Florida National Scenic Trail
Visitor Assessment

A View from Florida National Scenic Trail by Twin Rivers St. Forest 2010

2010

Presented to:
National Forests in Florida, U.S.D.A. Forest Service
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Executive Summary

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 twofold. First, researchers are striving to determine reliable use estimates of annual trail visits to 27 segments of the FNST. Second, researchers are also gathering information on who FNST visitors are and develop a continual understanding of why they visit the trail. Following baseline data collection from 2003-2009, the visitor counts and visitor information has continued to be gathered in order to evaluate trends in visitation numbers as well trends in visitor characteristics. This report discusses the results of sites re-studied from June 1, 2009 – May 31, 2010.

Study Methods

Data Collection: Trail Estimations

Three methods are used to collect FNST visitation data at annual survey sites:

1. Personal Observations
2. Mechanical Counters
    a. Infrared Eyes
    b. Pressure Pads (2003-2006 only)
3. Supplemental Materials (2003-2004 only)

Data Collection: Visitor Characteristics

Visitor questionnaires are used to gather information on visitor characteristics at annual survey sites.

2009-2010 Results

Estimation of Trail Visits

The FNST is primarily a footpath covering the length of Florida; however several segments of the FNST are multiple-use. Therefore, two annual estimates are reported. The first estimate is *pedestrian* visits only, which includes hikers, walkers, joggers, and runners. The second estimate includes those visitors who do not fall into the pedestrian category such as bikers, roller blade users, horseback riders, etc. and are categorized as *other users.* These two use categories are then summed together for both summer and fall/spring seasons to form an annual FNST visitation estimate. For the 2009-2010 study season, the FNST received an estimated 352,218 visits of which 51.9% were estimated to be pedestrian visits and 48.1% were estimated to be other visits.

Total estimation of annual visits: 352,218

- Total pedestrians: 182,883
- Total other users: 169,335
- Total estimated summer use (June 1- September 30) : 35,014
- Total estimated fall/spring use (October-May) : 317,204

Annual Use of the FNST

The FNST Visitor Assessment has collected data since 2003 on Florida National Scenic Trail visitation. Results have shown that the FNST receives between 225,000 and 350,000 visits per year (Figure 1). Survey methodology was modified over the course of the project to improve accuracy, so it is felt that numbers for the last three study periods most accurately reflect trail visitation.

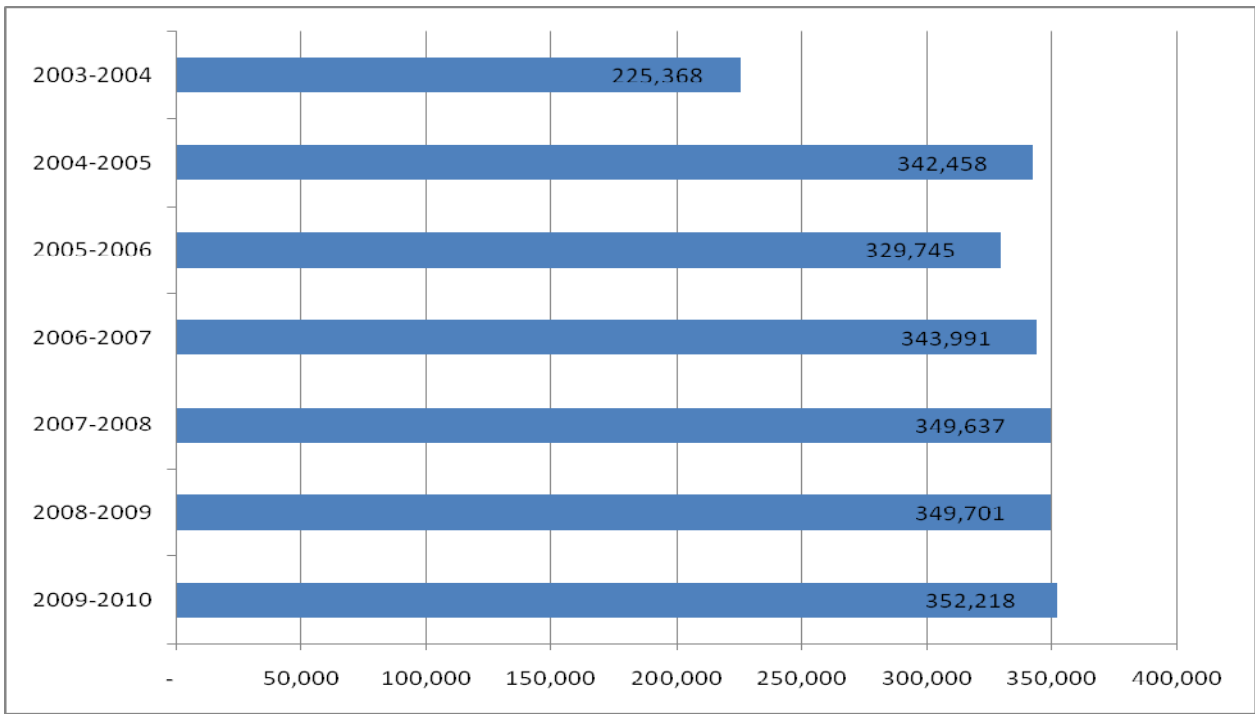

Figure 1. Annual use of the Florida National Scenic Trail 2003-2010

Visitor Questionnaires

In order to learn more about the characteristics of FNST visitors as it relates to their socio-demographic and trip characteristics as well their level of satisfaction with their visit, researchers conducted on-site exit interviews at five study sites from July 1, 2009 through May 31, 2010. These results are as follows:

Participant Trip Characteristics

50% of respondents lived within 30 miles of the FNST
60% of respondents were repeat visitors to the FNST
47% of respondents spent (1) hour or less on the FNST
49% of respondents traveled in pairs, typically with a family member or friends

Participant FNST Experience & Knowledge

37% of respondents stated they had a perfect experience along the FNST
44% of respondents reported a nearly perfect experience along the FNST
57% of visitors had no suggested improvements for the trail, stating they were happy the way it was
36% of respondents learned about the FNST due to their residential proximity to the trail

Visitor Demographics

66% of respondents were male
58% of respondents were 40 years of age or older
59% of respondents were married
69% of respondents had no children living at home
65% of respondents were college graduate or had a higher education level
91% of respondents were employed
89% of respondents were white
61% of respondents reported an annual household income (pre-tax) of $50,000 or more

Introduction

The 1,400 mile Florida National Scenic Trail (FNST) traverses through both urban and rural areas creating a footpath that stretches almost the entire length of Florida. As a result, the FNST is no more than 120 miles from all Florida residents, with the exception of the Florida Keys. The Trails dynamic location attracts thousands of visitors annually, and provides various passive recreation opportunities beyond hiking such as nature study, photography, and bird watching.

A nationwide survey of state and federal trail managers indicated collecting trail use data is of high importance, and that the collection of this data would be crucial to future management success for trail planning and other related projects (Lynch, J. *et al*, 2002). Visitor monitoring is a key component to effectively managing recreation on a regional scale. This process, which is often limited by resources (i.e. money, staff, etc), centers around two main procedures: 1) obtaining the number of visitors to an area, and 2) administering visitor questionnaires (Cope *et al.*, 1999). The necessity for collecting visitor counts is slowly emerging within recreation and land use agencies. This data helps in justifying budget requests, and it can provide a direction for appropriate resource distribution (Loomis, 2000). The most common method for collecting visitor counts has been through the use of mechanical counters. However, records on visitor counts are also kept through visitor sign in sheets, registration cards, and personal observations. In addition to obtaining information on the number of visitors to an area, gathering specific information on visitors themselves such as visitor motivations, visitor preferences, visitor knowledge of the area, and visitor socio-demographics can help managers and planners create a balance between the conservation of the surrounding habitat and providing quality recreation experiences.

Baseline monitoring efforts along the Florida National Scenic Trail (FNST) were undertaken by the U.S. Forest Service with the help of the University of Florida, School of Forest Resources and Conservation from June 1, 2003-May 31, 2009, in order to gather baseline information on current trail visitation and current visitor characteristics. Beginning in June 2008, data collection as re-started at previously monitored sites, allowing an initial investigation of visitor use trends along re-sampled sections of the Florida Trail. As these monitoring efforts continue over the next several years, management will be provided with scientifically collected information to assist in monitoring if and how FNST visitation is changing as well as if and how the characteristics of Trail visitors is changing. As a result, programmers, managers, and volunteers will be provided with information to assist them in creating and enhancing recreation opportunities along the FNST, as well as assisting the Forest Service in justifying the need to acquire appropriate funding for FNST management (Loomis, 2000).

Study Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of the Florida National Scenic Trail Visitor Assessment study is to generate reliable use estimates of annual visits to the FNST. A visit is defined as an individual entering and exiting the FNST. Specifically, study objectives aim to:

1. generate reliable use estimates of each survey site, which can be inferred to all FNST survey sections of similar categorized use which then can be combined to create a trail-wide visitation estimate, and
2. describe pedestrians in terms of their socio-demographic and trip characteristics, as well their level of satisfaction.

This report presents the visitor estimates for June 1, 2009 through May 31, 2010 at nine identified survey sites through which the Florida National Scenic Trail traverses. In addition, visitor characteristic information was collected through the completion of on-site questionnaires at five of the nine study sites. The results from these on-site questionnaires are also reported.

Methodology

Survey Sections

The Florida National Scenic Trail is composed of 42 sections. Using these 42 sections as a foundation for survey efforts, UF researchers identified 27 survey sites within each section that would likely serve as exit and/or entrance points for hikers. These areas tended to correspond closely to public lands with established trailheads, which attract more hikers and serve as efficient survey sites. Preliminary research then categorized these sites as receiving high, medium, or low use (Table 1). Third, survey sites were geographically divided into groups, and each group was scheduled to be sampled for one year during the five year visitor assessment (Appendix I). Fourth, each survey site was further divided into potential FNST access points (Table 2). Although survey or counter data might not be collected at every access point within a site, every access point is classified by use type. This classification allows data collected at similar access points to be inferred to access points without data thereby making the annual visitation estimate more reflective of actual use (Appendix II).

Table 1. Site Use Classification

Site Use Type	Annual Number of Visits
High	1000 or more
Medium	366-999
Low	0-365

Table 2. Access Point Classification

Access Point Type	Monthly Number of Visits
A	500 or more
B	100-499
C	50-99
D	15-49
E	15 or less

Counting Visitors on the FNST

When

Study years are divided into two seasons:

1. Summer season, June 1st to September 31st
2. Fall/Spring Season, October 1st to May 31st

Beginning the study year during the summer, allows researchers ample time to contact recreation and land managers at new study sites, install trail counters and work out any kinks that may arise with equipment or the sampling framework over the summer months without sacrificing the loss of visitor use data. In addition the advantages of starting in the summer, the use of two survey seasons allows researchers to account for seasonal differences in Trail visitation.

Where

For 2009-2010 study season, researchers collected visitor use data from nine study sites (Figure 2):

1. Apalachicola National Forest
2. Big Cypress National Preserve
3. Cross Florida Greenway

4. Econfina Creek Wildlife Management District
5. Mills Creek Conservation Area
6. Ocala National Forest
7. Osceola National Forest
8. St. Marks NWR
9. Suwannee Segment

Information on individual sites where visitor surveys were gathered can be viewed in Appendix IX. These nine study sites contained a total of 18 access points (Appendix III) that where monitored throughout the study year.

How

To obtain reliable use estimates of visitors on the FNST during the 2009-2010 study season, researchers combined two different methods: (1) personal observations, and (2) mechanical counters with supplemental materials.

The following sections describe each technique.

Personal Observations

Personal observations are performed at sites were the FNST allows multiple use. This allows researcher to differentiate between foot use (the predominate focus of the FNST) and other uses. A stratified random sampling approach was used to assign personal observation times in conjunction with survey periods. The sampling framework consists of two strata:

1. Day type
    a. Weekdays (Monday - Thursday)
    b. Weekends (Friday - Sunday)
2. Time of day
    a. Morning
    b. Afternoon

For the fall/spring season, every survey day contained four possible survey periods: (2) 3-hour survey shifts in the morning and (2) 3-hour shifts in the afternoon. There are 244 days in the fall/spring season, 139 weekdays and 105 weekend days.

During these personal observation times, surveyors kept a tally of individuals entering and exiting the FNST, as well as group size, the number of males and females, activity, and direction of travel (Appendix IV). These observation logs were used to generate an estimate of trail use at sites where multiple use occurred using the methods outlined within the following section.

For the 2009-2010 study year, Baseline & 64th Street trailheads at the Cross Florida Greenway and the Black Hammock Trailhead at Little Big Econ State Forest were the only sites in which user levels were estimated using the personal observation method.

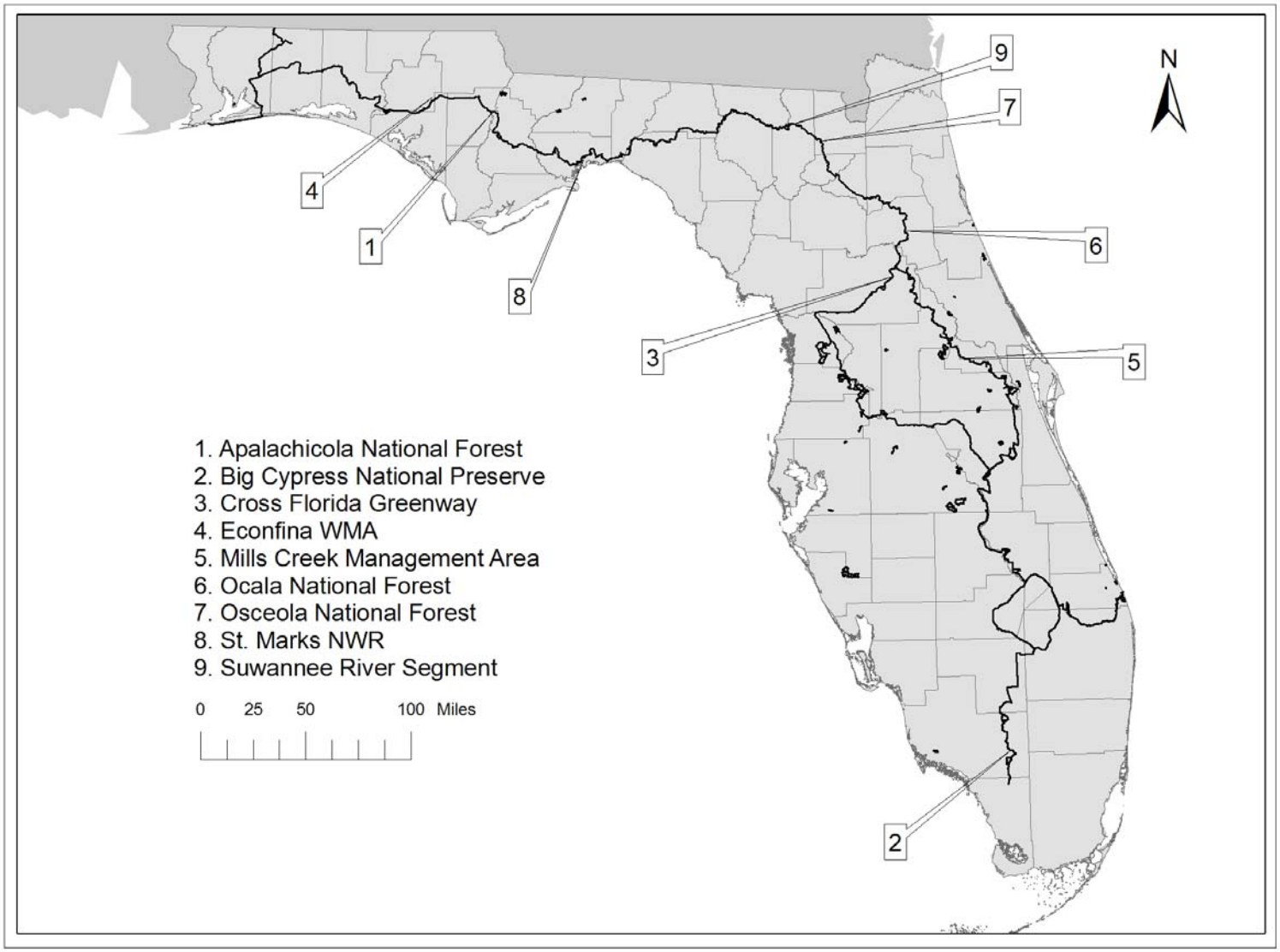

Figure 2. Florida National Scenic Trail 2009-2010 Study Sites

Mechanical Pedestrian Counters

UF researchers used two types of infrared counters to generate visitor use estimates. While the installation of the two pieces of equipment differs, the data collection methods are the similar. A total of 17 counters where installed for the 2009-2010 survey season (Appendix V). Each of these counters is discussed below.

Active Infrared Eyes

The Diamond Traffics TCC-4420 infrared eye trail counter was originally designed by the U.S. Forest Service equipment center to aid in trail monitoring in remote areas. The counter is cased within water-proof aluminum, and operates on 4-D batteries that usually last 12-15 months. The counter is installed on a tree or wooden post and is aligned with a reflector 20-75 feet across the trail creating an invisible beam. When the beam is broken by a hiker, wildlife, or other user, it is recorded with no differentiation between user types. The counter has an ability to provide researchers with hourly counts for up to 420 days equating to approximately 25,000 counts.

The TrailMaster 1550 active infrared eye was also installed at several research sites over the course of the study year. This counter gathers data in the same fashion as the Diamond Traffics eye; however it records data slightly different from diamond. The counter is cased with water proof hard plastic, and operates on 4-C batteries that usually last 8-10 months. The counter is installed on a tree or wooden post and is aligned with a transmitter 20 to 145 feet across. Unlike the diamond traffics counter that indicates the exact percentage of alignment between the eye and the reflector, this counter only indicates to the field technician if the counter is aligned or not, and does not indicate the strength of the alignment. However, the TrailMaster does allow the field technician to adjust the sensitivity of a counter, unlike the Diamond Traffics Eyes. Although the sensitivity of the TrailMaster can be adjusted, the TrailMaster still cannot differentiate between user types. Information gathered from the counter allows researchers to evaluate trail use visits in one minute intervals, and the counter can store a maximum of 4,000 counts.

Both types of trail counters were calibrated on a monthly basis. Calibration of counters was essential in obtaining and maintaining counters accuracy. To calibrate each type of counter, researchers walked on or across the counter ten times and compared this number to the number of registered counts on the counter. The number of actual counts was then divided by the number of registered counts to develop a monthly correction factor (Appendix VI). At the end of the survey season these monthly correction factors were averaged together, omitting outliers, to develop one correction factor for an entire season. This correction factor was then applied to each month of data for that survey site to compensate for a counter over or under counting.

Supplemental Materials

For some areas, additional information regarding visitor numbers is available. This type of information ranges from formal registration cards to informal visitor logs kept in a mailbox on a nearby kiosk. The information found in these materials helps supplement the counters and observational counts. Registration cards can be used to obtain supplemental counts of visitors to the FNST. Visitor compliance is often an issue when depending on registration cards for visitor counts. There is currently no standardized system for registration cards on the FNST, so the reliability of this data is site dependent.

For the 2003-2004 study season, researchers only used registration cards from Eglin Air Force Base for supplemental data. Registration is mandatory at this site, and there is consistency in the card's dispersal and collection. Numbers obtained from this site was also used in proceeding study years to help calculates estimates for similar use areas. There were no additional survey sites in 2009-2010 that contained supplemental materials. However, trail registers left at kiosks were often consulted in order to compare to known counts to visitor recorded counts as an anecdotal means of justifying counter data. This most useful when counts were counts could be perceived as unusually high.

Defining Visitor Characteristics

In order to meet the studies second objective, to describe visitors in terms of their socio-demographic and trip characteristics, researchers conducted on-site exit interviews during personal observation periods conducted from July 1, 2009 through May 31, 2010.

Visitor Questionnaires

In order to aid researchers in gathering the most information available on current FNST visitors in the most efficient way possible, on-site interviews were conducted at previously established high-use study sites only. A total of 360 visitors were approached to complete the survey of which 50 declined and 9 were incomplete resulting in 301 completed surveys for a 97% response rate.

The survey was given to one consenting participant 18 years of age or older within every group exiting the FNST. For groups that were larger than seven people, one person for every seventh person in the group was asked to complete a survey. The questionnaire took approximately 8-10 minutes of the participant's time to complete, and contained 25 questions pertaining to frequency of trail use, primary activities, group size, trip length, trip satisfaction, trip motivation, setting preferences, and socio demographic information.

Data Analysis

Personal Observations

The observation logs completed by researchers during sampling blocks were used to develop seasonal estimates of visitors to the FNST for areas where mechanical counters could not be installed. For each access point within every survey site, the following counts were recorded:

1. TFC = Total Foot Count. Total number of visitors that are considered foot traffic (hikers, walkers, backpackers, runners) who were observed entering or exiting the FNST.
2. TOC = Total Other Count. Total number of bikers, horseback riders, roller-bladers, who were observed entering or exiting the FNST.
3. TVC = Total Visitor Count. Total number of visitors, including all activities, who were observed entering or exiting the FNST.

Average seasonal counts of TFC, TOC, and TVC were calculated for each survey site using a four-step process.

Step 1: Calculate average sampling period

For each variable (i.e. TFC, TOC, and TVC), researchers calculated the **average sampling period count** (am and pm) for each day type (weekend or weekday) for each access point of each survey site.

$$X_{ijkl} = 1/N_{ijk} \sum_{l=1}^{Nijk} X_{ijkl}$$

Where:

i = access point

j = survey site (1,…,8)\

k = weekday (1) and weekend (2)

l = the sampling periods for each day (am or pm)

m = number of counts for sampling period on day type *k* at access point *i* of site *j*

$N_{ijk\,l}$ = number of times counted during shift *l* on day type *k* at access point *i* of site

X_{ijklm} = the count on *m*th repetition for sampling period *l* on day type *k* at access point *i* of site *j*

X_{ijkl}= average count during sampling period *l* on day type *k* at access point *i* of site *j*

Step 2: Calculate average daily count

Second, researchers calculated the **average daily count** for each access point of each site by summing the two sampling periods (calculated above) for both weekend days and weekdays.

$$X_{ijk} = \sum_{k=1}^{3} X_{ijkl}$$

Where
i = access point
j = survey site (1,…,8)
k = weekday (1) and weekend (2)
l = the sampling periods for each day (am or pm)
X_{ijk} = average daily count on day type *k* at access point *i* of site *j*

Step 3: Summation of averages
Next, the average daily counts of all access points within a site were summed to calculate the average daily count for a site for both weekdays and weekends.

$$X_{jk} = \sum_{k=1}^{3} X_{ijk}$$

Where:
i=access point
j=survey site (1,…,8)
k=weekday (1) and weekend (2)
X_{jk}=average daily count on day type *k* at site

Step 4: calculate average seasonal count
Researchers calculated the **average seasonal count** for each site, for variables TFC, TOC, TVC. Researchers multiplied the average daily count for weekends by the number of weekend days in that season. Then, they multiplied the average daily count for weekdays by the number of weekday days in that season. Researchers then added the two numbers to find the average seasonal count.

$$\text{Seasonal Average for each site} = M_1\left(\sum_{i=1}^{8} X_{i1}\right) + M_2\left(\sum_{i=1}^{8} X_{i2}\right)$$

Where:
M_1 = number of weekend days in the season
M_2 = number of weekday days in the season
X_{i1} = average daily count for site *i* for weekend days.
X_{i1} = average daily count for site *i* for weekdays
i = site (1,…, 8)

Mechanical Pedestrian Counters

Data collected from mechanical counters provide continuous counts for selected access points within each survey site. Analyzing counter data is the same regardless of the type of counter being used. A seven-step protocol was developed to transform raw counter data to final seasonal counts for each installed counter.

Step 1: Adjust Raw Data
Delete data:

1. One hour after sunset to one hour before sunrise, unless there were scheduled night hikes that researchers were made aware of. This information was obtained at the study sites website, from the study sites land/recreation manager, from the FTA website, or from the FTA publication *Footprints*.

2. Unusually high counts, with no explanation from FTA or other group, and unusual patterns of high numbers. Unusually high counts are site specific. Counts that may be considered "high counts" were not deleted until reasonable knowledge about the trail section had been obtained.

3. Any data that included researchers calibrating or working on trail.

Step 2: Adjust Data by Month & Compensating for Missing Data

Counter data was then analyzed by the month, so each month within a season had a total number of counts. This number was recorded in an Excel spreadsheet. If data were data were missing within the month, data were data were estimated by:

[(Total # of hits for *x* days before missing data + Total # of hits for *x* days after missing data) / 2

If days were missing between two months (not the whole month) then researchers followed the procedure above. After dividing by 2, the answer was then divided by the number of missing days. This gave the number of hits per day. This number was multiplied by the number of missing days within the month. If data was missing for an entire month (i.e., battery died, counter was stolen) an access point average was applied to that particular month for that particular site.

Step 3: Corrected Monthly Count

In order to better estimate the actual number of users, each access point with a counter had an average correction factor that was multiplied by the access point's monthly total. This was done at the end of a season when all the correction factors were averaged together. Every counter is calibrated regularly, and correction factors were produced by dividing the actual number of counts by the registered number of counts. The average correction factor accounts for every time the access point was calibrated since installation. If a counter had to be replaced, correction factors were averaged as normal unless there are known differences between the counters or conditions. Outlying correction factors were omitted if the cause of the unusually high/low factor was known.

Step 4: Final Monthly Data

To account for the same entry and exit by pedestrians at a site, an access point's corrected monthly count was divided by two.

Step 5: Apply Access Point Averages

Once final monthly counts were formed, access points within the same classification were grouped together from all study years regardless of location. Next, an average for that access point classification was formulated. This average was then applied to current access points where data was not collected.

Step 6: Final Seasonal Data

All final monthly data was summed up within the season.

Step 7: Trail-Wide Estimate

Final annual data was then added to previous annual data, omitting sites being re-sampled for the current year report, to formulate a trail-wide visitation estimate.

Visitor Questionnaires

Descriptive statics such as frequencies, means, and standard deviations were relied upon to answer the studies second objective, to describe visitors in terms of their sociodemographic characteristics, motivations, and desired settings. In some cases a crosstabs analysis was consulted to further provide explanation of the descriptive statistics.

For open-ended comments found in the on-site survey, two researchers independently reviewed the comments and placed them into categories thought to provide a descriptive overview of the comment. These categories and

related comments were then compared. Categories similar in nature were left as defined by the independent review. In the event that a comment was assigned to a conflicting category, a third reviewer was asked to review the comments and the group came to a consensus about the comments appropriate placement. All analysis for visitor surveys was conducted with SPSS v18.0.

Results

Visitor Use Estimates

This section describes the results from mechanical counters and on site observations during the 2009-2010 study year. Seasonal trail visitor estimations were derived by totaling:

- Data from previous years' research (June 2003- May 2009), and
- Results from this year's research (June 2009 – May 2010)

The 2009-2010 study year has the highest estimated visits to the Florida Trail. There were 2,517 more estimated visits to the FNST in 2009-2010 than the previous study year. Since all study sites have now been researched at least once, it is reasonable to say that this year's estimate is an accurate reflection of the approximate number of Florida Trail visitors.

Seven Trail Master 1550 infrared counters and ten Diamond Traffics infrared counters were used in 2009-2010 research season to collect visitation data. All of these counters performed reasonably well throughout the year, with some mechanical issues arising due to aging equipment. Of the 17 counters, 7 Diamond Traffic counters (Big Cypress South, Santos, SR 19, Econfina, Sopchoppy, Rodman E, and Bell Springs) experienced mechanical failure or vandalism during the study year, resulting in approximately one-month of data loss at each location. In addition, 4 Trail Master units (Battle Field, Turkey Run, Econfina and Lake Delancy) also experienced mechanical failure or vandalism resulting periods of loss of data. Especially at Econfina, the counter was repeatedly vandalized for three times. In all cases where the counter was vandalized, or experienced mechanical failures, each unit was replaced immediately when the incidents were noticed during the monthly site visit to avoid further data loss. More detailed information on the missing data for each of these sites can be found in Appendix IX.

Estimate of Summer Visits

The estimated use for all nine sites studied during the summer of 2009 was 9,808 (Table 3). The sites studied consisted of seven high-use, one medium-use and one low-use sites. The highest use occurred at Cross Florida Greenway with 5,934 visits of which 5,310 were estimated to be pedestrian traffic and 624 visits were estimated to be other users. St. Marks NWR & Rail Trail had the second highest estimated with 1,470 visits (241 pedestrian traffic; 1,229 other traffic). The lowest visitation occurred at Mills Creek Conservation Area with 97 total visits for the summer. Osceola National Forest was the next lowest with 112 summer visits.

Total estimated summer use for the entire Florida National Scenic Trail during the summer of 2009 was 35,014 (Table 4) that was 96 visits more than the 2008 summer estimate. The highest use site for all 28 segments was Little Big Econ State Forest with a total of 9,158 estimated visits. The lowest use site was estimated to be Rice Creek with 19 visits followed by Eglin AFB with 54 visits. All three national forests had less counts in the summer of 2009 than in 2008. Specifically, visits to the FNST within Ocala National Forest decreased from 941 to 765, a 18.7% drop; visits to Osceola National Forest reduced 14.5% from 131 in 2008 to 112 in 2009; and Apalachicola National Forest had a 8.7% decrease in FNST visitation, declining from 161 hikers in 2008 to 147 in 2009, which is the second consecutive year of decrease. In addition, visits to Cross Florida Greenway also decreased 3.3% from 6,135 hikers in the summer of 2008 to 5,934 hikers in 2009. On the other hand, there are several sites experiencing increased visitation in summer 2009 from summer 2008: Big Cypress 7.5% up from 452 to 486; Suwannee 69.6% up from 303 to 514; and Econfina 116% up from 131 to 283. St. Marks had merely 12 more counts of visits in summer 2009 than in 2008.

Table 3. Estimate of Summer Visitation at 2009-2010 Study Sites

Use Type	Site	Foot Traffic	Other Traffic	TOTAL
High	Cross Florida Greenway	5,310	624	5,934
	St. Marks NWR & Rail Trail	241	1,229	1,470
	Ocala National Forest	765	0	765
	Suwannee	514	0	514
	Big Cypress National Preserve	486	0	486
	Econfina WMA	283	0	283
	Apalachicola National Forest	147	0	147
Medium	Osceola National Forest	112	0	112
Low	Mills Creek	97	0	97
Subtotals		***7,955***	***1,853***	***9,808***
Total				**9,808**

Table 4. Estimates of Summer Trail-wide Visitation 2009-2010

Use Type	Location	Foot Traffic	Other Traffic	Total Use
Highest	Lake Okeechobee	1,329	1,229	2,558
	Total highest use estimate	***1,329***	***1,229***	***2,558***
High	Little Big Econ St. Forest	4,894	4,264	9,158
	Cross Florida Greenway	5,310	624	5,934
	Gulf Islands National Seashore	2,430	3,380	5,810
	Withlacoochee State Forest & Rail Trail	1,306	2,519	3,825
	St. Marks NWR & Rail Trail	241	1,229	1,470
	Ocala National Forest	765	0	765
	Blackwater River State Forest	732	0	732
	Suwannee	514	0	514
	Highlands (S65B to US 98)	495	0	495
	Three Lakes WMA	491	0	491
	Big Cypress National Preserve	486	0	486
	Green Swamp WMA	366	0	366
	Econfina WMA	283	0	283
	Twin Rivers State Forest	282	0	282
	Seminole State Forest	252	0	252
	Goldhead Branch State Park	234	0	234
	Apalachicola National Forest	147	0	147
	Total high use estimate	***19,228***	***12,016***	***31,244***
Medium	Aucilla WMA	221	0	221
	Bull Creek WMA	199	0	199
	Kissimmee River/Avon AFB	183	0	183
	Tosohatchee State Preserve	177	0	177
	Osceola National Forest	112	0	112
	Etoniah State Forest	78	0	78
	Pine Log State Forest	72	0	72
	Eglin AFB	54	0	54
	Total medium use estimate	***1,096***	***0***	***1,096***
Low	Mills Creek	97	0	97
	Rice Creek	19	0	19
	Total low use estimate	***116***	***0***	***116***
Subtotals		**21,769**	**13,245**	**35,014**
TOTAL			**35,014**	

Estimation of Fall/Spring Visits

The estimated use for all nine sites studied during the fall/spring of 2009-2010 was 54,044 (Table 5). The Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway received the highest number of visits (29,261) of which 66.4% (19,420) was estimated to be pedestrian traffic and 33.6% (9,841) was estimated to be other types of traffic. St. Marks NWR & Rail Trail had the second highest estimated number of visits during the fall/spring season with a total of 11,787 visits of which 1,255 were estimated to be foot traffic and 10,562 were estimated to be other types of traffic. The lowest use area during the fall/spring was Mills Creek with 198 visits. Osceola National Forest (496 visits) was the next lowest use area studied.

Table 5. Estimate of Fall/Spring Visitation at 2009-20010 Study Sites

Use Type	Site	Foot Traffic	Other Traffic	TOTAL
High	Cross Florida Greenway	19,420	9,841	29,261
	St. Marks NWR & Rail Trail	1,225	10,562	11,787
	Ocala National Forest	4,768	0	4,768
	Suwannee	2,655	0	2,655
	Big Cypress National Preserve	2,297	0	2,297
	Econfina WMA	1,060	449	1,509
	Apalachicola National Forest	1,073	0	1,073
Medium	Osceola National Forest	496	0	496
Low	Mills Creek	198	0	198
Subtotals		***33,192***	***20,852***	***54,044***
Total				**54,044**

Total estimated fall/spring visitation for the entire Florida National Scenic Trail was 317,204, which was a 2421 visit increase from last year's estimate of 314,783 (Table 6). As part of this change, Cross Florida Greenway had 169 more visits in FNST in the fall/spring 2009-2010 (29,261) than in 2008-2009 (29,092 visits). However, visitation to the Florida Trail in the Ocala National Forest had 85 fewer counts (1.75% drop) in the fall/spring of 2009-2010 (4,768) than in 2008-2009 (4,853) and Apalachicola National Forest also had 55fewer visits (4.9% decrease) in fall/spring from 2009-2010 (1,073) than in 2008-2009 (1,128). Big Cypress had 134 fewer hikers in the fall/spring of 2009-2010 (2,297) than in 2008-2009 (2,431) while Osceola National Forests had 41 more hikers in the fall/spring of 2009-2010 (496) as in 2008-2009 (455). Visitations to following sites however experienced double digits increases in fall/spring 2009-2010 from 2008-2009: St. Marks NWR &Rail Trail 13.8%, Suwannee 15.8%, and Econfina WMA 40.4%.

Table 6. Estimate of Fall/Spring Trail-wide Visitation 2009-2010

Use Type	Location	Foot Traffic	Other Traffic	Total Use
Highest	Lake Okeechobee	89,930	111,482	201,412
	Total Fall Highest Use	***89,930***	***111,482***	***201,412***
High	Cross Florida Greenway	19,420	9,841	29,261
	Gulf Islands National Seashore	8,220	8,643	16,863
	Withlacoochee State Forest & Rail Trail	4,581	8,997	13,578
	Little Big Econ St. Forest	7,238	6,116	13,354
	St. Marks NWR & Rail Trail	2,775	10,562	13,337
	Goldhead Branch State Park	5,272	0	5,272
	Ocala National Forest	4,768	0	4,768
	Suwannee	2,655	0	2,655
	Big Cypress National Preserve	2,297	0	2,297
	Blackwater River State Forest	1,974	0	1,974
	Seminole State Forest	1,342	449	1,791
	Highlands (S65B to US 98)	1,240	0	1,240
	Three Lakes WMA	1,213	0	1,213
	Apalachicola National Forest	1,073	0	1,073
	Econfina WMA	1,060	0	1,060
	Green Swamp WMA	810	0	810
	Twin Rivers State Forest	752	0	752
	Total high use site estimate	***66,690***	***44,608***	***111,298***
Medium	Bull Creek WMA	800	0	800
	Pine Log State Forest	662	0	662
	Eglin AFB	610	0	610
	Osceola National Forest	496	0	496
	Tosohatchee State Preserve	428	0	428
	Aucilla WMA	376	0	376
	Kissimmee River/Avon AFB	343	0	343
	Etoniah State Forest	301	0	301
	Total medium use site estimate	***4,016***	***0***	***4,016***
Low	Rice Creek	280	0	280
	Mills Creek	198	0	198
	Total low use site estimate	***478***	***0***	***478***
Subtotals		***161,114***	***156,090***	***317,204***
TOTAL			**317,204**	

Estimation of Annual Visits

Trail-wide estimates for the summer season and the fall/spring season were added together to form an annual estimate of FNST visits. Overall, it was estimated that the FNST hosted 352,218 total visits in 2009-2010, 2517 visits increase from 2007-2008 (Table 7). 51.9 % of these visits were foot traffic and 48.1% were other traffic.

Table 7. Estimated FNST Trail-wide Visitation for 2009-2010 Study Year

Use Type	Location	Foot Traffic	Other Traffic	Total Use
Highest	Lake Okeechobee	91,259	112,711	203,970
	Total Fall Highest Use	***91,259***	***112,711***	***203,970***
High	Cross Florida Greenway	24,730	10,465	35,195
	Gulf Islands National Seashore	10,650	12,023	22,673
	Little Big Econ St. Forest	12,132	10,380	22,512
	Withlacoochee State Forest & Rail Trail	5,887	11,516	17,403
	St. Marks NWR & Rail Trail	3,016	11,791	14,807
	Ocala National Forest	5,533	0	5,533
	Goldhead Branch State Park	5,506	0	5,506
	Big Cypress National Preserve	2,783	0	2,783
	Blackwater River State Forest	2,706	0	2,706
	Suwannee	3,169	0	3,169
	Seminole State Forest	1,594	449	2,043
	Highlands (S65B to US 98)	1,735	0	1,735
	Three Lakes WMA	1,704	0	1,704
	Econfina WMA	1,343	0	1,343
	Apalachicola National Forest	1,220	0	1,220
	Green Swamp WMA	1,176	0	1,176
	Twin Rivers State Forest	1,034	0	1,034
	Total high use site estimate	***85,918***	***56,624***	***142,542***
Medium	Bull Creek WMA	999	0	999
	Pine Log State Forest	734	0	734
	Eglin AFB	664	0	664
	Tosohatchee State Preserve	605	0	605
	Aucilla WMA	597	0	597
	Osceola National Forest	608	0	608
	Kissimmee River/Avon AFB	526	0	526
	Etoniah State Forest	379	0	379
	Total medium use site estimate	***5,112***	***0***	***5,112***
Low	Rice Creek	299	0	299
	Mills Creek	295	0	295
	Total low use site estimate	***594***	***0***	***594***
Subtotals		***182,883***	***169,335***	***352,218***
TOTAL				**352,218**

Comparison of Site Visitation

From the data collected over the past seven years of research (Figure 3) , the site with the highest visitation along the Florida Trail is Lake Okeechobee with an estimated 203,970 annual visits (45% were hikers). The next highest use can be found at Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway with an estimated 35,195 annual visits (70% were hikers). The lowest use sites are Mills Creek WMA with 295 annual visits (100% hikers) and Rice Creek WMA with 299 annual visits (100% hikers).

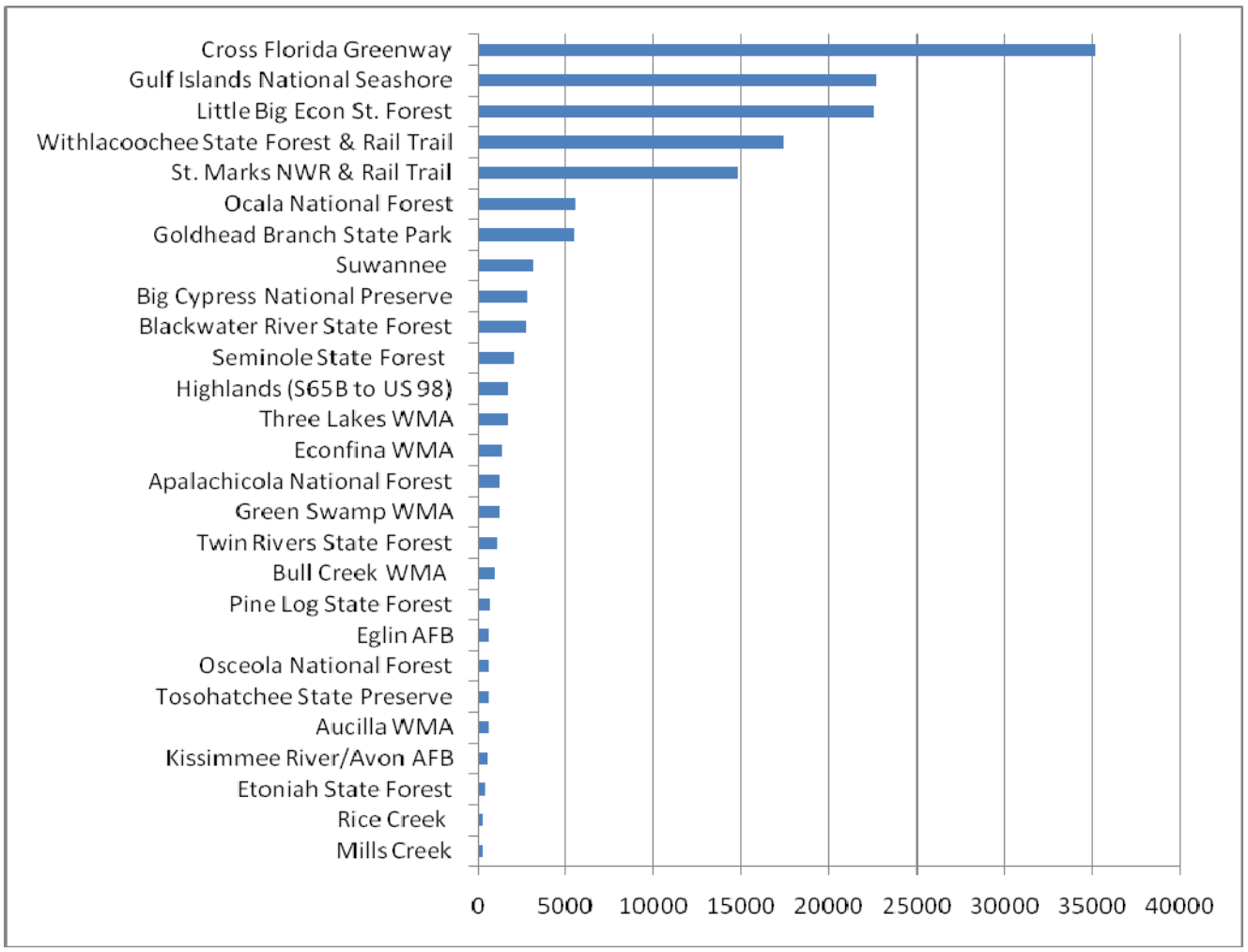

Figure 3. Comparison of Estimated Visitor Use on the Florida National Scenic Trail 2009-2010 in All Research Sites
Note**:** Lake Okeechobee is not included in the figure because of its very high use (203,970 annually)

On-Site Survey

Exit interviews were conducted at five 2009-2010 study sites: Cross Florida Greenway, Ocala National Forest, Little Big Econ State Forest region (Mill's Creek, Black Hammock), Econfina Wildlife Management Area, and Suwannee Segment (Stephen Foster Folk Cultural Center, Bell Springs). A total of 360 people were approached to complete the interview of which 50 declined and 9 were incomplete equaling a total of 301 completed surveys for a 97% response rate. The largest percentage of surveys were completed at Ocala National Forest (35.5%), followed by Little Big Econ State Forest region (33.6%), and Stephen Foster Folk Cultural Center (11.3%). The least amount of surveys was completed at Bell Springs (2%) (Figure 4).

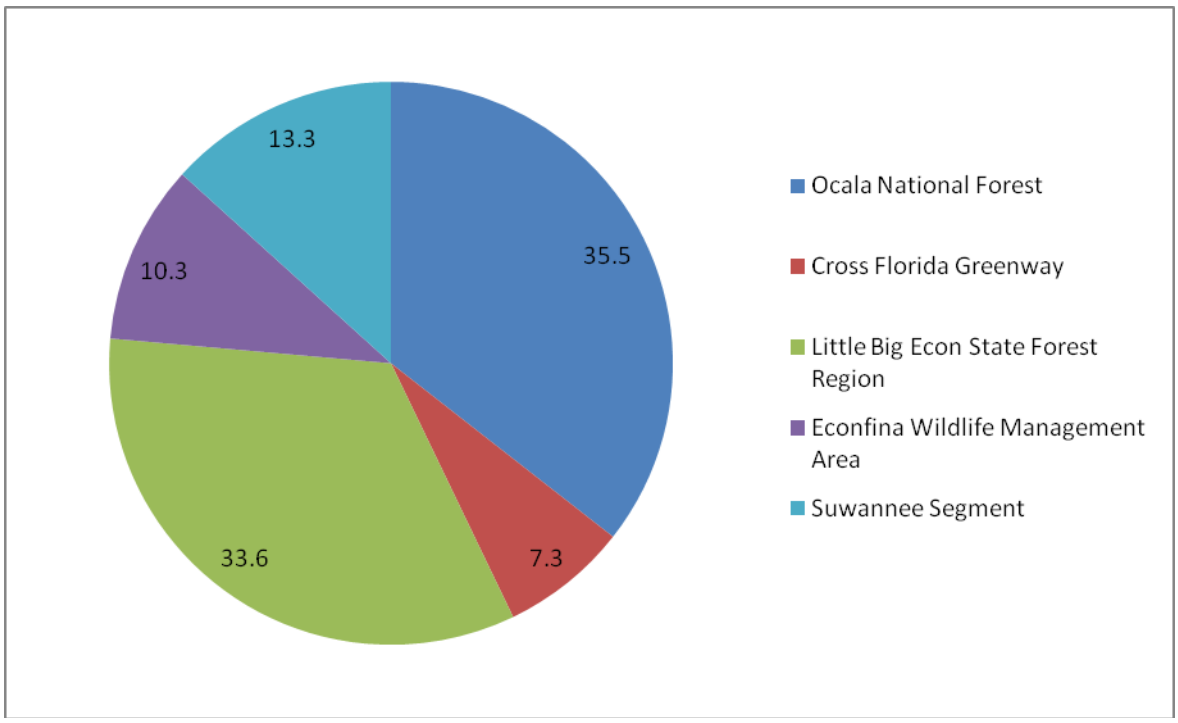

Figure 4. Distribution of Completed Surveys (n = 301)

Visitor Demographics

Visitors were more likely to be male than female (65.9%). They were mostly 40 years old or older (58.0%) and married (58.8%). Most had no children at home (68.5%). Most respondents were white (89.3%) and the single largest income bracket was $100,000 or more (24.0%) (Table 8).

A zip code analysis was performed to calculate approximate travel time between the respondent's home and area where they were contacted. Half of respondents lived within 30 miles of the trail (49.8%). Distance traveled by visitors also varied by site. Respondents at Ocala National Forest, Econfina WMA, and Suwannee Segment lived at various distance brackets, while the majority of respondents at Cross Florida Greenway and Little Big Econ lived within 30 miles. This difference was statistically significant. More than 13% of visitors to the trails at Ocala National Forest and, Econfina WMA, and Suwannee Segment, respectively, were from outside of Florida (Table 9).

Table 8. Socio-Demographic Information

Statement	n	Response	Valid Percent (%)
Gender	310	Male	65.9
		Female	34.1
Age	310	60 years or older	13.4
		50 – 59 years old	22.8
		40 – 49 years old	21.8
		30 – 39 years old	17.8
		18 – 29 years old	24.2
Marital Status	310	Married	58.8
		Single	31.8
		Divorced	8.4
		Widowed	1.0
Children in household	310	0	68.5
		1	11.7
		2	13.6
		3	3.9
		4 or more	2.3
Highest level of education	308	Some high school or less	2.9
		High school graduate or GED	11.7
		Some college	20.8
		College graduate	33.1
		Some graduate school	6.2
		Graduate degree or beyond	25.3
Employment	308	Employed outside the home	71.7
		Unemployed	8.8
		Full-time homemaker	1.3
		Retired	12.3
		Full-time student	2.9
		Part-time student	2.6
Employed outside home	221	Full-time	84.6
		Part-time	15.4
Race or ethnic group	310	White	89.3
		Hispanic/Latino	4.5
		American Indian/Alaska Native	1.0
		African American	2.6
		Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.0
		Asian American	2.5
		Other	0.3
Household income	287	$9,999 or less	7.3
		$10,000-$19,999	4.2
		$20,000-$29,999	9.4
		$30,000-$39,999	9.4
		$40,000-$49,999	8.4
		$50,000-$59,999	10.5
		$60,000-$69,999	8.7
		$70,000-$79,999	8.0
		$80,000 -$89,999	4.9
		$90,000-$99,999	5.2
		$100,000 or more	24.0
Distance Traveled to Site	291	0 – 30 miles	49.8
		31 – 60 miles	15.8
		61 – 90 miles	8.9
		91 – 120 miles	7.6
		121 miles or more	7.9
		Out of state	10.0

Table 9. Comparison of Distance Traveled by Site

Site	Distance Traveled (Valid Percent %)					
	0-30 miles	31-60 miles	61-90 miles	9-120 miles	121 miles or more	out of state
Ocala National Forest	10.7	35.0	14.6	14.6	7.8	17.5
Cross Florida Greenway	81.8	0	18.2	0	0	0
Little Big Econ Region	92.9	2.0	1.0	2.0	1.0	1.0
Econfina WMA	60.0	10.0	6.7	3.3	3.3	16.7
Suwannee Segment	16.2	13.5	10.8	10.8	35.1	13.5

$X^{2} =$ 209.78 $p < .001$ (n = 291)

More than half of those surveyed were repeat visitors to the Trail (59.7%) (Table 10). Of these repeat visitors, the most commonly reported number of times to that particular trailhead was between 1-6 in the last year (47.6%). More than 60% participants at Cross Florida Greenway and Little Big Econ Region, respectively, were most likely to visit 13 times or more in the past year, while more than 75% respondents at Ocala National Forest and Suwannee Segment, respectively, visited 1-6 times in the past. Econfina WMA had 50% of respondents that visited 1-6 times in the past and more than 20% of respondents who visited the area 13 times or more in the past year, respectively (Table 11).Almost half of groups surveyed (47.2%) spent one hour or less at a time on the Trail and half of respondents walked between one and five miles (52.9%) (Table 10).

More than one-third of participants (35.5%) surveyed learned about the trail by living nearby and seeing it, while almost a quarter of respondents (23.5%) learned about the trail from a friend or a family member. Magazines were reported to be the least likely source of obtaining knowledge about the trail (0.3%) (Table 10).

Table 10. Trip Characteristics & Knowledge

Statement	n	Label	Valid Percent (%)
First time on trail	310	Yes	40.3
		No	59.7
Past visits	185	None	3.2
		1 – 6	47.6
		7 – 12	6.5
		13 or more	42.7
Time spent on trail	307	1 hour or less	47.2
		A few hours	25.1
		Half a day	7.8
		Whole day	2.6
		More than a day	17.3
Number of miles walked on trail	308	Less than a mile	9.4
		1 – 2 miles	25.0
		3 – 5 miles	27.9
		6 – 10 miles	19.2
		11 miles or more	18.5
Lean about trail	310	I live nearby and saw the trail	35.5
		Friends or Family	23.5
		Other	18.4
		Website	16.5
		Road Signs	5.8
		Guidebook	5.2
		Brochure	4.2
		Don't Remember	3.5
		Newspaper article	1.0
		Magazine	0.3

Table 11. Comparison of Past Visits by Site

Site	Past Visits (Valid Percent %)			
	None	1 – 6 times	7 – 12 times	13 or more
Ocala National Forest	13.5	75.7	5.4	5.4
Cross Florida Greenway	0	36.8	0	63.2
Little Big Econ Region	0	29.9	4.6	65.5
Econfina WMA	0	50.0	20.0	30.0
Suwannee Segment	4.5	77.3	9.1	9.1

$X^2 = 71.39$ p <.001 (n = 185)

Respondents were asked to rank their top three reasons for visiting the trail that day. The most common primary activity for people on the FNST was hiking or walking (71.6%). Viewing scenery (36.4%) and nature study (16.7%) were often cited as secondary or tertiary activities (Table 12).

Table 12. Activities Participated

Statement	n	Activity	Valid Percent %
Primary Activity	310	Hiking/Walking	71.6
		Jogging/Running	9.0
		Backpacking	5.8
		View Scenery	3.9
		Biking	3.5
Secondary Activity	294	View Scenery	36.4
		Hiking/Walking	8.8
		Camping	8.2
		Photography	7.5
		Bird Watching	6.8
Tertiary Activity	276	View Scenery	18.1
		Nature Study	16.7
		Bird Watching	10.9
		Backpacking	8.0
		Photography	7.6

Most visitors (74.8%) on the FNST traveled alone or with one other person. Almost half of groups (48.8%) had at least one male, while more than half of groups (54.0%) had at least one female. Other than people who traveled alone, friend groups (21.2%) and family groups (19.5%) were the most common type encountered along the Trail (Table 13).

Table 13. Group Characteristics

Statement	n	Label	Valid Percent %
Group Size	310	1	31.3
		2	43.5
		3	5.8
		4	8.4
		5 or more	11.0
Number of Males	213	0	5.6
		1	48.8
		2	24.9
		3	8.9
		4	2.8
		5 or more	8.9
Number of Females	205	0	20.2
		1	54.0
		2	16.4
		3	3.8
		4	2.8
		5 or more	2.8
Group Type	302	Alone	31.5
		Friends	21.2
		Family	19.5
		Significant other	17.2
		Organized group	6.0
		Other	2.6
		Friends and family	2.0

Respondents were asked to rate their trail experience on a scale of one to ten with ten being a perfect experience. The majority of hikers (81.4%) had a perfect or near perfect experience (a rating of 8, 9, or 10). When asked why their visit was not perfect, respondents mentioned 'not well marked (11.4%), the heat or other weather related issues (13.8%), lack of desired facilities/maintenance (21.0%) as common reasons (Table 14).

Next, all visitors were asked if there were any improvements they would like to see to the trail. Many suggested improved or additional facilities (58.2%) such as trash bins, water fountains, and bathrooms. Several hikers mentioned having trouble learning more about the trail and suggested improved maps and information handout (9.7%) and also mentioned having trouble staying on the trail and suggested better blazes and signage for the trail (8.2%). Respondents from Little Big Econ Forest suggested more trees and shading on the trail. Some of the "other" suggestions were trail websites, hog-related mess, and exotic plants (Table 14).

Table 14. Trail Experience

Statement	n	Label	Valid Percentage (%)
Experience/Satisfaction	308	10	37.3
		9	17.2
		8	26.9
		7	10.4
		6	3.6
		5 or less	1.9
Reasons not a Ten	167	Lack of desired facilities/Maintenance	21.0
		Weather	13.8
		Not well marked	11.4
		Not much to see	8.4
		Not enough wildlife	7.8
		Burned areas	5.4
		Not well marked	3.6
		Bugs/mosquito around the trail	3.6
		Flat trail/ not challenging enough	3.6
		Other (blisters, lack of water, crowded, not enough shade, etc.)	25.1
Suggested Improvements	134	Improved trail maintenance	31.3
		Improved or additional facilities desired	26.9
		Improved maps and information handout	9.7
		Improved trail blazing and/or trail signage	8.2
		Trail modifications desired	7.5
		More trees/shading	5.2
		Other	11.2

Motivations and Destination Attractors

Motivations are considered the needs or wants that visitors wish to fulfill during their recreation visit. Participants were presented with a list of 16 possible motivations for visiting the Trail that day and were asked to rate the importance of each motivation on a scale of one to five. This five point scale was then collapsed into a three point scale with one indicating 'not important' and three indicating 'important.' Enjoying nature (mean = 2.97) was reported to be the most important motivation for visiting the Trail that day followed closely by 'escape noise and crowds' (mean = 2.89) and reduce stress and tension of everyday life (mean = 2.86). To learn about the history and culture of the area was reported as the least important motivation for visiting the Trail that day (mean = 1.80) along with meet new people (mean = 1.93) and to take risks (mean = 1.96) and (Table 15).

Table 15. Motivations

Motivation	n	Not Important (%)	Neutral (%)	Most Important (%)	Mean[1]	SD[2]
Enjoy nature	306	0.3	2	97.7	2.97	0.18
Escape noise/crowds	303	2.3	5.9	91.7	2.89	0.38
Reduce tensions and stress from everyday life	304	3.3	7.6	89.1	2.86	0.43
Explore the area and the natural environment	304	4.3	8.2	87.5	2.83	0.48
Promote physical fitness	305	5.2	7.5	87.2	2.82	0.50
Feel a sense of independence	305	8.2	22	69.8	2.62	0.63
Be with friends and family	306	15.7	10.8	73.5	2.58	0.75
Be in an area where I feel secure and safe	305	11.5	19	69.5	2.58	0.69
Learn about the natural environment of the area	304	10.5	23.4	66.1	2.56	0.68
Challenge myself and achieve personal goals	305	14.1	18	67.9	2.54	0.73
Engage in personal/spiritual reflection	304	16.8	21.1	62.2	2.45	0.77
Depend on my skills and abilities	304	16.4	23.7	59.9	2.43	0.76
Strengthen family kinship	304	25.7	20.4	53.9	2.28	0.85
Take risks	303	37.3	29.4	33.3	1.96	0.84
Meet new people	305	36.4	33.8	29.8	1.93	0.81
Learn about the history and culture of the area	310	46.7	26.3	27	1.80	0.84

[1] 1 = not important 2 = neutral 3 = important
[2] standard deviation

People are attracted to certain recreation areas based on certain features, attributes, or attractions (Klenosky, 2002). In order to gain a better understanding of why visitors choose the specific recreation destination in which they were contacted, they were presented with twelve possible attractors of a recreation area and were asked to rate how important each of attractors were in choosing their destination the day they were contacted. Importance was measured on a scale of one to five with five representing the most important and one representing the least important. This five point scale was reduced to a three point scale within the analysis in order to simplify the interpretation of results. Visitors to the FNST were attracted by experience wilderness and undisturbed nature (mean = 2.89), experience a good quality of environmental air, water, and soil (mean = 2.87), a chance to see wildlife/birds (mean = 2.85), see the natural water features (mean = 2.76). Few hikers were attracted to a recreation area based on the area's ability to provide good opportunities for hunting (mean = 1.30), seeing local crafts (mean = 1.47), or fishing (1.51) (Table 16).

Table 16. Destination Attractors

Reasons for Visit	n	Disagree (%)	Neutral (%)	Agree (%)	Mean[1]	Standard Deviation
Wilderness and undisturbed nature	306	1.6	7.5	90.8	2.89	0.36
Good environmental quality of air, water, and soil	304	2.3	8.6	89.1	2.87	0.40
Chance to see wildlife/birds	305	3.6	7.9	88.5	2.85	0.45
To see the natural water features	305	6.9	9.8	83.3	2.76	0.56
The park/ trail is close to where I live	306	26.1	17.3	56.5	2.30	0.86
Manageable size to see everything	299	29.1	31.4	39.5	2.10	0.82
Availability of campgrounds	302	43	22.2	34.8	1.92	0.88
Interesting small towns	303	47.2	22.8	30	1.83	0.86
Historical, military, or archeological sites	303	50.8	28.4	20.8	1.70	0.79
Good fishing	302	66.2	16.2	17.5	1.51	0.78
Local crafts or handiwork	303	66	20.8	13.2	1.47	0.72
Good hunting	302	77.5	14.6	7.9	1.30	0.61

[1] 1 = not important 2 = neutral 3 = important

In addition, the respondents were asked about specific site characteristics that reflected the physical, social, and trail design characteristics that they may find along the FNST. Respondents were presented with twelve characteristics and were asked to rate the extent to which they preferred each setting characteristics while participating in their primary chosen activity for the day. Preferences were rated on a scale of one to five, and then collapsed to a three point scale with one represented disagreement and three representing agreement with the preferred setting. Respondents reported that they preferred dirt or grass trails (mean = 2.73), areas untouched by man (mean = 2.56), and loop trails (mean = 2.51). They did not like recreating in areas dominated with roads and power lines (mean = 1.27) or areas where a lot of people were present for constant contact (mean = 1.47) and for moderate contact with people (mean = 1.74) (Table 17).

Table 17. Preferred Trail Settings

Trail Setting	n	Disagree (%)	Neutral (%)	Agree (%)	Mean[1]	Standard Deviation
Travel on trails that are natural; dirt or grass	304	6.30	14.1	79.6	2.73	0.57
Travel in areas untouched by man	301	15.00	14.3	70.8	2.56	0.74
Travel on loop trails	301	9.60	29.9	60.5	2.51	0.67
Travel in areas that have been modified but appear natural	303	16.20	20.8	63	2.47	0.76
Very little contact outside my own group (less than 6 people)	302	9.90	34.1	56	2.46	0.67
Little contact outside my own group (7-15 people)	301	21.60	41.9	36.5	2.15	0.75
Travel in areas that appear to be man-made and natural	303	27.10	32.3	40.6	2.14	0.81
Travel on trails that are linear	301	32.60	31.9	35.5	2.03	0.83
Travel on trails that are paved	304	46.10	20.1	33.9	1.88	0.89
Moderate contact outside my own group (15 -30 people)	299	44.50	37.1	18.4	1.74	0.75
Constant contact with others outside my own group	301	62.50	28.2	9.3	1.47	0.66
Travel in areas where roads and power lines dominate	303	80.20	12.9	6.9	1.27	0.58

[1] 1 = disagree 2 = neutral 3 = agree

Finally, the respondents were asked questions to better understand their subjective, emotional, and symbolic meanings associated with the FNST (Williams & Vaske, 2003). To measure these personal perceptions, respondents were presented with twenty statements from the place attachment literature. They were asked to rate the extent to which they agreed with each statement. The extent to which they agreed was rated on a scale of one to five, and then collapsed to a three point scale with one representing disagreement and three representing agreement with the statement. Most respondents believed the FNST was important for providing wildlife habitat (mean = 2.88), protecting the landscape from development (mean = 2.86), and protecting water quality (mean = 2.70). Visitors were most likely to be neutral about 'this trail means a lot to me (mean = 2.35),' 'this trail is best for what I like to do' (mean = 2.33) or 'other trails to be compared to this trail' (mean = 1.81) (Table 18).

Table 18. Place Attachments

Statement	n	Disagree (%)	Neutral (%)	Agree (%)	Mean[1]	SD[2]
This trail is important for providing habitat for wildlife	304	2.3	7.2	90.5	2.88	0.39
This trail is important in protecting the landscape from development	303	2.6	8.6	88.8	2.86	0.42
This trail is important in protecting the water quality	302	3.6	23.2	73.2	2.70	0.53
This trail contributes to the character of my community	301	16.6	23.3	60.1	2.44	0.76
This trail means a lot to me	303	18.2	29	52.8	2.35	0.77
I am very attached to this trail	301	18.9	28.9	52.2	2.33	0.78
This trail is best for what I like to do	303	21.1	24.8	54.1	2.33	0.80
Visiting this trail says a lot about who I am	303	18.2	33.7	48.2	2.30	0.76
This trail is very special to me	301	18.6	34.6	46.8	2.28	0.76
I identify strongly with this trail	302	21.9	37.4	40.7	2.19	0.77
I feel this trail is a part of me	303	31.0	40.3	28.7	1.98	0.77
This trail is a special place for my family	303	38.3	26.4	35.3	1.97	0.86
My community's history is strongly tied to this trail	300	33.3	40.3	26.3	1.93	0.77
I get more satisfaction out of visiting this trail than any other	302	36.8	37.4	25.8	1.89	0.78
No other trail can compare to this trail	303	40.6	37.6	21.8	1.81	0.77
What I do at this trail is more important to me than doing it in any other	302	39.7	41.1	19.2	1.79	0.74
Many important family memories are tied to this trail	302	49.0	25.8	25.2	1.76	0.83
I wouldn't substitute any other trail for doing the types of things I do	302	46.7	34.4	18.9	1.72	0.76
Few people know this trail like I do	303	52.8	27.1	20.1	1.67	0.79
What I do at this trail I would enjoy just as much at a similar trail*	303	62.0	22.8	15.2	1.53	0.74

[1] 1 = disagree 2 = neutral 3 = agree
[2] standard deviation
* Reverse coded

Conclusion and Trail Management Implications

The results presented in this report are meant to help the USFS, the FTA, and all the FNST's land and recreation managers better understand the number of visitors recreating on the FNST and who these visitors are and what benefits they are seeking. This information can be used to continue to provide quality recreation opportunities in a variety of natural settings along the Trail.

Visitor Counts

The 2009-2010 study year has the highest estimated visits to the Florida Trail. It is the first time ever the total estimate exceeds 350,000. There were 2,517 more estimated visits to the FNST in 2009-2010 compared to the previous study year. Since all study sites have now been researched at least once, and those sites affected by hurricanes during 2004-2005 study season have been studied twice, it is reasonable to say that this year's estimate is a fair reflection of the approximate number of Florida Trail users. The visitation during 2009-2010 suggests a stable use trend for FNST visitation in spite of the economic hard time for the nation. Estimated visits to some sites experienced double-digit increase, such as to St. Marks NWR & Rail Trail, Suwannee, and Econfina WMA, partly due to improved instrument and refined assessing methods.

Researchers collected visitor counts on the FNST using observations and infrared eyes. The accuracy and ease of use of the infrared eyes make them the preferred method for collecting data on FNST visitors when observers cannot be present. The Diamond Traffics infrared eyes have been relatively reliable and consistent over the past four study years. However, the counters start to show instability on the performance which in turn adds to the difficulty to analyze data. The experience from the past suggests a 4-year life cycle for most Diamond counters. Five new TrailMaster 1550 units purchased in spring 2009 were essential in collecting data over the last two study years since more counters than expected were lost due to wear and tear, vandalism, and robbery. The average life span for TrailMaster counters seems to be about 3-4 years.

Visitor Surveys

Collecting visitor surveys helps to complete the process of assessing FNST visitors and the factors that drew them to the Trail. A majority of visitors reported being motivated to visit the trail to enjoy nature, escape noise/crowds, reduce tensions and stress from everyday life, explore the area and the natural environment. Also, a majority of visitors considered wilderness and undisturbed nature, and good environmental features (e.g., air, water, and soil), wildlife/birds viewing to be important in the Trail. These findings suggest that managers should provide a high quality of environmental settings.

In addition, most respondents reported the importance of trail for providing habitat for wildlife, protecting the landscape from development, and protecting the water quality, and about one-third of respondents reported that the Trail reflects the character of their communities. More than 70% of visitors preferred trails that are very natural or modified but appear natural and 60% of visitors preferred hiking along loop trails. These findings also indicate that managers should protect public lands from development and provide natural settings in order to facilitate visitors' positive recreational experiences, to foster visitors' emotional attachment to the Trail, and to provide habitat for wildlife.

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APPENDIX I: 6 Year Study Schedule

2003-2004

Gulf Islands National Seashore (H)
Goldhead Branch State Park (H)
Ocala National Forest (H)
Eglin Air Force Base (M)
Apalachicola National Forest (M)
Osceola National Forest (H)
Little Big Econ State Forest (H)
Includes Cross Seminole Trail (Multi-Use Trail)
Etoniah Creek State Forest (L)

2004-2005

Suwannee (H)
Lake Okeechobee (H)
Seminole State Forest (M)
St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge & Rail Trail (H)
Aucilla River WMA (M)
Pine Log State Forest (M)
Rice Creek (L)

2005-2006

Tosohatchee State Preserve (H)
Withlacoochee State Forest (H)
Blackwater River State Forest (H)
Includes Withlacoochee St. Rail-Trail
Ellaville/Twin Rivers State Forest (M)
Green Swamp East (L)
Green Swamp West (L)
Ecofina Creek WMA (L)

2006-2007

Big Cypress National Preserve (H)
Highlands: S65B to US 98 (H)
Bull Creek WMA (L)
Greenway (H)
Kissimmee River WMA to Avon AFB (L)
Three Lakes WMA (L)

2007-2008

Ocala National Forest
Osceola National Forest
Apalachicola National Forest
Little Big Econ State Forest
Goldhead Branch State Park
Etoniah State Forest
Big Cypress National Preserve
Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park
Cross Florida Greenway

2008-2009

Apalachicola National Forest
Big Cypress National Preserve
Cross Florida Greenway
Ocala National Forest
Osceola National Forest
Rice Creek Conservation Area
Seminole State Forest
St. Marks NWR
Suwannee Segment

2009-2010

Apalachicola National Forest
Big Cypress National Preserve
Cross Florida Greenway
Econfina WMA
Mills Creek WMA
Ocala National Forest
Osceola National Forest
St. Marks NWR
Suwannee Segment

APPENDIX II: Protocol for Classifying Access Points

Protocol for Classifying Access Points

Throughout the study year, researchers get to know all the FNST access points within a site regardless of whether or not a counter is installed. Researchers talk to land managers, FTA personnel, and visitors who know the area well to get an idea of the type of use at each trailhead. They also randomly visit all access points throughout the year to take notes on the number of cars in the parking lot and the number of people in the area. Data collected from mechanical counters provide continuous counts for selected survey sites. However, there is often more access points within a site then there are mechanical counters. To compensate for these implications, access points that do have mechanical counters are analyzed via protocol and then grouped into the following categories:

- Type A – Very high use, well known access point, 500 users/month or more
- Type B – High use, between 100-499 users/month
- Type C – Medium high use, between 50-99 users/month
- Type D – Medium low use, between 15-49 users/month.
- Type E – Low use, trailhead or road crossing with really low numbers, 15 users/ month or less

An average for each type of access point is then formulated. Then based on observations and notes taken about access points without counters an access point average that seems suitable for the access point is applied.

APPENDIX III: Monitored Access Points 2009-2010

Monitored Access Points (2009-2010)

The following list of access points were not monitored by mechanical counters or personal observations. Estimations for these access points were derived from access point averages from corresponding access point classifications (Appendix II) where data was collected.

Big Cypress
1. Loop Road
2. Alligator Alley

Cross Florida Greenway
1. Ross Prairie
2. Buckman Lock
3. Marshall Swamp
4. 49th Ave.
5. Pruitt

Ocala National Forest
1. Juniper Wilderness
2. Alexander Springs
3. Grassy pond
4. Buck Lake
5. Hopkins Prairie

Osceola National Forest
1. Deep Creek

Apalachicola National Forest
1. FR 150
2. Porter Lake
3. Bradwell Bay

St. Marks NWR
1. Purify Road
2. Wakulla Beach

Suwannee
1. Holton Creek
2. Suwannee Valley Campground

APPENDIX IV: Observation Log

Surveyor:_____
Date:_____ Day: _____
Time Block:_____
Site:_____
Access Point:_____

Notes (include weather and where you sat):

Time	Number in Group	Gender (#males/females)	Activity	Direction Heading	Starting Point	Ending Point	Notes

APPENDIX V: 2009-2010 Counter Locations

2009-2010 Counter Locations

Apalachicola National Forest
- Camel Lake: Counter located ¼ mile east of where FT crosses FR 105 near the campground.
- Sopchoppy: Heading east from FR 329, counter located about 200 feet from road.

Big Cypress
- Oasis South: Counter located about ¼ mile south of the Oasis Visitors Center.
- Oasis North: Counter located about 1 mile north of the Oasis Visitors Center.

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Cross Florida Greenway
- Land Bridge: Counter located about 125' west of picnic area.
- Santos: From parking lot follow blue-blazed trail to FT. Counter located about 30 yards south of where the blue-blazed spur trail intersects the FT.
- Rodman East: Where FT crosses Rodman Dam Rd., go through gate on Berm Rd. and follow Berm Rd. for about 225 paces.
- Rodman West: Turn off Rodman Dam Rd., about 1/4 mile before the spillway, onto the boat ramp road and look for a gate and FT to the left, about 150' off main road. Follow FT through the gate. Counter located 108 paces from the gate.

Econfina WMA
- Scott Road: Drive from US 231 onto Scott Road for about 2.5 miles then turn off on the left entering the management area to the parking lot. Walk on the FT about ¼ mile to the hardwood then continue for another ½ mile. Counter is on the right side trail before the first bridge.

Mills Creek Management Area
- Panorama Road: Walk on the FT on the right side road for ½ mile. Counter is on the right side of trail.

Ocala National Forest
- Juniper Springs Recreation Area: Counter located about ¼ mile in on the FT section going east from the Juniper access road.
- Clearwater Recreation Area: From parking area take the blue-spur trail to the FT (about ¼ mile). Go left on the FT for about 115 paces.
- State Road 19: From parking area counter located, north, 317 paces from where trail enters the woods.
- Lake Delancy: Go north 320 paces from the FT sign on the north side of FR 75.

Osceola National Forest
- Turkey Run: Counter located along FT, 150 feet north of parking lot.
- Battlefield: From parking lot follow FT for ¼ mile past Loop A Trail. Counter installed on FT, 100 feet past Loop A Trail.

St. Mark NWR
- Forest Road 102 (Visitor Center): From gate 102 near Visitor Center, drive through about 2 miles. Counter located on the right side of the road on the FT in 50 yards.

Suwannee Segment
- Morrell Drive (Bell Springs): From the parking lot at the end of road, walk on the FT about 1/2 mile. Counter located on the left side of FT.

APPENDIX VI: 2009-2010 Seasonal Calibration Factors

Table 19. 2009-2010 Calibration Factors

	Sites	*June*	*July*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*March*	*April*	*May*
Big Cypress	Oasis South	1	*1*	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Oasis North	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Cross Florida Greenway	Land Bridge	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Rodman East	0.987	0.987	0.987	0.987	0.987	0.987	0.987	0.987	0.987	0.987	0.987	0.987
	Rodman West	0.986	0.986	0.986	0.986	0.986	0.986	0.986	0.986	0.986	0.986	0.986	0.986
	Santos	0.921	0.921	0.921	0.921	0.921	0.921	0.921	0.921	0.921	0.921	0.921	0.921
Econfina WMA	Scott Road	1	*1*	*1*	1	1	1	1	1	*1*	1	1	1
Mills Creek WMA	Panorama Drive	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
St. Marks NWR	Forest Road 102	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Suwannee Segment	Withlacoochee River South Bank	1.051	1.051	1.051	*1.051*	1.051	1.051	1.051	1.051	1.051	1.051	*1.051*	*1.051*
Ocala National Forest	Clearwater RA	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Juniper RA	1.013	1.013	1.013	1.013	1.013	1.013	1.013	1.013	1.013	1.013	1.013	1.013
	Lake Delancy	*1*	*1*	*1*	*1*	*1*	*1*	*1*	1	1	1	1	*1*
	SR 19	1	1	1	1	1	*1*	*1*	*1*	1	1	1	1
Osceola National Forest	Battle Field	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	*1*	*1*
	Turkey Run	*1*	*1*	*1*	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	*1*	*1*
ANF	Camel Lake	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Sopchoppy	*1*	*1*	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	*1*

Months in *Italia* represent that data was missing in days or month and compensated through protocol.

APPENDIX VII: On-Site Survey

To be completed by surveyor if interview given on-site:
Surveyor: _____ Date: _____
Site: _____ Time: _____
Access Point: _____

1. Was this your first time on this particular trail? ___No ____ Yes (Go to question 3)

2. Over the past year, how many times have you used this trail?

   ___None ___13-20 times
   ___1-6 times ___21-30 times
   ___7-12 times ___ more then 30 (#___)

3. About how long did you spend on the **trail** today?

   ____1hour or less ____Half a day ____More than 1 day (_____number of days)
   ____A few hours ____One whole day

4. If you spent more then one day in the area, where did you stay overnight?
   [] At a nearby hotel/condo
   [] At a campground off the trail
   [] In an established campground along the trail
   [] In a nearby residence of friends or family

5. On this **trip**, about how many miles did you travel on the trail today (on this trip is a multi-day trip)?
   [] Less than a mile [] 3-5 miles [] More than 10 miles (# of miles _____)
   [] 1-2 miles [] 5-10 miles

6. On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the perfect experience, how would you rate your experience on this trail?
   _____

7. If you did not rate your trail experience as a 10, can you explain why not?
   _____

8. Are there any other improvements you would like to see on the trail?
   _____

9. ***Hand the participant the activity card. Ask:*** From this list of activities, please rank the 3 activities that best describe the reason you visited the trail today?

   1st_____ 2nd_____ 3rd_____

10. Including yourself, how many people were with you?
    _____number of people (___#males, ___#females)

11. What type of group are you traveling with?_____

12. How did you first learn about this trail? (check all that apply)
    [] Friends or Family [] Roadside Signs [] Magazine, please specify
    [] I live nearby & saw the trail [] Guidebook [] Website
    [] Brochure [] Newspaper Article [] Don't remember, not sure
    [] Other, please specify _____

13. Please indicate how important each of the following items was in choosing your leisure destination for this trip.

Reason for Visit	Not at all important	Not very Important	Neutral	Very Important	Most Important
Historical, military, or archeological sites	1	2	3	4	5
Local crafts or handiwork	1	2	3	4	5
Interesting small towns	1	2	3	4	5
Good fishing	1	2	3	4	5
Good hunting	1	2	3	4	5
Manageable size to see everything	1	2	3	4	5
Wilderness and undisturbed nature	1	2	3	4	5
Chance to see wildlife/birds	1	2	3	4	5
To see the natural water features	1	2	3	4	5
Good environmental quality of air, water, and soil	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of campgrounds	1	2	3	4	5
The park/trail is close to where I live	1	2	3	4	5

14. People go to particular areas and participate in recreation activities for any number of reasons. Listed below are some possible reasons you might have had for recreating along the trail today. Please indicate how important each experience was for you during your visit.

Reasons for Visiting Today	Not at all important	Not very important	Neither	Very Important	Most Important
Learn about history and culture of the area	1	2	3	4	5
Promote physical fitness	1	2	3	4	5
Reduce tensions and stress from everyday life	1	2	3	4	5
Escape noise/crowds	1	2	3	4	5
Learn about the natural environment of the area	1	2	3	4	5
Be with friends and family	1	2	3	4	5
Feel a sense of independence	1	2	3	4	5
Take risks	1	2	3	4	5
Engage in personal/spiritual reflection	1	2	3	4	5
Explore the area and natural environment	1	2	3	4	5
Challenge myself and achieve personal goals	1	2	3	4	5
Depend on my skills and abilities	1	2	3	4	5
Enjoy nature	1	2	3	4	5
Strengthen family kinship	1	2	3	4	5
Be in an area where I feel secure and safe	1	2	3	4	5
Meet new people	1	2	3	4	5

15. When participating in the **activity** you listed as your **primary activity** do you generally prefer….

Physical, Social & Trail Setting Preferences	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
To travel on trails that are natural; dirt or grass	1	2	3	4	5
To travel on trails that are paved	1	2	3	4	5
To travel on trails that are linear	1	2	3	4	5
To travel on loop trails	1	2	3	4	5
Very little contact outside my own group (less than 6 people)	1	2	3	4	5
Little contact outside my own group (7-15 people)	1	2	3	4	5
Moderate contact outside my own group (15-30 people)	1	2	3	4	5
Constant contact with others outside my own group	1	2	3	4	5
To travel in areas untouched by man	1	2	3	4	5
To travel in areas that have been modified but appears natural	1	2	3	4	5
To travel in areas that appear to be man-made and natural	1	2	3	4	5
To travel in more developed areas where roads & powerlines dominate	1	2	3	4	5

16. Please indicate to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements **about this trail**

Statement	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Few people know this trail like I do	1	2	3	4	5
This trail is a special place for my family	1	2	3	4	5
Many important family memories are tied to this trail	1	2	3	4	5
This trail contributes to the character of my community	1	2	3	4	5
My community's history is strongly tied to this trail	1	2	3	4	5
This trail is important in protecting the landscape from development	1	2	3	4	5
This trail is important for providing habitat for wildlife	1	2	3	4	5
This trail is important in protecting water quality	1	2	3	4	5
I am very attached to this trail	1	2	3	4	5
No other trail can compare to this trail	1	2	3	4	5
This trail means a lot to me	1	2	3	4	5
I feel this trail is a part of me	1	2	3	4	5
Visiting this trail says a lot about who I am	1	2	3	4	5
This trail is very special to me	1	2	3	4	5
I identify strongly with this trail	1	2	3	4	5
This trail is the best for what I like to do	1	2	3	4	5
I get more satisfaction out of visiting this trail then any other	1	2	3	4	5
What I do at this trail I would enjoy just as much at a similar trail	1	2	3	4	5
What I do at this trail is more important to me than doing it in any other place.	1	2	3	4	5
I wouldn't substitute any other trail for doing the types of things I do	1	2	3	4	5

We would like to ask a few questions about you, your background, and your past experiences. This information will be used for statistical analysis only, and all information will remain strictly confidential.

17. I am
    [] Male [] Female

18. Which of the following best describes your status?
    [] Married [] Divorced
    [] Single [] Widowed

19. How many children currently reside in your household? _____

20. What is the highest level of education you have completed? (please mark one)
    [] Eighth grade or less
    [] Some High School
    [] High School Graduate or GED
    [] Some College
    [] College Graduate
    [] Some Graduate School
    [] Graduate Degree or beyond

21. Are you presently…
    [] Employed Full Time
    [] Employed Part Time
    [] Unemployed
    [] Full Time Homemaker
    [] Retired
    [] Full Time Student
    [] Part Time Student

22. What year were you born? _____

23. What race or ethnic group(s) would you place yourself in? Please mark all that apply.
    [] African American
    [] Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
    [] Asian American
    [] Hispanic or Latino
    [] American Indian or Alaskan Native
    [] White

24. What was your approximate total household income, before taxes this past year?
    [] Less the $10,000
    [] $10,001 to $19,999
    [] $20,000 to $29,999
    [] $30,000 to $39,999
    [] $40,000 to $49,999
    [] $50,000 to $59,999
    [] $60,000 to $69,999
    [] $70,000 to $79,999
    [] $80,000 to $89,999
    [] $90,000 to $99,999
    [] $100,000 or More

25. Zip Code: _____

THANK YOU FOR COMPLETEING
OUR SURVEY!!!!!!

APPENDIX IX: Individual Site Information

Cross Florida Greenway

(n = 24)

Visitor Survey Data

Surveys were conducted at the following areas:

- Baseline (n = 18)
- Santos (n = 2)
- 49th St. (n = 4)

Socio-Demographics

75% of respondents were male
83% of respondents were married
54% of respondents had at least a college degree
67% of respondents worked outside the home
29% of respondents were 40 years old or older
67% of respondents were white
75% of respondents reported an annual household income of $50,000 and more
82% of respondents lived within 30 miles of the trail

Trip Characteristics

79% of visitors have been to the site before
37% of visitors had visited the trail 1-6 times in the past year
75% of visitors spend an hour or less on the trail
50% of visitors hike/walk 1-2 miles during their visit
50% of visitors report a 10 out of 10 for their experience that day
92% of visitors stated that hiking/walking was their primary activity
33% of visitors stated that viewing scenery was their secondary activity
42% of visitors came in groups of two people

Motivations (1= not important, 2= neutral, 3= important)

Reduce tensions and stress from everyday life	mean = 3.00
Being in an area where I feel secure and safe	mean = 3.00
Enjoy nature	mean = 2.96

Destination Attractors & Settings (1= not important, 2= neutral, 3= important)

Good environmental quality of air, water, and soil	mean = 2.96
Wilderness and undisturbed nature	mean = 2.92
To see the natural water features	mean = 2.92
Travel on along loop trails	mean = 2.95
To travel in areas that have been modified but appear natural	mean = 2.91
Travel on trails that are paved	mean = 2.82

Place Attachment (1= disagree, 2= neutral, 3= agree)

This trail contributes to the character of my community	mean = 3.00
This trail is important in protecting the landscape from development	mean = 3.00
This trail is important for providing habitat for wildlife	mean = 3.00

Visitor Counter Data

Counter type:

- Rodman East: Diamond Traffics Eye
- Rodman West: Diamond Traffics Eye
- Santos: Diamond Traffics Eye
- Land Bridge: Diamond Traffic Eye

Counter related problems and solutions:

- Counter at Santos have been performing inconsistently. Since this counter is belonging to CFG, we only recommended CFG to replace the counter.

Trail conditions throughout the year:

- Trail condition over CFG was generally very good throughout the year.

Table 20. FNST Visitation at the CFG 2009-2010

Access Pt.	June	July	Aug.	Sept	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	TOTAL
Rodman East	37	23	13	20	23	17	27	39	42	37	26	30	334
Rodman West	10	6	5	6	18	19	15	24	28	23	21	4	179
Santos	125	131	31	251	333	338	369	268	317	435	426	368	3,392
Landbridge (475A)	158	111	198	218	248	350	290	365	285	416	325	180	3,144
Baseline/ 64th St. [a]													24,554
Ross Prairie*	12	7	11	5	23	30	30	38	42	41	29	21	287
Buckman Lock*	12	7	11	5	10	13	8	16	9	15	11	5	119
Marshall Swamp*	12	7	11	5	10	13	8	16	9	15	11	5	119
49th Ave.*	189	149	152	212	142	268	244	288	286	348	242	263	2,781
Pruitt*	12	7	11	5	23	30	30	38	42	41	29	21	287
Monthly Total	567	448	443	727	830	1,078	1,021	1,092	1,060	1,371	1,120	897	35,196

[a] Access Point is multiple use (Foot traffic = 14,089; Other traffic =10,465)

*Estimation calculated through access point averages (Appendix II)

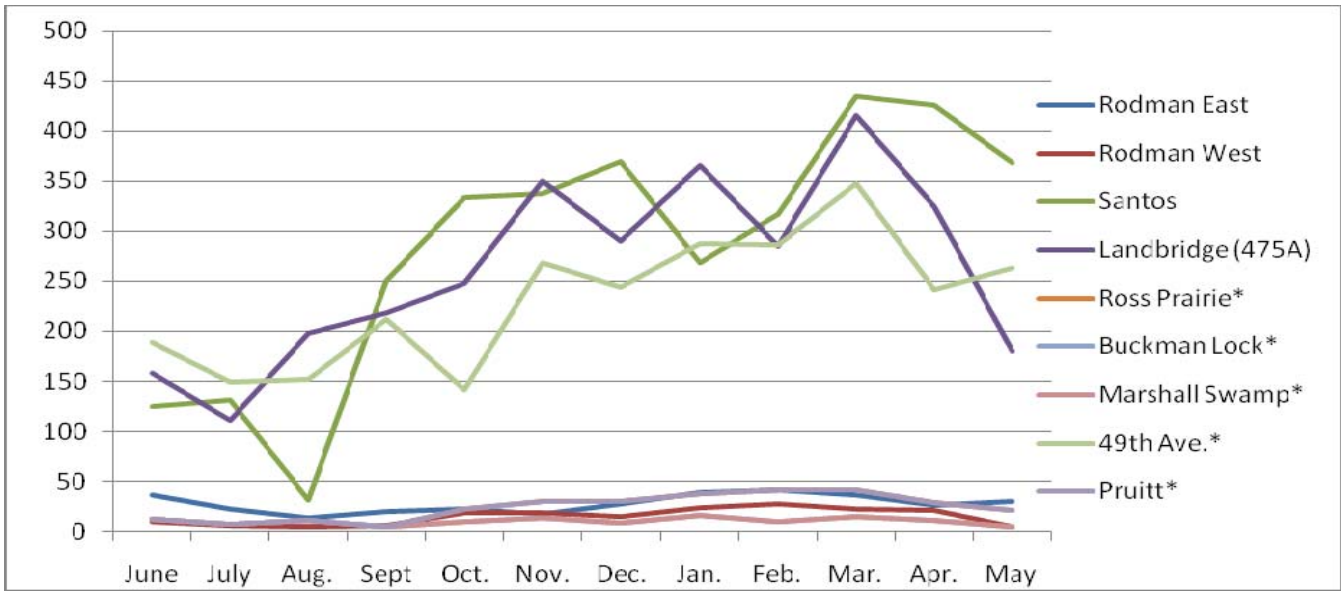

Figure 5. FNST Visitation at the CFG 2009-2010
*Estimate calculated from access point averages (Appendix II)

2006-2010 Use Estimates

A comparison of data collected from 2006-2010 shows that highest use year was the 2007-2008 study season with 35,562 estimated FNST visits.

Table 21. Comparison of FNST Visitation at CFG 2006-2010

Study Year	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	TOTAL*
2006-2007	653	478	487	534	713	1,084	1,089	1,292	1,210	1,450	1,228	788	27,920
2007-2008	725	564	486	880	625	1,071	1,100	979	1,036	1,389	1,037	1,118	35,562
2008-2009	598	464	715	608	874	1,102	979	1,093	1,152	1,234	1,015	851	35,228
2009-2010	567	448	443	727	830	1,078	1,021	1,092	1,060	1,371	1,120	897	35,196

* Totals include Baseline/64th St. estimates

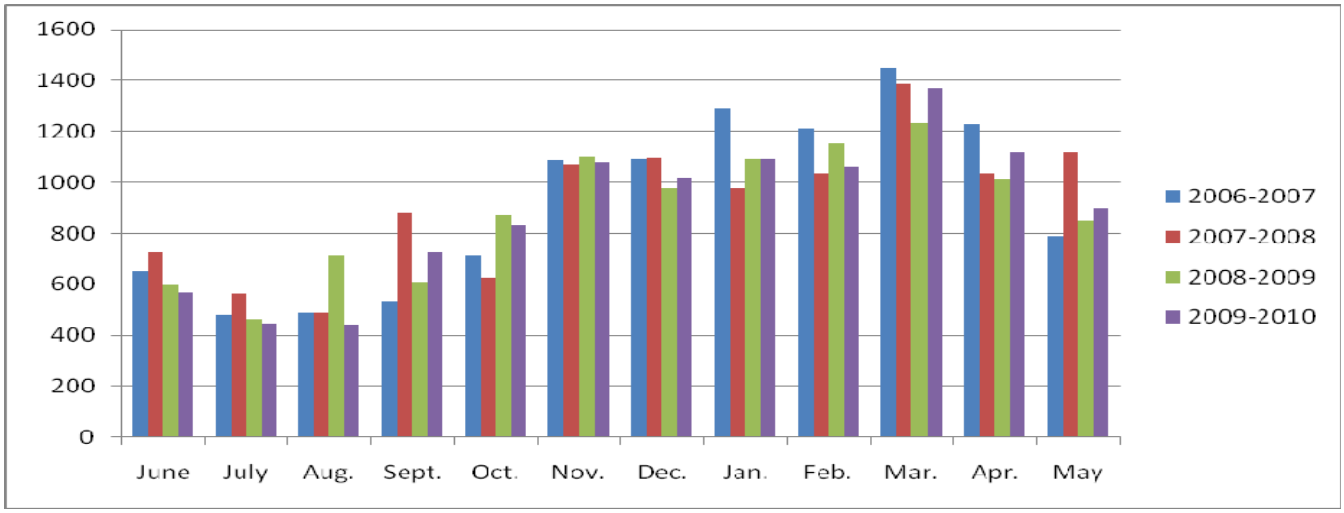

Figure 6. Comparison of FNST Visitation at CFG 2006-20010

Ocala National Forest

(n = 110)

Visitor Survey Data

Surveys were conducted at the following areas:

- Juniper Recreation Area (n = 87)
- Ocala SR 19 (n = 23)

Socio-Demographics

73% of respondents were male
50% of respondents were married
64% of respondents had at least a college degree
63% of respondents worked outside the home
52% of respondents were 40 years old or older
94% of respondents were white
57% of respondents reported an annual household income of $50,000 and more
46% of respondents lived within 60 miles of the trail

Trip Characteristics

34% of visitors have been to the site before
78% of visitors had visited the trail 1-6 times in the past year
44% of visitors spend a few hours or less on the trail
64% of visitors hike/walk 6 miles or more during their visit
27% of visitors report a 10 out of 10 for their experience that day
77% of visitors stated that hiking/walking was their primary activity
33% of visitors stated that viewing scenery was their secondary activity
42% of visitors came in groups of two people

Motivations (1= not important, 2= neutral, 3= important)

Enjoy nature	mean = 2.97
Escape noise/crowds	mean = 2.94
Explore the area and the natural environment	mean = 2.92

Destination Attractors & Settings (1= not important, 2= neutral, 3= important)

Wilderness and undisturbed nature	mean = 2.99
Chance to see wildlife/birds	mean = 2.92
Good environmental quality of air, water, and soil	mean = 2.90
To travel on natural, dirt or grass trail	mean = 2.94
Travel in areas untouched by man	mean = 2.85
Very little contact outside my own group (less than 6 people)	mean = 2.53

Place Attachment (1= disagree, 2= neutral, 3= agree)

This trail is important for providing habitat for wildlife	mean = 2.91
This trail is important in protecting the water quality	mean = 2.75
Visiting this trail says a lot about who I am	mean = 2.22

Visitor Counter Data

Counter Type:

- Juniper Recreation Area: Diamond Traffics Eye
- Clearwater Recreation Area: cancelled
- Lake Delancy: Diamond Traffic Eye
- SR 19: Diamond Traffics Eye
- Juniper Wilderness, Alexander Springs, Hopkins Prairie, Buck Lake, and Grassy Pond were visually monitored and access point averages were applied according to protocol.

Counter Related Problems and Solutions:

- Clearwater Recreation Area: the unit (Trail Master) was found to be stolen in January 2009 again and cancelled since then. The data below was from previous study year.
- SR19: the unit was found stolen on 12/8/2009. The counter was immediately replaced.
- Lake Delancy: Due to continuously malfunction, the unit was replaced with Diamond Traffic; further the unit was burned by prescribed burn and later replaced.

Trail conditions throughout the year:

- Throughout the year the trail conditions in Ocala were generally good.

Table 22. FNST Visitation at the Ocala National Forest 2009-2010

Access Pt.	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	TOTAL
Juniper Rec.	38	44	27	38	99	226	210	250	213	323	194	93	1,755
Clearwater	35	77	12	29	19	17	17	21	135	164	121	56	703
SR 19	95	73	34	81	80	110	144	214	44	40	35	83	1,033
Lake Delancy	4	2	5	4	6	26	17	51	68	53	25	23	284
Juniper Wilderness*	12	7	11	5	52	53	68	68	84	102	85	64	611
Alexander Springs*	12	7	11	5	23	30	30	38	42	41	29	21	289
Grassy Pond*	12	7	11	5	23	30	30	38	42	41	29	21	289
Buck Lake*	12	7	11	5	23	30	30	38	42	41	29	21	289
Hopkins Prairie*	12	7	11	5	23	30	30	38	42	41	29	21	289
TOTAL	232	231	133	177	348	552	576	756	712	846	576	403	5,542

*Estimation calculated through access point averages (Appendix II)

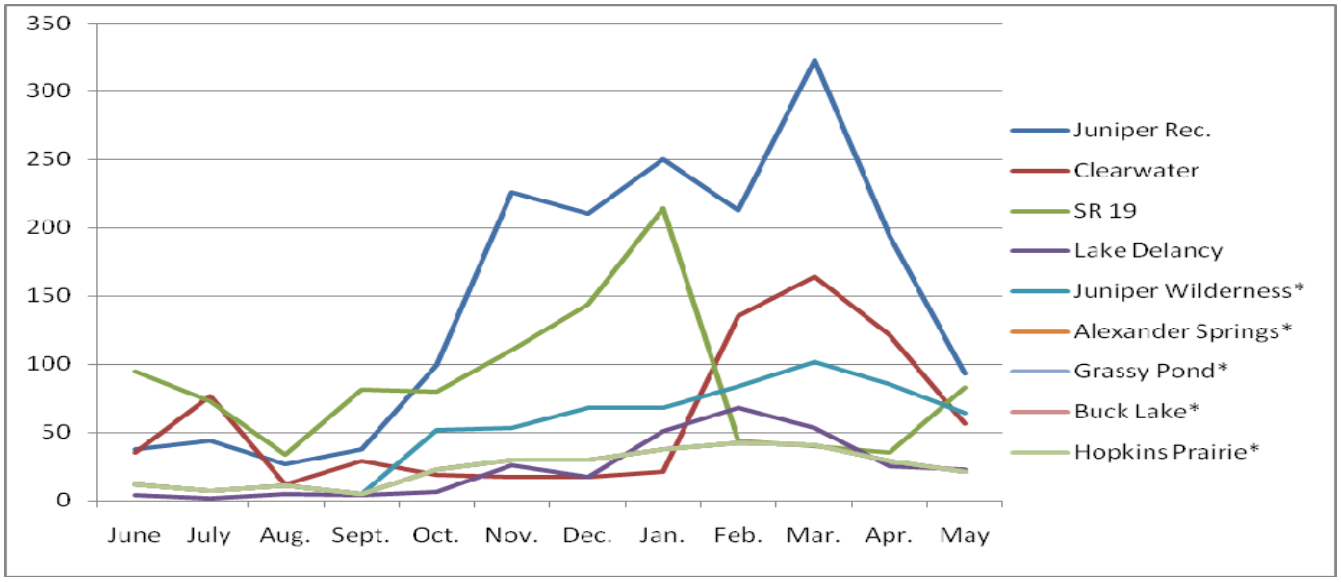

Figure 7. FNST Visitation at Ocala National Forest 2009-2010
*Estimation calculated through access point averages (Appendix II)

2003-2010 Use Estimates

A comparison of data collected from 2003-2010 shows that highest use year was the 2006-2007 study season with 6,481 estimated FNST visits.

Table 23. Comparison of FNST Visitation at Ocala National Forest 2003-2010

Study Year	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	TOTAL
2003-2004	*	*	*	*	449	421	260	471	336	377	273	218	2,805
2004-2005	170	114	124	38	203	315	372	554	563	630	511	244	3,838
2005-2006	256	295	301	267	260	515	503	698	724	804	724	497	5,844
2006-2007	395	384	339	376	403	557	558	771	862	819	540	477	6,481
2007-2008	215	167	132	189	316	483	562	630	833	820	522	447	5,316
2008-2009	229	227	298	195	319	531	643	869	928	667	505	392	5,803
2009-2010	232	231	133	177	348	552	576	756	712	846	576	403	5,542

* Data collection through the use of mechanical counters did not begin until October 2003

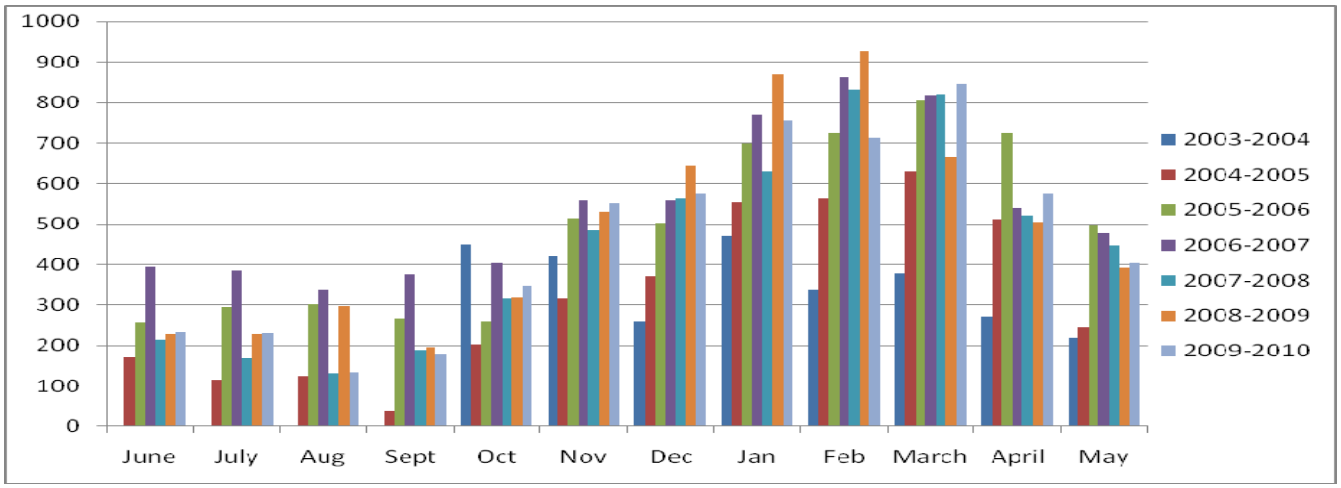

Figure 8. Comparison of FNST Visitation at Ocala National Forest 2003-2010

Econfina WMA

(n = 31)

Visitor Survey Data

Surveys were conducted at the following areas:

- Econfina – SR 20 (n = 12)
- Econfina – Scott Rd. (n = 19)

Socio-Demographics

78% of respondents were male
61% of respondents were married
65% of respondents had at least a college degree
65% of respondents worked outside the home
75% of respondents were 40 years old or older
94% of respondents were white
43% of respondents reported an annual household income of $50,000 and more
60% of respondents lived within 30 miles of the trail

Trip Characteristics

65% of visitors have been to the site before
50% of visitors had visited the trail 1-6 times in the past year
61% of visitors spend a few hours or less on the trail
52% of visitors hike/walk 5 miles or less during their visit
42% of visitors report a 10 out of 10 for their experience that day
61% of visitors stated that hiking/walking was their primary activity
36% of visitors stated that viewing scenery was their secondary activity
39% of visitors came in groups of two people

Motivations (1= not important, 2= neutral, 3= important)

Enjoy nature	mean = 3.00
Reduce tensions and stress from everyday life	mean = 2.97
Explore the area and the natural environment	mean = 2.94

Destination Attractors & Settings (1= not important, 2= neutral, 3= important)

Good environmental quality of air, water, and soil	mean = 2.93
Wilderness and undisturbed nature	mean = 2.87
To see natural water features	mean = 2.81
To travel on trails that are natural, dirt or grass	mean = 2.97
To travel in areas that have been modified but appear natural	mean = 2.81
Travel along loop trails	mean = 2.68

Place Attachment (1= disagree, 2= neutral, 3= agree)

This trail is important in protecting the landscape from development	mean = 3.00
This trail is important for providing habitat for wildlife	mean = 2.97
This trail is important in protecting the water quality	mean = 2.90

Visitor Counter Data

Counter type:

- Scott Road: Diamond Traffics Eye, TrailMaster Traffic Eye

Counter related problems and solutions:

- The counter was repeatedly vandalized and stolen for three times, and replaced and relocated three times along the trail.

Trail conditions throughout the year:

- Trail condition was excellent throughout the entire year.

Table 24. FNST Visitation at Enconfina WMA 2009-2010

Access Pt.	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	TOTAL
SR 20*	30	21	39	9	51	40	81	96	57	127	153	73	777
Scott Road	33	46	46	59	76	66	36	48	48	50	27	31	566
Monthly Total	63	67	85	68	127	106	117	144	105	177	180	104	1,343

*Data collected during the 2005-2006 year

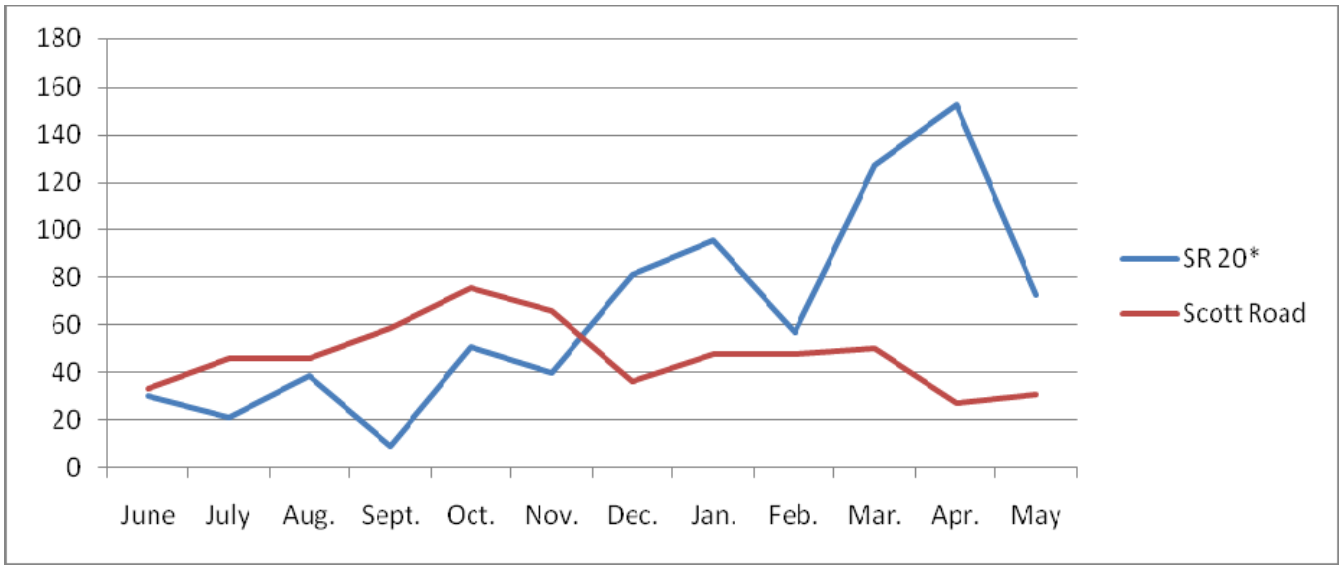

Figure 9. FNST Visitation at Econfina WMA 2009-2010
*Data collected during the 2005-2006 study season

2005-2010 Use Estimates

A comparison of data collected from 2005-2010 shows that highest use year was the 2009-2010 study season with 1,343 estimated FNST visits.

Table 25. Comparison of FNST Visitation at Econfina WMA 2005-2010

Study Year	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	TOTAL
2005-2006	43	27	50	10	65	51	87	109	61	140	164	79	886
2009-2010	63	67	85	68	127	106	117	144	105	177	180	104	1,343

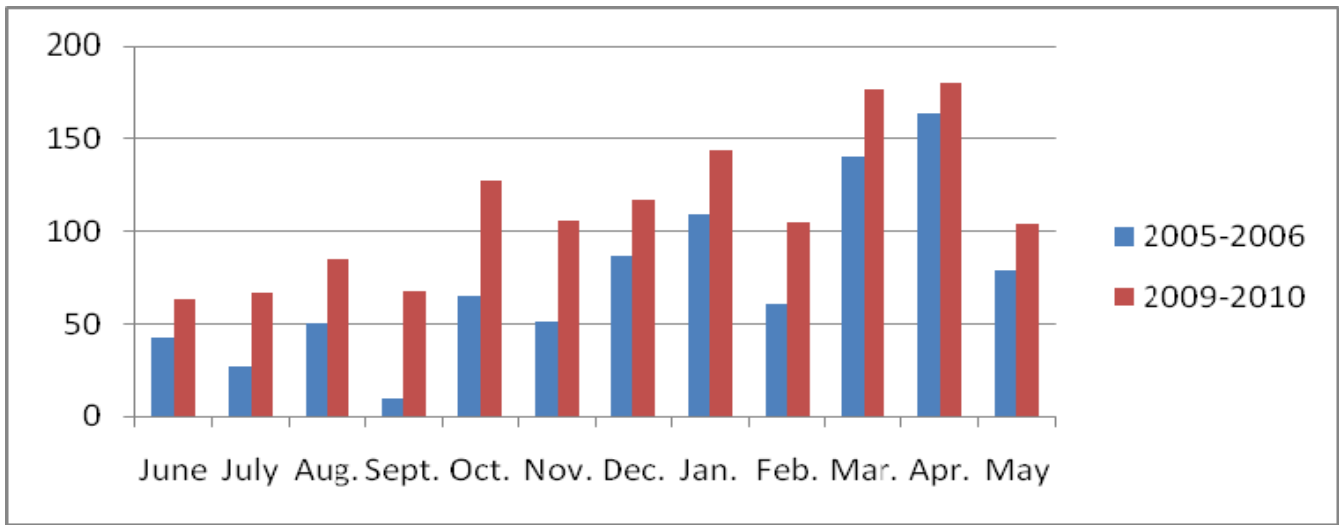

Figure 10. Comparison of FNST Visitation at Econfina WMA 2005-2010

Little Big Econ
(n = 103)

Visitor Survey Data

Surveys were conducted at the following areas:
- Mills Creek (n = 10)
- Black Hammock (n = 93)

Socio-Demographics
54% of respondents were male
61% of respondents were married
69% of respondents had at least a college degree
66% of respondents worked outside the home
61% of respondents were 40 years old or older
85% of respondents were white
70% of respondents reported an annual household income of $50,000 and more
93% of respondents lived within 30 miles of the trail

Trip Characteristics
85% of visitors have been to the site before
78% of visitors had visited the trail 1-6 times in the past year
78% of visitors spend one hour or less on the trail
80% of visitors hike/walk 5 miles or less during their visit
44% of visitors report a 10 out of 10 for their experience that day
63% of visitors stated that hiking/walking was their primary activity
39% of visitors stated that viewing scenery was their secondary activity
44% of visitors came in groups of two people

Motivations (1= not important, 2= neutral, 3= important)

Enjoy nature	mean = 2.97
Escape noise/crowds	mean = 2.93
Reduce tensions and stress from everyday life	mean = 2.91

Destination Attractors & Settings (1= not important, 2= neutral, 3= important)

Chance to see wildlife/birds	mean = 2.76
Good environmental quality of air, water, and soil	mean = 2.76
Wilderness and undisturbed nature	mean = 2.76
To travel in areas that have been modified but appear natural	mean = 2.61
To travel on trails that are paved	mean = 2.52
Travel along loop trails	mean = 2.46

Place Attachment (1= disagree, 2= neutral, 3= agree)

This trail is important for providing habitat for wildlife	mean = 2.79
This trail is important in protecting the landscape from development	mean = 2.78
This trail contributes to the character of my community	mean = 2.75

Visitor Counter Data – Mills Creek

Counter type:

- Panorama Road: Diamond Traffic Eye

Counter related problems and solutions:

- None.

Trail conditions throughout the year:

- The trail condition was good throughout the year.

Table 26. FNST Visitation at Mills Creek Management Area 2009-2010

Access Pt.	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	TOTAL
Panorama Road	12	21	36	28	7	30	42	28	26	22	7	36	295
Monthly Total	12	21	36	28	7	30	42	28	26	22	7	36	295

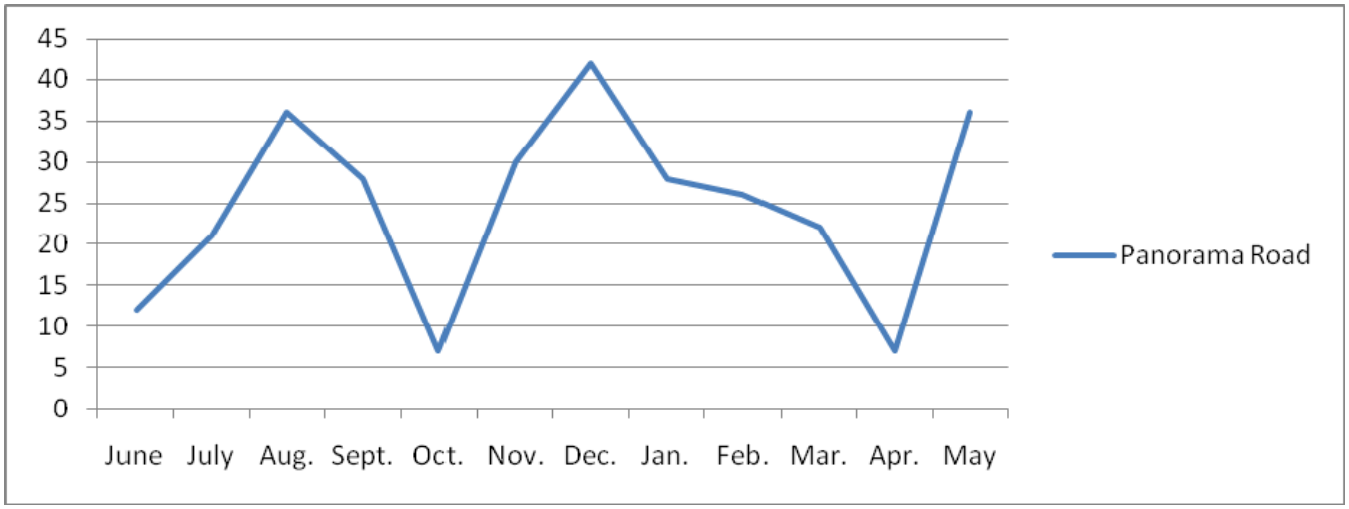

Figure 11. FNST Visitation at Mills Creek Management Area 2009-2010

Big Cypress National Preserve

Visitor Counter Data

Counter type:

- Oasis North: Diamond Traffics Eye
- Oasis South: Diamond Traffics Eye

Counter related problems and solutions:

- Both counters experienced at least once mechanical failure throughout the study year. Replacement was installed as soon as our volunteer could.

Trail conditions throughout the year:

- Oasis North had 7 months dry condition and 4 months very wet condition (18" to knee-deep under water).
- Oasis South had almost all-year around very muddy or wet condition (18' to knee-deep under water).

Table 27. FNST Visitation at Big Cypress National Preserve 2009-2010

Access Point	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	TOTAL
Oasis South	11	7	30	7	22	32	52	52	86	47	51	22	419
Oasis North	47	63	85	84	102	158	179	219	213	260	188	107	1,705
Loop Road*	28	32	21	37	23	30	30	38	42	41	29	21	372
Alligator Alley*	12	7	11	5	23	30	30	38	42	41	29	21	289
Monthly Total	98	109	147	133	170	250	291	347	383	389	297	171	2,784

*Estimate calculated from access point averages (Appendix II)

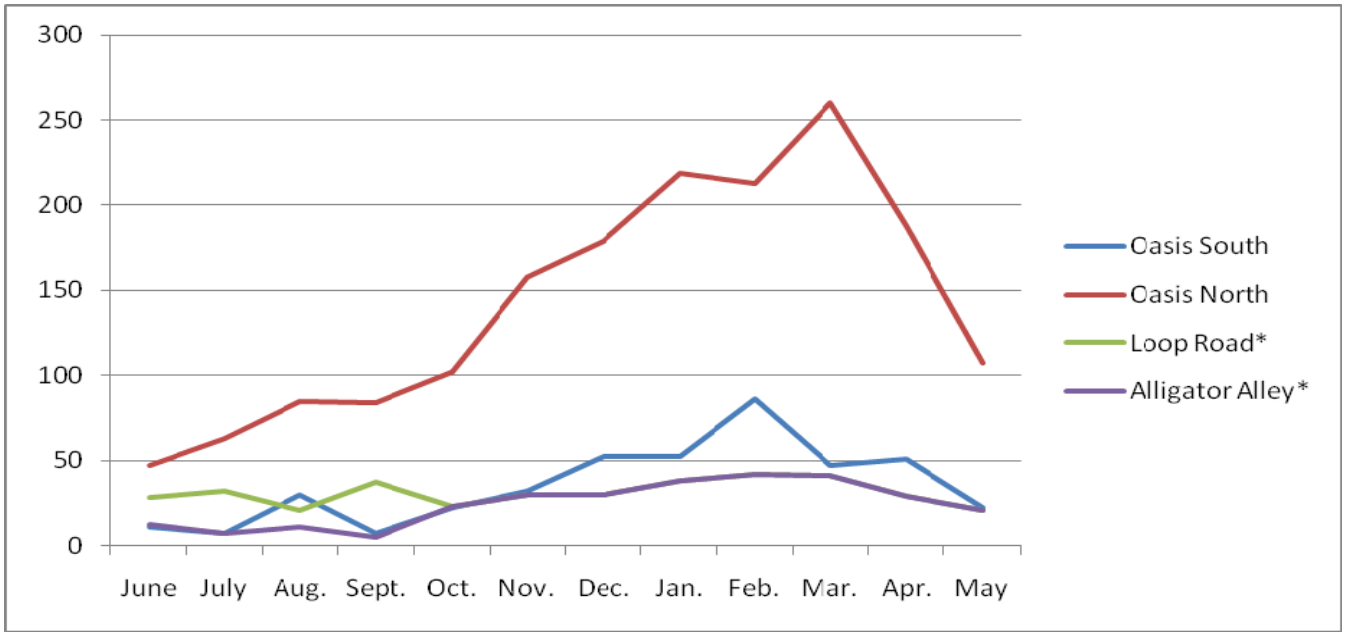

Figure 12. FNST Visitation at Big Cypress National Preserve 2009-2010

*Estimate calculated from access point averages (Appendix II)

2006-2010 Use Estimates

A comparison of data collected from 2006-2010 shows that the highest use year was the 2006-2007 study season with 3,378 estimated FNST visits.

Table 28. Comparison of FNST Visitation at Big Cypress 2006-2010

Study Year	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	TOTAL
2006-2007	88	75	68	79	152	216	362	525	529	591	504	188	3,378
2007-2008	154	164	66	180	113	125	226	547	397	520	265	295	3,051
2008-2009	99	108	119	126	129	281	154	418	432	451	338	230	2,885
2009-2010	98	109	147	133	170	250	291	347	383	389	297	171	2,784

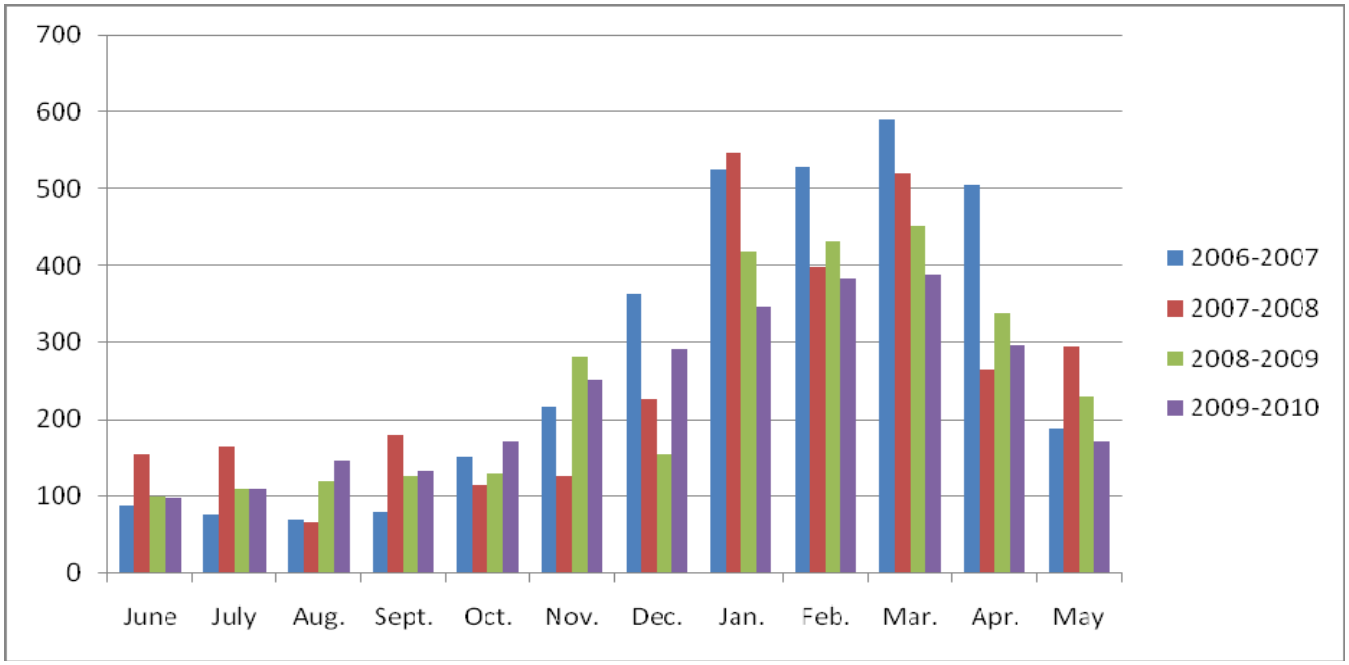

Figure 13. Comparison of FNST Visitation at Big Cypress National Preserve 2006-2010

Suwannee Segment
(n = 42)

Visitor Survey Data

Surveys were conducted at the following areas:
- Stephen Foster – Gazebo (n = 16)
- Stephen Foster – Canoe Launch (n = 20)
- Bell Springs (n = 6)

Socio-Demographics
62% of respondents were male
60% of respondents were married
62% of respondents had at least a college degree
33% of respondents worked outside the home
24% of respondents were retired
54% of respondents were 40 years old or older
95% of respondents were white
58% of respondents reported an annual household income of $50,000 and more
30% of respondents lived within 60 miles of the trail

Trip Characteristics
52% of visitors have been to the site before
41% of visitors had visited the trail 1-6 times in the past year
66% of visitors spend one hour or less on the trail
63% of visitors hike/walk 2 miles or less during their visit
37% of visitors report a 10 out of 10 for their experience that day
74% of visitors stated that hiking/walking was their primary activity
43% of visitors stated that viewing scenery was their secondary activity
52% of visitors came in groups of two people

Motivations (1= not important, 2= neutral, 3= important)

Enjoy nature	mean = 2.98
Explore the area and the natural environment	mean = 2.88
Promote physical fitness	mean = 2.80

Destination Attractors & Settings (1= not important, 2= neutral, 3= important)

Wilderness and undisturbed nature	mean = 2.98
Good environmental quality of air, water, and soil	mean = 2.98
Chance to see wildlife/birds	mean = 2.95
To travel on trails that are natural, dirt or grass	mean = 2.88
Very little contact outside my own group (less than6 people)	mean = 2.61
To travel in areas untouched by man	mean = 2.61

Place Attachment (1= disagree, 2= neutral, 3= agree)

This trail is important in protecting the landscape from development	mean = 2.98
This trail is important for providing habitat for wildlife	mean = 2.93
This trail is important in protecting the water quality	mean = 2.88

Visitor Counter Data

Counter type:

- Morrell Drive (Bell Springs): Diamond Traffic Eye, TrailMaster Eye.

Counter related problems and solutions:

- The Diamond unit was stolen in October 2009 and replacement unit was installed with TrailMaster. In June the unit was replaced again for malfunction.

Trail conditions throughout the year:

- Good

Table 29. FNST Visitation at Suwannee Segment 2009-2010

Access Pt.	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	TOTAL
Big Oak Trail*	13	5	20	5	5	28	52	75	67	47	23	18	358
*Holton Creek**	*15*	*5*	*12*	*0*	*21*	*25*	*22*	*38*	*37*	*47*	*23*	*18*	263
Morrell Drive	51	71	36	53	47	62	38	39	29	57	45	45	573
*Suwannee Valley Campground**	*15*	*5*	*12*	*0*	*21*	*25*	*22*	*38*	*37*	*47*	*23*	*18*	263
SFFCC State Park†	27	23	48	10	18	142	71	52	85	392	128	141	1,134
Withlacoochee River South Bank (Big Oak)**	17.5	27	25.5	18.5	26.5	38	96	122	78	58.5	42.5	28.5	578
Monthly Total	138	136	154	87	138	320	301	364	333	649	284	268	3,169

*Data collected during the 2004-2005 year
†Data collected during the 2007-2008 year
**Data collected during the 2008-2009 year

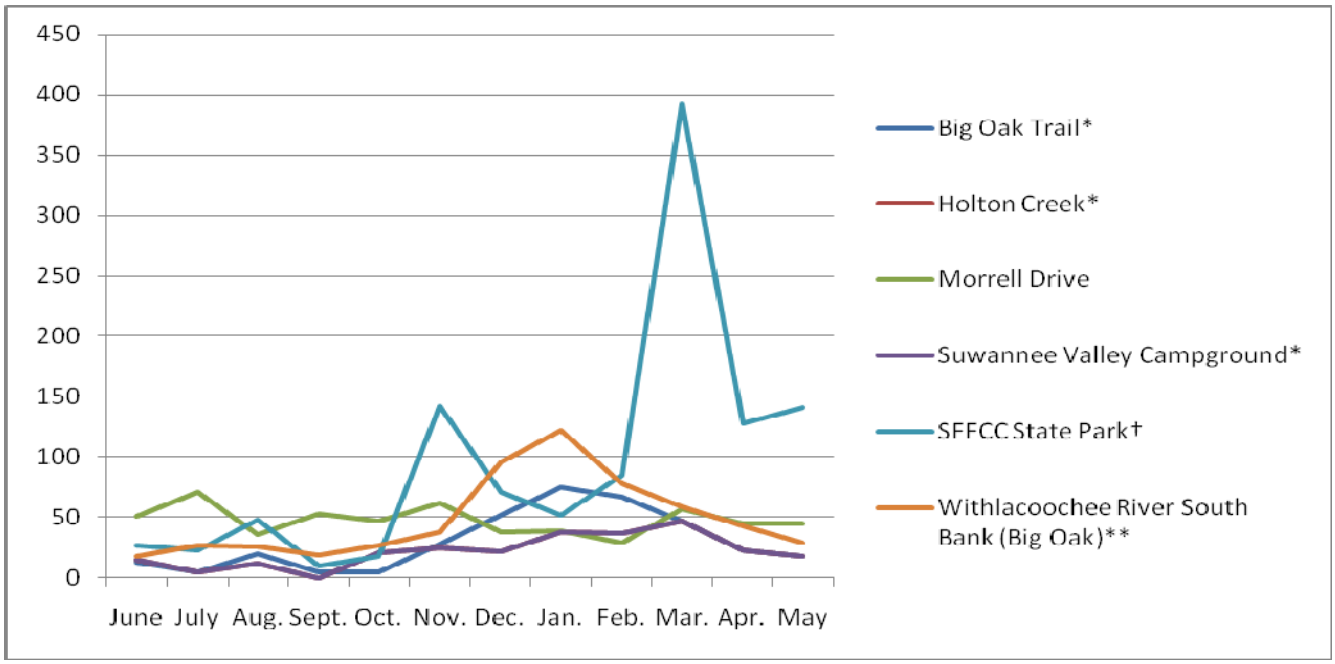

Figure 14. FNST Visitation at Suwannee Segment 2009-2010
*Data collected during the 2004-2005 year
†Data collected during the 2007-2008 year
**Data collected during the 2008-2009 year

Table 30. Comparison of FNST Visitation at Suwannee Segment 2004-2010

Study Year	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	TOTAL
2004-2005	77	50	67	5	47	78	178	191	220	236	69	127	1,345
2008-2009	87	65	118	34	91	258	263	325	304	592	239	223	2,596
2009-2010	138	136	154	86.5	138	320	301	364	333	649	284	268	3,169

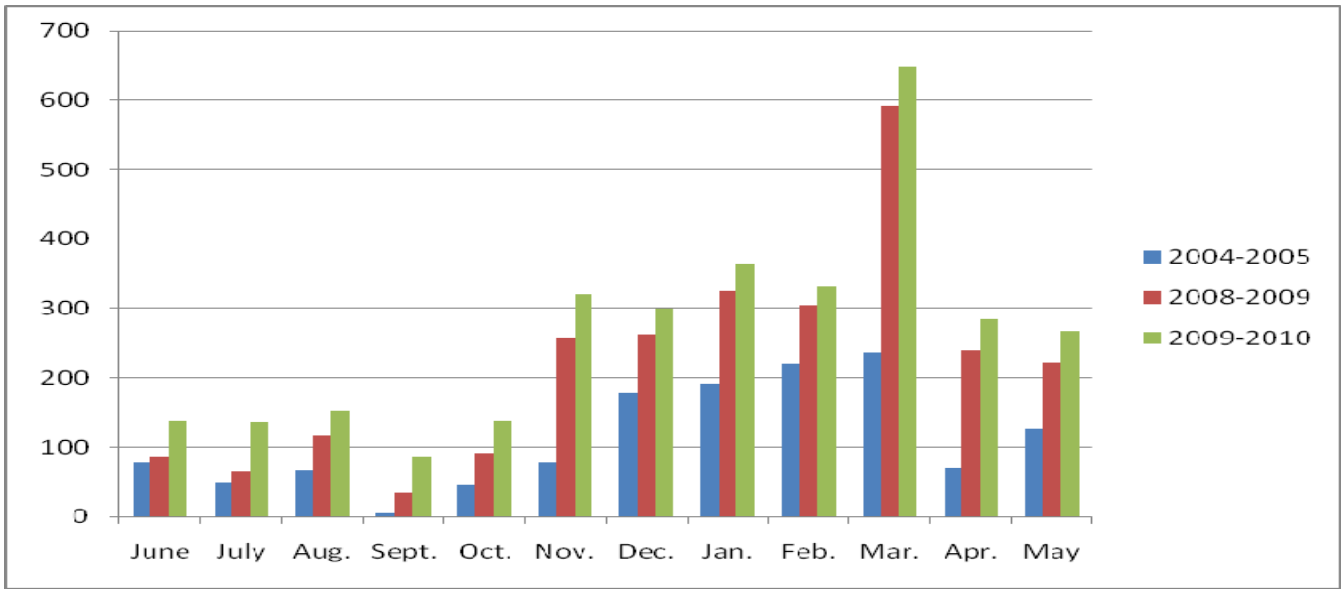

Figure 15. Comparison of FNST Visitation at Suwannee Segment 2004-2010

St. Marks NWR & Rail Trail

Visitor Counter Data

Counter type:
- Forest Road 102 (Visitor Center): Trail Master Eye

Counter related problems and solutions:
- The counter preformed excellent throughout the study year without any problem.

Trail conditions throughout the year:
- Very good.

Table 31. FNST Visitation at St. Marks NWR 2009-2010

Access Pt.	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	TOTAL
Lighthouse Road*	26	29	10	75	114	99	83	105	77	146	90	45	899
*Purify Road**	15	5	12	0	12	10	5	11	5	12	3	2	92
*Wakulla Beach**	15	5	12	0	21	25	22	38	37	47	23	18	263
FR102	2	5	2	3	3	5	1	2	19	24	6	10	82
Medart East**	14	3	6	2	2	11	10	18	24	29	8	3	130
Monthly Total	72	47	42	80	152	150	121	174	162	258	130	78	1,466

*Data collected during the 2004-2005 year; **Data collected during the 2008-2009 year

Rail Trail:
Estimated Foot Traffic: 1,550
Estimated Other Traffic: 11,791
Total Estimated Traffic: ***13,341***

Total FNST Estimation for all of St. Marks NWR & Rail Trail:
Rail Trail: 13,341
Others: 1,466
Total Estimated Visits: ***14,807***

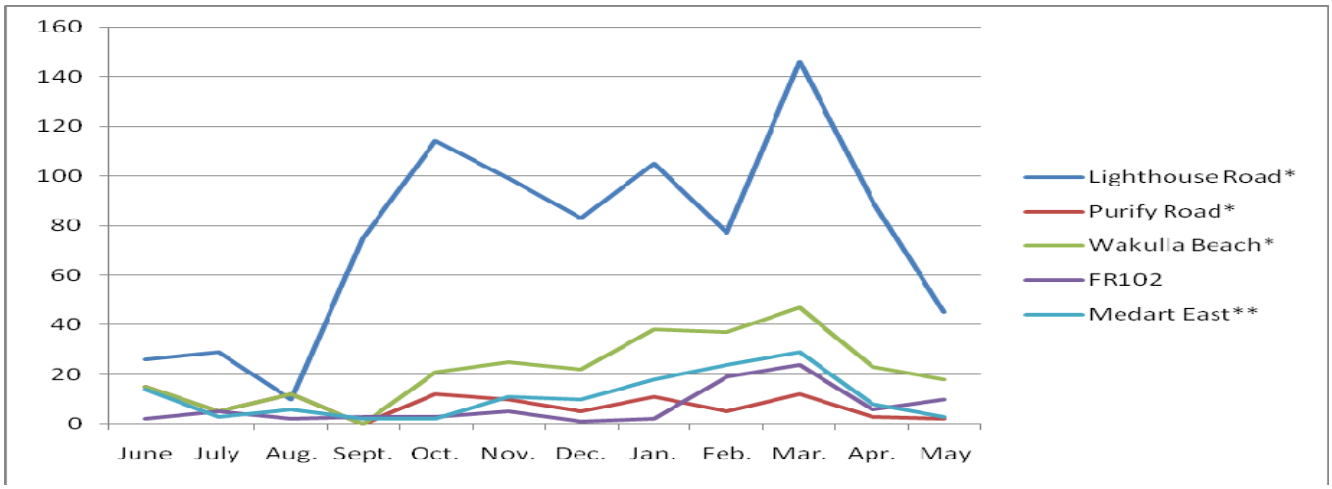

Figure 16. FNST Visitation at St. Marks NWR 2009-2010
*Data collected during the 2004-2005 year; **Data collected during the 2008-2009 year

Osceola National Forest

Visitor Counter Data

Counter type:

- Battlefield: Trail Master
- Turkey Run: Trail Master

Counter related problems and solutions:

- Both units were found malfunction at least once and replaced immediately.

Trail conditions throughout the year:

- Both excellent except flooding at battle Field in Feb. 2010. Festival in October 2009 at Battlefield seemed having not affected the trail use level.

Table 32. FNST Visitation at Osceola National Forest 2009-2010

Access Pt.	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	TOTAL
Battlefield	2	7	8	10	24	27	15	37	27	25	16	11	209
Turkey Run	13	6	20	13	23	18	12	37	42	34	40	22	280
Deep Creek*	12	7	11	5	10	13	8	16	9	15	11	5	122
Monthly Total	27	20	39	28	57	58	35	90	78	74	67	38	611

* Estimation calculated using access point averages (Appendix II)

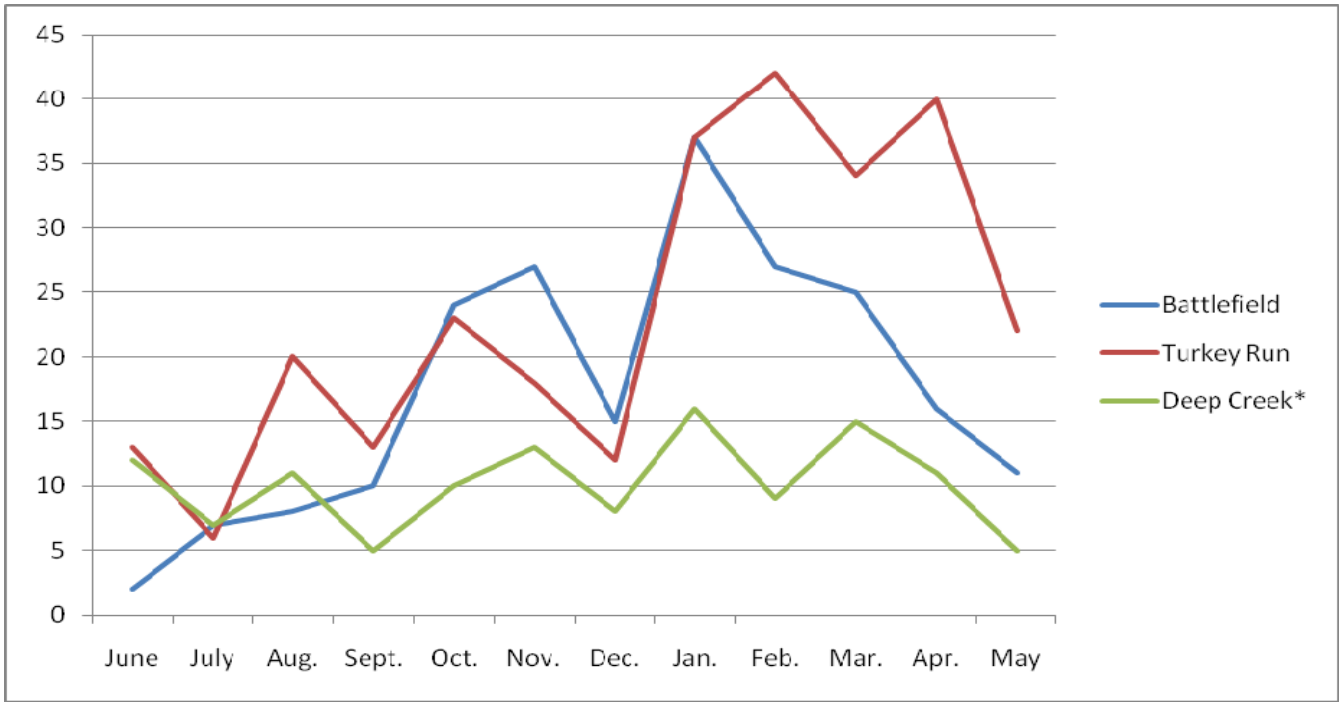

Figure 17. FNST Visitation at Osceola National Forest 2009-2010

* Estimation calculated using access point averages (Appendix II)

Table 33. Comparison of Visitation at Osceola National Forest 2003-2010

Study Year	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	TOTAL
2003-2004	*	*	*	*	48	30	18	55	116	71	41	35	414
2004-2005	45	18	24	0	21	212	282	241	277	254	147	88	1609
2005-2006	33	39	68	52	89	200	211	195	176	269	142	30	1504
2006-2007	39	25	26	26	57	26	124	87	190	79	75	24	692
2007-2008	36	26	19	37	60	63	39	53	91	76	44	30	571
2008-2009	27	21	37	48	43	67	56	98	63	92	67	38	657
2009-2010	27	20	39	28	57	58	35	90	78	74	67	38	611

*Counter were not installed until October of 2003

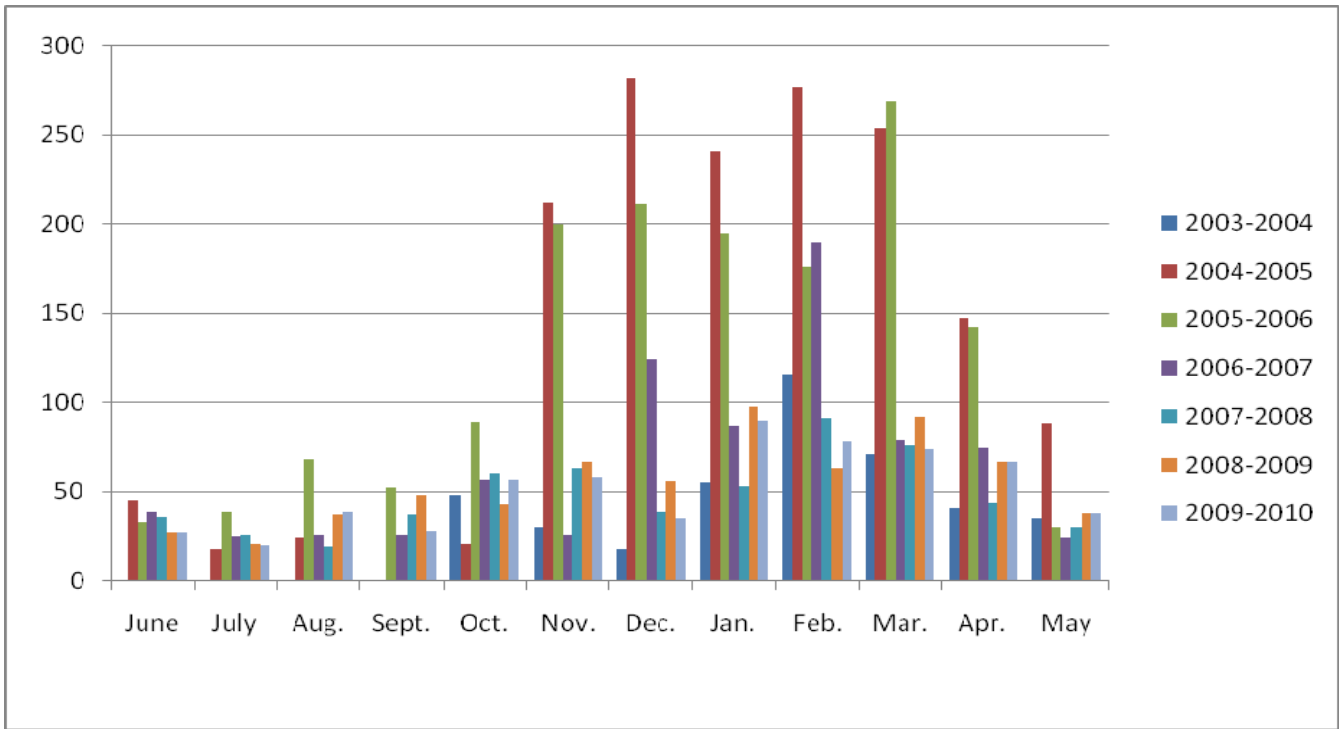

Figure 18. Comparison of Visitation at Osceola National Forest 2003-2010

Apalachicola National Forest

Visitor Counter Data

Counter type:
- Sopchoppy: Trail Master Eye
- Camel Lake: Trail Master Eye

Counter related problems and solutions:
- Both counter preformed well.
- Replaced the Diamond unit with TrailMaster at Sopchoppy.

Trail conditions throughout the year:
- In both locations, the trail condition was good. In Dec. 2009, heavy rain flooded the Sopchoppy area making it inaccessible.

Table 34. FNST Visitation at Apalachicola National Forest 2009-2010

Access Pt.	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	TOTAL
Camel Lake	0	1	2	2	3	7	6	5	33	41	23	7	130
Sopchoppy	7	14	11	10	3	23	31	13	25	57	14	22	230
FR 150*	12	7	11	5	23	30	30	38	42	41	29	21	289
Bradwell Bay Wilderness*	12	7	11	5	23	30	30	38	42	41	29	21	289
Porter Lake*	12	7	11	5	23	30	30	38	42	41	29	21	289
Monthly Total	43	36	46	27	75	120	127	132	184	221	124	92	1,227

*Estimation calculated by access point averages (Appendix II)

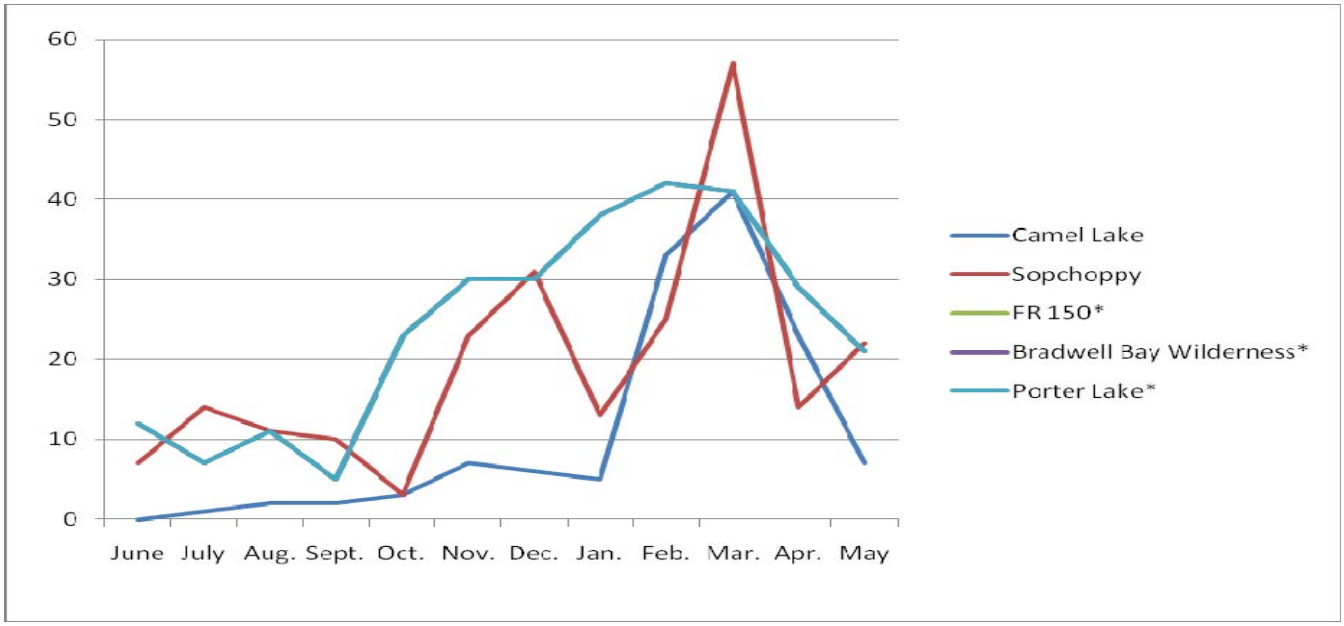

Figure 19. FNST Visitation at Apalachicola National Forest 2009-2010
*Estimation calculated by access point averages (Appendix II)

Table 35. Comparison of FNST Visitation at Apalachicola National Forest 2003-2010

Study Year	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	TOTAL
2003-2004	*	*	*	*	150	107	63	156	154	273	334	158	1933
2004-2005	115	61	65	33	79	106	79	118	122	171	80	72	1099
2005-2006	127	129	115	136	137	255	184	231	291	270	214	368	2457
2006-2007	149	138	123	138	88	134	94	159	188	238	106	85	1640
2007-2008	60	39	46	30	102	132	140	149	210	151	132	81	1,271
2008-2009	43	40	58	25	101	120	116	157	186	227	140	83	1,296
2009-2010	43	36	46	27	75	120	127	132	184	221	124	92	1,227

* Mechanical Counter not installed until October of 2003

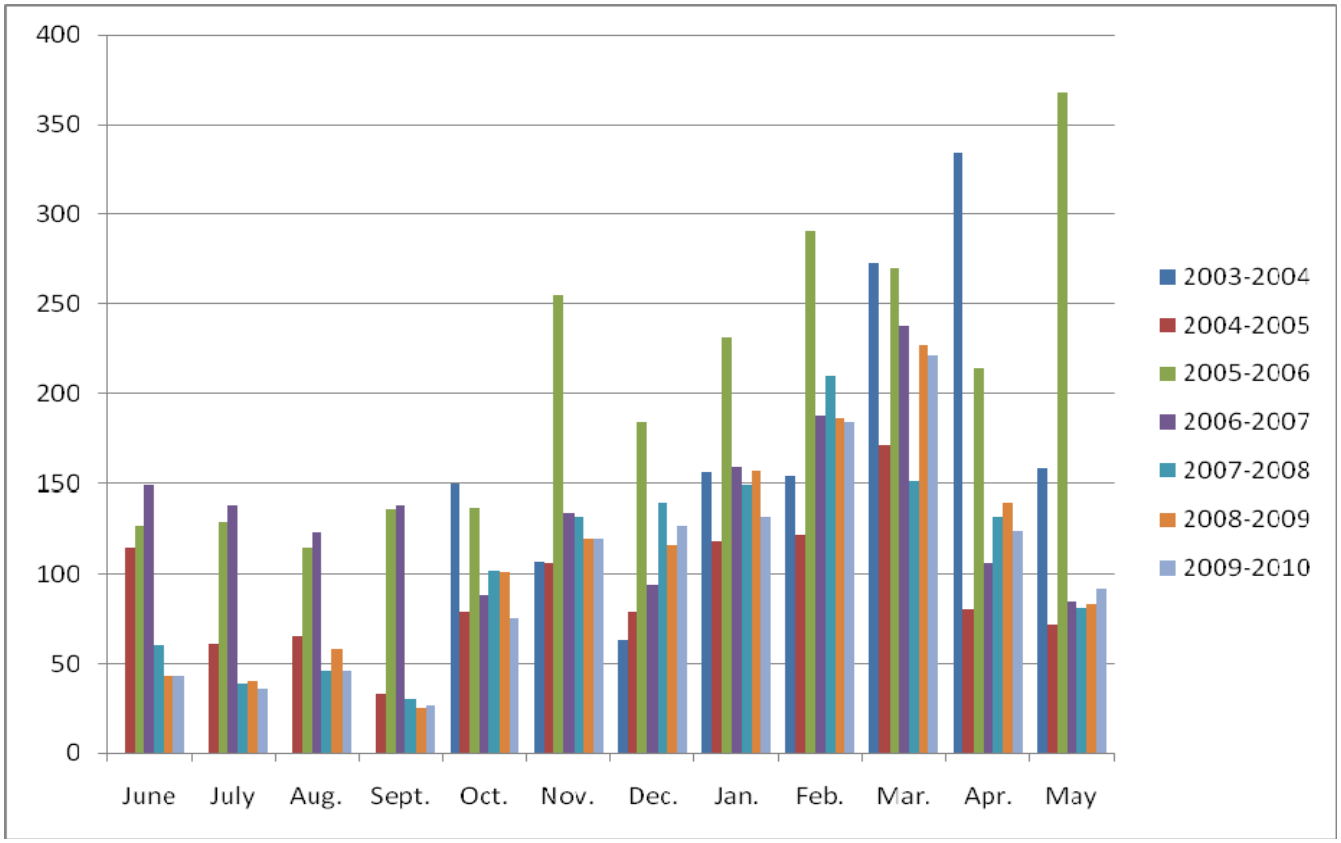

Figure 20. Comparison of FNST Visitation at Apalachicola National Forest 2003-2010