

Folsom Lake State Recreation Area User Survey

Unofficial survey summary prepared by FOLFAN

When Conducted

A total of 775 user surveys were conducted by California State Parks staff at various locations within the Folsom Lake SRA between March 2013 and February 2014. The surveys were intended to inform the development of a Road and Trail Management Plan for the Folsom Lake State Recreation Area (SRA).

Notes:

1. This survey did not include users of the Folsom Powerhouse State Historic Park.
2. The survey did not attempt to capture information from SRA users who were under 18 years of age – unless they were accompanied by an adult. The survey results, therefore, undercount high school-age children who use the SRA.
3. This survey summary was prepared by FOLFAN's Trails Coordinator (Jim Cassio) based on an 82-page survey report prepared by California State Parks and does not reflect official survey results.

Demographics of Survey Respondents

Residence:

61% were from Sacramento County.
23% were from Placer County.
12% were from El Dorado County.

Age:

28% were between 45-54 years of age.
26% were between 55-64 years of age.
17% were between 35-44 years of age.
15% were 65 years of age or older.
10% were between 25-34 years of age.
3% were between 18-24 years of age.

In summary, the survey shows that Folsom Lake SRA users are predominantly from the region that surrounds the SRA, with very few out-of-area visitors or tourists. Age-wise, more than half of the survey respondents (54%) are between 45 and 64 years of age, and 71% are between 35 and 64 years of age. Basically, the survey results suggest that this is a Baby Boomer park with a relatively small percentage of young adult users. However, this survey does not tell us how many children are among the SRA's users.

Size of Group When Visiting

48% are typically accompanied by 1-2 other individuals.
26% are typically accompanied by 0 other individuals.
18% are typically accompanied by 3-5 other individuals.

Frequency of Use

54% visit/use the SRA two or more times/week.
20% visit/use the SRA once/week.
16% visit/use the SRA one or two times/month.
11% visit/use the SRA two to five times/year.

How they Access or Enter the SRA

37% by bicycle
31% by vehicle
27% on foot

Where they Access or Enter the SRA

25% access the SRA from trails outside the SRA.
20% access the SRA from Granite Bay.
10% access the SRA from Nimbus Flat.
6% access the SRA from Beals Point.
5% access the SRA from Willow Creek at Lake Natoma.
5% access the SRA from Browns Ravine.
3% access the SRA from Negro Bar at Lake Natoma.
The remaining 26% access the SRA from a variety of other locations.

Primary Activity when using the SRA

28% Hike/walk
25% Ride road bike
19% Ride mountain bike
17% Run
9% Ride horse

Primary Interest when using the SRA

71% Fitness
18% Recreation
4% Nature/wildlife

Note: Survey respondents were only allowed to select one primary interest. The survey results, therefore, likely don't reflect the multiple reasons that people may have for using the SRA.

Satisfied with Recreational Opportunities at SRA? (Based on those who responded with a Yes or No)

96% said YES regarding Hiking/Walking Activities.
95% said YES regarding Running Activities.
94% said YES regarding Accessing the Lake/Shoreline.
91% said YES regarding Road Biking Activities.
89% said YES regarding Equestrian Activities.
75% said YES regarding Mountain Biking Activities.

Highest Priority for Improving the SRA

27% Better trail maintenance and repair.
14% Better trail signage and information.
12% More multi-use trails.
9% More loop trails greater than 2 miles.
7% More single-use trails.

Other Comments

Most were centered on the need for improved signage and trail maintenance, the need for more water fountains (especially at trailheads), and improved trail etiquette.

