

Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex
Visitor Use Survey
Brief Overview of Results

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Study Goals

- Better understand visitor use patterns
- Develop information about preferences toward management
- Monitor visitors, compare with previous years

The Talk Today

- Who are the visitors?
- What is a “typical” visit?
- How do visitors evaluate their visit?
- What are visitor preferences for management actions?

What did we do?

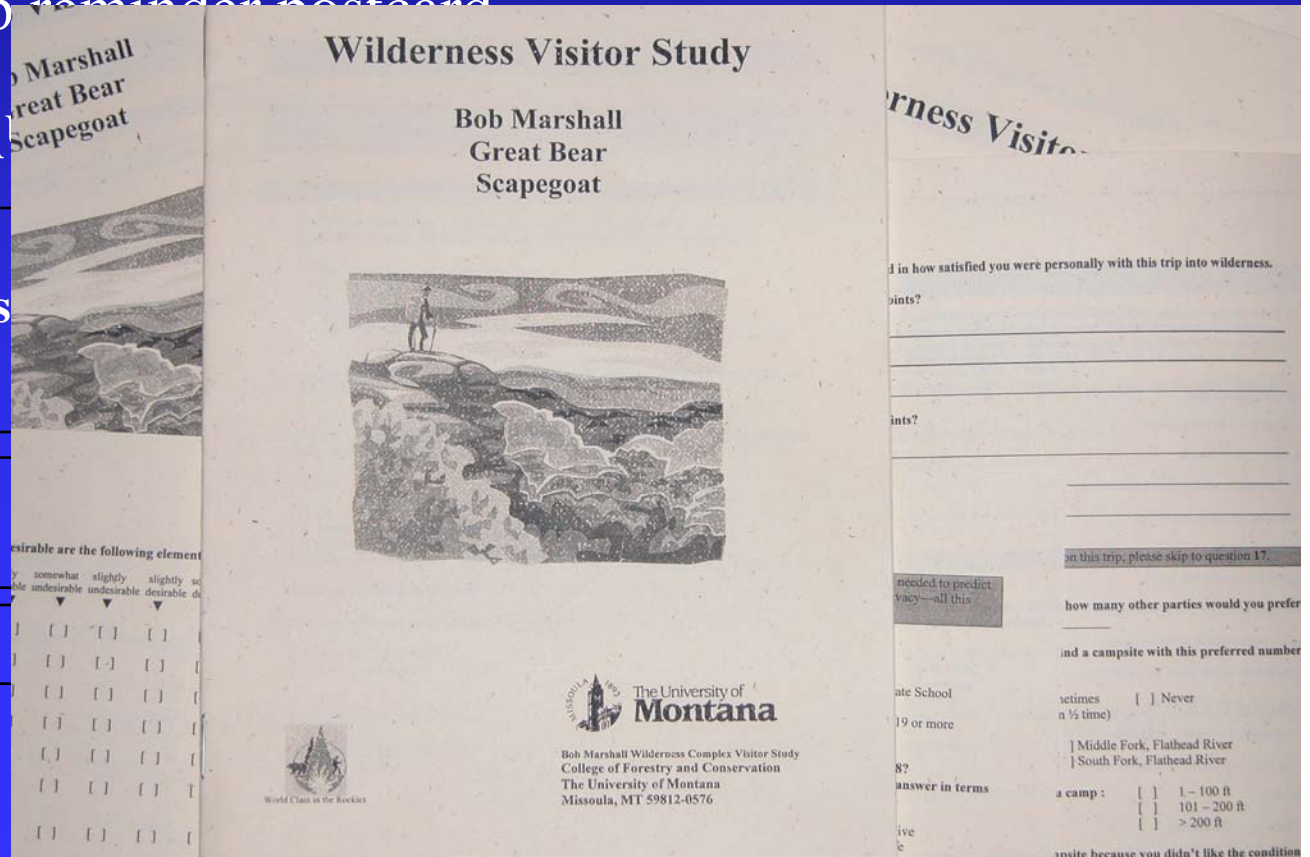
Contacted visitors at heavily used trailheads as they exited

Sent mail return questionnaire

Followup reminder postcard

Second questionnaire

Year	Number of questionnaires mailed
2003	598
2003	



Visitor characteristics - residence

Visitor residence	2003
Montana	65
Mountain States (except Montana)	6
California	3
Washington, Oregon	7
States east of Rocky Mountains	18
Foreign	1

Percentage of total visitors

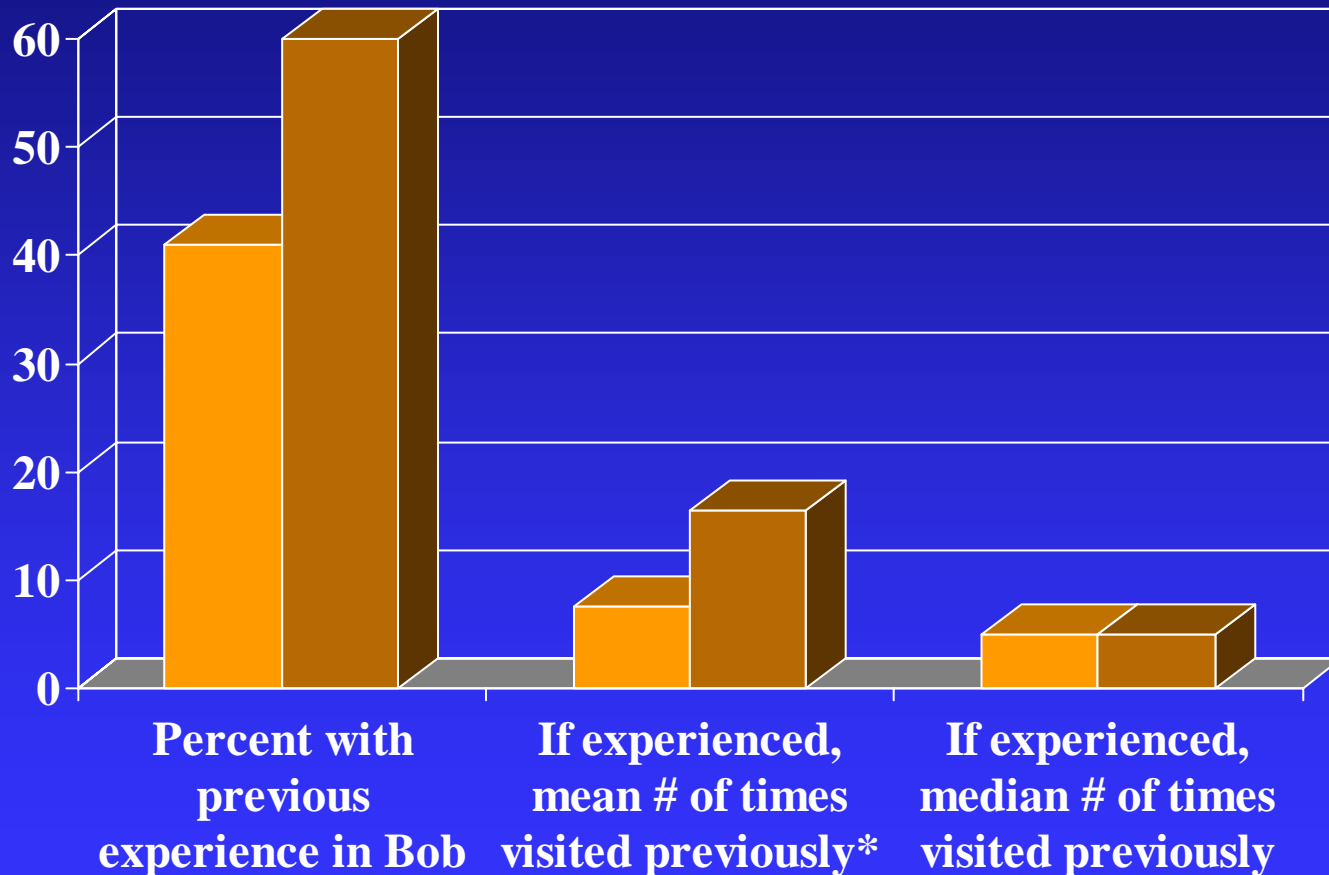
Visitor characteristics – experience level

Experience level	2003
Number of previous visits to Bob Marshall complex:	
0	39
1-2	15
3-5	15
6+	31
Number of wilderness visits in previous 12 months (av.)	2
Number of days in wilderness in previous 12 months	7
Age at first wilderness visit (% of total visits by experienced visitors):	
10 or less	31.5
11-15	13.8
16-25	32.2
26 and over	22.5

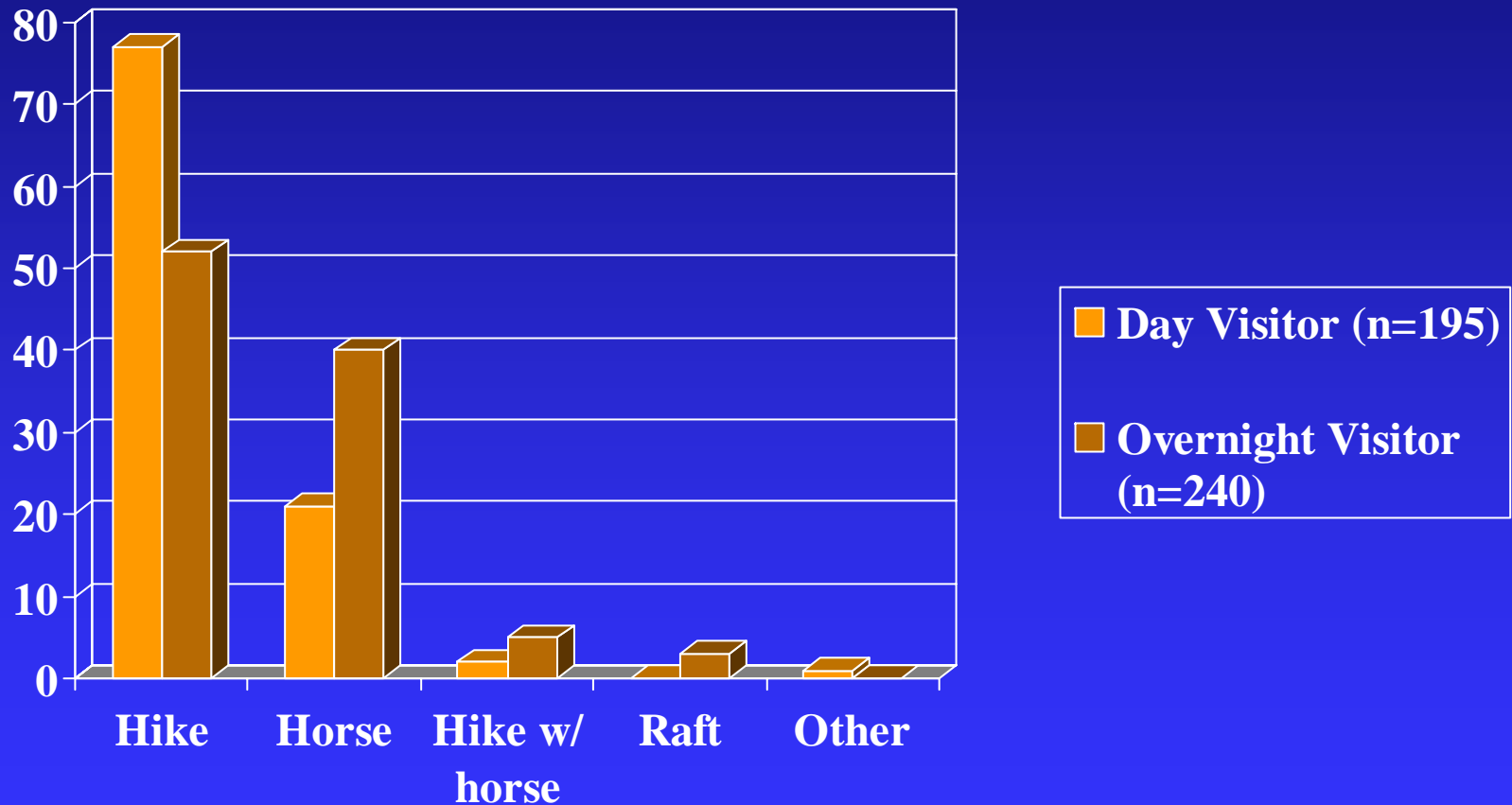
Visitor characteristics - education

Year	0-8	9-11	12	13-15	16 or more*	(17 or more)**
2003	1	4	15	19	60	(28)

Previous experience of outfitted and non-outfitted groups

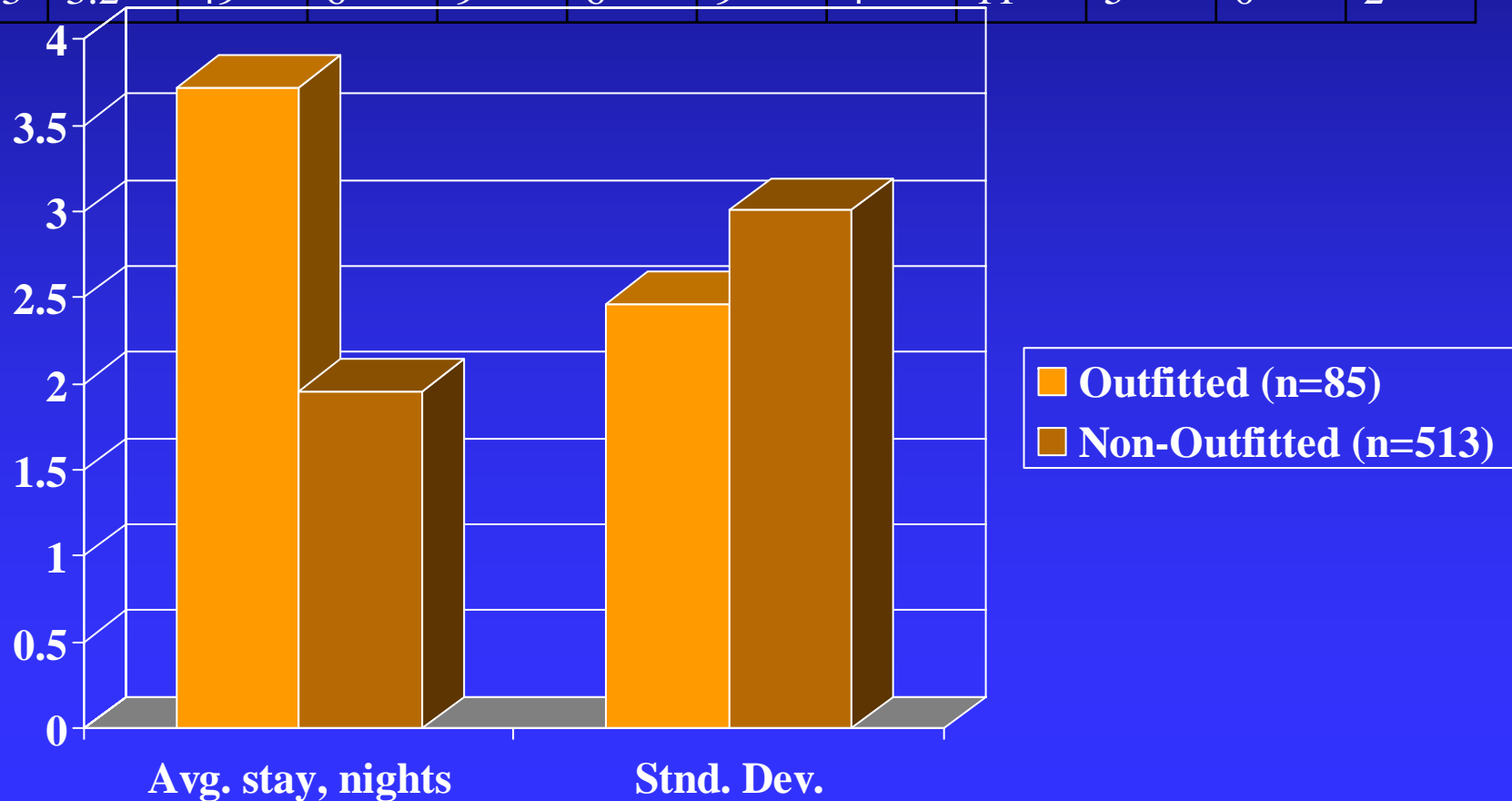


Visit Characteristics – method of travel

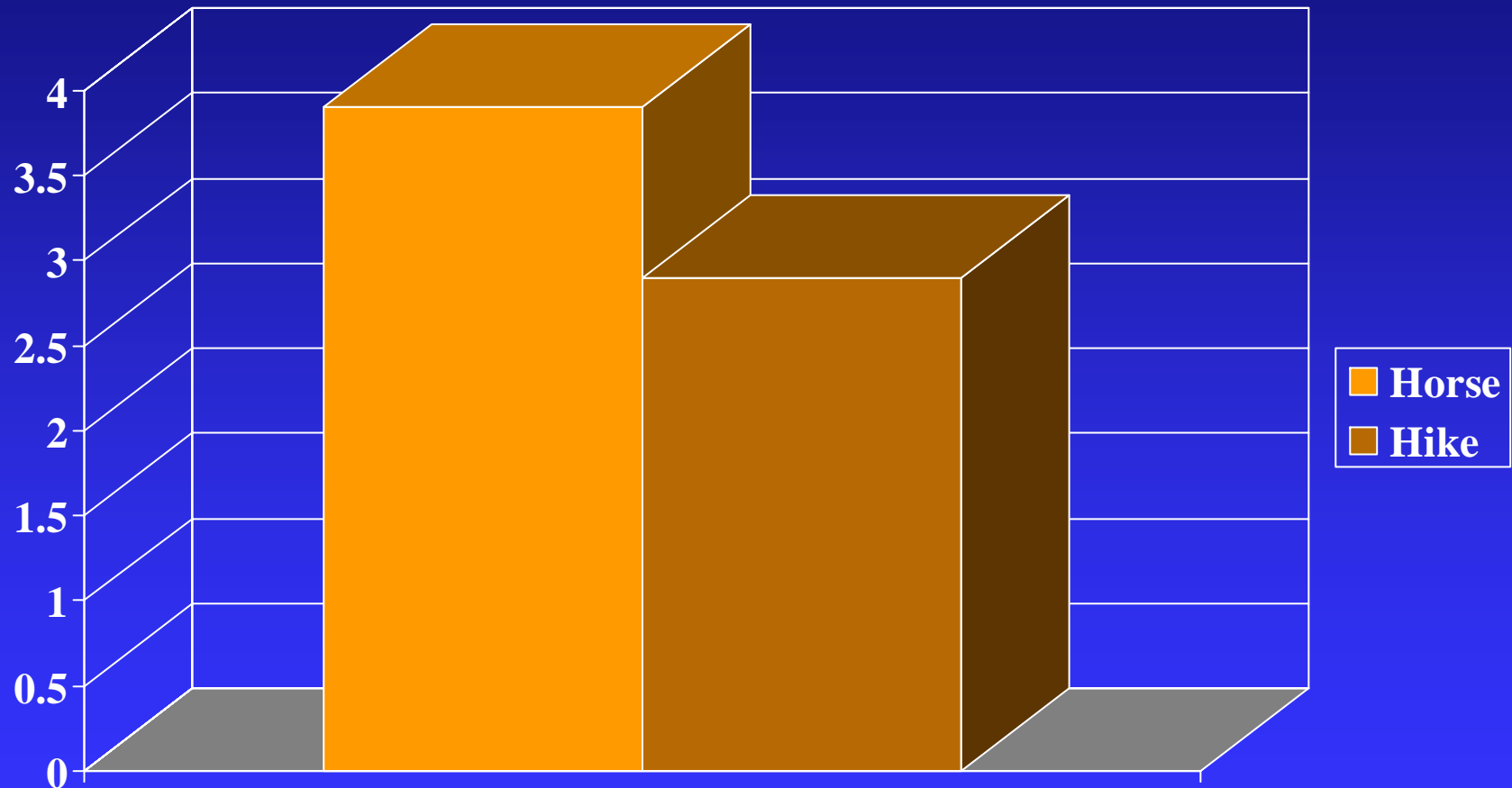


Visit characteristics – length of stay

Year	Avg. stay, days	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8-10	11-14	15+
2003	3.2	49	6	9	6	9	4	11	5	0	2



Visit characteristics – length of stay



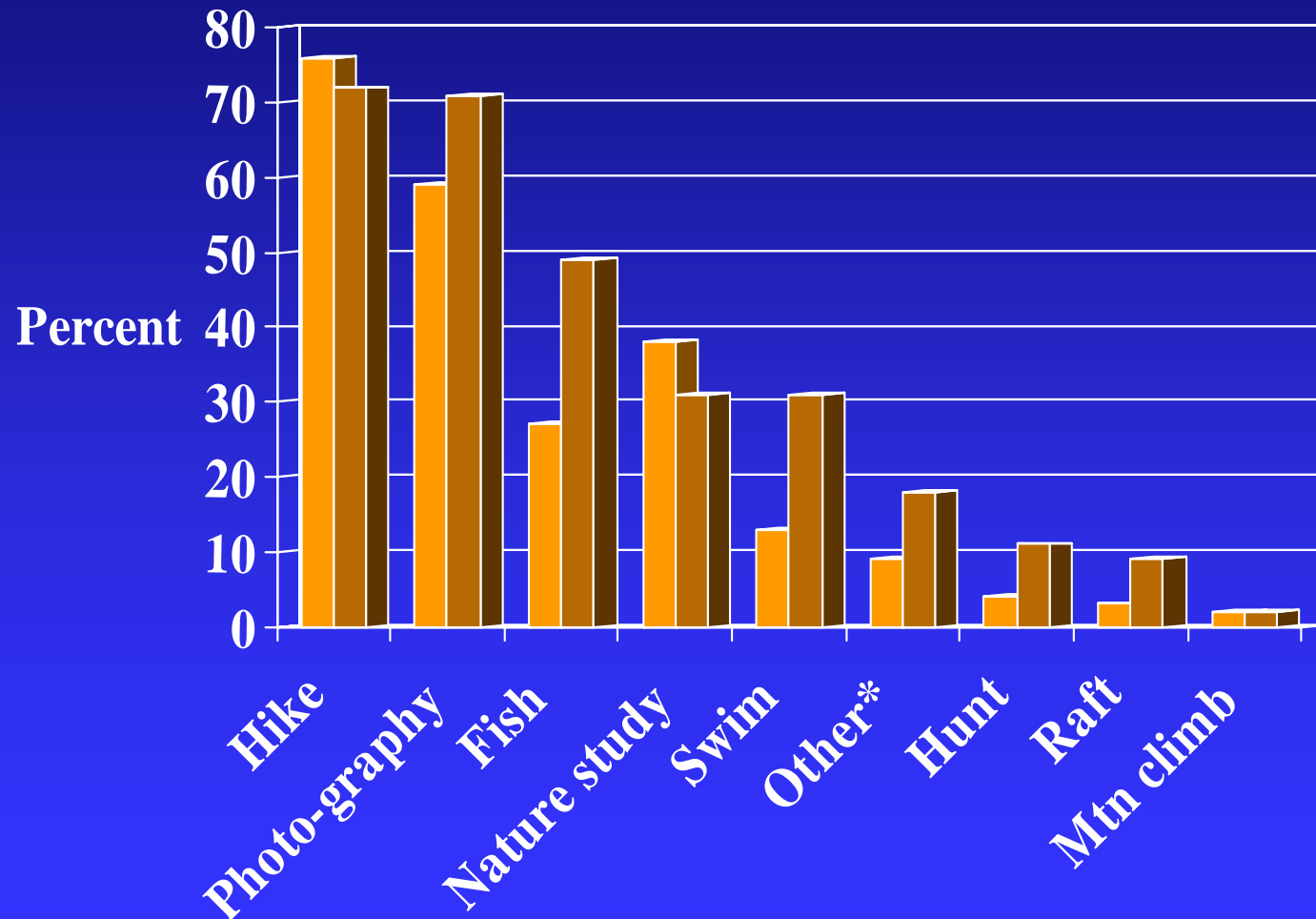
Visit characteristics – group size

Year	Avg. number of people per party	1	2-4	5-7	8-10	11-15	16-20	21+
2003	3.9	6	67	13	7	6	0	0

	Avg. number of people per party
Day Visitors (n=192)	3.2
Overnight Visitors (n=254)	5.2

	Avg. number of people per party
Outfitted visitors (n=55)	9.0
Non-outfitted visitors (n=391)	3.7

Activities of day and overnight visitors



Conditions Encountered

	<u>Average # of all types of groups encountered per day</u>	Std. Dev.	Avg. # of large groups (more than 10 people) encountered per day	Std. Dev.	<u>Avg. # of horse or livestock groups encountered per day</u>
Day Visitor	2.95 (n=193)	2.93	.152 (n=198)	.792	1.01 (n=198)
Overnight Visitor	1.2 (n=258)	1.46	.12 (n=258)	.254	.51 (n=253)

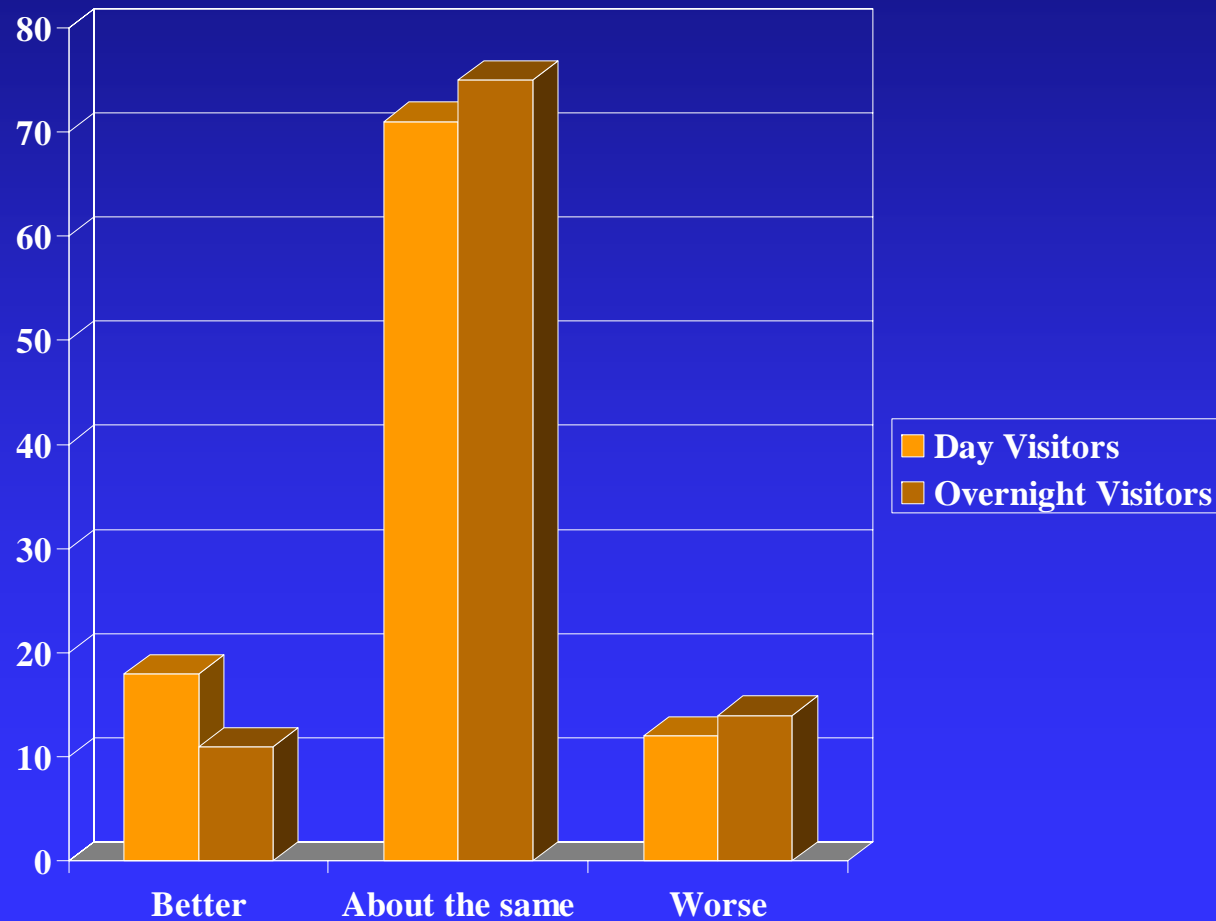
Conditions Encountered

	<u>Average # of all types of groups encountered per day</u>	Std. Dev.	Avg. # of large groups (more than 10 people) encountered per day	Std. Dev.
Summer	2.06 (n=361)	2.03	.127 (n=366)	.330
Fall	1.5 (n=90)	3.38	.16 (n=90)	1.06

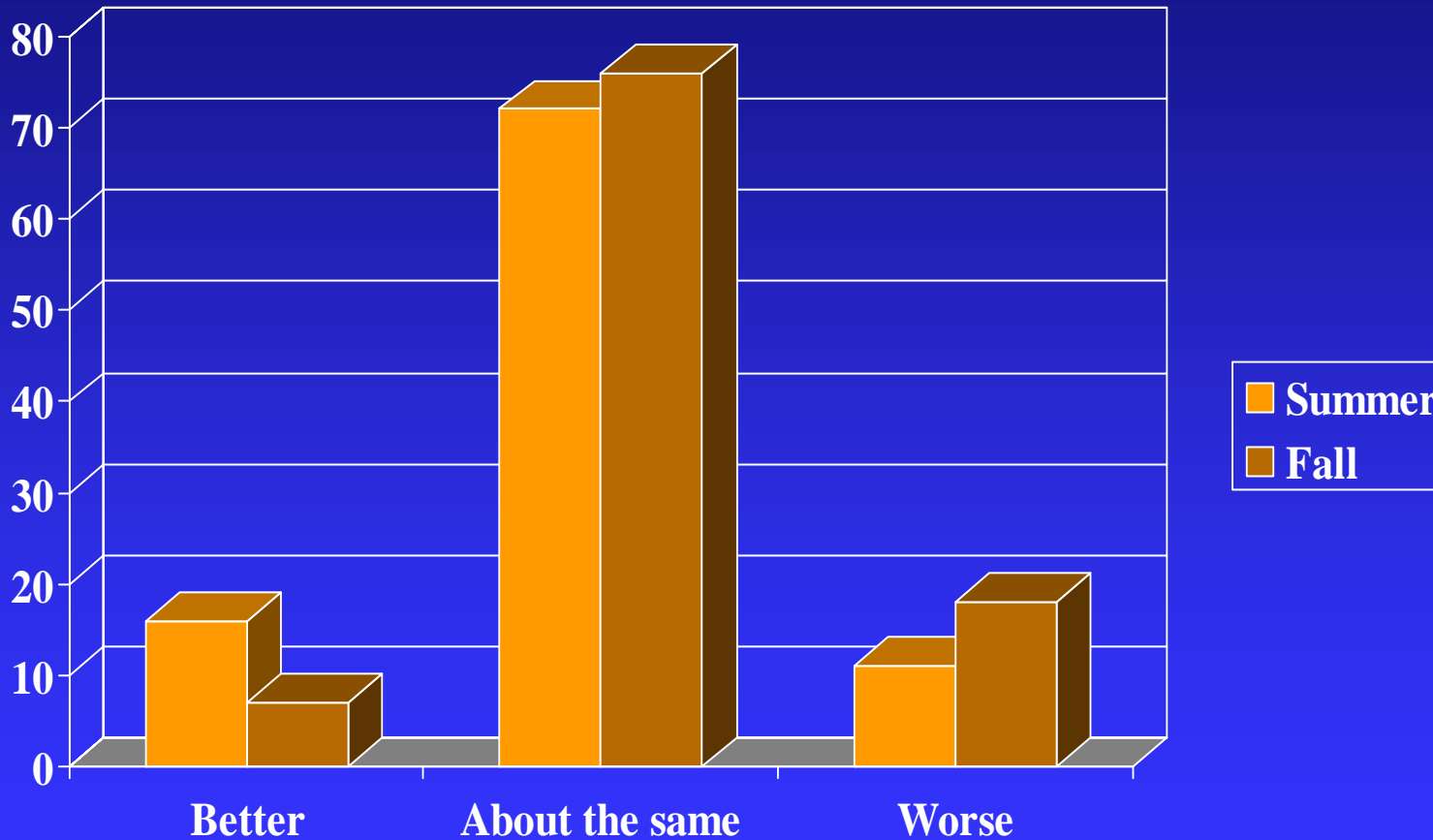
Visitor evaluations – area quality

Year	Better	About the same	Worse
2003	14	73	13

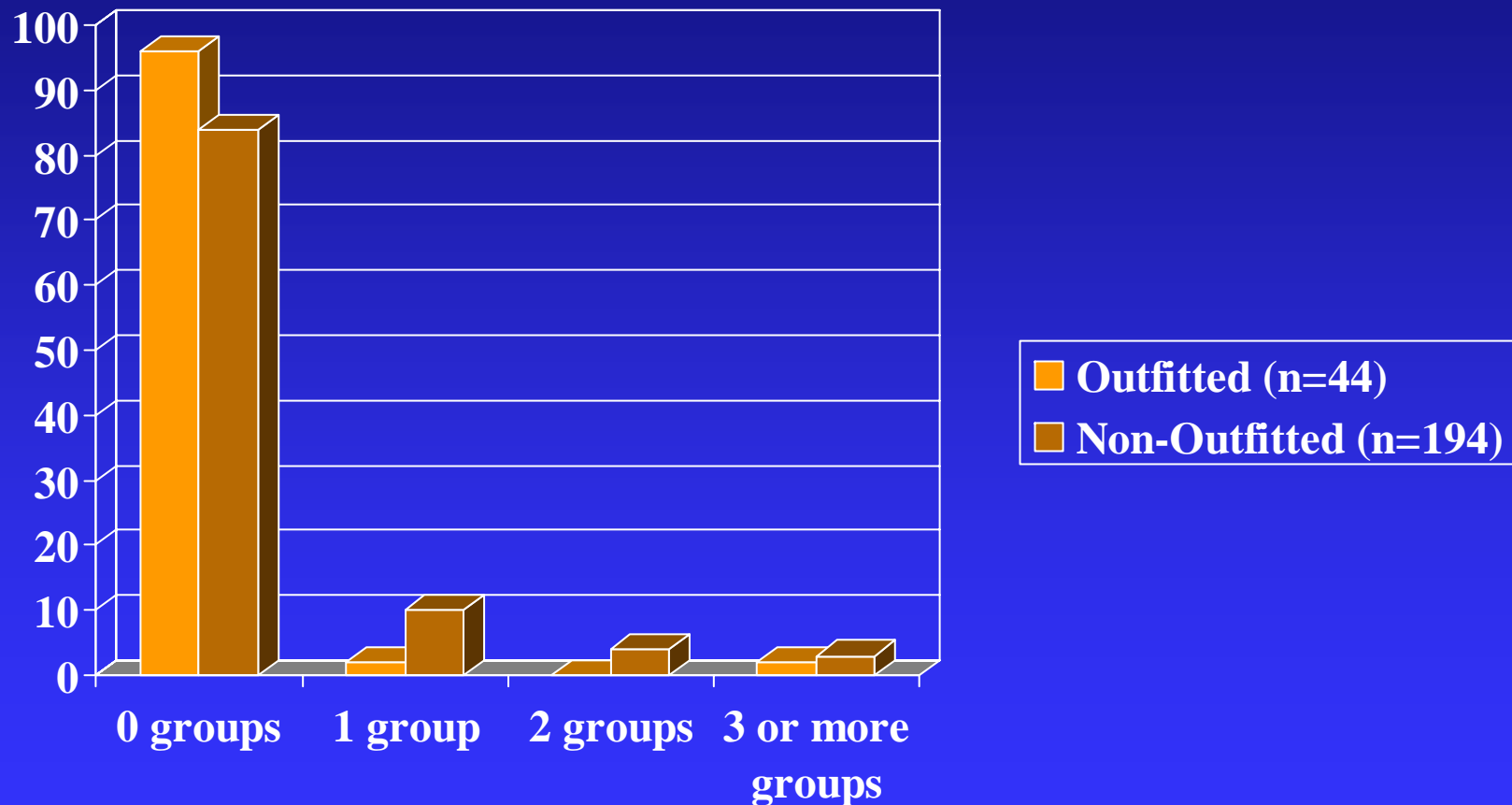
Evaluation by Type of Visitor



Evaluation by Season of Visit



Preferred Number of Groups Camped within Sight or Sound



Trail Management Preferences

	Desirable	Don't care
High Standard Trails	35.7	18.4
Low Standard Trails	45.9	29.2
Some Areas with No Trails	62	16
A Few Trees Across Trails	13.8	52.7
Bridges for Hikers	22.7	25
Bridges at Dangerous Crossings	54.2	5.3
Clear Trails w/ Chainsaw	30.7	26.4
Remove Fire Rings	61.2	18

Campsite Management Preferences

	Desirable	Don't care
Outhouses	14.3	20.7
Cement Fireplaces	7.2	14.8
Rock Fireplaces	40.2	29.2
Lightning Caused Fires	49.3	22.2
Campsite Corrals	25.3	33.4
Horse Closures	49.8	15
No Wood Fires	52.9	19.8
Picnic Tables	14.2	23.1

Visitor Management Preferences

	Desirable	Don't care
Limiting Visitor Numbers	68.5	7.6
Stop Grazing	31	26.8
Visitor Registration	37.4	33.2
Limit Groups to 12	61.1	19.9
No Camping w/ 200 ft	32.7	7.5
Campsite Assignment	7.4	13.2

