*Summary of Visitor Use Estimation Techniques

Technique	User Characteristics[a]	Visitor Burden	Management Costs	Accuracy
External visual observation	1, 2, 3, 5	None	High	Variable
Stationary internal observation	1, 2, 3, 5, 6	None	Variable	Variable
Roaming internal observation	1, 2, 3, 5, 6	None	Low	Low
Mechanical counters	1, 6	None	High	High
Registration	All	Low	Moderate	Variable
Permits	All	Moderate to high	Variable	High
Surveys	All	Moderate	High	Variable
Indirect observation	1, 5	High to low	High to low	Variable
Aerial surveys	1, 2?, 3?, 5?, 6?	High	High	?

*Table 1, page 20 in *Wilderness Recreation Use Estimation: A Handbook of Methods and Systems.*

[a]Specific use characteristics are indicated as follows: 1 = Individual/group counts; 2 = Group size; 3 = Method of travel; 4 = Length of stay; 5 = Activity type; 6 = Use patterns; 7 = Nonobservable characteristics (sociodemographics, attitudes, experiences, etc.); ? = Unkown