



**CENTRAL
WASATCH
COMMISSION**

Central Wasatch Commission
Sandy City Council
Visitor Use Study Presentation
September 2024

A photograph of a forest of birch trees during autumn. The trees have white bark with dark lenticels and horizontal lenticels. The leaves are bright yellow, and the sky is a clear, bright blue. The ground is covered with fallen leaves and some rocks.

Visitor-Use Study

The purpose of this study is to explore how outdoor recreation use and its associated impacts can be quantified and monitored over time within the canyons.

Our goal is to establish a set of indicators that are collaboratively generated and grounded in the best-available science and reflect the unique needs and concerns of the diverse stakeholders and interest groups who use, manage, and depend on the canyons.

Visitor-Use Study in Millcreek, Big Cottonwood and Little Cottonwood Canyon, 21/22

- The total recreational visits by canyon.
- The total recreational visits to different types of sites within the canyons.
- The proportion of visits involving different outdoor recreation activities.
- The total time visitors to the canyons spend participating in different activities.
- The average number of times visitors recreate in the canyons each year.

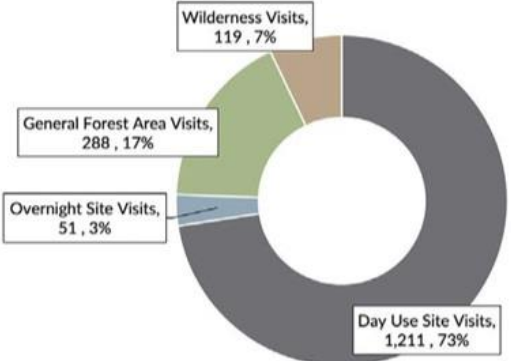


Visitor-Use Study in Millcreek, Big Cottonwood and Little Cottonwood Canyon, 21/22

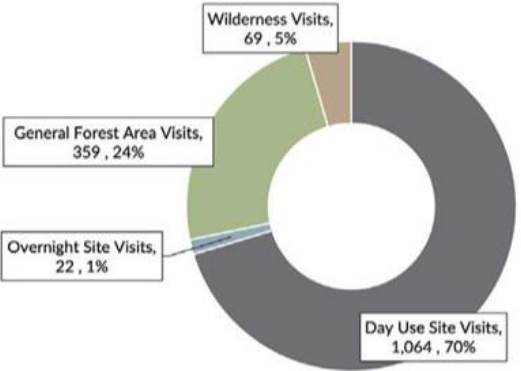
- Visitors' perceptions of crowding in the canyon.
- Visitors' overall satisfaction with their visits to the canyons.
- The importance and satisfaction with site-specific attributes of recreation settings.
- The distance traveled to recreate in the canyons.
- The sociodemographic characteristics of visitors to each of the canyons.

Visitation by Canyon, 21/22

BIG COTTONWOOD



LITTLE COTTONWOOD



Day Use Areas = Ski and picnic areas
Overnight Sites = Campgrounds, privately operated resort facilities on Forest Service lands
General Forest Areas = Undeveloped areas of the forest, excluding Congressionally designated Wilderness
Wilderness Areas = Congressionally designated Wilderness Areas

MILLCREEK

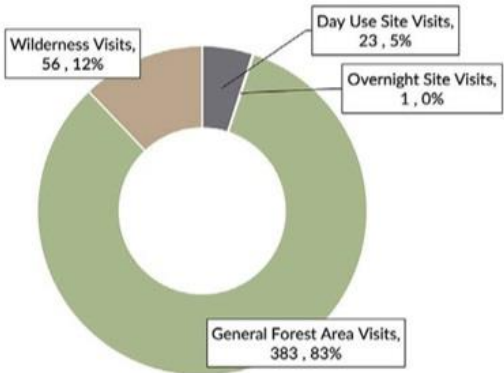


Figure 3
 Proportion of forest visits to different site types within each canyon of the Central Wasatch (thousands of visits; FY22)

Visitor-Use Study in Millcreek, Big Cottonwood and Little Cottonwood Canyon, 21/22

The survey effort does not quantify or characterize non-recreation visits. This includes employee travel, delivery services, etc. as well as all non-outdoor activities such as traveling to a resort solely for the purposes of visiting a restaurant. National forest lands within the canyons of the Central Wasatch receive roughly 3.2 million visits a year. In comparison, Arches National Park, which is nearly equal in size, receives roughly 1.8 million visitors per year.



The Environmental Dashboard

The Environmental Dashboard is a tool for the public, land managers, policy makers and technical users to learn about the historic and current environmental conditions of the Central Wasatch.

The Dashboard contains five environmental elements: air quality and climate, geology and soil, vegetation communities, water, and wildlife, and existing data for each element has been gathered and presented for public access. The Dashboard also has the visitor-use study data in the “human element.”

Access the Environmental Dashboard here:

<https://cwc.utah.gov/environmental-dashboard/>

Thank you. Questions?

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Visit our website for more information: cw.utah.gov



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