge with my dog.

Unleashed dog.

Trail seems unclear after end of pavement.

Loose dogs - unexpected mix of nature trail and historic ""remnants"" too new to ""feel"" archeological.

Dog poop bags hanging on trees.

Some trails were a little too narrow.

Minor problem with muddy trail at top of trail past 4 mile marker.

It would be nice to have an emergency alert system in case of a problem and posted info on bear/cougar threats. If possible, it would be nice to have a separate section of the road reserved for bikes, including those ridden by children.

Dog poop.

It would be nice if there was a small loop trail in the main old growth reserve.

Nothing really concerned me, though my roommate and I felt mile and half-mile trail markers would be helpful and should be clearer.

Noisy people.

Sometimes there are people smoking pot near the paved trail (not able to be seen, just smelled).

I wish there was another bathroom around or a little after the 2 mile marker.

It is too far to the Headwaters Forest. I will never see it.

Dogs off leash

The locked outhouse at the barn.

Only available restroom was locked.

Dog encounters.

Irresponsible dog owners.

The education center has never been open when I was there and there is no posted info about when it is open.

-Unleashed dogs -The extremely muddy segments @ mile 4; didn't like the impact I was making on the trail, made it only worse, but no way around.

Mud

A section of the trail was very muddy so it was slippery BUT it provided for very healthy and interesting vegetation! Trail directions at the loop were confusing - perhaps the drainage (trail relocation project) intervened (?) temporarily.

Somewhat worried about car being broken into.

No water fountain that I could find.

The real big trees were 11 miles away. That is too far with kids.

Charging unleashed dogs

That part of the trail was closed. But I'm happy they are correcting the problem with the muddy part of the trail. Went the full loop in April and it was really bad.

Restrooms inadequate - replace portable units with permanent facilities.

The trail on the other side of the parking lot is not handicapped accessible and my wife would like to walk there.

That we were not allowed to walk all the way to the old growth area at the end of the trail due to trail work in progress.

Ridge trail and post-3-mile bridge closures.

Survey taken

Brochure did not jibe with specific points of historical interest.

The bathroom.

No drinking fountains for people.

Parking, the lot is not well designed.

dogs and smokers

Not enough benches for a rest.

Can't take the dogs all the way on the trail, even on leash.

I enjoyed it all but after the pavement, there should be a ""you are here map"" that indicates where you are, and so you can see if you want to continue. Especially for 1st timers.

Broken Glass around old building (chicken coop?)

Filling out this survey.

Signs to area could have been more visible. Almost turned around because we couldn't find the trailhead/parking area.

Threat of vandalism/break-ins of cars left in parking lot.

The paved trail, even though I agree that accessibility should be made available to all types of people.

Entrance road is very narrow in places with restricted visibility.

Not having trash cans along the trail makes it hard to dispose pet waste.

Wasn't sure about our safety.

Lack of cell phone service. In case of an emergency this would be vital. There are no call boxes either. I have brought my elderly parents here one time only just for this reason.

I felt limited. I would have liked more trails and places to sit.

a little nervous re the hx of car theft

Limited area where dogs are allowed.

Vandalism in parking lot.

Lack of other trails.

The water was very low in the creek.

Trail closed for restoration after second bridge.

dogs

Not enough trash receptacles and dog poop bags. Parking is also too small especially on weekends.

There could be more improvement in educational signs.

Dog poop in plastic bags that don't degrade.

Navigating around dogs!

Over managed

What? Always love it! O.K. - bit bummed that the upper trail was closed - but SO worth going this weekend and checking out the new work! Thanks!!

I wish there were more garbage cans further out and wish the second bathroom was open more often and the trees need to be pruned correctly.

-No soap in bathroom

Bicyclist's dogs barking at ours while their dogs were off leash.

The bathrooms aren't luxurious. I want a marble sink and hand-towels. (This is the best complaint I can come up with).

That the trail was closed beyond the 3 mile bridge, so I couldn't see the old growth.

1. Dogs and their negative impact on ecosystem 2. Dog intimidation.

I enjoyed the history part most.

It takes so long to get to the old growth area from Elk River Trailhead.

That I didn't have enough time to get to old grove - my problem! I had only 2 hours, but I loved it all.

Some of the waster left by visitors - minor.

Unleashed dogs.

That it wasn't a loop. Boring to go out and return on same trail. Also closer access to the stream would have been nice (visually).

Would like walkways to the river. Places to sit comfortably during a long hike along the river

Bathrooms aren't always clean.

It would be nice to have mile (1/10) mile markers. I didn't know how far it was to the Falk townsite which is what I wanted to see.

Brochures didn't seem to match trail signs at times. Black and white BLM brochures - sign posts??

No easy access to old growth forest. Either have to reserve a guided hike (south access point), or hike 8 miles each way (north access point).

There needs to be a few more benches along the paved part of the trail for handicapped ambulatory people to rest.

On a major holiday, NO BLM people anywhere. I saw our interviewer on the way in and a trash man on the way out. That is it! The venue for classes looked good, pity there was nobody there to give the class.

Pavement and hard gravel path long way. Not a natural feel at all. Would rather go to Prairie Ck. or Pat. Point.

The fact that previous visitors were too lazy to dispose of their dogs' waste in the proper place.

The sounds of logging going on in the doughnut.

Paved road stop at 1 mile.

Unclear as to where we were (how far we hiked) and bike access limits. Dogs in park.

Some areas are not open for hikers.

Lack of trash cans for dog waste.

That the trail maps didn't give more detail(!!!!) information like distance marks, time estimate of trip and snake information.

The idea that my dogs would needed [sic] to be on leashes. Most people in Eureka come to HFR to let their dogs loose and have fun.

I didn't have the proper footwear after the pavement ended so I had to cut the walk short.

Cigarette butts

Parking.

Not enough benches to sit down. I have arthritis and it is hard to walk much of a distance without being able to sit and give my knees a break.

the excessive dog poop

Constantly having to deal with dogs.

There were a few too many cyclists on the trail and several of them were a bit rude.
Need more benches for seniors.

Parking was bad, someone parked in one of the in/out lanes. Difficult to get to the big trees unless you are very fit.

The loud families.

Broken glass in parking lots from car break ins.

I arrived too late to see many others there, which would have provided a greater sense of security. A volunteer ranger along trail might have been nice.

Eroding roads on main trail.

Even on a MTB [mountain bike] there are some really steep hills :-)

Dogs chasing runners and biting at their heels.

Dogs.

No biking past the end of the pavement seems ridiculous when Humboldt has so many avid mountain bikers.

My son and I are barefooters and find the gravel trails uncomfortable. We would come far more often if it wasn't physically painful.

I didn't like when they paved the trail for 1 mile. There is no room for a dirt trail on the side for runners. Running on pavement is hard on joints - that is why many run on trails.

Not enough information about flora and fauna

There was a lot of people, but that's a good thing :)
Loose dogs not under voice control.

I felt I couldn't/didn't learn a lot - the barn was closed and looked as if unoperational - couldn't tell how far we were from next set of trails either - not knowing prevented us from walking farther.

There was a part of the first mile that smelled very badly of poop.

Asphalt!

Paved trail.

Worried about safety of my vehicle in lot. One of my friends was badly bitten by a dog under ""voice control"" so unleashed dogs scare me.

Mountain biker came whipping by listening to ipod. Didn't show much concern for children, elderly, dogs on leashes.

No running water (drinking).

Seeing dog poop bagged up and tied by the owners and left on the side of the trail. (Oddly, I didn't see any poop that wasn't bagged. So not an issue related to on or off leash. More education at bag dispenser needed!)

Restroom is a mess.

The trail gets somewhat boring. More trails branching off would give more variation.

I wish we were allowed to continue to the old growth.

People that hate dogs and people that bring their mean dogs on a leash and expect all other dog owners to leash their dogs. There are so few places to take unleashed dogs, if you don't like the dogs go to the 20 other trails that don't allow dogs.

None comes to mind, other than build more trails - connect the north to the south - expand access.

Disappointed in area - I thought there were more old growth trees we saved with purchase. The area is coming back but there was so much damage done it takes a long time to recover, if it ever does.

How one side of HFR looks planted (trees are in rows) and the other looks normal.

That you didn't allow dogs past the 3 mile mark.

235 comments total (54% of respondents)

50 (21%, 12%) were specifically about dogs – off-leash, not under voice control, and/or dog waste not properly disposed of

Appendix L

Reasons the Headwaters trip met, or did not meet, expectations.

Many improvements compared to the last time I visited about 4 years ago. Great interpretive signs and I loved the restored engine house.

just wanted to go for a hike in the woods

Had a great time. The day warm and the scenery was beautiful. The exercise was needed.

It's a good walk, close to home, good bathrooms. Maybe you could install security cameras in parking lot.

The blacktop path. I like hiking and done so in many areas, not many included a blacktop path unless, I was in a tourist garden. Add the history stops and the feeling is completed, it ceases to be a nature walk and more of a historical park attraction. Nature almost feels unwelcoming or sterile.

I'm from out of town so I really didn't know what to expect other than my friend was taking me on a hike.

First entrance we went to was closed.

The first time we went out as a group in a natural area and it was.

Loved it.

This place is great. If there was a way to get the word out to more people that would be good. The more hikers the safer it would feel for a single female hiker alone.

It suits our family's needs perfectly. If people want more trails, then I support it... but it is a nice place to bring the family and dog. If people want to go hiking, there are plenty of areas in Humboldt County to do so. I would like to see the County take management of the McKay track and have Headwaters Forest Reserve tie into it... pretty cool system it could be.

It's a great place to take a quick hike.

enjoyed a wonderful, relatively distraction-free, walk through beautiful forest.

Nice trail, open early AM.

I go there to be in nature and clear my head. It works every time! Great trail!

Overall, HFR is a great experience for any avid walker/hiker. It would have been nice to see a little more forest ranger supervision of the reserve, however.

Was expecting to see something more extravagant, it seemed like a trail just for exercise.

My primary reasons for going to the Headwaters is biking the first 3 miles, and walking my dogs (always on leash) and being outside.

I'm used to more remote trails where I rarely encounter a person.

Pretty good.

Been using regularly for many years so know what to expect.

I trail run out there often and love being at Headwaters. It's a beautiful, peaceful place to run.

It was great!

Same as usual.

Just out for a hike with the kids. We had a great time. Great to have a spot so close to home.

See above. Need more access to the barn.

The HFR is an excellent recreational resource that is well-managed. It could benefit from an expansion of the trail network utilizing decommissioned roads.

See 17 [35 on SM].

I enjoy the wildlife knowledge. Would to know more about the natural rebound. Curious about the mining town leftovers, is their artifacts to be found without tearing up the natural progress too much.

I have walked the trail many times so I know what to expect.

It was great, like I said above, it just seemed like some of the higher trails were getting a little over grown, I also would like to know more about the landslide it look like

More trails would be a great addition to HFR.

An amazing place to enjoy yourself while your wasting time.

Was surprised there were not more, and longer, trails.

Have always been pleased with trail - and my visits.

Adequate parking, safe trails, friendly visitors/staff. We saw the salmon run this year! Love the Barn.

I just expect to take a nice relaxing walk and the area accomplishes that.

I enjoy visiting on weekends in the morning as it has been generally quiet. I only visit 1 time per month. I enjoy the natural beauty, trails and creeks.

I love to hike and trail are well maintained.

I'd like to see hiking trail access deeper into the reserve - is there less damage and more original diversity as you go deeper?

In the course of time I have take {sic} many photos, 2 of which I have painted in oil.

Wish there would be more signs where you are, where you're going, and how far you've gone and to the end of trails.

Remote - quiet.

It's always a pleasure. It's sad that just that small amount is protected.

Great trail, informative signs.

Well maybe more redwoods but we didn't get to the last part of the trail - time constraints.

It's always a great experience.

The bathroom at the educational center isn't always open - at least it wasn't in the winter months.

It was much better maintained than I expected.

I have been there so many times, I know what to expect. Also, I am sometimes surprised at how nice this place is to visit when I haven't been there in a while.

Been there before and so know what to expect.

We had a nice leasiurly walk with our dogs and family members, also enjoyed the education barn.

We've been comming here for years, it's perfect, don't change a thing, maybe more trails, a loop from Falk on the other side of river back to parking lot.

It is gorgeous and peaceful. I love to run on the trails in the rain or sunshine. I like the solitude on quiet days and saying hello to hikers on busier ones. I love walking and sniffing about with my dogs. I like to share this wonderful place with new friends.

It's always a wonderful experience.

I thought the river would be closer.

Yes.

Very beautiful forest. I especially like looking at the trees reflected in the river. I enjoyed the positive and safe vib the area gave off.

Yes, this was the first time I have been there and I really enjoyed my experience there.

I really didn't have any expectations - didn't know much about the area. My husband wanted to go so I went along with him. We hope to bring our bikes back sometime and do the whole trip up to the old growth forest.

It's always a joy to walk at HFR.

A friend of mine, who visited HFR prior to my visit advised me about how great it was. I enjoyed the beauty in the historical artifacts left behind.

I love hiking there.

Didn't know what to expect.

It's a great trail for stroller and dog. Before baby we loved to do the bike and hike great way to spend the day!

Would've liked to know the trail started three miles in.

We had seen the trail map (with elevations) but we turned back at 4+ miles (knowing how much downhill the return walk would be). It would be nicer to have shorter loops as well. Trail was steeper than the map led us to believe.

I really had very few expectations.

I've been here many times and it is always a pleasant stroll in a serene setting.

Yes. I have shared information with other seniors - it was a safe and beautiful outdoor experience.

I go there for a nice challenging run.

We'll be back!

It was just the experience we were looking for.

I wanted to go on a nice, sunny hike that wasn't difficult. It fulfilled my expectations.

This was my 1st trip to HFR and have lived here my entire life. Will definitely take the kids again.

MORE

Trails well maintained, not too crowded despite the nearly full parking area, love the new signage along the trail and the Quest...

Actually exceeded - it was a total serendipity.

None to expect/only exercise.

See #16 [#35 on SM].

I know what to expect when I go there.

Uncontrolled dogs substantially eroded the experience. Otherwise the transition from pavement to gravel to single raw path was an excellent transition experience. And of course the wonderful redwoods.

See #16 [#34 on the Survey Monkey version] dogs enjoy the experience.

See #34. This is a walk I (we) have enjoyed in all types of weather. Would not be possible without the 1st mile being paved.

See above.

I wanted to go for a jog and it was very pleasant.

Having been there before many times, everything is as good as the modern world will allow freedom experience.

Love going to HFR.

We visited for about 1 hr. 45 min. in route to Washington. We plan to return.

A fabulous place to enjoy the outdoors, all smiles.

Again it appears to becoming more like walking in town without traffic.

Expecting more side trails.

Dogs, dogs, dogs. River pollution from logging and slides visibly getting worse.

Great place to exercise with my dog and toddler.

While we had had a great experience on the Eel River trail, our repeated attempts to enter the HFR from Highway 36 (Fortuna) have been very frustrating - three unsuccessful attempts to reserve a tour so far this year.

Consistent maintenance, adequate parking, historical setting.

Beautiful, peaceful, and fun.

Didn't expect paved trails - dogs off-leash not unpleasant, but disconcerting at first. Trail markers not clear enough especially concerning matching w/ provided map.

A great place to walk in the redwoods.

I had fun :)

I am somewhat restored by the peacefulness and by an open ended walk somewhat close to where I live. The area is generally respected by its users, perhaps through the numbers of people using the reserve.

Lovely trail and DOG FRIENDLY.

The trail was smooth enough for a new bicycle rider, but some of the hills were too steep for young ones.

I had no expectations, I enjoyed the walk.

Took an out of town guest on the hike where she can see the beauty of our area without having to go out of the way to get there.

I believe HFR is being managed fairly well. There is room for some improvements, but it feels as if the place is being taken care of.

I heard the trail was beautiful and a great hike - long but not arduous. I enjoyed it and felt it fit this description.

Thank you! Love HFR.

It's public sometimes people are loud. Don't like it but what can you do?

Not my first time.

See #16 [paper version]

It was our first time going to two mile bridge. i was thankful the bridge/mile marker was clearly marked and knowing bikes were okay to ride.

Very enjoyable walk.

I really cannot complain!

I'm not sure you should call this place ""Headwaters Forest"" when people like me (disabled) will never see ""Headwaters Forest"".

I went to spend time with friends in a peaceful outdoor area while getting some exercise and am always able to this at HFR.

I enjoy the fresh air, quietness while appreciating nature.

I was able to hike mostly in peace, paying attention to my surroundings and the birds and the butterflies.

Paved trail to Falk better than I expected. Good picnic tables.

We had few expectations, and were pleased by the well-done interpretive kiosks, exhibits and facilities. We would have welcomed even more interpretive information and exhibits.

It's very cool.

I enjoy being in the woods with my dogs

I'm relieved dogs were prohibited past the bridge, but to have them running around unleashed @ the paved section was intimidating.

Great place

I just keep going back there. It's the best hike in the trees close to Eureka.

60+ years old and enjoy easy hike with grandkids and dog.

I have been on this trail many times.

I enjoy walking in Headwaters.

See above. Would like more trails. We actually repeated several sections to get 10.25 miles, the trail was closed past 3 mi. But...love this trail. Hats off to BLM!

The bushes on either side of the trail are cut back too far/no berries to pick.

It is one of the best maintained trails in the area, by far :)

Was planning on taking the ridge trail. Did not know it was closed.

It is beautiful and pretty much undisturbed. The stream is clear. People are friendly however, as I have said. I have never seen a BLM employee.

Been here twice - had two great experiences - will be back again.

WE WALKED OUR DOGS IN NATURE - MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

We were looking for a nice place to take a family walk. We all had a nice time. Such a beautiful area might need a bit of thinning.

Again, it's a beautiful place, very well maintained. Just wish the dogs could do the whole loop. I wanted to see the bridge, but once we were on the dirt trail we didn't know how far we were from the bridge and ended up turning back later to find that we soooo close!!

We have hiked at HFR many times. We appreciate the improvements which are being made to the trail.

It was a completely pleasant experience.

Nice trails, not too many people. Happy dogs.

Very well kept. We were there only to explore during son's move in to Humboldt University.

It's always a good place for a walk. Glad to see is getting so much use.

It seems to be a good forest and should be kept clean and left mostly alone. More noticeable signs at trailheads about being conscious of littering might help.

Said above. As this is a some-what lonely place I had hoped for call boxes at least. I went to take a break from work week, my dogs are a big part of that time break. It's hard to find places to go that allow dogs off leash.

I have been here before so I knew what to expect.

Having never been there before, we had no expectations but it was a fun outing for our family!

Great place, close to home to go to get away and enjoy forest.

See 16 [34]

I have been there about 5 or 6 times and it is usually a similar experience.

Great spot!

dogs a nuisance

See previous.

I enjoy the outdoors, I grew up in the woods, I felt close to home.

In the Quest box I would like to see a child quest as well as adult one. A kid one would interest and interact w/ children.

Thought it would be warmer.

It's just a trail

Overall it is great, I enjoy walking here.

What is there to complain about?

I love the streams and how far I can ride into HFR.

Above.

Trail well maintained, informational plaques very useful and interesting.

It was new to me and proved to be an interesting afternoon. I really know little about the entire HFR system.

The last section of Elk River Trail closed for maintenance :(Other than that is was great.

See above - for me, my husband and our dog, it beat Avenue of the Giants ten-fold.

Good place to exercise in the beauty of Humboldt County redwood forest.

We thought the walk would be among old-growth redwoods. They were prohibitively far away for a day walk. Disappointing. Otherwise, the trail was nice. Blackberries were an unexpected bonus.

The further you hike on the trail. Need more sitting areas and picknick tables.

We went to walk with friends, socialize, look for banana slugs, etc.

See above - also very nice info signs on trail - but seemed out of date because of letting the forest grow back over area - (which is ok). Couldn't see what sign indicated.

It would be nice to have immediate, unguided access to old growth forest. Not 8 miles in. Wasn't sure what to expect.

The experience was wonderful except the bazaar little road with poor markings on the way in and no employees.

I wanted to go to a place where there were trees and bugs and fish.

I just wanted to go for a walk with my husband and dog. I didn't really have any expectations.

Always does! Thank you for providing such a reserve for our community.

I'd enjoy seeing more Falk artifacts and being able to hike more area. A nature trail identifying plants would be wonderful.

People would be less likely to leave dog poop bags on the trail and hanging from tree branches if there were more trash cans.

As mentioned above couldn't make it to old growth because couldn't determine how long it would take to before sunset.

As long as I am in creation and my dogs are happy, so am I.

I wanted a nice quiet walk in fresh air and thru woods and possibly see birds.

I was able to come with my dog and family and enjoy freedom for all members of the family.

We always enjoy our walk at Headwaters with or without a dog.

beautiful (great restoration efforts), nice signage, (historical was nice, but environmental interp could be improved)

Thoroughly enjoyed hiking uphill and going through the old growth loop.

Because the trail is quite long, it would be nice to have an additional toilet facility further in.

Fabulous.

I wanted an easy paved walk like the place I was used to in MA. Easy to take a baby.

No trails across the creek like over by [illegible] house

The trail I hiked rep'd only one eco-environment. I didn't go far enough for variety - it was too late, I guess.

It's a beautiful area and we want to finish the trail with my 10 yr. old son and 2 dogs.

I was pleasantly surprised at the reserve and its trails.

This was a return trip for us and our expectations were satisfied.

We love to take our dogs there. They look so forward to it they can't stay still on the drive there!

See above, also would like more trail options

Got there too late to go up to the top.

Park looked great, was surprised at number of users and the increased number of side trails that been made by hikers :(

I didn't know what to expect being a 1st time visitor. It was nice, quiet, and peaceful but would not rise to the top of the list to bring out of town visitors.

I've been there before so I knew what to expect.

Expected much shorter trail to actual old growth - glad it is a long one though!

I love being able to have access to this incredible site! Parking lot and loose dogs are my only concerns.

Great walk. Wanted to return and made special point to do so. Last there in 2011.

It is a nice spot and I learned a lot.

Other than the weather it was a great experience.

Expected more old growth.

We came for a nice hike and that's what we got!

Our son told us about and said we'd like it. He was right.

Nice to walk and chat with sister while the dogs got there exercise. Everybody using the trail was friendly.

Was able to get an enjoyable trail run in with very few other people on the trail.

I hope to make it to the old growth stand someday. This was only my second visit to HFR.

I was sore after the hike, so it was satisfying.

Appendix M

General comments made about other issues Headwaters Forest managers need to address, or any other comments respondents wished to make.

Don't remove/move too much of the history of the site in an effort to make the area accessible to everyone

I did not get a mailing. That is why I put 0 on the form. I told the guy who was taking this survey that I was on a long distance cross country trip of 6 weeks, and would not be home until early Oct 2012

I requested to be reached by email. (I did not provide my home address.) I therefore never received a ""number"" by mail.

It seems like a lot of this survey is aimed at assessing the impact of people and their dogs. Headwaters has always been a great place for responsible dog owners to take their animals for a nature walk. I strongly urge that the current regulations not be altered to take this activity away. This is one of the only major parks in the area where unleashed dogs can go for a walk. With all of the larger parks attracting the majority of tourists, it is refreshing to have this in our area. I don't think a small fee for parking/maintenance would be outrageous for such a nice & off the beaten path park (pardon the pun). It really is a nice park.

Thank you for protecting the last of the minimally impacted nature left in the US. I know there is not much left but I appreciate someone is worried about living with nature rather than replacing it with something directly economically valuable.

I filled out the survey online but then thought I should add this note - bicyclists need to go slower and be more careful of pedestrians. I darned near almost got run over by a speeding bike one time. They were going extremely fast didn't even say anything or apologise. Granted it was only once, but bicyclists should be encouraged to slow down and watch out for others. Thanks!

I come to Headwaters fairly regularly, but I don't always sign in. In fact, I rarely sign in - just every once and a while.

Would enjoy more information on names of trees - maybe some signs near a stretch of a certain type - or a general sign describing bark, needles, cones. Thank you

I would like to see a short film made about the Headwaters for Access Humboldt. I would be willing to help with that. Jennifer Bell 601-3663 bell@humboldt.edu

Please keep allowing dogs to attend the HFR with their owners. If dogs become disallowed, then our family will stop using the HFR. Our dog goes where we go. Thanks!

As stated - a trail on the other side of the river so that people could make a loop instead of one way in/out. There is an access/startway point for such a trail just past the second bridge. Of course another bridge would need to be put in near the parking lot. As much use as I get out of HFR it does get boring at times to go in 2 or 3 miles and then just turn around and go back.

I am a retired DFG biologist with 10 years using HF trail. Please keep dog policy flexible, with no leash required. I have never had a problem in all my years using the trail. Suggest you require dog owners to have control over dog AND be in possession of a leash. Mark Moore 442-6142

I have been on a lot of hiking trails and just moved here from Colorado. I am impressed with how well maintained the trail is and how many fun educational signs there are along the way. I respect the liberal ""voice control"" dog rule and have never personally experienced a problem with other visitors. I choose not to bring my dogs because of the potential volume of hikers. I choose other less crowded trails to bring my dogs on and choose HFR if I want some peace to myself or fiance. Honestly, I wouldn't change a thing about the trail or the way it is managed. Thank you BLM for providing a great nature trail to us :)

This place kicks ass! The only tiny recommendation I could make would to add smooth pavement further than one mile, and to also please put up notifications near trailheads when there are vehicles or large groups of maintenance workers in the reserve.

If you want to change the dog policy, maybe do something like have a class. Post times you can come with your dog. Have BLM ""evaluate"" your dog, charge people a non-refundable \$40 and their dog can be certified to be off leash if they pass and aren't aggressive or destructive. Good pet owners shouldn't be punished for stupid people with bad dogs. If someone whose dog isn't certified gets caught walking a dog off leash, give them a ticket. Money for you and good for pet owners with good dog. Would also be willing to pay a small fee, like \$2-\$3 to go there and would also be happy to donate if a donation box was put there. If the dog rules change I would 100% stop going or supporting or recommending Headwaters to anyone.

It seems like they're doing a good job of running a ""rural"" park for city folk.

A footpath/bike path linking to Eureka, Cutten etc. would be nice when the economy improves.

You are doing a great job out there. Keep it up!

Good job, it's a nice place to hike. I'm pro-dog even though I don't have one.

Less is more.

The BLM is doing a great job managing the reserve and providing user-friendly access for families with small children and dogs. It would be great to see the development of additional trails along some of the decommissioned roads to expand on and provide alternatives to the existing corridor trail. The Headwaters Forest Reserve is an asset to our community. Thank you.

Doing a great job! The trails have just gotten nicer and nicer over the years. The culverts seem nice and managing the sediment better. Keep working on that decrease of sediment and maybe the salmon can come back in force someday?! The main concerns I have are fish habitat (stream/river) and bird habitat.

For those of us who might want to help but don't have time or knowledge enough to proceed, thank you for being active in our finest aspects of the area in our forest and natural resources. This place is beautiful and I worry about it. Thanks. The little I might be able to help, I would.
~Jeff Whitehead

HFR provides a "close" place for people to exercise and enjoy. The paving for the first mile enables people who use wheelchairs access to a forest environment. It also is good for parents with small children in strollers.

What is being done about the landslide, is it dangerous to walk there?

I would LOVE more trails.

Maybe have spots staked out where it's ok to get in the water and swim. Info on the time of year/safety of water and dog/algae info - because I always wonder about all that when I'm at the water. Never at the computer. I'm glad I could help.

Seems like putting this survey online (by invitation only) would be more cost effective and efficient and give you a higher participation rate. Oops! Sorry, just re-read the cover letter and I see it is my mistake.

-If you only allow dogs on weekdays I would avoid the weekends! If you require "leash" all the time; I would still allow "off leash" when alone, as I do now...

I truly appreciate HFR and feel fortunate to have the access that I have at this time. I hope it continues on in the same or similar way for my family (and dog).

Keep the parking lot safe from vehicle break ins. I hate to think of a visitor to our area enjoying a hike and returning to a broken window and stuff stolen. Kudos on the cameras. Keep it up!

I'd prefer that this survey be done in person or online. The use of paper resources seems excessive.

It's a long drive...the policy in place makes it well worth the drive for everyone in our family.

I think more on site information about trail system would be beneficial. It was unclear to our group about options for hiking farther from the paved trail. Though we had not planned to go past the Ed. Center on our trip, we left with many questions about logistics had we wanted to go farther.

I think a large expansion of nature/interpretive center including: more info/signs/posters/placards on 1. Local history people and resources. 2. Flora and fauna. 3. Native Americans cultural activities of valley/plains/wetlands. 4. Better self-guided plaques of flora along main and side trails.

The local area needs more places to walk dogs and let them get exercise off-leash. I would love to see more areas that are dog-friendly and even closer to the city limits if at all possible.

Thank you. It's perfect just the way it is.

Keep up the good work. I greatly appreciate the attention BLM gives to this area. Thank you.

Two major slide areas need to be fixed. Trail edges need de-brushing, Tick hide-outs ya know.

This survey seemed bias towards anti-dog regulations. I feel it was heavy on the negative dog questions which seems to me as a data collector to advocate more dog restrictions. Don't punish the dogs...dogs are 'like' people too!

Please continue to allow bicycles and dogs off leash under voice command. I have been visiting HFR since 2000. For 6 years I lived on Elk River and walked my dogs there almost daily. In all that time I only had 2 or 3 difficult encounters with dogs and/or owners. Overall, my experiences at the park have been good. The dogs are obedient, the people are nice. The BLM people have all been really nice and helpful. I LOVE the HFR. I would STRONGLY support a donation box but NOT a fee. Everyone should have access to this land!

1. The fellow who asked me to take part in this survey was very nice - Dan. I didn't feel obligated to participate but b/c of his attitude I was happy to participate. 2. I had heard that cameras were recently installed and that made me feel safer about parking my car in the lot. That and the fact that there were other cars there. 3. Because there were no homeless people sleeping in and hanging around the area I felt safe walking on the trail. 4. Allowing dogs on the trail made me feel safe - safety is a VERY important factor for me. Thanks for the opportunity to participate in this survey. Good luck!

I have only been there once so there is nothing I feel like I need to address. I enjoyed my first experience greatly.

Beautiful bricks in the parking lot! :-)

Benches Trail spurs (sitting area at end) HFR is one of the best maintained, quietest trails in the whole area. It is a gem! Thank you.

Suggestion: Place a few trash cans on the trail :)

I truly appreciate that HFR is a dog friendly reserve :-). Thank you for the effort your team has put in order to acknowledge HFR's visitors opinions.

Natural hiking spaces are very important to us. We appreciate the work you do to make them available. Thank you!

Again - it is a wonderful resource - it is so beautiful and well kept up. When the building up the trail has been open the staff have been great. I love having a place that I enjoy so much, where I can let my well behaved dogs go off leash - I always carry and use dog poop bags, as do other people I've seen. Thank you

We spent so little time and walked only a short distance that my responses are really irrelevant. There were VERY few people (0) once we left the pavement. I plan on returning and hope to get to the Headwater loop. I may take a few short trips to get into proper condition first.

Please connect the 2 Headwaters Areas with a trail: Northside with Southside areas (Fortuna access).

I enjoyed my first visit to HWR. I look forward to future visits and an interpretive tour. I would like to obtain the information on changes this survey elicits. billreid@ucsc.edu

Yes I would like to see a mountain bike trail put in.

Thank you!

More publicity outside the area. In the recent Chronicle article The Headwaters Forest Reserve got a tiny mention, Sequoia Park got a huge photo and plenty of newsprint. We are fortunate to have such a fantastic and beautiful forest on our doorstep!

Didn't see any information on plants and animals that may be observed in the area. Have never seen any BLM employees on any of my visits. Bikes are a hazard on the trail when riders are inconsiderate.

Please allow dogs. If this survey shows some visitors do not like to encounter dogs please consider alternatives that allow some dog use.

We liked that the barn exhibit was open and that there was a ranger there to answer our questions. We would like to see it open more often. Also, I liked that the spot where the trail was eroding a bit was blocked off with cones. It didn't look like much from down the hill, but there was a pretty steep hill there, yikes! :)

Great job!

We had a very positive experience.

-I would like to take my dog to the end-trail. -Of the several times we have been on the trails, we have never seen uncontrolled dogs.

I oppose all the development of the trail. When I started walking there, it was a lovely, meandering forest trail. It may be more friendly now to wheelchairs but since it was developed (paved), I've never seen a wheelchair on it, and I go there weekly. All the redwood bark makes it seem ""landscaped"". I like the part of the trail at 1.5 miles that detours narrowly through the woods. Also - too much gravel!! That heavy rough-cut gravel is hard on your feet. I do like the picnic benches and picnic tables, however. Also, I appreciate and use the dog bags. But you need a trash receptacle at the education center - no one wants to carry a dog bag 3 miles! I wish you hadn't cut back all the berries. It was fun to have a snack while hiking. Once I saw a bear there. Of what use is the education center. I've never seen it open. I'm thinking an amphitheatre might have been less impact. I would like to hike in from Fortuna but the location of the trailhead seems to be a carefully-guarded secret. It's one of the best most interesting trails in the area. The signs are great!! However, do us all a favor and let the wildness of the area assert itself. Find a way to use your surplus money to help develop the Bay trail on the old railroad grade from Arcata to Loleta.

It is all together essential to increase the management area encompassing the old growth. Please do whatever is necessary to do so. A no dog policy would enhance the entire holding as well. A bicycle only trail eventually available bordering the entire tract would be useful.

The lower grade on the road access is due to the potholes and asphalt chunks from the logging trucks on the exit route only from HFR. Route through parking lot should be better marked. On weekends I've seen trucks parked in exit.

I really liked the historical/cultural part of the preserve, tutorials about where to see what....natural history is great too.... I lived in Arcata from 1990 to 2010. I thought the Headwaters Forest was down by Rio Dell. I had never heard of Falk nor did I know there was such a great place to recreate so close to Arcata. I would have taken my bicycle there, and my dog, and kids! The day I visited I was with a friend and she had no time/inclination to walk farther. I will visit again when I am in town! (I would never suggest advertising. I like to walk/hike where I don't see lots of people...selfish me I suppose)

Please don't pave any more of the trail. Please install culverts or deal with drainage if steep cuts are made for the trails. There's major erosion of the trails now with trees/soil etc. going into the river. This is not only illegal, it's immoral. Do what works for the land and soil there or don't make these steep cuts. The regular people and dogs that walk these trails take care of the place because of our presence. We know the place. Please take care of the drainage issues. It can't be rocket science. (In response to a more restrictive dog policy): I would work to change the policy back to what it is now. I've spent hundreds of hours on this trail with my dog and haven't experienced anything untoward except very occasionally someone doesn't pick up dog poop. If I lost this place to walk my dog, I wouldn't want to live on this road. There would be no point. Sincerely, Jenny Finch 6088 Elk River Rd. Eureka, CA 95503

Maybe a couple more garbage cans further down the trail. Bear-proof ones would be nice, that way you don't have to empty them everyday. Mile marker signs would be awesome too.

I bring the dog to HFR a couple times a week. I hike by myself. Depending on the amount of time I have depends on how far we go. I do take him on the old growth loop and wish dogs were allowed in this area. Since I hike by myself I'm prepared to pay the fine, however it would be nice to not have to worry about this.

Keep it open for dogs. With or without leashes. Preferably without - maybe require that the dog pass some kind of test if it comes to that - my dogs come when they are called every time. Thank you for keeping it open. God bless Julie Clark!

I use the HFR for hiking and on occasion bike riding. The exercise and tranquility help me relax after work. I have come here with others to hike and experience the beauty of the forest and the river. I truly appreciate the excellent interpretive signs along the trail. I would like more

hiking trails for a change of pace and perhaps some campfire programs at the interpretive center I would come out for nature programs and storytelling. The history of the area is well documented by the signs and more would be great.

God bless Julie Clark. Our wishes are with you.

1.) County needs to improve the road. 2.) People visiting need to make sure they drive slow enough especially just before entrance. 3.) More plant identification books available to public. 4.) Rebuild the general store town and mill (might as well think BIG). Yes this would draw more people and this is a reserve so at cross purposes at first glance but the Reserve part is quite removed and most drawn to the town would not venture beyond.

It is frustrating to see people disregarding the rules of not allowing dogs in the water and not going past the 3 mile bridge.

Again, the Eel River has been great, but the BLM management of the required tours from Fortuna have been weak.

HFR rangers are wonderful! Very friendly - it's good to see them out on the trails. I wish there was a way to have all my tax dollars go to HFR.

No. You're doing a great job! Thank you!

Put plexiglass in [barn] windows so you can see into them.

If dogs were not allowed, I would not come here.

Please, please keep HFR dog friendly.

I am a dog owner. I am very thankful for places where I can take my dog out on trails, they are few and far between. The voice command policy works great for me because I have an active dog who needs lots of exercise and he is not a threat to other people or dogs. But if the voice command policy is to stay in affect I believe to police those people who might abuse it i.e. letting a dog off leash who is a potential threat to people other dog or even wildlife it would be wise to have some BLM employees stationed at the parking lot. I believe that would deal with the problems out of someone's fear of being reported for a troublesome dog. If BLM cannot afford that then at least identify active dog user days to post BLM employee and I believe that would have a similar effect.

Great place to hike! Will return soon to complete the entire trail.

If possible I'd like to see an expanded historical display at the Falk townsite. Perhaps a periodic living history exhibit and/or tours off-trail to view relict structures.

A bench along one side of the 3 mile bridge would be awesome!

Consider a trailhead bulletin board for information on: wildlife, Ed. Barn event schedule, trail changes, maintenance schedule, etc.

Sorry it took me so long to return. I have been out of town since my visit and just recently returned.

I would suggest a water pump.

I'd love there to be a no-dog policy, but I think it's impractical and unreasonable as dogs have already been allowed. As I mentioned, I'd be satisfied if the owners would follow the regulations already in place. I'd like to be able to hike and never have to think about dogs at all. As it is, whenever I see a dog off-leash, I need to pay attention to it in one way or another. I also carry a walking stick almost exclusively to keep dogs at a certain distance just by pointing it at them. It works to some degree, but I shouldn't have to do this. Attempts to address the issue with the dog owners have always been futile.

We would have liked there to have been more information about the recent history of the HFR, such as regarding how and why it was established and what the managements goals and obstacles are for the site. For instance, there was virtually no information about the political controversy surrounding the site; about the impact of ongoing logging operations; or about the problem of the ""Hole is the Headwaters."" Finally, we were very impressed by the quality of the interpretive program and think it could be expanded in ways consistent with resource protection, such as by using podcasts or supplying references for visitors who would like to explore further online or in the literature.

It would be nice if the visitor center/barn were open more often.

I appreciate having a well-managed hiking area to walk my dogs. Since we live in Arcata we don't frequent it that often but when we do we come during the week when there aren't many other hikers. It is one of our favorite places to go.

More control of people with uncontrolled dogs
Leave the dogs and bicyclists alone.
I appreciate the simplicity of this survey :) Thanks

A few more trails would be awesome, but the minimal nature of the infrastructure at HFR adds to the experience. Thanks.

Regarding Question #30 on SM (i.e. BLM grades), "Heard about HFR through friends, so did not use BLM much - just a little online.

More posting along the trails stressing dogs respond to voice control. I have never been bothered by loose dogs however, I have seen small children afraid of dogs (on and off leash). It would impress "voice control" is absolutely necessary. Also more dog "bags" stations along the trail would be a good reminder of picking up after one's pet.

It's a great place to enjoy the outdoors.

Bring a trail down the opposite side of the river back to the trailhead with several bridges along the loop trail thus created.

It would be nice to have a couple water fountains. A sign at the end of the paved trail describing what is ahead on the gravel trail and the distances to the end.

Provide camping facilities at some point in the HFR trail system. the area is very convenient for a short drive to a very remote feeling area. Not a vehicle camp ground, but something requiring backpacking. And connect the north and south trails for through hiking.

Don't restrict access with/for dogs, please!!!

Personal favorite walk with accessibility (10 min. from our home) and unsurpassed beauty among reason we visit. BLM doing very good maintenance. Since we are not dog owners, many questions on survey are moot. Must say, personally a dog trotting along alone (no leash) makes me slightly nervous. Mrs. Mel Berning (56 year resident with husband, Mel)

Please add picnic tables or benches for sitting to the area past the paved trail.

Some written material about the area/simple trail map would have been nice.

Would like to see more interpretive signs and would like to see inside the train barn. Perhaps it could be open for a few hours on the weekend? Also, I hope that one of the purposes of this survey is NOT to change the "dog policy". Don't. It's working as it is. Leave the current rules in place.

The idea of improving the quality of the forest through thinning it sounds too much like a euphemism for allowing logging. Would it not be better to improve the quality of the forest by allowing it to develop as an ecosystem with minimal intrusion from humans? The wildness of the place is the most important thing to allow to proceed unconstrained by any attempts to control or "manage" it. Forestry is still a field that looks at trees as timber.

I want to go back and take my mother again. My brother told me that when he went the people were shady. I hope that isn't the case in the future. I thought it was beautiful.

Appears to be well maintained for this site was and for the funding it receives. Believe I've only seen 1 piece of modern litter. If I may suggest a warning of artifacts still on the property that may be harmful. Not everyone watches where their feet go. I have stepped over some saw blades, cables and rusty pipe. Just as a ""cover your tush"" policy.

Keep up the good work. Thanks.

I wish we had more time there, not your fault.

The BLM workers or volunteers were very knowledgeable about the area and its history. They were extremely friendly and most helpful. Thank you for a great experience! We will definitely return in the future. Our daughter attends HSU and we visit Arcata from time to time.

I would like to be able to take my dog with me to complete the whole trail. I would be interested to learn more about why bikes/dogs are not allowed on the trail after the large bridge past the 3 mile marker. I would be willing to keep my dog on a leash for that stretch of the trail. I love the head waters reserve and I hope that in the future there are more hiking/biking/running trails developed. I think the HFR managers do a great job keeping the area beautiful and pristine.

We enjoy the outdoors with our dog. We feel that it's very important to be able to take the dog outdoors. Too many places (outdoors) do not allow dogs and that's silly. When we pull up to a trail or park that does not allow dogs - we don't stay we leave immediately and don't come back, we find an alternative location that does allow dogs.

HFR is a great place for individuals, families and their dogs to enjoy that's close to town. In all of the times I've been there everyone I have encountered has been friendly including their dogs. The only problems have been car breaks in at the parking area. The BLM has done a great job maintaining and improving the area. More trails would be great. Thanks.

Possibly provide information at the TH regarding invasive species (plants and animals).

Ranger Clark is awesome! She is a great representative of the BLM and you can tell she really cares about her job. Also, I love the volunteer program you have started. Keep up the good work!

There's not a whole lot of people that know about (HWF), if people knew more about it they would love the location. Verry nice for those that have dogs also, because if people don't get out much there dogs probly don't either, and it shows. I love HWF

The dog poop in disturbs me. In nature dog poop gets quickly broken down by elements if off trail. I think putting poop on plastic to sit for years and fill up a landfill is a very bad idea. Don't really need to fill up landfills w/ plastic bags of degradable matter. HFR is a great place thank you for keeping it beautiful :-)

Survey too long! Put lane divider on trail like a road.

Thank you for taking such awesome care of our trail!! You are all amazing! Looking forward to bringing the little pup along when there's a leash ordinance in place, so excited for that day!
XO

1. The second bathroom needs to be open in the day time all week please. 2. Needs more garbage cans further back down the trail. 3. Train volunteers to prune bushes and trees correctly with a certified arborist. I saw a lot of tree that had ripped branches as if someone just slashed the brush or pulled on it instead of cutting correctly. That is sloppy.

Please check area for meth labs. On a prior visit (1999) there was one down by the creek. Could have used BLM manager number then.

Thank you. Take care.

I think the most interesting respect of the Headwaters holdings is that the public's access is quite limited. Something that gives the place's history I like. I haven't been in by the southern access, which I plan to do, but I think something other place's recent history could be mentioned - its significance in the battle with what happened to PALCO.

Get rid of dogs.

Hi Steve, Hi Dan. Keep up the good work and good luck to Dan on his thesis paper. I really haven't noticed much of a management presence at HFR by the BLM on my visits, don't know whether that's good or bad, but for some people who don't know much or want to know more on their visits would probably appreciate.

Is there any way to arrange better access to the old-growth redwoods, which sparked the preservation efforts? Buy easements to make a loop trail or shorter trail? Nice to be asked for my opinions - to be heard. Thanks and good luck. We'll try to visit again when we're in the area. In wheelchairs or using walkers by then? Good trail for that, at least the part we saw.

Why ask what your race is? What does that have to do with hiking? Regardless of education or race what ever happen to just plain fun with nature without labels. Knowing we're provided with free clean nature trails. I believe that's what keeps people coming back. -No fee- Gives use a sense of freedom. If you have to pay for every place you go, might as well stay home.

Good money management- -Volunteers-

I think a large majority of visitors come to walk their dogs. Also, I have never felt unsafe here however I would never hike here alone. Oh, and I'm never sure when the barn is open - maybe post a schedule? We happened upon it once when it was open and enjoyed it. Our son broke open an owl pellet. Please allow people to access the river @ a couple locations. We watched salmon swim upriver last year - really cool - maybe post signs so people know to look for them (we heard about it from a friend). Thank you!

I think it is a lovely place, and compared to other BLM access points, very well maintained and inviting. Well done.

The road to HFR almost was adequate to make us leave. Small, poorly marked, through people's properties; the circumstances were not encouraging. Upon arrival, we were quite pleased! Polite HFR visitors and well-behave dogs . The direction of this questionnaire seems to question dog regulations and expanding the park. Instead, try and solve the pitted trail of a route into HFR. Better pathway and labeling will increase legitimate usership. Where were the workers? We visited because it was a holiday, so do most people that would donate money.

Good work, keep it up!

The South Fork was beautifully restored, and seeing salmon swimming up it was amazing. I only wish that the North Fork could be restored to the same level of quality.

I like dogs, unfortunately, you don't see wildlife when there are dogs around, whether they are noisy or not. I see lots of dogs in the city; I don't need to see them in a park like this.

It was crowded in the parking lot, some people had to park on the side of the road. Saw mostly student at Barn. Barn person was very knowledgeable and friendly. Saw several families. A few bike riders, runners with dogs. Even the people with a pit bull (dogs I am usually very cautious about) the dog was well behaved and so was the owners. I would be extremely sad and would probably no longer go to HW if they had a NO DOG policy!

Please don't restrict dogs or put a leash law in effect. Most dog owners who come here are responsible and are looking for an interesting place to enjoy with their dogs. Instead, ban smoking and have a penalty for not cleaning up after your dog.

If more benches were provided I think more seniors would visit more often and explore farther - the 1st one is at the Quest trail and is a long way for me (and I'm sure others).

If you want more survey participants you might want to be a little more forward about it. we almost threw ourselves at the grad student working because we could tell he was doing

something worthwhile. we were both HSU students and support student work, of any kind. but if we didn't stop and ASK HIM what he was doing, theres no telling if we would have done this survey. otherwise, dan...good job! i hope all goes well for you. ;) oh, and question 12 on this survey has a flaw...you can't mark the same answer for dogs and people...check it out.

I would like an explanation why the largest part of the old growth forest is inaccessible. What are the plans for it?

HFR is a favorite walking destination for me and my family - there are, of course, various things that can improved upon but, overall, the trail is fantastic. The biggest concern for me is actually parking - never enough and some cars block exit areas. I also would appreciate the toilet facilities being cleaned more often with an additional small restroom placed further down the trail - possibly near the 3 mile bridge. I also did not like the placement of wood chips along the trail - it looked unnatural.

I was leery when I first arrived, as vehicles were pulling out of parking area. I was concerned about vandalism to my vehicles and personal safety. After being greeted by survey taker, I felt more comfortable in the area.

I am a frequent user/visitor to the woods. I try to be responsible. I am schooled in zero/low impact single track design. The HFR is a structured, maintained resource. I would rather ride in wild unmaintained country. HFR is a beautiful place to visit. I am always glad I was there. For the exercise and solitude I need to go elsewhere - and for a much greater distance. If it's BLM doing the job there at HFR - they're doing a good one.

I would love more mile marker signs 1.25, 1.5, 1.75 etc.

Great job on the management of the area. Keep up the good work. It's great to see so many people the area.

Items 14-18: Since we do not live in the area and it is unlikely that we will be visiting again anytime soon I choose not to answer most of those question. We enjoyed our visit and the personnel we came in contact with. Thank you

1.) Most history about the Falk town. 2.) In scale map of trails. 3.) Info regarding the old growth Redwoods within the Headwaters Reserve and their location i.e. DBH Range Height 4.)

More signage.

The HFR looks great! Keep up the good work.

Where were the managers!

Less ""management"" the better. Keep intrusions to minimum. Perhaps a quota of visitors carefully controlled to protect old growth forest values - old growth dependent species. Acquire a lot more land to buffer old growth!!

If I lived nearby and was retired - I would go there at least once a week in good weather.

Thank you. Jerry, Bloomington, IL

The history of the struggle to ""Save Headwaters"" would be great. Also, need to encourage the industry community to simply relax and enjoy it!

I mostly had a great experience.

We would love to see HFR acquire more surrounding land and make more hiking trails for the public enjoyment.

When trying to get to the lower entrance, the fork where you have to go right and over a small bridge, the sign for HFR is hidden by a bush and easy to miss. I would move the sign from the right side of the road to the left. If dogs were banned, I would not go back to HFR. If a leash were required I would go half as much. Currently, I like to let my dog run off his leash until I see a group of children and then I put him on so the kids/parents don't get scared (although my dog is friendly).

This is a vast expanse of land with incredible scenery, etc. It would be nice if a healthy balance between restoration/conservation and increased access for hiking, mountain biking, etc. could somehow be established. The south portion is essentially not accessible, except for a guided tour option. Seems like a great opportunity - but as it is now no one can use it - except as mentioned. Kudos to the trail crew who were working on the end of the trail. Great job! The work they had done looked great!

Purchase the hole that exists in the center to make the area reserve complete. Provide a couple of campgrounds for overnight use near the large trees and another in the stream or valley area. Bike trails over a large distance. Thanks.