8-5-2014

Visitor Support for Yellowstone National Park

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Visitor Support for Yellowstone National Park

Jake Jorgenson, M.S. and Norma P. Nickerson, Ph.D.

8/5/2014

A random sample was conducted on four visitor groups and their support to Yellowstone National Park.
Visitor Support for Yellowstone National Park

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Research Report 2014-13
August 5th, 2014

This study was supported by the Yellowstone Association, Yellowstone Park Foundation, and Xanterra Parks and Resorts

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Abstract

The purpose of this study is to assess the level of park support visitors have towards Yellowstone National Park. Because of budgetary cuts for public lands in the U.S., new methods and techniques are being explored to support management goals. Methods consisted of an online survey sent to four visitor groups: Yellowstone Association members, Yellowstone Park Foundation contributors and Facebook friends, Xanterra Parks and Resorts email listings, and the ITRR Panel. Results indicate a moderate level of support among all users, with joint members of the Yellowstone Association and Yellowstone Park Foundation showing the strongest support. Cognitive and behavioral influences were measured to best assess how to predict park support. Significant relationships were found between support and all constructs measured. Future studies should aim to further investigate why people support national parks and what influences their decisions.

Executive summary

Results show moderate support by all respondents to Yellowstone National Park. However, visitors who are part of both the Yellowstone Association and Yellowstone Park Foundation are stronger supporters with differing motivations, place attachment, activities, and high-impact memories.

- Twenty percent of all respondents resided in California or Montana, with Texas, Colorado, and Utah rounding out the top five in state residency. Respondents were generally well-educated with 35.4 percent holding a Bachelor’s degree and have an average household income of $100k-less than $150k (23.3%).
- Overall respondents possess a moderate level of park support with an average score of 2.7 out of 5.0. Future likelihood to support Yellowstone rose to roughly 3.3 out of 5.0, indicating optimism among respondents.
- Most visitors are moderately attached to Yellowstone National Park, but those respondents belonging to both YA and YPF are very attached. Results indicated that a higher degree of place attachment lead to an increase in park support.
- Strong geotouristic behaviors were observed amongst a smaller portion of respondents (10%) with a moderate rating amongst 70% of the respondents. High levels of geotouristic behaviors lead to a significant increase in both current and future park support.
- Activity typologies indicated that more active and engaging activities lead to higher degrees of park support. Wildlife watchers were shown as having the highest support followed by active participation. Passive participation showed the least park support.
- High-impact memories revealed a significant effect on park support. Respondents who had memories of Yellowstone that influenced their everyday lives and behaviors tended to have a high degree of park support.

In summary, respondents indicated a moderate level of support for Yellowstone, but strong support in a select group of individuals. Fostering public support towards America’s 1st national park will require targeted marketing and encouraging deeper engagement with the place. Building a connection between the visitor and Yellowstone is vital in ensuring strong visitor support to the park.
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Introduction

National parks across the U.S. have observed shifts in demographics, activity trends, and financial backing in recent years. Park budgets have seen cuts, threatening management goals. Furthermore, shifting demographics has pointed to a concern that public support of these protected and fragile lands may show a shortfall in coming years. Despite this concern, 2012 saw 283 million visitors at NPS sites in the United States (NPS, 2013). Conserving national parks for future generations while providing for current user groups is the main NPS mission, but financial and public support is critical to fulfilling their mission. In spite of the concerns, organizations and affiliate stakeholders look to new methods in order to supplement park objectives and introduce visitors to national parks. One such method is to call upon charitable giving, private fundraising, and targeting of new visitors.

Yellowstone National Park, America’s 1st national park is not immune from these concerns. In fact, understanding park visitors’ attitudes in behavior towards Yellowstone may provide a glimpse into the larger picture of protected area management. Because of its historical and cultural significance, Yellowstone National Park holds a unique place amongst U.S. and international travelers. The examination of park support is no better suited to begin than at Yellowstone. Prior to this study, a rigorous investigation into park support had not occurred in any U.S. national park. Our goal is to provide a baseline of information that can be used by managers and all associated stakeholders to best assess how to gauge public and private contributions to their park.

Purpose

The purpose of this study was to assess the level of park support visitors to Yellowstone National Park currently hold and their propensity for future actions. The sample population targeted was visitors who had been to Yellowstone National Park. Four user groups were initially sampled: Yellowstone Association (YA) members, Yellowstone Park Foundation (YPF) contributors and Facebook friends, The Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research’s (ITRR) online travel panel, and Xanterra Parks and Resorts email listings for 2014. Upon collection of data, it was found that a fifth group, members of the Yellowstone Association who also donate to the Yellowstone Park Foundation, needed to be segmented. In total 5 visitor groups were compiled for analysis. Cognitive and behavioral constructs such as place attachment, recreation involvement, geotourism, motivations, and autobiographical memories were measured and treated as prior influences which lead to park support. Finally, a complete model containing the cognitive and behavioral constructs’ influence on visitor support to Yellowstone National Park and its associated organizations was developed.

Cognitive and Behavioral Concepts Used

The base constructs of place attachment, recreation involvement, motivations, geotourism, and autobiographical memories need to be explained prior to delving into methodology. All concepts except
autobiographical memory, which resides in psychology and in a very limited number of tourism articles, have been commonly used in outdoor recreation and tourism literature. Therefore, this study drew on cross-disciplinary ideas to best understand park support and the visitor experience.

**Place Attachment**

Place attachment is an “affective bond or link between people and specific places (Hidalgo & Hernandez, 2001, p. 274).” People have been shown to form a connection to locations which is integral to not only revisiting the destination, but also towards their support of management actions. Place attachment is typically studied through two dimensions: place dependence and place identity (Stokols & Shumaker, 1981; Williams & Roggenbuck, 1989). Place dependence is defined as “the importance a person attaches to the place because of what the setting symbolizes or stands for (Williams & Roggenbuck, 1989, p.20).” Using place attachment, insights are gained regarding people’s attachment to destinations, the place’s substitutability, and its personal importance.

**Recreation Involvement**

Recreation, or activity, involvement relates to the level of centrality a leisure activity has in a person’s life (Lee, 2011). Kyle, Graefe, Manning, & Bacon (2003) state that activity involvement is a “widely studied construct in the leisure literature to address personal relevance (p.252).” Adapted from business literature, recreation involvement is defined as “an unobservable state of motivation, arousal or interest toward a recreational activity or associated product. It is evoked by a particular stimulus or situation and has drive properties (Kapferer & Laurent, p. 49; adapted from Rothschild, 1984).” Recreation involvement is considered multi-faceted containing three dimensions: attraction, self-expression, and centrality to lifestyle (McIntyre & Pigram, 1992; Kyle et al., 2003). *Attraction* is a “combination of importance and pleasure” (Kyle et al., 2003, p. 252). *Self-expression* relates to the way an individual presents oneself through the activity. *Centrality* represents how meaningful and close the activity is to the participant’s lifestyle.

**Geotourism**

Not to be confused with tourism revolving around geology, geotourism was developed by National Geographic in the late 1990’s. A form of sustainable tourism, geotourism is defined as: “...tourism that sustains or enhances the geographical character of a place its environment, heritage, aesthetics, culture and well-being of its residents (Stokes, Cook, & Drew, 2003, p. 1).” Geotourism aims not only to preserve the environmental, social, and economic aspects of a destination, but also to further protect its authenticity. Historical activities and local characteristics are embraced and become a part of the traveler’s experience. Hence, geotouristic behaviors include seeking out locally owned accommodations, visiting national parks or museums, and participating in eco-friendly behaviors (e.g. recycling), among many more. Assessing visitors’ behaviors has led to segmentation where visitors are placed on a continuum depending on their level of participation in such actions (Boley, 2009; Boley, Nickerson, and Bosak, 2011; Boyle and Nickerson, 2010).
Visitor Motivations

Beginning in the 1960's, outdoor recreation scholars recognized the need to understand why people recreate in conjunction with activity participation and socio-economic demographics (Driver & Tocher, 1970; Manfredo, Driver, & Tarrant, 1996; Manning, 2011). The Recreation Experience Preference (REP) scale was developed and tested for use in outdoor recreation and travel as a method to measure motivations. Since then, the REP scale has been found to consistently explain the drivers behind traveling and/or recreating. Within the scale are various dimensions of motivation including: to enjoy nature, to get away from the demands of everyday life, and to spend time with family.

Autobiographical Memory

Derived from social and cognitive psychology, autobiographical memory is a form of long-term memory that’s highly subjective to the individual. They are essentially memories specific to a person’s life from events or situations (Conway, 2005; Pillemer, 2003). For instance, if a person was asked to explain their life story, autobiographical memories of events and situations are used to tell the tale. Used in research on PTSD, traumatic events, and childhood experiences, the event can be evaluated for vividness of the memory and the impact it has on the person. Autobiographical memory contains three primary functions: directive (used to make decisions), continuity of the self (tells the life story), and a social function (social bonds through storytelling). Studies show that autobiographical memories have positive effects on willingness-to-donate to alumni associations at a university (Kuwabara & Pillemer, 2010). Participants who were simply asked to state a memory of their experience at the university, either positive or negative, had increase in their donation amount compared to those who weren’t asked for a memory. Using the Autobiographical Memory Questionnaire (AMQ), researchers identify key memories and assess how they can affect behavior in individuals (Fitzgerald & Broadbridge, 2013).

Methods

This study utilized an online methodology to best assess park support. Prior to data collection, the Yellowstone Association, Yellowstone Park Foundation, and Xanterra Parks and Resorts were contacted to inquire about their willingness to participate. After contacting all organizations, email listings were found to be the most efficient means to contact all possible visitors and/or members/contributors to the organization. An email invitation was sent out to Yellowstone Association member list, Yellowstone Park Foundation contributors, and Xanterra Parks and Resorts reservation listing for 2014. ITRR’s online travel panel utilizes registered members who have agreed to participate in various travel studies throughout the year. Panel members are visitors who were intercepted within Montana or have shown interest to visit in the future. Furthermore, YPF’s Facebook users were invited to participate in the study. Because these users were not guaranteed to have donated to YPF despite their interest in the organization, all Facebook respondents’ data was combined with ITRR’s nonresident panel members’ if they were not YA members or donors to YPF. This group best represents an unbiased sample of a traveler who has been to Yellowstone. The ITRR Panel/YPF Facebook grouping were not expected to have any higher likelihood of supporting the park than the general public who has been to the park, albeit having an interest in travel research and YPF’s Facebook page. An incentive of 15% off
the Xanterra online store and being entered in a drawing for a YNP lodging/gift package was offered to
increase overall response rate.

In total, 2,854 responses were completed and submitted via ITRR’s online survey software. Of
those completed, 690 were from Xanterra’s reservations, 500 were contributors only to YPF, 469 were
only members of YA, 544 were both YA members and YPF contributors, and 651 were from ITRR’s
nonresident travel panel or YPF’s Facebook users. YPF Facebook members were grouped with the ITRR
Panel because of their indication that they had not donated to YPF or purchased a YA membership
despite their inclusion in that specific dataset. These groups are used to present nearly all results in the
following section. No follow-up messages or emails were sent out for more responses. Response rate is
difficult to calculate as emails may not have been opened or received by the respondent. In addition,
there is no control over the number who could complete the survey when they saw it on Facebook.
Therefore, an accurate response rate is not provided.

Survey design

Questionnaire design occurred in a step-wise fashion. First, the park support variable was
operationalized and constructed. Because of its novelty, there were no preexisting studies to reference
its measurement. The researchers chose to measure park support through two dimensions: direct and
indirect behaviors. Direct support relates to actions that observably benefit the park in some way
including: donations to YPF, becoming a YA member, volunteering time at Yellowstone, and spending
nights within park boundaries (either in campgrounds or lodging). Indirect measures include actions less
tangibly measured such as bringing new visitors to Yellowstone, sharing personal Yellowstone
experiences with others, visiting Yellowstone’s Facebook page, and spending nights in gateway
communities. Thus, respondents could support Yellowstone through means that were separate from
financial contributions and may be able to participate in a variety of behaviors.

All other concepts used are from previous literature and ITRR studies. Research has tested each
scale for reliability and validated their uses. The scales were adapted to fit Yellowstone National Park
visitors. The majority of questions were measured using quantitative scales where respondents selected
their level of agreement or opinion on the statement. Comment boxes were provided for qualitative
data such as their first memory that came to mind of Yellowstone National Park.

Limitations

Like all studies, limitations need to be acknowledged. First, only respondents who had been to
Yellowstone National Park at least one time were used for this analysis. Those who had not been to
Yellowstone were not allowed to answer questions regarding Yellowstone and were routed to a
separate survey about their favorite national park. These data have not been analyzed nor incorporated
in this report. Secondly, there is an inherent bias in the YA members, YPF contributors, and Xanterra
reservation listings. These respondents have already shown some form of interest or support to
Yellowstone National Park. However, this bias was acknowledged before data collection and is
embraced. Finally, the response rate for this study is somewhat low, despite the inability to obtain an
accurate figure. Online surveys are oftentimes plagued with low response rates, which is the case here.
However, most studies see response rates hovering around 10% which is considered acceptable.
Therefore, results may not be completely generalizable, but still represent a large portion of users.
Results

Results for demographics, park support, and all five cognitive constructs are presented in this section. Demographics including age, education, household income, and respondent residency are displayed first. Following demographics, park support measures are described and presented. Place attachment, recreation involvement, geotourism behaviors, motivations, and autobiographical memory results follow park support and are then linked into a model predicting support. Finally, results related to YPF donations and YA memberships are presented with willingness-to-pay for activities following. Throughout the report, respondents are grouped into the five samples of email generated lists and are referred to as visitor “groups”. Group comparisons are conducted throughout the report to better understand if differences exist in means or proportions. Thus, five groups (YA only, YPF Only, YA and YPF joint members, Xanterra, and ITRR Panel/YPF Facebook) and an overall mean for all respondents are displayed on most tables and figures. Furthermore, respondents were segmented based on other indicators including degree of park support, participation in geotouristic behaviors, and impact of autobiographical memories. Segment comparisons are presented throughout each subsection.

Brief overviews of the statistical analysis techniques are provided. The three primary analyses conducted are One-Way (or Multiple) Analysis of Variances (ANOVAs or MANOVAs), Regression modeling, and chi-square tests of homogeneity.

A One-Way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) test compares group means for a specific variable. An ANOVA test indicates whether the group means of a particular variable are the same or significantly different from one another. For instance, an ANOVA test is conducted on the overall support score mean based on the five groups. The test indicates whether there are differences in mean support score depending on which group the respondent belongs. The alpha level or p-value (generally depicted as “significant differences at the .05 or .001 level”) displays the level of confidence in the differences found. A p-value of .05 indicates that we are 95% confident that differences in group means are not due to random chance. In general, a p-value of .05 is required to state that there are significant differences found between group means. Otherwise group means above a p-value of .05 are considered equal and not statistically different.

Regression modeling is used to test whether one variable can predict another, or if a set of variables can predict a single variable. In our case, the variable we wish to predict is park support. Therefore, the variables used to try and predict park support come from the five other concepts measured (place attachment, recreation involvement, etc.). The ultimate goal in this case of linear regression modeling is to test to what degree responses to the five cognitive and behavioral constructs predict current and future park support by Yellowstone visitors.

Finally, a chi-square test of homogeneity is used to analyze variables that have categorical responses. Since some variables such as education and income were measured using pre-defined categories, we cannot obtain a true mean. A chi-square test of homogeneity measures whether there are significant differences in the proportions of respondents in each category based on their group membership. For instance, a chi-square alpha level of .05 on household income based on the five groups would indicate with 95% confidence that there is a different distribution of responses dependent on the group.
Demographics & Trip Characteristics

Figure 1 displays the mean age of respondents separated by group. YPF and YA joint members are the oldest group of respondents (60.14 years old), followed by YA only members (58.37 years old), and YPF only contributors (56.38 years old). The youngest group of respondents is the Xanterra group at 52.69 years of age. Overall respondent age is 56.21 years old, which is similar amongst general tourism studies.

Table 1: Highest level of completed education by group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education level*</th>
<th>Xanterra</th>
<th>YPF only</th>
<th>YA only</th>
<th>ITRR Panel</th>
<th>YPF and YA</th>
<th>Overall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Some high school</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school diploma or equivalent</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some college</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associates degree</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s degree</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master’s degree</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctorate or professional degree</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Chi-square test of homogeneity indicates significant differences between sample proportions at .05 level.

Overall the sample population is well-educated with 35.4% of respondents completing a Bachelor’s degree and 38.7% of respondents completing a post-graduate level degree (Table 1). A chi-square test of the proportions of education level indicates differences among groups. Therefore, there is not an identical breakdown of education levels between samples. The ITRR Panel/YPF Facebook group appears to have a lower distribution of education, particularly in the post-graduate category.
### Table 2: Household income by group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household Income*</th>
<th>Xanterra</th>
<th>YPF only</th>
<th>YA only</th>
<th>ITRR Panel/YPF FB</th>
<th>YPF and YA</th>
<th>Overall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under $25k</td>
<td>3.80%</td>
<td>2.40%</td>
<td>3.30%</td>
<td>7.40%</td>
<td>1.60%</td>
<td>3.90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$25k to less than $50k</td>
<td>11.70%</td>
<td>13.40%</td>
<td>12.10%</td>
<td>19.00%</td>
<td>9.00%</td>
<td>13.20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$50k to less than $75k</td>
<td>19.20%</td>
<td>14.10%</td>
<td>19.30%</td>
<td>26.10%</td>
<td>17.90%</td>
<td>19.70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$75k to less than $100k</td>
<td>24.00%</td>
<td>22.70%</td>
<td>21.00%</td>
<td>17.50%</td>
<td>20.80%</td>
<td>21.20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$100k to less than $150k</td>
<td>23.70%</td>
<td>22.90%</td>
<td>23.50%</td>
<td>19.90%</td>
<td>27.10%</td>
<td>23.30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$150k to less than $200k</td>
<td>9.10%</td>
<td>12.80%</td>
<td>10.50%</td>
<td>5.20%</td>
<td>10.00%</td>
<td>9.30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$200k or greater</td>
<td>8.50%</td>
<td>11.70%</td>
<td>10.30%</td>
<td>4.90%</td>
<td>13.60%</td>
<td>9.50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Chi-square test of homogeneity indicates significant differences between row proportions.

The highest overall percentage of income is $100k to less than $150k, somewhat higher than the national average of roughly $51,000 (U.S. Census, 2013) (Table 2). Over 60% of respondents have an income of $50k to less than $150k, with nearly equal distributions on either end. Again, a chi-square test of the proportions of household income indicates significant differences between groups. The ITRR panel/YPF Facebook page group tends to have a significantly lower proportion of respondents in the upper echelons of household income.

### Figure 2: Gender proportions by group

*Chi-square test of homogeneity indicates no differences of gender proportions at .05 level.

In Figure 2, gender shows that more females responded to the survey than males with a 55.5% overall female total. A chi-square test of row proportions did not indicate any differences between groups as most of them were just slightly different with the majority being females. YA only respondents
saw the highest proportion of females with 59.8%. However, this is not significantly different from any other group. Thus, it appears that females outweigh males in the overall sample population, but only slightly.

Table 3: Respondents' residency

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>2747</td>
<td>96.30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>1.50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>2.20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In terms of residency, the United States is home to 96.3% of respondents. Canada represented 1.5% of respondents with international countries seeing 2.2% of the share. This is not surprising, but may indicate possibilities to engage international visitors to support Yellowstone. However, this may be extremely difficult as it could be a 'once-in-a-lifetime' trip for most.

Figure 3: State residency of respondents

Of those respondents from the United States, nearly 20% are from Montana (10.6%) and California (9.0%) combined (Figure 3). Texas (5.1%), Colorado (5.0%), and Washington (4.7%) complete the top five states in respondents’ residency. All 50 states including the District of Columbia are
represented, indicating a diverse sample. The ITRR panel/YPF Facebook group had the highest number of respondents living in Montana with 25%, while all other groups were under 10%. Besides the ITRR Panel/YPF Facebook group, all others tended to be much more evenly distributed across the country with California taking the largest share of residency.

Table 4: Number of previous visits to Yellowstone National Park

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>1 Time</th>
<th>2-5 Times</th>
<th>6-10 Times</th>
<th>11-20 Times</th>
<th>21-50 Times</th>
<th>50+ Times</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Xanterra (n=690)</td>
<td>36.2%</td>
<td>32.9%</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YPF only (n=500)</td>
<td>19.8%</td>
<td>37.4%</td>
<td>14.4%</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YA only (n=469)</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
<td>33.7%</td>
<td>14.1%</td>
<td>12.6%</td>
<td>10.9%</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITRR Panel/YPF FB (n=651)</td>
<td>24.1%</td>
<td>34.9%</td>
<td>13.4%</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YPF and YA (n=544)</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
<td>25.2%</td>
<td>19.3%</td>
<td>18.8%</td>
<td>16.9%</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall (n=2,854)</td>
<td>22.6%</td>
<td>32.8%</td>
<td>13.8%</td>
<td>11.8%</td>
<td>10.8%</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Chi-square test of homogeneity indicates significant differences at .05 level.

Visitors were asked to state how many times in their adult lifetime they have been to Yellowstone National Park. In total, the highest percentage of visits lies in the range of 2-5 times (32.8%). Twenty-three percent of respondents stated they had visited the park only once, the 2nd highest selection. YPF and YA joint respondents have the most prior visits with 18% visiting 11-20 times, 16.9% visiting 21-50 times and 11.4% visiting 50+ times. This indicates that people who support both organizations are very frequent visitors and visit much more often than most other samples, especially more than those in the Xanterra grouping. In fact, a chi-square test of homogeneity indicated significant differences between group proportions and number of visits to Yellowstone at the .05 level.

Finally, the year of the most recent visit was asked of respondents. YA only respondents had the most recent average visit arriving in 2012, followed by YPF and YA (2011-2012), YPF only (2011), Xanterra (2010), and ITRR Panel/YPF Facebook (2009). Overall, 2011, or three years ago, was the average year of respondents’ last visit.

**Park Support**

Park support was measured not only directly and indirectly, but also in relation to current support and future likelihood to support Yellowstone. The results first depict how often respondents support the park (behavior) followed by their likelihood to do so in the future (intention). In total, 10 variables were used to gauge park support. Further, a summated park support score was constructed and used for analysis purposes throughout the report. These summated park support scores serve as response variables in the regression model used to assess the five cognitive and behavioral construct’s relationship with support.

**Current Park Support**

Respondents were asked to rate their level of participation with the following park support statements. Current park support of Yellowstone was measured on a 5-point scale with 1 = 'Not at all' to 5 = 'All the time'. A mean score represents how often they currently participate in the behavior.
Table 5: Current park support variables by group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>&quot;How often do you...&quot;</th>
<th>Xanterra</th>
<th>YPF only</th>
<th>YA only</th>
<th>ITRR Panel/YPF FB</th>
<th>YPF and YA</th>
<th>Overall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Share (talk about) experience in Yellowstone with others?*</td>
<td>4.03</td>
<td>4.27</td>
<td>4.26</td>
<td>3.93</td>
<td>4.48</td>
<td>4.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Become a member of YA?*</td>
<td>1.75</td>
<td>2.94</td>
<td>4.63</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4.68</td>
<td>3.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spend nights in lodging facilities in YNP?*</td>
<td>2.71</td>
<td>3.32</td>
<td>3.07</td>
<td>2.58</td>
<td>3.71</td>
<td>3.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spend nights in gateway communities outside of YNP?*</td>
<td>2.54</td>
<td>2.97</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>3.33</td>
<td>3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donate money to other conservation organizations?*</td>
<td>2.45</td>
<td>3.28</td>
<td>3.11</td>
<td>2.49</td>
<td>3.78</td>
<td>2.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donate money to YPF?*</td>
<td>1.79</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>2.63</td>
<td>1.82</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>2.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bring visitors to Yellowstone who have never been before?*</td>
<td>2.46</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>2.48</td>
<td>2.41</td>
<td>2.78</td>
<td>2.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spend nights camping in YNP?*</td>
<td>2.52</td>
<td>2.08</td>
<td>2.17</td>
<td>2.26</td>
<td>2.28</td>
<td>2.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visit YNP’s Facebook page?*</td>
<td>1.76</td>
<td>2.35</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>2.51</td>
<td>2.45</td>
<td>2.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer time with YNP?</td>
<td>1.22</td>
<td>1.42</td>
<td>1.37</td>
<td>1.38</td>
<td>1.56</td>
<td>1.38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*ANOVA test of differences of group means indicates significant difference at .001 level.
Scale: 1 = 'Not at all' to 5 = 'All the time'

The above Table 5 indicates the mean level of participation in current support behaviors. "Share (talk about) experiences in Yellowstone with others" is rated as the most common behavior (4.18), followed by "become a member of the Yellowstone Association (3.05)", "spend nights in lodging facilities in YNP (2.76)", and "donate money to other conservation organizations (2.97)". The least participated in behavior is "volunteer[ing] time with YNP" which only received a mean score of 1.38. An ANOVA test indicated that there are significant differences in the mean ratings of all support variables between groups. Specifically, the YPF and YA joint members tended to have a significantly higher participation on most support variables than the Xanterra and ITRR Panel/YPF FB group. Furthermore, there were significant differences between the YPF only and YA only groups and the ITRR Panel/YPF FB and Xanterra groups. This may not be surprising as it was recognized that there was an inherent bias in those respondents who had already stated interest in Yellowstone organizations.
Figure 4 specifies group means of the summated current park support score. The 10 variables in Table 5 were added together and assigned a total score to each case. Therefore, each respondent had a maximum value of 50 if they participated in each behavior ‘all the time’. The average overall current support score is 27.37, which is around a 2.7 average response on a 5-point scale. YPF and YA joint members currently support the park significantly more often than any other grouping with a mean score of 33.30, followed by the YA only group (29.08), YPF only group (28.84), and the ITRR Panel/YPF Facebook group (24.42). The Xanterra Parks and Resorts group had the lowest current support score (23.19). Furthermore, the ANOVA test of group means indicated significant differences between samples at the .001 level. Therefore, the YPF and YA joint members have a significantly higher support score than all other samples. In fact, only the YA only and YPF only groups had statistically equal means.

Likelihood for Future Support

Similar to current park support, respondents were asked to select how likely in the future they are to contribute to Yellowstone. Respondents rated their level of likelihood to carry out the behavior in the future on a 5-point scale with 1 = 'Not at all likely' to 5 = 'Very likely'. A summated likelihood score was calculated in the same manner as the current park support score.
The likelihood support variables show a different story than current support (Table 6). "Share (talk about) experiences in Yellowstone with others" is shown as the most likely behavior (4.33), followed by "spend nights in lodging facilities in YNP (3.67)"; "bring visitors to Yellowstone who have never been before (3.50)"; and "spend nights in gateway communities of YNP (3.40)". The least likely behavior is "volunteer[ing] time with YNP (2.20)". Respondents are optimistic in their likelihood to support Yellowstone in the future. An ANOVA test indicated significant differences in group means in all behaviors at the .001 level except for bringing new visitors to Yellowstone. Again, the YPF and YA joint members appear to have a higher likelihood to support the park than the Xanterra and ITRR Panel/YPF FB groups. The YPF only and YA only groups have very similar mean likelihoods, but differ from the Xanterra/Panel/YPF FB groups in many behaviors.

Figure 5: Average future likelihood support by group

Park Support Score range = 10 to 50
*ANOVA test indicates significant differences in group means at the .001 level.
The summated likelihood support scores indicate similar results in terms of group comparisons. Visitors are optimistic that they will support the park in the future with a mean score of 32.28 (Figure 5). This shows an increase in overall support of 4.91 points. Furthermore, YPF and YA joint members are the most likely supporters (36.55), followed by YA only (33.81), and YPF only (33.33). An ANOVA test revealed significant differences between group means at the .001 level. The optimism is promising for Yellowstone and its supporting organizations, but there is no telling whether their behavior will follow. The graph below displays the comparison of current park support scores and future likelihood scores.

**Figure 6: Comparing current support vs. future support**

The respondents’ optimism to support Yellowstone is visually displayed above (Figure 6). Each group had an increase between 4 and 6 points from current to future support. Therefore, it cannot be assumed that the results will prove true over time as intention at times does not match behavior. Use of targeted marketing efforts may sway these users to increase their support with some help of the organizations.

The following section presents the results for the variables on the five behavioral and cognitive concepts. Support scores for segments constructed based on responses to the variables within each concept are displayed throughout the report.
Cognitive and Behavioral Constructs

The cognitive and behavioral constructs measured are displayed throughout this section. The first construct presented is place attachment.

Place Attachment

Since place attachment is defined as an affective bond or connection between a person and a place, 8 statement variables from previous literature (Kyle et al. 2003) were selected to best capture how attached respondents are to Yellowstone. Four variables measure place identity and four measure place dependence. Respondents were asked to state their level of agreement with the 8 statements where 1 = ‘Strongly disagree’ to 5 = ‘Strongly agree’. The first dimension of place attachment is place identity, or how strongly a person identifies with the park.

Table 7: Place identity variables by group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place Identity Variables</th>
<th>Xanterra</th>
<th>YPF only</th>
<th>YA only</th>
<th>ITRR Panel / YPF FB</th>
<th>YPF and YA</th>
<th>Overall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yellowstone means a lot to me.*</td>
<td>4.42</td>
<td>4.75</td>
<td>4.75</td>
<td>4.51</td>
<td>4.85</td>
<td>4.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am very attached to Yellowstone National Park.*</td>
<td>4.03</td>
<td>4.57</td>
<td>4.51</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>4.74</td>
<td>4.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I identify strongly with Yellowstone National Park.*</td>
<td>3.86</td>
<td>4.37</td>
<td>4.34</td>
<td>4.01</td>
<td>4.59</td>
<td>4.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have a special connection to Yellowstone.*</td>
<td>3.76</td>
<td>4.37</td>
<td>4.34</td>
<td>3.93</td>
<td>4.47</td>
<td>4.14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*ANOVA test indicates significant differences in group means at the .001 level
Scale: 1 = ‘Strongly disagree’ to 5 = ‘Strongly agree’

The highest rated statement in the place identity dimension is “Yellowstone means a lot to me (4.63).” All variables have a mean agreement of at least 4.00, which indicates a high level of place identity (Table 7). Therefore, it appears that the respondents feel that Yellowstone has personal importance to them. However, there are significant differences between all four variables and the samples indicated by the ANOVA test. YPF and YA, similar to park support, have the highest level of place identity among all groups and is significantly higher than Xanterra and ITRR Panel/YPF Facebook groups in all 4 variables, and higher than YA only and YPF only in 2 variables. YPF only respondents have the second highest rating and do not significantly differ from YA only members in any variable. Xanterra respondents appear to have the lowest attachment in the place identity dimension than any other group and significantly differ from all others.
**Table 8: Place dependence variables by group**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place Dependence Variables</th>
<th>Xanterra</th>
<th>YPF only</th>
<th>YA only</th>
<th>ITRR Panel/YPF FB</th>
<th>YPF and YA</th>
<th>Overall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I enjoy visiting Yellowstone National Park more than any other place.*</td>
<td>3.13</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>3.47</td>
<td>3.26</td>
<td>3.87</td>
<td>3.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I get more satisfaction out of visiting Yellowstone National park than any other place.*</td>
<td>2.98</td>
<td>3.58</td>
<td>3.29</td>
<td>3.12</td>
<td>3.72</td>
<td>3.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visiting Yellowstone is more important than visiting any other place.*</td>
<td>2.67</td>
<td>3.14</td>
<td>3.14</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>3.37</td>
<td>2.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I cannot substitute other places for the experience I get in Yellowstone.*</td>
<td>3.05</td>
<td>3.36</td>
<td>3.36</td>
<td>2.99</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>3.17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*ANOVA test indicates differences in group means at the .001 level. Scale: 1 = ‘Strongly disagree’ to 5 = ‘Strongly agree’*

Table 8 displays a lower level of place dependence for Yellowstone than place identity. Respondents were less inclined across all groups to agree that they are dependent on Yellowstone for their experience. The highest rated statement is "I enjoy visiting Yellowstone National Park more than any other place" with a mean of 3.46, but no variables were over a 4.0 agreement. However, an ANOVA test indicated significant differences in group means at the .001 level. It appears that YPF and YA joint members have a higher place dependence than all other groups, with YPF only respondents second. YPF only respondents generally had a significantly higher mean than YA only members, but only in two variables. Xanterra and ITRR Panel/YPF Facebook groups did not significantly differ in any variables, and had the lowest mean responses out of all groups. It is telling that visitors do not see Yellowstone as a place they depend on for their experience, but do place a high degree of importance on it.

Overall, respondents place a high degree of personal importance on Yellowstone National Park, but do not strongly depend on it for their experience. The YPF and YA joint members are attached more so than any other group, but YPF only and YA only respondents are closely behind. Xanterra respondents appear to be least attached out of all groups sampled.

**Activity Participation and Recreation Involvement**

Respondents were first asked to choose a primary activity they felt was most important to them while in Yellowstone. Out of nearly 20 activities, respondents could only select one to represent their primary activity. After selecting a primary activity, 8 recreation involvement statements followed in regards to that activity selected. Each statement was measured on a 5-point scale where 1 = "Strongly disagree" to 5 = "Strongly agree". Activities with less than 1% of respondents selecting as their primary activity were not included in the analysis.
Table 9: Activity participation in Yellowstone

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary Activities (in %)</th>
<th>Xanterra</th>
<th>YPF only</th>
<th>YA only</th>
<th>ITRR Panel / YPF FB</th>
<th>YPF and YA</th>
<th>Overall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scenic Driving/Scenic Viewing</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viewing geysers/geothermal areas</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hiking</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature Photography</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Wildlife Watching</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wolf Watching</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bear Watching</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature study (e.g. geology history ecology etc.)</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>0.40%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backcountry Camping</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car/RV Camping</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>0.40%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XC skiing/Snowshoeing</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Activity participation indicates scenic driving or scenic viewing as most popular among all visitor groups (23%), except for YA only respondents (22% hiking) (Table 9). Viewing geysers/geothermal is second overall (16.5%) followed by hiking (16%). YPF and YA saw a +5.6% difference in wolf watching, compared to the overall proportion (6%), and similar results in fishing (+2.6%). YPF only members were more inclined to select nature photography than the overall total (+3.3%), while Xanterra’s respondents were 3.5% under the mean. Generally, the ITRR Panel / YPF Facebook sample was more inclined to participate in activities requiring less physical involvement such as scenic driving/viewing, viewing geysers/geothermal, and nature photography. YA only members tended to be more active with hiking as their dominant activity, but also participated in passive activities.

While respondents were allowed to be specific in their wildlife watching down to the species of bears and wolves, if the three wildlife watching variables were combined (bear, wolf, and other wildlife watching), it is evident that wildlife watching in general is a primary activity. Wildlife watching for YPF and YA joint members would become the highest primary activity at 22% while with YA only members (21%) and YPF only members (18%) it becomes the second highest primary activity. Overall, respondents indicated wildlife watching activities of 18 percent placing it at second highest activity behind scenic driving/scenic viewing.

Once respondents selected their primary activity in Yellowstone, they rated their agreement to the following questions with 1 = "Strongly disagree" to 5 = "Strongly agree". While respondents thought about their favorite activity (scenic driving, hiking, etc.), Figure 7 displays their responses, but only with the words "my favorite activity" inserted so as to provide a synopsis of the overall sentiment.
Visitor Support for Yellowstone National Park | 2014

Figure 7: Recreation involvement by groups - 1st statements

Recreation Involvement by Groups 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Xanterra</th>
<th>YPF only</th>
<th>YA only</th>
<th>ITRR Panel/YPF FB</th>
<th>YPF and YA</th>
<th>Overall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. When I participate in my favorite activity I can really be myself.</td>
<td>4.15</td>
<td>4.26</td>
<td>4.35</td>
<td>4.42</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>4.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. You can tell a lot about a person seeing them participating in my favorite activity.</td>
<td>3.42</td>
<td>2.61</td>
<td>3.63</td>
<td>3.58</td>
<td>3.65</td>
<td>3.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. When I participate in my favorite activity others see me the way I want them to see me.</td>
<td>4.27</td>
<td>4.35</td>
<td>4.31</td>
<td>4.35</td>
<td>4.57</td>
<td>4.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. My favorite activity is important to me.</td>
<td>4.57</td>
<td>4.57</td>
<td>4.57</td>
<td>4.57</td>
<td>4.57</td>
<td>4.57</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Scale: 1 = ‘Strongly disagree’ to 5 = ‘Strongly agree’

Figure 8: Recreation involvement by group - 2nd statements

Recreation Involvement by Groups 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Xanterra</th>
<th>YPF only</th>
<th>YA only</th>
<th>ITRR Panel/YPF FB</th>
<th>YPF and YA</th>
<th>Overall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Participating in my favorite activity is one of the most enjoyable things I do.</td>
<td>3.98</td>
<td>4.28</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>4.14</td>
<td>4.41</td>
<td>4.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. I find a lot of my life is organized around my favorite activity.</td>
<td>2.69</td>
<td>3.22</td>
<td>3.05</td>
<td>3.51</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>2.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Participating in my favorite activity has a central role in my life.</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>3.02</td>
<td>3.51</td>
<td>3.36</td>
<td>3.17</td>
<td>3.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. I find a lot of my life is organized around similar activities.</td>
<td>4.41</td>
<td>3.53</td>
<td>3.53</td>
<td>3.53</td>
<td>3.53</td>
<td>3.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Overall</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>3.93</td>
<td>3.93</td>
<td>3.93</td>
<td>3.93</td>
<td>3.93</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Scale: 1 = ‘Strongly disagree’ to 5 = ‘Strongly agree’
In Figure 1, the highest rated statement for each group is “My favorite activity is important to me (overall mean of 4.41)”. The lowest ranking statement is nearly a tie between each group and the overall mean with "You can tell a lot about a person seeing them participating in my favorite activity" and "When I participate in my favorite activity others seem the way I want them to see me." Figure 8’s highest rated statement amongst all groups is “Participating in my favorite activity is one of the most enjoyable things I do (overall mean of 4.2).” Following is "I find a lot of my life is organized around similar activities (overall mean of 3.39)". While the trend for responses is similar among groups, there are significant differences between group means for all eight variables at the .001 level. Again, YPF and YA joint members tend to have higher agreement with all of the statements than any other group. These results indicate that there is some degree of passionate involvement in the outdoor activities, but only to some degree. However, these results do indicate that the higher supporting groups of YPF and YA joint members tend to set the bar for recreation involvement.

**Activity Participation and Park Support**

Activity segments and their relationship with park support is the final analysis in this concept. To best categorize the activities, the researchers segmented visitors into similar typologies. The three types of activity segments that were constructed were: “active participation”, “passive participation”, and "wildlife watching”. Activities that were strenuous, required physical excursion or exiting the vehicle for some amount of time were categorized as “active participation”. Less involved activities like scenic driving, viewing geysers/geothermal, and nature photography were considered “passive participation”. All types of wildlife watching including wolf, bear, and other were classified as "wildlife watching”.

**Figure 9: Park support based on activity participation segments**

![Park Support by Activities](image)

Support scale range = 10 to 50
*ANOVA test indicates significant differences in group means at the .001 level.

An ANOVA test of mean park support based on activity segments indicates significant differences at the .001 level in both current and future likelihood to support (Figure 9). Wildlife watchers
tend to have the highest degree of support (29.17 current, 33.99 future), followed by active participation (28.08 current, 32.96 future) and passive participation (31.50 current, 26.53 future). The most telling result is that “passive participation” respondents had significantly lower support scores than both “active” and “wildlife watchers”. “Active participation” and “wildlife watchers” did not significantly differ in means for future likelihood for support, but did significantly differ in current support. Therefore, there may be insights into what types of activities are more likely to foster a higher level of support.

Visitor Motivations

Visitor motivations were measured using 16 variables that related to 5 distinct motivation dimensions including: Family togetherness, learning/exploration, nature, escape personal-social pressures, and nostalgia. Motivations were measured on a 5-point Likert scale where 1 = ‘Not at all important’ to 5 = ‘Extremely important’. Hence, respondents rated a number of variables that indicated how important a certain motivation was in their decision to visit Yellowstone. Because of large number of variables, the mean of each dimension was analyzed and presented. Each dimension had 2-4 variables that represented a similar aspect of the dimension.

Table 10: Visitor motivation dimensions by group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Family Togetherness*</th>
<th>Learning / Exploration*</th>
<th>Enjoy Nature*</th>
<th>Escape Pressures*</th>
<th>Nostalgia*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Xanterra</td>
<td>3.76</td>
<td>4.19</td>
<td>4.28</td>
<td>3.23</td>
<td>3.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YPF only</td>
<td>3.70</td>
<td>4.26</td>
<td>4.54</td>
<td>3.40</td>
<td>3.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YA only</td>
<td>3.54</td>
<td>4.31</td>
<td>4.52</td>
<td>3.29</td>
<td>3.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITRR Panel / YPF FB</td>
<td>3.67</td>
<td>4.15</td>
<td>4.26</td>
<td>3.36</td>
<td>3.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YPF and YA</td>
<td>3.64</td>
<td>4.28</td>
<td>4.58</td>
<td>3.43</td>
<td>3.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td>3.67</td>
<td>4.23</td>
<td>4.42</td>
<td>3.34</td>
<td>3.39</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*ANOVA test indicates significant differences in group means at the .05 level.
Scale: 1 = ‘Not at all important’ to 5 = ‘Extremely important’

Results indicate the most important motivation is to "Enjoy nature (overall mean of 4.42)", which is not surprising for this sample population (Table 10). The least important motivation is to "Escape pressures (overall mean of 3.34)", rated lowest by all groups except Xanterra and the ITRR Panel/YPF Facebook groups. An ANOVA test revealed significant differences in all variables at the .05 level. Therefore, the group means significantly differ between samples. The main differences were seen between Xanterra/Panel/YPF Facebook groups and YA only, YPF only, and the joint members. The latter groups rated the “Enjoy nature” and “Nostalgia” dimensions with more importance than Xanterra and the ITRR Panel/YPF Facebook groups. Therefore, there are differences in what motivates respondents in each group to visit Yellowstone.

Geotouristic Tendencies

The fourth construct measured respondents’ travel behavior and their likelihood to practice destination-sustaining practices. In total, 16 behaviors were presented to respondents for rating. Similar to motivations, the behaviors are split into distinct dimensions including: Cultural heritage behavior (e.g. historic and cultural sites, museums, cultural events, national parks), environmental behavior (e.g. conserve water/energy, purchase eco-friendly products), aesthetic behavior (traveling to natural and
aesthetic areas), and well-being of the local people behavior (purchasing local goods/accommodations/food). Variables were measured on a 6-point Likert scale with 1 = ‘Not at all likely’ to 6 = ‘Very likely’. Boley (2009), Boyle (2010), and Boley, Nickerson, and Bosak’s (2011) findings tested for reliability and validated the use of the scale.

**Table 11: Mean geotourism ratings by group – Cultural heritage behavior**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>When you travel, how likely are you to visit the following?</th>
<th>A national park*</th>
<th>Historic sites</th>
<th>Museums*</th>
<th>Cultural sites</th>
<th>Cultural events</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Xanterra</td>
<td>5.53</td>
<td>5.01</td>
<td>4.55</td>
<td>4.33</td>
<td>3.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YPF only</td>
<td>5.58</td>
<td>5.06</td>
<td>4.52</td>
<td>4.34</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YA only</td>
<td>5.59</td>
<td>4.98</td>
<td>4.63</td>
<td>4.42</td>
<td>3.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITRR Panel/YPF FB</td>
<td>5.38</td>
<td>5.02</td>
<td>4.39</td>
<td>4.31</td>
<td>3.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YPF and YA</td>
<td>5.72</td>
<td>5.05</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>4.43</td>
<td>3.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td>5.55</td>
<td>5.03</td>
<td>4.53</td>
<td>4.36</td>
<td>3.89</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*ANOVA test indicates significant differences in group means at the .05 level.
Scale: 1 = ‘Not at all likely’ to 6 = ‘Very likely’

Table 11 displays the mean likelihood of cultural heritage behavior. The highest likely visited site by all respondents is national parks (5.55), which is not surprising. Following are historic sites (5.03) and museums (4.53). Significant differences were found between groups in their likelihood to visit national parks and museums. YA and YPF joint members were significantly more likely to visit a national park than Xanterra and the ITRR Panel/YPF Facebook respondents. In fact, most differences among all variables in geotouristic tendencies come from YA and YPF joint members having significantly higher likelihoods than Xanterra or ITRR Panel/YPF Facebook respondents.

**Table 12: Mean geotourism ratings by group – Aesthetic behavior**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>When you travel, how likely are you to...?</th>
<th>Specifically travel to an area for its scenic beauty*</th>
<th>Stop at scenic overlooks*</th>
<th>Search for scenic driving routes*</th>
<th>Plan your vacation around the opportunity to enjoy scenic beauty*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Xanterra</td>
<td>5.71</td>
<td>5.38</td>
<td>5.18</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YPF only</td>
<td>5.74</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>5.36</td>
<td>5.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YA only</td>
<td>5.73</td>
<td>5.44</td>
<td>5.34</td>
<td>5.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITRR Panel/YPF FB</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>5.36</td>
<td>5.23</td>
<td>5.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YPF and YA</td>
<td>5.79</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>5.42</td>
<td>5.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td>5.71</td>
<td>5.43</td>
<td>5.29</td>
<td>5.54</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*ANOVA test indicates significant differences in group means at .05 level.
Scale: 1 = ‘Not at all likely’ to 6 = ‘Very likely’

Respondents in all groups are very likely to seek out scenic or aesthetic places in their travels (Table 12). The highest rated behavior was choosing areas for their scenic beauty (5.71), with the lowest being searching for scenic driving routes (5.29). However, all group means are very high for this dimension. All variables were statistically significant in the ANOVA test with higher likelihoods being
seen for YPF and YA joint members, YPF only, and YA only than the Xanterra and ITRR Panel/YPF Facebook groups.

Table 13: Mean geotourism ratings by group - Well-being of locals behavior

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>When you travel, how likely are you to seek out the following?</th>
<th>Locally owned accommodations*</th>
<th>Locally grown food*</th>
<th>Locally made arts and crafts*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Xanterra</td>
<td>4.12</td>
<td>4.21</td>
<td>4.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YPF only</td>
<td>4.25</td>
<td>4.22</td>
<td>4.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YA only</td>
<td>4.31</td>
<td>4.41</td>
<td>4.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITRR Panel/YPF FB</td>
<td>4.31</td>
<td>4.38</td>
<td>4.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YPF and YA</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>4.36</td>
<td>4.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td>4.25</td>
<td>4.31</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*ANOVA test indicates significant differences in group means at .05 level.
Scale: 1 = ‘Not at all likely’ to 6 = ‘Very likely’

In terms of local preferences, respondents had lower scores than the previous dimension (All less than 4.75 overall) (Table 13). The highest rated behavior in this dimension is searching out local arts and crafts (4.6), with locally owned accommodations lowest in likelihood (4.25). Again significant differences were found between groups, primarily being those mentioned earlier with the exception of YA only and YPF only being significantly different than the ITRR Panel/YPF Facebook.

Table 14: Mean geotourism ratings by group - Environmental behavior

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In daily living, how likely are you to regularly...?</th>
<th>Conserve energy*</th>
<th>Conserve water*</th>
<th>Purchase environmentally friendly products*</th>
<th>Recycle*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Xanterra</td>
<td>5.04</td>
<td>4.95</td>
<td>4.62</td>
<td>5.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YPF only</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>5.05</td>
<td>4.74</td>
<td>5.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YA only</td>
<td>5.12</td>
<td>5.05</td>
<td>4.88</td>
<td>5.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITRR Panel/YPF FB</td>
<td>4.96</td>
<td>4.85</td>
<td>4.61</td>
<td>5.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YPF and YA</td>
<td>5.18</td>
<td>5.13</td>
<td>4.95</td>
<td>5.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td>5.07</td>
<td>5.00</td>
<td>4.75</td>
<td>5.45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*ANOVA test indicates significant differences in group means at the .05 level.
Scale: 1 = ‘Not at all likely’ to 6 = ‘Very likely’

Finally, respondents aim to participate in environmentally responsible behaviors in their daily living (Table 14). The highest rated behavior is recycling (5.45), followed by conserving energy (5.07). Again all variables are over 4.75, indicating an environmentally-minded population. Significant differences were found for all variables primarily between YA and YPF joint members having higher likelihoods than Xanterra/Panel/YPF Facebook respondents.

In general, respondents are moderately geotouristically minded. They sometimes try to seek out authentic, natural locations and aim to participate in eco-friendly behaviors in their daily lives. Furthermore, it appears that the YA and YPF joint members are significantly more likely to behave geotouristically than the Xanterra/Panel/YPF Facebook groups. YA only and YPF only respondents were
not significantly different than the joint group in most variables, but did have a lower likelihood to participate in many geotourism activities.

**Geotourism Segments**

Previous studies on geotourism have implemented a segmentation approach that separates out respondents into levels delineating how strong of a geotraveler the respondent appears to be: minimal, moderate, and strong (Boley, Nickerson, and Bosak, 2011; Boyle, 2010). Responses to all variables are summated and averaged to obtain a ‘geotourism score’. Minimal geotravelers are classified as having an overall mean response of 4.5 and below, moderate between a mean of 4.6-5.5, and strong are 5.5 and above. Following Boley, Nickerson, & Bosak’s (2011) recommendations, the cutoffs used best positioned the data into comparable segments. In this study, twenty percent (643 respondents) fell in the “minimal geotraveler” category with 70 percent (1,823 respondents) in “moderate” and 10 percent (388 respondents) in “strong”.

**Figure 10: Geotraveler segment distribution**

**Figure 11: Support score by geotraveler segment**

*ANOVA test indicates significant differences in group means at .001 level.*
Figure 11 indicates the current and future likelihood support scores between the three geotourism segments. "Strong geotravelers" are currently most supportive (30.85) and are most likely to support in the future (36.26). "Moderate geotravelers" (27.64 and 32.74 respectively) are second most supportive and "minimal geotravelers" (24.64 and 28.7, respectively) are least supportive. An ANOVA test indicated significant differences in the mean support scores between groups. Therefore, "strong geotravelers" have a significantly higher degree of support than "moderate" and "minimal". "Moderate geotravelers" have a significantly higher mean support than "minimal". Thus, as geotouristic behavior increases so does the level of park support for Yellowstone.

Table 15: Distribution of geotourism segment based on respondents' sample membership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Minimal geotraveler</th>
<th>Moderate Geotraveler</th>
<th>Strong Geotraveler</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Xanterra</td>
<td>176 (25.5%)</td>
<td>434 (62.9%)</td>
<td>80 (11.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YPF only</td>
<td>107 (21.4%)</td>
<td>328 (65.6%)</td>
<td>65 (13.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YA only</td>
<td>86 (18.3%)</td>
<td>328 (69.9%)</td>
<td>55 (11.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITRR Panel/YPF FB</td>
<td>186 (28.6%)</td>
<td>379 (58.2%)</td>
<td>86 (13.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YPF and YA</td>
<td>88 (16.2%)</td>
<td>354 (65.1%)</td>
<td>102 (18.8%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Chi-square of homogeneity indicates differences in column percentages at .001 level.

Table 15 displays the breakdown of geotourism segment classifications by sample grouping. YA and YPF joint members had the largest percentage of "strong geotravelers (18.8%)" followed by the ITRR Panel/YPF Facebook group (13.2%) and YPF only group (13.0%). A chi-square test of homogeneity indicated a difference of proportions between groups. Therefore, there is not an identical distribution of geotourism segment classification between the five groups. It appears that the YPF and YA joint member grouping have a higher distribution of "strong geotravelers" and a lower distribution of "minimal geotravelers" than nearly all groups. With support score being significantly higher with "strong geotravelers", it is not surprising that the highest supporting sample has the most of this geotourism segment.

Autobiographical Memory

The final construct measured is autobiographical memory. Respondents were asked to state their first memory that came to mind of an experience in Yellowstone National Park during their adult lifetime. Then, they were asked to state the location inside the park it occurred, and what specifically made it memorable to them. Finally, they were asked to date the memory.

Memories that were described by visitors spanned the gamut in terms of what it entailed. Some visitors remembered very specific details of their trip, while others only remembered broad outlines. Because of time constraints and the large quantity of memories (n = 2,600+), a full qualitative analysis of the responses will be provided at a later date. Provided now are a brief set of memories described by respondents. But, they are not representative of the entire population and have not followed a proper analysis. There appears to be potential commonalities between the types of memories that are associated with Yellowstone experiences. These memory typologies are in no particular order.

1. **Wildlife encounters/viewing** – A cursory look into the memories revealed wildlife encounters to be a frequent response. Whether it was bears, bison, wolves, or others, these encounters were commonly remembered by travelers. A few responses are provided below:
“A cold fall morning standing by the road in Hayden Valley watching wolf pack behavior as they fed on an elk killed in a shallow pool 100yds from the road. The wolves were feeding in pack order one at a time since the kill was close to the road. Great experience.”

“After driving for about 20 minutes after entering the West Entrance, we saw a herd of buffalo, including babies. Perhaps the most excited I’ve ever seen my kids.”

"Best memory ever is driving the Grand Loop between Canyon and Tower and having a wolf pack run in front of our car. Never have I seen 5 wolves in real life and it was spectacular.”

2. **Family** – A second potential common area for memories related to experiences with family members in the park.

"Bringing my children for the first time, they were in their teens and the youngest at the end of the day said this was the best day of my life and her sisters agreed.”

"I took my parents to Yellowstone when they were both alive. It was wonderful to introduce them to new sites.”

3. **Sense of “awe”** – Respondents described their first memory has having a profound sense of “awe” and wonder. These memories many times included wildlife and/or scenery.

“The look and excitement of my family and friends seeing the wildlife, the geysers, and the awesome scenery of Yellowstone and the Grand Teton National Parks for the first time.”

"The beauty and grandeur. It was also the 1st time I saw a wolf in the wild.”

4. **Experiences of an Activity** – Outdoor activities lend themselves to experiences that are remembered by respondents. From hiking to photography, each type of activity provides different experiences to the visitor. Many times participating in an outdoor activity lead to more intimate and frequent wildlife experiences for the visitor.

"Hiking in '77 and seeing moose and baby in a lake. Cross-country skiing in the late 90’s and seeing the bison, elk, mountain goats, fox, and the wolves were just being reintroduced.”

"Hiking the Heart Lake trail, turning the bend by the mountain and seeing all the geysers laid out below.”

5. **Significant life events** – Finally, some respondents remembered their experience because of a significant life event that occurred to them while at the park. These ranged from an engagement, spending time with family for the first time in the park, or experiencing Yellowstone for the first time.

"The first year I took my wife to Yellowstone, she had never been. It was the first week of June 2011 and there had been record snowfall that winter. We were out early (before or at sunrise) photographing Bison in the meadow around Biscuit Basin. We had the camera gear set up on the bridge across the
Firehole River and could see bison coming in and out of the steam/fog. Three bison came out of the steam to the end of the bridge on the thermal side and just stood there and stared at us. We decided to back up to the parking lot and as we turned, there were two bison at the end the bridge on the parking lot side of the bridge! We were trapped! The two bison on the parking lot side had swam across the river and instead of moving off, came right over to the bridge. I told my wife I was going to have to 'cowboy up' and fend off the bison to protect her or we were going into the river. The bison stared for few minutes, snorted, and then went on their way. Never did to come onto the bridge. We still laugh about that event."

“August 17, 1959 - Day of the Hegben Lake earthquake. Camping with parents, all geologists, so an incredible memory. Bridges were all collapsed; we were there for two weeks.”

As one can see, the memories that visitors depict are telling of the Yellowstone experience. A more thorough analysis will link together the types of experiences and their intensities provided by the Autobiographical Memory Questionnaire (AMQ). But, it’s clear that Yellowstone provides an opportunity to experience events outside of the norm. Below is a quantitative analysis of the AMQ and how it relates to park support.

**Autobiographical Memory Questionnaire (AMQ) Items**

Despite the lack of a complete qualitative analysis, the AMQ consisted of 14 statements regarding the memory the respondent listed. These statements were developed and used by Fitzgerald and Broadbridge(2013) to better gauge how people remember events and the degree of impact they have on their lives. Therefore, the responses to these questions allow for evaluation of memory strength and impact in behavior or lives. The questions follow a 7-point scale with 1 = "Not at all" and 7 = "Better or as much as any memory" for the first set of statements and 7 = or "As clearly as it were happening now" for the second set. The tables provided below do not separate means of each statement by sample. Overall, the experience should not be dictated by whether or not the person is from a certain email listing, but more is explored in a later section.

Respondents were asked to think about the memory they described and respond to the following statements.

**Table 16: Mean autobiographical memory statements ~ 1st statements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Overall Mean</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>As I remember the event, I can see it in my mind.</td>
<td>5.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As I remember the event, I can recall the setting where it occurred.</td>
<td>5.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As I remember the event, I know the visual layout of the environment.</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As I remember the event, I can feel now the emotions I felt then.</td>
<td>5.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As I remember the event, I feel as though I am reliving the event.</td>
<td>5.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As I remember the event, I am aware of the time of day.</td>
<td>5.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As I remember the event, I can hear it in my mind.</td>
<td>4.62</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Scale: 1 = 'Not at all' to 7 = 'As clearly as it is happening now'
The first statement set asked respondents about their ability to relive the event and remember many of the intricate details (Table 16). Results indicate that respondents have a high degree of being able to “picture” the event in their mind. Visual recall in respondents’ mind appears high (5.5), as well as remembering the settings it occurred (5.64). The lowest rated statement relates to the sounds that they can recall (4.62), but this is still near the ‘distinct’ recall rating of a 5 out of 7 on the scale. However, overall it appears that the respondents seem to be able to place the memory within their mind accurately and with moderately strong detail.

Table 17: Mean of autobiographical memory statements - 2nd statements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Overall Mean</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>As I think about the event, I can actually remember it rather than just knowing it happened.</td>
<td>5.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Would you be confident enough in your memory to testify in a court of law?</td>
<td>4.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As I remember the event, it comes to me in words or in pictures as a coherent story or episode and not as an isolated fact, observation, or scene.</td>
<td>4.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As I remember the event, I feel that I travel back in time to when it happened, that I am a participant in it again, rather than an observer tied to the present.</td>
<td>4.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As I remember the event, it comes to me in words.</td>
<td>4.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This memory is significant in my life because it imparts an important message for me or represents an anchor, critical juncture, or turning point.</td>
<td>4.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This memory has consequences for my life because it influenced my behavior, thoughts, or feelings in noticeable ways.</td>
<td>3.84</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Scale: 1 = 'Not at all' to 7 = 'Better or as much as any memory'

The second sets of statements are rated slightly lower overall than those prior (Table 17). Respondents are confident that they can actually remember the event rather than knowing it happened (5.63), but a stark drop-off is seen in the second highest statement of whether their confidence is held high enough to testify in a court of law (4.89). Furthermore, the lowest rated statements relate to the impact the memory had on their lives. Respondents were only slightly sure that the event was significant in their life (4.09) and even less sure that it had consequences on their behaviors (3.84). However, is there a relationship between respondents who had a higher degree of impact from their memory?

To answer this question, respondents were segmented based on their mean ratings of the two impact variables: "This memory is significant in my life because it imparts and important message for me or represents an anchor, critical juncture, or turning point" and "This memory has consequences for my life because it influenced my behavior, thoughts, or feelings in noticeable ways." Respondents with a rating from 1 to 3 for an average of these two variables were classified as "little to no impact (n = 955)", "moderate impact (n = 980)" for responses 3.1-5.9, and "high impact (n = 550)" for 6.0 and above. Then, an ANOVA test was conducted to determine whether there were significant differences in support scores based on impact classification.
As Figure 12 indicates, the “high impact” segment of users had a significantly higher support score than “moderate impact” and “little to no impact”. In conjunction, “moderate impact” respondents had significantly higher support scores than “little to no impact” members. Thus, it appears that the impact of the memory in the lives of respondents directly relates to whether they choose to support Yellowstone National Park. Therefore, these results indicate that a high impact memory has a relationship with an increased level of park support.

**Regression Model of Park Support**

To complete the analysis of the park support construct, a regression model was built to test the predictability of the summated scores. Two diagrams are presented in the following pages: 1) the regression model of current support, and 2) the model for future likelihood to support Yellowstone. In these models are the dimensions of each of the five concepts and their significance level.
Regression Model of Current Park Support

\[ R^2 = .375 \]
Regression Model of Future Likelihood to Support Yellowstone

\[ R^2 = .415 \]

Future Likelihood Support

- Enjoy Nature (sig. = .000)
- Place Identity (sig. = .000)
- Place Dependence (sig. = .000)
- Recreation Involvement (sig. = .000)
- Cultural Heritage Behavior (sig. = .000)
- Environmental Behavior (sig. = .000)
- Family Togetherness (sig. = .002)
- Escape Pressure (sig. = .000)
- Nostalgia motivation (sig. = .001)
- Memory Impact (sig. = .001)
- Memory Recall (sig. = .023)
- Well-being of locals Behavior (sig. = .000)
- Aesthetic Behavior (sig. = .000)

Well being of locals Behavior (sig. = .000)

Aesthetic Behavior (sig. = .000)

Memory Recall (sig. = .023)

Memory Impact (sig. = .001)

Nostalgia motivation (sig. = .001)

Family Togetherness (sig. = .002)

Escape Pressure (sig. = .000)

Place Dependence (sig. = .000)

Place Identity (sig. = .000)

Enjoy Nature (sig. = .000)
**Willingness-to-pay and Monetary Contributions**

The final section of the results includes those related to the monetary contributions respondents made to the Yellowstone Association and Yellowstone Park foundation as well as their willingness-to-pay for ranger-led hikes or interpretive programs.

Respondents were asked to judge how much money they have contributed towards their Yellowstone Association membership or to the Yellowstone Park Foundation in their lifetime. Results are presented in regards to their groups to delineate between members of those two organizations. YA only members and YPF only contributors are not included in each other's results. This is because they were segmented in such a way that they only belonged to one organization.

Table 18: YPF contribution percentages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YPF contributor?</th>
<th>Xanterra</th>
<th>YPF only</th>
<th>YA only</th>
<th>ITRR Panel/YPF FB</th>
<th>YPF and YA</th>
<th>Overall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>135 (19.9%)</td>
<td>500 (100%)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>44 (7.1%)</td>
<td>544 (100%)</td>
<td>1223 (43.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>543 (80.1%)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>469 (100%)</td>
<td>576 (92.9%)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1588 (56.5%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 18 shows the percentages of those from each group who stated they had given to YPF in their lifetime. Of course, YPF only contributors all had given to the organization, and the same with those who were joint members. The Xanterra group had 19.9% of respondents who had given to YPF and the ITRR Panel/YPF Facebook had 7.1%. Overall 43.5% of respondents have donated to YPF in their lifetime.

Figure 13: Mean contribution to YPF in lifetime

![Mean YPF Contribution](image)

Figure 13 displays the mean contribution by respondents to YPF. The overall mean contribution was $895.11 in one’s lifetime. YPF and YA joint members gave on average $2,528.52. This amount includes a couple large-scale donors. Similar results are found with the YPF only grouping that gave, on average, $2,224.69, but has the same issue with large-scale donors as potential outliers.
Table 19: YA membership percentages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YA member?</th>
<th>Xanterra</th>
<th>YPF only</th>
<th>YA only</th>
<th>ITRR Panel/YPF FB</th>
<th>YPF and YA</th>
<th>Overall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>53 (7.8%)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>469 (100%)</td>
<td>34 (5.5%)</td>
<td>544 (100%)</td>
<td>1100 (39.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>628 (92.2%)</td>
<td>500 (100%)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>589 (94.5%)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1717 (61.0%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Xanterra grouping has the largest percentage of YA members outside of the YA only and YPF and YA joint member grouping with 7.8% of respondents being current members (Table 19). The ITRR Panel/YPF Facebook grouping had 5.5% being current members. Overall 39% of respondents are a current member of YA.

Figure 14: Mean Yellowstone Association Contribution

![Mean YA Contribution](image)

Contributions to YA are much lower than those of YPF. Overall, members contributed $236.65 towards their YA membership in their lifetime (Figure 14). The YPF and YA joint members group contributed $792.53 on average in their lifetime to a YA membership, whereas YA only members contributed $333.43. The Xanterra respondents had the lowest overall contribution with $36.96. Again, these may be skewed somewhat due to large-scale contributors with YPF and YA joint members or because of the $35 minimum membership pricing.

Overall respondents gave an average of $658.46 more to YPF in their lifetime than they did to their YA membership. This most likely has to do with the business model of each organization, where YA encourages and provides educational programs and are less likely to solicit donations. YPF is the primary fundraising arm of the national park, hence garnering monetary contributions is more important. However, it does indicate that the YPF and YA members again prove to be quite different than a member of only one organization or of the neutral groups of Xanterra or the ITRR Panel/YPF Facebook members.
Willingness-to-pay for specific activities

To gauge whether respondents were open to pay for some activities that are currently provided without charge within Yellowstone, questions were asked about the rate of participation in the activities and a monetary value for each. Despite the fact that these questions were asked of respondents, some shared their hope that these services remain free in the comments section. While these results seem to place a monetary value on the activity, it is necessary to understand all repercussions of attempting to monetize activities. Therefore, public opinion may not support action to add pricing onto currently free activities.

Table 20: Prior participation in a ranger-led hike or interpretive program in a U.S. National Park

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In a U.S. national park, Have you ever participated in a...?</th>
<th>Xanterra</th>
<th>YPF only</th>
<th>YA only</th>
<th>ITRR Panel/YPF</th>
<th>YPF and YA</th>
<th>Overall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ranger-Led Hike, Yes</td>
<td>325</td>
<td>291</td>
<td>311</td>
<td>289</td>
<td>381</td>
<td>1597</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(47.4%)</td>
<td>(58.2%)</td>
<td>(66.5%)</td>
<td>(44.9%)</td>
<td>(70.2%)</td>
<td>(56.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>360</td>
<td>209</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>355</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>1243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(52.6%)</td>
<td>(41.8%)</td>
<td>(33.5%)</td>
<td>(55.1%)</td>
<td>(29.8%)</td>
<td>(43.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ranger-Led Hike, No</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>427</td>
<td>355</td>
<td>352</td>
<td>323</td>
<td>434</td>
<td>1891</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(62.2%)</td>
<td>(71.1%)</td>
<td>(75.4%)</td>
<td>(50.2%)</td>
<td>(80.7%)</td>
<td>(66.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interpretive program, Yes</td>
<td>259</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>320</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>942</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(37.8%)</td>
<td>(28.9%)</td>
<td>(24.6%)</td>
<td>(49.8%)</td>
<td>(19.3%)</td>
<td>(33.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interpretive program, No</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fifty-six percent of respondents stated that they had participated in a ranger-led hike in a national park and 66 percent stated they had participated in an interpretive program (Table 20). Between groups, YPF and YA joint members had the highest percentage of respondents who participated in a ranger-led hike (70.2%) and an interpretive program (80.7%). Only two groups had less than half of their respondents participate in a ranger-led hike (Xanterra and ITRR Panel/YPF FB). For interpretive programs, all groups had at least 50 percent participation rates.
Table 21: Willingness to pay for ranger-led hikes or interpretive programs in a U.S. National Park

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Would you be willing to pay for a...?</th>
<th>Xanterra</th>
<th>YPF only</th>
<th>YA only</th>
<th>YPF and FB</th>
<th>YPF and YA</th>
<th>Overall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ranger-Led Hike</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>234</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>257</td>
<td>1127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(30.7%)</td>
<td>(47.0%)</td>
<td>(45.5%)</td>
<td>(33.1%)</td>
<td>(47.5%)</td>
<td>(39.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maybe</td>
<td>305</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>273</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>1179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(44.4%)</td>
<td>(39.4%)</td>
<td>(40.8%)</td>
<td>(42.7%)</td>
<td>(39.6%)</td>
<td>(41.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>528</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(24.9%)</td>
<td>(13.7%)</td>
<td>(13.7%)</td>
<td>(24.2%)</td>
<td>(12.9%)</td>
<td>(18.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interpretive program</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(27.0%)</td>
<td>(41.2%)</td>
<td>(39.9%)</td>
<td>(29.0%)</td>
<td>(42.7%)</td>
<td>(35.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maybe</td>
<td>281</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>267</td>
<td>216</td>
<td>1152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(41.2%)</td>
<td>(38.8%)</td>
<td>(42.1%)</td>
<td>(41.4%)</td>
<td>(39.9%)</td>
<td>(40.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>217</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>685</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(31.8%)</td>
<td>(20.0%)</td>
<td>(18.0%)</td>
<td>(29.6%)</td>
<td>(17.4%)</td>
<td>(24.2%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As for whether respondents would be willing to pay for these activities, 39.8 percent of respondents would pay for a ranger-led hike, 41.6 percent stated only maybe, and 18.6 percent said they would not pay for a ranger-led hike (Table 21). Thirty-five percent of respondents would pay for an interpretive program, with 40.7 percent stating maybe, and 24.2 percent stating they would not pay for an interpretative program. Again, YA and YPF joint members were more open to the idea of paying for either activity while the Xanterra and ITRR Panel/YPF Facebook respondents had the least willingness to pay.

Figure 15: Value of Ranger-Led Hikes and Interpretive Programs

Figure 15 indicates that all respondents would pay on average $16.77 for a ranger-led hike and $11.34 for an interpretive program. The YA only group was willing-to-pay more with $22.88 for a ranger-
led hike and $14.10 for an interpretive program. Overall, it appears that respondents would generally pay some amount of money to participate in these activities. However, many did note that there was some contention as to whether this tactic would force some visitors away from participating. Low-income visitors or those who are in the middle ground of participating may not choose to participate in these activities if a fee is charged. Therefore, the value of the activities may go beyond monetary considerations.

Decisions on whether or not to charge fees are always a conundrum. Does a fee reduce the number of people participating in an activity or does it provide value to an activity and therefore encourages more participation? It would be interesting to determine a current ratio of overall visitor numbers to visitors who participate in ranger-led hikes and interpretive programs, then implement a fee structure for a year to assess if the number of participants changes. Final decisions on fee implementation could be made after the experimental period and assessment of value to the park visitor.
Visitor Support for Yellowstone National Park 2014

Visitor Profile of a Top Supporter

This visitor profile is for the top 10% of respondents in current support score. The respondent must have had a mean score of 37.00 out of 50 to fit in this category. A total of 283 respondents were considered “top supporters”.

Demographics
Age – 58.61 years old
Country of Residence - 98.6% USA
Top 5 State Residences –
1) California (11.1%)
2) Montana (10.4%)
3) Colorado (6.4%)
4) Texas (5.4%)
5) Utah (5.0%)

Education – 31.6% Bachelor’s degree, 26.6% Master’s degree
Income – 25.8% $100k to less than $150k
Gender – 57.9% Female
# of previous visits to YNP – 21.6% 21-50 times

YA members?
70.4% members
Average contribution over lifetime – $606.31

YPF contributors?
71.2% contributors
Average contribution over lifetime – $695.87

Recreation Involvement
Most common activities –
1) Wildlife watching (At least 1 form) (25.1%)
2) Nature Photography (17.7%)
3) Hiking (14.1%)
4) Viewing geysers/geothermal (12.7%)
5) Scenic driving/viewing (12.0%)
Mean Recreation involvement – 4.0254 out of 5.0

Motivations
Highest rated variable – “To be close to nature” (4.74)

Autobiographical Memory
Highest rated variable – “As I remember the event, I know the visual layout of the environment (6.14 out of 7.0)
Mean Impact of Memory – 5.1007 out of 7.0

Group breakdown of top supporters
1) YPF and YA joint members (48.4%)
2) YPF only (15.9%)
3) YA only (13.8%)
4) ITRR Panel/YPF FB (11.3%)
5) Xanterra (10.6%)

Geotourism Behaviors
Highest rated variable – Most likely to specifically travel to an area for its scenic beauty (5.85 out of 6.0)
Mean Overall Geotourism Score – 5.1895 out of 6.0

Place Attachment
Highest rated variable – “Yellowstone means a lot to me” (4.93 out of 5.0)
Mean Place Identity – 4.795 out of 5.0
Mean Place Dependence – 4.012 out of 5.0
Visitor Profile of a Minimal Supporter

This visitor profile is for the bottom 10% of respondents in current support score. The respondent must have had a mean score below 18.00 out of 50 to fit in this category. A total of 221 respondents were considered “minimal supporters”.

Demographics

Age – 48.79 years old
Country of Residence - 88% USA
Top 5 State Residences –
  1) Montana (19.9%)
  2) California (11.3%)
  3) Texas (4.5%)
  4) Washington (4.5%)
  5) Florida/Illinois (3.6%)
Education – 38.2% Bachelor’s degree, 26.1% Master’s degree
Income – 22.2% $50k to less than $75k
Gender – 52.6% Female
# of previous visits to YNP – 61% 1 time

YA membership?
3.6% members
Average contribution over lifetime – $5.88

YPF contributors?
5.6% contributors
Average contribution over lifetime – $7.11

Geotourism Behaviors

Highest rated variable – “Specifically travel to an area for its scenic beauty” (5.43 out of 6.0)
Mean Overall Geotourism Score – 4.6010 out of 6.0

Place Attachment

Highest rated variable – “Yellowstone means a lot to me” (3.88 out of 5.0)
Mean Place Identity – 3.991 out of 5.0
Mean Place Dependence – 2.357 out of 5.0

Recreation Involvement

Most common activities –
  1) Scenic Driving/Viewing (32.71%)
  2) Viewing Geysers/geothermal (25.9%)
  3) Hiking (12.7%)
  4) Wildlife watching (10%)
  5) Nature Photography (7.6%)

Mean Recreation involvement – 3.186 out of 5.0

Motivations

Highest rated variable – “To explore the area” (3.98)

Autobiographical Memory

Highest rated variable – “As I remember the event, I can see it in my mind” (5.03 out of 7.0)
Mean Impact of Memory – 2.7343 out of 7.0

Group breakdown of minimal supporters

1) Xanterra (52.6%)
2) ITRR Panel/YPF FB (40.2%)
3) YPF only (3.6%)
4) YA only (3.2%)
5) YA and YPF (.4%)
Conclusions & Recommendations

Yellowstone National Park is a historic and cultural icon in American history. Despite being void of any nearby major cities, visitors travel great lengths to see its unique features. The park helped pave the way for protected area management around the United States and has seen an increasingly growing contingency of visitors. Results from this study indicate a diverse, multi-faceted group of visitors that possess varying degrees of support. Not only are there differences among respondents in each sample surveyed, but also in segments constructed based on empirical data. Furthermore, the model identified key cognitive and behavioral influences that are more likely to lead to a higher degree of park support.

The overarching theme was to investigate the newly formed park support concept. In general, visitors are participating in park support behaviors at an average to slightly above average level. With a mean score of 2.7 out of 5.0 for current park support, there is definite room for increased participation levels among the public. The propensity for future support, which saw a mean rating of roughly 3.3 out of 5.0, clearly shows intent to increase their participation in these behaviors. Thus, a mean difference of around .5 in participation rates is related to future intentions of support. But, there is no clear indication whether the intention will hold true over time. Encouraging previous and potential visitors to further contribute to Yellowstone and its associated organizations may be a difficult task, but is dependent on how supporters are targeted. In many cases, Yellowstone trips are infrequent and potential travelers’ gaze is focused on seeing new destinations, each with their own needs and challenges. Hence, forming the long-lasting bond between the visitor and the park is even more critical. For potential visitors, making aware the importance, sense of ‘awe’, and experiences that the park provides must be made visible and enticing.

There are specific visitor characteristics that are more likely to lead to park support. In fact, the regression models give light into why people choose to donate. First of all, visitors overall are more likely to participate in indirect support measures, such as simply sharing their experiences with others. Obviously, there is much less commitment in these actions then in contributing monetarily. With that said, monetary contribution does occur and is quite dramatic in the group that contains both YA and YPF members ($2,528.52 to YPF and $792.53 to YA over their lifetime). However, the average group of visitors, the ITRR Panel/YPF Facebook and the Xanterra groups, are much less likely to donate monetarily, but may share their experiences with others. The question then remains, how do you encourage these visitors to become monetary contributors? This may be where the cognitive and behavioral constructs help in explaining high degrees of support in those respondents.
Influence of cognitive and behavioral constructs on park support

The five cognitive and behavioral constructs measured have significant relationships with both current and future likelihood to support the park. A high degree of place attachment, strong recreation involvement and geotouristic behaviors, nostalgic or natural motivations, and previous high-impact, vivid memories can explain nearly 38% of the variation in current park support and 41% in future likelihood park support to Yellowstone. Place attachment appears to be the single most important concept that leads to long-term park support. If a person becomes affectively connected to the park, the likelihood for them to be supporters is very high. Furthermore, the motivations of the different visitor groups are not the same. The motivation dimensions “enjoying nature” and “learning/exploration” appear to be most important amongst likely supporters, specifically the YPF and YA joint members. Place attachment’s influence is directly tied into the autobiographical memories of visitors. In fact, autobiographical memory can significantly predict place attachment. Therefore, there is a relationship between the vividness and impact of a memory and the level of place attachment.

Activity topology represents another piece of the park support picture. Wildlife watchers were shown to have the highest degree of park support, followed by active participants, and then passive participants. Simply striving to get visitors more involved in outdoor activities may have a significant effect on the degree of park support. Encouraging visitors to leave their vehicle, experience new activities, see “off-the-beaten-path” locations within the park, or visiting in different seasons may be necessary towards building park support. Wildlife watchers in particular are a special group of users. They appear to be passionate and extremely involved in the protection of Yellowstone National Park. Their level of park support is the highest; however, passive participants are the largest majority of visitors.

Geotourism behaviors are associated with park support as well. The “strong geotraveler” segment had a significantly higher support score than “moderate” or “minimal” geotravelers. Being classified as a strong geotraveler is not an easy task. With an average score of 5.5 required, respondents need to participate in these behaviors very often. Targeting users who embody the strong geotraveler mindset tends to lead to a more supportive park visitor. Visitors who enjoy aesthetically pleasing areas, participate in environmentally responsible behaviors, aim to purchase local products, and prefer culturally important locations are likely to be visitors who strongly identify with Yellowstone as a destination. The affiliate organizations of YPF, YA, and Xanterra can seek out these visitors through targeted marketing as well as attempt to show why geotouristic behaviors benefits not only the destination or host locality, but also the personal experience of the visitor. Geotourism may allow the visitor to "feel good" while raising their likelihood towards supporting the park. Bringing awareness to the personal benefits of ‘giving behaviors’ is essentially a form of altruism defined as “warm-glow giving”. People are more likely to give back to causes or places when they receive some form of benefit, not simply because of the cause. Therefore, promoting the personal benefits of being geotouristic may spark the visitors mind to maintain that feeling.

Finally, the memories that respondents shared were insightful. Since autobiographical memory has not been measured in this context, there were no immediate expectations of what would come. However, it was apparent that visitors do find Yellowstone to be a place where significant memories are formed. In terms of their recall, visitors have a moderate sense of how the experience happened, the settings, and details surrounding it. The mean impact of the memory in their lives now was lower than the ability to recall, but the segments formed based on the impact of memories is very interesting. High
impact memories tend to lead to a significantly higher degree of park support, followed by moderate impact and then little to no impact. Therefore, providing experiences that produce high-impact memories are necessary to building a supportive contingency. Furthermore, the relationship with place attachment has already been noted. Memory provides a new link in the visitor experience. All national parks aim to provide visitors with one takeaway sans monetary purchase: a memorable experience. By facilitating experiences that may lead to high-impact memories, place attachment may form and, as a consequence, park support increases. Since a full-scale analysis of the individual memories has not been conducted yet, it is unclear which types of memories are more impactful to the visitor, but the sheer fact that memory does predict support is vital.

Who is supporting Yellowstone National Park?

Despite knowing the major influences of both current and future likelihood to support Yellowstone, who is the typical park supporter needed to be delineated. Interestingly, one predefined segment of users overwhelmingly appeared to be the most viable, supportive group. The joint members of YA and YPF have the highest current park support and the highest future likelihood to continue with those behaviors. In each cognitive or behavioral construct, YA and YPF joint members were separated from all other groups. Demographically, these respondents tend to be older (58 years old), with a higher income, but a relatively similar education level. Their motivations, place attachment, geotouristic tendencies, involvement in activities, and high impact memories appeared to be significantly different than groups such as the Xanterra and ITRR Panel/YPF Facebook respondents. YPF and YA joint members did not have large differences from YA only and YPF only respondents in most constructs, but the joint members did have higher levels of park support and place attachment. In fact, YA and YPF joint members contribute a great deal of monetary contributions to the organizations, indicating a very high degree of direct support.

The next most supportive groups are the YPF only and YA only respondents. Despite being only a part of one organization, their park support scores are in the upper end. These respondents were generally geotouristically minded, moderately-to-highly place attached, and shared similar motivations with the joint member grouping. However, these users tended to contribute less financially to their respective organization than the joint members did to both. YA only members contributed less than 50% as much as the joint group to YA, but YPF only respondents still contributed nearly as much to their respective organization ($2,224.59 over their lifetime). Therefore, the YPF only group does seem to be more willing to contribute financially, although, they may see this method as their primary way to provide support. YA members receive exclusive benefits such as discounts at store locations and may be more invested in educational programs than fundraising or donations. Furthermore, YA only members may be more apt to find
pleasure in supporting the park through indirect measures.

The least supportive groups include both the Xanterra and ITRR Panel/YPF Facebook segments. Prefacing this analysis, the researchers felt that these respondents are a good representation of the general public and may be very different from those who are associated with YA or YPF. While these respondents were still supportive to some degree and showed the same sense of optimism for future support, they still are far apart from the YA and YPF joint members and those part of only one organization. These respondents tended to be motivated by family drivers and were much less dependent on Yellowstone for their experience. Further, these segments of respondents were more inclined to participate in “passive” activities, which saw a lower degree of park support. More respondents in these groups had visited the park less and had a much less recent past visit. If first-time visitors are made aware of the multitude of activities that are available to them, and they do "get of their car", it may lead to a higher degree of place attachment. However, not all users desire that experience and it may not lead them to feel any more likely to support the park, but it does show promise towards forming a lasting bond.

In summary, the most representative sample of the general public are only moderately or even minimally supportive currently towards Yellowstone. The samples that are most supportive are distinctly different than the typical Yellowstone visitor. However, there is hope in turning visitors into strong park supporters. Engagement of the visitor and encouragement to be involved in the park experience may lead towards a stronger connection with the park and thus a higher degree of support. Providing experiences, whether guided or not, that create long-lasting memories is deeply important towards building the bond between place and person.

Management Implications

- **Top supporters are most likely to fit the profile of a YA and YPF joint member** – As the results continued to indicate, the joint members of YA and YPF are far and away the top supporting sample. These visitors are somewhat better-off in terms of income than the general public, but not entirely. They hold deep connections to Yellowstone and have visited the park numerous times. Continued targeting to get visitors involved with the two organizations may garner more support for the park. Furthermore, some respondents noted the confusion of the mission of each organization. It may be helpful to further delineate or bring awareness to the differences between YA and YPF and what a contribution to each means. Therefore, respondents who participate in only one organization may be interested in getting involved with the other.

- **Aim to get visitors outside of their vehicle** – Time and time again scholars, writers, and land managers have stated that the general public is fading away from outdoor recreation. In our case, this is a critical piece of the park support concept. Facilitating experiences for visitors where they are out of their vehicle, engaging with the natural landscape is a key influence to raising park support. Bringing awareness to the vast array of outdoor recreation is important to those who may not know about the opportunities.

- **Creating “high impact” memories** - This management implication ties directly into the National Park Advisory Board Science Committee's (2012) call for facilitating "transformative experiences" within the national parks. It is our belief that a transformative experience is one
that affects the life or behaviors of a person. Similarly, high impact memories are those that influence the person’s behavior or represent a critical point in their life. Providing experiences that are memorable and/or transformative to the visitor can be done through encouragement of new and different activities, exceptional service, facilitating informative experiences and a variety of other methods. For the affiliate organizations, memory triggers may be the most efficient way of utilizing this concept. Marketing towards visitor’s most vivid experiences allows them to “relive” the event in their mind and will hopefully create a nostalgic feeling. The report to follow later will best describe these memories that are created, but for now, memory could become a focus of targeting visitor’s most special remembrances of Yellowstone, which could lead to place attachment and park support.

- **Converting future likelihood to current support** – The optimism showed for future support is promising. Without fail, future likelihood to support was higher in every comparison displayed. However, it is unknown whether these respondents will follow through with their intention to support the park. Therefore, converting the future likelihood into current support should be, and most likely is, a continuing effort. Playing off these results by marketing the unique aspects of Yellowstone and offering alternative contribution methods may lead to newfound support.

- **Pure vs. Impure Altruism** – One concept that was not described in detail is the discussion of impure versus pure altruism. Pure altruism is the typical type of philanthropic giving that is most commonly known. It is essentially when people give simply for the reason to help others or a help a greater cause. However, studies have shown that many people give for reasons that are defined as impure altruism, or otherwise known as “warm-glow giving”. Warm-glow giving is when a person gives for personal reasons. Whether it makes them feel “warm” inside or there is a personal benefit for their gift, the reasons for giving are not to simply support a worthy cause. It can be as simple as bringing awareness to the potential loss of an experience if support is not shown. For instance, making known that trail maintenance is in need of help and that it may not be useable to hike if unsupported, may lead the public to contribute to fulfilling the goal. Therefore, marketing to visitors about their personal experiences in Yellowstone and what they would get out of a contribution to the park may better relate to their wants.
References


## Appendix A: Survey instrument

Hello! You are invited to participate in our survey about U.S. National Parks. This study is part of Ph.D. student Jake Jorgenson's dissertation project and all help is greatly appreciated! It will take approximately 15 minutes to complete the questionnaire. Your participation in this study is completely voluntary. There are no foreseeable risks associated with this project. However, if you feel uncomfortable answering any questions, you can withdraw from the survey at any point. It is very important for us to learn your opinions. Your survey responses will be strictly confidential and data from this research will be reported only in the aggregate. Your information will be coded and will remain confidential. If you have questions at any time about the survey or the procedures, you may contact Jake Jorgenson at 406-243-5686 or by email at jacob.jorgenson@umontana.edu. Thank you very much for your time and support. To receive your 15% off the Xanterra online store and to be entered in the drawing for the complimentary lodging from Xanterra and gift package from the Yellowstone Association, you must complete the entire survey. Please start the survey now by clicking on the Continue button below.

When you travel, how likely are you to visit the following?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Not at all likely</th>
<th>Unlikely</th>
<th>Somewhat Unlikely</th>
<th>Somewhat Likely</th>
<th>Likely</th>
<th>Very Likely</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A national park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Historic sites</td>
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<tr>
<td>Museums</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cultural sites</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cultural events</td>
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</table>

When you travel, how likely are you to do the following?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Not at all likely</th>
<th>Unlikely</th>
<th>Somewhat Unlikely</th>
<th>Somewhat Likely</th>
<th>Likely</th>
<th>Very Likely</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Specifically travel to an area for its scenic beauty</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stop at scenic overlooks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Search for scenic driving routes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plan your vacation around the opportunity to enjoy scenic beauty</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

When you travel, how likely are you to seek out...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Not at all likely</th>
<th>Unlikely</th>
<th>Somewhat Unlikely</th>
<th>Somewhat Likely</th>
<th>Likely</th>
<th>Very Likely</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Locally owned accommodations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Locally grown food</td>
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<tr>
<td>Locally made arts and crafts</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In daily living, how likely are you to regularly...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Not at all likely</th>
<th>Unlikely</th>
<th>Somewhat Unlikely</th>
<th>Somewhat Likely</th>
<th>Likely</th>
<th>Very Likely</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conserve energy</td>
<td>🟢</td>
<td>🟢</td>
<td>🟢</td>
<td>🟢</td>
<td>🟩</td>
<td>🟩</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conserve water</td>
<td>🟢</td>
<td>🟢</td>
<td>🟢</td>
<td>🟢</td>
<td>🟩</td>
<td>🟩</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchase environmentally friendly products</td>
<td>🟢</td>
<td>🟢</td>
<td>🟢</td>
<td>🟢</td>
<td>🟩</td>
<td>🟩</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recycle</td>
<td>🟢</td>
<td>🟢</td>
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<td>🟢</td>
<td>🟩</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How many times have you visited Yellowstone National Park in your adult lifetime?
1. 0 times
2. 1 time
3. 2-5 times
4. 6-10 times
5. 11-20 times
6. 21-50 times
7. 50+ times

During what YEAR was your most recent trip to Yellowstone National Park?

While visiting Yellowstone (any time, not just your most recent visit), think about your favorite activity. You can only pick ONE. Please select your FAVORITE activity within one of these options provided below.

1. Hiking
2. Scenic Driving/Scenic Viewing
3. Backcountry Camping
4. Nature Photography
5. Fishing
6. XC-skiing/Snowshoeing
7. Viewing geysers/geothermal areas
8. Soaking in the Boiling River
9. Snowmobiling
10. Snowcoach touring
11. Visiting Interpretive Sites/Visitor centers
12. Wolf Watching
13. Bear Watching
14. Birding
15. Other Wildlife Watching
16. Horseback Riding
17. Taking guided tours
18. Car/RV Camping
19. Road Bicycling
20. Nature study (e.g. geology, history, ecology, etc.)
21. Motor boating
22. Canoe/kayaking
23. Star gazing
Please rate your level of agreement with the following statements as they relate to your favorite activity (whether in Yellowstone or elsewhere):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>When I participate in my favorite activity I can really be myself.</td>
<td>□ □ □ □</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You can tell a lot about a person seeing them participating in my favorite activity.</td>
<td>□ □ □ □</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
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<tr>
<td>When I participate in my favorite activity others see me the way I want them to see me.</td>
<td>□ □ □ □</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
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<tr>
<td>My favorite activity is important to me.</td>
<td>□ □ □ □</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participating in my favorite activity is one of the most enjoyable things I do.</td>
<td>□ □ □ □</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
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<tr>
<td>I find a lot of my life is organized around my favorite activity.</td>
<td>□ □ □ □</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
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<tr>
<td>My favorite activity does not have a central role in my life.</td>
<td>□ □ □ □</td>
<td>□</td>
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<tr>
<td>I find a lot of my life is organized around similar activities.</td>
<td>□ □ □ □</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Please select your 2nd MOST FAVORITE activity you do in Yellowstone from the list provided below.

1. Hiking
2. Scenic Driving/Scenic Viewing
3. Backcountry Camping
4. Nature Photography
5. Fishing
6. XC-skiing/Snowshoeing
7. Viewing geysers/geothermal areas
8. Snowmobiling
9. Snowcoach touring
10. Soaking in the Boiling River
11. Visiting Interpretive Sites/Visitor centers
12. Wolf Watching
13. Bear Watching
14. Birding
15. Other Wildlife Watching
16. Horseback Riding
17. Taking guided tours
18. Car/RV Camping
19. Road Bicycling
20. Nature study (e.g. geology, history, ecology, etc.)
21. Motor boating
22. Canoe/kayaking
23. Star gazing
Please rate your level of agreement with the following statements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yellowstone means a lot to me.</td>
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<tr>
<td>I am very attached to Yellowstone National Park.</td>
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<tr>
<td>I identify strongly with Yellowstone National Park.</td>
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<tr>
<td>I do not have a special connection to Yellowstone National Park.</td>
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<tr>
<td>I enjoy visiting Yellowstone National Park more than any other place.</td>
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<td>I get more satisfaction out of visiting Yellowstone National Park than any other place.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visiting Yellowstone is more important than visiting any other place.</td>
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<tr>
<td>I am able to substitute other places for the type of experience I get in Yellowstone National Park.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

For each statement below, please select one response for how often you do the following and how likely are you in the future to do the following.

1. How often do you...[Never, All the time], 2. How likely are you in the future to...[Not at all likely, Very likely].

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bring visitors to Yellowstone who have never been there before?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Share (talk about) your experiences at Yellowstone National Park with others?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visit Yellowstone National Parks Facebook page?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Become a member of the Yellowstone Association?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Take an educational class from the Yellowstone Association Institute?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donate money to the Yellowstone Park Foundation?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donate money to other conservation organizations (i.e. World Wildlife Fund, National Park Foundation, etc.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Volunteer your time with Yellowstone National Park?</td>
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<td>Spend nights camping in Yellowstone?</td>
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<td>Spend nights in lodging facilities in Yellowstone?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spend nights in gateway communities outside Yellowstone?</td>
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</table>
Are you currently a member of the Yellowstone Association?
   1. Yes
   2. No

If yes, approximately how much have you contributed towards your membership to the Yellowstone Association in your lifetime?

Have you ever donated to the Yellowstone Park Foundation?
   1. Yes
   2. No

If yes, please estimate how much you have donated to the Yellowstone Park Foundation over your lifetime:

We are interested in the memories you have of Yellowstone National Park. Think of the first memory that comes to your mind about an experience or event that happened to you in Yellowstone National Park.

Now, describe that experience/event that came to your mind:

Where in Yellowstone National Park was this memory (to the best of your knowledge)?

What made it memorable?

What approximate month and year did this event happen? (you can skip the day, this program wouldn't let us omit it)
Now, please think about this memory you wrote about. Read each item carefully and choose the answer that most closely reflects your opinion of the experience.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Not at all - 1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>Vaguely - 3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>Distinctly - 5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>As clearly as if it were happening now - 7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>As I remember the event, I feel as though I am reliving the event.</td>
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<tr>
<td>As I remember the event, I can hear it in my mind.</td>
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<tr>
<td>As I remember the event, I can see it in my mind.</td>
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<tr>
<td>As I remember the event, I know the visual layout of the environment.</td>
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<tr>
<td>As I remember the event, I can feel now the emotions that I felt then.</td>
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<tr>
<td>As I remember the event, I can recall the setting where it occurred.</td>
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<tr>
<td>As I remember the event, I am aware of the time of day.</td>
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</table>

Continuing with this memory in Yellowstone, select the number that best represents your opinion:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Not at all - 1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>Vaguely - 3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>Distinctly - 5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>Better or as much as any memory - 7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>As I think about the event, I can actually remember it rather than just knowing it happened.</td>
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<tr>
<td>As I remember the event, it comes to me in words.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>As I remember the event, I feel that I travel back in time to when it happened, that I am a participant in it again, rather than an outside observer tied to the present.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Would you be confident enough in your memory of the event to testify in a court of law?</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>As I remember the event, it comes to me in words or in pictures as a coherent story or episode and not as an isolated fact, observation, or scene.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>This memory is significant in my life because it imparts an important message for me or represents an anchor, critical juncture, or turning point.</td>
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<tr>
<td>This memory has consequences for my life because it influenced my behavior, thoughts, or feelings in noticeable ways.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Please rate the importance of the following reasons you may have for traveling to Yellowstone National Park:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Not at all important</th>
<th>Somewhat important</th>
<th>Important</th>
<th>Very important</th>
<th>Extremely important</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To do something with my family.</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To bring my family closer together.</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To experience new and different things.</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To discover something new.</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To explore the area.</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To be close to nature.</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To be where things are natural.</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To have my mind move at a slower pace.</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To give my mind a rest.</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To get away from the usual demands of everyday life.</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To avoid responsibilities for a while.</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To reduce the feelings of having too many things to do.</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To think about good times I had in the past.</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To bring back pleasant memories.</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To reflect on past memories.</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To show family/friends a place I love.</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Have you ever done the following in a U.S. National Park?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participated in a &quot;ranger-led&quot; hike?</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attended an interpretive program (e.g. campfire talk)?</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Visitor Support for Yellowstone National Park 2014

Would you be willing to pay for...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A &quot;ranger-led&quot; hike in a national park?</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Maybe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>An interpretive program (e.g. campfire talk) in a national park?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Maybe</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How much you would you be willing to pay for a "ranger-led hike"?

How much would you be willing to pay for an interpretive talk/program?

How sure are you that you would actually pay that amount indicated above?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ranger-led Hikes</th>
<th>Probably sure</th>
<th>Definitely sure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interpretive talks/programs (e.g. campfire talks)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What is your age?

In which country do you permanently residence?

In what U.S. state do you permanently reside?

What is your current zip code/postal code?
What best describes your level of education?
1. Some high school
2. High school diploma or equivalent
3. Some college
4. Associates degree
5. Bachelor’s degree
6. Master’s degree
7. Doctorate or professional degree

What best describes your household income in U.S. dollars?
1. under $25,000
2. $25,000 to less than $50,000
3. $50,000 to less than $75,000
4. $75,000 to less than $100,000
5. $100,000 to less than $150,000
6. $150,000 to less than $200,000
7. $200,000 or greater

What is your gender?
1. Male
2. Female

Please provide any comments or questions that you wish to share in the space provided below:

Appendix B: Open ended questions

Yellowstone is a place (as with other National Parks) that gives you an inner peace, knowing that the serenity you feel while being there will remain with you for a LONG time. It is such a natural part of the United States where people of all races, creeds, religions can come and think and feel as one. This is such a place of NATURAL beauty that it MUST be kept this way for all to see for YEARS to come. If we could we would donate more of our money toward Yellowstone but our budget simply will not allow it. But I feel blessed knowing that we can do SOMETHING to help.

1. Question about paying for ranger led hikes / programs is too open. People will pay for interesting, quality activities that they can’t easily do on their own. Need to put more detail or qualification.
2. Yellowstone is not defined by one or two special interests or features, it is the total package that cannot be found anywhere else in the US. For example, Nature Photography for me is the entire spectrum of the Yellowstone experience - landscapes, waterfalls, bears, wolves, etc.

Wish you well on your Ph.D.

1. The bathrooms were nasty.
2. Obama supporters should have to clean the bathrooms.
3. How can people say millions of years ago when things change year to year? The earth isn’t as old as the geologists and hippies think.

A code of Conduct for visitors would create a better atmosphere for all the visitors to Yellowstone, in my opinion.
A couple of things - Yellowstone for me is the second best NP. The grand canyon number 1. I have not been to all the parks but I have been to most. I don't think of the ones I have not been to will top them. As for how much I would pay for a hike, I would need to know how long it would last, how hard it was, etc.

A lot of the things I have done in the park were because of someone I knew that worked there. Like going for a ranger led hike and a campfire talk. I would not have known how cool those things really were since I have always gone into the woods by myself and adventured around. So sometimes adding a fee to those things when people have to pay for a group could prohibiting people from going to them. I feel that we already pay taxes and entrance fees to keep our parks open and operating, and just like schools and libraries; they should be available to everyone to enjoy. I love our national parks, and believe they and the people who work there are treasures of our country.

A White wolf!!! would love to see one again.

A wonderful park to visit everyone should visit at least once in their life

A wonderful place I called home for 15 years...

A wonderful place with so much to experience!

Actually I currently live abroad in Kazakhstan but consider my permanent residence in the U.S.

After working in Yellowstone for 3 months I fell in love with it, it is such an amazing place.

All N.P.'s are important to me with Yellowstone holding special memories through the years.

All National Parks have special memories, or impacts on me, and I try to visit them with my family where ever we go.

Although I can afford to pay for services in the national park system I feel things would be better off free with donation boxes present. You do realize our taxes already pay for maintenance of these parks and programs.

Although I enjoy ranger led talks, etc., I feel that the price of admission to the park should cover that. National parks should be a place everyone can enjoy regardless of their income level. It would be a shame to deny anyone the opportunity to learn and explore nature.

Although I have visited all the Western State and National Parks, and appreciate each and every one for their unique and special features, there is something mystical and magical, as well as tangible that sets Yellowstone apart from anywhere else, in the world.

Although I might be willing to pay for a ranger lead tour now, at the time I wondered how important it would be the first time and would probably not have paid it then. It was an outstanding part of the experience and influenced us wanting to return.

Although I might be willing to pay for ranger/naturalist led programs, I'd prefer that the Park be funded by Congress sufficiently for these to be offered free to all visitors.

Although the last time I visited Yellowstone was in 1984, my new husband, my parents and I are returning to Yellowstone this summer (July), as I have really wanted to come back due to my fond memories of one of my favorite family vacations

Am excited about the upcoming Yellowstone trip in September

Am not submitting household income, too invasive.

Another highlight is staying (more difficult to get a room these days) and visiting Old Faithful Inn. I have stayed in every section of the Inn so experienced the shared baths to private and enjoyed them all. I love that place.

As a nation, we need to take care of our National Parks; they represent parts of country that are still pristine, natural, not over developed. So our children and their children can enjoy the wonderful experiences we have had and our parents before us, we must conserve and think about the environment. I fear we are becoming a nation of caring about only 'me', not 'we'.

As for paying for ranger led walks and night shows, I was referring to $10 per family not per person.

As for the Yellowstone questions. I reside on my ranch in the Kootenai Nat. Forest. I have abundant animal life around me and find the Yellowstone area; overcrowded, not natural and a place to avoid until after the tourists go home!

As soon as my firefighter husband retires next year our first trip is to Yellowstone, already planned! We love it and will continue to support it and when we retire we can afford to increase our yearly contribution. Good luck.
Asking a question that requires a person to select a single important item in Yellowstone must think it's a town block in Kansas.

Asking about paying like it's a fact with no details is impossible to answer for me. The particulars are vital, and you provided none. I am unwilling to pay for common tours such as those for getting jr ranger badge, but uncommon experiences are worth paying for. The more uncommon, the more I would be willing to pay.

At our age, we love bus tours through parks since we can watch rather than drive. We just visited Denali and enjoyed the required buses, since cars are not allowed in much of the park.

Attended wolf week with my grandson and absolutely loved it.

beauty struck me first, then recent history, then wildlife, then people, then the joy of my employment by Conoco, then the long term evolution of the park, i.e. volcanoes

Because of my age some of the questions do not apply to me.

Best four years in my life. Still keep in touch with fellow 'savages'.

Best of luck on your dissertation. It is so worth it when you are finished :)

Best of luck on your project. Yellowstone is a beautiful place that needs to be preserved for future generations.

Best of luck with your research.

Best of luck! Thank you for the memories and a place to share my thoughts about Yellowstone, a place that I love in my heart so.

Best wishes on your dissertation!

Both my husband and I have a deep love of Yellowstone. We try to go each spring and fall. If an occasion happens where we cannot go to Yellowstone, it is very upsetting to us. We love it there and would like to retire near Yellowstone so that we can visit more often.

Both regarding the survey (plus a commentary):
1) The questions that reference family are tough to answer accurately because +85% of my trips have been solo.
2a) Answers regarding paying for ranger-led events have to be qualified by the fact that some of them are fantastic and others are so-so (and you don't know which until it's in progress).
2b) I also have a problem paying for such because there are MANY volunteers who would be happy to do them for just a place to stay in the park(s). However, the Park Service seems to make it difficult/limited to get those interpretive-type positions. (At my age/education/experience I'm not interested in the hard labor jobs like trail building.)

Bringing 2 teen grandsons who have never seen mountains (real ones : ) ) out in Sept. (they're homeschooled so free to travel when others are in school) Looking forward to it. Would like to stay in the park and currently have reservations, but will need to cancel because of the mandatory eating dinner at the resort. That increases our cost too much. Will try again to get a place that doesn't have that requirement.

Bringing a 10 year old granddaughter on this trip. We are being joined by one of my brothers, his wife has never been. Hope they enjoy the park as much as we did in 1995.

Can't wait to bring family. As a family we choose a national park each year to visit and get in as many others along the way as we are able.

Can't wait to spend more time in Yellowstone, Cody Wyoming, Teton Nat'l Park and Glacier National Park.

Change the age to 66

I went back to explain the event but was told I could not repeat. So it was the missing of Giant after seeing it get better each day for 14 days that made seeing it twice in a period of 4 or 5 days so awesome! From first water which we had seen so often to the height and sound of the full eruption and back to light stream, time was almost stopped, and yet it was a long time 3 hours I think. It was a warm day and we got wet. The second time was a cold day and harder to see but the noise was wonderful. And we have not seen it since that time in 2005 because it hasn't erupted!

coming to Yellowstone this summer with my daughter, son-in-law and 2 grandchildren

Concerning cost of ranger tours and night time program, the price would increase if 'private' but there was no indication of the program structure group or private
Concession are assuming too many of the roles and responsibilities of the NPS. Same with Yellowstone Association. Fund Parks properly!

Cost is prohibitive for many people to enjoy their National Parks.

Cost of ranger led hike or campfire program: Needs to be priced per family. I would pay $5 per family.

Could improve response rate by consolidating survey. Too many redundant questions. Not sure what you’re going to do with some of the responses.

Current concern is the fact that there are more Indian and Chinese visitors in Yellowstone than Americans. Many do not read or speak our language and wander off boardwalks and into unsafe and fragile areas. Too many US citizens are missing out on the Park experience! Overcrowding during peak season is also an issue. Time enjoying the park is wasted waiting in lines for food, bathrooms, picnic areas, etc. SO SAD! Have watched these negative changes occur over the decades.

Currently having a bad experience with Xanterra. A miscommunication on a camp reservation and was told by one person I would get a refund for the mix up, then told by another that I might not. It had to go to another committee to decide whether or not to refund me $30. It’s going to cost more for the committee to meet and ‘discuss’ this than it would to just refund the money. Very disappointed.

Currently studying to be a wildlife biologist, with hopes of being part of the IAGBST, so I LOOOOVE Yellowstone! I grew up in Alaska and it is one of the only places I can go that really makes me feel like I’m in the wild again. It is such a beautiful place. I wish the boundaries were larger as the ramifications for bison, wolves, and bears are often sad when they stray from the park.

Depending on the type & length of guided hike, I would pay accordingly. I think that the campfire talks should be included as a benefit part of our camping fee.

Do not wish to give income. We love Yellowstone and recommend it to friends. Would like to come in winter next.

Donations for ranger and interpretive talks- you will get generous donations

Don’t ask how much money a person makes and offer an ‘other’ tab. Many of the questions were leading and not open to my personal response.

Don’t change anything!

Don’t see why you need my income! There should be another answer, i.e. 'don’t want to reveal'

Don’t usually visit in June-August due to crowds. Need to provide alternative transportation options to reduce over dependence on cars and trucks.

Drive in and out of Yellowstone is rough. Also I have visited 13 national parks in three years and in park lodging is a problem. I also feel for the lack of ranger pay.

During our visit we had 2 private tours one for wildlife, one for waterfalls. We rented a private home outside the park. All were excellent. We wished we would have spent more time at the geysers and the Yellowstone lodge. We were disappointed that the recovery from the fire is taking so long. We were disappointed that we saw no moose.

Government should consider increasing park entrance fees to support the parks. We paid $25 for a one week family pass, how long has it been since this fee was established? Perhaps it’s time for a fee increase.

Earlier in the survey I checked that I’m a member of the Yellowstone Ass’n. Wrong! I belong to the Yellowstone Park Foundation.

enjoy the opportunity to get away and visit our natural parks, state parks and other natural wild places in the U.S.A.

Enjoy the staff at YS, they seem to enjoy the public and our experiences!

Enjoyed Yellowstone Lake, watching the sunset.

Enjoyed Yellowstone very much. Please do not start charging for Ranger-led hikes. I participated in several and found them very valuable, but probably would have done fewer if there was a charge for them.
Even though my first trip to Yellowstone resulted in my first moose viewing, my first wolf viewing in August of 2011 definitely changed my life as I had followed the reintroduction and was finally able to spend three days in the Lamar viewing 06 and her family. I will remember what I saw for the rest of my life. I have a photo Dan Hartman took of 06 on my piano and I am so thankful that I was able to see this wonderful creature.

Even though I only visited Yellowstone once as a child and once as an adult with my children, I do hope to return.....but it's not close by and there as so many other amazing natural places to see.

Everyone should experience Yellowstone at least once in their life. I just wish my schedule enabled me to visit more frequently. I want to go back!

Expand winter group events: snowshoe, xc ski, wildlife viewing using ranger led events.

Favorite vacation spot, going back this summer for 9 days

First visit - gave geyser lectures to Geology Field Camp students. Stayed in the group campsite that used to be the bear feeding grounds. Only saw a moose.

For 15 years I was a tour guide in Yellowstone and still do some tours ( from Jackson WY)

For the amount I'm willing to pay for a campfire talk, etc., I think it would be good to be able to pay per family or donate. Preservation of the park is worth any amount of money. Thank you for the survey! Good luck with your dissertation!

For those of us who have been to Yellowstone many times and love it beyond reason, this survey doesn't cover the ground, but I am very supportive and glad you are doing it. The reason I don't wish to pay for Ranger Walks, etc. (and I've been on many) is, we pay taxes to cover that type of thing. Congress needs to allocate more funding to all the parks. The concept of National Parks originated here and, as you know, Y-stone was the first in the world. Congress has never understood the importance of that. Places like Yellowstone or Yosemite or Rocky Mountain or any other national treasure should NEVER have to beg for money! Increase my taxes if you must, but take care of the special places we as so lucky to have in our country. Good luck Jacob. Do a great job.

Forget the income question

Former seasonal employee.

FYI it was difficult to write about just one memory, as I have SO many amazing memories from Yellowstone!

Get people out of their cars. No more blacktop in Yellowstone

Glacier is first about 30+ times then Yellowstone

Glad to see recycling program!

Glad we were there in early June, before heavy tourist season

Going to Yellowstone last year was a dream come true. I spent a week there camping at Fishing Bridge RV Park. I think about it every day and can't wait to get back. It represents the wild in my mind, not that another place couldn't, but Yellowstone seems to be special. Maybe because it's our first National Park. I was in awe of the wildlife and the sheer grandeur of the country itself.

Good for you......

Good Luck

your survey is long.

Good luck on the dissertation and survey work. I liked visiting Yellowstone a few years ago and look forward to doing so again.

Good luck on working towards your master’s degree. We love Yellowstone National Park!

Good luck on your dissertation Jake!

I enjoyed the survey...I usually don't participate in these but when I saw it was for your dissertation I couldn't let you down! I'm a die-hard educator (:)

Good luck on your thesis!

Good luck with the survey

Good luck with the thesis.
Good luck with the valuation questions! In my experience it is soft science!

Good luck with your data collection.

Good luck with your dissertation - YNP is a fascinating project

Good Luck with your graduate studies. Yellowstone, when we saw it twenty years ago was jaw dropping. When we revisited this past early June it was still as amazing.

Good luck with your research!

Good luck with your research!

Good luck with your research.

Good luck with your research. Would be nice to see the results.

Good luck with your survey and education.

Good luck with your survey and other degree work!!

Good luck. My husband has a PhD!

good questions if not a bit obtuse at times...not always sure of which side of the scale that I would want to stress given the question...so took some thought in the hopes of getting it right.

Good survey. As someone who has designed some similar surveys back in my pre-retirement days, I'm impressed with the quality of several of your questions. Best of luck.

Good timing, we are planning to return to Yellowstone in early September, staying at the Canyon Lodge. Looking forward to seeing Old Faithful again. I am also very interested to see the regrowth around the Old Faithful Lodge.

Great study. Grateful that you are doing it.

Greater Yellowstone is a magical place, a national treasure... and one I will continue to visit until I die. One of the greatest gifts I have given my sons is the love of the Park. My older is now working in the Park; his Mom & I halfway suspect he may not come home. Maintaining the natural, undeveloped environment & ecosystem of the area (and the whole NPS) is worth any cost in the federal budget. I hope your research serves to make that point.

Growing up, my family went to Yellowstone every summer. I learned to love it and want to share that love with my family. Doing this survey has brought back some happy memories. Thanks!

Ha! We are leaving for Yellowstone TOMORROW! After the government shutdown, we began planning to go to YNP immediately upon returning home. Very excited.

Have become friends with other travelers we've met at Yellowstone and with an employee of Xanterra. Also, via our suggestions, our grandson is working for Xanterra at Old Faithful Lodge this summer season: May - October, 2014.

Have loved YNP since the first time I visited in 2000, so have returned each year since. Plan to work there for the summer season once I retire in 5 years.

Have visited Yellowstone more than any other National Park. Have taken 3 lodging & learning courses with YA. Schedule will finally allow us to do Roosevelt Rendezvous in Sept 2015.

Have visited Yellowstone twice and plan to return July 4 - 7 to stay in park...and to do a family reunion near park in 2016 using park as the family's main attraction. Also did a park tour that was very educational and relaxing as I could see and learn without having to worry where to drive in the park by myself as my husband was fly fishing with a park approved guide.

Having 'real' Rangers in National Parks is important to me.

Ideally, the cost to use the parks is low ~ kind of a birthright thing.

Having visited most of the National Parks, Yellowstone and Glacier are my favorites. We are so very blessed that our country is committed to preserving these treasures.

Having visited Yellowstone Park several times when the black bear were abundant, It was a really sad day to take my children out there thinking we would see bear, and realizing that because of human interference and disregard for the laws regulating feeding and approaching animals the bear at that period in Yellowstone's life were had been transported to the back country.....Considering the disrespect for safety and park rules governing the viewing
of Grizzly bear, I am afraid we are going to cheat future generations of the awesome joy of seeing them running wild...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hope this helps you finish your PhD work</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hope this helps you. We will be in Yellowstone in August. Can't wait!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hope this survey is not used as a justification to start paying for Ranger lead walks and services.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hoping that ranger led hikes and campfire programs remain free. When coming to Yellowstone with family the cost definitely affects how many activities we do. Love the trails and ability to do some hiking and always look forward to campfire programs. Not always able to do horse riding or take the boat rides out on the lake due to budget.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How much would I be willing to pay for a hike depends on how easy the hike would be without a guide and how long the hike was.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How much to we love Yellowstone National Park? Our Auto License Plate = YELOSTN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How will this survey be used, beyond the stated purpose of it being a graduate student’s thesis?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I &lt;3 YNP!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I absolutely love going to Yellowstone!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I absolutely love YA and its mission. Have been on a number of programs. Quality staff. YNP is an incredible treasure and support all efforts to preserve it. I do worry about the effects of all forms of vehicles and support limitations on same. I am troubled by national as well as local politics that have impacts on weapons, wildlife and environment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I actually worked 4 summers in Yellowstone for Xanterra 2008-2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I also felt that the employees in the park really enjoyed being there and they were so helpful and answered all my questions. Everyone from the ranger at the park entrance to the gift shop employees couldn’t do enough to assist, answer a question, and had a great attitude about where they work and wanted their guests to really enjoy themselves and their great attitude rubbed off me. And for someone to take their time and make the guests fell welcomed made me want to come back.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I always make attempt to pay for a hike or field trip with a naturalist from a support group at every NP we visit. I also join &amp; donate to them. I’ve paid for both for our upcoming trip to Yellowstone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I always purchase the complete National Parks Pass every year &amp; have used from Hawaii to New England states &amp; Virgin Islands to Alaska. Believe fees from pass should cover interpretive programs but would pay extra for interpretive hikes, just as I do for fly-fishing Yellowstone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I always think of Yellowstone as a World Apart.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am a college professor who takes college students camping and teaches an intensive science course in Yellowstone for teachers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good luck with your research. The survey is nicely designed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am a nonresident alien in the US, pursuing a Doctorate degree. My country of permanent residence however is still India.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am a ranger here, so that may skew some of these answers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am a retired high school US history teacher... and I traveled with my family in 1964 on a road trip to visit many of the NP... including Yellowstone, Glacier, Tetons, Custer S.D. and many more. As a result, I always used a research project for my US History students to research the Nat’l Parks and a park of their choice. I have had many of them thank me for that project as they have traveled with their families to the NP and appreciate the NP more now. I still travel and have a mule trip planned in the Grand Canyon. Something I have always wanted to do! I plan to attend more Nat’l Park activities. Wolf Discovery in YNP is something I would like to do. I am glad I have been able to help out with this research project... and I would like to do more to assist with future projects if possible. Thank you!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I am a second grade teacher and love to tell my students about Yellowstone. Many of them have convinced their families to take vacations because of what I have shared with them. A couple of years ago we ran into a family whose three children I had taught. We have a picture with them at my favorite place in the park, Canyon.

I am a strong believer in the YA and what it does. The YA's YI provides a great way to enjoy and learn about Yellowstone with other likeminded people.

I am a Wyoming native, Wyoming is the best! I have lived in other parts of the country, but Yellowstone is so wonderful a part of Wyoming!! Thank you for all your hard work!

I am afraid there is too much emphasis on Yellowstone. I love a great many places to hike and walk in Montana (Bitterroots, Sapphires, etc.) and Idaho.

I am an avid photographer, nature and wildlife enthusiast so Yellowstone is uniquely appealing on all fronts. There are tremendous opportunities in California for beauty but the wildlife viewing is much tougher.

I am an economics professor and have conducted surveys in Yellowstone about visitor valuations of the natural features. I have developed an expertise in this area and use it to consult with the NPS on valuing the natural resources in national parks.

I am concerned about the accommodations. It seems we were lucky to find anything at all and now we are paying $250/night for a place without a bathroom. My memory of visiting before was that accommodations were quite rustic. If there were better places to stay and to dine we would probably visit more often.

I am disabled and fully retired now so I can travel at my leisure.

I am disappointed to see how many tour buses are being allowed to enter the National Parks; especially when those visitors are spending the night at one of the park accommodations. It is frustrating to try and secure reservations up to a year in advance when there are one or two nights (usually during the week) that are already sold out due to the bus tours.

I am glad that someone is doing research on this. I love the national park system. I use examples all of the time in my classes I teach. I hope that my experience will inspire students to have a respect for geology and nature.

I am going back to school for a second master's degree, this time in Environmental Science. I hope with all my heart that I find a way to work in Yellowstone through this degree.

I am happy to participate in a survey about Yellowstone and our National Parks!

I am living in Chicago currently due to divorce until it is final Ohio is my legal residence.

I am looking forward to again heading out to YNP in a few weeks.

I am not sure the purpose of this survey, but national parks really are the US' greatest idea. To maintain our culture, it is imperative to preserve the natural, cultural, and historical character of the land and make it accessible to all citizens.

I am planning our next trip to Yellowstone.

I am retired (3 yrs.). Income is retirement income...also mobility impaired. Some answers reflect this.

I am retired now and loving it.

I am willing to pay more for entrance fees, for facilities and activities in our national parks if it means that the parks will be maintained properly and staff paid decently.

I began my Yellowstone experiences as a worker for the concessionaire in 1972. Have visited regularly ever since, and have particularly enjoyed the experiences with the Yellowstone Institute since 2003...I wish I had joined YA sooner!

I believe caring for our natural resources and the treasure that our National Parks are, is extremely important. My husband and I are planning a trip to the Midwest this fall and will once again drop down and travel through Yellowstone and other historic sites and parks along the way, wanting to see and experience as many of our countries awesome sites as we can.

I believe parks, battlefields, libraries, museums, monuments, homes, any place of historical or natural beauty needs to be shared and enjoyed. But of course the idea that nature is a money making operation irks me to no end.

I believe Ranger led hikes and campfire programs are important, but that people should not be charged for them. Even if we needed to pay more in taxes to support this!
I believe strongly that the National Parks are an important part of our heritage and should remain open for
generations to come.

I call Yellowstone the No 1 park at least for me. In 1999 went on NPCA tour to see the Grey Wolves in the Lamar
Valley and as I recall we did see the Druid Peak Pack then. Yellowstone is just a great place to visit. Good luck with
your Survey

I could not answer the questions regarding money because I have never calculated my experiences in terms of
finances. I have contributed over many years and would be willing to pay reasonable amounts for services
rendered by park rangers. The YNP/Teton area is a jewel and harbors my soul.

I COULD NOT FIGURE OUT HOW TO RESERVE A CAMP SITE!!!!!!

I did not answer the last questions because the entry fee should pay for any ranger talks. I think the entry fee is
too low for what is accessible. Congress should appropriate more money for our National Parks.

I did not take this survey before.

I did this survey, because I was once a graduate student and needed others to participate and help me with in my
thesis. Good luck!

I did work in Yellowstone for eight summers and three winters. I started working for the park concessionaire and
then worked as a VIP and seasonal park ranger.

I didn't realize this was a mental evaluation or
I wouldn't have taken it, and I think it is unnecessary to ask for income specifics.

I didn't take any tours, because the ones I wanted promised a hike 'depending on the fitness level of the group,'
and I needed to know that I was going to go on a hike, how far and how long. I like to walk.

I do not believe surveys of this sort are reliable. Perhaps they are all one can do to try to get information.

I do not give permission to sell my personal data or email address. You may use my data for educational purposes
only to the ends necessary for this student to complete his project/study or dissertation.

I do not like money questions about my income, which I lied about, and my contribution history.

I do not reveal income.

I do what I do so I can go to Yellowstone every year

I don't contribute to Yellowstone Park Foundation now because they shared my address with another entity for a
fund raiser.

I don't go to YNP to turn off my mind, but I do turn off the '1000 things' cluttering my mind & focus more on the
basics, the eternal aspects of life on earth.

I don't know where you are going with the memory questions. Especially if the first Yellowstone experience was
decades ago.

The questions pertaining to family were difficult to answer because I have no immediate family. There are a few
people I would not mind sharing the Yellowstone experience with.

I love visiting Yellowstone in the winter and fall months. There are too many visitors/cars during the summer.
However, I've always said that if you walk several hundred yards away from the road you'll find yourself peacefully
alone with nature.

Yellowstone is my #1 National Park.

I've been a member of the Yellowstone Association for many years. I just became a member of the Yellowstone
Park Foundation this year.

I still remember attending ranger talks (1970's) at Indian Creek campground, and enjoying the conversations I had
with seasonal ranger Dick Follett (teacher). He specialized in 'birds.' I looked up his name on the internet a few
years ago and discovered he had passed away. I feel these ranger talks are an integral part of the total Yellowstone
experience.

I can't imagine anyone thinking of charging a person to attend a talk. Maybe leaving a 'donation' receptacle might
be OK. But, do you mean to tell me you can't get volunteers as in past years?

I have very fond and vivid memories of my 2009 trip to Yellowstone with my sister. We got there following a
several day snowstorm that had just passed through. The park was gorgeous, and it seemed as though we had
Yellowstone to ourselves. My sister put together an album from this trip, along with narrative captions as to what
she was seeing and feeling. This album is especially meaningful to me because she passed away in 2013.
I don't like the idea of being charged for ranger-led events that are currently free. The cost could easily be prohibitive for families which have already paid entrance fees and may be paying for lodging within the park. We don't want to discourage visitors from experiencing or learning about the national parks.

I doubt I'll ever get back to Yellowstone since there are so many other National Parks I've yet to visit.

I encourage everyone to visit Yellowstone because of the beauty and diversity, especially if they have children. I will continue to visit the park for the rest of my life. It is in my blood now.

I enjoyed participating in the survey. I never give my income.

I especially enjoy Yellowstone in off-season when there are less people. We used to go every Sept to photograph wildlife.

I experience excitement with just the thought of returning to experience the park AGAIN!!!

I experienced a connection to YNP during my first visit, and over time that connection has only solidified more. I consider YNP my home away from home, and as I have aged I have made an effort to visit the park more frequently. If I had no family considerations and cost would not be an issue, I believe I could live in YNP year around. I in fact have planned that YNP will be the final resting place for my ashes. I joined YA about 15 years ago, and my only regret is that I am not wealthy enough to support this wonderful organization at a higher level than I am able to currently. YNP needs to be preserved for all the future generations from around the world, and YA play a great role in this regard. It is regrettable our Congress is unable (unwilling?) to provide greater financial support for our first national park.

I felt like there were too many choices in the favorite section. I hope that you will share your findings with those who participated in the questionnaire.

I find your question about what I would pay for a ranger led walk and interpretive campfire program too vague. Are we talking a 1-hour walk/talk? With slides/music? Number of participants? I am so knowledgeable about the Lamar Valley, would not need these services.

I go over for the peacefulness even though there are a lot of people. I hate it though when the rangers act like arrogant buttheads & yell at people (even though they may deserve it) but worse yet, when THEY bully the wildlife in the name of 'public safety'.

I go to many National Parks but Yellowstone is one I try to visit every year.

I go to Yellowstone for hiking, scenery, all wildlife watching and nature photography love the Tetons as well Park Ranger Hikes are good but covered by my annual pass bough every year.

I go to Yellowstone mainly as a wilderness/adventure photographer, and it's one of my favorite places on the planet.

I go up 6-8 times a year for long weekends, thinking about moving to Montana to be closer to the park.

I got the chance to see the Lamar wolf pack, lots of bison, close to a coyote, great scenery, Old Faithful & other geysers. Two trips & I still did not see it all. Would live close by if it wasn't so expensive. After my second trip I spent several days in Glacier Nat'l Park - also a treasure of a vacation.

I guide in Yellowstone over 100 days a year, summer and winter. There is a major problem in summer due to the lack of education of the rules and etiquette. Foreign tour guides & coach drivers routinely break rules and cause problems. Rental convoys have been blocking traffic for extended times and it could be avoided. My tours are affected by these issues EVERY day. The west entrance is the worst and needs more traffic patrols!!! Unnecessary congestion leaves the biggest impression on visitors. All my visiting guests comment on the volume of Asian visitors. The difference in cultures leads to a negative experience. I feel the education and guide training can help this problem. Foreign drivers create very large problems and are quite dangerous. Loud motorcycle tours have no business in Yellowstone. Noise restrictions should be put in place. It only makes sense. Thanks for listening!

I had a brief career as a Biologist and Oceanographer but due to financial reasons my career focus changed to the Business/Software arena. Yellowstone reintroduced me to nature. After our first visit to the park, my wife and I became actively involved with YPF. This has allowed us to enjoy the unique natural environments of the park and hopefully we have contributed to its preservation and protection for future generations.

I had a delicious Bison Burger, while my uncle Harry ordered the bison and elk meatloaf. I sent postcards to my friends/family and I bought Yellowstone Park State Quarter Key chains for Harry and Barbara and me. The waitress would have sung Harry a song for his birthday, but he spared her. We had a very memorable birthday, even though
it was not my birthday.

I had a very wonderful time. I am so glad I got to visit Yellowstone National Park.

I had the most amazing time visiting Yellowstone National Park. It was filled with many exciting adventures and memories that I will never forget!!

I have a deep connection to Yellowstone National Park that I cannot explain. I feel as if I am connected to the location and belong there. I hope to obtain a job there in the future so I can spend more of my time there.

I have a nephew in college who is working in Yellowstone Park for the summer. His girlfriend also got a summer job. My husband & I are flying out to visit them in July and experience YS Park and Grand Teton. His parents, brother and brother’s friend are driving from Georgia to visit them. Another couple is flying from Tennessee. Their job gave all 8 of us a reason to plan a vacation to the park.

I have a similar relationship with Yosemite which is like spiritual home where I have backpacked for more than 40 years. The wildlife in Yellowstone is equally special.

I have also helped from the very beginning through Defenders of Wildlife, to re-introduce the wolves to Yellowstone. My daughter and her husband were fortunate during one of their frequent visits, as they live in Montana (went back from NY and PA), to see the wolves in Lamar Valley. My husband and I heard them but it was thrilling! Good luck on your dissertation. The best advice I had on mine was to ‘Never Give up!’ I pass this on to you!

I have been an interpretive ranger in parks other than Yellowstone. I don’t think making the public pay will expand the support of parks.

I have been returning to YS since my first visit in 1962 as a high schooler...I have brought many (over 200 individuals) groups of kids at risk (4th-12th grade) camping here for the last 40 years...I am now employed in YS for the last 8 seasons.

I have come to Yellowstone Park every year starting in 1959 and come in winter and summer.

I have contributed to the Buffalo Field campaign and follow closely what happens to the buffalo.

I have had many different pleasant experiences over the years, but the citation (referred to earlier) was a significant, unpleasant experience that I hope is never repeated again for anyone.

I have had so many wonderful experiences in Yellowstone that my answers are probably more general than specific trips. My past is in Yellowstone with my family, as is my present and future...very special place for me....

I have no high school education, and no income, for I am 11.

I have only been there once but it is such a special place you can’t see anywhere else that I know I will return and definitely bring my children when I have them to pass down the love of the park.

I have other very positive memories of my time in Yellowstone: beautiful -- and peaceful areas... waterfalls, rivers, lakes and mountains. Being in the midst of this natural setting helped me to relax my mind and body.

With respect to paying for services, such as for ranger led walks: I’d really have to know what was entailed to determine if a fee seemed reasonable or not.

I have participated in Yellowstone Park Volunteer Fly-Fishing Program and member of the Yellowstone Park Foundation. I have supported the 'Save the Yellowstone Cutthroat' program through YPF and Trout Unlimited. I love Yellowstone and will always support the Park.

I have really enjoyed the programs presented by YAI- Roosevelt Rendezvous, for example, and I have led two trips to Yellowstone for our hiking club, using the YAI as our guides. People loved these trips. My first time in Yellowstone was when I went with my family as a teenager. My husband and I took our children there, and I hope someday to take my grandchildren there. I tell all our relatives and friends that if they have not been to Yellowstone, they should definitely go. It is a unique experience. I have also led trips to other national parks and each has something wonderful to offer, but nowhere else in the US has the geysers and geothermal features found in Yellowstone. We have visited most of the US national parks, and Yellowstone ranks as one of my top favorites. I have been there in Summer, Winter, and Fall. Although I would be willing to pay a nominal fee for a ranger led hike, I don't think it would be a good policy for the Park Service to implement. The entrance fee for the parks is enough for most people, I think, and more people are
likely to take a ranger-led hike (which can be important from a safety standpoint as well as an informative learning experience) if they do not have to pay extra for it. The same goes for evening programs, especially for families with children.

I have recently gone to Yellowstone with my family. We only spent four days. Next year we plan to spend at least 2-3 weeks.

I have so many special memories from cool things I have seen in YNP!

I have taken many classes at the Buffalo Ranch, for which I of course paid. The chance to stay in the Lamar Valley and learn from experts like Doug Smith is very valuable and I did pay much more than I put in the Hypothetical, since I have no idea what you meant by an 'interpretive event.' I have taken about 5 classes on wolves, (Doug, Nathan Varley, and others) in writing (Gary Ferguson) illustrated nature journal, (Hannah Hinchman) etc. These actually led me to decide to retire to Bozeman from teaching in Wisconsin; that and watching the wolves!

I have visited almost every National Park west of the Mississippi & some to the east, many of them multiple times. The National Parks ARE 'our best idea' & Yellowstone is at the top of the list.

I have visited many of the Western States National Parks and worked the summer of 1986 at Glacier National Park. I also participated in a kayak/rafting trip of the Grand Canyon September 2012 to celebrate my 75th birthday.

I have visited the park at least a year since 1943, and during the summer of 1954 I worked in the Mammoth Post Office. The park is very important to me still. I believe more public money should be invested in it, which would make Xanterra and similar organizations unnecessary.

I have visited Yellowstone 9 separate times and hope to return this year. It is an awesome location, great nature viewing, and plenty of photos opt. Carol

I have visited YNP in the winter, spring and summer, but would definitely like to visit in the fall.

I have worked in geothermal energy worldwide for the past 37 years and now work primarily in East Africa. I drafted the legislation that protects Units of the National Park system from geothermal development despite the fact I work to developed the resource in other places.

I have worked in Yellowstone, and I decided to earn other bachelors in Physical Geography because of how I discovered my interests in the Earth thanks to Yellowstone.

I have Yellowstone fever, big time!

I haven't been to Yellowstone for several years, but think it is fabulous. Associate the park with Montana relatives who visit it frequently

I haven't been to Yellowstone since I was 13 years old. I am excited to be going in May 2015 and taking my husband (who's never been) and 2 couples.

I hope I win, would LOVE to be back in Yellowstone, with my husband.

I hope results will be published say in the Yellowstone Association newsletter. Good luck!

I hope to continue to participate in the group programs offered

I hope to visit this summer!

I hope you are not thinking of starting to charge money for ranger-led activities. One of the beautiful things about the national parks is that they are available to everyone, regardless of income, and we pay for them with our taxes and entrance fees. I think ranger-led hikes and talks are really important for their educational role, and I would not like to see some people excluded because they cannot afford it. Entrance fees, camping fees, lodging fees are already quite high.

I hope you find my situation previously described to be enlightening. Perhaps signs telling people to anticipate difficulty with traffic when photographic situations arise. And that coming to a complete stop is not only possible but it might be required.

I just love Yellowstone.

I just wish there are better was to get out to WY

I like cheese.
I like Glacier Best
I like National parks a lot, being near GSMP I visit there often and wish I could visit YSP more often but due to the distance I am limited in my visits.

I like that there is very limited cell and wireless connectivity. I let me completely unwind.

I like the national parks and have visited several and hope to visit more now that I'm retired.

I like to fish
I live in NY, but I have always referred to Yellowstone as home. There is something about the place that allows me to be myself, to go on adventures, experience something new and now I get to share it with my daughter- who will going to Yellowstone for the 3rd time this summer... she is only 4. There is a magic in the way that you can be alone in the wild, and still have the ability to stop into Canyon or Lake for a meal. To drive down the road and see something as ancient as the mud pots and animals that have lived in the same place for hundreds of years, even if some have only recently moved back in. I could have referenced dozens of memories from Yellowstone and each one is equally as important in my story. I hope everyone gets the chance to see Yellowstone as I see it and that it's around for hundreds of years more.

I live Yellowstone so much that I bought property in Wyoming to be closer
I lived in MT for 15 years and met my wife of 13 years working in Yellowstone. It is, and always will be, a truly magical place!

I love getting off the roads on the trails in Yellowstone
I love going in May and again in September and try to at least one more in between those dates
I love going to national and state parks to get back to nature and see wildlife in their natural habit. I cannot wait to bring my 14 year old there this summer to see the wolves, bears and the hot springs and geysers. It will be a memory we will never forget.

I love Montana...especially Yellowstone and glacier national parks
I LOVE photographing Yellowstone and ALL of its Wildlife.

I love soaking in the boiling river and have probably done that more than anything else in the park. The grand canyon is my favorite place in the park, the winter safari trip from Xanterra is the most popular item at my nonprofit fundraising live auction every year.

I love the beauty of the U.S. And it bothers me to see the disrespect from adults or what parents will let their children at sites when what we do has a direct impact on preservation of history. I always took our children (and now my grands) to historical sites and old cemeteries. It was hard to leave Yellowstone every time I visited because it is truly one of the great beauties of our country.

I love the idea of going back to Yellowstone. Yellowstone and Northwestern Wyoming was the best of my youth but I am retiring and my finances will be reduced and my health may not be good enough.

I love the National Parks and Monuments and have never found a unit of the National Park System (NPS) that I haven't loved. What's not to love about America's Best Idea! I live right next to the Colorado National Monument (COLM) and have worked for the cooperating association there (CNMA) and have been a Volunteer in the Parks (VIP) there as well. I frequently attend ranger led hikes and programs at COLM and at every National Park and Monument I visit. We rarely ever vacation anywhere else but in units of the NPS. They truly are America's Best Idea!

I love the notion of Ranger Led Hikes and Evening Interpretive Programs, but they are such a tradition and they are so valuable, they should be available to all who would wish to participate and not just those who can afford them as 'extras'. Interpretive programs should always be plentiful and free!

I love this park. I have so much fun there. So many great memories.

I love this place and cannot wait to return. I most appreciate the lasting impression it left on my children of how much potential exists in the world for them to explore and discover

I love watching all wildlife and the geysers. Yellowstone is just a special place.

I would love to help you with your research project in any way I can. Please just ask. I bring a school group to Yellowstone yearly and come alone several more times. I have learned a lot about it and would live to help in any...
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<th>way I can.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I love Yellowstone</td>
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<td>I love Yellowstone</td>
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<td>I love Yellowstone</td>
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<tr>
<td>I love Yellowstone and appreciate your efforts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I love Yellowstone and could easily spend the summer. Still trying to figure out best way to get there in winter. My husband has been out a few times to humor me, but does not understand how I feel so I usually come alone.</td>
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<tr>
<td>I love Yellowstone and our other National Parks and I want a larger part of our tax money to go towards the NPs and toward wildlife and ecosystem preservation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>I love Yellowstone and so do my children—15, 13, and 8!!!</td>
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<td>I love Yellowstone and would visit every year if I could. My husband and I have participated in the Yellowstone Institute’s Roosevelt R and Lamar Valley Buffalo Ranch Field Seminars and thoroughly enjoyed them.</td>
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<tr>
<td>I love Yellowstone any time of year and hope it can remain as is and not become too commercial</td>
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<tr>
<td>I love Yellowstone but hate the politics that play out there and in the surrounding communities. Seem to me the park is run by typical bureaucrats who are more concerned about preserving their pension, rather that preserving the wilderness and its creatures for future generations. I hate the new visitor center and the cell towers springing up. There are plenty of cities all around us for ‘city’ people to enjoy. Leave the park as it was created, so we may experience America as it once was.</td>
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<tr>
<td>I love Yellowstone it is my favorite place to visit.</td>
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<tr>
<td>I love Yellowstone National Park for a variety of reasons, from its eerie beauty to its bison and elk.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I LOVE Yellowstone National Park!!! My 3 children have never visited with me, but I would love to give them the opportunity to fall in love with it like I have!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I love Yellowstone National Park. I have always loved the park but as I have become an adult and avid fly fisherwoman, I love the park even more. Every visit I make to the park makes me love and appreciate it more and more. I am getting married in the park in July 2014 and will be bringing roughly 50 family members and friends many of whom have never visited the park. I know everyone will fall in love with it as I have. One concern I do have when visiting the park is uneducated visitors. We all want our ‘picture of a lifetime of wild animals but at times I feel the animals are the ones that pay the price. If I could suggest increasing the awareness of the rules and regulations beyond the flyers handed out at the entrances I think everyone will benefit from it. I’ve even wondered if people should be somehow certified before being allowed to enter so that they understand the preciousness of the area they are visiting.</td>
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<tr>
<td>I love Yellowstone NP. I am sure I am not alone; however, in saying I feel great affection for other US national Parks.</td>
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<td>I love Yellowstone Park, Grizzly bears are my passion, but I love all wildlife. I would love to move to Montana and may try to retire there. Love the wilderness of it.</td>
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<tr>
<td>I love Yellowstone Park; it is like my home away from home!</td>
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<tr>
<td>I LOVE Yellowstone Park...my favorite place to visit anywhere!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I love Yellowstone so much I was willing to risk my marriage to work there</td>
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<tr>
<td>I love Yellowstone so much that I have instructed my son to scatter my ashes there after my death.</td>
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<tr>
<td>I love Yellowstone so much. I really want to go back. I wish I could live near there but my kids and grandbabies are here. I want to go back so bad. If I had more money I would be there more often. I would even love to work there if I could. I am so pleased with the way everyone tried to work hard to keep all nice. I feel like it is so beautiful.</td>
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</table>
| I LOVE Yellowstone! It is one of the truly amazing places in the world. Its beauty cannot be described accurately,
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Love</th>
<th>Yellowstone! I would love to spend more time there. It is sad that I am unable to hike as I once was able. I feel Yellowstone is my second home. I want to bring a granddaughter who loves mountains but has only experienced Colorado! All our experiences there have been a unique blessing!</th>
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<tr>
<td>Love</td>
<td>I Love Yellowstone and am looking forward to be a volunteer at Lamar Buffalo Ranch.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Love</td>
<td>I love Yellowstone, our adventure w the bears raised our awareness of respecting the wildness; I enjoy traveling w husband and grandsons and showing them the beauty and uniqueness of Yellowstone.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Love</td>
<td>I love Yellowstone.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Love</td>
<td>I love Yellowstone. It is (along with Williamsburg) my most favorite place in the US.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Love</td>
<td>I love Yellowstone. We have been there many times and each time we discover something new and enjoy ourselves tremendously! I am the go-to person when coworkers travel. I can usually recommend something here for almost everyone! I love being able to share my own secret travel tips so they can be sure to have an amazing experience!!! I love Yellowstone Park!!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Love</td>
<td>I love Yellowstone. When I retire I plan on spending extended periods of time in Yellowstone. If I could go back in time I would have chosen a different path and had an outdoor career.</td>
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<td>Love</td>
<td>I love Yellowstone...</td>
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<tr>
<td>Love</td>
<td>I love Yellowstone-I will never get back there again due to health issues, but feel so blessed to have been able to visit there the 2 times I did. My photo albums keep the memories alive as well as my newsletters and Facebook photos, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Love</td>
<td>I love YNP but the surrounding states and YNP need to get together and solve issues of wildlife management including Wolf Mgmt. &amp; Bison Mgmt. I have not been to YNP in 3 years in protest of those issues.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Love</td>
<td>I love YNP, Montana, and the surrounding waters. I plan to visit enjoy the mountains, beautiful scenery, and of course, the outstanding fly fishing for as long as I can!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Love</td>
<td>Having a doctorate myself I wish you good luck and welcome to the club.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Love</td>
<td>I love YNP. I have to visit at least once a year. I feel fortunate to live as close as we do so we can enjoy the scenic beauty, the abundant wildlife, and geysers, there is just such diversity to YNP that makes it so amazing. Love the beauty of it all.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Love</td>
<td>I loved visiting Yellowstone and want to return. I had many memories besides the one I described, but that was one was special. The mammals and birds were great; the lake is beautiful. Good luck with your research.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Love</td>
<td>I loved Yellowstone but I live in SC. There are many other states and places to visit. However, I have told everyone I know they must visit Yellowstone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Love</td>
<td>I loved Yellowstone Falls, the lake in the caldera, the continental divide. At Crossed Sabers, we camped out in Paradise Valley. The food was great. We got to see a moose up close, caught a cutthroat in the river. We camped on the Sunlight basin; saw a mountain with snow on top in the middle of summer. The best times were sitting around the campfires watching the sun go down and telling stories.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Love</td>
<td>I loved Yellowstone National Park. My family and I enjoy all natural places as our choice for vacations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Love</td>
<td>I loved Yellowstone. This visit was on my bucket list and experiencing the cold was high on the list of things I wanted to sample. I hope I have a chance to return. My only disappointment was that no one had ever heard of my favorite author, Ivan Doing. Mr. Doing is Montana born and a superb writer. If you haven’t read his work, check it out. Thanks for the opportunity to do the survey. Ps. Some people will need easier hikes than others, and don’t forget the always popular senior discounts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Love</td>
<td>I made my first trip to Yellowstone a few weeks ago and I’m already planning next trip with other family members.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Love</td>
<td>I might be willing to pay for an interp program but think they should be free. The more people know about the parks, the more people will be willing to stand up for them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Love</td>
<td>I might not be willing to pay for a ranger led event but I am willing to donate money so that all of us can enjoy them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Love</td>
<td>I moved here permanently in the early 70’s because of my first visit to Yellowstone and the rocky mountains</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Love</td>
<td>I moved to Wyoming 20 years ago from the east coast specifically to be near Yellowstone. We are now raising our children to enjoy &amp; value the park. We’ve been countless times in the Summer &amp; Fall, and snowmobiled over</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sylvan Pass in the winter. Very, very special place to our family.

I object to the salary paid to the CEO of the Foundation ($176K) This is excessive and poor management of funds. I will not donate again until CEO is a volunteer.

I participated in the Spring Bear & Wolf Discovery program. It was a wonderful experience. I saw lots of wildlife in their natural habitat. Joshua, our guide, made it an experience I will remember vividly for a long time.

I personally feel the statement: 'YELLOWSTONE......the oldest and the best!' Is the best statement that could be made about the place? It’s absolutely MAGICAL! There are other geo-thermal areas in the world, but NONE quite like this one. It MUST be experienced in detail (not just a ‘run-through’ in one day visit) to savor all this unique space has to offer all of mankind!! I could go on for thousands of ‘word pictures’. about Yellowstone! I am an artist and Yellowstone is part of my palette. I LOVE THIS PLACE!!!!!!

I plan to bequeath a portion of my estate to the Yellowstone Association.

I prefer not to indicate household income but cannot remove the field so I have selected the first one in the list.

I think Yellowstone is an awesome park. Every vacation that we take, we visit a National Park somewhere.

I previously visited Yellowstone on a college class field trip. Now I get to leave tomorrow to finally go back and truly enjoy it.

I probably became a geologist in part because of that earthquake; parents were both geologist, so I KNEW what was going on. As professional photographer, spent two weeks in January taking winter photos - incredible experience. Yellowstone is my very favoritest place in the world because of the scenery, wildlife, nature, geology, its every changing atmosphere. I do not have enough opportunities to get there these days because of work.

I promote visiting YNP at every opportunity, especially to families with children. Some of the best times of my life have been with my son and grandchildren in YNP.

I really dislike the tone and flavor of these questions. I feel they have affected my affection for Yellowstone because they appear to be setting me up for giving money rather than appreciating the happiness I experience in the Park.

I really liked visiting the geysers but that did not seem to be an option among the choices you gave us at the start of the questionnaire.

I really love going out west and to Yellowstone

I returned to Yellowstone with my son (45) this Winter for a Wildlife Excursion sponsored by the YPF. It was a priceless experience which we will never forget. The chance of my lifetime to spend time with him in a place we both enjoy immensely and take Wildlife photographs along with Tom Murphy and some wonderful YPF people.

I should note that the clarity of my ‘memorable moment’ is colored diary entries and photos. So perhaps I remember what seemed worth recording at the time. It was still pretty special, and demanding.______________

I skipped the personal questions related to money and age. Sorry.

I somehow skipped a section of questions... backspaced and couldn’t return to the page so may need to retake the survey...

I spend part of the year in Montana.

I spent time as a graduate student in YNP doing research so it has a special place in my heart. Someday I hope to be able to bring my kids and husband there to show them what an amazing place it is!

I spent two summers working at Yellowstone Park Service Stations (YPSS) while in college. My bond with Yellowstone is tied to these two great summers.

I teach conservation biology at a university and Yellowstone is an important part of my understanding and teaching.

I tell people that they need to go to Yellowstone at 1 time in their life. July is a good time of year to see baby animals.
I tell people that YNP is my favorite place on earth because it is. I visit at least once every summer and have even worked there as a burger flipper at OFi. Nowadays, I too am doing my PhD dissertation on Yellowstone. Good luck!

I think cost to visit national parks should be low so more families can enjoy them. They belong to the people, a good way to use tax dollars.

I think every American should see the beauty of Yellowstone, so they can understand the wild frontier it provides. I think open-top tour buses or vehicles with a guide speaking about their knowledge and experiences would be very enjoyable.

I think over the past years the people who visit Yellowstone really laugh off the dangers of the bears and other wildlife. My daughter, 3 at the time, hiked 6-7 miles a day with us in the back woods. We had bear bells on and sang songs to keep them away. On several occasions other people would comment in a semi rude taunting way about our bells. We have had 4 up close encounters with bears, 2 grizzlies and 2 black bears. I think there should be more signs about the serious dangers of bears.

I think some of my answers were affected by how many times I have been in the park. If I were a rare visitor, my answers to some would have been different. VERY familiar with YNP!

I think the campfire talks should happen regularly, but the camping fees should cover that, so that the people who you want to reach will go because it is free. If needed, an overall camping fee could be raised by a dollar or so to cover it.

I think the national park system is one of America’s best ideas. Available to all for a reasonable price it is a gift. I’m not sure about the wisdom of charging $ for educational activities like ranger hikes or interpretive parks. That would limit participation I think. The big idea is that national parks are for the benefit of the people. A fee might limit access. The talks/hikes are activities where people, whole families, have a chance to learn the things they need to know about the natural world, conservation, preservation, etc.

I think the ongoing interest in revisiting YNP is the wide variety of experiences and landscapes that one can see and experience.

I think the proper response to several of your questions was ‘not applicable’ ye that was never offered as an option.

I think Yellowstone is one of the most unique places to visit.

I think Yellowstone National Park is the most beautiful place I have ever been too! A true national treasure and we Americans are so lucky to have it!!

I think your question ‘In what U.S. state do you permanently reside?’ should read, ‘currently’ reside. There is nothing permanent about where we live, as we move quite a bit. We will permanently reside in MT or WY, when we retire. :)

I thought the camping fee was HIGH - $54.00 for a night....I don't know how they do it for a week there. On a limited budget - I could only justify one night in the park! At least where I wanted to be!

I thought the rangers were wonderful to the visitors. The employees of the shops and eating facilities were happy, courteous and engaging. The items in the shops were reasonably priced. The interpretive presentations were informed and well presented. And I loved, loved the junior ranger program that my 4 granddaughters participated in. Of course there was traffic and too many people at times but no complaints. We stayed in Gardner and that little town was a wonderful surprise as well.

I took lots of digital photos on our trip to Yellowstone last fall, and I put them into two large-format Shutterfly books. When I look through them, it's almost like being there again (except for the smell - haha!).

I travel and vacation for two weeks every September in Grand Teton and Yellowstone. I stay in Motels most of the time however do camp in my SUV for a few days while in Yellowstone. I also stay either in Gardner or West Yellowstone. These two week trips are dedicated to exploring, hiking and just enjoying nature.

I travel around the world and National Parks of US. They are all beautiful, wonderful and something unique to appreciate. But the Yellowstone National Park has everything.

I travel with my daughter every year to see and experience different parts of the country. Yellowstone was a magical place and experience that will be the backdrop for my daughter's childhood memories. I can definitely see us coming back, but given our distance it won't be for several years.
I try to promote Yellowstone to everyone I come in contact with; I would suggest that it is one place that they should try to visit at least once in their lifetime.

I typically seek new experiences, rather than revisiting the same places year after year. I probably won't return to Yellowstone National Park until I have seen and experienced all of our other fine National Parks.

I understand budget constraints but I think that ranger led things should remain accessible. I think there should be a pay what you can option, and that folks, especially children, should not be turned away for lack of funds. Minorities and poor communities already don't come to the parks enough. I wish there was a low income program for the year access passes. If you are low income you can get an all agency pass for $10 or something. We should encourage these communities, not make more pay barriers for them.

I value Yellowstone for its natural beauty, its animals, its waterfalls, and its thermal features, in that order.

I visit often with family and at least once a year on my own. My main reason for visiting the park is to see wildlife especially wolves and bears. The Park needs to take a more active role in protecting the wildlife that primarily lives within its borders. The killing of Wolf F06 will forever be one of the biggest tragedies that ever happened to a Park animal.

I visit the Park at least 12 or more times per year.

I visited Glacier National Park in the last few days. I spend 4 to 6 weeks a year travel, hiking, fishing, and camping in Montana each year. My last trip to Montana we spent 7 days camping! We Love nature and Montana!

I visited Yellowstone National Park when I was in my early 20's. I enjoyed this experience and wanted my family to enjoy the park as I did. We first visited the park last year and again this year. My children are teenagers and they enjoyed the experience as I did when I first saw the park back in the 80's. The bear jams weren't as bad as they are now though. I came upon a bear vehicle/people jam in June this year with my 15 year old daughter and was telling a foreign visitor he had to move his vehicle out of the middle of the road as he was taking photos of a bear. I was in my vehicle trying to park safely. Once I parked to photo the grizzly with the assistance of my daughter a volunteer safety officer appeared and moved the traffic along. I was amazed as to the disregard people had to park rangers and safety officers trying to move people along for their and the animals safety.

I want all the natural wild animals to be protected not managed.

I want the park to be kept affordable for families. It is sad that only people with a lot of money can visit Yellowstone in the winter. It is also getting unaffordable to stay in West Yellowstone overnight. Our national parks are for the people not just the rich people. We are lucky because we do have money.

I want to live and work in Yellowstone!

I want to move to Montana

I was 20 when I first visited YNP. I lived for several years in MT and Jackson, WY just to be near to and visit the park. I have 100s of pictures and many more memories of my times there, with friends and family and often by myself. I still go there every year. It was difficult to pick that one memory

I was absolutely amazed while at Yellowstone. The beauty of the scenery/landscape was amazing and abundant. The naturally occurring springs and geysers were interesting and very neat to see. I was in awe of the wildlife as well. What impressed me most while staying in the lodges and hotels was the way everything was environmentally friendly. To have recycling bins/garbage cans in the hotels was great! The park was clean and it seemed that people respected it's majesty by keeping it that way. I thought that seeing the variety of environments in Hawaii was one of the greatest things I had ever experienced, but Yellowstone topped that. It gave me an even greater appreciation of nature and the earth. I found myself enjoying every single inch of it, from the history of the buildings, to the wildlife, to the geothermal events/structures. I will definitely go back again as soon as I am able. I saw a great deal in the week I was there, but I know that only touched a small percentage of what there is to see. I do think that until someone goes there, they don't have any idea how impressed and amazed they will be with it. Yellowstone is something you have to experience. Good luck with your study!

I was happy to participate in this survey until I reached the part about paying for ranger led talks and programs. I hate to see Yellowstone change and I would hate for a young child to be denied the chance to participate in a ranger led talk because his parents would not/could not pay for it. Yellowstone is a huge part of my life because it never changes.

I was in Yellowstone in 1981. I am returning with my husband this August as part of an extensive camping trip that
### Visitor Support for Yellowstone National Park 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I was raised in Big Timber, MT. Yellowstone is my favorite place. I cherish it so much. I get back as often as I can.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I was raised in Powell, Wyoming. Our favorite family activity was trout fishing just outside Yellowstone.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I was, and still am, opposed to the introduction of wolves in the Park. This has completely upset the balance. There were (and are) other ways to control the ungulates and the smaller creatures that live on the forest floor.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I will continue to hike the back country in both Yellowstone and the Grand Canyon for as long as is possible. Still want to get across the Pitchstone Plateau to Bechler Meadows.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I wish all of the national parks were run as well, looking forward to my next trip.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I wish all people could find the peace &amp; tranquility that my husband &amp; I do while in YNP. We are planning within the next 7 years to move to YNP, volunteer &amp;/or work for the YA or Xanterra, ANYTHING to be there 24/7 for the rest of our lives, as Tom Murphy stated ‘this is my church, this is my cathedral’ &amp; that is our adopted motto for YNP. I thank God for each &amp; every opportunity we get to go, usually 2 xs per year. We were there Feb 2014 and will return the end of August this year and are counting down the days. In between now &amp; then we will be going to Alaska &amp; will do Denali Park, however have no preconceived ideas that it will touch our hearts as Yellowstone has taken into ours forever.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I wish I could go to YNP every year. I feel so at peace when we are there. I would move closer to have more availability if it were not for my age and health. YNP is heaven on earth.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I wish that the park Service, YA, YPF and the concessionaires worked more like a team. Examples: NPS newspaper lists only the Ranger led scenic boat tours and not those led by Xanterra employees. The new West Gate has one lane for NPS only; others working in the park must get in line with paying tourists.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>I wish we didn’t have to have a guide go with us in the winter into the park. That is stupid! You cannot travel at your own leisure with a guide!!!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I wish you the best Jake!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I work in state parks, so the money I am willing to spend reflects more my income than my actual support (which is stronger) for interp programs or the national parks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I worked 7 summers for Xanterra in YNP.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I worked as a research assistant to a social scientist in college (lots of survey data entry!), so I appreciate surveys and those who write them. Great job and I hope my information is valuable!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I worked as an Interp ranger in Yellowstone for 13 years. I still work for the NPS.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I worked at Grant Village in 1990 as a 20 yr. old. Took my family on a weeklong vacation in 2006. Now my daughter who is twenty is working this summer at Canyon Village. My wife and I are planning a surprise visit sometime this summer.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I worked at Lake Hotel 2007 - 2010. Best job an ever had because of the ‘park’!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I worked for DNC for 6 summers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I worked for the Association for a summer, so I have many memories and do plan on returning.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I worked for Xanterra for 16 years.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I worked four months at Yellowstone in 2006 and have to say it was one of the highlights of my life!</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>I worked in the park summers of 2012&amp;2013. It changed my life. I will be back.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I worked in Yellowstone at Lake Hotel and Canyon for 9 summers.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I worked in Yellowstone for a summer while I was in college. It is a special place for me.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

I worked in Yellowstone two summers in my youth and again in 1989 after the 88 fires. My time working in Yellowstone in 1972 and 1973 was instrumental and a significant part of my growth into adulthood. It also enabled me to attend college. Yellowstone is significant to me for my experience associated with working there. It was a great honor to be able to live in Yellowstone NP.

I worked in YNP four summers, younger brother 1 summer, older brother 3 years and my mother worked there 10 summers. We love YNP. Met my wife there and took my daughter & 4 grand kids for a week in 2011. I am ready to go back!!

I would be interested in knowing what Mr. Jorgenson's dissertation is on and getting further information on this project.

I would be interested to see how this information translates into park policy related to the visitor experience of the naturalness of Yellowstone Park.

I WOULD BE WILLING TO BE ON A COMMITTEE TO SERVE AND PROTECT THE PARK. I WOULD BE WILLING TO PAY MY OWN WAY.

I would be willing to pay for ranger hikes and campfire talks, but I would hate to see a charge which would be disincentive to participate, especially for 'first timers'.

I would go to Yellowstone park many times a year if we lived closer. (6 to 10 hours drive) We are from Quebec (36 hours drive).

I would go to Yellowstone yearly or live in the area if my husband agreed to it. There is no place like it, love everything about it.

I would hate to see it cost for a ranger led hike or interpretive program. That is not because I would not be willing to pay, but rather because I would hate to see anyone not take part because they couldn't afford to pay.

I would like to see interpretive programs pertaining to pre-historic archeology in the park. YNP is not covering American Indian use of the park prior to designation as a park.

I would like you to know that YNP is my favorite national park, but I love others too. I almost always go on ranger led hikes and attend presentations in EVERY park, and have never been disappointed. I have already paid for special access hikes in Mesa Verde. I have taken association classes in YNP and Grand Canyon. I have paid for snow coach tours and trail rides in YNP. I have soaked in the Boiling River. The only reason I responded that YNP is not important to my family is because I am the last one left, but I have brought friends. I do not believe it is possible to visit YNP too much, and every time I go, I see or photograph something new. I love the wildlife and the geothermal features, and have tried every form of transportation to see them. I had a hard time choosing just one favorite and just one story.

I would love to be able to see the number of fish you used to be able to see swimming under and around fishing bridge.

I would love to visit Yellowstone again. This time, I would spend more time there and try to stay inside the park.

I would never recommend anyone paying for a ranger led experience nor would I do it. That is what our taxes and our entrance fees pay for. An Association tour is in essence a private tour.

I would pay for hikes/presentations depending on what type of hike/presentation & info presented during the hike/presentation. I am retired & have a golden age pass. $10.00 for a lifetime pass is too cheap. I buy a new one every year because I can afford it & I believe we all should support our National Parks. Congress should support our Parks better. Everyone should support our Parks better. The Parks belong to ALL of us & ALL should take better care of them & what they have & what they represent of our past, present & future as an individual & a nation.

I would probably visit Yellowstone more but I live in Glacier so have a fantastic park in my backyard.

I wouldn't mind paying for interpretive talks and ranger-led hikes but, in general, I don't think it's a good idea to charge for these services. Visitors to National Parks should have this benefit as part of the entry fee.

If I could afford it, I would retire in the Yellowstone area!!

If I had just one National Park I could visit, it would be Yellowstone. I hope I will be healthy enough to come back in the future.
If I had the survey to do over again, I would be less general and focus on the first night I met my buddy and our walk to the employee dance, learning the Western Swing and watching a full moon rise over the mountain reflecting in lake.

If I lived closer, I would visit Yellowstone regularly! I loved our short visit, but wanted to stay much longer.

If possible, please share the thesis when complete.

If the NPS were to charge for hikes and programs, that money should go into a special fund to hire more bear / wolf jam personnel and to provide for more educational opportunities. It's so obvious that there is a lack of coverage and a lack of education among visitors to YNP.

If we lived closer, we would visit Yellowstone frequently. Instead, we visit the national parks in the eastern part of the US. We have recommended Yellowstone to friends and family who have all made the big trip for a weeklong visit. They also loved it.

I'm a novelist and my first published novel is set in Yellowstone. :)

I'm going next week to take my 74 year old mom and one of my sisters who have never been there.

I'm leaving on Sept. 8th for a two week driving trip to Yellowstone Park and nearby areas. We are staying 4 nights inside the park, one night in Cooke City plus another 2 nights just south of Jackson Hole. This will be the first time my wife of 20 years will visit the park. She was born in Cuba in 1950. I'm looking forward to share my love of the park with her for the first time.

I'm not a typical visitor to the Park. I have studied the hydrothermal activity in YNP since 1960. I'm a consultant to the Park Service regarding hot springs & geysers.

IMPOSSIBLE to have 'one' memory. The Buffalo, the Wolves, the Elk, the rivers, the falls, the valleys, ALL come to mind when I think of Yellowstone. I think of it as America before it was spoiled by development—like it was in the day before the white man arrived. The most special place in the world in my mind.

In coming out to Yellowstone, my husband and I boarded an Amtrak train and rode out to Salt Lake City. We then rented a car and drove to Yellowstone and the Grand Teton's National Park. It was a trip of a lifetime!

In consistencies in Park rules being enforced (or not enforced) are starting to make me rethink about future visits to Yellowstone. Basic rules are not enforced consistently for everyone.

In my experience most people come away from Yellowstone with a very personal experience and feel as if the Park is their own.

Nice - because it is!

In my opinion, the history, geological features and nature make Yellowstone the most unique park in the US if not the world.

In response to the likelihood of paying for ranger-led hikes or interpretative (campfire) programs -- it depends on
In the last 4 years, I have gone to Yellowstone 4 to 6 times per year to view wildlife.

In two of the luckiest events of my adult life we were able to drive an RV to Yellowstone for a cross country, 3 week, vacation that was totally unexpected in December 2013 and was a reality in January 2014. Everything about the trip fell into place. But Yellowstone, which I had visited 40 years ago, lived up to its reputation. Like Paris, kissing, and being a grandparent it is indescribable and wholly enjoyable. See you again next June!

Interesting questions. Stressors in the park = grizzly, finding camp sites, finding lodging. Love having rangers at the wolf, grizzly. sightings

Interesting survey. If for a doctoral degree, I would be interested in learning the results and the purpose of the queries. Were they psychometrically developed as there was clearly a trend, if not a framework? Thanks.

Interesting survey. Although I love YNP, there are 3 others that are just shy of making it a 4-way tie!

Is psychology your major?

It is a great park. It has rivers, lakes, thermals, geysers, mountains, waterfalls and wildlife. It is preserved and cared for. It reminded me of maybe how it was many years ago. The only negative for me is there is only the one main road and you cannot get away unless you hike in. So people and crowds everywhere you go in my opinion does not make it as special. So you feel a bit confined or corralled.

It is extremely important to me that Yellowstone remain wild and as 'unmanaged' as possible, including wolves and wildlife. It is also important to me to minimize the effects of all the visitors on the environment (i.e., designated walkways, etc.).

It is hard to pick one favorite thing to do. We fly fish, hike, bear and wolf watch (try to keep track of them online during the year) besides watching other wildlife and take hundreds of pictures every year of wildlife, landscapes, plants, geysers, etc. I grew up spending my childhood summers in the Park and it is always like coming home when we return for a few weeks nearly every summer.

It is interesting that you ask about bear watching and wolf watching as a reason to visit Yellowstone but not about other specific kinds of wildlife such as elk, bighorn sheep, bison, coyotes, fish, birds, etc. One of my most treasured memories regards viewing large numbers of bull elk in close proximity. That is not possible to the same degree as it once was. Conversely, wolves do not provide the same type of viewing experience as the elk once did.

It was a little too long.

It was hard in the survey to put visiting Yellowstone into feelings about my life. I don't think about those things while visiting Yellowstone. I just enjoy being there.

It was my Father’s favorite place to visit. He took us there many times and followed with our family. Many great visits there.

It was so hard to pick the best memory. I am wishing now I could go back to the time I was with my oldest daughter and she saw her first wolf, but I went with what did I think of first. Although I do love Yellowstone and have been there more than any other big park, I still get similar joy in other parks, and doing different things.

It was very difficult for us to find the Yellowstone in a Day Tour. We had a wonderful guide and this program should be publicized more. Great for seniors.

I've been going to Yellowstone since I was 10 years old, growing up in Kansas. I have so many good memories of being in the park. I try to go every 2 or 3 years, even though I now live on the east coast. It is a magical place.

I've been to well over 50 national parks; and while some may be more scenic; Yellowstone holds my heart more than any other.

I've had a variety of Yellowstone experiences, as well as having worked in both Rocky Mountain and Mt. Rainier, and visited at least five other parks. The chance to reflect on only one memory does not provide a broad enough basis for my feelings about the National Park system......
I've lived on the east coast my entire life until very recently. When I moved to Southern Virginia 3 years ago (near Shenandoah National Park) I became a lot more interested in Hiking, nature, fishing, etc. Then I moved towards DC and hated it. Now moving out to Montana and getting away from the hustle and busy life has been the best thing. It's similar to the 2 years I spent in southern Virginia with lots of outdoors things to do and a more relaxed way of life. I'm excited to be here - even though I'm far away from everyone I know it's a whole new way of living!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I've only had the chance to visit once, but I hope to be able to return. It is a magical place.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I've told everyone that I think every American should see Yellowstone....</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Just fyi, we will never pay money or eat at any xanterra food places again. We ate at xanterra for a 2 night stay and the second night we just didn't eat.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Just want to say thank you for everything all the people do every day in the park!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Just wish we lived closer. I would visit a lot more often!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>keep reducing # of snowmobiles in park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keep trail bikes OUT of the Yellowstone Trails system. And no boating or rafting in Yellowstone rivers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keep up the good work. Yellowstone is a sacred place.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last summer my wife and I volunteered for the Yellowstone Association.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>like going there</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lived in Montana for five years and have lived in Louisiana for the past 18 years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long live Yellowstone!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Love all the western National Parks. Will visit as often as I can.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Love going to the park - wish more people could visit in the winter - fall and winter are my favorite times there</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Love Montana - thanks for sparking some memories (even though most of my Yellowstone time was in Wyoming). I could have written about driving over the Beartooth Pass, too - another favorite memory.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Love National Parks. wish the government would get out and let the people just enjoys the park.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Love our National Park system!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Love that some campgrounds are first come, other you can reserve - perfect. Volunteers are super</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Love the il areas of MN.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Love the natural state of the park!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Love the park and so does my family, some of our best vacations were there!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Love the parks!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dedicated supporter of environmental causes for 40 + yrs. • EDF, NRDC, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Love the Xanterra guides!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Love this park! Nothing like it on the face of the earth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Love Yellowstone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Love Yellowstone • miss it every day I am not able to visit!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Love Yellowstone and all of our National AND State parks!!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Love Yellowstone and hope to visit again</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Love Yellowstone NP but Yosemite NP is my favorite!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Love Yellowstone. Want to return someday.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Love Yellowstone...can't get there enough...wish I could live there.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Love Yellowstone—my husband was an interpretive guide for 2 seasons.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Love YNP! Had the honor of working at Mammoth for the concessionaire for 8 months 20 plus years ago.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loved viewing wildlife at Yellowstone on a daily basis • buffalo, eagles, wolves, bears. Would like to return &amp; take class sometime.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Maintain quality fishing experience. Don’t eliminate brown and rainbow trout from areas where they now exist when historically there weren’t trout in the drainage. Maintain the wilderness experience without interference from bicycles, kayak, motorcycle, helicopter etc.

There is value to investing effort in hiking and experience true wilderness. True to minimize negative effects of snowmobile and winter travel on zoological and botanical life. Winter is a time of dormancy and recovery. Explore possible methods of minimizing negative effects of wolves on moose population. We have seen way too many moose calf carcasses in the last few years. Continue control of lake trout in Yellowstone lake. Price of accommodations in the park is keeping some folks from taking their family to Yellowstone, which is a shame. There is something special about staying in the park compared to Cody, Jackson, W Yellowstone, etc. Thanks for your work regarding Yellowstone.

Many different experiences in the park: great diversity. Many more than just a couple 'memorable moments'. Going back won’t relive the past: I’m different, and the experience will be different.

Many of the choices offered as answers really don’t represent my feelings.

Many of the questions in this survey were either irrelevant or redundant. Fine-tune it, please!

Many of these questions were weird. It assumes I spend a lot of time thinking about the park.

many things are 'iffy' due to physical/age limitations

Maybe I misread the question, but why on earth did you ask about earliest YNP memories, rather than most significant or meaningful? My first memory occurred when I was 5 and had no impact on YNP issues or my appreciation of the Park today.

Memory of Yellowstone is too many people. Went once in winter to ski. That was better. Crowded. Grand Canyon getting that way too Zion too

More emphasis on winter activities. Especially wildlife watching

Most free/educational programs and activities should be available in our national parks for low-income seniors

Most of my visits to the Park have been for work on the roads in the Park. I bought my family (partner and kids) to the Park once (8 days) and my partner and I have entered the Park about 9 times solely for adventures and photography.

Most of the survey seems to focus on my experience as an individual, but for me Yellowstone was very much a family experience. We’ve never participated in an adult hike or talk but have done Junior Ranger programs in Yosemite (much closer to us and we visit at least annually).

Moved to Bozeman in April 2013 because of its proximity to Yellowstone and other wild places. Work as the grant writer for one of the conservation organizations. Have taken hikes and classes operated by the Yellowstone Association. Am a member.

My boyfriend has never been to Yellowstone and I would LOVE for him to experience all that I have! Working there was the best time of my life! The park and its beauty are in my blood now. I need to go back to my valleys and mountains. Soon. Thank you.

My daughter lives in Jackson as she lives and breathes for nature. I’m fortunate that she takes me with her a couple of times a year.

My experience w the wolves on my first visit have made me an ardent supporter to wolf conservation!

My family has a 5 generation tradition of visiting Yellowstone Park. Both sets of my grandparents visited, with my paternal grandparents being among the earliest & most frequent visitors. My youngest grandchild, the 1st time he visited Yellowstone seemed like it was a soulful experience, as it was for me. He was about the same age as I at my 1st visit (8). I know this seems like a strange combination, but I am a world traveler * all continents * and Yellowstone
& New York City tie for my favorite places in the world!

My family loved Yellowstone, my dad especially. After his death, we made the Yellowstone Foundation the charity for donations and I now donate in his memory.

My family loves Yellowstone and other national parks.

My family loves Yellowstone, but we are National Park wonks and also frequently visit Rocky Mountain, Grand Teton, Yosemite, Mesa Verde, Bandelier, the Smokies, and others. I'm concerned about the 'pay-to-play' questions. I value what interpretive rangers do, but we already pay for our annual pass, and pay high prices for lodging and meals in the parks. Personally, I believe that budgeting for park operations should be a primary duty of our executive and legislative branches. Otherwise, use of our National Parks will be increasingly a pastime of the rich.

My father always told everyone that they had to visit Yellowstone in their lifetime and to do more than the 'windshield tour'.

My Father's family is from Beaverhead County, Mt. My Grandfather drove the Excursion Stages from Monida to West Yellowstone when he was a young man. I grew up hearing stories of the Park. We would drive from Kentucky to Montana every other year to visit family and would always go to Yellowstone during the trip.

My favorite activity is viewing the animals in their habitat at dawn and dusk when they all come out. That's what my scenic viewing is all about. It is amazing, awe inspiring ad peaceful all at the same time.

My favorite national park is Yosemite.

My favorite place is Yellowstone.

My first and most memorable experience at YNP was my seeing bears. BUT, my taking a class from the Association was, probably, as memorable. My husband and I took a class in Geysers, Mud pots and Hot Springs. We were able to experience sights in the back country on trails (just for classes) and learn so much from professionals and educators. We took another informative class in Roadside History. On one visit to Old Faithful Lodge, our room looked out at Old Faithful. We opened our shutters and watched it for hours...day and night. YNP is a magical place!!!

My girlfriend and I would love to work in Yellowstone NP at some time in the future.

My goal is to go to as many national parks as I can. So far, Yellowstone is the most incredible and we want to go west again this fall instead of the tropics where we have never been. I have been to Acadia, Moab, Brice, Upper Utah ski mountains (not a park but pretty darn cool), Zion, and Lake Clark (?) in Arizona.

My great grandmother and I both worked in Yellowstone when we were college students.

My husband & I plan to visit all the national parks in the U.S. when we retire!

My husband and I are both retired and love to take advantage of our senior pass.

My husband and I are hikers/backpackers/bikers and an xc skier, so we do our own 'interpretive' hikes/talks--that's what keeps us young! YS and places like it are important because they are the last places left to connect us w/ the earth from which we get food, water and shelter!

My husband and I are planning to visit Yellowstone this July. We are looking forward to being in our FAVORITE National Park after so many years since our last visit. This will be our 6th or 7th time in Yellowstone.

My husband and I believe Yellowstone is a collection of ALL the sites and experiences of the United States rolled into one area. -- canyons, waterfalls, wildlife, lakes, geysers, mountains, etc., etc. Government money well spent. All the national parks. I.e. Skyline Drive, in VA, National Seashore at Cape Cod, and all money well spent. My husband was British; he was overwhelmed when he saw Yellowstone. He considers it the jewel of America and we have traveled by car to many parks and scenes. I wanted him to see America -- most of it -- 42 days of travel and site seeing. We now winter in FL but plan to return to Yellowstone sometime soon.

My husband and I both believe that Yellowstone is one of the most beautiful places we have ever seen. I brought my husband there last year for the first time and we went twice this year. We can't wait to go back next year.

My husband and I have enjoyed camping and fishing in Yellowstone in the past. As we get older, we have wonderful memories of our trips but age and distance make it harder to visit as often as we would like.
My husband and I have visited YNP twice in 18 months and can't wait to return. We fully plan to spend summers working there in some capacity a good portion of all the vacation time I get will be spent there!

**MY HUSBAND AND I LOVE THE WEST. LOVE SPENDING TIME AT THE OLD FAITHFUL INN. HIKING ALONG THE GEYSER TRAILS, SEEING THE YELLOWSTONE GRAND CANYON**

My husband and I love to take day trips early in the year and fall. There is less traffic and you can enjoy it more without a whole bunch of people around. For us it’s a little get a way and we enjoy it very much.

My husband and I will visit Yellowstone National Park This August. Can't wait!

My husband and I would very much like to be a part of Yellowstone in the near future as interpretive rangers, or in some other capacity.

My husband is disabled so mobility is somewhat limited. We have a 31 ft. travel trailer we stay in.

My husband saw Yellowstone when he was 8; he really wanted me to experience it. We had SO much fun! Saw so many animals, and natural wonders.

My husband was participating in the National Truck Driving Championship being held in Salt Lake City, UT. We took an extra 3 days to spend vacationing on our own since we had never been on the western part of the US. Yellowstone was 'just another stop to sightsee' that was close by. We had never researched Yellowstone, it just happened by chance. It is our goal to spend two weeks next summer in the Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Colorado, and Utah area for vacation. Now that we have experienced it once (on a limited time schedule), we have specific things we want to see/do on the second visit. Even our son, who is 20 years old, said he would go with us on this trip (and he normally doesn't like to hang out with us)! We all loved it and want to do it again! It was a great experience and a beautiful place to see God's handiwork! I am constantly looking up (websites, Weather Channel, Facebook, NPS webcams, etc.) information about the area! We would absolutely LOVE to live near this area as well. Just a beautiful place!!!

My husband's step-grandfather was a naturalist at YNP for years. Yellowstone is a tradition for our family. We love traveling there with his step-mom and listen to her tell stories and recall memories. Yellowstone is part of our heritage.

My kids call Yellowstone my 'Disney World':)

My last trip to Yellowstone was in the winter, and I'll never forget being all alone at night watching Old Faithful erupt in the snow!

My last visit, in February 2013, was because I wanted to return to Canyon to see where I had spent so many happy times - as well as seeing the park as it is now as opposed to the sixties.

My life revolves around Yellowstone/wolves

My mobility is getting worse as I age. Can still drive, but hiking is limited. I intend to revisit Yellowstone this year.

My mother and father were born and raised in nearby Bear creek (Red Lodge), Montana and I remember traveling through and camping in Yellowstone as a child. Wonderful memories! We still tell our grandchildren the story of a bear knocking down the tent next to ours early one morning and the campers inside the tent banging on metal pots and pans to scare the bear away.

My only comment is that the dining service at Grant Village dining room was terrible. It took us several hours in a dining room with only 3 tables being served, to get 3 breakfast orders. The waitress brought us coffee, but 15 minutes later, still no cream. So we went to the bar and got the cream ourselves. This is terrible service.

My origin is Southeaster Idaho, so I carry with me fond childhood memories of Yellowstone & surrounding areas. This summer my wife & I will take our two children & four grandchildren to tour Yellowstone & Southeaster Idaho. Very excited!!!!

My parents took me to a lot of National Parks when I was a kid - my Dad was in the military. I have always loved to travel to parks and wilderness areas since I backpacked a lot in my 20's and 30's and moved from the east Coast to CO then ID largely to get away from pollution, congestion and closer to nature. Now that I have arthritis I still like to car camp in Yellowstone (I work part time in Jackson) and take my college age kids with me for a bit of 'family time'. Personally I am fascinated by the geology but not everyone in my family shares my enthusiasm. They like animals, S'mores, building fires and hiking!
My parents worked at YNP Canyon Campground for 9 seasons from 2000-2008. I first visited YNP in 2000. It isn't for this reason that I have a fondness for YNP. I've visited 10 other NPs and haven't found the diversity of what YNP has to offer in one location. My wife and I have camped in a tent for a week, lodged at Old Faithful Inn and Lake Hotel when we've visited. We've been to YNP 6 times. I hope to come back sometime and spend most of a week fishing Yellowstone Lake during our next visit.

My passion is hiking and backpacking...Yellowstone is a beautiful place, but my heart belongs to Death Valley and the Grand Canyon, which is where I spend most of my time exploring or volunteering. Perhaps when I retire, I'll have more time to branch out and embrace Yellowstone, too.

My second favorite memory of Yellowstone is swimming in the Firehole River in 1959 at age 16 and seeing bears in the wild.

My second favorite place is Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone

My son has visited Yellowstone a couple of yrs. ago since when we last visited as a family. He also a wilderness first responder now.

My time and money is limited so I pick the places I visit very carefully. Yellowstone is a place I have dreamed of and had to cancel 2 trips because of other complications. I love to observe nature and am so amazed by the geology and wildlife in this location.

My visit to Yellowstone and my wolf class strongly influenced my decision to retire to Bozeman, moved there from California.

My visit to Yellowstone was so long ago that there are no vivid memories.

My wife and I are very much looking forward to our trip to and through Yellowstone.

My wife and I have visited several US national parks - all areas of outstanding natural beauty, particularly those out west.

My wife and I have volunteered extensively as educators at Agate Fossil Beds National Monument in the past.

My wife and I hope to visit all of National Parks in our lifetime ... but Yellowstone has the top position in our hearts.

My wife and I visited Yellowstone on the spur of the moment while on a visit to the Blackhills/Mount Rushmore and realized it was only a few hundred miles to Yellowstone and equally important, we were able to get accommodations in the historic Old Faithful Lodge on a week's notice as well as lodging at Jackson Hole lodge (?) in Grand Teton NP. This was part of a cross country driving trip for my wife's 55th birthday in 2004. Virginia, to Wisc, Minn, So Dakota, Wyoming and return thru Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Ohio, Pa, and Wv. (Note, change all dates to June 2004, wife's 55th bday, and we purchased a new car shortly before the trip. ;-) 

My wife and I working for the YNP concessionaire at LYH during the summers of 1984, 1985 and 1986. They were the happiest days of my life.

My wife grew up in Montana and it is very hard to not vacation in Yellowstone once a year. We love the geology and wildlife this place has to offer.

My years in YNP were incredible. I talk about it all the time. When I retire I plan on coming back to work there!

n/a

Native American programs and historic forts etc. are of major interest.

need more camp sites but then there would be too many people to deal with right now you have to book months in advance

need more RV / camping spots in Yellowstone

Net income?

Never, ever close the national parks again.

No additional comments other than I am 80 years old. Have no family coming with me but intend to visit Yellowstone this year.

No additional comments. I would love to win the free night's lodging! Thank you!

No comments
No Comments or Questions...good luck

No two visits to the park are the same.

non ho commenti, mi è piaciuto tutto nel mio viaggio.

None

None

None

None

None at this moment.

None at this time

Norris geyser basin in a thunderstorm is the most amazing experience!!!!!! I love the animal viewing!!!

Not a bad survey, but some of the questions did not allow me to answer as I would have in words

not clear about the difference between the Yellowstone Association and the Park Foundation

not sure about the dates I entered

Not sure how accurate some of my responses are. Survey was way too long, discouraged thoughtful consideration of some deep issues.

Not sure if this skews my data, but I worked for Hamilton stores and Delaware North in the park from 2001-2006, 2010.

Nothing like it in the world (Yellowstone)

Old Faithful Inn was crawling with mice. Shut it down! Deer mice are dangerous.

On May 4, 2014, there was a new five inch snow fall on the ground. And the sun was brightly shining.....life could not be better.

On my income by the time I travel I have not the extra funds or time for additional classes. The times I have been in Yellowstone have all been memorable. They also were times I was visiting family in the area. I also have been to Tetons, Grand Canyon, and many other sites. I feel some of your questions are mirrored in reverse to see if the same answer comes out. Good luck on your survey!

On my visit to Yellowstone I had many first time in my life experiences. I've lived in Colorado since 1986 and we always planned on visiting the park. Never made it until this year. I will go again. I think the Park Service does a great job keeping picnic areas clean especially the many people and slobs who use them. Thank you Park Service.

Once I finish paying back my college loans, I will most likely donate to Yellowstone organizations.

one idea: return to Yellowstone national park for another travel

One of the best trips my Wife and I have taken. Hope to go back if possible and we are able.

One of the challenges that I have always had with Yellowstone is making reservations for accommodations and activities. This was almost a blocking issue for a planned trip that we consider a 'once in a childhood for our kids' and if we had not gotten 'lucky' with the reservation system we would not be going and would likely be too discouraged to go to Yellowstone anytime with our kids. I have spent close to 40 hours of my time talking to xanterra customer service or navigating the xanterra website. There are a lot of opportunities to fix the issue starting with the technology behind the front end systems. The second area is the people in the support areas on the phone and email. Some of these folks do not seem very well trained. Lastly, why not consider a lottery system for reservations? It is so darn competitive right now and unless you are completely driven and persistent you will never stands a chance of making a reservation for accommodations or activities within the park. I feel for people who are holding down 3 jobs and may not have the luxury of time to navigate the system to try and coordinate a
trip to Yellowstone.

One of the charms of a park is to escape from the commercial world we encounter daily.

One of your items is written in the negative and is surrounded by positives. That un-parallelism will skew your data. You probably should eliminate this item.

One thing that distresses me greatly about our National Parks comes with the mass marketing in the stores and the fact that everything comes from China. There are such talented artisans in our country that I wish there was some way for their wares solely to be sold in the parks. They can surely do souvenirs! As someone who prefers to buy American and loves to bring home gifts, it can be a real challenge.

Only been to Yellowstone so far on visits to USA. Will be visiting more parks this year with family.

Only disappointment in visiting Yellowstone in mid-May was the fact that many side roads were still closed even though they had no evidence of snow on them.

Our favorite National Park is the Grand Canyon which we visit at least once a year followed by Yellowstone which we wish was not a 3 day drive with a travel trailer.

Our National Parks are a valuable treasure to have and share with the rest of the world. They must be preserved as our world becomes more populated and wildlife no longer has wild places to settle and live in.

Our national parks are incredible treasures of both beauty and history, and every citizen of this country should make every attempt to at least visit one of the major national parks, and my pick would be Yellowstone.

Our Parks are Very Important. I love Yellowstone, go early and often. Hike back country, have trouble getting affordable rooms. Death Valley and Capitol Reef are challenging Yellowstone for First Place Favorite. Yellowstone is about Geothermals and Geology. As for wolves, I ask where all the Trumpeter Swans have gone: is this another ‘total monstrosity of madness’. I think both the YS Association and Foundation have cried ‘wolf, wolf’ too often. We took geology courses way back when they were offered, ‘Fire and Ice’ and David Long, courses and instructors who really offered more than a 101 look at the wonders of Yellowstone.

Our stay at the Fishing Bridge Campground for RV’s was very nice, but wished there would be room for a campfire (lots are space limited), and also for the credit given our credit card upon learning we had left one day sooner than expected and reserved! What a very nice and welcomed surprise!!! Again, a great place, with hot showers, etc. Would hope to stay there again when visiting in future!

Our trip changed my perspective. It is an absolutely amazing place.

Our trips to Yellowstone have been amazing! One suggestion is to try to encourage people who are sightseeing to do so early morning/evening to try reducing traffic problems during the day during the busy season.

Our wedding anniversary is March 1, and we took our first vacation trip together to Yellowstone. We are forever tied Yellowstone.

Owned a business in West Yellowstone for 15 years

pay for ranger-led hike only if it was something new that I really wanted to learn about - like geology that I did not know

Paying for a ranger lead program would be disgraceful in my book. This should be a public service that is free to all that come to the park. This is one of the things that make all National Parks special. I was so disappointed when they didn't have the night program at Bandolier National Park in New Mexico. It saddens me that this question was even on your survey.

Paying for a ranger led hike would depend on how interesting it sounded, could I do it myself for free, would it be worth the money. I did pay for a hike in Rocky MT Nat Park for bird watching and it was worth it.

Paying for guided hikes or ranger talks would make me expect more.

The permanent senior citizen pass to the National Parks is too cheap. $20 per park or $100 per year for all parks would still be a great deal!

Paying for Ranger led hikes seems reasonable, especially if it is somewhat out of the ordinary. Campfire talks seem like they should come with the admission to the park and the cost of camping.
Paying for ranger talks/hikes would depend a lot on the content of talk....we have been on some that were beyond excellent and some that were borderline mediocre.  
Good luck with your grad program!!

Peace, Love, & Yellowstone

People would be interested in knowing about the CCC work there and the MCC should build some log facilities with close MT & WY Tribes in the future.

Picking one 'memorable' memory at Yellowstone was difficult, as the 5 days that I spent there had so many. The park is just so enormous and has so many different facets that I would have to spend a lifetime there just to experience maybe 50% of what the park has to offer!!!!

Please always keep the wolves, grizzlies, buffalo protected. Without them there would be no reason to ever go back to Yellowstone and we really need to work for a corridor about the park that all wildlife are protected and they are not killed the minutes they cross the boundary, because the reality is almost all visitors to Yellowstone come to see the wildlife and most especially the iconic one the wolves, grizzlies and buffalo.

Please continue to have some campsites receivable and others first come first serve.

Please do not allow boats, rafts etc. on the waterways in Yellowstone National Park

Please don't start a conversation about paid ranger led hikes, etc. I loved that those things were part of my park experience, and a service provided as part of being in Yellowstone. It would be wrong to start charging for those things, and would take away from the experience.

Please don't start charging for ranger activities!! The prices I provided are for things I would be REALLY interested in. I would rather see an increase in park entrance fees than to pay for Ranger lead activities. I would not pay for topics I am only moderately interested in. I actually think the current entrance price is too low! There is not much you can do in this world for $25 for a family of 4 to do over the course of 7 days.

Please follow up with update on student's project / dissertation. Thank you!

Please keep seniors' pricing for entrance fee. Helps stretch retirement dollars. Love having the ability to drive independently to see the scenic sights but realize the strain on the environment and animals. Please severely limit snowmobiling as the noise is a strain on people too!

Please keep the personal information I have provided confidential. Also, I do feel quite strongly that the parks nature hikes and campfire talks should be free of charge to US Citizens. The parks are a national treasure and should be enjoyed by all.

Please keep YNP unspoiled.

Please reduce the summer motorcycle noise. Keep snowmobiles out. Keep natural areas natural.

Presented 59 programs to 2,532 people ages 3 to 93. Awarded the National DAR Conservation award for outreach in conservation, restoration, preservation of our cultural and natural resources 2011.

Price and willingness to pay for ranger led hikes or interpretive talks would be based on duration and content. For a full day tour of a park with a very small group I might be willing to pay up to $200. The question is just too generic to answer appropriately. I answered based on a large group half hour to one hour walk/program.

Problem of lodging accommodation
Lack of organized tours every week
Slow traffic

Protecting our national parks, and the wildlife and natural features, should be a national priority.

provide more winter range outside Yellowstone for the buffalo

Quite a few of the questions used ill-defined words, and thus the answers depend more on one's interpretation than on an absolute value. For example, the question that used the term 'is more like you' is laughable. One is always like oneself, even while covering something up.

Ranger led hikes and interpretive programs vary greatly in quality. I would pay (and pay more than indicated) for a well-done one, but having been to many, that would be only about half of them.
'Ranger-led hikes' seems rather ambiguous. If it was a 5 day backcountry hike, I would be much more interested (and willing to pay more) than if it was a 30 minute 'ranger-led' walk along the boardwalks.

I love society and technology, but I also love the wilderness and solitude. I found it surprisingly difficult to find an area in Yellowstone that was not EXTREMELY congested, where I could not hear cars and voices or see buildings, unless I spent at least a day walking away from the camp 'cities.' This may have been because of the time of year I have visited as the snow has prevented me from a full selection of trails, but the amount of tourists funneled through all the areas surprised me.

I love Yellowstone but I wish there was more done to cater to serious backpackers, rather than all the people who just want to take cliché pictures and buy things. Also, I wish trashcans were provided around the tourist walkways that ARE in place because I pick up quite a bit of trash when I visit ALL of the iconic attractions.

Really liked Yellowstone. Found the Bison very interesting and fun to watch. Saw a lot of them on a bus tour. The tour was great!!

Regarding the ranger led hikes - if there was an extreme or extended hike guided by a ranger I would consider paying under those circumstances. I would estimate that I would be willing to pay upwards of $25.00

Relaxing in the park only happens in off tourist season. Too many people/cars/traffic jams otherwise. Bigger and or more pull offs to accommodate smaller cars. A lot of the pull offs have steep edges my Vibe has a harder time with.

Restoring Yellowstone's wildlife is very important to me. Especially the wolf population.

Retired

Retired last year. In the process of building a house in Emigrant MT. We like the area.

Retired to Bozeman in part because it was near Yellowstone Nat park.

Retired, have already booked Yellowstone for next year with Friends. This time in May

Return to Jackson Wyoming every year to visit Grand Teton National Park and Yellowstone.

Save our bison and wolves in the park

Save our parks for future generations. Especially for US citizens. We need to show respect for what we have.

Save the cutthroat trout

Scientists in the family lead our outings so less likely to do ranger guided events.

Interesting that Montana advertises on the sides of our buses in Seattle...wish they would STOP shooting wolves and bison that wander instead.

Several of my answers are greatly influenced by my age and the distance of my home from Yellowstone.

Several reasons for visiting Yellowstone of equal importance, I didn't like having to choose one for your survey. If the survey had listed 'viewing wildlife', not singling out wolves, bears or 'other' wildlife, that would have been #1. While I have visited several national parks more than once, Yellowstone is the only national park of the ~40 I have visited that I have returned to multiple times despite the expense, not just because I happened to be in the area again for something else. Of those I have visited more than once, it is the only one I have visited for 6-10 days each time.

Several years ago we took what I call 'an old person bus tour of the Western National Parks' and Yellowstone/Tetons was the only one of the Parks that said 'you've got to come back.'

Sharing Our National Parks With Our Grandchildren As We Did With Our Children.

Since that first short visit (6hrs.) I have had the opportunity to visit Yellowstone many times. Each time is unique and nourishing. It is especially great to watch students as they experience Yellowstone for the first time.

Since they stopped letting us in with our sleds, and made people hire expensive guides Yellowstone is now pretty far down our list. It has become too exclusive and expensive for us. We no longer give any moneys or time. Burned out on the fact that you have to have a gold chest to enjoy our national parks!

Since we are retired, some of the questions don't really apply.
Since we started coming to Montana / Yellowstone / Glacier about 7 years ago (at the suggestion of the aforementioned granddaughter) we haven't missed a summer yet. Hope to try the fall this year.

Snow Lodge cabin lodging needs bed, pillow, & bedding upgrades.

So long as there are people who

So much of the Park is off limits or 'closed' throughout much of the year. It makes it hard to get out and hike in a lot of the areas that we'd really like to see.

Some if the questions seemed too much alike.

Some of the follow up questions do not seem appropriate given my responses.

Some of the questions about 'viewing the geysers' were odd and difficult to answer

Some of the questions are not that easy to answer like the one about responsibilities: there are other responsibilities in National Parks (which one should be willing to fulfill) than in the regular daily life etc.

While Yellowstone to me is awesome, Yosemite is beautiful, Grand Canyon is stunning, Badlands is impressive, Glacier is wonderful, Olympic is mind-relaxing etc. Some questions are more general (National Park or not), some are Yellowstone or others but saying that, e.g., Yosemite is beautiful doesn't mean that Yellowstone is not. But this might be too much detail for such a survey :)

Some of the questions just didn't match with the response options. I tried the best that I could to answer accurately. I'm also guessing that the survey was really geared more towards someone who visits all of the time. I hope that it is okay for your results that I've only been once and it was recently.

Some of these questions seem quite silly!

Some of these questions were a bit unusual for Yellowstone, even though it is unique.

Some of your questions appear redundant and I am not sure the value of some of the questions you asked.

Some of your questions are odd - yes/no but not given that option. This survey seems to want confirmation of existing conditions rather than what may make a visit better.

Some questions are bizarre for me. I did best I could, choosing a neutral when I really don't know.

Some questions are too personal

some questions redundant; some inappropriate

Some questions unfair, i.e. how you can pick just one reason you go to Yellowstone. In the winter especially it is such a magical place that everything is special. Also, even though I think the ranger led tours and talks are a valuable service, and are worth as much as the paid tours, they are part of the National Park and we pay for that with our taxes and admission to the park. They are especially important to families and people who can't afford the very expensive paid tours.

Some VERY DUMB questions. I completed the survey but would NOT have taken part had I know the scope of the questioning!

Stupid!

Spending time in YNP is one of our favorite things to do. Besides animal watching, we also enjoy fishing, hiking, visiting areas in the park where we haven't been before.

Supporting our national parks critical to life on earth.

survey kept failing and would require me to 'return to where I left off'

Survey was a bit long

'Take Me Back to Yellowstone, Best of Any Place That I Have Ever Known' a song sung at many camp fires while working in the park so many years ago....'57, '58, '60.

Tearing down all of the frontier cabins at Canyon Village has created a nightmare!

MISTAKE!!!

thank you

Thank you for bringing positive light to the experience of enjoying a National Park and in particular, Yellowstone.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my opinion on my experience in Yellowstone.
| Thank you for the opportunity to relive one of the best moments in my life. I love the park and my husband and I visit it every chance we get. |
| Thank you for working on this interesting topic -- - |
| Thank you! |
| Thank You! |
| Thank you! And best of luck! |
| Thank you, for all that is done! |
| Thank you. |
| Thank you. |
| Thankful Yellowstone is in our 'backyard' |
| Thanks for allowing me to participate in this. |
| Thanks for an opportunity to go down memory lane for a few minutes. |
| Thanks for asking for my experiences! |
| Thanks for asking my opinion. |
| Thanks for giving us the opportunity to share how much we depend on YNP and to help you with your dissertation. |
| Thanks for providing this place of beauty and refuge. |
| Thanks for the great customer service! |
| Thanks to everyone responsible for protected land. |
| Thank-You Mr. Roosevelt |
| That is a paradigm shift to consider paying for NPS activities. I have been on both sides of the aisle as a naturalist and as a visitor. Always enjoy the evening talks especially. |
| The bison range is our favorite visiting point in Montana. Glacier would be above Yellowstone. Overall Katmai viewing bears at falls top, Denali second, Icy Straits whale watching, Kenai Fjords and Glacier Bay. Yellowstone is too crowded compared to the bison range. September watching and listening to the elk on the creek is tops locally. |
| The abundance of wild life, especially the buffalo, wolves and bears are especially thrilling and important to experience. Yellowstone offers that experience, not just beautiful scenery. Without the herds of buffalo and the chance seeing of other large game as elk, Yellowstone would not have the draw. Yellowstone is truly 'The' experience for lovers of wildlife in a personal way. You will always remember a wildlife experience/sighting regardless of your age. |
| The behavior of the park during the government shut down saddened me. Participation was a bit too gung-ho to be an accident and I lost a bit of my loyalty to Yellowstone because of it. |
| The campfire interpretative programs are usually very lame and targeting a 5th grade education level. People pay for good classes at the Institute; they would also pay for good, informative ranger programs. |
| The diversity of landscape and wildlife is the draw. |
| The dollar amounts are too specific and cannot be correct as ask. |
| The experience in Mammoth during September is something I live for, plan for, and wait for. THAT is my main reason. I have had a season pass for as long as I can remember and the only thing that I find negative about the Park is the wolf situation. I am very firm on my belief that introducing a non-native predator in a very delicate ecosystem may be the Parks' demise. They fuss over the Lake Trout... But cannot see the issues with the wolves. They detract from my personal enjoyment - especially when the elk numbers have significantly declined and no one can give me an explanation. Now they have driven the bears down into the more populated areas. It's sad. But when has any politician made a right decision? Thank you for this opportunity to participate in this survey. Yellowstone is a large part of my life. I visit 5 - 6 times a year. |
| The Federal Govt does not adequately fund infrastructure, staffing, or management programs at Yellowstone or other heritage National Parks. The National Parks are crown jewels of our American culture and deserve much better. |
The first trip we were going to West Yellowstone and the rangers were herding bison back into the park. They stopped the traffic and the ranger said nose the bike up they usually leave bikes alone, there were hundreds of bison snorting and arming into each other an arms reach for us. It was GREAT!

The food was not good in the dining areas of Yellowstone National Park.

The government should step up and provide more funds for our national parks solve the budget backlogs of the parks instead of providing Obama phones.

The last question about how much to pay for a ranger-led hike or talk cannot be answered within reason. Where is the hike to? How long? The talk about what? Where? Too many variables to answer with just a number. I am a member of the Yellowstone Association; often look at their classes and would love to try one or two . . . especially snowshoeing . . . but the road closures in winter make the drive up to the northeast corner pretty long. Also, the programs seem expensive for two retired school teachers!!

Love, love, love Yellowstone and ALL NATIONAL PARKS, HISTORIC MONUMENTS AND SIGHTS. We ALWAYS take them in whenever we travel.

Our do-nothing Congress needs to appropriate more money to these national TREASURES!!

The Lodges should be re-done. Major corporate upgrades like the Canadian Rocky resort hotels. I.e. Jasper, Banff, etc. This is arguably America’s most unique tourist attraction and the accommodations are subpar.

The marketing type questions seemed really inappropriate for a discussion of my reaction to visiting a park.

The memory I wrote down was the first thing I thought of. It was just cool to me because President Roosevelt was also a Rough Rider and he had a lot to do with Yellowstone.

The 'memory' was not an especially significant one - just the first that came clearly to mind...

The most impressive, diverse and stunning nature I’ve ever seen.

Don't miss it!

The National and State parks are the most wonderful resource. They are a major attraction for me as a photographer and as a retired conservator, and they are key places when we are route-planning a US trip.

The National Park Service is doing a horrible job in protecting the wildlife of Yellowstone National Park from the hordes of visitors! Traffic jams, and illegal parking are worse than ever with no one giving out tickets.

The National park system is a gem!!!

The National Parks and related services (like ranger-guided hikes, etc.) should remain free and accessible to all people, irrespective of income

The National Parks are one of the few things that are truly wonderful. It is a shame that more of the federal budget does not go to the National Park Service and its staff.

The national parks are very special places, of which most people have a favorite that keeps drawing them back, a place where they can be restored. They are also a learning ground, hands on that can be taught to those coming for the first time. They are affordable to everyone, with activities for all abilities. They keep alive history, show cultural importance, and have protected the most beautiful and most significant areas this country has to offer. It is very important to protect and to nurture these very special places that connect people from all walks of life. They are our connection to our earth that is our home, and to our history that is our future.

The National Parks should be able to contract with food services that provide decent meals in their nice restaurants. People are visiting from around the world and are willing to pay for a good meal.

The noise of the motorcycles in summertime at YNP has forced me to avoid the park in summer months.

The only reason I would be hesitant to return is because I had trouble with the altitude. I’ve had 2 heart attacks and 2 bypass surgeries. The quality of food was the only downside for the rest of my family

The park has implanted itself in my soul!

The park needs to have air conditioning especially in the summer.

The portion of the survey where you inserted 'viewing geysers' into the next section of questions did not seem 'to fit'. Also, not having visited Yellowstone for 50 years meant that many of the questions answered were not quite relevant. However, we vast other national parks regularly, including extensive camping 9 times to Death Valley.
The question about how much I would be willing to pay for a ranger-led hike was too vague. It depends on how long the hike is. Would it be a day hike? Would it be for several days? If so, how many nights/miles/supplies needed, etc.? That would greatly influence how much I would be willing to pay.

The question about willingness to pay for a ranger-led hike gave me some pause. It would be important to know the length of the hike and the time involved before you could reasonably attach a value to it. Also important would be the size of the group because I have been on some hikes where the group is spread out over quite an area, making it difficult for everyone to hear what is being shared.

The questions did not seem particularly appropriate for my experience. Vivid memories are not something that I care about or have.

The Ranger-led hike/talk question is difficult to answer. It depends on the Ranger!!

The reason that I would not pay for ranger guides is that I have friends in Livingston to fly and guide me. JMH.

The reason why I said I would spend $0 for an interpretive 'fireside' talk is that most of the talks I have been to in the past seem geared to people who know little about the particular subject and are new to a particular National Park. And that is as it should be. But I have found that I personally don't gain much new out of the interpretive talks. It is just that I know much of the information about subjects in which I am interested.

The size of the Old Faithful parking lot was too much. We did not enjoy Old Faithful as much in 2012 as we did in 1994. It has become too crowded.

The survey crashed three times while I was taking it -- but it came back and (I hope) allowed me to finish

The survey took 20 plus minutes

The walk talks are open ended. Depends on where, how long, subject.

The wolves have really hurt the elk and Moose population.

There are few places better than Yellowstone.

There are many beautiful places in this world but no place compares to YNP considering all facets of it.

There are many national parks for which my answers would have been similar on this quiz.

There is no place like Yellowstone. It offers so much.

There is simply no other place like Yellowstone. I've been to most of the U.S. including Alaska and Hawaii plus much of Europe. Of all the places I've been, Yellowstone keeps calling me back. Given the choice of only going to Yellowstone or only going someplace else, I'd pick Yellowstone every time. No question.

There must be a fair number of former guides who respond... wonder if it will bias your results?

There seem to be two schools of thought in the Park at this time. 1... Welcome to our Park please just stop where we have set aside a place and then leave and 2. Welcome to your Park let us know how we can help you enjoy it. L.E. seems to be the 1st with interpretive the 2nd. Number 1 seems to be winning.

There should be a way to sponsors students who would not otherwise have the opportunity to experience Yellowstone. It could be a life changing event for those kids on the cusp of going right or going wrong.

There should be fewer wolves.

There should have been a non/applicable option for many of the questions. And also a 'prefer not to state' for the income question

These Parks are supported by my tax dollars, if it is underfunded then let’s fix it. There are lots of Federally supported programs that only waste our tax dollars let’s bring them home to use in our interest.

They should not open Bridge Bay campground before the snow has melted and the water is off the camp site. I am glad we went early this year. There are so many people in the front country of Yellowstone that it is like the Mall of America with geysers. A beautiful place once one gets on the trail and away from the road.

Thinking of Yellowstone is like 'going home'. As far as paying for events in the park depends on how many people you are paying for and as far as relaxing...am I doing the cooking???

this is a very strange survey

This is by far my favorite National Park!

This is going to be our second trip to Yellowstone, but definitely have plans to return again in winter!
This is Judith, Thomas' wife of nearly 40 yrs., doing the survey. He doesn't like to do surveys but I love Yellowstone since a child & want to help it as much as I can. Brought my kids over 4 times here.

This is my 16th year of working in Yellowstone National Park. I have visited on several occasions and have brought family out here.

This is one of the years I will not be able to visit Yellowstone N P and I really miss it.

This last trip I brought my daughters (ages 11 and 9) and they were so excited and had such a great time we are definitely looking forward to doing it again. In my early 20's I worked as a Wilderness Ranger for Gallatin NF out of Gardiner and it was great to stir up old memories.

This survey has been distributed to Xanterra employees in Yellowstone, yet your survey seems primarily directed to occasional or frequent guests. Since employees have a different perspective of the park, results may be less predictable.

This survey is not very conducive to some of the answer choices. It is also exceptionally long.

This survey took longer than 15 minutes. It was tedious and repetitive. I lost interest in taking the survey!

This survey was a bit too long for what you typically ask of volunteer survey takers. not sure if you really needed to ask the same question so many ways

This survey was too much. Too long, too detailed questions, better for interview format, not worth the 'points' also not a tablet friendly format

This was a 'Bucket List' trip with my old roommate from college - 1967.

This was a family trip. We all loved Yellowstone, even our Chihuahua. We love seeing wildlife in a natural environment.

too bad the question about income didn't have the option to decline answering and/or to mark as 'retired,' which I am

Too many memories and reasons to place here. The single greatest thing I love about Yellowstone is how dynamic the environment is. I have the experience of going to a place I know and love, where I am familiar enough to be assured of a good trip based on prior knowledge yet there are always changes (thermal features, vegetation, animal patterns, etc.) that make the experience a new discovery.

Traveling home from two weeks in the park as I fill out this survey. Saw lots of improvements, fresheners in the rest stops, friendlier staff (beginning of the season), road improvements and more rangers.

Was disappointed with the toilet paper being so thin however attributing it to the fact that it has to decompose quickly.

Traffic was lighter then I have ever seen it and most everyone obeyed the speed limit.

Awesome job!

Traveling with family to see Geysers and Wildlife over last 30 years has been wonderful. Planning on another 30 years. My wife has written a book about her 40 years of travels to YNP based on her journals.

Unaware that there were two private associations connected with the park, i.e. Association and Foundation. A tad confusing.

Unfortunately now that guns are allowed in our National Parks we no longer feel we would be safe there. Therefore we do not plan to ever visit any National Parks, even Yellowstone again...

Unfortunately, I can no longer visit Yellowstone, my favorite place on earth, because I have COPD and the elevation is too high there.

Vacation memories as a family are significant. Sharing the beauty of Yellowstone together is life lasting for both the beauty and educational experience. Who can forget seeing a grizzly bear!

Very thought-provoking questions. thanks for asking them

Visions of untouched America.

Visited Yellowstone because my wife and I had never done it but it's not my thing, cars, and motorcycles racing are what interest me.
Visiting NP sites has been an important part of our lives, in particular since we had children. Over the past 15 years, we have traveled with our 4 boys (now 17-25) to 49 states and about 125 units of the NPS. Our trips have focused on the units all over the country. One of our favorites is Yellowstone and part of the reason we have supported YPF since 2000, even if we can't visit the Park as often as we'd like.

Visiting Yellowstone National Park was such a phenomenal experience! If it were possible, I would visit it at least once a year! I wish I lived much closer!

Visiting Yellowstone was a dream of mine since I was 12 years old. It was even more wonderful than the many books I have read about it. I would like to take my daughter and grandson to visit one day.

Visiting Yellowstone was a turning point in my life. It reawakened a childhood love of science and nature.

Visiting Yellowstone was the most rewarding vacation up till now. This year we will go to Denali.

Watch the Old Faithful Live Streaming Webcam in my classroom so that students who have never seen it can watch.

We all love the Park

We all need to work together/sacrifice to help this planet and respect all who live on earth.

We are currently visiting Colorado. Through it is beautiful here and new to our 15 year old daughter and 13 year old son, they have both commented several times they would rather be in Yellowstone. Our trip to Yellowstone was awesome. We stayed in 3 different lodges and loved how each area of the park seemed like a whole different national park. We especially loved the Mammoth Hot Springs, Lamar, and Teddy Roosevelt areas.

We are looking forward to this year's Yellowstone adventure but instead of just bringing our daughters along, our four grandchildren will be traveling with us. Yellowstone lives on as does our immediate family through growth and change.

We are retired now and no longer make the income we used to.

We enjoy collecting the passport stamps in the parks.

We enjoy living near YNP and try to go into the park in May and Sept. We have stayed in the lodges, and in the campgrounds.

We enjoyed both Yellowstone and the Grand Tetons on our recent trip in June 2014.

We had a guide and he knew where to look for wildlife and it made a huge difference.

We had a wonderful time with our young family of 5.

We had great times camping. It has been over 20 years since our last visit. I hope it hasn't changed too much.

We had hoped to ride our bikes in Yellowstone but it was not on your activity list. We realized that there was very little opportunity for that activity, except on the main roads - and due the high volume of large rental campers and the narrow bike lane that was dicey. We do understand that the Parks dept. can't do everything but we wished for a few bike trails. The geysers and the buffalo made it for us.

We had to skip Yellowstone this year for financial reasons and it has been pretty tough on my family

We have a time-share in Jackson Hole and visit Yellowstone once a year usually, especially if we have visitors.

We have been coming to Yellowstone steadily for the past 9 years. Before that, we took our family and I attended with my family two times when I was young. My husband and I love this place beyond words!

We have been to Yellowstone several times during the early summer. My wife and I hope to get there sometime during the winter before we are too old to enjoy it.

We have overwhelmed family and friends with all of our pics and memories of YNP that now that they are retiring we are scheduled to guide them over the next summers. What fun!

We have shared our Yellowstone with many, many people, taken them, young and old, on trips. Most of them were fairly bored and we didn't know why...still don't. We have jokingly, said no more are we taking anyone into the Park because it's our heaven on earth, where my husband and myself are completely and totally happy and at peace.

We have stickers in our cars saying Yellowstone is our 'Happy Place'. It truly is!!

WE HAVE YELLOWSTONE FOUNDATION IN A CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUST
We just returned from my third visit to Yellowstone. It was my husband's first visit. Now he understands why I consider Yellowstone the most wondrous place on earth. It is a National and natural treasure!

We just returned from Yellowstone, we were there the first week of June 2014. We took our three grandchildren. They had never been and I always wanted to take them because I love it there so much. I hated for it to end because it had been a dream of mine for so long. On my bucket list so to speak. We learned more also because of them and a trivia book we purchased and the joy of seeing it new for the first time all over again through their eyes. I will remember our trip the rest of my life.

We like Yellowstone Park for its nature, scenic beauty, and all the different natural happenings.

We love all the national parks we visit. It is hard to say which is my favorite, but Yellowstone was my first. :)

We love National Parks. Yellowstone is great and we appreciate its size and unique features - however Glacier is our favorite so that impacted some of my answers. Please protect the parks and KEEP THEM AS WILD AS POSSIBLE. Thanks. Order number is: Z1069596

Please reference this number should you need to contact us about this order. Your order details are listed below.

You will also receive an e-mail confirmation.

We love the Tetons and spend more time there than in Yellowstone. When our children were young, we camped at Jenny Lake. We join the Grand Teton Association every year. Our adult children join us any time they can. My husband (78) and I now stay in cabin at Signal Mountain.

In the early 2000s, my husband and older son took a winter class to see the wolves in Yellowstone. It was beyond wonderful.

The shame about charging for camp fire talks and ranger led hikes would be once again unaffordable for middle class people. Our parks may become just for the elite like health care and like education is becoming. And allowing guns in our National Parks and allowing ranchers to kill wolves is part of the destruction of everything worthwhile. Thank you for doing this. I hope one day your survey results make it to Congress.

We love to stay at Lake Hotel but with the huge increase in the price of the rooms we may never stay there again. The price is way out of line from where it should be. Maybe the tour companies are responsible.

We love Yellowstone and hope that it stays well preserved for many generations to come.

We love Yellowstone as do my sons and granddaughter

We love Yellowstone NP, however on this recent visit, my husband and I both had food poisoning from one of the restaurants, which currently leaves a bad impression that we hope wears off soon!

We love Yellowstone! We are coming back in September and this time we are bringing more people with us!

We love Yellowstone!!!

We love Yellowstone. Have participated in several Institute classes over the years and love the park in the winter. We volunteered in helping build the Buffalo Ranch cabins.

We love YNP and the Tetons! We are so very fortunate to live between GNP and YNP! We love so many things about the YNP. I love that YNP is investing in so many resource-saving activities. There is such an opportunity with all the visitors each year to educate/outreach re: resource conservation, climate change and adaptation, bio mimicry and looking to Nature for ingenious solutions to our modern-day problems, etc. If you want to contact me, I'd be happy to elaborate on any of my answers and also to discuss how taking a biomimetic approach can help the Park elegantly solve its environmental challenges (as other NPs, organizations, and businesses are doing).

My name is Diana and you can reach me at (406) 461-4148.

We love YNP! It's our family tradition vacation. In our family of 3, me and my two young girls 7 and 3, it's our yearly vacation. We love the water, animals, and taking 900 + pictures of all we see there!

We loved the area so much on our visit in 2010 that we moved here that same year!

We need as a country to do more to promote people to experience and visit our national parks while maintaining their integrity, beauty, and natural environment, habitat, wildlife, and fisheries.

We need to upgrade our national parks to better meet the needs of us visitors

We plan to retire to Wyoming in 1-3 years. Wyoming is more a home than Colorado has ever been. There is no place like Yellowstone.

We remember going there with our young children 50 years ago and still enjoy going.
We spend our summer in MY AT an RV park near Livingston. We go into the Park about once a week for critter watching, hikes, birding, and most importantly fishing.

We took 2 ranger-lead hikes in the geyser areas. They were some of the highlights of our trip!

We try as much as possible to avoid the crowds when visiting any national park. We live in a rural area and the last thing I want to do when on vacation is deal with crowds of people.

We try to visit Yellowstone every year and feel very fortunate that we live within a one day drive of the park. It is truly one of my favorite places in the world. Actually, my MOST favorite. We are looking forward to visiting again next month!

We used to live in Bozeman, MT and still own a condo there so we go to Yellowstone often.

We used to live in Jackson Hole, WY so we love The Teton National Park even more than Yellowstone especially since it was closer year round.

We visit many places by camping in and around parks. We will be at Sleeping Bear dunes national lake shore this year and Glacier National Park next summer, we’re already planning!

We visit twice per year, every year. Retiring to Cody in a few years.

We visit YS once sometimes twice a year, but the lodging is too expensive.

We went in an RV in May, so pretty much things were not open yet in Yellowstone. That kind of took away the relaxation for me, as we had to drive all over ourselves with an RV. Basically got to see Old Faithful and some hot springs.

We were pleased to see the recovery since the fire. We witnessed the devastation on a visit shortly after the fire. We will come again to bring our grandchildren when they are a little older.

We wish more of the park was car accessible in the winter time - specifically to Old Faithful area.

We would like to see more rustic cabins rather than hotels like the ones in canyon. We like the mammoth cabins.

We would love to work in Yellowstone National Park again, possibly next year.

We're from Salt Lake City and see Yellowstone as our backyard. We have only missed going to Yellowstone once in the last twenty-four years and some years we have been there in the Spring and Fall. We have made friends in West Yellowstone that we love to have breakfast with.

They might call Utah Zion but, God lives in Yellowstone and other parts of Montana. We think all of Yellowstone is in Southwest Montana.

We're traveling to as many national parks as we can. Zion and Bryce are our favorites so far.

We've always enjoyed Yellowstone and discover something new every time we go. The wolf and wildlife watching are especially appealing to us.

We've traveled to many national parks and monuments, and Yellowstone is still our favorite that keeps calling us back. Each visit is different because we take a different focus each time as we learn more about the park. The first time was about rushing around to see all the major sites. Now we take time with our favorites, take more time to relax, and try to get off the beaten path a bit more.

What a timely survey! Just spent Memorial Day weekend traveling through Yellowstone and Grand Tetons. We're committed to bring our 5 year old the National Parks to give him the same sense of adventure and awe that we had as kids (although as kids, we didn't always fully understand what we had, frequently expressing boredom). Experiencing Yellowstone as an adult is totally different. We hope to make it to Glacier next year and continue to see various National Parks and circle back as our son gets older so that we can do more biking and hiking.

What I wrote in Yellowstone: What is it about this place? This 'LA marvelous' valley. I am just a newcomer here and I've tasted a sip of this precious wine... I could enjoy a lifetime of this kind of drunkenness!!! • Yellowstone Association Volunteer at Buffalo Ranch
What is the amount of money that is collected for park fees and what percentage is actually used for park improvements? Car camp sites should be spaced further apart and more trees planted in some areas (Bridge Bay). The park has plenty of room and it's not a wilderness area.

What is the topic of your research?

When asked to would I pay for ranger led activities I said $5. That is $5 per family.

When describing my 'memory' I was prompted to record my 'first' memory. Later memories are more meaningful and have a more lasting influence on me and my life philosophy.

When I am in Yellowstone I feel like all is right with the world. (but I know it isn't)

When I retire I want to work at Yellowstone park.

When indicating a low importance in my visits to Yellowstone of sharing it with my family and friends, that is only because I haven't been able to get anyone to go yet or work it into their schedule. If I could it would be important to me.

When my husband was scheduled for his surgery, the first time he battled cancer in 2011, he had to change his scheduled vacation plans, a wilderness fishing trip to Manitoba with our son. We discussed making vacation plans once he was recovered and he gave me the choice. I could have picked anywhere but I chose Yellowstone because it is his happy place and we have made a lifetime of memories here. Not knowing the outcome of his surgery at the time, I wanted to be in a place that has brought us so much joy and happiness over the years!

When traveling the state, it is always a bonus to find 'kid-friendly' activities. If there was a ranger led hike, or nighttime activity. The chances of participation are much higher if I feel the kids would benefit from the experience as well.

When we were getting ready to retire, we drew a 150 mile (or so) circle around YNP to help us decide where to relocate. Our first priority was to be less than that distance from the park. That is how impactful our experiences in the park have been to our lives. :-) When you asked about a hike or a talk the amount of money to be paid depends a lot on the distance, time involved etc. I think the 30-60 activities should be free and only be paid for if they last 2-4 or more hours.

Where to we find any results of this survey?

While I can afford to pay for nature talks and ranger events, I would hate a price to limit everyone's ability to enjoy these things. I am childless and am taking my cousins' kids as they get old enough so that they can experience this type adventure and see there is a reason to aspire to be better and do more. Perhaps charge adults but don't charge for under 21.

While personally willing and able to pay for access/use of our National Parks I think it wrong to charge much since those less well-off should have not be discouraged/prevented from experiencing the wonder.

While the park is wonderful place, the traffic is just absolutely ridiculous. I would estimate that 80% of the day is spent stuck in traffic trying to get from one part of the park to the next.

Why can't Yellowstone provide smaller hikes/outings for a lower cost? $1200 is a bit much.

Wildlife + geothermal + hiking all equally important to me in Yellowstone-->couldn't accurately show that. Also, I'm happy to pay the entrance fee (or annual pass) on the understanding opportunity for naturalist-led hiking or education is part of the deal. Ideally, NPS deserves more tax support, not just increased user fees

will be visiting again this fall one of our very favorite places

Will they ever make a trail to the overlook (from Fairy Falls trail) where you can view Grand Prismatic from above? It is such a beautiful view, but you have to scramble up a steep incline of fallen trees and loose gravel to get to the view that is depicted in so many of the photo books. It is risky and dangerous for children and older hikers to get to this spectacular view of Grand Prismatic from above.

Wish I could visit ALL the national parks. Husband not as much into it as I am.

Wonderful place for children = lots of variety in one area

Wonders such as our National Parks should be well funded by the federal taxes.

Wording error in the question about paying for a ranger led hike....sorry was an English teacher!

Would be interested to see results of this survey, and know how it is to be used.

Would like to see more ranger or association led day-hiking opportunities, especially at a moderate level 3-8 miles.

Would like to see the survey results.

Would love to visit again with my family. Hopefully do more wildlife watching this time around.

Wow some of those questions were a little airy fairy. Who wrote this?? I've only visited once, but my husband worked there as a guide on horseback for years and the place feels close to our hearts. It was hard to communicate that through some of these questions, especially about the memory recall. Seriously? Also, for a first-time visitor some of those questions were hard to answer since they assumed participants had visited multiple times. Weird survey, but I hope you get what you're looking for out of it.

Wyoming is a great place.

Wyanterra - loved the lodgings, stayed in mostly Pioneer Cabins, once western cabin, at Lake Lodge, Canyon, Old Faithful Lodge - loved the Cabin experience; Food Quality at Canyon and Old Faith Lodges desperately needs improving. Parks service facilities - visitor centers, restrooms and programs all very good.

Wyanterra does an excellent job on providing campground, Yellowstone NP should learn from them.

Yellowstone and the Tetons, the most beautiful place on earth!

Yellowstone changed my life 20 years ago and continues to be my favorite place on earth.

Yellowstone combines the assets of many other national parks into the one park! Mountains, rivers, lakes, wildlife, and unusual scenic features. The hot springs and geysers are a bonus.

Yellowstone definitely is a treasure. Have been to other National Parks and it is the best! Good Luck, BTW, with your studies!!

Yellowstone has become a part of our family in a way I dreamed it one day would. We have many memories and stories which Yellowstone is the center of. Also, riding my bike (motorcycle) through the park was an awesome experience with friends. But talking with another friend who does not ride, but hikes, gave me a fresh perspective. He said his wife and him could hear our pipes when they were many miles from the roads. He said it very much affected their time. I feel I want every visitor, especially out-of-state, to see, hear, feel, the true beauty of this place. My respect for Yellowstone as a living place caused me to only want to travel in a vehicle. I don't feel restricted, I feel like I'm helping others enjoy a place like no other place on earth.

Yellowstone has been an important part of my family's lives since childhood and is responsible for many wonderful adventures and building a strong bond between several generations of our family.

Yellowstone has been an important part of my life. Great memories as a child, worker and then with my kids. Great dissertation! Good luck!

Yellowstone has too many tourists...also somewhat boring. Would rather take my family to a city or the ocean.

Yellowstone in winter is truly an amazing place.

Yellowstone is a 3 day drive from our home but we consider it 'our' park because we love every minute we spend there-even the bison jams! & spend time at home planning our future trips.

Yellowstone is a beautiful place that everyone should get a chance to see and experience if they can. The White Mountains are nice but don't have geysers or subpar pits. I'm glad we went and will go back again when the finances permit it.

Yellowstone is a different experience every time that you visit. It is truly an amazing adventure.

Yellowstone is a fascinating place to visit.
Yellowstone is a favorite but only one of many geothermal spots in the world.

Yellowstone is a gem in the National Park System. My feelings about other National Parks (or beautiful natural places) are similar to my feelings for Yellowstone, but these feelings are much more intense about Yellowstone. There is nowhere else like it on earth.

Yellowstone is a good place to visit if it is on the way to somewhere else. E.g. Arizona California, other southern states.

Yellowstone is a great national treasure and I expect to return for future visits several times.

Yellowstone is a great place that I love!!!!

Yellowstone is a magical place that captures your heart. I would like to see your results.

Yellowstone is a magical place, a slice of heaven. Here on earth for us to appreciate.

Yellowstone is a magnificent and beautiful place that should be protected forever.

Yellowstone is a natural wonder that should be preserved at all costs

Yellowstone is a place that is very special to us- it has brought healing to us and we have celebrated major milestones with trips to the park. It is one of God's greatest blessings in our lives

Yellowstone is a place that needs to be supported. It is truly one of this country's treasures.

Yellowstone is a special place and should be preserved and enhanced.

Yellowstone is a special place to my but Acadia Nation Park is special to my wife and two children (my wife spent 6 summers doing research on the island in the 90s and she and the kids fell in love with the place. My daughter went to college in Maine and she and her husband come to Acadia every year. In fact I'm in Maine now for fishing and the wife and kids(and their families) are coming at the end of the week when we will stay on the island)

Yellowstone is a treasure and we learned to appreciate the balance of conservation and access. What an educational vacation.

Yellowstone is a treasure. It, and its wolves and bison need to be protected for all time!

Yellowstone is a unique and precious part of our country. It is a place to be jealously guarded and fiercely defended. I know that there are no truly 'natural' or 'untouched-by-humans' places left in the world, but as a managed environment, Yellowstone National Park is as close as it gets. I look forward to future visits to this park and hopefully others also, like Glacier National Park. The limiting factor for me is the cost of travel and accommodations. I volunteer with a wolf conservation organization in New York state, so I do get to see wolves every week, but it's not quite the same as wolf watching in the natural habitat of the park.

Yellowstone is a special and unique area of the US.

Yellowstone is a very special place in our lives as are other National Parks. We once took our all of our children and their spouses to Yellowstone and all of them and our grandchildren to Grand Canyon. This experience of renewal, refreshment, and re-creation these places provide are essential to our well-being as a people and nation.

Yellowstone is a very special place to me. We have visited twice in the winter, and it is magical. Being able to tour the park on snowmobiles was an experience of a life time. I know there is lots of controversy over the snowmobiles, but I hope they will not be taken away in the future. It was an experience that my husband and I will never forget. Our plans are to visit again this fall, and make more memories. Yellowstone is a place that I have in my heart all the time.

Yellowstone is a wonderful gift to society! I enjoy visiting there whenever I can and look forward to seeing again in the next couple of years.

Yellowstone is a wonderful place and we try to go in the Spring and the Fall mostly to see wildlife. We have had many get experiences and hope to have many more.

Yellowstone is a wonderful place to visit and enjoy. Beautiful and peaceful filled with the wonders of Life

Yellowstone is a wonderful treasure. I wish I could visit it more often than I am able. Maybe I will when I retire.

Yellowstone is amazing but so are many other National Parks.

Yellowstone is an amazing National Treasure and I can't wait to go back! I will definitely donate money to keep it running and visit as often as possible.
Yellowstone is an amazing place. I felt this way about Glacier as well, until my first Yellowstone visit. I still regularly go to Glacier, but it does not have the heart pull for me that Yellowstone has. I love it in all seasons!

Yellowstone is an astonishing place, and I'm really grateful it has been developed and preserved as a National Park for anyone to visit and enjoy.

Yellowstone is and has played an important role in my life. It is not however, the only role.

Yellowstone is beautiful and fun. I'm glad I got to see it. And one day I will go again. (It's a long drive from Virginia!)

Yellowstone is best in the winter!

Yellowstone is exactly the wrong place to go to be in nature. There is nothing natural about millions of people going there to see what amounts to a freak of nature.

Yellowstone is hard to see if you are disabled.

Yellowstone is important to protect and I'm glad I visited it once. It's not a place I intend to return. I felt like I was stuck in a car in Yellowstone and in the Tetons I could get out and hike, enjoy the scenery and get away from the crowds.

Yellowstone is indescribable. It changed me, became a part of me. I'll never forget it.

Yellowstone is like no other place I've ever been. It taught me to appreciate and respect nature. If it were closer, I'd go there much more frequently. It's my FAVORITE place for vacations.

Yellowstone is like no other place on earth

Yellowstone is my favorite National Park though I've been to many others more than once and this year, we are taking our family to Grand Canyon, Bryce and Zion.

Yellowstone is my favorite National Park. It has so much to see and do and always has a new adventure. I can go on the same hikes over again and always see something new.

Yellowstone is my favorite park

Yellowstone is my favorite park, but not the only one I enjoy visiting.

Yellowstone is my favorite place in the USA. The only other place I like equally is Switzerland.

Yellowstone is my favorite place in the world.

Yellowstone is my favorite place in the world. It left such an impression on me that I will never forget and I share with everyone.

Yellowstone is my favorite vacation spot. We go there as many times as we can. The last 3 years we have been twice each year.

Yellowstone is my happy place. I miss it until I'm there again.

Yellowstone is my special place on this earth! I am drawn to Yellowstone on an almost mystical level, I think about it all the time!

Yellowstone is my very favorite place on earth!

Yellowstone is of prime importance in my life - both the natural and the manmade aspects of it. As for income, I decline to answer.

Yellowstone is one of my 2 favorite places in the U.S., and I've been to all 50 states. The only other place I'm as fond of is Glacier National Park. I've worked in both parks and hope to do so again someday.

Yellowstone is one of my favorite places on Earth.

Yellowstone is one of my favorite places to visit.

Yellowstone is one of our favorite places but it is competing with the Grand Tetons, Williamsburg and Walt Disney World. I will never forget my first hikes up Bunsen Peak and Mount Washburn.

Yellowstone is one of the most amazing places that I have ever visited- plan on visiting again in 2015.

Yellowstone is one of the most beautiful places in the world. Every time we go, I find something new to observe or experience.

Yellowstone is one of the most impressive national parks we have in the US. I will surely visit it again in my lifetime.

Yellowstone is one of the US national treasures that I feel is under-appreciated, mostly because it is hard to describe the beauty and wonder of the park to someone who has never been.
Yellowstone is precious. Shame on the feds for shutting it down and being such idiots about that. I hope it survives forever.

Yellowstone is the best

Yellowstone is the best natural park and everyone should visit it at least once in a lifetime. Should be less commercial and more naturistic and naturalistic

Yellowstone is the Holiest of Holies.

Yellowstone is the most amazing place on earth—love it

Yellowstone is the most beautiful park I have ever been to with such diversity in scenery, animals, and natural geological occurrences.

Yellowstone is the most magical place in the world

Yellowstone is the most powerful, the most beautiful place I have ever visited.....and I have traveled a great deal in my life.

Yellowstone is the reason I moved from Preston, England to Idaho Falls (via 11 years on the east coast).

Yellowstone is the best place in the world and I feel so lucky to finally live just 90 minutes away.

Yellowstone is the Serengeti of North America where you can still see wildlife and nature as they were before Europeans colonized it, especially now that the wolves are back. It is priceless.

Yellowstone is truly a 'wonderland' as it was called in early publications. I have been to the park many, many times and always observe something absolutely magical.

Yellowstone is very cool and all, but the animals are habituated to humans. I always go in the off seasons.

Yellowstone is where my heart lives. It is home. I breathe differently as soon as I am within 50 miles of the park and the entire time I am there.

Yellowstone led me to my all-time favorite Park, The Grand Teton National Park!" But the best hiking trail for me is, Mt. Washburn!

Yellowstone made me feel close to God. I felt that if that were my last day....I was ok, seeing my family happy and smiles on their faces, and the memories we were sharing, pure Love for what God has given me and the opportunity I had to share with my children. Makes me cry thinking about it. The best thing I believe I could give my family was this trip.

Yellowstone makes me feel like I am getting some education as opposed to someplace that just entertains, without any valuable takeaway.

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL AND GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARKS ARE MY FAVORITE PLACES ON EARTH. THEY ARE BE OVER RUN BY LARGE NUMBERS OF BUS-TOURS BRINGING PEOPLE FROM A LARGE NUMBER OF COUNTRIES. I WOULD LIKE TO SEE A MANDATORY SAFETY-WILDLIFE-GEO FEATURE PROTECTION BRIEFING GIVEN TO EACH TOUR MEMBER ~ FOR ALL FIRST-TIME VISITORS TO OUR NATIONAL PARKS. TOUR BUS OPERATORS WOULD BE FINED / BANNED FOR PERIODS OF TIME FOR EACH TOUR MEMBER CAUGHT ABUSING-HARASSING WILDLIFE OR POTENTIALLY DAMAGING THE THERMAL-GEO FEATURES, I.E., DISREGARDING WARNING SIGNS, DIRECTIONS FROM THE RANGER STAFF, ETC

Yellowstone National Park has been my family’s favorite vacation spot for 34 years!

We've seen it before and after fires, tornadoes, earthquakes, and mud slides. We feel connected to Yellowstone.

When we pass through the Theodore Roosevelt Arch we breathe a sigh of comfort. We simply LOVE Yellowstone.

Yellowstone National Park is a wonderful and amazing place to visit to enjoy nature, wildlife, geology and so much more.

Yellowstone National Park is different in many ways from other parks. The contracting out for the care of the park is noticeable, as camp site areas not clean as in the past. Lack of direction signs and roads are in need of repair.

Yellowstone National Park is my favorite United States site I have visited, second only to visiting Egypt.

Yellowstone is very American - the comeback of the bison, native American history, wolves, eagles, etc. It is a real treasure.

Yellowstone National Park is one of my favorite places I have ever been.

Yellowstone National Park is one of the most important places in my life. I've been there every year for the past 9 years and am always planning my next trip back. I've been in every season.
Yellowstone Nat'l Pk has a great potential for a sublime nature experience. There is one problem that prevents it from being possible. That problem is the sheer magnitude of humanity allowed into the park on a willy nilly basis. It is time to focus on the goal of providing a natural ecological experience to the visitor. To that end the Park service should institute a well thought out lottery program with allowances for future changes based upon actual results. USA citizens and their guests should be first on the list with openings or vacant spots being allowed to foreign nationals. No park management plan seems to have factored in the ecological impact that the Native Americans had upon the homeostasis of the ecology. The management plans should emulate (if they do not now do so) this important fact. There are many areas in YNP where one may not fish, ostensibly to protect native species that are in decline due to poor past management practices. It should be determined what the maximum impact of fishing closed areas could be without further hindering recovery and then establish a lottery that would allow fishing by at least some lucky few in these areas where one would normally go to fish. Finally, the lake trout should have a bounty placed on them until the cutthroat numbers improve.

Yellowstone needs more federal funding. Infra-structure is crumbling in places.

Yellowstone needs more pullouts for safety and pleasure.

Yellowstone needs shower and laundry facilities at all campgrounds. They also need heaters in all bathrooms. It wouldn't hurt to have better cell reception by placing a few towers in the park and design them to fit into the landscape. Some people have relatives who are not healthy/ home bound are might need to be contacted while at Yellowstone.

Yellowstone NP is a beautiful place. My vacation there was the best vacation of my life.

Yellowstone NP is a fantastic place, I just wish it was closer and I had more time to enjoy it.

Yellowstone NP is a place unlike any other, where geology, nature, and wildlife come together to create a unique environment that invokes many experiences. We are extremely fortunate to have it.

Yellowstone NP is a treasure & I have been lucky to visit many times especially when accompanying my husband who is a wildlife biologist and has had many grad students doing research in the park. We have stayed in remote ranger cabins and seen parts of the park rarely visited by tourists. I first visited YNP at age 12 on a family vacation and have loved it dearly ever since.

Yellowstone NP will always hold a special place in my heart and those of my family members. We always talk about our experiences with others and are always willing and ready to go back when the time allows.

Yellowstone Park has been an integral part of my life for 76 years. A love instilled in me by my parents for this wonderland. Our teenage grandchildren said after their first trip that it was the best vacation they ever had. Friends and family in Sweden after many years are still calling their trips here a once in a life time thrill. If there is a heaven I hope it is Yellowstone Park.

Yellowstone Park is a national treasure! Sadly, over the years, it has become increasingly expensive to visit and to stay in one of the park's hotels. Xanterra, seems to raise rates every year, yet provides mediocre food and service. At this rate, the national parks will soon be only affordable to the affluent.

Yellowstone park is like a world unto itself to me.

Yellowstone really is my most favorite place to be.

Yellowstone remains one of my favorite places.

Yellowstone renews my spirit and makes me whole again.

Yellowstone truly shows God’s existence and hid handiwork.

Yellowstone TV Documentaries are interesting and provide a continuing up-date on developments in the Park.

Yellowstone versus Great Smoky Mountains versus Zion’s versus Arches, tough call on the most meaningful National Park. Lots of good memories in each. Live within half day of the Smokies now, so probably more meaningful in terms of my family now because can visit more frequently. Used to live in the West, maybe will again someday.

Yellowstone was an amazing experience.

Yellowstone was an amazing experience. I will never forget it. I hope to return someday.
Yellowstone was just an incredible place, it's like nowhere else. It's impossible to visit the park and not see wildlife. I hope to get back there someday with my grandkids.

Yellowstone was my home for a summer while I worked there 30 years ago. I was back again 25 years ago with my 1st husband. The trip I just made in June 2014 was the first time I had been back in 25 years. I lived at Old Faithful and explored some other parts of the park but had never been to Roosevelt. In addition to spending time at OF on this trip, we also spent time at Roosevelt which I loved. It has a much slower, quieter pace than other parts of the park.

Yellowstone was one of the most amazing and beautiful natural environments I have experienced. We will be back! But...I haven't been to Glacier Nat'l park yet.

Yellowstone was the inspiration for my chosen career, Professor of Environmental Studies.

Yellowstone was, is, and always is a special place for me and my wife; it is almost like a time machine for us, taking us back to a time when we felt freer.

Yellowstone will always be a part of me, and helped to shape who I am and the direction I took in my life.

Yellowstone and the Yellowstone ecosystem is a unique experience, best experienced between Septembers thru May.

Yellowstone, Glacier, the Alaska Parks & preserves, Olympic, Rainier, cutthroat trout, mountain streams, pronghorn, buffalo, the flora, the fauna...the variety & complexity & simplicity that is of all of America's natural beauty...I love it all & do what I can to support it...It is not enough, I need to do more.

YEP is a great national treasure. I would like to instill this in my son and grandchildren. I wish I had more money to visit more often. Park losing has gotten so expensive I cannot stay in the park recently.

YNP gets more crowded every year. We still visit YNP, but stay fewer days in the park and more time in surrounding areas.

YNP is a favorite place to visit, especially with family. The impact of the forces of nature is evident in many features of the park.

YNP is a magical place, but other parks can be also.

YNP is home to me and all about the wildlife and nature!

YNP is magical. The question to choose what you enjoy doing there • I could have chosen them all. Not fair! ; )

YNP is one of my favorite places I have ever been. Thanks!

YNP is the reason I live in MT, I left Chicago to be nearer this part of the country.

YNP is truly a national treasure which has the ability to connect people to the natural world in ways that are hard to find these days. I wish everyone could spend a couple of days in this beautiful place.

YNP needs to better accommodate wildlife viewing by providing more pullouts thereby reducing many animal jams. The Park was created to preserve nature for the BENEFIT of people.

YNP needs to do more to protect the wolves in and around the park and stop the slaughter of the bison when they leave the park in the winter.

YNP. Greatest place on earth!!

You truly should not charge for interpretive programs as many people (myself included when I was younger) benefitted from being able to attend these for free when I did not have the financial freedom to be able to afford a pay for program

Your survey left no room for other reason to many of these questions.

Your survey may be a little too long & redundant

YSTONE is an amazing place -- take care of it.