

Visitors Count!

Community Science about Outdoor Recreation on Public Lands



Do you hike, bike, hunt, or picnic outdoors in Washington? Did you know that information about outdoor recreation is critical for maintaining and advocating for recreational opportunities on public lands?

Outdoor enthusiasts are encouraged to submit data about their experiences at recreation sites on Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest in Washington. Along with partners from the [US Forest Service](#) and [American Mountain Guides Association](#), the [Outdoor R&D](#) Team is compiling knowledge from the outdoor community into maps and graphs that provide managers with an up-to-date picture of the demand for recreation opportunities across the National Forest. This is one way for your voice to be heard by recreation managers.

What data do I collect?

On-site observations are especially valuable for understanding which recreation sites are meeting visitors' needs, and which sites need improvements. For example, the number of

vehicles in the parking lot is easy data to collect during a visit and especially valuable. We would like your help collecting these data!

You can find a [detailed protocol here](#) and collect your data in the field using this [template data collection sheet](#). At each recreation site you visit, take a few moments to record the following information:

- date and time
- trail name (and trail number if possible)
- ranger district or area of the forest (eg Methow Valley or Wenatchee River)
- number of vehicles in the parking lot (and overflow area if there is one)
- status of signage, picnic facilities, fee box, restrooms, drinking water, trash, etc
- road condition
- mobile phone reception
- weather conditions
- other relevant notes, especially related to unusually high or low visitation

When and where should I collect data?

We are happy to receive data from *any* trailhead or other recreation site on *any* day!

How do I submit data?

We greatly appreciate your help collecting these data so we want to make it as easy as possible to share information. Please submit your data to [this online data submission form](#) from your phone, tablet, or computer. We also provide a [printable data collection sheet here](#) that can be used to record data while in the field and then entered into the online data submission form after your trip. Please submit one data form for each recreation site you collected data at.

Questions?

Visit our website <https://www.outdoorrd.org> or email Emmi Lia (emmilia@uw.edu) with any questions.

We are grateful for your help and thank you for the information that you send us!