

FOR EXAMPLE PURPOSES ONLY

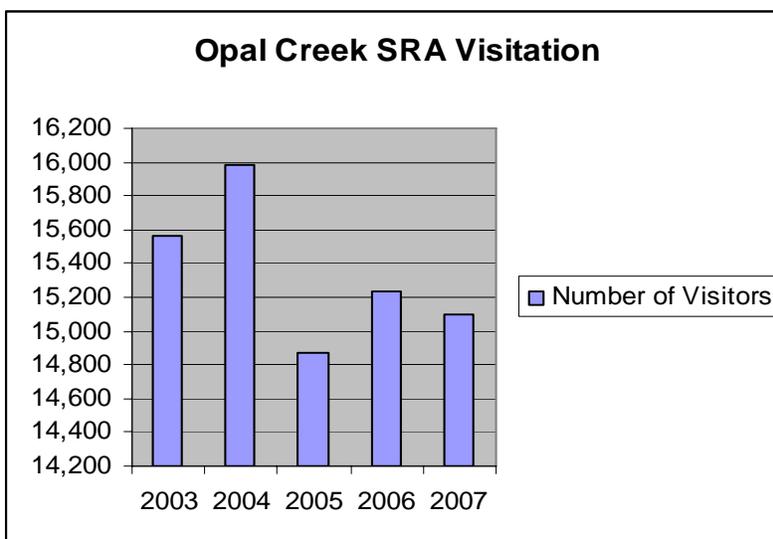
Summary

During the 2007 field season, monitoring within the Opal Creek SRA focused on the “high-use” dispersed sites within the SRA. Restoration activities were completed for five sites (#12, 19, 45, 48, and 65). In addition, ten “high use” sites and fifteen “low use” sites were monitored. Most of these sites were found to be in compliance with Forest Plan standards and guidelines with a few sites needing some minor restoration work. Two “high use” sites, however, were found to be in a severely deteriorated condition and a recommendation is made to temporarily close and restore these sites.

Monitoring showed a need for additional signage and education for improper litter disposal and parking compliance in the Three Pools area. Reports of illegal activities in the SRA (including illegal firearm use and removal of forest products) were either in a downward trend or comparable to past years.

Use Levels

Use of the SRA (as measured by a traffic counter) was slightly lower in 2007 compared to 2006. The following graph shows the visitation trend over the last five years,



There were no formal demographic surveys conducted in the SRA during 2007; however, anecdotal reports from staff and visitors point to a decline in criminal activity and a slight trend towards more family use of recreational sites in the area. This, in part, may be attributable to the recent alcohol ban in BLM and county parks in the area. Visitation was generally comparable to past years with heavy use on weekends and the hotter days during July and August.

Monitoring Question #1 Resource Impacts

Table 1 Dispersed Recreation Site Restoration Work Completed

Site Number	Restoration work completed
12	Site boundaries delineated with boulders, use trails obliterated, signs installed explaining rules and regulations

Site Number	Restoration work completed
19	Mudding areas restored and blocked with boulders
45	Obliterate use trails and establish one camp fire ring
48	Site boundaries delineated with boulders, use trails obliterated, signs installed explaining rules and regulations
65	Delineate camping area with boulders and revegetate

Table 2. Dispersed campsites monitoring and recommendations

Site Number	Type of Site	Recommendation
11, 19, and 26	Low use	Sites appear to be expanding slightly – delineate sites with boulders
17, 30, 56, 57, 58, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84	Low use	Sites are stable – no action recommended
2, 4, and 5	High use	Sites are in need of restoration work. Recommend the use of boulders to delineate site, temporary fencing and revegetation, erosion control on stream banks, and signage explaining rules and regulations governing use.
9, 10	High use	Sites are not in compliance with Forest Plan standards and guidelines. Recommend that sites are temporarily closed and revegetated.
31, 33, 36, 30, 40	High use	Sites are stable – no action recommended

Monitoring Question #2 Education and Interpretation

During the summer of 2007, littering and illegal parking were two significant problems in the SRA. Littering was particularly a problem in the Three Pools area. Illegal parking was a problem in several places in the SRA including the Three Pools area and at the gate on the 2209 road. Additional signage is recommended to help resolve these problems.

Monitoring Question #3 Illegal Activities

Table 3. Illegal Activities

Activity	Monitoring Result	Recommendation
Illegal firearm use	No violation notices written for illegal firearm use. Two reports were taken of illegal firearm use in the Shady Cove campground.	Incident reports have continued to decrease – no action recommended
Forest product destruction or removal	No violation notices written – three warnings given for tree cutting (for firewood) in dispersed sites	No action recommended
Cultural/Recreation site vandalism	No violation notices or incidents reported during 2007	No action recommended.