



Florida National Scenic Trail Visitor Assessment 2003-2012

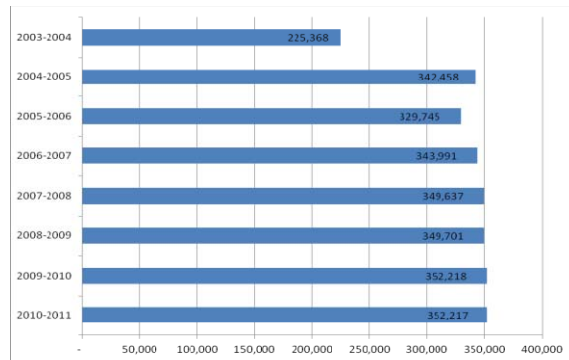
www.fs.usda.gov/fnst

The University of Florida's School of Forest Resources and Conservation (SFRC) began a collaborative visitor assessment project for the Florida National Scenic Trail (FNST) with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the Florida Trail Association (FTA) in June of 2003.

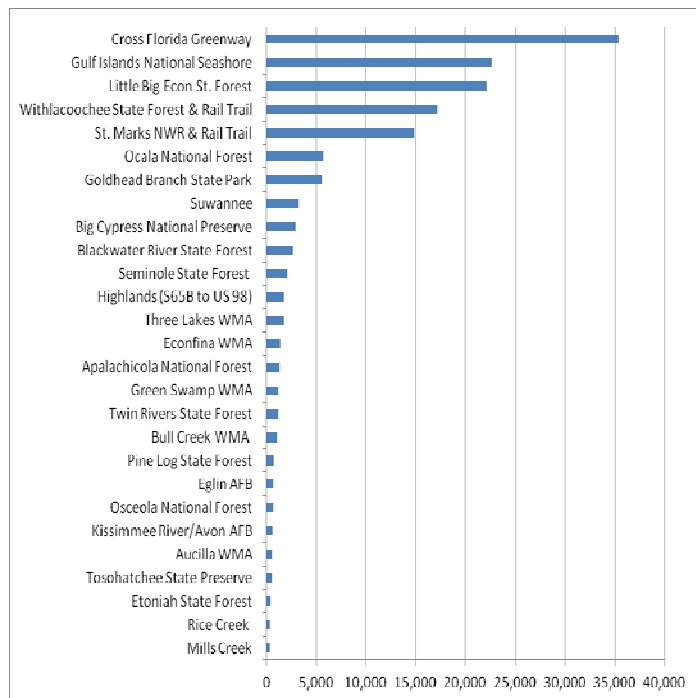
The purpose of the study is to

- determine reliable use estimate of annual trail visits to 27 segments of the trail.
- gather information on who FNST visitors are and understand why they visit the trail.

Annual Use of the FNST 2003-2011



Comparison of Estimated FNST Visitor Use



Presented at the FNST Summit,
September 22, 2012

All research sites are listed above except Lake Okeechobee because of its very high use (203,970 annually).

Who visits the FNST?

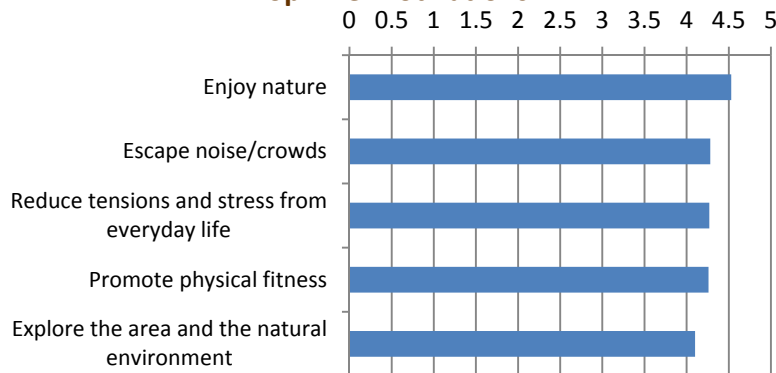
		Percent (%)
Gender (n=1594)	Male	63.2
	Female	36.8
Age (n=1174)	60 years or older	18.6
	50 – 59 years old	16.7
	40 – 49 years old	14.5
	30 – 39 years old	10.9
	18 – 29 years old	12.5
Marital status (n=951)	Married	66.4
	Single	22.7
	Divorced	5.8
	Widowed	6.1
Highest level of education (n=1180)	Some high school or less	2.2
	High school graduate/GED	14.3
	Some college	21.7
	College graduate	31.9
	Some graduate school	7.5
	Graduate degree or beyond	22.0
Race/ethnic group (n=943)	White	91.4
	Hispanic/Latino	3.7
	Other	4.9
Household income (n=1065)	\$19,999 or less	9.6
	\$20,000 - \$39,999	16.3
	\$40,000 - \$59,999	24.5
	\$60,000 - \$79,999	14.3
	\$80,000 - \$99,999	11.3
	\$100,000 or more	19.0



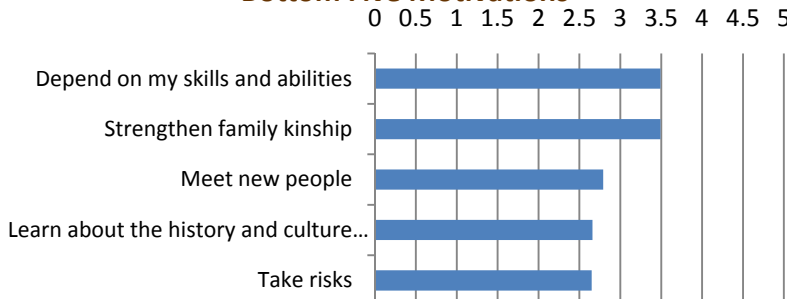
- Over one-third of participants were on the FNST for the first time and 62.7% had been on the trail before.
- Two-thirds of FNST visitors travel 20 miles or less to the FNST.
- A little less than half of all visitors spent an hour or less on the trail.
- More than one-third rated their experience on the trail as perfect, and only 3% noted their experience was unsatisfactory.
- Almost 75% of people traveled alone or with one other person.

Why do they visit the FNST?

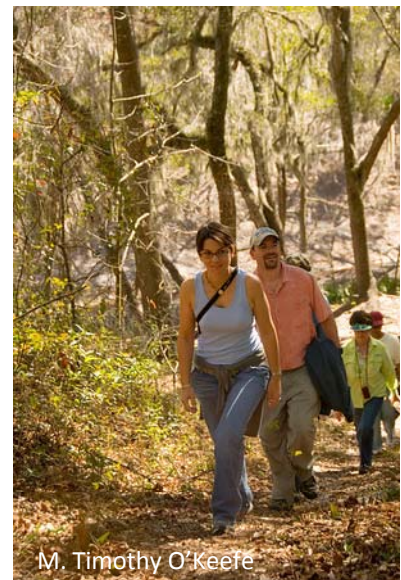
Top Five Motivations



Bottom Five Motivations



1= Not at all important, 3 = Neutral, 5 = Extremely important



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