



Trail Use Preferences

The following report describes trail-use preferences of Idaho resident and non-resident travelers for various kinds of outdoor recreation activities taking place in Idaho.

All travelers who completed a mailback questionnaire were asked:

“Where do you prefer to participate in the following kinds of recreation in Idaho? (Circle one response for each kind of recreation)”

Respondents evaluated ten different recreation activities—Motorbike riding, 4-wheeler (ATV) riding, 4-WD (Jeeps etc.) driving, Mountain biking, Hiking, Horseback riding, Snowmobiling, Cross-country skiing, Snowshoeing, and Running. Respondents indicated whether they engaged in an activity and their preference for trail based experiences.

Key Findings:

- Table 1 shows preferences for trail based recreation by resident travelers. The top three activities in which Idaho residents participate are hiking, 4-WD driving, and horseback riding (72%, 40%, and 36% respectively). For many of the activities, most Idaho residents prefer to have experiences that take place both on-trail and off-trail. The exceptions are for mountain biking, cross-country skiing, and running. The majority of Idaho residents prefer on-trail experiences with these activities. Snowshoeing had the largest proportion of responses for off-trail experiences.

Table 1. Preferences by Idaho Residents

Recreation Activity	Percent that participate in each activity	Trail preferences of those who participate		
		On-Trail	Off-Trail	Both
Motor bike riding	22%	27%	13%	60%
4-wheeler (ATV) riding	33%	26%	11%	63%
4-WD (Jeeps, etc.) driving	40%	47%	5%	48%
Mountain biking	34%	58%	4%	37%
Hiking	72%	39%	7%	54%
Horseback riding	36%	30%	7%	62%
Snowmobiling	29%	28%	9%	63%
Cross-country skiing	31%	53%	5%	42%
Snowshoeing	21%	22%	21%	57%
Running	29%	56%	2%	42%

- Table 2 shows preferences for trail based recreation by non-resident travelers. Non-residents differ from residents in the top three activities in which they participate. Hiking (56%) ranks first, followed by horseback riding (25%), mountain biking (20%) and cross-country skiing (20%). Most non-residents prefer to have both on-trail and off-trail experiences with motor bike riding, 4-wheeler riding, 4-WD driving, snowmobiling, and snowshoeing. Snowshoeing also had the largest proportion of responses for off-trail experiences. Activities with a majority of preferences for on-trail experiences exclusively were mountain biking, hiking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, and running.

Table 2. Preferences by Non-residents

Recreation Activity	Percent that participate in each activity	Trail preferences of those who participate		
		On-Trail	Off-Trail	Both
Motor bike riding	9%	35%	6%	60%
4-wheeler (ATV) riding	11%	23%	9%	67%
4-WD (Jeeps, etc.) driving	17%	44%	8%	48%
Mountain biking	20%	56%	6%	39%
Hiking	56%	59%	4%	37%
Horseback riding	25%	53%	7%	39%
Snowmobiling	17%	34%	13%	53%
Cross-country skiing	20%	50%	11%	39%
Snowshoeing	13%	35%	18%	47%
Running	15%	66%	2%	32%

- Table 3 shows preferences for trail based recreation by resident and non-resident travelers. The top three activities in which travelers participate are hiking, horseback riding, and 4-WD driving (66%, 32%, and 31% respectively) Most travelers prefer to have both on-trail and off-trail experiences with motor bike riding, 4-wheeler riding, 4-WD driving, hiking, horseback riding, snowmobiling, and snowshoeing. Activities with a majority of preferences for on-trail experiences exclusively were mountain biking, cross-country skiing, and running.

Table 3. Preferences by all travelers

Recreation Activity	Percent that participate in each activity	Trail preferences of those who participate		
		On-Trail	Off-Trail	Both
Motor bike riding	17%	29%	11%	60%
4-wheeler (ATV) riding	24%	26%	11%	64%
4-WD (Jeeps, etc.) driving	31%	46%	6%	48%
Mountain biking	29%	58%	5%	38%
Hiking	66%	46%	6%	48%
Horseback riding	32%	38%	7%	55%
Snowmobiling	25%	29%	10%	60%
Cross-country skiing	27%	52%	7%	42%
Snowshoeing	18%	26%	20%	54%
Running	23%	58%	2%	40%