

**VISITOR EXPERIENCES AND VISITOR USE LEVELS  
AT THE DYEA AREA OF  
KLONDIKE GOLD RUSH NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK**

MARK E. VANDE KAMP  
ERIN SEEKAMP

Technical Report NPS/PWR/UW/NRTR-2006-01  
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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The University of Washington Protected Area Social Research Unit administered this project. It was proposed and funded by Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park (KLGO) through the NPS *Natural Resources Challenge*, a new effort to increase the research base supporting park management. The general purpose of the project was to collect visitor information beneficial to the development of a management plan for the Dyea area of KLGO.

### 1.1 Description of Dyea

Dyea (pronounced “DIE-ee”) is an abandoned town site located on the Taiya inlet at the base of the Chilkoot Trail (see Figure 1). The Chilkoot Trail was a trade and travel route used for hundreds of years by the coastal Tlingits and Interior Athabascan peoples. It was opened to whites in 1880 and by 1895 by 1895 a thousand prospectors per year were hiking over the Chilkoot Pass. At its height during the gold rush, Dyea was home to as many as 8,000 people but the completion of the railroad from Skagway over White Pass doomed the town. By 1903 Dyea had only three residents (NPS 2003).

Currently, visitation in the Dyea area is focused on five primary attractions (counter-clockwise from the lower-right of the map), 1) the campground and day-use area, 2) the Chilkoot Trailhead, 3) the Slide Cemetery where many victims of a deadly 1898 avalanche are buried, 4) the abandoned town-site where the forest is rapidly reclaiming the land but artifacts of the gold rush town can still be seen, and 5) the Dyea Flats – an open area where glacial rebound has lifted the former tide flats above high water. Unlike the other four sites, the Flats are not managed by KLGO.

### 1.2 The Management Plan

KLGO managers are developing a management plan for the Dyea area. All such management plans for units managed by the National Park Service must by law address the issue of carrying capacity. Carrying capacity is a specification of the types and levels of visitor use that can be accommodated while maintaining social and resource conditions consistent with the purposes of the park and its mission goals. The term “carrying capacity”

generally refers to the amount of use a resource can sustain given a set of objectives.<sup>1</sup> Several conceptual frameworks that address visitor carrying capacity have evolved over time (Cole and Stankey 1997). These frameworks recognize that all resource use creates change. The challenge to managers lies in defining the limits of acceptable change – the balance between protection of park resources (biological, geological, experiential, etc.) and access to those resources for recreational use (Cole and McCool 1997). The Visitor Experience and Resource Protection (VERP) planning framework is generally used to address carrying capacities in national parks and to produce effective management plans.

---

<sup>1</sup> Two unfortunate implications of the term “carrying capacity” are: 1) that limiting visitor use is the only way to meet standards of quality (Manning 1999), and 2) that there is some absolute definition of “carrying capacity” that can be measured empirically rather than negotiated in a social process. Researchers and managers concerned with issues related to visitor use levels have recognized these problems and have moved to more sophisticated conceptual frameworks with other labels. Accordingly, herein we use the term “carrying capacity” sparingly, and primarily in deference to its legal status.

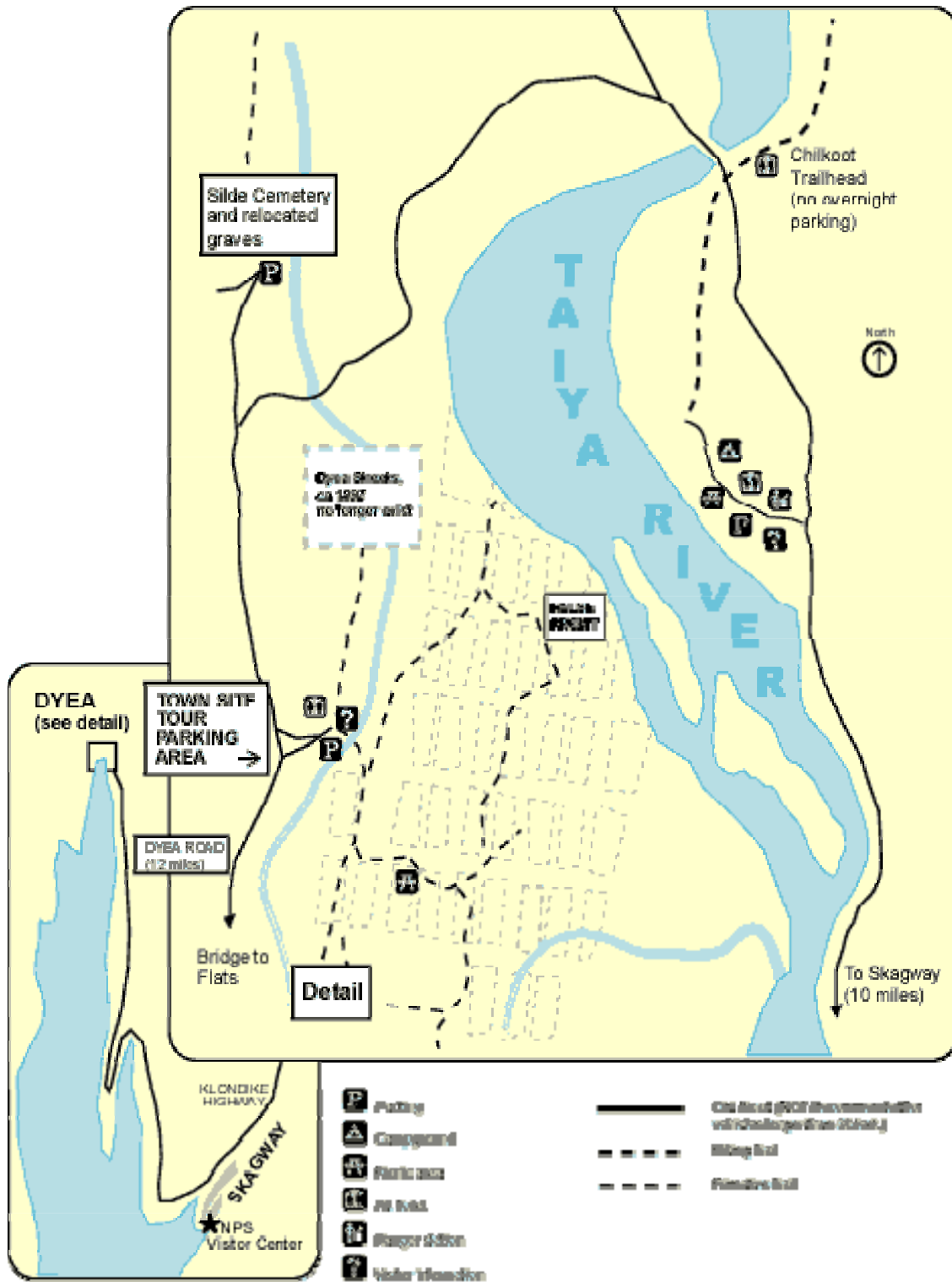


Figure 1.1. Map of Dyea and surrounding area.

### **1.3 Visitor Experience and Resource Protection**

The VERP framework being applied at KLGO is similar to the Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) process that has been used in many Forest Service areas. At the top level of the framework, guiding all action in the area under consideration, is a vision of: a) resource integrity (for both natural and cultural resources), b) provisions for visitor use, and c) opportunities for high quality visitor experiences. Materials articulating this vision will be brought together and used in developing the management plan for Dyea.

The next level in the VERP planning framework is an inventory of the area's resources and visitor uses. Natural and cultural resources play a major role in determining the type and level of visitor use that can be accommodated in the area. Conversely, the type and level of visitor use determine the type and level of impact on the area's resources. This report describes an inventory of visitor use in the Dyea area of KLGO. Along with the vision developed at the top level of the VERP planning framework, and the inventory of resources also occurring at the second stage, this research will help KLGO managers develop an effective management plan.

### **1.4 Two Project Components to Inventory Visitor Use in the Dyea Area**

Prior to this work, no studies of visitor use focused specifically on the Dyea area and only a little information was available from studies of general KLGO visitors or Chilkoot Trail hikers. Thus, this project was designed to provide very basic information about visitor use. It focused on two different types of information that were collected using very different methods.

The first research component described the range of experiences that current visitors seek and obtain in the Dyea area. This component used semi-structured interviews and was intended to describe the "conceptual space" of visitor experiences and to provide general information concerning the prevalence of those experiences (rather than precise numeric estimates). It will be referred to as the Dyea qualitative study. This project component and its results are described in detail in Chapter 2 of this report.

The second research component described the level of visitation and provided some basic information about visitation patterns. It will be referred to as the Dyea quantitative use study. This project component and its results are described in detail in Chapter 3 of this report.



## **2. THE QUALITATIVE STUDY OF DYEAL EXPERIENCES**

This study had two primary goals; the first was to describe the types of experiences that visitors sought and obtained in the Dyeal area during the summer of 2004. Such information does not dictate the types of experiences managers should provide but can show whether visitors agree with managers concerning the significance and purpose of the area. For example, interviews explored the degree to which the cultural history of Dyeal was important to current visitors, and asked whether visitors' reasons for visiting focused on the cultural history or natural features of the area. This information might be used to assess the consistency between current visitor use and the desired conditions proposed by managers planning the future management of Dyeal.

The second primary goal was to identify and/or explore issues that might be addressed in the planning process. A variety of questions were used to address this goal, including questions about, a) encounters with other visitors, b) the information available about Dyeal, and c) reactions to possible changes in area management. One of the specific issues of concern to managers was the relocation of the campground. Interviews with campground users asked about characteristics of the campground that they most liked and disliked. This information should be helpful in deciding where to relocate the campground.

### **2.1 Methods of the Qualitative Use Study**

The study employed semi-structured interviews that were conducted orally by a trained interviewer. The interview consisted primarily of open-ended questions that encouraged respondents to discuss opinions or experiences that may have been complex. Such methods are qualitative because they describe the range of opinions or experiences present in a population. In contrast, a quantitative survey would provide specific estimates of the number of visitors with particular opinions or experiences.

Qualitative interviews were chosen to address managers' questions about Dyeal (e.g., "What do visitors see as the 'Dyeal experience'?") because it is difficult to answer such questions by asking visitors anything other than open-ended questions. We could have constructed closed-ended questions for use in a mail survey or other quantitative study but existing information was not sufficient to support confidence in their results (e.g., it was possible that different visitor groups might have complex and unique experiences that we did

not anticipate or understand). To be effective, a closed-ended question such as, "Please circle the listed factors that are special to you about the Dyea area" requires a list including all the common factors, and ideally, the less common factors as well. If it does not, it is likely to limit or bias responses. Open-ended questions were required in order to be confident that respondents could fully describe the experiences they sought and obtained in Dyea.

**2.1.1 The Population Surveyed**

The respondent universe consisted of visitors to the Dyea town site at Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park. Visitor contacts and interviews took place during a 5-day period from May 21-25, 2004 and during a 10-day period from July 17-26, 2004. The first survey period was selected to take place during a Canadian national holiday when the campground is filled to capacity, with many groups from Whitehorse, Yukon. In other respects, the visitors present during the survey periods were expected to represent the population of Dyea visitors across the 2004 season when cruise ships brought tourists to Skagway.

A trained interviewer contacted a sample of adult visitor groups at nine sites in Dyea and Skagway. Table 2.1 shows the number of interviews conducted at each site.

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Table 2.1: Interviews Conducted at Specific Sites

| Interview Area                     | # of Interviews |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Campground                         | 21              |
| Chilkoot Trail                     | 18              |
| Cruise Ship Dock (Horseback Tours) | 6               |
| Dyea Flats                         | 1               |
| Dyea Town Site                     | 17              |
| Picnic Area                        | 1               |
| Raft Takeout (Hike & Float Tours)  | 9               |
| Slide Cemetery                     | 12              |
| Sockeye Cycles (Bicycle Tours)     | 5               |

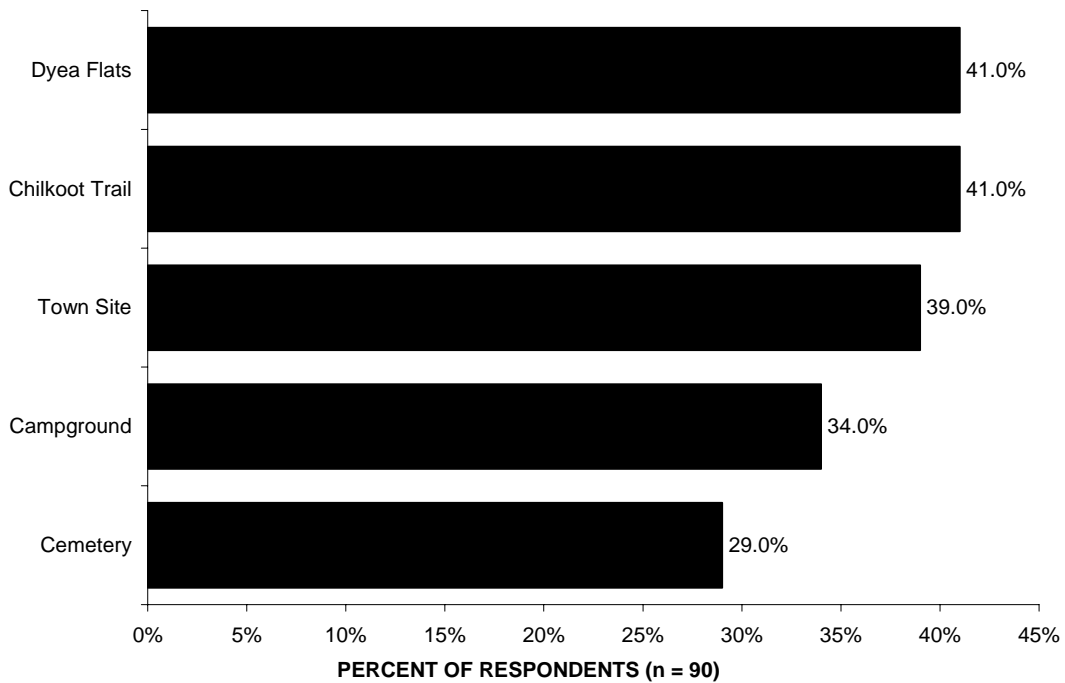
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|                  |    |
|------------------|----|
| Total Interviews | 90 |
|------------------|----|

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Responding groups were asked to name the sites in Dyea that they had visited before they were contacted. Figure 2.1 shows that at least 29 percent had visited each of the five sites that were the focus of study at Dyea. The interviewer also asked the number of sites they planned to visit. The total number of intended and actual visits to sites ranged from one to five. These results differ from the numbers observed in the survey card study (see Section 3.6.2, Figure 3.47 for the survey card estimates of visited sites).

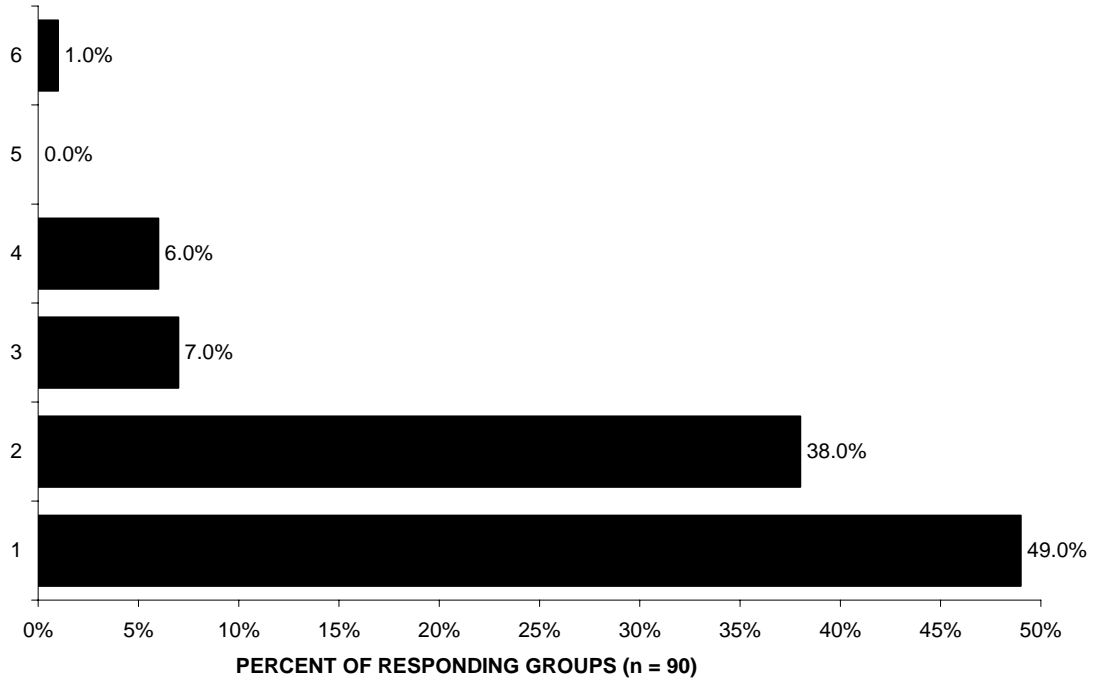
**FIGURE 2.1: RESPONDING GROUPS VISITING OR PLANNING VISITS TO DYEA SITES**



Within the contacted groups, 51% of the persons participating in the interview were male.

The number of active respondents for each interview varied from one person to six people (see Figure 2.2; Note that group members who did not participate in the interviews are not included in this chart).

FIGURE 2.2: NUMBER OF INTERVIEW PARTICIPANTS IN RESPONDING GROUPS



Clients of commercial tours made up 22 percent of responding groups (see Figure 2.3).

FIGURE 2.3: VISIT TYPE OF RESPONDING GROUPS

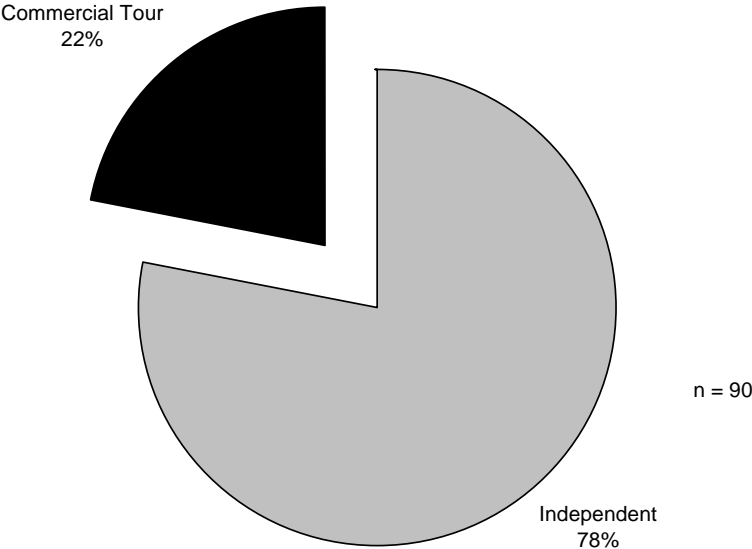


Figure 2.4 shows the commercial outfitters used by responding groups of commercial tour clients

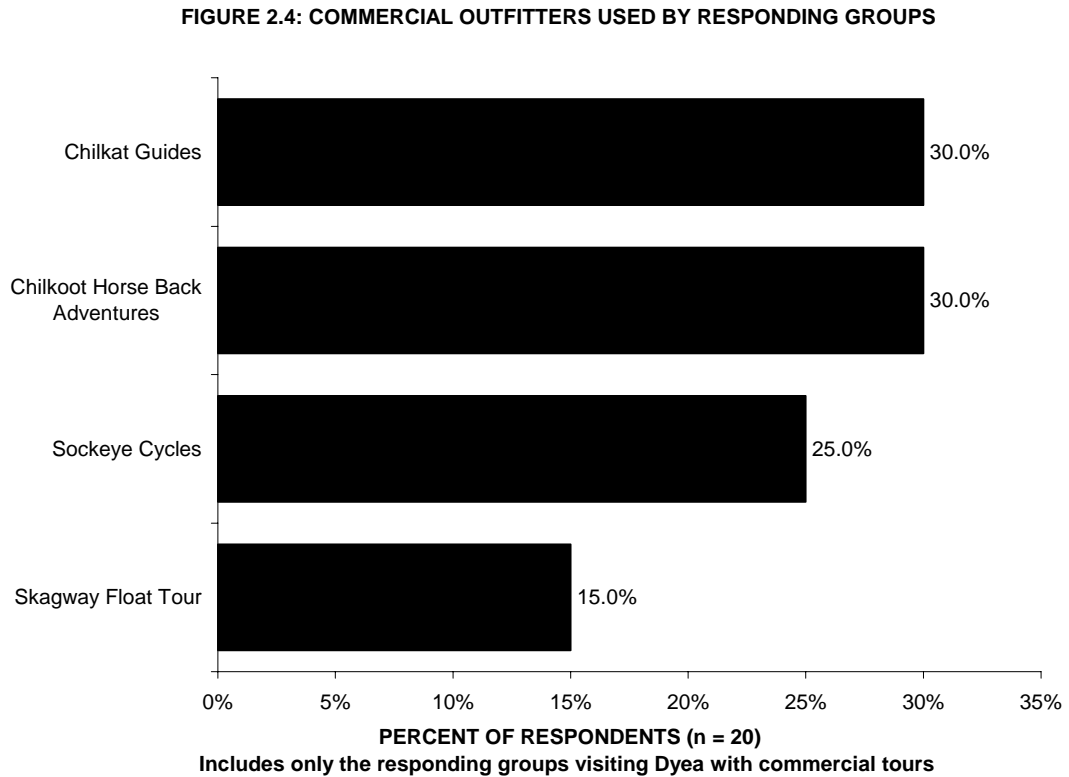


Table 2.2 shows the different residences of respondents. Note that the large number of respondents from Whitehorse (all 20 respondents from the Yukon Territory were residents of Whitehorse) results primarily from their majority status in the early sampling period. Whitehorse residents made up 50 percent of responding groups in May but only 11 percent in July.

Table 2.2: Respondents' Area of Residence by State, Province, or Country

N = 87 interviewed groups – three groups included respondents from two residence areas (90 residences represented).

| State          | # Groups | Province              | # Groups | Country     | # Groups |
|----------------|----------|-----------------------|----------|-------------|----------|
| Alaska         | 7        | Alberta               | 5        | Bahamas     | 1        |
| Arkansas       | 1        | British Columbia      | 4        | England     | 3        |
| California     | 9        | New Brunswick         | 1        | Germany     | 1        |
| Colorado       | 1        | Ontario               | 5        | Netherlands | 1        |
| Connecticut    | 1        | Yukon<br>(Whitehorse) | 20       | Switzerland | 1        |
| Florida        | 1        |                       |          |             |          |
| Georgia        | 1        |                       |          |             |          |
| Hawaii         | 1        |                       |          |             |          |
| Iowa           | 1        |                       |          |             |          |
| Kansas         | 2        |                       |          |             |          |
| Maryland       | 1        |                       |          |             |          |
| Massachusetts  | 1        |                       |          |             |          |
| Michigan       | 1        |                       |          |             |          |
| Minnesota      | 2        |                       |          |             |          |
| Mississippi    | 1        |                       |          |             |          |
| Montana        | 1        |                       |          |             |          |
| Nevada         | 1        |                       |          |             |          |
| New Jersey     | 1        |                       |          |             |          |
| North Carolina | 1        |                       |          |             |          |
| Ohio           | 2        |                       |          |             |          |
| Oklahoma       | 2        |                       |          |             |          |
| Oregon         | 1        |                       |          |             |          |
| South Dakota   | 1        |                       |          |             |          |
| Texas          | 1        |                       |          |             |          |
| Utah           | 1        |                       |          |             |          |
| Washington     | 4        |                       |          |             |          |
| Wisconsin      | 1        |                       |          |             |          |
| Total US       | 48       | Total Canada          | 35       | Total Other | 7        |

## **2.1.2 The Survey Procedure**

### **Selecting Blocks of Time to Conduct Surveys**

During the days when the survey worker was in Dyea, interviews at the different interview sites were conducted during selected blocks of time. The selection of times was made using random and stratified sampling strategies in order to represent a range of conditions that might affect visitor responses (i.e., periods of low and high visitor use, days of low and high visitation from cruise ships, and occurrence of the Canadian national holiday). Because the goal of this survey was to describe the range of experiences visitors sought and obtained in the Dyea area rather than to create quantitative estimates of the prevalence of those experiences, sampling at the various sites was adjusted during each study period to collect more information at the sites where visitor experiences were most complex and/or heterogeneous.

### **Contacting Visitors**

When the survey worker first approached visitors she briefly explained the study and asked if visitors would participate. Because the study was conducted through a cooperative agreement with the University of Washington, OMB compliance information was presented as part of a consent form required by the university. The consent form included, a) investigators' contact information, b) a research statement, c) the research purpose and benefits, d) the procedures (e.g., the interviews would be tape-recorded), e) the associated risks, stress and discomforts, f) a confidentiality statement, g) a voluntary participation request, and h) OMB compliance information (see Appendix B). The respondent was asked to sign the form (in duplicate if the respondent wished to keep a copy). In addition, the surveyor verbally reiterated the voluntary and confidential nature of the interview process, and told the respondents they could decline to answer questions or stop the interview at any time. For visitor groups who refused to participate the surveyor recorded the date, time, group size, site of contact, sex of the visitor(s), and reasons for nonparticipation (see Section 2.1.4 Nonresponse below).

Once informed consent was obtained, all group members were invited to participate in the interview. Interviews were generally conducted as described in the semi-structured interview guide (see Section 2.1.3 The Survey Instrument below). However, in order to

maximize the effectiveness of the qualitative interviews, questions were not always asked with the same phrasing and/or ordering. All interviews were tape-recorded and notes were kept regarding, a) visitor demographics, b) evaluations of Dyea services, c) perceptions of park experiences, and d) opinions concerning park management themes.

The survey worker conducted as many interviews as possible during the selected blocks of time. After completing an interview, the next party to arrive was asked to participate. Visitors passing by while the surveyor was conducting an interview were not stopped.

### **2.1.3 The Survey Instrument**

The semi-structured interview guide was developed based on a list of questions proposed by Protected Area Social Research Unit (PASRU) staff and by park managers. The format was modeled upon interview guides used by PASRU in prior studies of national park visitors. Park managers reviewed the final survey instrument and methods.

The interview guide (see Appendix C) can be thought of as having three sections, 1) contact and obtaining informed consent, 2) structured demographic and trip-related questions, and 3) open-ended questions concerning the “Dyea experience”. In the last section, not all respondents were asked the same questions – some questions applied only to campground users or Chilkoot Trail hikers, and the semi-structured format sometimes made other questions unnecessary.

### **2.1.4 Nonresponse**

Of the 115 visitor groups (208 individuals) who were asked to participate in the survey, 90 groups (78%) agreed to interviews. From those 90 groups, 156 individuals participated in the interviews. The reasons groups gave for refusal included, a) non-interest, b) time restraints, c) insufficient experience in Dyea, d) language barriers, e) inclement weather, and f) unwillingness to sign the consent form.

The potential for nonresponse bias was assessed using statistical comparisons between the groups who participated and those who refused. The groups were compared on the basis of, 1) the location where they were contacted, 2) the survey period when they were contacted (May vs. July), 3) the weather when they were contacted, the proportion of the group that was female, and the number of persons in the group. No statistically significant

differences were found in any of these comparisons. In terms of nonresponse bias, these results are reassuring, but cannot rule out the possibility of biases on factors that were unrelated to the comparisons above.

### **2.1.5 Analysis and Reporting**

The primary goal of the interview analysis was to describe the full “conceptual space” of visitor experiences at Dyea. In addition, the analysis sought to explore issues and potential management changes that might be discussed in the planning process. The tape-recorded interviews were transcribed and coded.<sup>2</sup> The list of codes can be found in Appendix D. Inter-rater reliability was good, with 92 percent consistency in coding the transcripts. As might be expected, the codes followed quite closely from the interview questions.

The results of the qualitative study are presented in two separate reports. The first, and primary, report is organized around the survey goals; it presents information synthesized across interview questions and response themes. Illustrative quotes from the interviews are used throughout this report, but much of the diversity and flavor of the interview responses cannot be represented while keeping the report to a reasonable length. Thus, a secondary report is included in Appendix A. This detailed report of coded responses is organized in a manner similar to the summary report, but includes extensive listings of visitor responses to the specific interview questions. These transcripts are intended to inform management and planning in the Dyea Area of KLGO by providing a rich, textual understanding of visitors’: a) evaluations of park services; b) perceptions of their park experiences; and c) opinions regarding current and potential park management.

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<sup>2</sup> Three interviews were only coded for the structured component of the interview because the audio-taped conversations were lost due to technical difficulties during recording. The notes that were taken during these interviews can be found in *Appendix E*.

## 2.2 Summary Report of the “Dyea Experience”

As in most protected areas, there is no single “Dyea experience” that represents all visitors. The Dyea area has multiple sites that are used for a variety of activities by visitors from all over the world. Thus, in some real ways, the experience of every visitor is unique. Nonetheless, some level of generalization is reasonable, useful, and necessary, in order to understand and manage the area.

### 2.2.1 Dyea as a Setting for Specific Activities

When asked about the activities in which they participated during their visit to Dyea, respondents commonly reported that they had been hiking, camping, walking, “driving around”, bicycling, riding horses, rafting, and attending the ranger-led walk. When seeking to understand the “Dyea experience” it is important to understand whether visitors chose to engage in activities that just happened to occur in Dyea, or whether the unique features of the setting (i.e., the Dyea area) were an important factor in the experience. The importance of the setting varied for different respondents. Most often, the cultural history of Dyea varied in its relevance to respondents.

#### The Features of Dyea Were Not Important

A few visitors gave responses indicating that some or all of the unique features of the Dyea area were of relatively little importance to them. For example, these responses illustrate the perspective of a few campers:

Q: *“So your primary reason for coming out here was to go camping?”*

R48: *“Yes, well we arrived in Skagway on the Ferry yesterday and we just needed to camp and this seemed to be a good place to camp since we had tried it last year, so that is what we did.”*

Q: *“Was the area’s cultural history important to your visit?”*

R48: *“No, the cultural history probably wasn’t at all important. What was really important was the campground, I guess.”*

Q: *“Was the area’s natural setting important to your visit to this campground?”*

R48: *“No. Mainly that it was just a campground and it was economical too because there are campgrounds in town too but they are more money. So since we had a vehicle it was easy to drive here.” [7.20.04; 9:00; Campground, 1: Male]*

Q: *“What do you think is special or unique about this area?”*

R81: *“For us, it is a lot warmer than Whitehorse. It’s got the ocean, big*

*trees. Spring comes here earlier than Whitehorse so we often come down in May. We like the campsites. There's a lot of... it's a nice campground. We love this campground."*

Q: *"So it sounds like what I've heard from you is that the naturalness of the area is why you decided to come here more than the cultural history?"*

R81: *"Right. We've grown up with the cultural history... for us."*

Q: *"But you see the cultural history as important for other visitors."*

R81: *"Oh yes! We've done the Chilkoot many times and we hope to do it again next year. It may be our last hurrah." [7.25.04; 9:35 am; Campground; 4: Females]*

Similarly, the activity rather than the setting was the primary motivation for a few clients of commercial tours:

Q: *"What was your primary reason for visiting Dyea?"*

R69: *"The bikes went there."*

Q: *"So you wanted to go for a bike ride?"*

R69: *"We wanted to go for a bike ride and look at stuff and see animals, so we did." [7.22.04; 2:30 p.m.; Sockeye Cycles shop; 2: Male/Female]*

Even among Chilkoot Trail hikers, some respondents seemed to be motivated primarily by factors other than the unique features of the area:

Q: *"So are you just going to be hiking on the Chilkoot Trail during your trip?"*

R55: *"Yes, going all the way through."*

Q: *"What was your most important reason to hike the Chilkoot Trail?"*

R55: *"Skip work [laughter] and check the box."*

Q: *"So, this was just something that you had to do."*

R55: *"Yup."*

Q: *"Was the area's cultural history important to your visit?"*

R55: *"It is. We like to learn about it and see it."*

Q: *"Was the area's natural history important to your visit?"*

R55: *"That's good, yup."*

Q: *"Was either one of those more important to your visit?"*

R55: *"Nope. It's just a 4-day hike that is just what it is to me. For me it is just proving that I can do it." [7.20.04; 3:00 p.m.; Chilkoot Trail (thru-hikers, .6 miles); 2: Male/Male]*

### **The Features of Dyea Became Important**

Although these responses show that a few visitors were focused primarily on the

activity rather than the setting, high appreciation of both the natural and historic features of the Dyea area was more common, even among respondents who were originally unaware of those features. For example, the features of Dyea became important to these groups of horse riders:

Q: *“You mentioned that the area’s cultural history was important to your visit, is that the main reason why you took the tour?”*

R46: *“We took it to ride the horses. We had no idea where we were going actually. And to see the scenery. We didn’t really know historical significance of the area until we got out there.”*

Q: *“Did you choose a ride that was in a natural environment? Would it have mattered if it was in Dyea or anywhere else?”*

R46: *“Again, we had no idea that we were headed in that direction. It was great that we were out there though. We knew this area was beautiful so I think just being out was what our goal was.”*

Q: *“Do you think being out in the Dyea area added to your experience?”*

R46: *“Yes, definitely.” [7.19.04; 2:15 p.m.; Cruise Ship Docks; 2: Male/Female]*

Q: *“What was the most important reason you decided to visit the Dyea area?”*

R70: *“My grandma brought us on a cruise so we decided to check it out.”*

Q: *“Were you there for the horseback riding, the cultural history, or the natural history?”*

R70: *“The horseback riding.”*

Q: *“Was the area’s cultural history important to your visit in any way?”*

R70: *“Yeah, the cultural was. I love to see the sites and that way we got to go further out than normally.”*

Q: *“Was the area’s natural history important to your visit?”*

R70: *“Yeah.” [7.22.04; 5:00pm; Cruise Ship Dock; 1: Female]*

### **Activities Were Focused on the Features of Dyea**

Other types of visitor activities in the Dyea area were focused on the unique features of the area. For example, these visitors drove through the area, exploring the various sites:

Q: *“Sounds like you have been hiking, driving around and looking at the different sites, which activity was most important to you?”*

R23: *“Just the historic stuff ... seeing the historic stuff.”*

Q: *“Was the area’s cultural history important to your visit?”*

R23: *“Yes.”*

Q: *“Mainly the Gold Rush?”*

R23: "Yeah".

Q: "Any other parts that are specifically interesting?"

R23: "Not really"

Q: "What do you think is special or unique about this area?"

R23: "Well it has to be the Gold Rush. If it wasn't for that we wouldn't be here."

Q: "Was the area's natural history important to your visit?"

R23: "Somewhat. Not as important as the Gold Rush."

Q: "As far as your natural history interests, is there anything that stands out to you as important?"

R23: "Oh, just everything. The whole package." [R23; 5.23.04; 4:30 pm; Slide Cemetery; 2: Male/Female]

Finally, some activities, such as visiting specific sites, or the ranger-led walks were explicitly focused on the unique features of the area, and were greatly appreciated by respondents:

Q: "What has been most important to your trip out here?"

R11: "The cemetery seems... we have only seen the cemetery and this... so we are doing those two. That's certainly more important I think. More poignant and thought provoking." [6.22.04; 3:30 pm; Dyea town site; 2: Male/Female]

Q: "Is there anything else that you would like to add?"

R41: "I think the tour we went on with the ranger was spectacular. It was awesome to learn about the plants and ask any questions that we wanted to about the history. I think it is really a great experience. I think maybe even if for people who want to go a little further on the trail... our ranger was really nice and went further with us, so I thought that was great. To keep that program running, definitely." [7.18.04; 12:30 pm; Chilkoot Trail (day hikers, trailhead parking lot); 2: Male/Female]

## Conclusions

The responses above show that respondents varied in the importance they placed on the Dyea area as a setting for their activities. The range of activities described by respondents was consistent with managers' existing perceptions of the area. One potentially interesting insight was that at least some of the campground users from Whitehorse were relatively uninterested in the historic features of the Dyea area. Based on their interview responses, such users saw the campground as a pleasant place to get away from home and recreate in a different climate and ecosystem. This study does not provide accurate estimates of the

prevalence of such use, but the degree to which area plans should accommodate such users might be a subject of discussion for park managers.

This qualitative study was not intended or designed to provide numerical estimates of the proportion of visitors who held particular views, so quantitative comparisons based on the data should be used with caution. Nonetheless, most respondents' activities were enhanced, and many activities were explicitly motivated by the unique features of the Dyea area.

### **2.2.2 The Importance of the Natural and Historic Features of the Dyea Area**

In the discussion of visitor activities, one can see a tendency to contrast the natural and historic features of the Dyea area. This dichotomy resulted partly from the structure of the interview questions. However, the questions apparently reflected the ways many visitors thought about Dyea – when simply asked to describe what they thought were the special or unique attributes of Dyea, respondents commonly mentioned cultural history, natural features, or (most commonly) both types of attributes. Subsequent questions asking specifically about those attributes helped respondents elaborate on their answers.

#### **Dyea's Historic Attributes were Most Significant**

The following responses are from groups who felt that historic attributes were the most special or unique features of the Dyea area:

Q: *“What do you think is special or unique about this area?”*

R27: *“Well, I think just the historical significance in relation to the Gold Rush. The scenery and all that is very pretty, but southeast Alaska is riddled with this stuff... it's all over the place. In that sense it is not unusual. Yeah, it's the connection to the Gold Rush is what makes it remembered.”*

Q: *“You spoke about the importance of the cultural history to this area, was the area's natural history important to your visit?”*

R27: *“Uh, nothing is unusually important, but no less important than any other area in Alaska either. So the whole health of the ecosystem and everything else is just as important here as it is everywhere else. I don't know what the Park Service does for that... I guess they have a ranger I would imagine that does some kind of campground stuff around that, but to my knowledge I don't think the Park Service is doing much in the way of that I think.” [7.17.04; 10:30 am; Campground; 1: Male]*

Q: "Sounds like you are going to head out on a great hike, what do you think was the most important reason for visiting this area?"

R56: "I'd say the history. The ... all of the historical information about the area. So there is an opportunity to relate to some extent to the experiences that those people had way back when ... in a much more pleasant setting. And we know we will come out alive. And poorer [laughter]"

Q: "Sounds like the cultural history was really driving your visit, what about the natural history, was that important to this visit as well."

R56: "Yeah. I am fully aware of the spectacular scenery and all that sort of stuff and a couple people that we have talked to have said the same thing. So we are looking forward to that."

Q: "Was it a combination or the cultural history..."

R56: "For me initially it was the cultural history of the whole area."

Q: "What do you think is special or unique about this area?"

R56: "I'd say just its uniqueness... its history... the history of the area and the stampeders who came here in 1898 and 1899. It's unique. Should have done a little better job looking up the buildings, but yeah, I would say it is just the opportunity to relate back to the people that came here before and some of the pictures I just find absolutely incredible in the little film that they show at the information center too. And you can't really relive what they went through but that is always a part of the experience." [7.21.04; 8:30 am; Campground; 3: Female/Male/Male]

### **Dyea's Natural Attributes were Most Significant**

The natural features of the Dyea area were the primary reason why other groups felt the area was special. Responses focusing on the natural features seemed to be particularly common among respondents from Whitehorse and Skagway. Typical responses from such groups included:

Q: "What do you think is special or unique about this area?"

R13: "For us it is the different climate. To come down here it is a completely setting, close to the ocean, you see the tidal flats, and you see all the animals here. Everything teaming with wildlife, so biologically it is an important thing. For us, being from Whitehorse we already know a lot about the history of the Gold Rush, so that is less of a critical thing for us. The kids don't really seem to have a huge interest in that. They are somewhat interested in that, but the primary thing for us is the camping and the wildlife and I can see for a lot of tourists that come from down south, they probably would be really keen on learning about the Gold Rush history, but for the people that already

*live here, they get kind of inundated with that and its all they see all the time, so that's not really on the top of our list for priorities."*

Q: *"So it's not that important to you?"*

R13: *"No, not that important but I would say that's because we live in Whitehorse in the Yukon and that's... so I wouldn't say that you should have less of an emphasis on that here... I think its good to have an emphasis on that but it's more for people who come up with the cruise ships and they're from down south somewhere."*

Q: *"You said the cultural history of the area was not that important to you, but what about the natural history of the area?"*

R13: *"I am very interested in that. I am a biologist and the girls are keen observers too. It's a fantastic place that way. It's because the seasons are different here, it is always exciting for us to come from the Yukon where everything is further developed and the whole ocean world here and we like to do Salmon fishing too and shrimping and observe all of the animals ... eagles, seals, and everything. It's just a gorgeous spot that way." [6.23.04; 10:30 am; Campground; 1: Male]*

Q: *"What do you think is special or unique about this area?"*

R33: *"I think the unique thing about it is the climate it has here, but it is warmer I think like they were saying... It's beautiful, the area is pretty and just... being out here I guess. Something different." [7.17.04; 3:30 pm; Dyea town site; 1: Male]*

Q: *"Was the area's cultural history important to your visit?"*

R80: *"A little. It was more important to one of my friends in the tent though."*

Q: *"Was the area's natural history important to your visit?"*

R80: *"I like that. That had a whole new aspect to it. It was really good. I am more for the natural and nature."*

Q: *"What do you think is special or unique about this area?"*

R80: *"I've got a swamp right there. Seriously, there is a swamp. I like it that right now you have a lot of foliage on the ground and the trees are green and when you go by the Slide Cemetery, the trees are HUGE!!! We don't have trees that big in the Yukon, they are just little tiny trees and I thought that was cool." [7.25.04; 9:20 am; Campground; 1: Male]*

### **Both Natural and Historic Attributes were Significant**

The response above show how a few respondents focused specifically on history or nature as significant or unique attributes of the Dyea area. However, most respondents recognized both natural and historical features as special or unique. For example:

Q: *"What do you think is special or unique about this area?"*

R36: *"Well the history of course. The stampeders, the Gold Rush era*

*and how they built the railroad and how the incredible trip they... and now having been on Chilkoot Trail it is amazing that anybody did it at all. Lived through it. So, I think that the whole incredible part of our history is so important, really."*

Q: *"You mentioned that the area's cultural history was important to your visit, was the area's natural history important to your visit?"*

R36: *"Yes, now it is. I didn't realize... it wasn't my primary motivation on coming here, but now having been here and seeing how incredibly beautiful this location is, now it's a lot more important."* [7.17.04; 5:50 pm; Raft Take-out (Skagway Float Tours); 1: Male]

The significance that respondents placed on natural and historical features was usually unequal. When prompted, respondents who mentioned both types of attributes could almost always choose whether they thought natural or historical features were most significant. However, it was clear from their responses that they placed value on both. For example:

Q: *"What do you think is special or unique about this area?"*

R41: *"The Klondike history. Well, I really like that it is surrounded by the mountains and the silty rivers too. Kind of the nature itself is also part of it to me."*

Q: *"You've mentioned that both the cultural history and the natural history were important for your visit. Does either one of those take precedence for you?"*

R41: *"For me the natural takes precedence over the history. [other respondent] For me its history because I teach it."* [7.18.04; 12:30 pm; Chilkoot Trail (trailhead parking lot); 2: Male/Female]

Q: *"What do you think is special or unique about this area?"*

R54: *"Well the other thing too, is that we are going to canoe the Yukon River so this is just part of the journey. I think that the coast, like this end, is really amazing how it just erupts out of the sea. So that is pretty cool."*

Q: *"Was the area's cultural history important to your visit or the natural history?"*

R54: *"I think the cultural history for me. Like that is why it is here, but then the natural history is a total bonus. But if it wasn't like really cool and pretty here like nice scenery and everything, we wouldn't come just for the history hike. Yeah, I guess you are right. Maybe just 50/50. For me, more for the nature because I probably would still come if it were a really cool trail without the history, but it is certainly way more appealing because of the history."* [7.20.04; 2:35 pm; Chilkoot Trail (thru-hikers, 1.5 miles); 2: Male/Female]

Q: *“What do you think is special or unique about this area?”*

R30: *“Um... definitely the historic aspect and its kind of neat that there are still a few of the irises around. The wild iris. Unfortunately we missed... we try to make it out each year when they are in full bloom, but I just wasn't able to this year. And yeah, the historical aspect and just... again for us to get out of Skagway. It does make it seem like the big city. It's just nice to be away.”*

Q: *“Would you say you come here more for the cultural aspect or the natural aspect?”*

R30: *“The natural.”* [7.17.04; 1:10 pm; Dyea Flats; 2: Female/Female]

Q: *“What do you think is special or unique about this area?”*

R55: *“It's a pretty cool place. I mean just the woods, the openness, how wild it is. I think it is that plus the history. I think a lot of ... to do this... I think a lot about the people who did it 100 plus years ago and what it must have been like. That adds quite a bit for me.”* [7.20.04; 3:00 pm; Chilkoot Trail (thru-hikers, .6 miles); 2: Male/Male]

The value placed on both history and natural features by most respondents is also evident in responses to several other survey questions. For example, when asked about the reasons they chose to visit the Dyea area, some respondents gave replies such as:

Q: *“What was the most important reason that you decided to visit the Dyea Area?”*

R68: *“Just the beauty, the country, the animals. Just wanting to see the great outdoors and they really can be.”*

Q: *“Was the area's cultural history important to your visit?”*

R68: *“Yeah, it was. It was nice to learn about the Pass and the people trying to get over it. And some of the buildings that were there and some of the people, [it] was all explained on the trip. So it was pretty good”.*

Q: *“Was the nature more important than the cultural history to your visit?”*

R68: *“The beauty... the being outdoors... the beauty. Wanting to see the mountains and the animals, yes.”* [7.22.04; 11:15 am; Cruise Ship Dock; 1: Male]

Similarly, when asked what should be preserved at Dyea for future generations, many respondents said to preserve “everything” or mentioned a mix of both historical and natural attributes. For example:

Q: *“What would you like to see preserved for future generations?”*

R9: *“All the history about the start of the Klondike. The beginning of*

*the Klondike. But the vegetation... if somebody cut down these trees it would be really sad."*

Q: *"Is there anything in particular about the area's history that you would like to see preserved?"*

R9: *"I never did the Chilkoot Trail, but I presume some pieces left on the trail around, should be good if it stayed there for the future. If everybody come in here and take something from that and going with that ... our kids and other kids would never be able to see that. Because you can imagine all the trip, but that's nice if you can see some piece around so you can visualize." [6.22.04; 1:15 pm; Slide Cemetery; 2: Female/Female]*

Q: *"What would you like to see preserved for future generations?"*

R22: *"I guess to keep it as much natural as you could. It would be nice to make sure the cemetery and those types of things are kept up. It's important for the history. But as far as the area, just to make sure things stay natural." [5.23.04; 4:00 pm; Slide Cemetery; 1: Female]*

Q: *"What would you like to see preserved for future generations?"*

R19: *"Certainly whatever artifacts you can keep and the natural state. I'd say most of everything that is here and there are not many artifacts left to be seen so if there were any more uncovered to make them more prominent so people could see them." [5.23.04; 3:10 pm; Slide Cemetery; 1: Female]*

Finally, the balance between natural and historical attributes in the Dyea area is evident in respondents' answers to questions concerning support for potential changes in Dyea that would emphasize the history of the area (see Section 2.3.2 for more discussion of this issue). Respondents who favored change often indicated that they only supported changes that would not disturb the natural environment of Dyea. For example:

Q: *"So would you favor some type of changes to the character of the area that would focus on the history?"*

R10: *"Yes, I guess as long it didn't disturb what was here. Yeah, I would rather have the natural thing and then just more interpretive signage. Not to start building buildings or something like that."*

Q: *"What about opening some areas to the width of the roads the way they used to be, not to allow vehicle access, but to have that sense of what it looked like?"*

R10: *"I don't know, I kind of like forest. With all these trees springing up, I think they will have to do some management over time. We were just looking in the area where we are camped and you know there is a lot of little trees and they get big pretty quick. They spread out. Yeah,*

*so it's going to change the whole area if it is not managed. But on the other hand, I wouldn't want to see big cleared areas... it's quite nice the way it is." [6.22.04; 1:50 pm; Dyea town site; 2: Male/Female]*

Q: *"Would you favor any changes to the character of the area that would increase its historical focus?"*

R87: *"Not particularly, unless it is something that is worth excavating and archaeologically digging up. Really it is going to spoil it rather than do any good to it."*

Q: *"One example the Park is considering doing is putting part of the old road grid into trails, not so that vehicles can access the town site, but just so you can get a better perspective of what the town site was like and discourage social trails from forming over the archaeological sites. Would you be in a favor of a change like that?"*

R87: *"You don't want to knock all the trees out. Maybe lay out the main street. There is obviously one down there, which you can see where there is a road sign on it but that is a fairly obvious thing. The Main Street one would be... maybe with little signs that said 'this was so and so' or 'this was a shop' or 'this was a warehouse' or 'this was a store' or 'this was a blacksmith' or something like that would be interesting but it really doesn't do anything to the ecology the way it is nowadays. It would spoil it in the fact that you have actually got new ecology here and to put something back over the top of it wouldn't do any good in any case." [7.25.04; 1:50 pm; Dyea town site; 1: Male]*

## **Conclusions**

It is tempting to think of "Dyea experiences" as dichotomous, with natural experiences and historical experiences in opposition. Some visitors were strongly oriented toward either the natural or historical features, and most visitors could indicate whether they felt the historical or natural features of the Dyea area were more significant. However, it is important to note that many visitors indicated that both the historical and natural attributes of Dyea were important. Responses were commonly consistent with a high value on both types of attributes rather than a zero-sum tradeoff between history and nature.

## 2.3 Summary Report of Responses Concerning Planning Issues

The second primary goal of the qualitative study was to identify and/or explore issues related to Dyea that might be addressed in the planning process. Four different issues are discussed in this section: 1) the ways visitors learn about the Dyea area and its management; 2) support among current visitors for changes in Dyea intended to emphasize its history; 3) issues related to the number of visitors at sites in the Dyea area; and 4) the Dyea campground, with attention to its possible relocation.

### 2.3.1 Sources of Knowledge about Dyea

A large majority of respondents reported that they knew the Dyea area was a National Historic Site managed by the National Park Service. Respondents listed a large variety of sources they used to learn about Dyea area management. The most commonly listed source was signs in Dyea. Other common sources of information were the highway sign at the Dyea road, commercial tour guides, sources of camping recommendations, literature, interpretive displays, and rangers at the KLGGO Visitor Center in Skagway.

### Some Respondents Did Not Know About Dyea Before Arrival

The number of respondents who did not know about the management of Dyea before reaching the area may be of most interest to park managers. However, there are few ways to provide earlier information to visitors who drive in and learn about Dyea management from signs, such as the following respondent:

Q: *“Did you know that this area is a National Historical Park managed by the National Park Service?”*

R32: *“Not until I got to here, no.”*

Q: *“Not until you got here to Dyea or when you arrived in Skagway?”*

R32: *“Here in the Dyea area.” [7.17.04; 3:00 pm; Dyea town site; 1: Male]*

The situation is different for some commercially guided visitors. In at least some cases, the information they used when deciding to take a commercial tour apparently failed to inform them about the management of Dyea. For example:

Q: *“Did you know that this area is a National Historical Park managed by the National Park Service?”*

R49: “We do now. Actually we did know that it was a National Park but I didn’t know that it was a National Historical Park.”

Q: “Where did you learn about it?”

R49: “From our guide.” [7.20.04; 10:35 am; Raft Take-out (Chilkat Guides); 2: Male/Female]

Q: “Did you know that this area is a National Historical Park managed by the National Park Service?”

R70: “I didn’t know that until I was out there.”

Q: “Where did you learn about it?”

R70: “My guide.” [7.22.04; 5:00 pm; Cruise Ship Dock; 1: Female]

Although there is an opportunity for interpretation and information transfer to commercially-guided visitors, it is not clear whether KLGO should encourage commercial tours to market their trips as taking place in a National Historical Park. Other survey data suggest that a proportion of guided visitors already value the historic features of the area (see Section 2.2.1). Increased information might emphasize that aspect of the tours and attract a higher proportion of visitors who are focused on a historic experience. Subsequently, such actions could increase the impact on tour operators if their ability to provide historic opportunities is decreased (or even eliminated) by future regulation of their activities.

## **Conclusions**

Respondents learned about National Park Service management of Dyea as a National Historical Park from a wide variety of sources. However, the majority of respondents learned this information from signs in Dyea. Managers might discuss whether it is important that visitors (and potential visitors) learn about the management of Dyea prior to arriving in the area.

### **2.3.2 Changes in the Character of Dyea**

Respondents were asked if they would favor changes to the character of the Dyea area to increase the historic focus. Respondents who answered affirmatively were asked to elaborate on what types of changes they would like to see. Many respondents found it difficult to respond to either the initial question or the follow-up question – asking for examples, appearing confused, or pausing for long periods. In those cases, examples of possible changes were provided (e.g., trails in the Dyea town site that are the width of the original roads, and/or trails in the Dyea town site that follow the original town grid).

Respondents who indicated that they did not favor changes (either the examples provided or any changes at all) were encouraged to explain why.

Because of the complexity of the question, responses were not easily classified into simple categories. Many respondents opposed some aspects of change and supported others.

### **Opposition to Changes in the Character of Dyea Management**

A majority of respondents expressed opposition to at least some changes. Such respondents commonly mentioned that they would like to see the management of Dyea remain largely as it is. For example:

Q: *“Would you favor any changes to the character of the area that would increase its historical focus?”*

R21: *“Not really. It’s better left just the way it is. It was quite a well, tragic site in the early years... so the more things you do to enhance it or what some people call enhancement is going to detract from the normal site I think.” [5.23.03; 3:45 pm; Slide Cemetery; 1: Male]*

Q: *“Would you favor any changes to the character of the area that would increase its historical focus?”*

R32: *“Oh, I uh... No, I don’t think they should change it in order to make that happen. No.”*

Q: *“One example the Park is considering doing is widening some of the paths through the town site, not so that vehicles can access the town site, but just so you can get a better perspective of what the town site was like and discourage social trails from forming over the archaeological sites. Would you be in a favor of a change like that?”*

R32: *“Um, I don’t think it is necessary to widen the roads. The pictures the Ranger had and the pictures on these display signs, if you have any imagination at all you can stand there and go “Wow, imagine a hundred years ago this was a big wide road.” And it is almost more fun to use your imagination. It’s like reading a book versus watching TV. And the other thing they are thinking of doing to protect the archaeological sites. I noticed a few of those. I certainly wouldn’t be in favor of widening the pathways to stop that. I think the widening would be much worse than the social paths.” [7.17.04; 3:00 pm; Dyea town site; 1: Male]*

Other respondents opposed some changes because they wanted Dyea to remain natural or felt it was important to let nature continue to heal itself. For example:

Q: *“Would you favor any changes to the character of the area that would increase its historical focus?”*

R26: "No."

Q: "Why not?"

R26: "I like to see the landscape the way it is... the way nature intended it to be." [5.25.04; 11:15 am; Raft Take-out; 1: Female]

Q: "Would you favor any changes to the character of the area that would increase its historical focus?"

R34: "The area is going to change naturally. In respect to what she said earlier, the natural environment is changing, it is going to cover over whatever Dyea truly was in the past and the only [part] that can actually be preserved is the history of it in story. So I would not favor changes to Dyea. [other respondent] No I wouldn't change it either, because you would have to cut down all the trees, then you would have to excavate it and prop up buildings that you don't have the ... there's not enough of them left to restore them. [other respondent] Well what I think would be interesting would be to have sort of a diorama... at least an image of what the town looked like so when you saw the different areas you had an understanding in your mind exactly where it was in relation to the other buildings that were there. [other respondent] That's the same thing like I said, more interpretive signs. Maybe, yeah, that would be an idea [diorama] of what the town looked like as a whole in probably the parking lot area." [7.17.04; 3:45 pm; Dyea town site; 2: Male/Female]

### **Support for Changes in the Character of Dyea Management**

Almost half of respondents favored some level of change, but the type of change they favored varied. The most commonly favored change was an increase in the level of interpretive information at Dyea. The common mention of increased information is particularly notable because it was not one of the types of change used as an example by the interviewer. Examples of responses favoring increased information include:

Q: "Would you favor changes to the character of this area that focuses on the history."

8: "Probably a little more information but I was hoping to receive information in Skagway about this area."

Q: "So you are hoping that when you go to Skagway, you will learn more about Dyea?"

R8: "Yeah. I was asking questions about the area but we didn't know." [6.22.04; 1:00 pm; Slide Cemetery; 1: Female]

Q: "So would you favor some type of changes to the character of the area that would focus on the history?"

R10: "Yes, I guess as long it didn't disturb what was here. Yeah, I

would rather have the natural thing and then just more interpretive signage. Not to start building buildings or something like that.” [6.22.04; 1:50 pm; Dyea town site; 2: Male/Female]

A few respondents supported opening up some trails to road width. An example of one such response was:

Q: “Would you favor any changes to the character of the area that would increase its historical focus?”

R39: “I don’t know. I noticed... it seems like there are more trails. I don’t know if it is just because the weather has been more favorable this time so we are paying more attention. But there are trails right here and along the way out to Dyea there is one to AB Mountain. And I don’t know if I noticed any of that last time we were here. And they have pamphlets now.

Q: I know that you haven’t been over to the town site yet, but it is a 2nd generation forest over the old site and one example the Park is considering doing is widening some of the paths through the town site or putting part of the old road grid into trails, not so that vehicles can access the town site, but just so you can get a better perspective of what the town site was like and discourage social trails from forming over the archaeological sites. Would you be in a favor of a change like that?”

R39: “That would be good as far as preserving it so you can at least get an idea.”

Q: “The trade-off would be removing trees, would you still favor it?”

R39: “The archaeological history is more important. I think it is worthwhile as long as you don’t clear cut it. To be able to see more of the history would be good.” [7.18.04; 10:25 am: Campground; 1: Male]

Other respondents expressed support for clearing a network of trails over the old road grid. For example:

Q: “One thing the Park is considering doing is widening some of the paths through the town site or putting part of the old road grid into trails, not so that vehicles can access the town site, but just so you can get a better perspective of what the town site was like and discourage social trails from forming over the archaeological sites. Would you be in a favor of a change like that?”

R64: “For instance, if there is trails that would coincide with the old roads that you would have the idea that this graveyard of an old city this way. I’m not so sure it is a Park. This Park could be anywhere; it doesn’t have to be Dyea because there is nothing here. Okay, we walked through the woods on a trail and found a metal band with a heavy nail, which is an indication that this is an old... this is something

*somebody left but this is one little piece and we happened to cut across. If we hadn't cut across we wouldn't even have come across this. I think it would be more interesting if it could have more a feeling... Skagway, we left Skagway because it is so full of tourists that are everywhere... it's horrible and you come out here but you miss this feeling, it's a beautiful country, it's a beautiful forest, it's a beautiful park and it is nothing more than that. You miss the feeling that this is a dead city." [7.21.04; 1:40 pm; Dyea town site; 1: Female]*

Q: *"Would you favor any changes to the character of the area that would increase its historical focus?"*

R76: *"Do you mean like adding tours?"*

Q: *"One example the Park is considering doing is widening some of the paths through the town site or putting part of the old road grid into trails, not so that vehicles can access the town site, but just so you can get a better perspective of what the town site was like and discourage social trails from forming over the archaeological sites. Would you be in a favor of a change like that?"*

R76: *"Well maybe that but I don't think I would like to see that over the whole area but just a certain amount to show an example of what it was like. Like maybe one block or something. One little spot that you could see to have an idea. Shouldn't have a big impact... it looks like there are lots of blocks there so there would be lots left over that are untouched." [7.23.04; 2:00 pm; Chilkoot Trailhead (day hikers); 2: Male/Female]*

### **Improving Interpretive Information**

Responses to other questions in the interviews emphasized that many visitors would like more interpretative information, particularly at the town site, but also at other sites in the area. It is not clear whether such additions would change the character of the area, but when asked to suggest improvements to the Dyea area, almost half of respondents said that improvements could be made in the amount and type of information available. Examples of such suggested improvements include:

Q: *"Is there anything the park could do that would have improved your visit?"*

R23: *"More information. Like more signs about the town site ... what was here, what was there... that sort of thing. You drive around out in the town site; you don't even know you are in a town site. It's just a big flat, but if it had more signs saying what it was and what was there... pictures."*

Q: *"Did you see any informational signs when you were over in the*

Town Site?”

R23: “No. Well we saw the one where the building had collapsed and where that little farm was. But like even on the main road, when you come in on the main road there is a sign here for the cemetery but there is no other sign... you know, you know what I mean. Like, so where is the town site? To me like the town site was maybe a square block or two... three blocks, but seeing a map somewhere, I don't know where, it was this whole area. Anyway... more information.”

[5.23.04; 4:30 pm; Slide Cemetery; 2: Male/Female]

Q: “Is there anything the park could do that would have improved your visit, because it sounds like you are dissatisfied?”

R43: “More information. Well, I mean the Park Service doesn't have to do anything. It seems to me that those people who died there deserve more than what information is provided and that avalanche and those deaths are a signal event. There are not a lot of other special dates here with the Gold Rush, but that was one of them. I'm just disappointed that there is not more here.”

Q: “Are there any other positive things that park managers could add or negative things they could improve, besides information, which you mean by interpretive signs?”

R43: “I assume signs or more information about what went on. I think that was a big event. There should be more information.” [7.18.04; 3:00 pm; Slide Cemetery; 2: Male/Female]

Most respondents suggesting improvements in information focused on signs, brochures, and interpretive displays. However, ranger-led interpretive walks seemed to be a particularly effective way to provide information. Interpretive walks were not singled out in a particular interview question but were mentioned in responses to a variety of questions, and respondents generally felt they contributed greatly to their experiences. For example:

Q: “Is there anything else that you would like to add?”

R41: “I think the tour we went on with the ranger was spectacular. It was awesome to learn about the plants and ask any questions that we wanted to about the history. I think it is really a great experience. I think maybe even if for people who want to go a little further on the trail... our ranger was really nice and went further with us, so I thought that was great. To keep that program running, definitely.” [7.18.04; 12:30 pm; Chilkoot Trail (day hikers, trailhead parking lot); 2: Male/Female]

Q: “Did you encounter people other than those in your party during your visit?”

R66: “5 maybe 6, 7.”

Q: “Did they affect your experience?”

*R66: “Just the Ranger. She gave us information that we wouldn’t have known. You can read so much in signs but she gave us more information that we would have not gained if it wasn’t for her. Where the pilings were. We would have totally missed that. And the fact that the tide used to come up that far and if we could have stayed with her longer, I’m sure we wouldn’t learned more, but we have to head back so we had to cut it short, so...” [7.21.04; 3:15 pm; Dyea town site; 2: Male/Female]*

## **Conclusions**

In general, respondents seemed to express the most opposition to changes that would require the largest alterations of the physical environment. Respondents seemed to evaluate the possibility of change as a balance between emphasizing historic and natural features that were both significant. These responses were consistent with the earlier conclusion that the “Dyea experience” is not dichotomous, with natural experiences and historic experiences in opposition. Many respondents seemed to place a high value on both natural and historic attributes of the Dyea area. The most common change they suggested was an increase in interpretive information.

### **2.3.3 Visitor Density in Dyea**

During the interviews, respondents were asked to recall: a) the number of visitors they had encountered since they had been in the Dyea area; b) the location of the encounters; c) whether or not the encounters affected their experiences; and, if so, d) what the effects were.

#### **Encounters Had No Effect on Experience**

Most commonly, respondents reported that encountering other visitors had no effect on their experiences. They gave a variety of reasons why they were unaffected. Some typical responses include:

*Q: “Did you encounter people other than those in your party during your visit?”*

*R35: “Yes, there are other people wandering around here.”*

*Q: “Did they affect your experience?”*

*R35: “No, probably not. They seemed to be pretty friendly. Most of them seemed to be tourists like me.” [7.17.04; 4:00 pm; Dyea town*

site; 1: Male]

Q: *“Did you encounter people other than those in your party during your visit?”*

R63: *“Lots, it’s a rough estimate. A couple hundred.”*

Q: *“Did they affect your experience?”*

R63: *“No. Everybody has a right to be here. Everybody got a right to enjoy it so bring them on.” [7.21.04; 1:20 pm; Dyea town site; 2: Male/Male]*

### **Positive Encounters With Other Visitors**

A few respondents reported that the other visitors they encountered enhanced their experiences. Some explanations for positive effects were that respondents enjoyed seeing others recreate, other visitors made their experience more interesting, other people were friendly, and the number of encounters was the right amount for the experience. Examples of such responses include:

Q: *“How many do you think you have encountered other than those in your rafting party during your visit?”*

R12: *“A couple of dozen folks out and about. Playing in the sand with a bunch of kids and their dogs. We saw some campers making a fire. People walking across the bridge stopped to wave. Yeah, a few dozen.”*

Q: *“Have they affected your experience?”*

R12: *“We love to see the people out there enjoying themselves.” [6.22.04; 4:45 pm; Raft Take-out (Chilkat Guides); 1: Female]*

Q: *“Did you encounter people other than those in your party during your visit?”*

R81: *“Lots. The campground has been full. We are quite amazed actually at how full it is. We don’t come down to Dyea not to see people we went shopping yesterday.”*

Q: *“So you expect to see people when you come here?”*

R81: *“Yes.”*

Q: *“Did they affect your experience?”*

R81: *“Those people over there lent us sticks to make hotdogs with... they gave us real oak and maple to make hotdogs with.”*

Q: *“So it’s been good?”*

R81: *“Oh yeah (laughter). The only noise has been our own children, so what can I say.” [7.25.04; 9:35 am; Campground; 4: Females]*

### Negative Encounters With Other Visitors

A few respondents' experiences were negatively affected by the other visitors they encountered. Negative effects included the behaviors of other visitors, the presence of tour operators, and the presence of vehicles. Two examples of negative encounters were:

Q: *"Did you encounter people other than those in your party during your visit?"*

R41: *"I don't know, including at the campground and here."*

Q: *"How many?"*

R41: *"About 150. You think really. There's a lot of people at the campground and every hiker we have passed."*

Q: *"Did they affect your experience?"*

R41: *"There were a lot of people at the campground in the morning. Uh... there is a lot of people that would drive through at like 11 pm. It would actually be actually kind of nice if the campground could be closed at a certain hour so people aren't driving through looking for sites at like midnight and they are disturbing the people that are trying to sleep. Yeah, quiet hours could be encouraged and enforced. When you are thinking about being in the nature and stuff... it hasn't been overall too bad, there was just like this one rowdy group yesterday but they left, thank goodness." [7.18.04; 12:30; Chilkoot Trail (day hikers, trailhead parking lot); 2: Male/Female]*

Q: *"What would you like to see preserved for future generations?"*

R71: *"The entire Park, oh absolutely. Just the way it is. It is so unspoiled. We did run across a few cars... I guess... I'm not quite sure what they were doing there but they shouldn't have access."*

Q: *"So you don't think vehicles should have access?"*

R71: *"Well, maybe in a general parking area but people can walk in easy enough and hike or whatever."*

Q: *"Did they affect your experience?"*

R71: *"I was annoyed that they were driving by us. I mean I knew the horses could handle it but I didn't want to be around vehicles. This is a non-driving vacation. Anything we can do to get away from being in the car for vacation is what we want. I'm sure a lot of people feel that way too." [7.22.04; 5:05 pm; Cruise Ship Dock; 1: Female]*

### Crowding

Some visitors reported negative effects associated with the number of other visitors (i.e., some form of crowding). The campground was one of the most common areas in which crowding was reported:

Q: "Did you encounter people other than those in your party during your visit?"

R24: "This weekend this campground was full... it was completely full. It looked like a couple tents in each site, so hundreds probably."

Q: "Did they affect your experience?"

R24: "Well... a little, slightly."

Q: "Was it the crowding or other visitor behaviors?"

R24: "The crowding. Everybody was cool. And I realize it was a holiday weekend so that is going to happen. I've done the same thing, just gone somewhere just for a holiday weekend. So I understand that that happens. So I was still doing my own thing so it was okay."

[5.24.04; 8:00 pm; Campground; 1: Female]

A few Chilkoot Trail hikers reported some degree of crowding. However, official information about the number of hikers permitted to use the trail seemed to defuse expectations that the hike would provide extreme levels of solitude. The following responses are based on expectations that were very different:

Q: "Is there anything the park could do that would have improved your visit?"

R58: "I think, we were just talking and we noticed that there's... at least with the guy we rode out here with... dropped off at least 20 people up until now on the trail. Maybe we are crazy but that seems like a lot to us 20 people all in one day getting dropped off, but maybe it is different. Maybe we are imagining things but it seems like a lot."

Q: "Did you encounter people other than those in your party during your visit?"

R58: "25. Well he... we were going to ride up with him at 8:30 and there were 11 people on the bus. We rode up at 9:30 and there were 9 or 10 people on the bus, so 20 people bum-rushing out here in a 2 hour span seems like a lot to me."

Q: "Since you have been on the trail, how many people do you think you have seen?"

R58: "8 or 9... we saw that group down there of 8 or 9, and 4 there, and the 9 people behind us that got dropped off. Thirty-ish."

Q: "Did they affect your experience?"

R58: "Yeah, we have been here for ten minutes. We have four days ahead of us and we have been here for ten minutes."

Q: "Did you expect to see that many people when you planned your trip?"

R58: "Just the fact that it is such a well known trail and that it is relatively easy compared to some other trails."

Q: "You seemed to be a little shocked about how many people were coming out here?"

R58: "I guess I should have... I kind of expected it because I looked at

*stuff on the internet and I saw a lot more than I expected at the time. So I kind of knew that it was a well traveled and well documented area so more people are going to come.” [7.21.04; 10:35 am; Chilkoot Trail (thru-hikers, .5 miles); 2: Male/Male]*

Q: *“Did you encounter people other than those in your party during your visit?”*

R60: *“Two dozen, 24.”*

Q: *“Did they affect your experience?”*

R60: *“I’d like less. If you came for solitude it isn’t solitude, but these day-hikers, they’ll pass. They’ll fade.”*

Q: *“Were you expecting this many people when you were planning the trip?”*

R60: *“We knew that there would be 50 people on the trail per day, so I thought there would be other people hiking. I was prepared for people.” [7.21.04; 11:00 am; Chilkoot Trail (thru-hikers, .75 miles); 2 Male/Female]*

Q: *“Did you encounter people other than those in your party during your visit?”*

R53: *“Six groups.”*

Q: *“Where?”*

R53: *“On the trail.”*

Q: *“How many people?”*

R53: *“About 20. There were 2 large groups and 4 groups of 2.”*

Q: *“How many days have you been out here?”*

R53: *“Three.”*

Q: *“Did you see a lot more people in those three days?”*

R53: *“Oh, yeah. The night I stayed at Sheep Camp, there were 48 people... there were probably more there than I have seen coming back but that doesn’t mean that there won’t be more than that.”*

Q: *“Did they affect your experience?”*

R53: *“Well they’ve all been good because everybody is out to see the trail and have a good time. I think part of the experience is just being able to meet different people from different places and talk to people.”*

Q: *“Are your expectations of how many people you would see out here similar to what you’ve experienced.”*

R53: *“Sure, oh yeah.” [7.20.04; 1:35 pm; Chilkoot Trail (backpacker, .5 miles); 1: Male]*

### **The Number of Visitors in Dyea versus Skagway**

In response to the questions asking about encounters with other visitors, a few respondents made comments contrasting Dyea and Skagway:

Q: *“Did you encounter people other than those in your party during your visit?”*

R64: *“We saw 2 men.”*

Q: *“Did they affect your experience?”*

R64: *“No. They just walked out this way. We just realized that there are four big ships in Skagway with whole lots of tourists on them and my husband said that not even one percent of those people will be coming out here to have a look at this because they just stay in Skagway and look in the shops and go shopping and that is it.”*

[7.21.04; 1:40; Dyea town site; 1: Female]

Q: *“Since you’ve only been in the campground, how many people do you think you’ve seen?”*

R27: *“I’ve seen quite a few... My impression on the whole though is that Skagway gets the vast brunt of the tourist thing, so Dyea is kind of out of your way and the road is pretty torturous to get out here. But that is a good thing. They don’t need to be improving that road. I think it keeps the amount of people down you know so... I don’t think there is any reason, unless you are hiking the Chilkoot Trail, which a lot of people do that too, but other than that you don’t come out here to see Main St. Skagway and businesses and all that because there aren’t any.” [7.17.04; 10:30 am; Campground; 1: Male]*

Some comments to other questions in the survey compared Dyea and Skagway without specifically mentioning the number of visitors, but nonetheless suggested that visitors valued the less developed, less densely populated environment in Dyea:

Q: *“What would you like to see preserved for future generations?”*

R43: *“... But I have to say, Skagway looks to me like a big mall is all it has become and the history is sort of in between here and there. It’s a big mall; it’s a big shopping zone. And it’s disappointing. I don’t want them to do what they did there here, but I want to see more interpretation. I don’t want to rebuild the town site. It’s gone. Let’s leave it gone. After what I’ve seen done to Skagway, I am not happy with the changes...” [7.18.04; 3:00 pm; Slide Cemetery; 2: Male/Female]*

## Conclusions

A few respondents reported negative experiences with other visitors, but there was little evidence that the level of visitor use was having consistent negative effects on the quality of visitor experiences. On the Chilkoot trail, most respondents seemed well informed that the trail was not managed for high levels of solitude, and at other sites the few negative effects that were reported were mostly related to behavior rather than the number of other

visitors. Stated in planning terms, the responses suggest that the visitor capacity of the Dyea area was rarely (if at all) exceeded during the study. The campground may be the only site where this conclusion should be questioned. The fact that we interviewed only those campground users who had found a site left us no way to collect responses from groups that were displaced after the campground filled. A few respondents made explicit contrasts between the level of visitor density in Dyea and Skagway. Combined with other comments contrasting the two areas, these responses suggest that at least some respondents appreciate the less developed, lower visitor density character of Dyea.

### **2.3.4 The Dyea Campground**

One of the specific issues of concern to managers was the possible relocation of the campground. Interviews with campground users asked about characteristics of the campground that they most liked and disliked. This information should be helpful in assessing the areas where current users might wish the campground to be relocated.

#### **Favorite Campground Attributes**

When asked for their favorite campground attributes, about half the respondents mentioned natural features of the campground (e.g., the trees, the view of the mountains, the ocean, the river). About one third of respondents cited features of the campsites, and a few respondents mentioned primitiveness, remoteness, peacefulness, and price. Examples of responses focused on natural features include:

Q: *“What is your favorite thing about this campground?”*

R13: *“The beauty of the setting and the place where it is. It is just a gorgeous spot. The river and the mountains all around...still snow, and the ocean close by... I think that’s....I really appreciate that.”*

Q: *“So the river and the mountains really create the beauty of the campground for you?”*

R13: *“Yes.”*

Q: *“Being near the river.”*

R13: *“Yes.” [6.23.04; 10:30 am; Campground; 1: Male]*

Q: *“What is your favorite thing about the campground?”*

R80: *“I like this site. It’s a nice big site. You’ve got tree coverage and you put your tent under the trees and like last night it rained and my tent was hardly wet this morning. That’s what I like about this campsite. Like in Canada we have got campgrounds where they have CLEARED*

*all the trees and then they plant trees. I don't understand it. They cut down all the trees and then they plant some... it's like why don't you just leave them and clear out certain spots." [7.25.04; 9:20 am; Campground; 1: Male]*

Q: *"What is your favorite thing about the campground?"*

R81: *"The location. I like that it is close to the ocean and close to the river. Close to Skagway. Lots of things nearby to do." [7.25.04; 9:35 am; Campground; 4: Females]*

Responses citing features of the campsites as favorite aspects of the Dyea campground include:

Q: *"What is your favorite thing about this campground?"*

R5: *The peace and quiet. It's a private campground...like all the campsites are far enough apart that you are not imposing on anyone else."*

Q: *"What do you like least about the campground?"*

R5: *"I couldn't say I like anything least." [6.22.04; 10:30 am; Campground; 1: Male]*

Q: *"What is your favorite thing about the campground?"*

R40: *"Well there [are] natural barriers of trees between the campsites. I like a little bit of privacy. That's nice. [7.18.04; 12:00 pm; Chilkoot Trail (trailhead parking lot); 1: Male]*

### **Distance to the Chilkoot Trail**

Respondents camping at the Dyea campground were also asked if the distance to the trailhead for the Chilkoot Trail was important to their stay at the campground. Almost half of respondents said the distance to the Chilkoot Trail was important on this visit and a few others said the distance was important on prior visits. Responses explaining why the distance to the Chilkoot Trail from the Dyea campground was important to their visit include:

Q: *"Is the proximity of the campground to the Chilkoot Trail important to you?"*

R4: *"Not as much as many years ago when we hiked more before the kids. For sure it is a plus for the hikers, those one who want to hike the trail for sure." [6.22.04; 10:00 am; Campground; 2: Male/Female]*

Q: *"Is the distance of the Chilkoot Trail from the campground important to you?"*

R39: *"Yeah, it is nice. Nice and close. You can get your backpack all*

*packed up here and pack your car. I like how they have a parking area here for it. Yeah, right across from the Ranger, it seems a bit safe. We camped our whole way here and we have all our camping stuff. So you don't want to leave your vehicle, but most people do." [7.18.04; 10:25 am; Campground; 1: Male]*

About half the respondents said the distance to the Chilkoot Trail was not important.

Responses explaining why the distance was unimportant include:

*Q: "Is the distance to the Chilkoot Trail from the campground important to you?"*

*R16: "I don't think it is, nor it should be. If you are an avid hiker you are prepared to go any distance." [5.23.04; 11:25 am; Campground; 1: Female]*

*Q: "Is the distance to the Chilkoot Trail from the campground important to you?"*

*R27: "I'm not sure where the trailhead is ... I imagine it is close that way. If I was going to hike it or take a bunch of kids over it, it wouldn't matter if I started here or there, it would just be part of the hike. It's how they did it. Its how you're supposed to do it." [7.17.04; 10:30 am; Campground; 1: Male]*

## **Conclusions**

Unlike the questions that were asked of all Dyea visitors, responses to the questions about the campground provide a basis for rough quantitative conclusions because the sampling procedures were likely to produce a set of interviews that were representative of campground users. One such conclusion is that moving the campground to a location with a more limited range of natural features is likely to alter its attractiveness to a significant portion of users. It is not clear whether campground relocation would be unacceptable to those visitors, or whether an alternate location might be appreciated for its own features, but many campers place a high value on the multiple natural features offered at the current location. One potential benefit of moving the campground might be the opportunity to make improvements desired by visitors. For example, many respondents expressed a desire for a potable water source in the campground (see Appendix A.2.6).

Campers appear to be roughly split on the question of moving the campground farther from the Chilkoot Trail trailhead. A true quantitative study would be necessary to accurately estimate the proportion of campers who would oppose or support such a move. However,

these data suggest that there will be limited consensus about it because a significant proportion of campers will support or oppose it.

### ***2.3.5 Suggested Improvements to Enhance Visitor Experiences***

Respondents were asked if there were any negative things in the Dyea area that needed improvement or any positive things that could be added to enhance their experiences. As mentioned earlier, the most common suggestion was to increase the level of interpretative information available at sites in the Dyea area. In contrast, almost half the respondents said they saw no need for improvements. With the exception of increased information, the range of suggested improvements was broad, with little agreement across respondents. A summary of those suggestions would be much the same as the discussion of this interview question in Appendix A. Thus, readers interested in respondents' suggested improvements should refer to Section A.2.6 of Appendix A: Detailed Presentation of Coded Responses.

### **3. THE DYEYEA QUANTITATIVE USE STUDY**

This study sought to measure the number of visitors who use the primary attraction sites at Dyea as well as the total level of visitation in the area. Such information serves a variety of purposes for management planning. Estimates of current use are critical in planning the capacities of facilities such as parking lots and bathrooms. Use estimates are also important in discussions of the social conditions that the park will seek to provide at Dyea. For example, managers might agree that the Slide Cemetery could accommodate about twice as many visitors as its current peak use, but an accurate estimate of current peak use is needed to translate that statement into a specific policy.

The quantitative use study used three different methods to collect information about visitor use at Dyea: 1) automated counts of hikers and vehicles, 2) a short survey card concerning the sites that different users visit at Dyea, and 3) systematic observation of use levels and parking lot turnover. In addition, some information about visitor use such as campground occupancy was also available based on routine collection by park staff. The data collected by the study and data routinely collected by park staff complement each other to yield a broad range of information useful in management planning.

#### **3.1 Overview of the Quantitative Use Study**

The map below shows the five primary attractions in the Dyea area and notes the location of the automated counters used in the quantitative study. We gathered data describing use at each of these five areas, as well as other information necessary to produce an estimate of total Dyea visitation. In all but Section 3.6 of this chapter each site will be discussed separately.

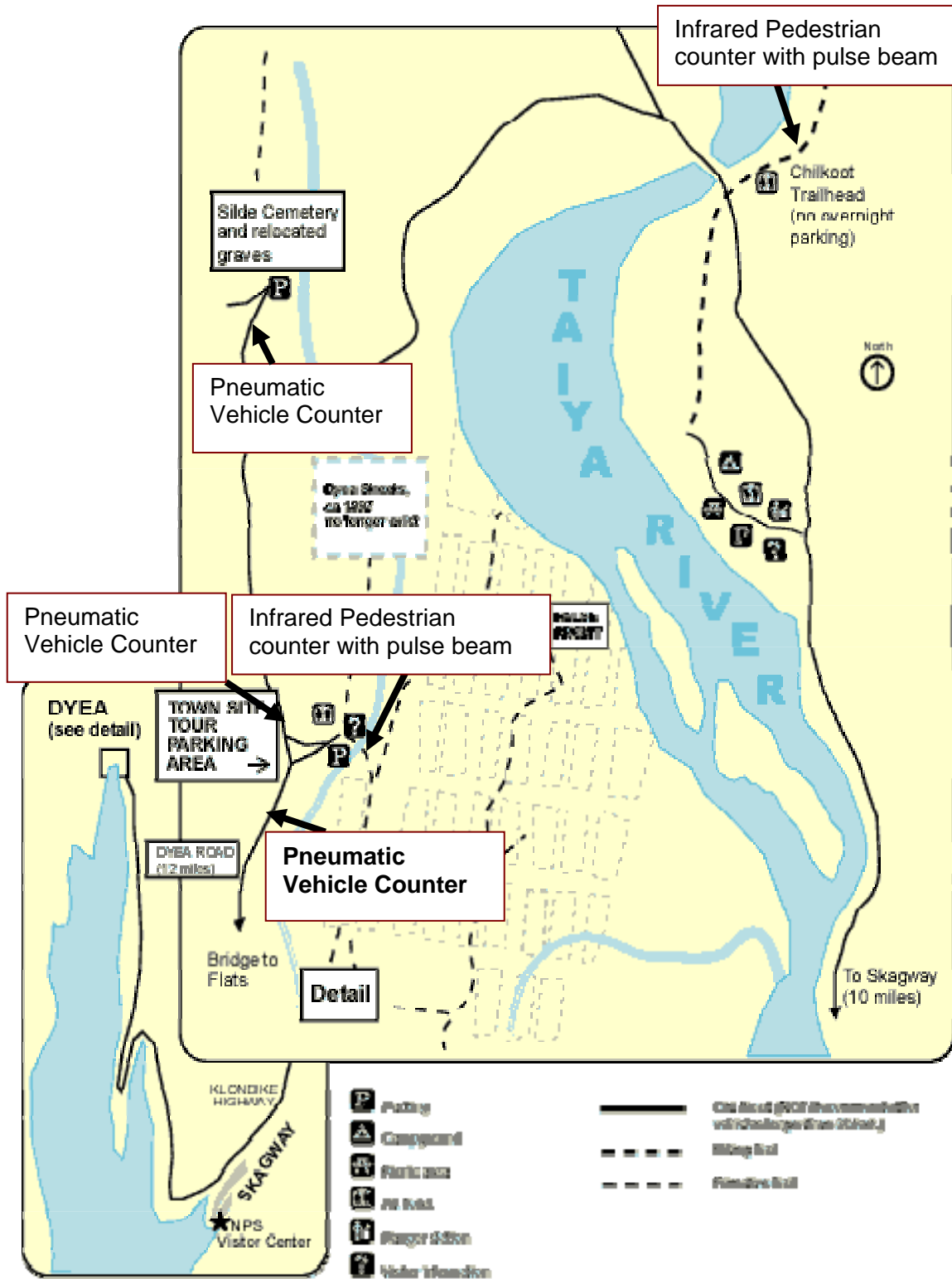


Figure 3.1. Locations of automated counters.

**3.1. 1 Replacement of Missing Use Estimates**

Due to a variety of events, user counts during some time periods are missing from the records collected by the automated trail and vehicle counters employed in the quantitative use study. However, during almost all the time periods missed by one counter, one or more other counters in Dyea recorded use levels. Analyses showed that data from all the different counters were significantly correlated (see Table 3.1). Thus, the use data from available sites were used to estimate missing data. More specifically, regression equations were used to describe mathematical relationships between measured use levels at the different sites. For any given hour of missing data, the regression equation based on all available use observations was used to estimate use. As a result of these estimation procedures, complete data are available to describe the time period from May 26 until October 6, with the exception of May 31, and June 1, 3, and 4 when significant portions of each day had no information from any of the counters.

|                   | SLIDE<br>CEMETERY | SLOUGH<br>NORTH | SLOUGH<br>SOUTH | SLOUGH<br>TRAIL | CHILKOOT<br>TRAIL |
|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| SLIDE<br>CEMETERY | 1.00              |                 |                 |                 |                   |
| SLOUGH<br>NORTH   | 0.77<br>(2092)    | 1.00            |                 |                 |                   |
| SLOUGH<br>SOUTH   | 0.61<br>(2089)    | 0.83<br>(2128)  | 1.00            |                 |                   |
| SLOUGH<br>TRAIL   | 0.63<br>(2409)    | 0.68<br>(1888)  | 0.54<br>(1885)  | 1.00            |                   |
| CHILKOOT<br>TRAIL | 0.57<br>(2463)    | 0.57<br>(1898)  | 0.46<br>(1895)  | 0.53<br>(2786)  | 1.00              |

Table 3.1. Correlations between hourly counts of use in the Dyea area (Ns in parentheses). All correlations are significant at the 0.001 level (2-tailed).

Because there are some difficulties with the interpretation of the computed use estimates at the hourly level, estimates are included only in the charts representing daily use across the visitation season – the charts showing hourly distributions of use are based only on observed (not estimated) use data.

### **3.1.2 A Note Concerning Confidence and Accuracy**

All of the information presented in this chapter is based on data collected using the most rigorous methods that were practical. However, in order to provide information that is of most use to managers, the empirically collected data were often used in conjunction with reasonable assumptions to provide more specific estimates of visitor use. In those situations, traditional statistical methods of assessing confidence and accuracy can not be applied. This limitation was deemed acceptable given that the goal of the project was to provide a wide variety of quantitative estimates of Dyea visitor use, and many of those figures had never been estimated in any systematic manner at all. When making use of the information in this chapter, readers should make note of any assumptions that were used to generate the estimates of use.

This project should be interpreted as an exploratory study intended to generally inform managers' planning and decision-making. It was not (and could not feasibly be) designed to support or justify specific management actions. If managers are considering the implementation of a potentially controversial policy, additional research should be conducted targeting the visitor use information specifically relevant to the proposed policy.

### 3.2 Counting Users of the Campground/Picnic Area

Three types of visitors use this area, 1) Chilkoot Trail hikers, 2) day-use or picnic groups, 3) and campers. Overnight Chilkoot Trail hikers were counted by the overnight registration process and day hikers by the trail-counter (see Section 3.3 below). Day-use by picnic groups and parking turnover rates in the associated parking area was scheduled for systematic observation throughout the study period but very little use occurred during the initially observed time periods. Given that the use levels were so low that they constituted a negligible portion of Dyea visitation, the SCA volunteer scheduled for observation of this site was transferred to other tasks and locations after July 12. Finally, the number of campers was collected through site occupancy counts conducted by park staff.

#### 3.2.1 Campground Use

The campground occupancy data are available in monthly summaries at <http://www2.nature.nps.gov/mpur/index.cfm>. Table 3.2 shows the number of camper nights for the months of May through August of 2004. Records were not kept after August because visitor use declines dramatically late in the season.

| MONTH  | TOTAL CAMPER NIGHTS | AVERAGE CAMPERS/NIGHT |
|--------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| May    | 133                 | 4.3                   |
| June   | 558                 | 18.6                  |
| July   | 1212                | 39.1                  |
| August | 1000                | 33.3                  |

Table 3.2. Monthly camper nights and campers per night recorded by KLGO staff in 2004.

#### The Unknown Proportion of Nights that the Campground was Full

One issue that might be of interest to managers is the proportion of time that the demand for campsites exceeds the campground capacity. The available data do not directly address this issue. One might conceivably estimate the proportion of nights at capacity by dividing the camper nights by the number of visitors per campsite and allocating the resulting campsite demand across days based on an observed distribution of campground use. However, we have neither the visitors per campsite data nor daily campground use data. The data we collected

describing visitors per vehicle and daily use at a variety of Dyea sites can not be used in the place of the desired data because our observations were dominated by day users and can not be expected to represent overnight campers. Observations or estimates of the number of nights the campground is full may be available from park staff who were on site in 2004.

### **3.2.2 Picnic Area Parking Lot Observations**

Observation periods for the estimation of parking lot turnover were generally two hours long. However, 39.7 percent of private vehicles (48/121) recorded during the eight observed time periods were present in the lot for the entire observed period, and only 19.0 percent of vehicles both entered and left while the survey worker was present. Thus, the true average parking duration is no shorter than what we observed, but we can not be sure how much longer it actually is. If many of those vehicles belong to Chilkoot Trail hikers, the average parking durations will be much longer than the calculated estimates. If we assign each vehicle a parking duration equal to the time that we know that it was in the lot (acknowledging that such durations underestimate the true parking duration for those vehicles), then the average observed parking duration was 46 minutes. The average number of visitors per vehicle was 1.74 (calculated based on parties from 68 vehicles that were observed entering or leaving).

### **3.3 Counting Users of the Chilkoot Trail**

Counts of total Chilkoot Trail hikers were collected by placing a Trail-Master TM 1550 active infrared trail counter (see <http://www.trailmaster.com> ) a short distance up the trail, beyond the “second trailhead” that is sometimes visited by casual users. Thus, persons who did not go beyond the first section of the trail were not counted as “Chilkoot Trail hikers”. The counter was equipped with a memory capable of recording the time when each hiker passed the sensor (an out-and-back hiker would be recorded twice). Trail hikers were known to fall into three groups, 1) backpackers who obtained hiking permits, 2) rafters who were recorded by the Incidental Business Permit holders who run the rafting concession, and 3) day-hikers.

#### ***3.3.1 Trail Counter Installation***

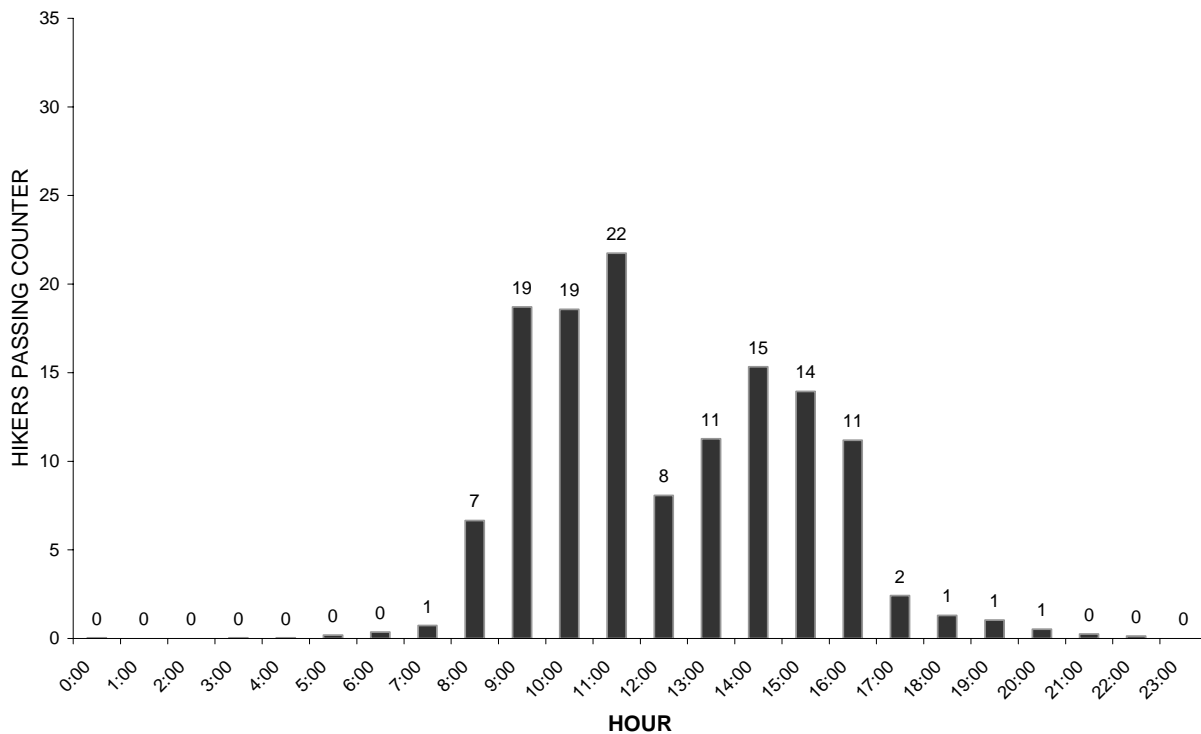
The counter consisted of two components, an emitter and receiver. They were mounted on trees so that the beam crossed the trail in an area where hikers generally walked single-file. The counter was in place from 12:00 on May 25 to 20:48 on September 28. The hourly distribution of use is based on data collected during this period. Total daily hiker passages include data estimated based on other counts of use in the Dyea area, and therefore cover June 26 to October 6.

### 3.3.2 Total Counts

#### Hourly Distribution Aggregated Across Season (May 25 to September 28)

The hourly distribution of hiker passages through the beam of the infrared trail counter on the Chilkoot Trail is shown in Figure 3.2. Note the bimodal distribution with the highest use during the mid to late morning. The pattern likely results from the hike-and-raft users who pass the counter in the morning but do not pass the counter on their rafting return trip.

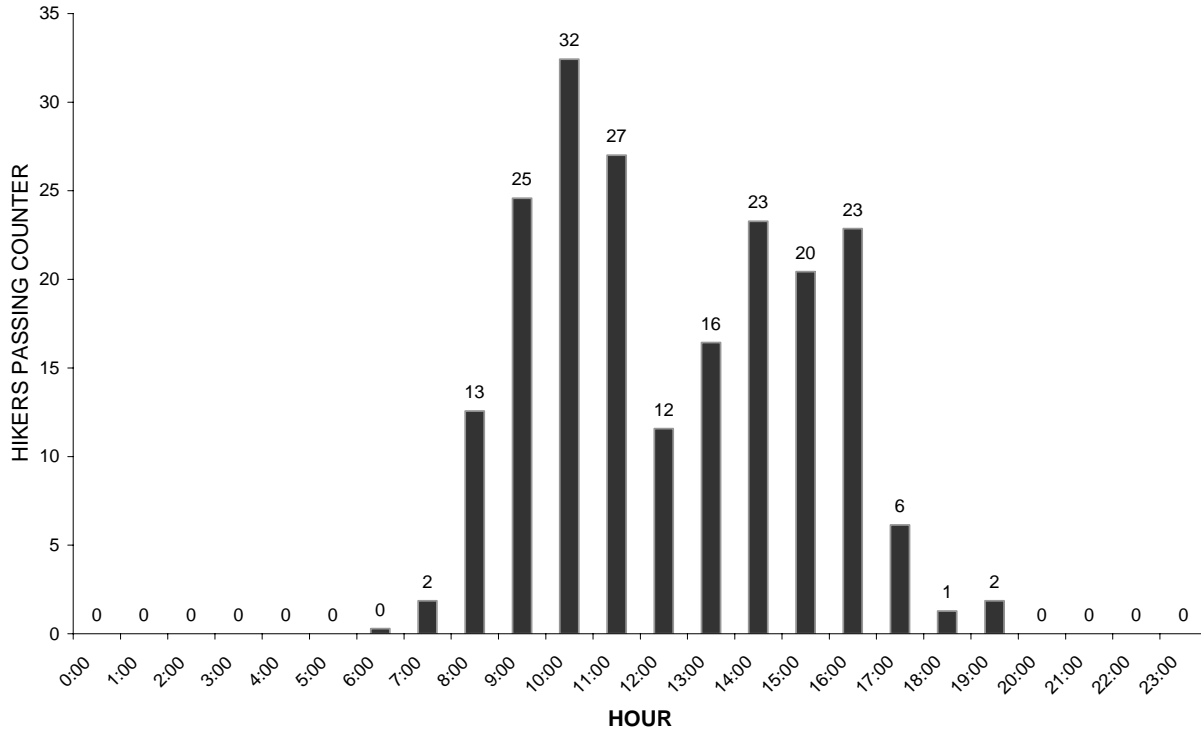
FIGURE 3.2: HOURLY AVERAGE OF HIKERS PASSING THE CHILKOOT TRAIL COUNTER BETWEEN 5/26/04 AND 9/28/04



#### Hourly Distribution Aggregated Across Peak Week (August 8 to August 14)

The hourly distribution of hiker passages on the busiest week (see Figure 3.3 below) had much the same pattern as that observed across the entire summer (see Figure 3.2).

FIGURE 3.3: HOURLY AVERAGE OF HIKERS PASSING THE CHILKOOT TRAIL COUNTER  
PEAK USE WEEK OF 8/8/04 - 8/14/04



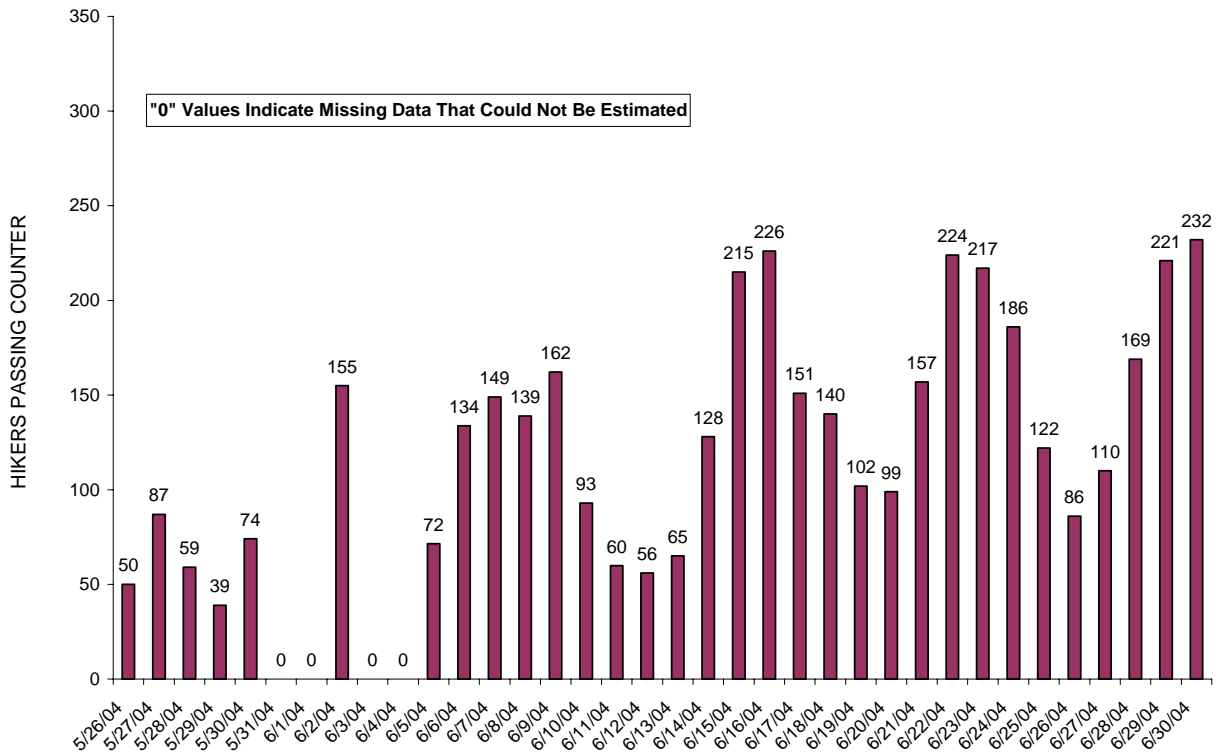
**Daily Hiker Passages from May 26 to October 6**

The daily estimates of hiker passages through the beam of the Chilkoot Trail counter are shown in Figures 3.4 to 3.7. The distribution of use shows a weekly peak with the highest average use during the week of August 8 to August 14 (1418 hiker passages). The number of hiker passages on the 95th percentile day was 260.

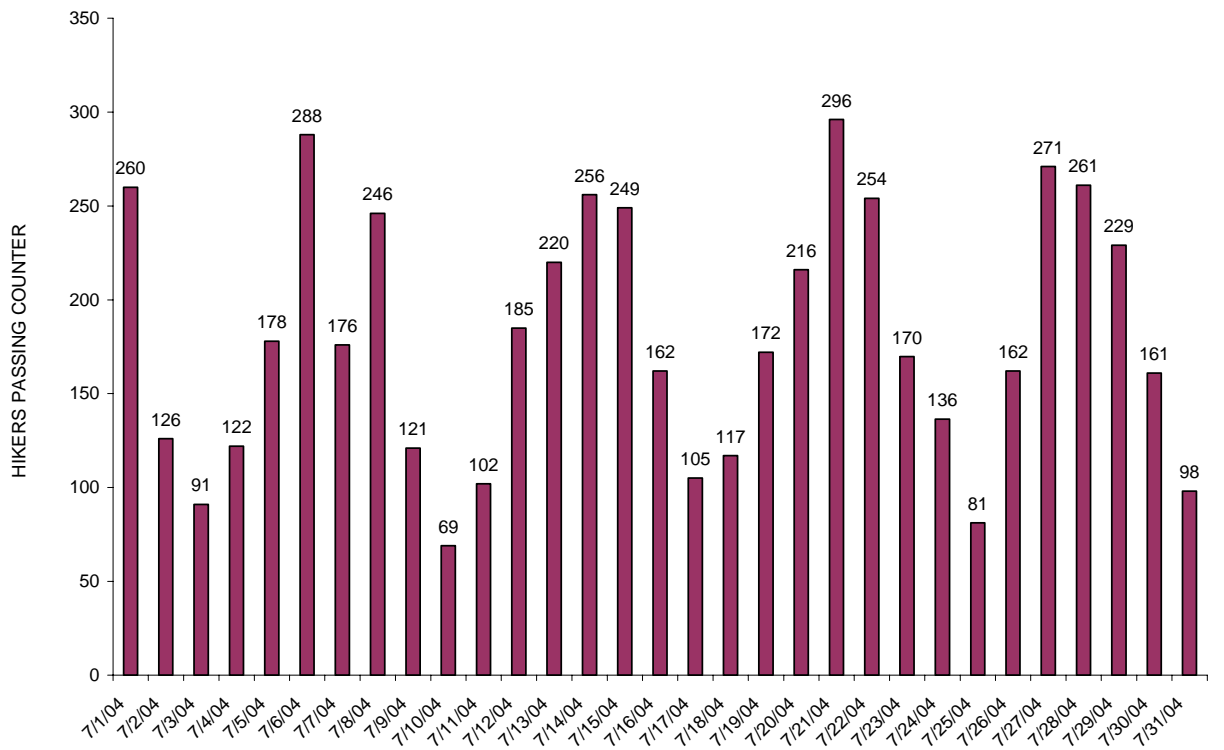
Hiker passages were highly correlated with the expected daily cruise ship passenger counts published by the Skagway Convention and Visitors’ Bureau,  $r = 0.749$ ,  $p < .001$ . A regression equation based on the expected daily passenger counts and the daily high temperature in Skagway produced very accurate predictions of the daily observed hiker passages, accounting for more than 71% of the variability in the counts;  $F(2,127) = 156.1$ ,  $p < .001$  (Daily Passages = [Expected Passengers \* 0.017] + [High Temp \* 3.6] – 181.8).<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Including precipitation and wind measurements as predictors did not add significantly to the accuracy of the regression equation.

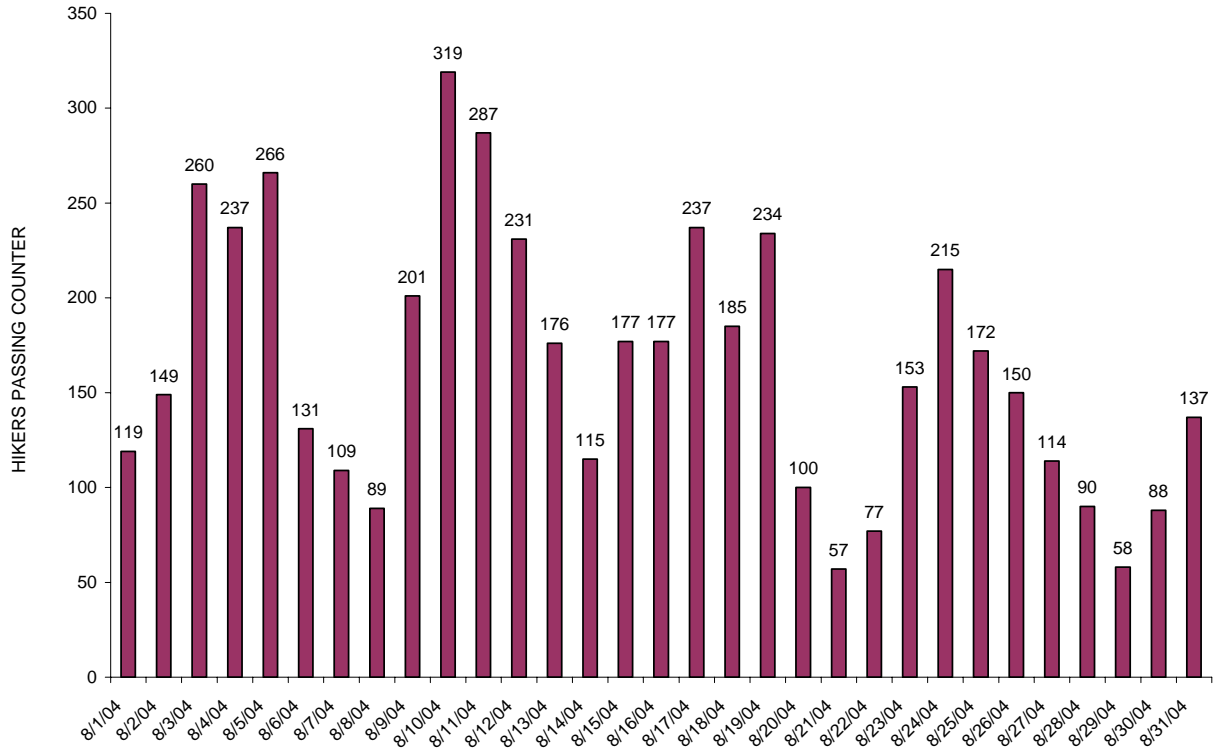
**FIGURE 3.4: DAILY COUNTS OF HIKERS PASSING THE CHILKOOT TRAIL COUNTER BETWEEN 5/26/04 AND 6/30/04**



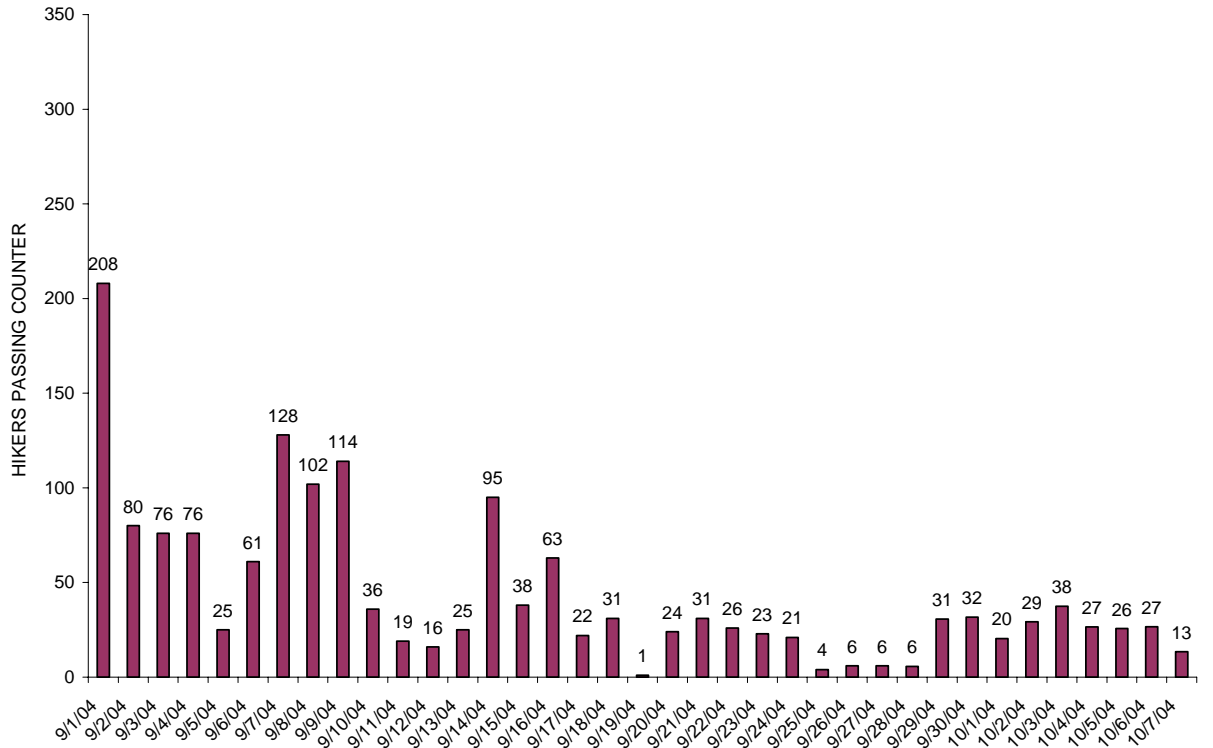
**FIGURE 3.5: DAILY COUNTS OF HIKERS PASSING THE CHILKOOT TRAIL COUNTER BETWEEN 7/1/04 AND 7/31/04**



**FIGURE 3.6: DAILY COUNTS OF HIKERS PASSING THE CHILKOOT TRAIL COUNTER BETWEEN 8/1/04 AND 8/31/04**



**FIGURE 3.7: DAILY COUNTS OF HIKERS PASSING THE CHILKOOT TRAIL COUNTER BETWEEN 9/1/04 AND 10/7/04**



### 3.3.3 Backpacker Permit Data

Daily backpacker permit data for the Chilkoot Trail included information about the number of backpackers entering the trail from Dyea and Bennett, and also information about the number of those hikers that did not intend to cross the Chilkoot Pass (i.e., the number of hikers doing out-and-back vs. one-way trips). These data were used to make daily estimates of the number of backpackers passing the trail counter.

#### Calculating Backpacker Passages at the Dyea End of the Chilkoot Trail

Assumptions:

- 1) All backpackers leaving Dyea will pass the counter.
- 2) On average, out-and-back backpackers leaving Dyea will return (and pass the counter) two days after setting out.
- 3) On average, one-way backpackers leaving Bennett will pass the counter four days after setting out.

Therefore:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Number of backpackers} & & & & \text{(backpackers leaving Dyea)} \\ \text{passing the counter} & = & & + & \\ & & \text{(out-and-back backpackers leaving Dyea two days prior)} & & \\ & & & + & \\ & & \text{(one-way backpackers leaving Bennett four days prior)} & & \end{aligned}$$

The estimated use by backpackers as measured by the Chilkoot Trail infrared counter was 22.5 passages per day (SD = 19.8). The 2,896 one-way backpackers leaving Dyea accounted for 96.1% of all backpacker passages, the 53 out-and-back backpackers accounted for 3.5% of passages, and the 12 one-way backpackers leaving Bennett accounted for 0.4% of passages.

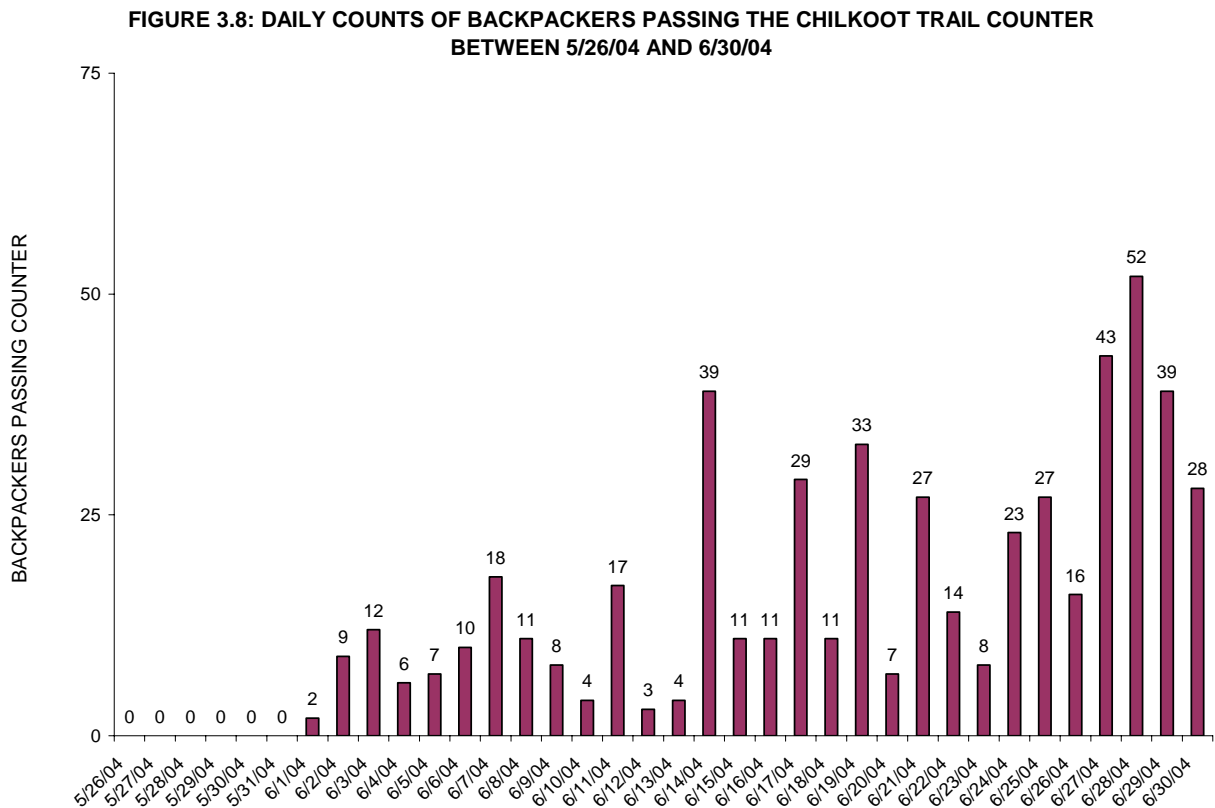
Backpacker passages were significantly correlated with the expected daily cruise ship passenger counts published by the Skagway Convention and Visitors' Bureau,  $r = 0.288$ ,  $p = .001$ , but the relationship was much weaker than the correlation with hiker passages in general (see Section 3.3.2). A regression equation based on the expected daily passenger counts and the daily high temperature in Skagway produced fair predictions of the daily observed backpacker passages, accounting for more than 29% of the variability in the counts;  $F(2,127) = 27.5$ ,  $p <$

.001 (Daily Backpacker Passages = [Expected Passengers \* 0.001] + [High Temp \* 1.1] – 53.0).<sup>4</sup>

The predictive power of the regression equation probably results primarily because backpackers are somewhat less likely to set out on their hikes during poor weather.

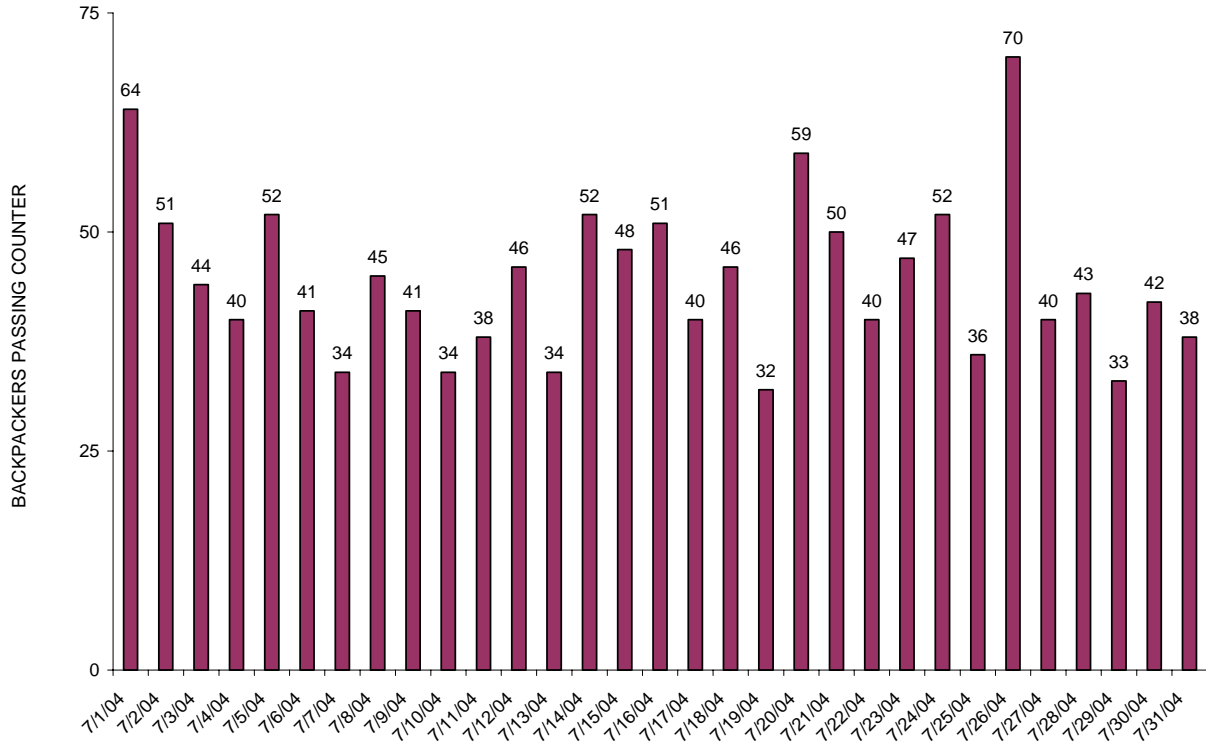
**Daily Counts of Backpackers passing the Chilkoot Trail Infrared Counter from May 26 to October 6**

The daily estimates of backpackers passing the Chilkoot Trail infrared counter are shown in Figures 3.8 to 3.11. Backpacking use declines dramatically at the end of August with the peak use period stretching from late June through mid August.

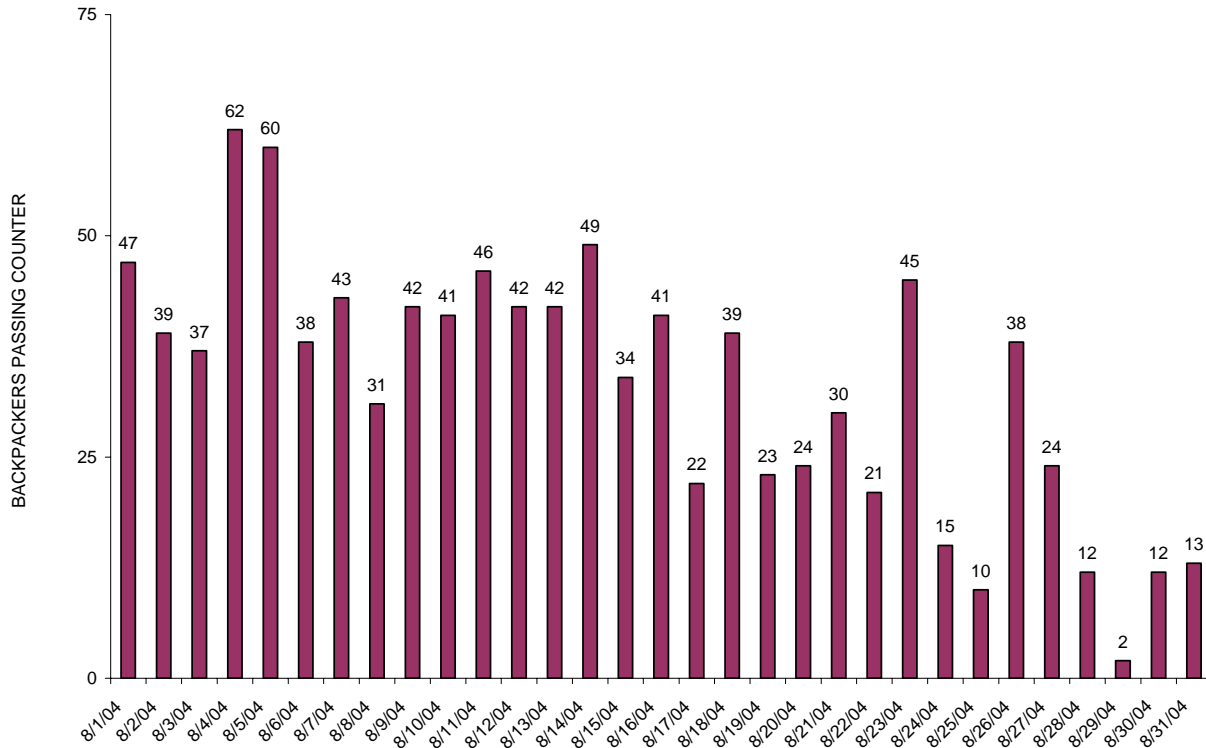


<sup>4</sup> Including precipitation and wind measurements as predictors did not add significantly to the accuracy of the regression equation.

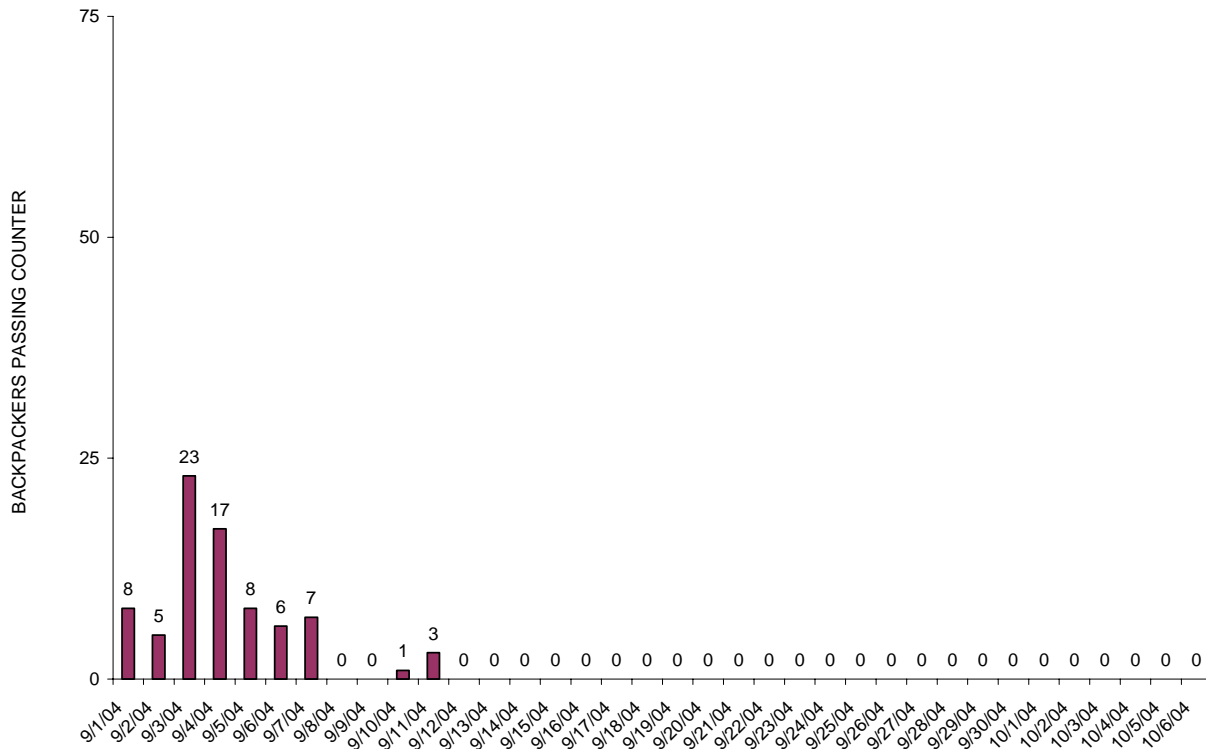
**FIGURE 3.9: DAILY COUNTS OF BACKPACKERS PASSING THE CHILKOOT TRAIL COUNTER BETWEEN 7/1/04 AND 7/31/04**



**FIGURE 3.10: DAILY COUNTS OF BACKPACKERS PASSING THE CHILKOOT TRAIL COUNTER BETWEEN 8/1/04 AND 8/31/04**



**FIGURE 3.11: DAILY COUNTS OF BACKPACKERS PASSING THE CHILKOOT TRAIL COUNTER BETWEEN 9/1/04 AND 10/7/04**



### 3.3.4 Rafters

The figures reported by the Incidental Business Permittees for hike-and-float use are confidential and proprietary business information that can not be released to the public. Accordingly, the information in this section will be sent to the Project Technical Representative as a confidential memo.

### 3.3.5 Independent Day Hikers

The number of independent day hikers registered by the infrared counter was estimated by subtracting the expected number of daily passages due to backpackers and rafters from the daily trail counts. Thus, although the number of independent day hikers is not sensitive information in and of itself, it can be used in conjunction with the backpacker counts in Section 3.3.3 to infer confidential and proprietary business information about hike-and-float use. Accordingly, the information in this section will be sent to the Project Technical Representative as a confidential memo.

**3.3.6 Breakdown of Chilkoot Trail Use and Users**

The confidential and proprietary information concerning hike-and-float use could be inferred from information describing the breakdown of users on the Chilkoot Trail. Accordingly, the information in this section will be sent to the Project Technical Representative as a confidential memo.

### **3.4 Slide Cemetery**

Use at the Slide Cemetery was counted using a vehicle counter placed on the road leading to the parking lot. The Diamond Traffic TT-6 model of counter was installed (see <http://www.diamondtraffic.com> ). It used a pneumatic tube to sense when a vehicle passed. Two strikes (i.e., front and rear wheels) were required before the counter registered an event. The counter provided one-hour interval counts of the number of vehicles entering and leaving the parking lot.

#### **3.4.1 Vehicle Counter Installation**

The vehicle counter was chained and padlocked to a tree alongside the road near the parking lot. The pneumatic tube was enclosed in a canvas fire-hose and stretched across the road so that it recorded vehicles both entering and leaving the area. The counter was in place from approximately 8:00 on June 13 to 15:22 on October 7. Sometime around 14:00 on July 24 a vandal cut the pneumatic tube. It was repaired by 17:00 on July 25. Other breaks in the data record were not due to mechanical problems. The hourly distribution of use is based on data collected while the counter was in place. Total daily vehicle counts include data estimated based on other counts of use in the Dyea area, and therefore cover May 26 to October 6.

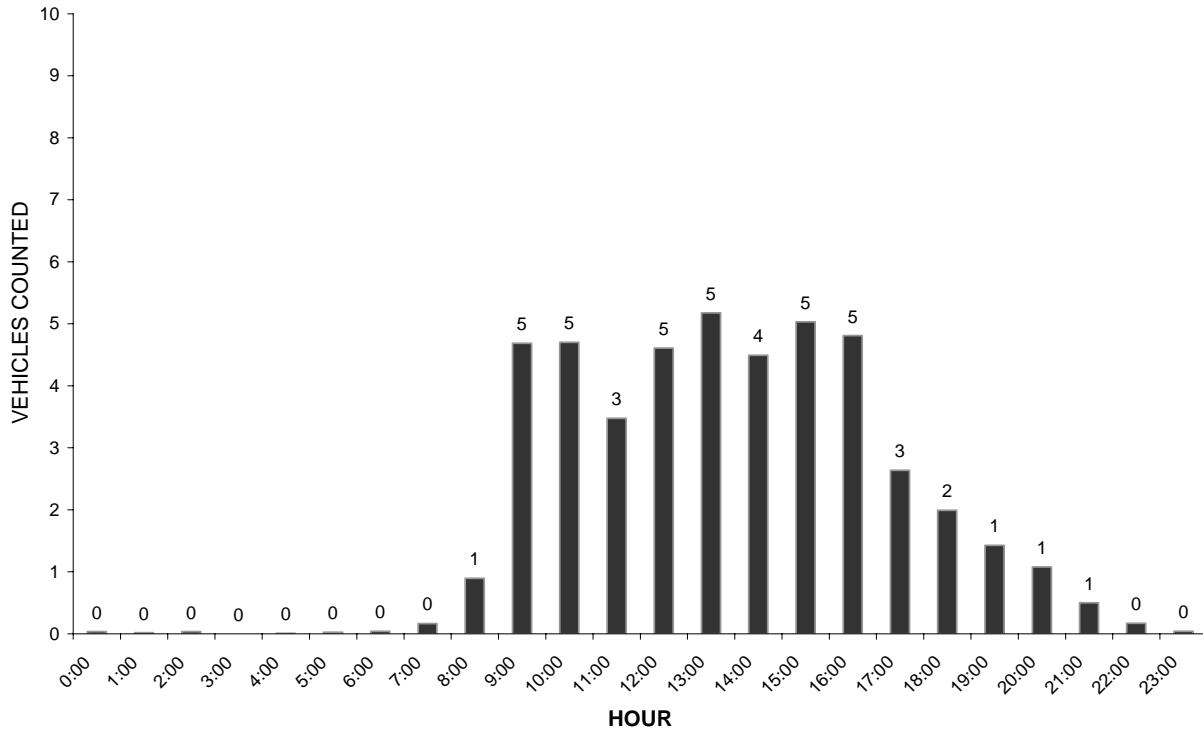
#### **3.4.2 Total Vehicle Counts**

All the charts show the number of vehicles visiting the Slide Cemetery, estimated by dividing the number of counted events by two (entry and exit).

**Hourly Distribution Aggregated Across Season (June 13 to October 7)**

The hourly distribution of vehicles visiting the slide cemetery is shown in Figure 3.12. The distribution is fairly flat from 9:00 to 5:00 with a slight dip before noon.

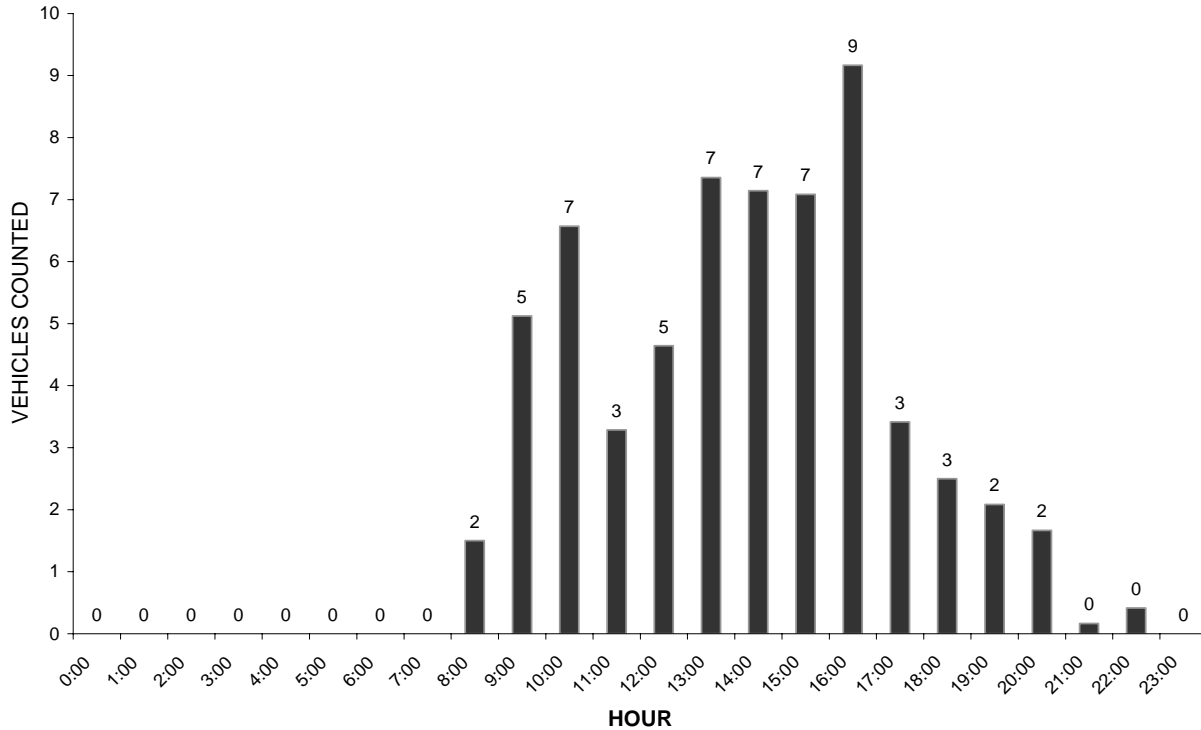
**FIGURE 3.12: HOURLY AVERAGE OF VEHICLES USING SLIDE CEMETERY PARKING LOT BETWEEN 6/13/04 AND 10/7/04**



**Hourly Distribution Aggregated Across Peak Week (July 18 to July 24)**

The hourly distribution of vehicles at the Slide Cemetery during the busiest week (see Figure 3.13 below) had a similar pattern to that observed across the entire summer (see Figure 3.12), with a higher peak in the late afternoon.

**FIGURE 3.13: HOURLY AVERAGE OF VEHICLES USING SLIDE CEMETERY PARKING LOT DURING PEAK USE WEEK OF 7/18/04 - 7/24/04**



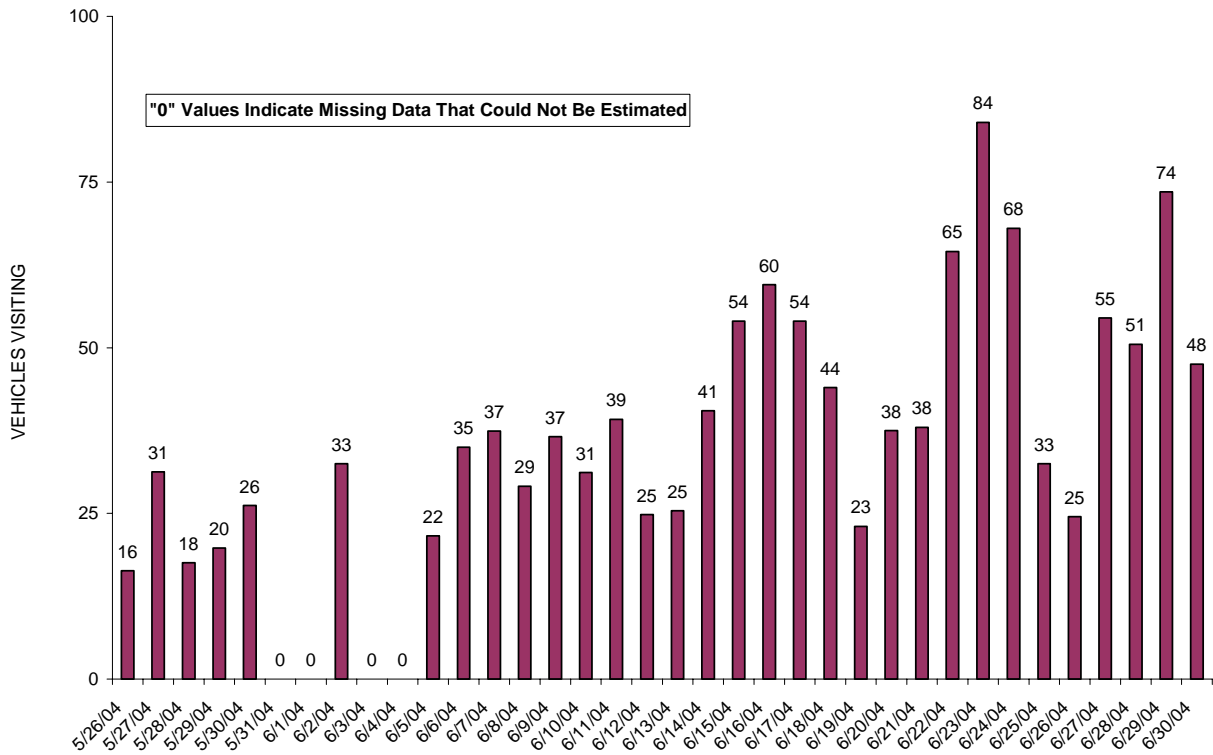
**Daily Counts of Vehicles from May 26 to October 6**

The daily estimates of vehicles visiting the Slide Cemetery are shown in Figures 3.14 to 3.17. The distribution of use shows a weekly dip in use on weekends with the highest average use during the week of July 18 to July 24 (431 vehicle visits). The number of vehicle visits on the 95th percentile day is 71.

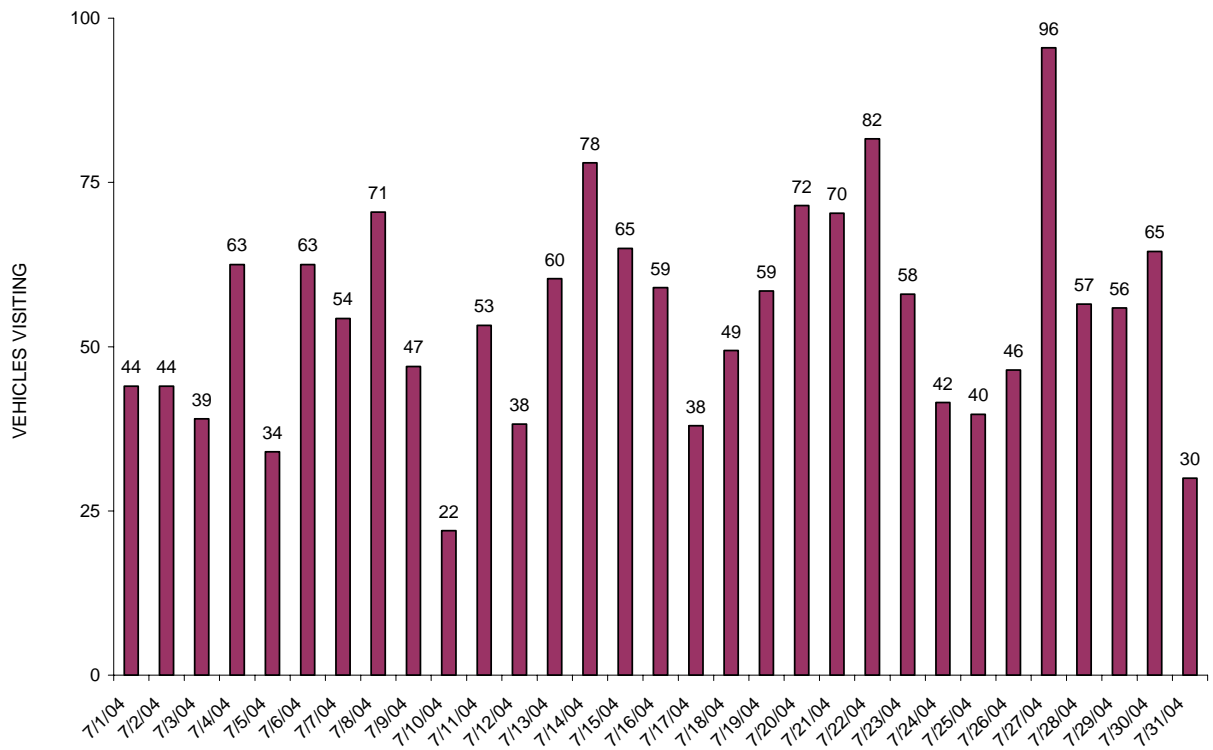
Vehicle counts were highly correlated with the expected daily cruise ship passenger counts published by the Skagway Convention and Visitors’ Bureau,  $r = 0.566, p < .001$ . A regression equation based on the expected daily passenger counts and the daily high temperature in Skagway produced very accurate predictions of the daily observed vehicles, accounting for more than 55% of the variability in the counts;  $F(2,127) = 79.6, p < .001$  (Daily Vehicles = [Expected Passengers \* 0.003] + [High Temp \* 1.2] – 57.8).<sup>5</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Including precipitation and wind measurements as predictors did not add significantly to the accuracy of the regression equation.

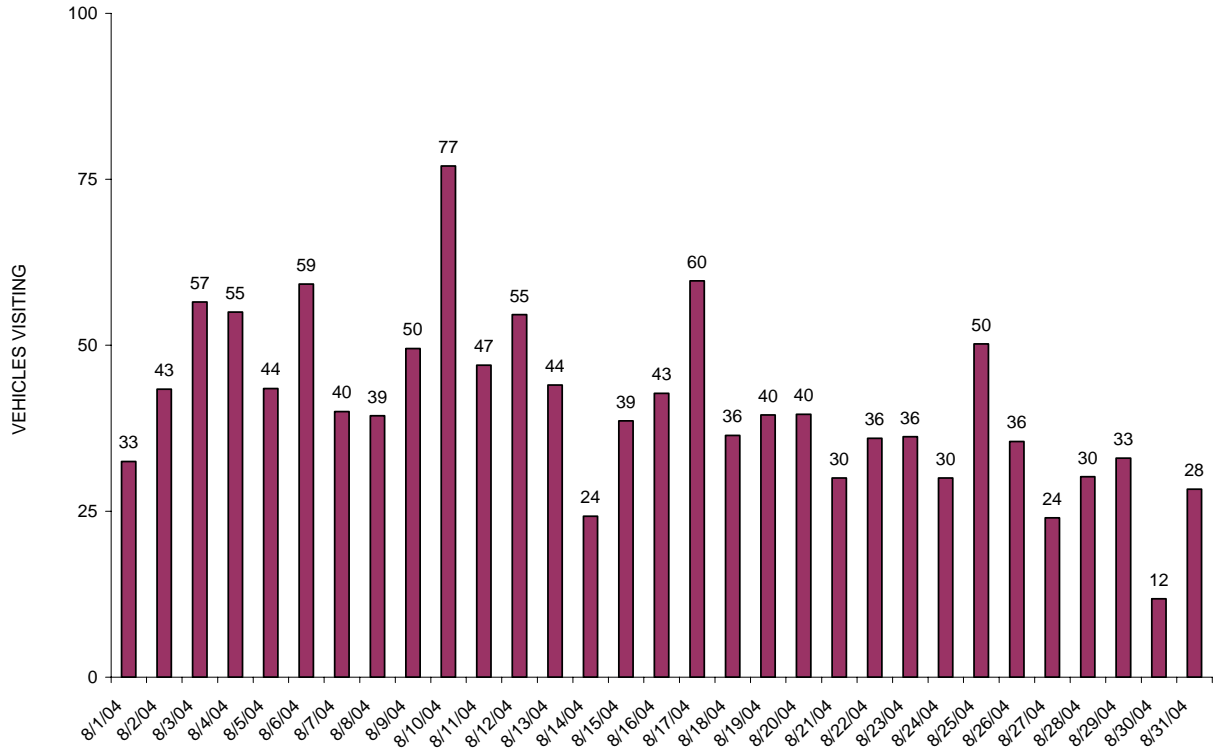
**FIGURE 3.14: DAILY COUNTS OF VEHICLES VISITING THE SLIDE CEMETERY BETWEEN 5/26/04 AND 6/30/04**



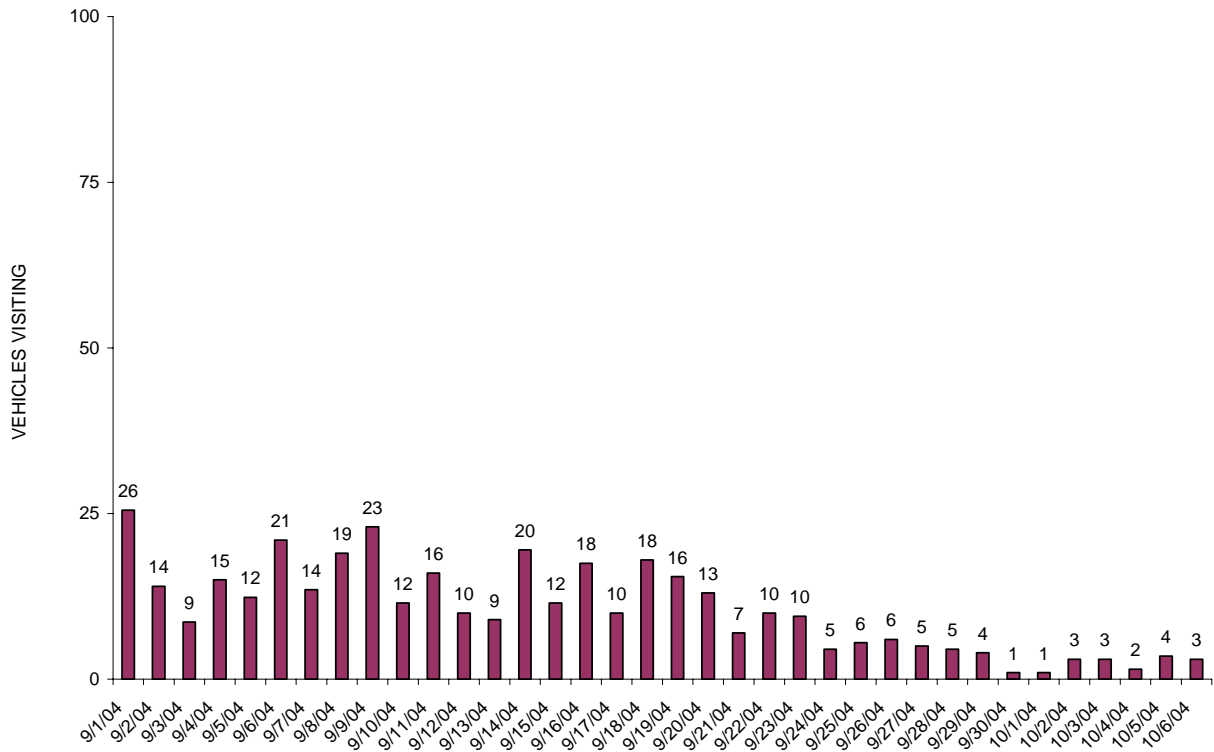
**FIGURE 3.15: DAILY COUNTS OF VEHICLES VISITING THE SLIDE CEMETERY BETWEEN 7/1/04 AND 7/31/04**



**FIGURE 3.16: DAILY COUNTS OF VEHICLES VISITING THE SLIDE CEMETERY BETWEEN 8/1/04 AND 8/31/04**



**FIGURE 3.17: DAILY COUNTS OF VEHICLES VISITING THE SLIDE CEMETERY BETWEEN 9/1/04 AND 10/6/04**



### **3.4.3 Parking Capacity and Visitors Present at One Time**

A study of visit durations (i.e., parking lot turnover) and party size was also conducted at the Slide Cemetery. The survey worker recorded the length of time that vehicles parked during 11 time periods randomly distributed across the season. The cemetery parking lot is used both by visitors to the cemetery and visitors hiking the Lost Lake Trail. Due in part to these different user groups, parking durations differed markedly for the 71.6 percent of vehicles that were seen both entering and leaving the lot (14 minutes) and those vehicles for which the entrance or exit took place outside the observed period (at least 48 minutes based only on the portion of the stay that was observed). In conjunction with the automated counts, these data were used to estimate the percentage use of the site's parking capacity (a maximum of 6 vehicles).

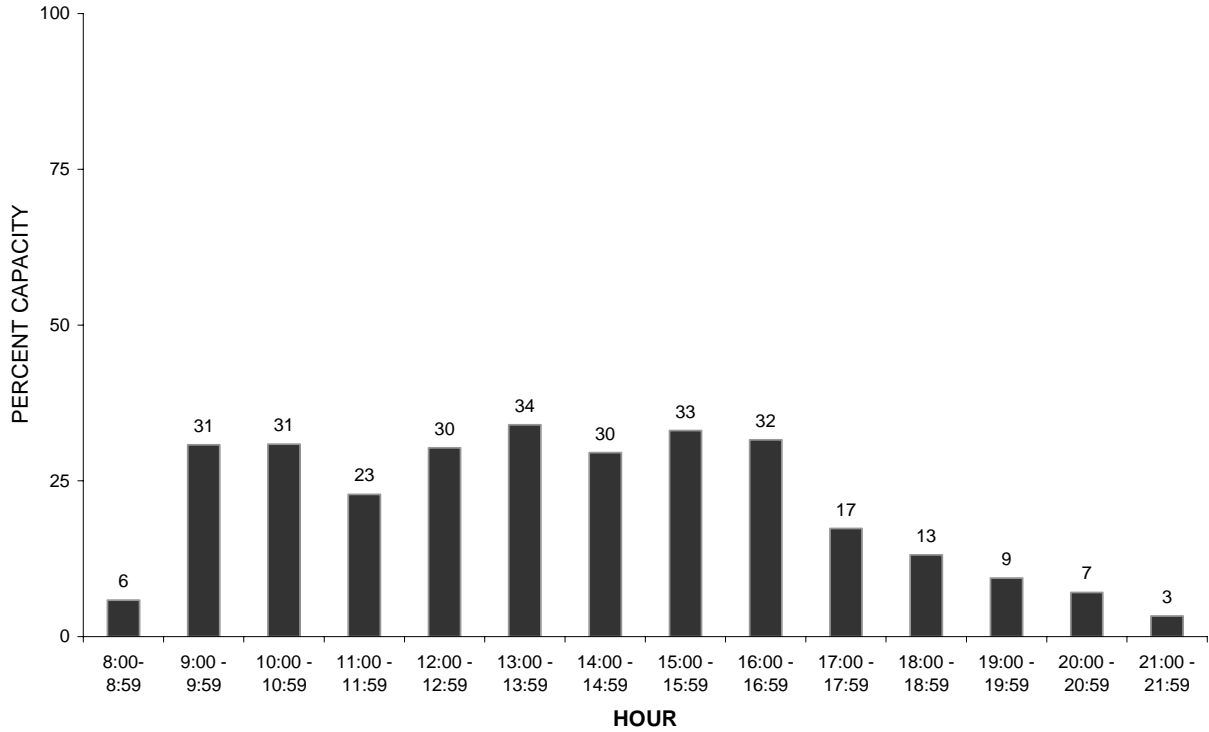
Parking use was estimated based on parking minutes. The hourly capacity of the lot was 360 minutes (6 spaces at 60 minutes/space). Hourly use was calculated based on the following formula:

$$(\text{Vehicles visiting} * .716 * 14) + (\text{Vehicles visiting} * .284 * 48) = \text{Parking minutes used}$$

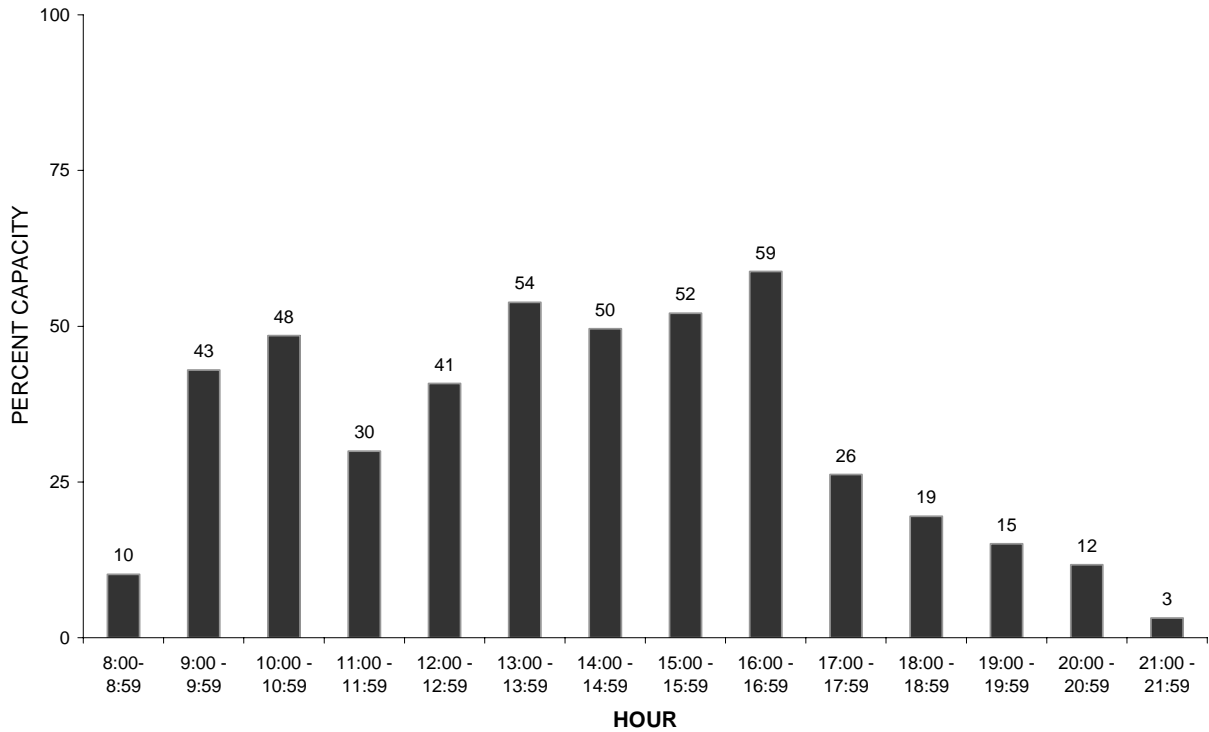
#### **Hourly Distribution of Parking Use Aggregated Across Season (June 13 to October 7), for 95<sup>th</sup> Percentile day, and Aggregated Across Peak Week (July 18 to July 24)**

The charts below show the average parking use for the period between June 13 and October 7 (see Figure 3.18), for the 95th percentile day (71 vehicle visits; see Figure 3.19), and for the busiest week (July 18 – 24) during the observed period (see Figure 3.20). The charts show only the hours from 8:00 to 22:00 because use was negligible outside those times. Note that these figures underestimate parking use because the duration of stay for the 28.4 percent of vehicles that were not observed both entering and exiting the parking lot was underestimated by an unknown amount.

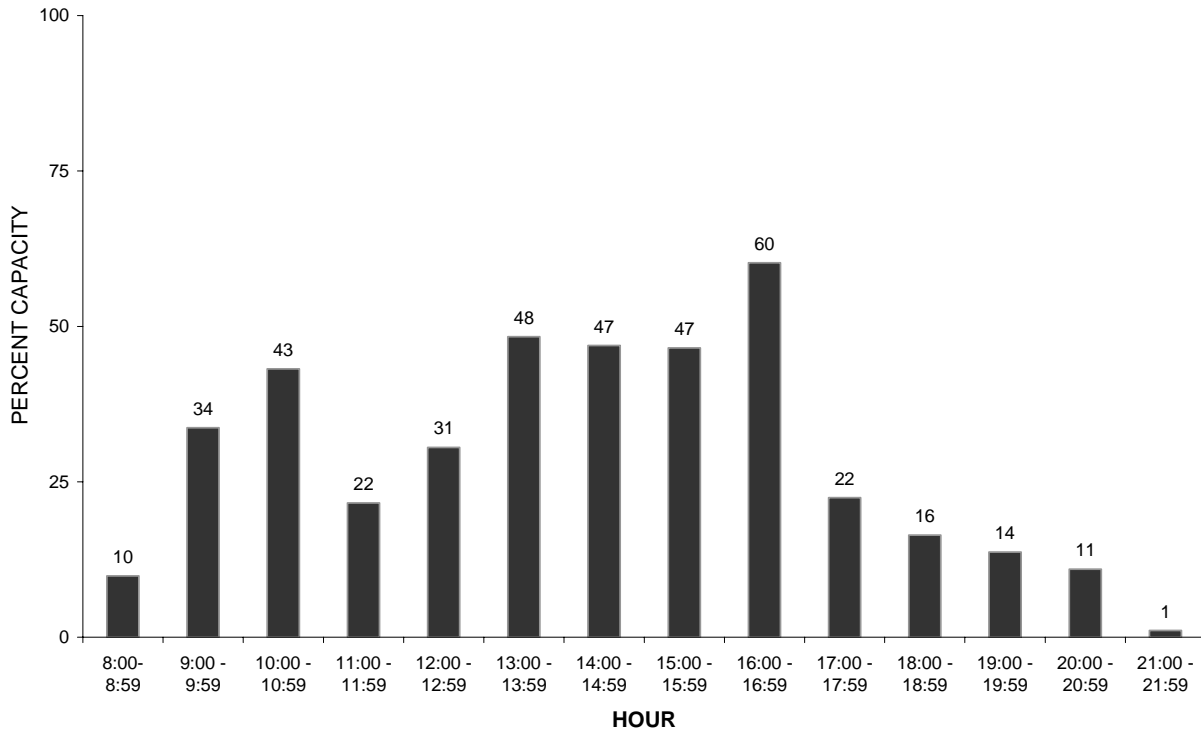
**FIGURE 3.18: AVERAGE HOURLY SLIDE CEMETERY PARKING LOT USE BETWEEN 6/13/04 AND 10/7/04**



**FIGURE 3.19: HOURLY SLIDE CEMETERY PARKING LOT USE ON THE 95th PERCENTILE DAY (71 VEHICLE VISITS)**



**FIGURE 3.20: AVERAGE HOURLY SLIDE CEMETERY PARKING LOT USE BETWEEN 7/18/04 AND 7/24/04**



**Calculating Persons At One Time Visiting the Slide Cemetery**

During the systematic observation periods, the survey worker also recorded an average of 2.88 visitors in each vehicle (based on 60 observed vehicles). In combination with the automated counts and the duration of stay data, this information was used to estimate the average number of visitors present at the slide cemetery at any one time.

Two different estimates of visitors at one time were calculated based on two different assumptions about vehicle duration of stay. The first estimate was based on an assumption that only the 71.6 percent of vehicles that were observed both entering and leaving the parking lot were at the cemetery during their visit. The second estimate was based on an assumption that all the vehicles observed entering or leaving the parking lot were at the cemetery during the time that their vehicles were observed in the lot. The following formulas were used to calculate Estimate A and Estimate B of the hourly average of visitors at one time:

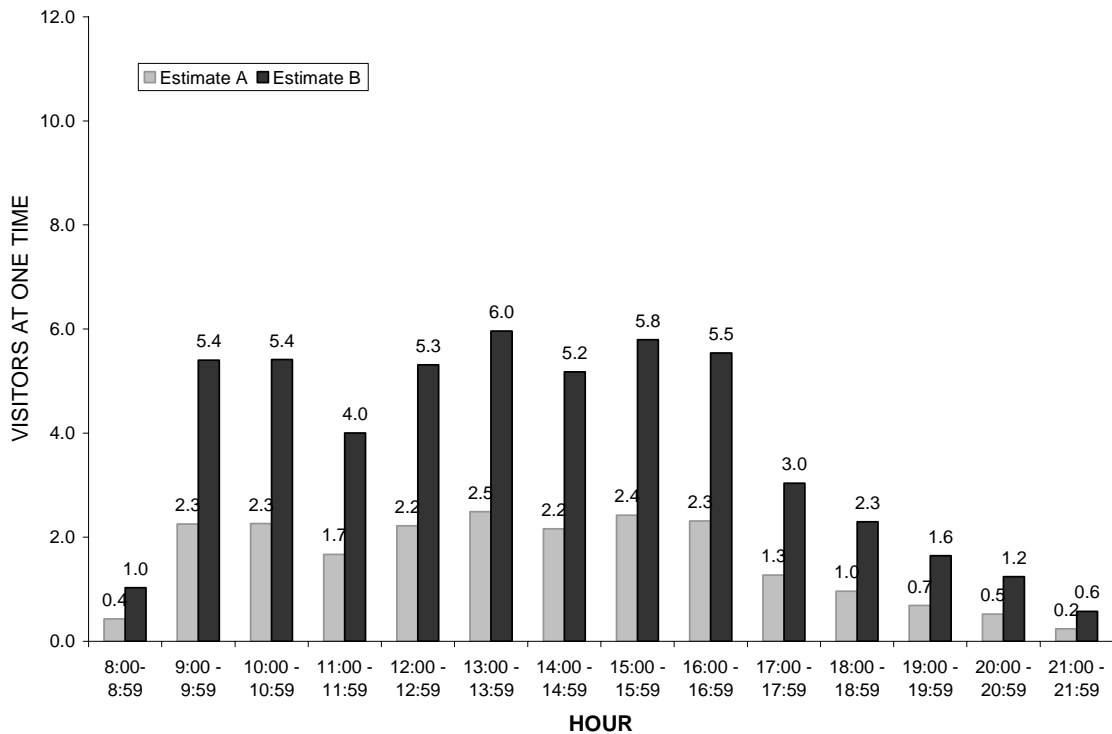
A:  $(\text{Vehicles visiting} * .716 * 2.88 * (14/60)) = \text{Average visitors at one time}$   
 B:  $(\text{Vehicles visiting} * 2.88 * (24/60)) = \text{Average visitors at one time}$

The true number of visitors at one time should fall in between these two estimates. It is virtually certain that some of the longer visits for which we observed only an exit or entrance were spent entirely at the cemetery. It is also virtually certain that some of those visits were spent largely or entirely hiking to Lost Lake. Given that we have no further empirical information about cemetery visits, we present both estimates as sideboards.

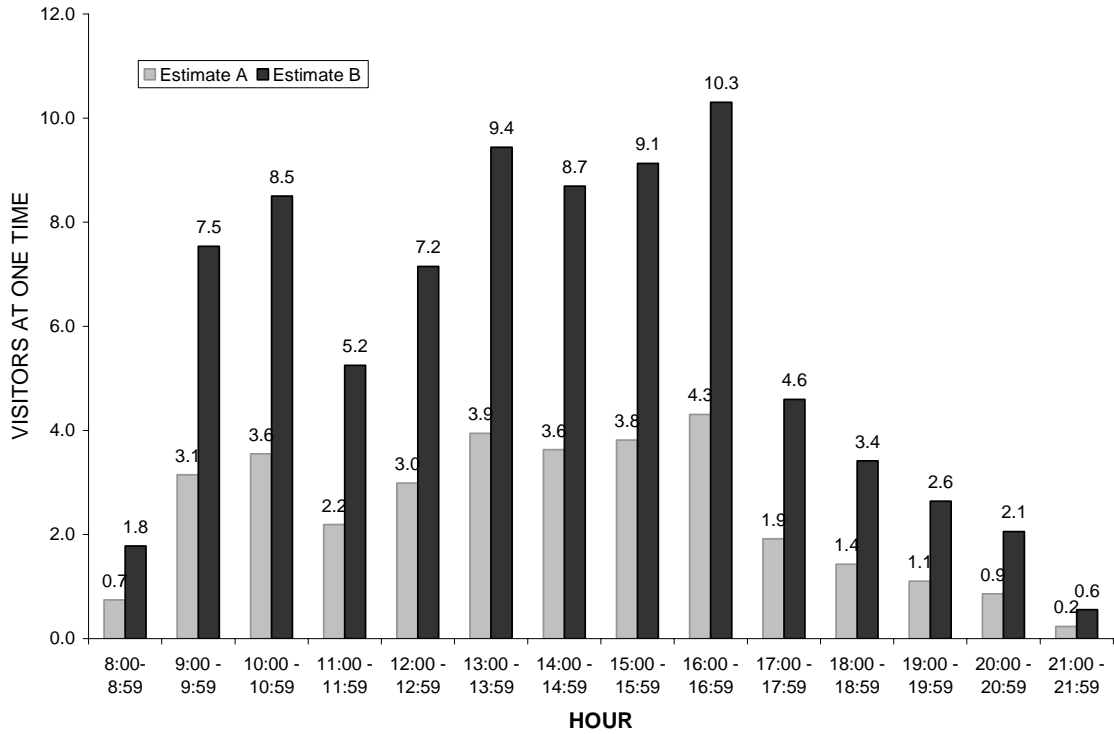
**Hourly Distribution of Visitors at One Time Aggregated Across Season (June 13 to October 7), for 95<sup>th</sup> Percentile day, and Aggregated Across Peak Week (July 18 to July 24)**

The charts below show the A and B estimates of the average number of visitors at one time for the period between June 13 and October 7 (see Figure 3.21), for the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile day (71 vehicle visits; see Figure 3.22), and for the busiest week (July 18 – 24) during the observed period (see Figure 3.23).

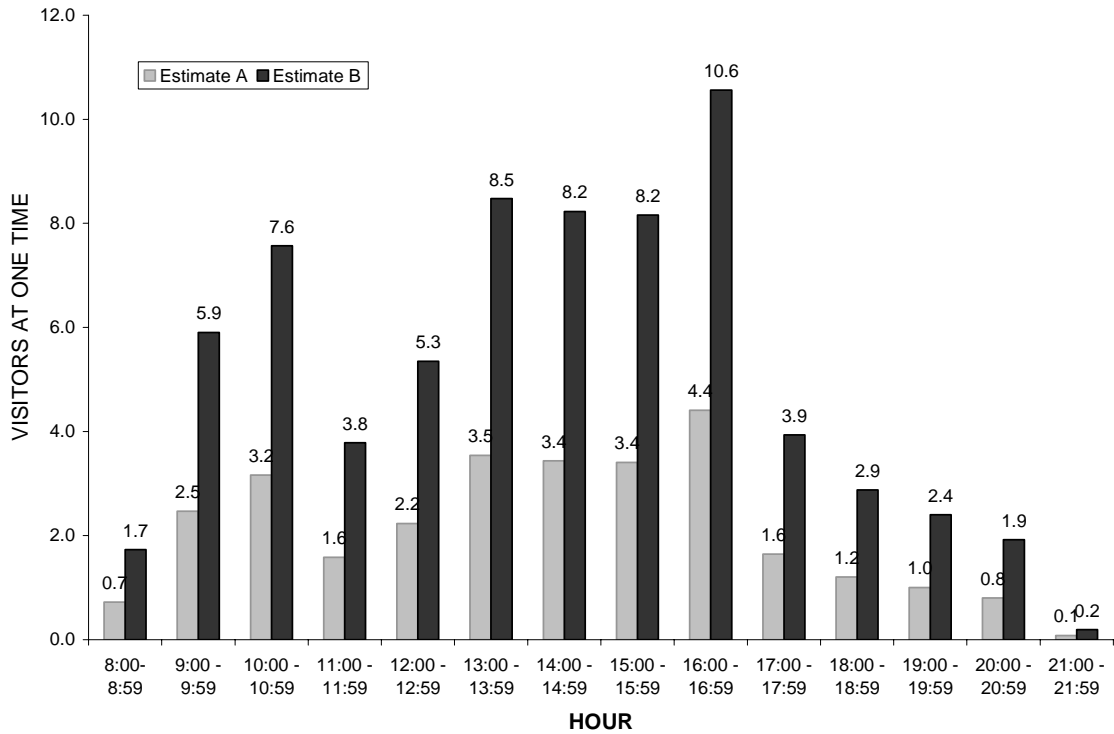
**FIGURE 3.21: SLIDE CEMETERY VISITORS AT ONE TIME BETWEEN 6/13/04 AND 10/7/04 (HOURLY AVERAGE)**



**FIGURE 3.22: SLIDE CEMETERY VISITORS AT ONE TIME ON THE 95th PERCENTILE DAY (HOURLY AVERAGE GIVEN 71 VEHICLE VISITS)**



**FIGURE 3.23: SLIDE CEMETERY VISITORS AT ONE TIME BETWEEN 7/18/04 AND 7/24/04 (HOURLY AVERAGE)**



### 3.5 Dyea Town Site and Dyea Flats

Counts of visitors who stopped at the Dyea town site and/or traveled beyond the town site to the Dyea Flats were collected using two Diamond Traffic TT-6 counters. Also, the same type of Trail Master TM 1550 active infrared trail counter used on the Chilkoot Trail was used to count visitors at the Dyea town site. In conjunction with other information, these automated counts provide a variety of use estimates.

#### 3.5.1 Vehicle Counter Installation

The vehicle counters were chained and padlocked to trees alongside the road. The pneumatic tube was enclosed in a canvas fire-hose and stretched across the road so that it recorded vehicles both entering and leaving the area. The counter that counted vehicles using the Dyea Flats was placed sufficiently far from the town site that vehicles that were simply turning around were not counted. Due to delays in obtaining the counters from the vendor, the counters were not put in place until approximately 15:00 on July 7. They recorded data until 15:50 on October 7.

#### 3.5.2 Total Vehicle Counts: Dyea Town Site and Dyea Flats

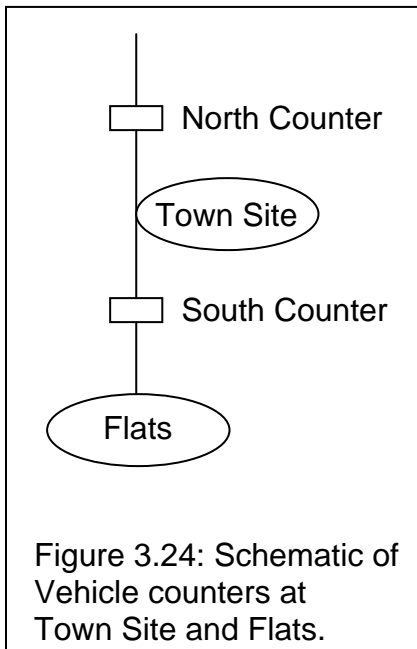


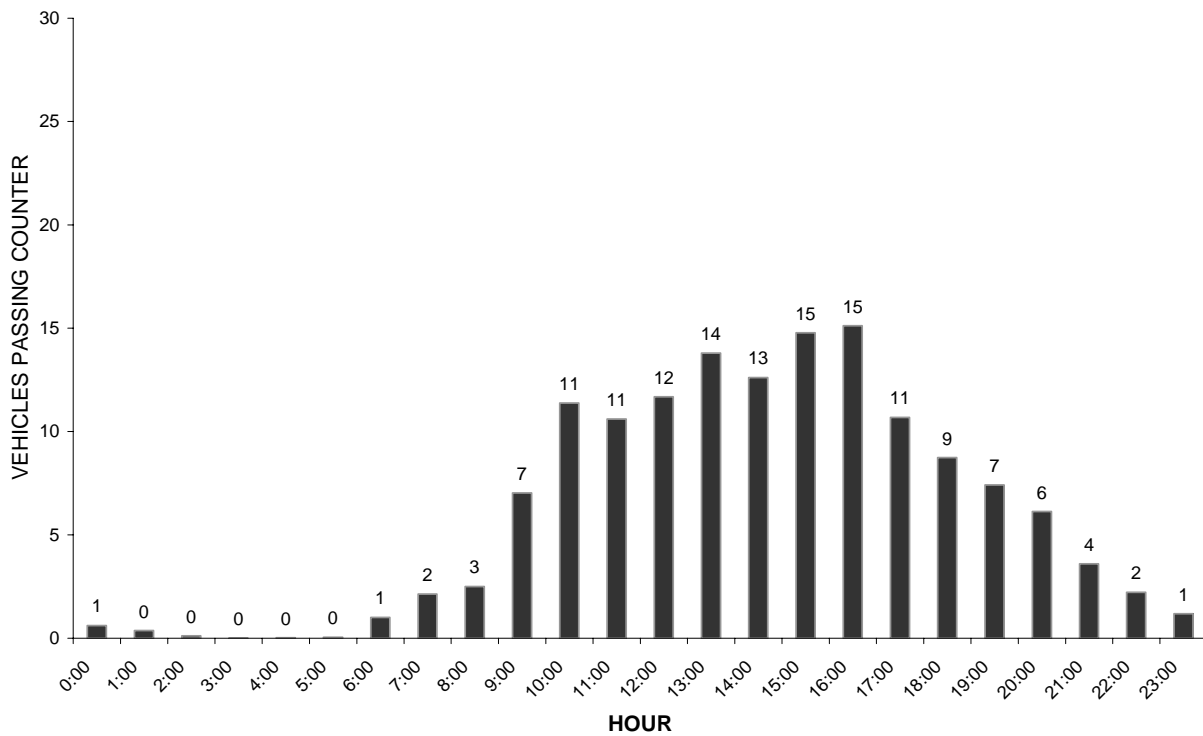
Figure 3.24 represents the way we counted vehicles visiting the Dyea Town Site and Dyea Flats. Because the road ends at the flats, the vehicle counters were assumed to count each vehicle twice (entering and leaving). We estimated visitation by private vehicles at each site using the information from the counters and information collected by the survey cards (see Section 3.6). The logic of our estimation procedure can be applied to daily, monthly, or seasonal counts. However, they do not apply to hourly counts because the duration of stays at the sites invalidates the necessary assumption that all vehicles completed their trips past both counters during the one-hour time period in question. Thus, the patterns of hourly use were

calculated based on the number of vehicle passages past each counter and represent the hourly pattern of traffic rather than the hourly pattern of visitation (although those patterns are expected to be highly correlated).

### Hourly Distribution of Vehicle Passages at the North Counter Aggregated Across Season (July 7 to October 7)

The hourly distribution of vehicle passages over the pneumatic tube of the north trail counter is shown in Figure 3.25. Note the bell shaped distribution with the highest use during the mid to late afternoon. This chart shows no suggestion of a “morning in/afternoon out” pattern of visitor use.

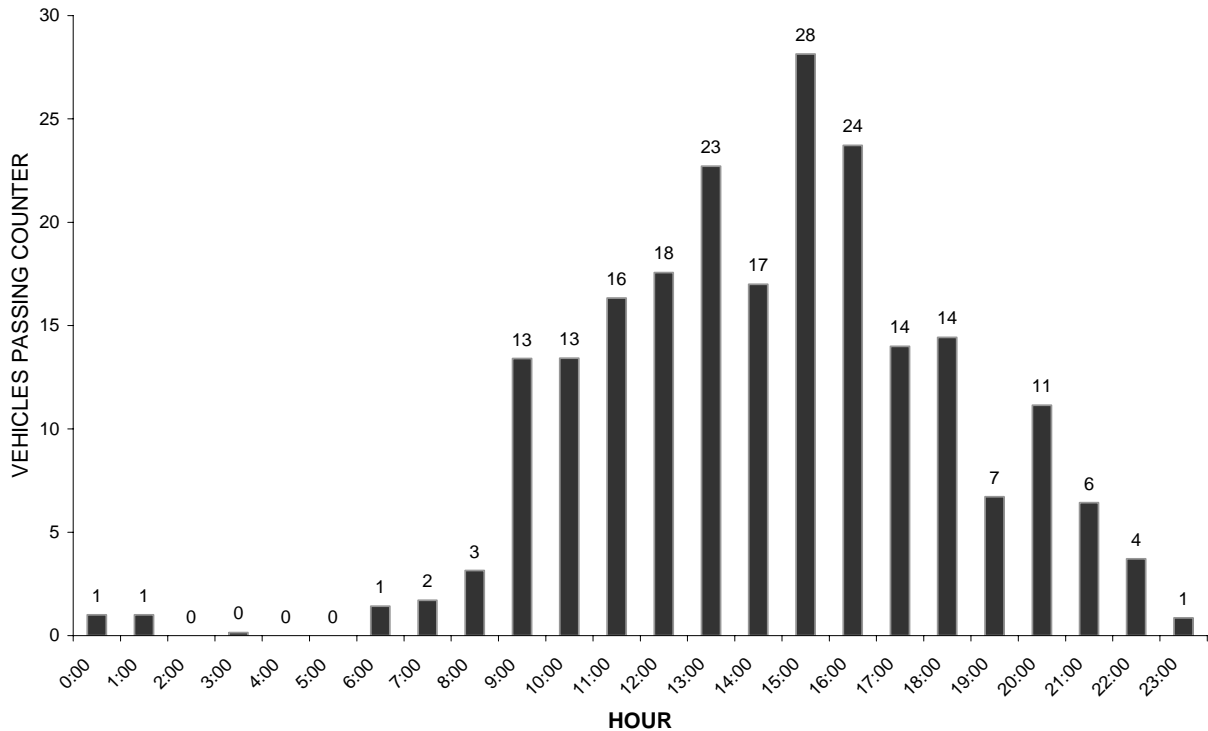
FIGURE 3.25: HOURLY AVERAGE OF VEHICLE PASSAGES OVER THE NORTH NELSON SLOUGH VEHICLE COUNTER BETWEEN 7/7/04 AND 10/7/04



**Hourly Distribution of Vehicle Passages at the North Counter Aggregated Across Peak Week (August 8 to August 14)**

The hourly distribution of vehicle passages over the pneumatic tube of the north trail counter during the busiest week (see Figure 3.26 below) had a similar pattern to that observed across the entire summer (see Figure 3.25), with a slightly more prominent dip in traffic during the early afternoon.

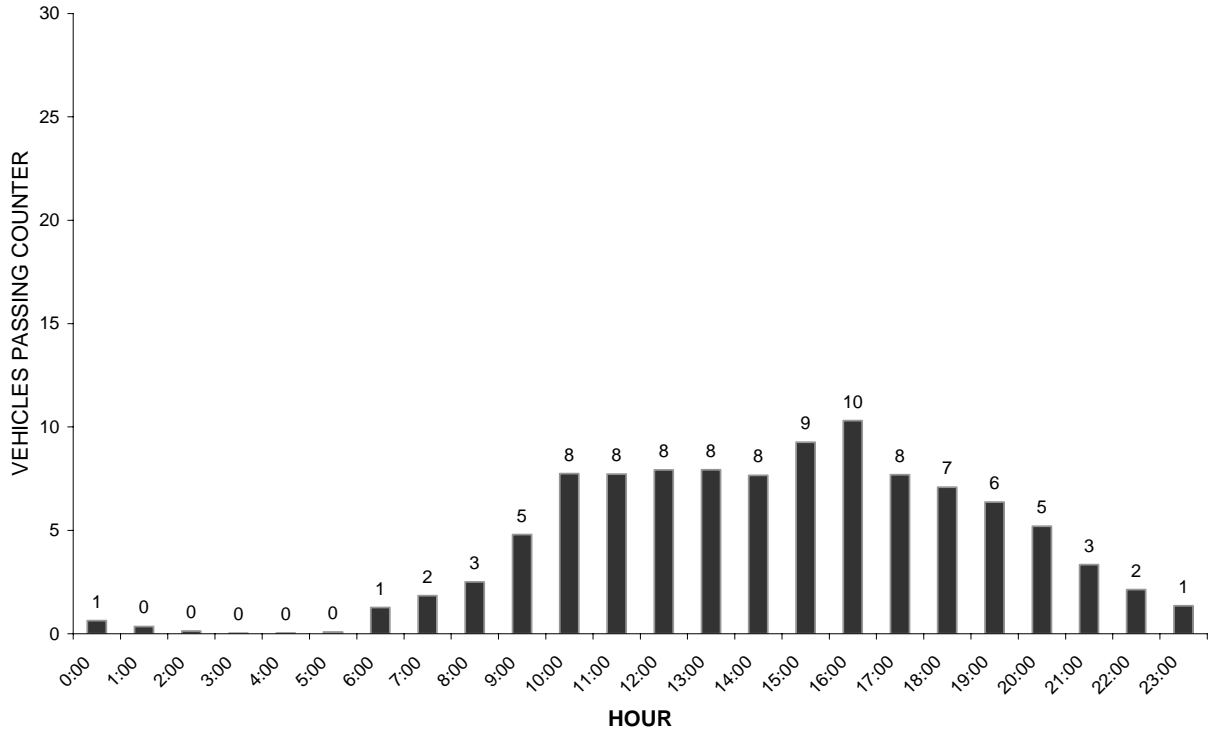
**FIGURE 3.26: HOURLY AVERAGE OF VEHICLE PASSAGES OVER THE NORTH NELSON SLOUGH VEHICLE COUNTER DURING PEAK USE WEEK OF 8/8/04 TO 8/14/04**



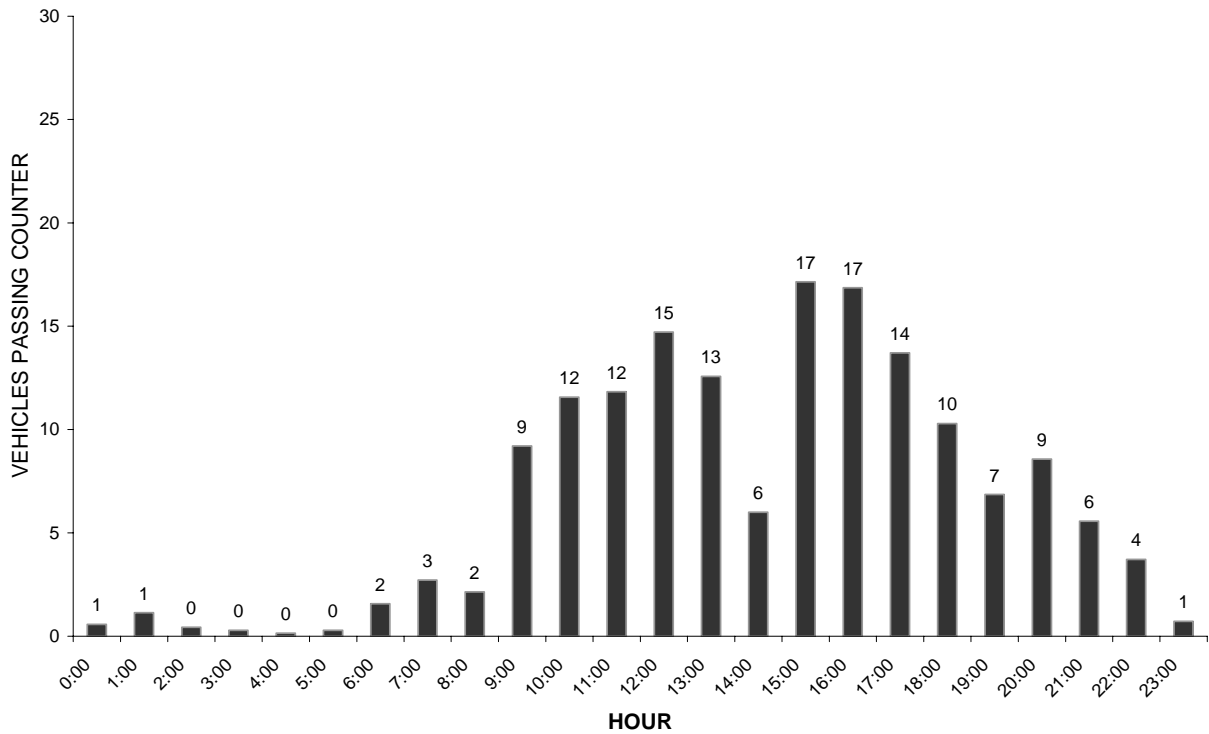
**Hourly Distribution of Vehicle Passages at the South Counter Aggregated Across Season (July 7 to October 7) and Across Peak Week (August 8 to August 14)**

The charts showing the hourly distribution of vehicle passages over the pneumatic tube of the south trail counter across the summer and during the busiest week (see Figures 3.27 and 3.28 below) had patterns similar to those observed for the north counter

**FIGURE 3.27: HOURLY AVERAGE OF VEHICLE PASSAGES OVER THE SOUTH NELSON SLOUGH VEHICLE COUNTER BETWEEN 7/7/04 AND 10/7/04**



**FIGURE 3.28: HOURLY AVERAGE OF VEHICLE PASSAGES OVER THE SOUTH NELSON SLOUGH VEHICLE COUNTER DURING PEAK USE WEEK OF 8/8/04 TO 8/14/04**



### Calculating Visitor Use at the Dyea Flats and Dyea Town Site

Assumptions:

- 1) All vehicles passing the South Counter are visitors to the Flats.
- 2) All vehicles passing the North Counter are visitors to the Town Site only, the Flats only, or to both the Town Site and Flats.
- 3) Based on the survey card data, 27.6% of vehicles passing the North Counter visit the Town Site only, 11.3% visit the Flats only, and 61.1% visit both the Town Site and the Flats.

Therefore:

A)

Number of vehicles visiting the Town Site = ((North Counter readout / 2) \* (.276 + .611))

B)

The number of vehicles visiting the Flats can be calculated in two ways:

- 1) Number of vehicles visiting the Flats = (South Counter readout / 2)
- 2) Number of vehicles visiting the Flats = ((North Counter readout / 2) \* (.113 + .611))

The estimated number of vehicles visiting the Town Site was 67.3 vehicles per day (SD = 29.24). Visitors who entered the Town Site without driving motor vehicles past the North Counter (e.g., bicyclists) are not included in this estimate.

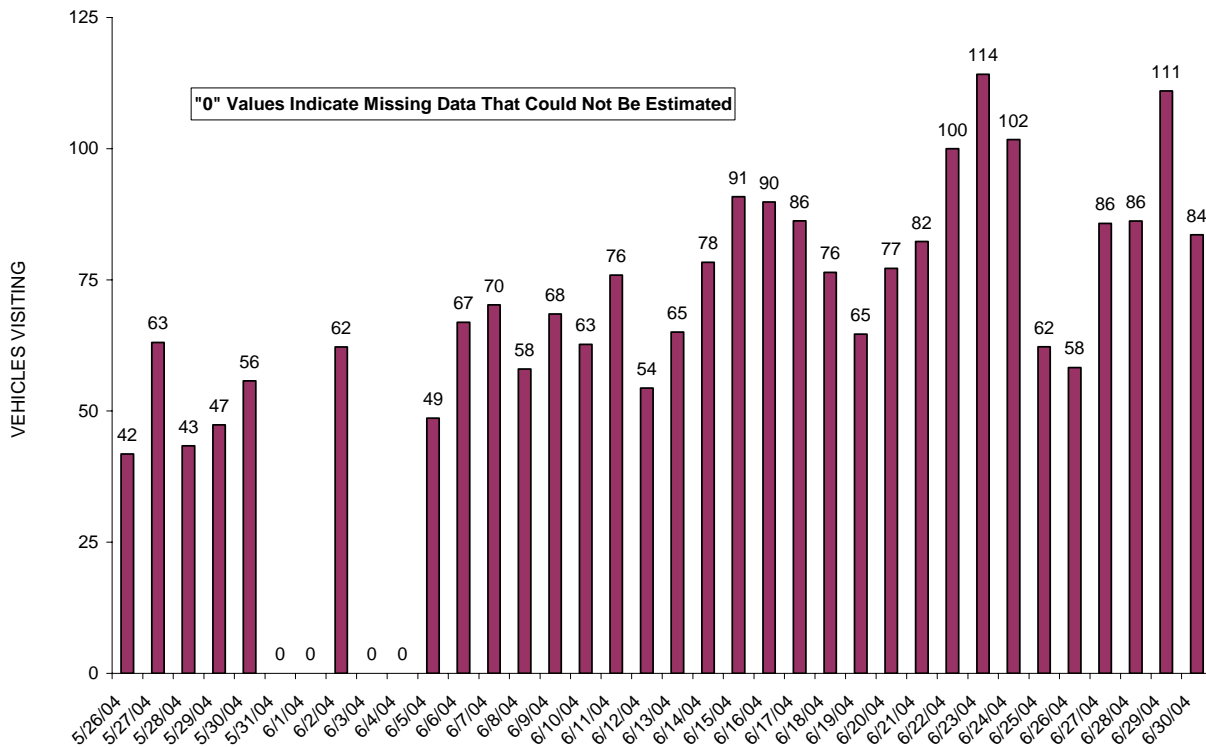
Calculated daily (using observed and estimated vehicle counter data), the two estimates of vehicles visiting the Flats were highly consistent. The first calculation estimated that 53.9 vehicles per day visited the Flats between May 26 and October 6 (SD = 20.21), and the second method estimated 54.9 vehicles per day (SD = 23.87). The two estimates had a correlation of .936;  $p < .001$ .

**Daily Counts of Vehicles Visiting Dyea Town Site from May 26 to October 6**

The daily estimates of vehicles visiting the Dyea Town Site are shown in Figures 3.29 to 3.32. The distribution shows a weekly dip in use on weekends when visits drop to between ½ and ¾ of the weekly peak levels. The highest average use fell during the week of August 8 to August 14 (675 vehicle visits). The number of vehicle visits on the 95th percentile day is 109.

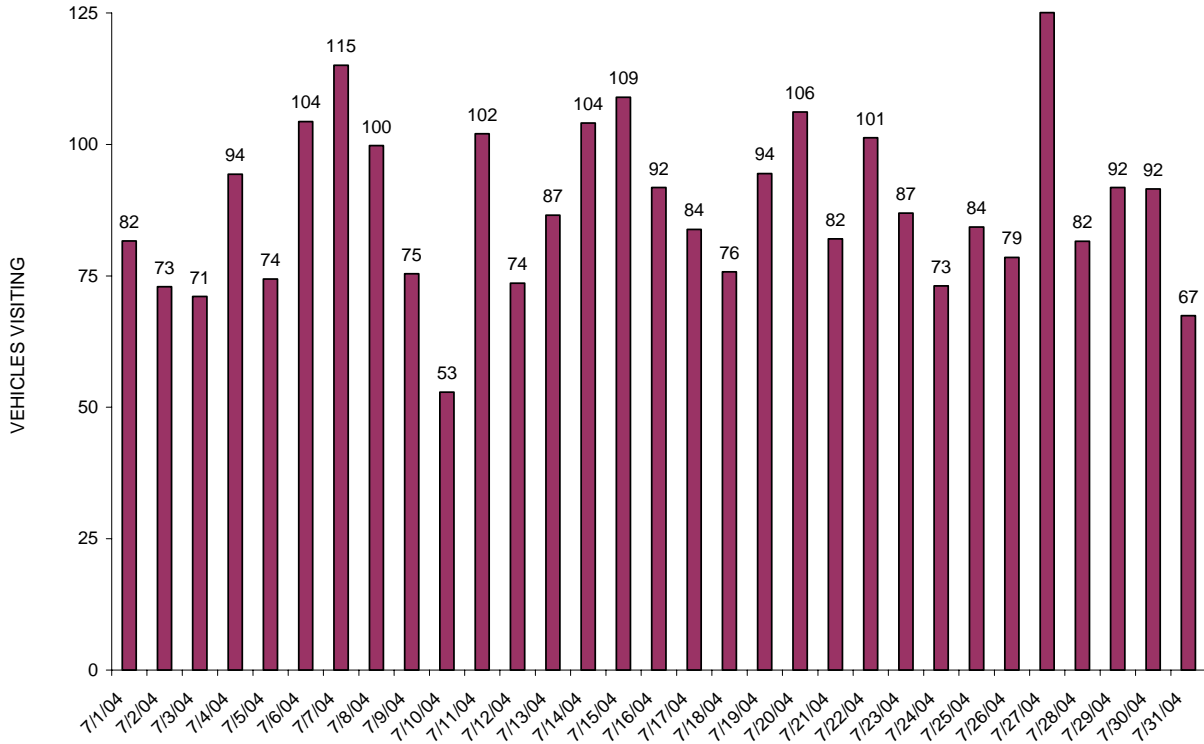
Estimates of Dyea Town Site visitation were highly correlated with the expected daily cruise ship passenger counts published by the Skagway Convention and Visitors’ Bureau,  $r = 0.532$ ,  $p < .001$ . A regression equation based on the expected daily passenger counts and the daily high temperature in Skagway produced very accurate predictions of the daily visitation, accounting for more than 60% of the variability in visitation;  $F(2,127) = 97.5$ ,  $p < .001$  (Daily Visitation = [Expected Passengers \* 0.004] + [High Temp \* 2.0] – 73.1).<sup>6</sup>

**FIGURE 3.29: DAILY COUNTS OF VEHICLES VISITING THE DYEA TOWN SITE BETWEEN 5/26/04 AND 6/30/04**



<sup>6</sup> Including precipitation and wind measurements as predictors did not add significantly to the accuracy of the regression equation.

**FIGURE 3.30: DAILY COUNTS OF VEHICLES VISITING THE DYEA TOWN SITE BETWEEN 7/1/04 AND 7/31/04**



**FIGURE 3.31: DAILY COUNTS OF VEHICLES VISITING THE DYEA TOWN SITE BETWEEN 8/1/04 AND 8/31/04**

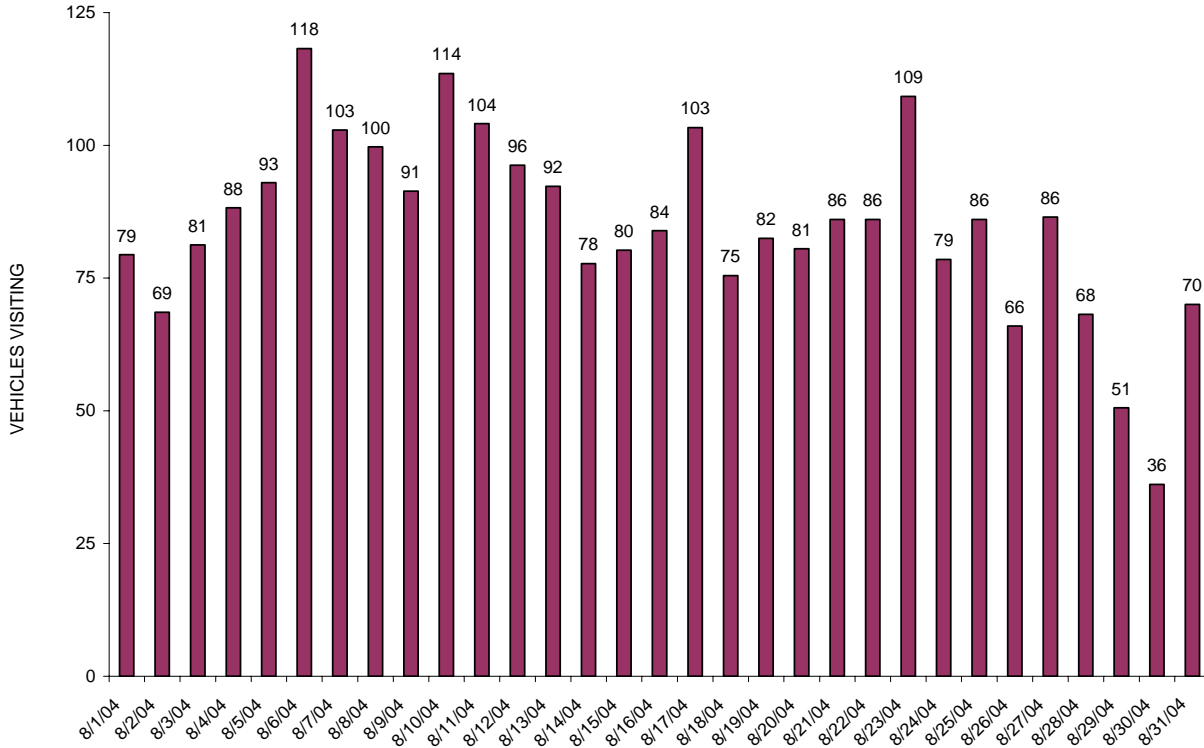
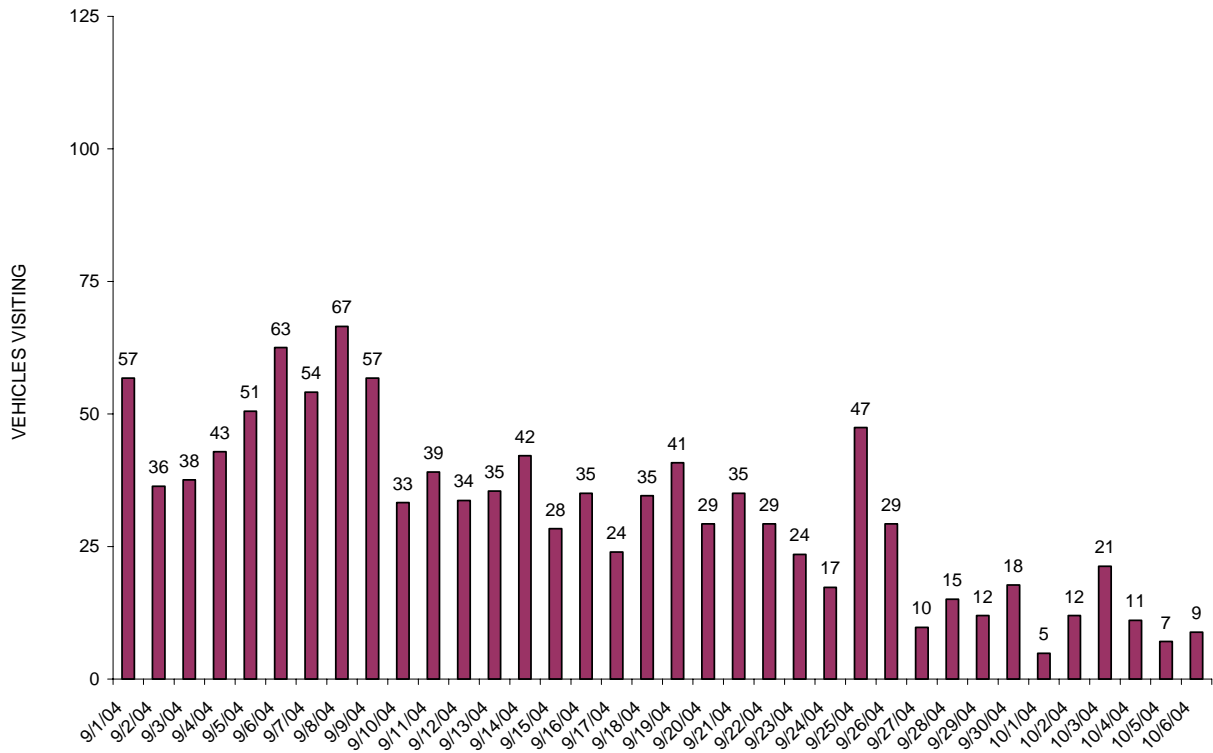


FIGURE 3.32: DAILY COUNTS OF VEHICLES VISITING THE DYEA TOWN SITE BETWEEN 9/1/04 AND 10/6/04

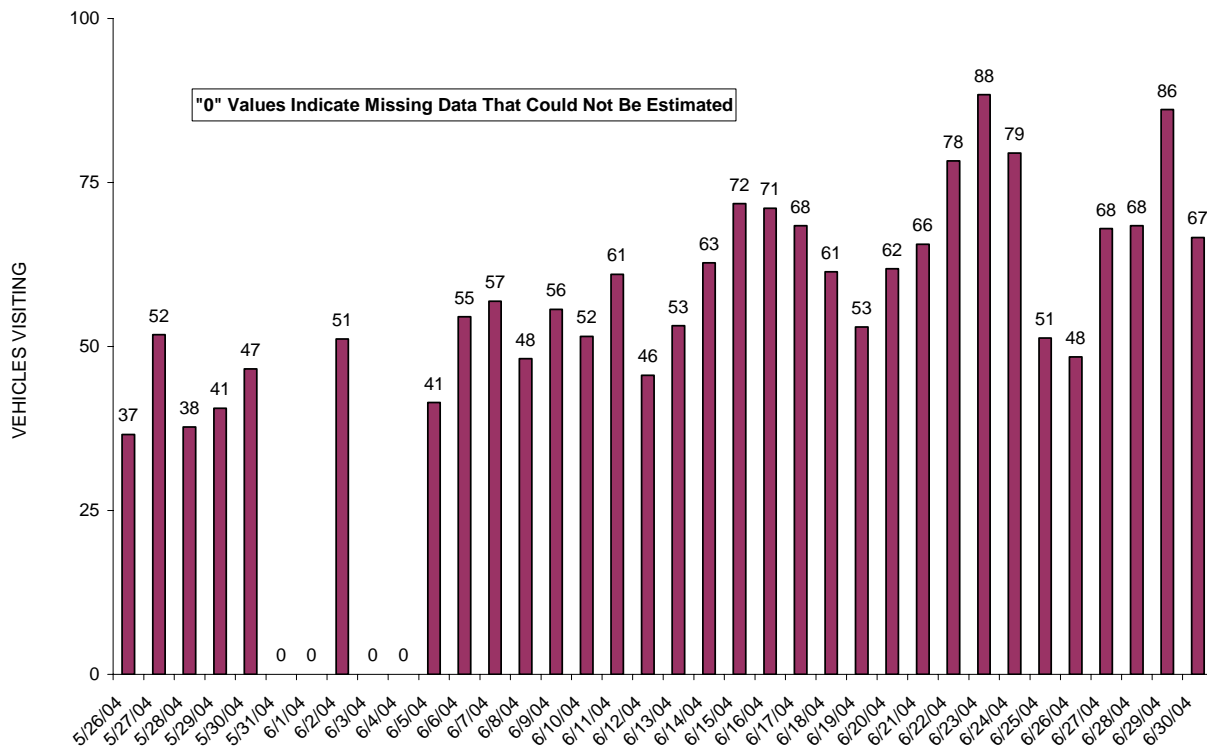


**Daily Counts of Vehicles Visiting Dyea Flats from May 26 to October 6**

The daily estimates of vehicles visiting the Dyea Flats parking lot are shown in Figures 3.33 to 3.36 (estimates are based on an average of the two methods of calculating visitation described above). The distribution of use shows a relatively flat distribution with a slight weekly dip in use on weekends. The highest average use fell during the week of August 8 to August 14 (552 vehicle visits). The number of vehicle visits on the 95th percentile day is 87.

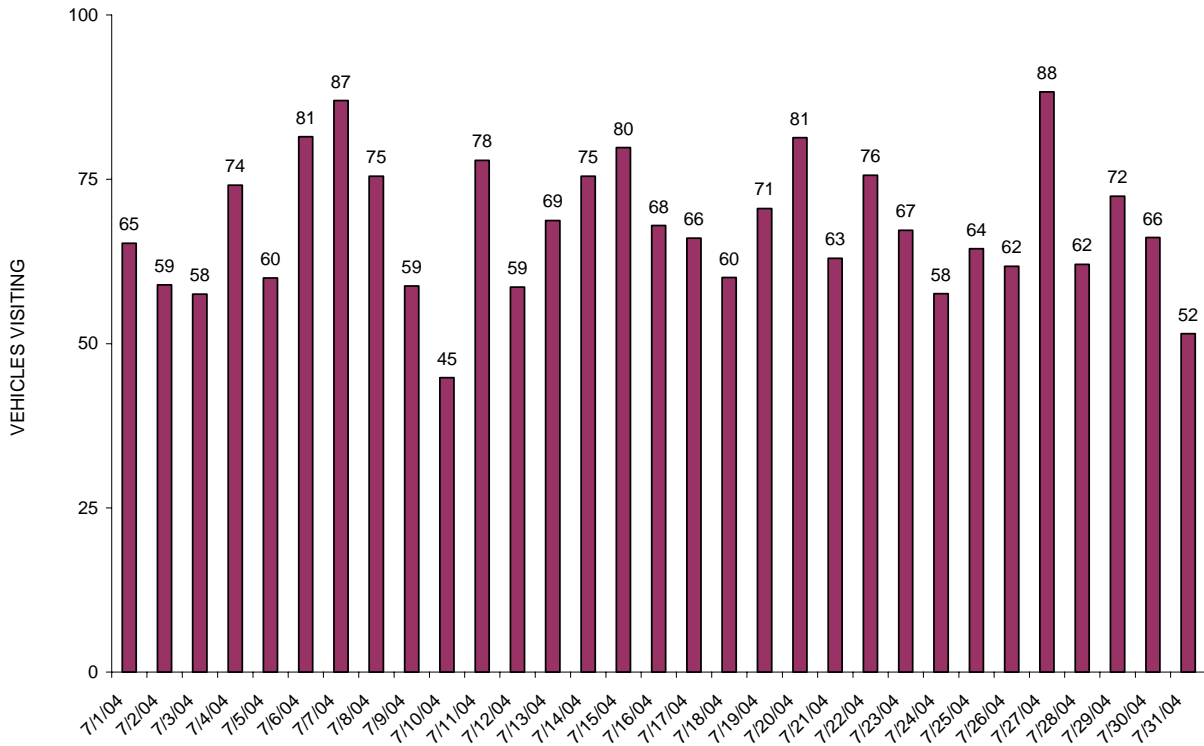
Estimates of Dyea Flats visitation were highly correlated with the expected daily cruise ship passenger counts published by the Skagway Convention and Visitors' Bureau,  $r = 0.508$ ,  $p < .001$ . A regression equation based on the expected daily passenger counts and the daily high temperature in Skagway produced very accurate predictions of the daily visitation, accounting for more than 58% of the variability in visitation;  $F(2,127) = 90.5$ ,  $p < .001$  (Daily Visitation = [Expected Passengers \* 0.002] + [High Temp \* 1.5] - 49.4).<sup>7</sup>

**FIGURE 3.33: DAILY COUNTS OF VEHICLES VISITING THE DYEA FLATS BETWEEN 5/26/04 AND 6/30/04**

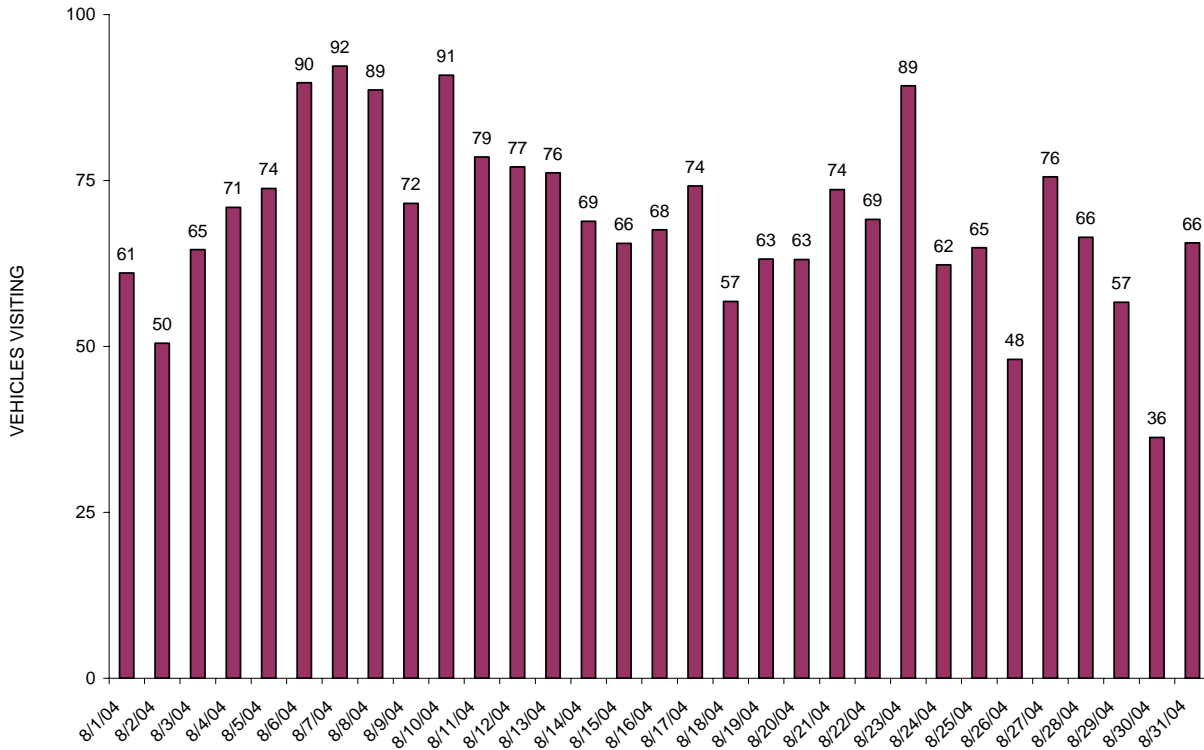


<sup>7</sup> Including precipitation and wind measurements as predictors did not add significantly to the accuracy of the regression equation.

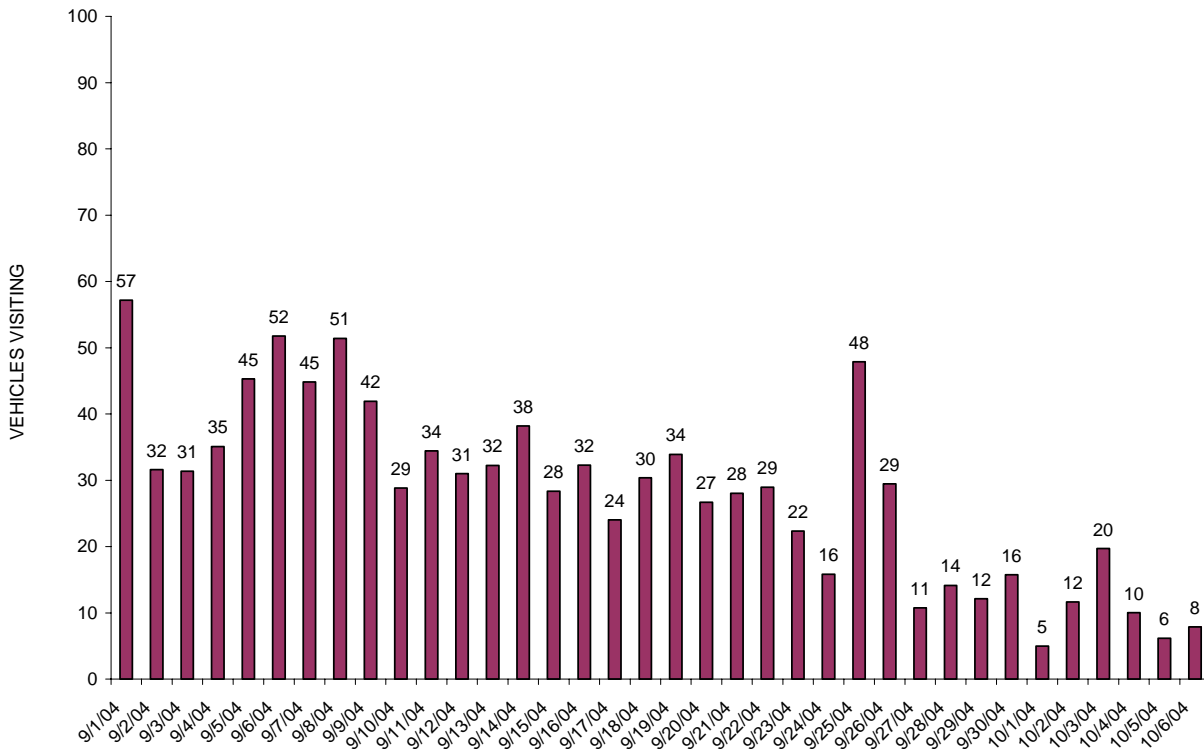
**FIGURE 3.34: DAILY COUNTS OF VEHICLES VISITING THE DYEA FLATS BETWEEN 7/1/04 AND 7/31/04**



**FIGURE 3.35: DAILY COUNTS OF VEHICLES VISITING THE DYEA FLATS BETWEEN 8/1/04 AND 8/31/04**



**FIGURE 3.36: DAILY COUNTS OF VEHICLES VISITING THE DYEA FLATS BETWEEN 9/1/04 AND 10/6/04**



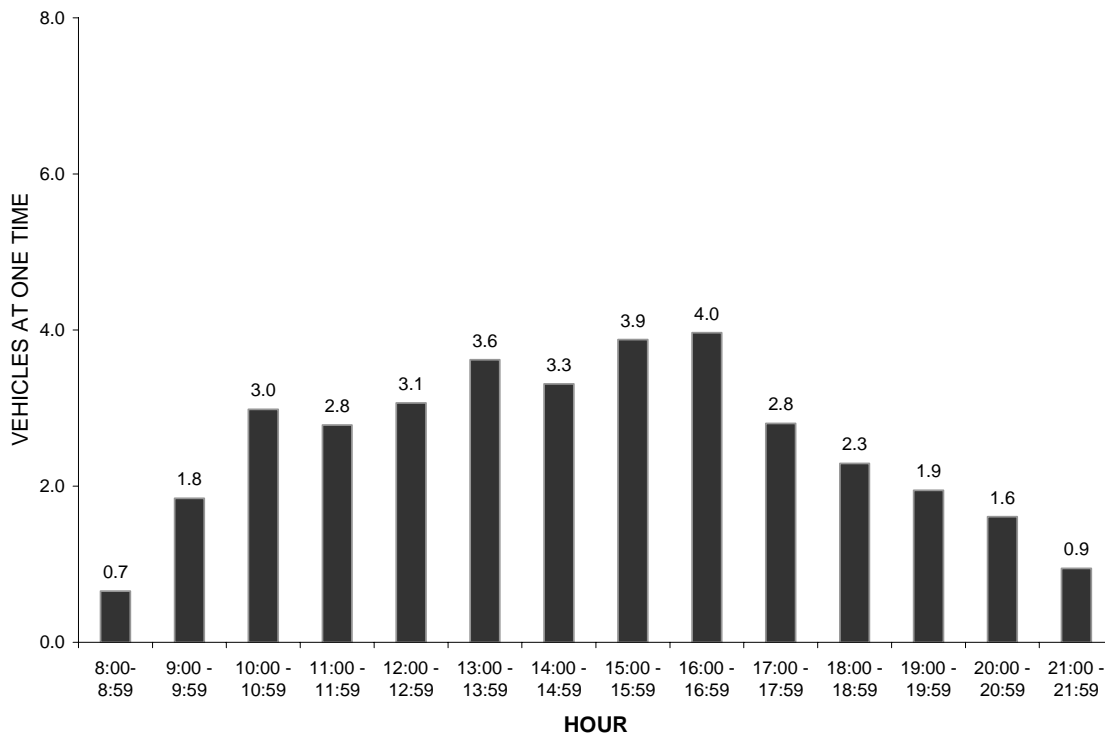
### 3.5.3 Vehicles Present at One Time

A study of visit durations (i.e., parking lot turnover) and party size was also conducted at the Nelson Slough Parking area near the Dyea Town Site. The survey worker recorded the length of time that vehicles parked during 12 time periods randomly distributed across the season. Parking durations were quite similar for the 67.3 percent of vehicles that were seen both entering and leaving the lot (32 minutes) and those vehicles for which the entrance or exit took place outside the observed period (at least 37 minutes based only on the portion of the stay that was observed). In conjunction with the automated counts, these data were used to estimate the average number of vehicles parked at the town site at any one time. Because the method of estimating visitation to the Town Site did not support hourly estimates (see Section 3.5.2) the hourly distributions of vehicle traffic at the north counter are assumed to represent the distributions of visitation.

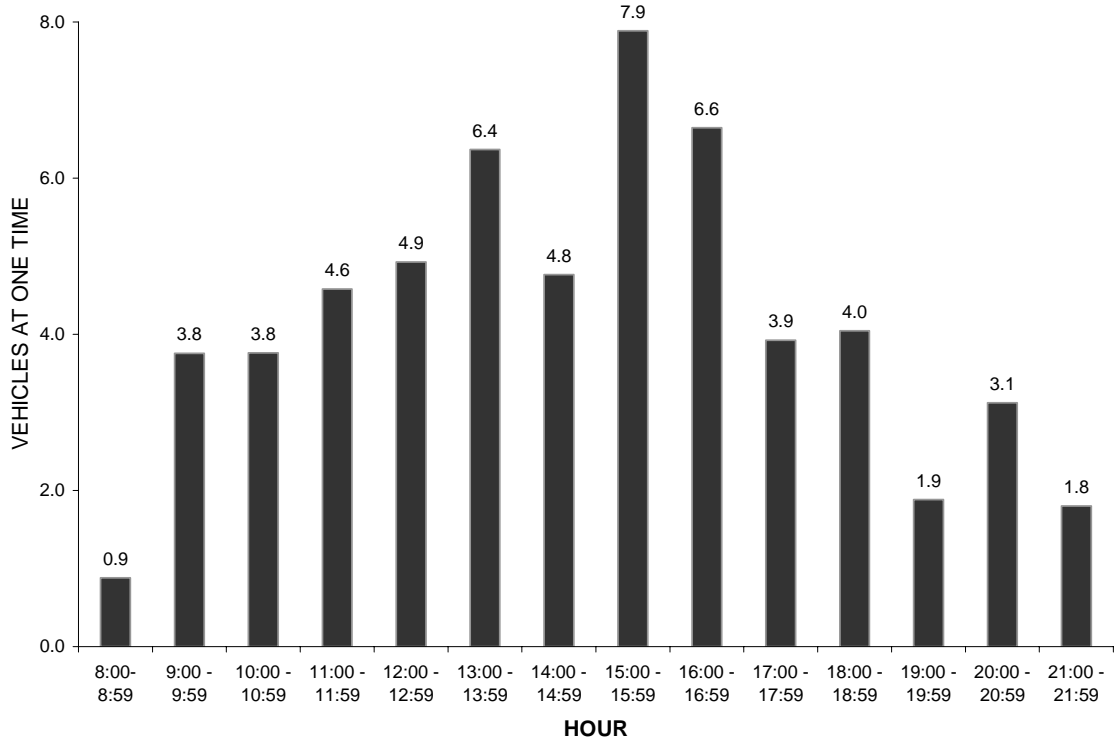
**Hourly Distribution of Vehicles at One Time Aggregated Across Season (July 7 to October 7), for 95<sup>th</sup> Percentile day, and Aggregated Across Peak Week (July 18 to July 24)**

Figure 3.37 shows the estimated average number of vehicles parked at any one time during the period between July 7 and October 7. Figures 3.38 and 3.39 show the same averages for the 95th percentile day and during the busiest observed week (August 8 – 14), respectively. These data can be used to suggest the needed parking capacity for the new parking area. Note, however, that these figures underestimate parking use because the duration of stay for the 32.7 percent of vehicles that were not observed both entering and exiting the parking lot was underestimated by an unknown amount.

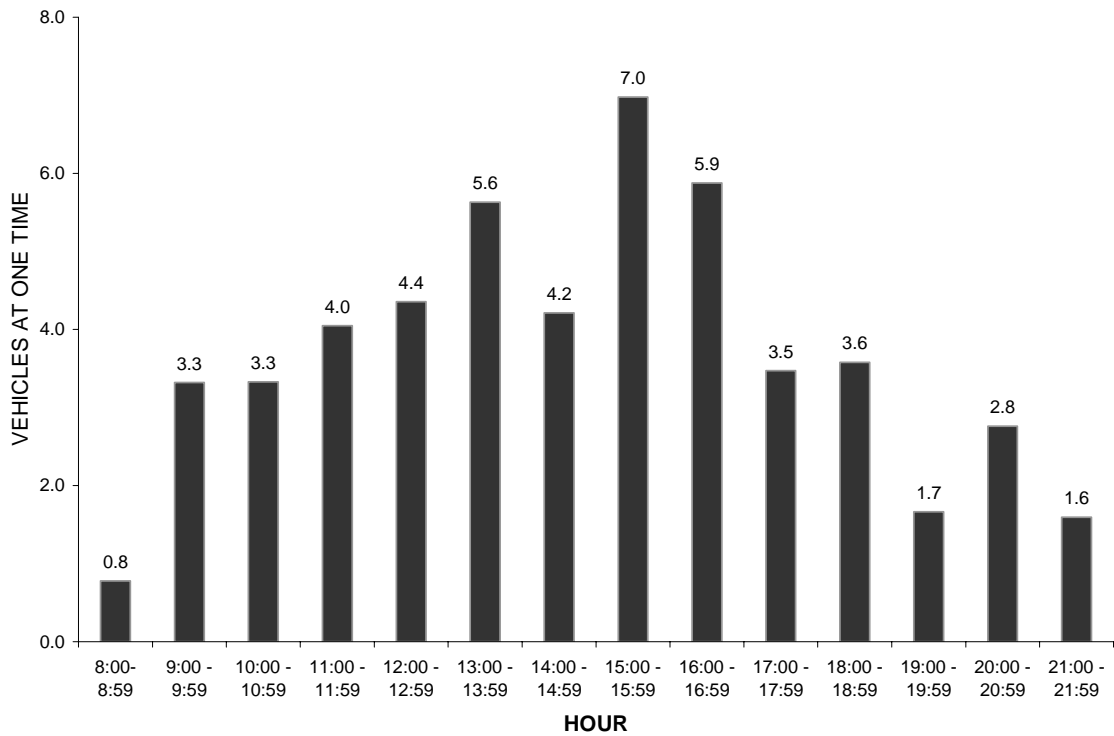
**FIGURE 3.37: VEHICLES AT ONE TIME AT DYEA TOWN SITE BETWEEN 7/7/04 AND 10/7/04 (HOURLY AVERAGE)**



**FIGURE 3.38: VEHICLES AT ONE TIME AT DYEA TOWN SITE ON THE 95th PERCENTILE DAY (HOURLY AVERAGE GIVEN 109 VEHICLE VISITS)**



**FIGURE 3.39: VEHICLES AT ONE TIME AT DYEA TOWN SITE BETWEEN 8/8/04 AND 8/14/04 (HOURLY AVERAGE)**



During the systematic observation periods, the survey worker also recorded an average of 2.81 visitors in each vehicle (based on 95 observed vehicles). By simply multiplying the estimated number of vehicles at one time in Figures 3.37 to 3.39 by 2.81, one can estimate the number of visitors who arrived in motor vehicles that were present at one time. It should be noted, however, that such estimates will exclude bicycle riders who arrived on their own or with commercial bicycle tours, and that not all those visitors will hike into the townsite itself.

#### **3.5.4 Nelson Slough Trail Counter Installation**

The counter consisted of two components, an emitter and receiver that were mounted at the Dyea end of the wooden bridge/boardwalk. The emitter was unobtrusively mounted on a signpost (the sign informed visitors that they were visiting a national park) and the receiver was mounted on a tree. The counter was adjusted to count hikers and bicyclists. The counter was in place from 11:00 on May 25 to 15:40 on September 28.

#### **3.5.5 Trail Counter Validation**

The survey worker periodically observed parties of visitors passing the counter and systematically recorded the actual number of hikers and the automated count. Counter placement was generally effective because visitors used the bridge and passed the counter in single-file. Analyses of these data showed that for the 126 parties observed on 12 days, the mechanical count of visitors was 87.5 percent of the observed count. For each party, the correlation between the mechanical and observed count was .916. Based on these observations, a small correction factor was applied to the mechanical counts reported below by multiplying each count by 1.14.

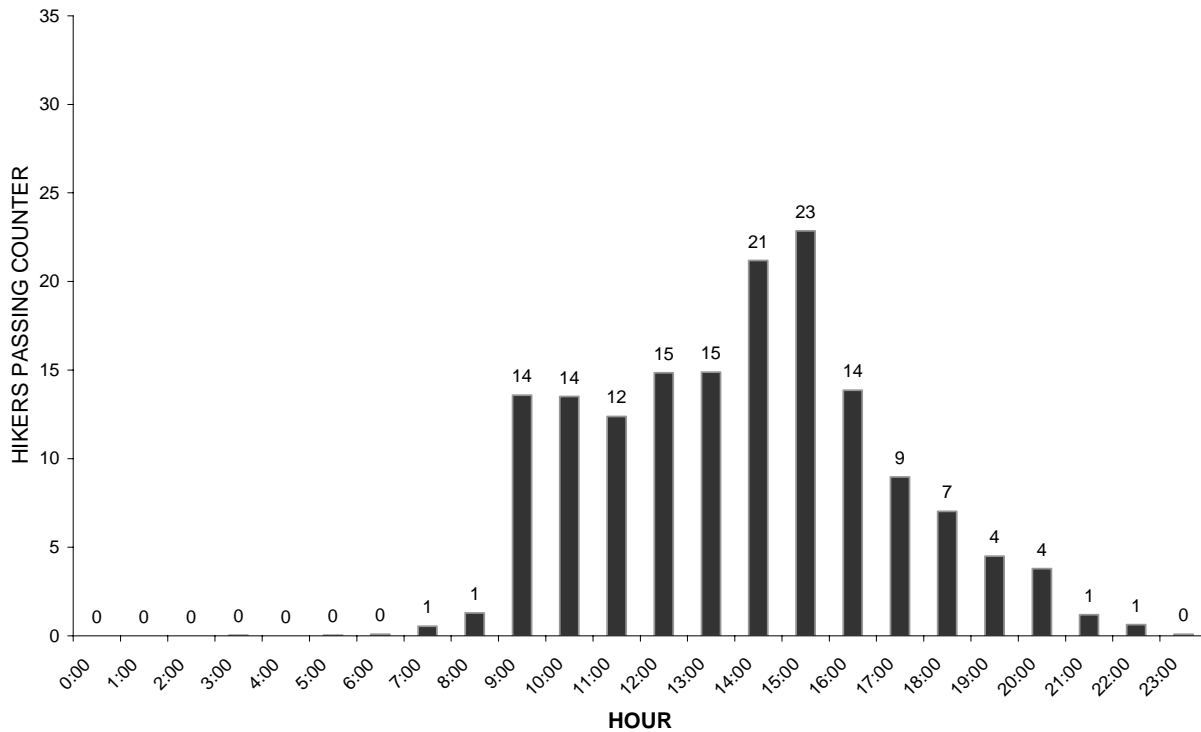
#### **3.5.6 Total Counts**

The charts show total visitor passages, corrected for the slight undercounting observed during validation. Note that these charts report passages by all visitors. Section 3.5.8 discusses estimates of the number and type of visitors who passed the counter.

**Hourly Distribution Aggregated Across Season (May 25 to September 28)**

The hourly distribution of visitors passing the Nelson Slough infrared trail counter is shown in Figure 3.40. The distribution rises rapidly around 9:00 and peaks in the mid after noon.

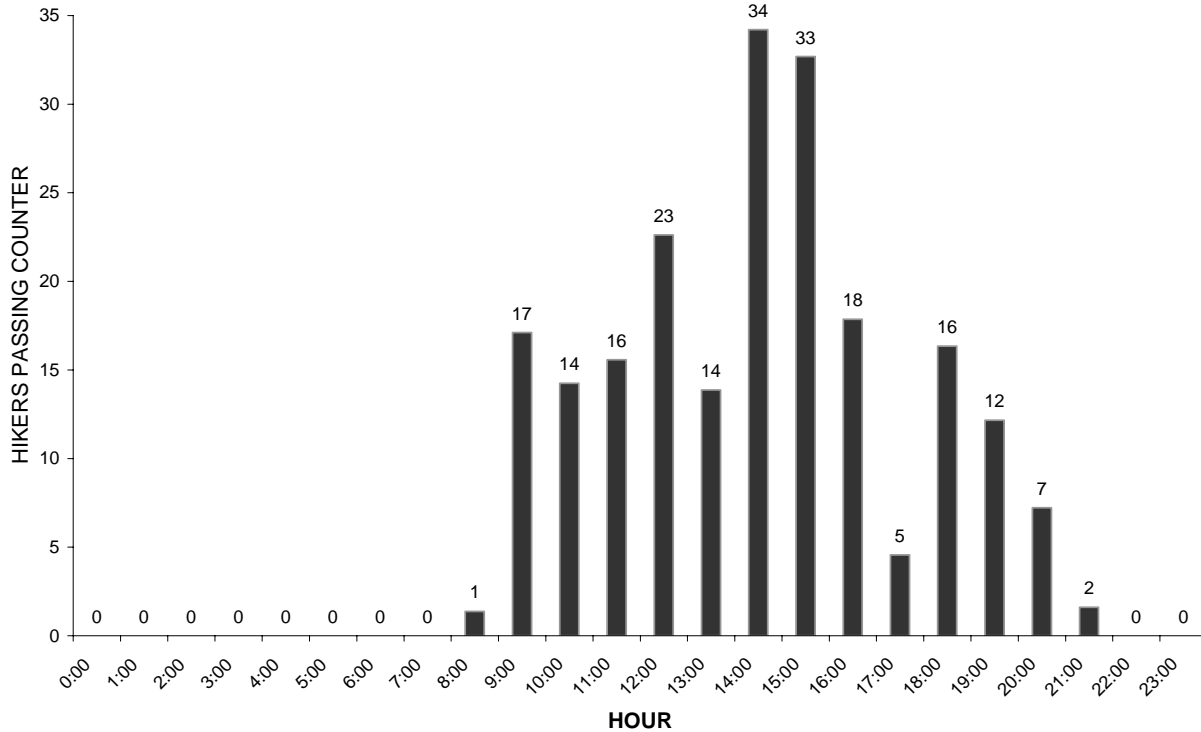
**FIGURE 3.40: HOURLY AVERAGE OF VISITORS PASSING THE NELSON SLOUGH TRAIL COUNTER BETWEEN 5/25/04 AND 9/28/04**



**Hourly Distribution Aggregated Across Peak Week (August 8 to August 14)**

The hourly distribution of visitors passing the Nelson Slough infrared trail counter during the busiest week (see Figure 3.41 below) had a similar pattern to that observed across the entire summer (see Figure 3.40), with a more pronounced dip in use during the late afternoon/early evening.

FIGURE 3.41: HOURLY AVERAGE OF VISITORS PASSING THE NELSON SLOUGH TRAIL COUNTER DURING PEAK USE WEEK OF 8/8/04 TO 8/14/04



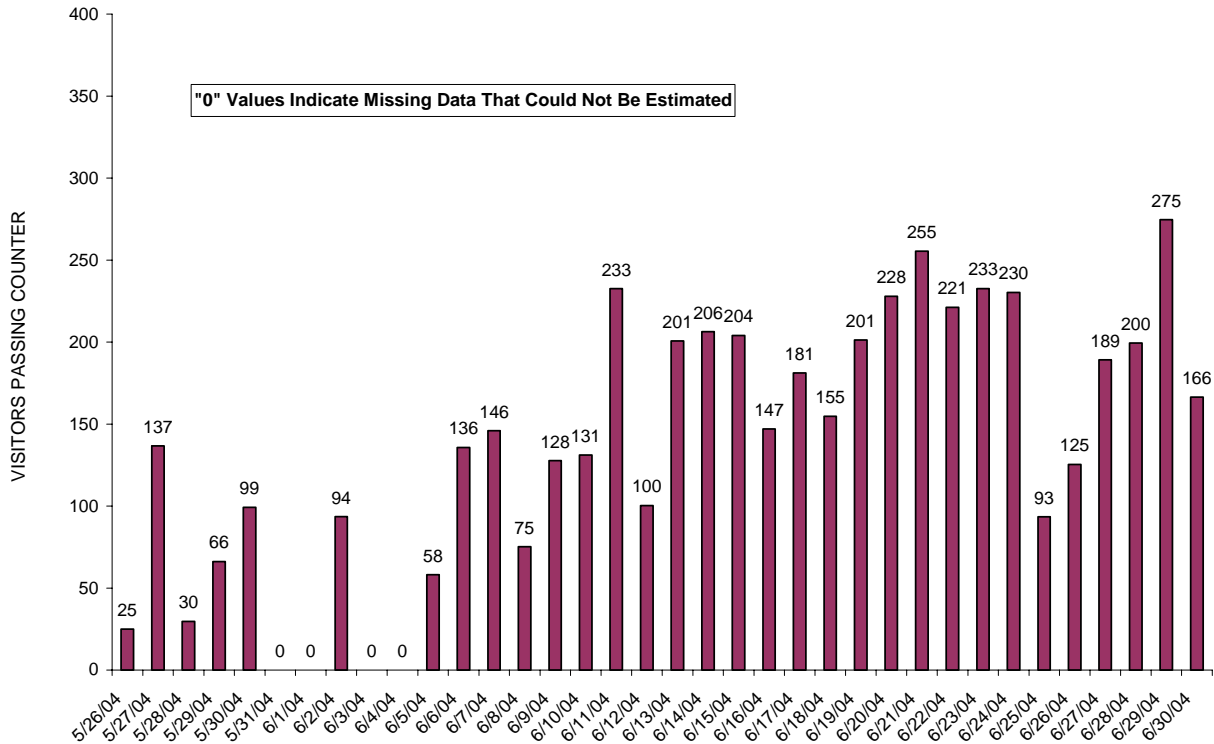
### Daily Counts of Visitor Passages from May 26 to October 6

The daily estimates of visitors passing the Nelson Slough trail counter are shown in Figures 3.42 to 3.45. The distribution of use shows very little evidence of a weekly pattern. Highest average use was observed during the week of August 8 to 14 (1574 visitor passages). The number of visitor passages on the 95th percentile day is 261.

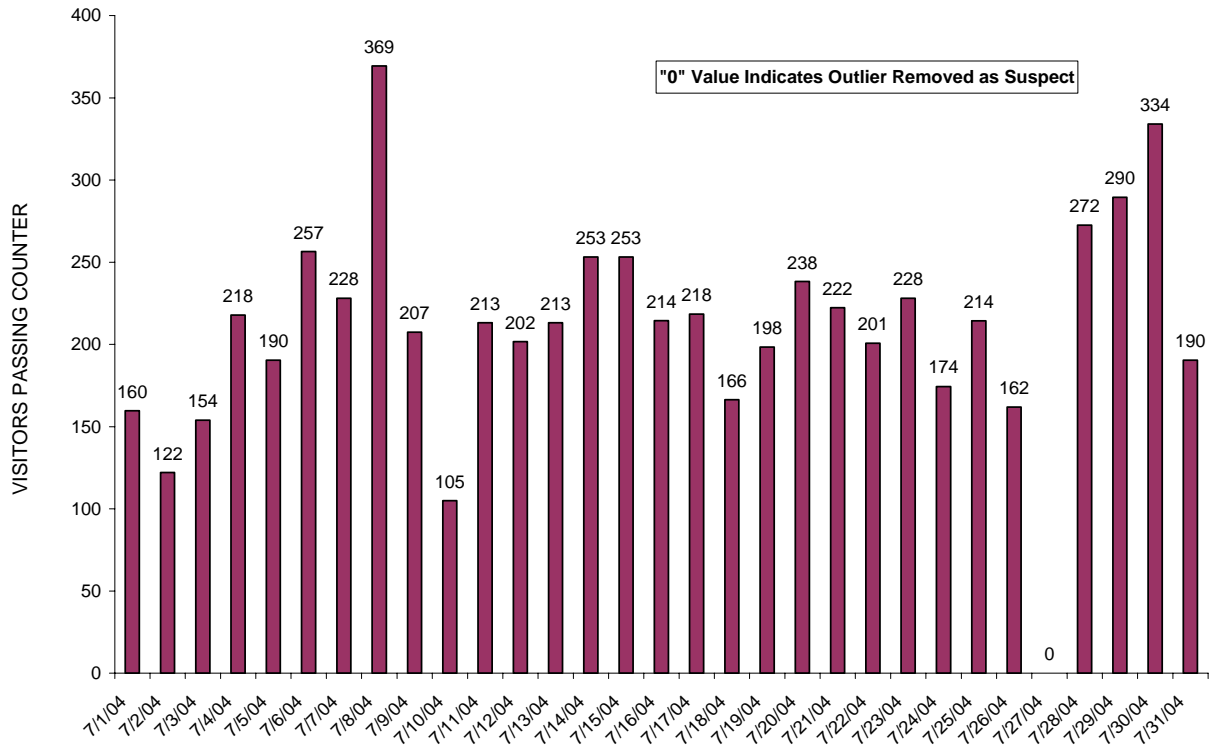
Counts of visitors passing the Nelson Slough trail counter were highly correlated with the expected daily cruise ship passenger counts published by the Skagway Convention and Visitors' Bureau,  $r = 0.471$ ,  $p < .001$ . A regression equation based on the expected daily passenger counts and the daily high temperature in Skagway produced very accurate predictions of the daily counts, accounting for more than 44% of the variability;  $F(2,127) = 50.3$ ,  $p < .001$  (Daily Passages = [Expected Passengers \* 0.008] + [High Temp6/1 \* 4.5] - 193.8).<sup>8</sup>

<sup>8</sup> Including precipitation and wind measurements as predictors did not add significantly to the accuracy of the regression equation.

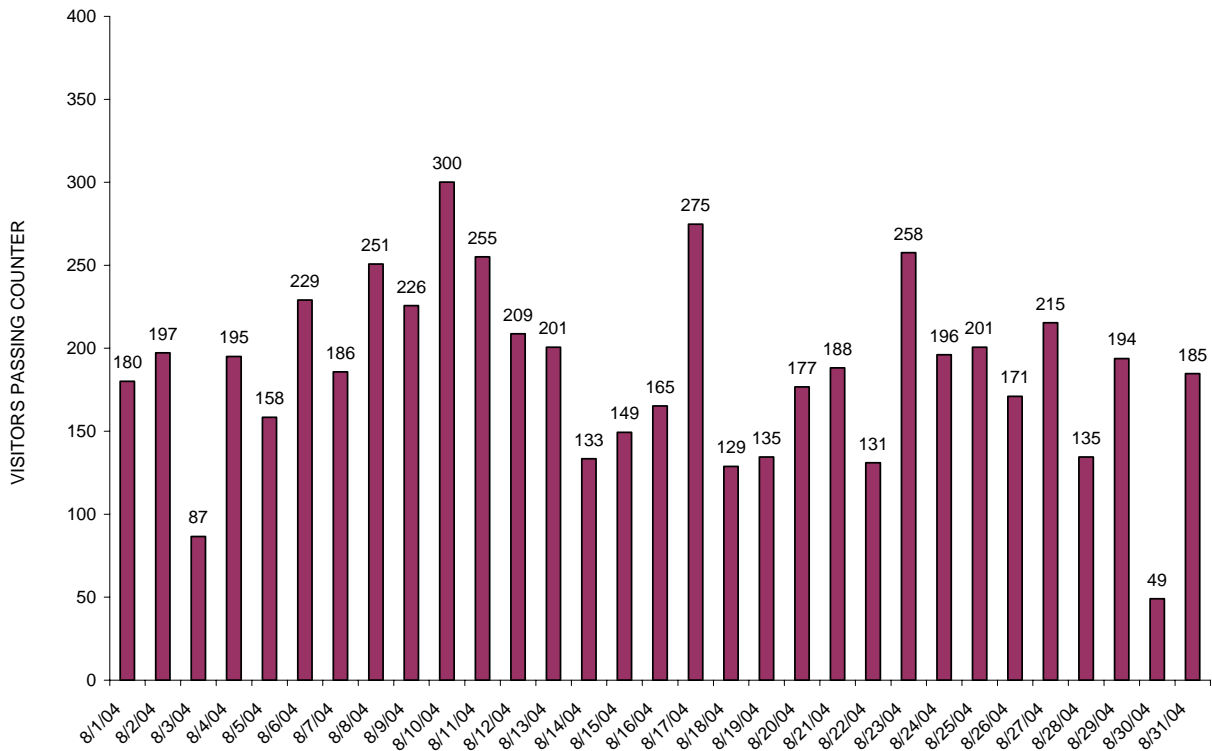
**FIGURE 3.42: DAILY COUNTS OF TIMES VISITORS PASSED THE NELSON SLOUGH TRAIL COUNTER BETWEEN 5/26/04 AND 6/30/04**



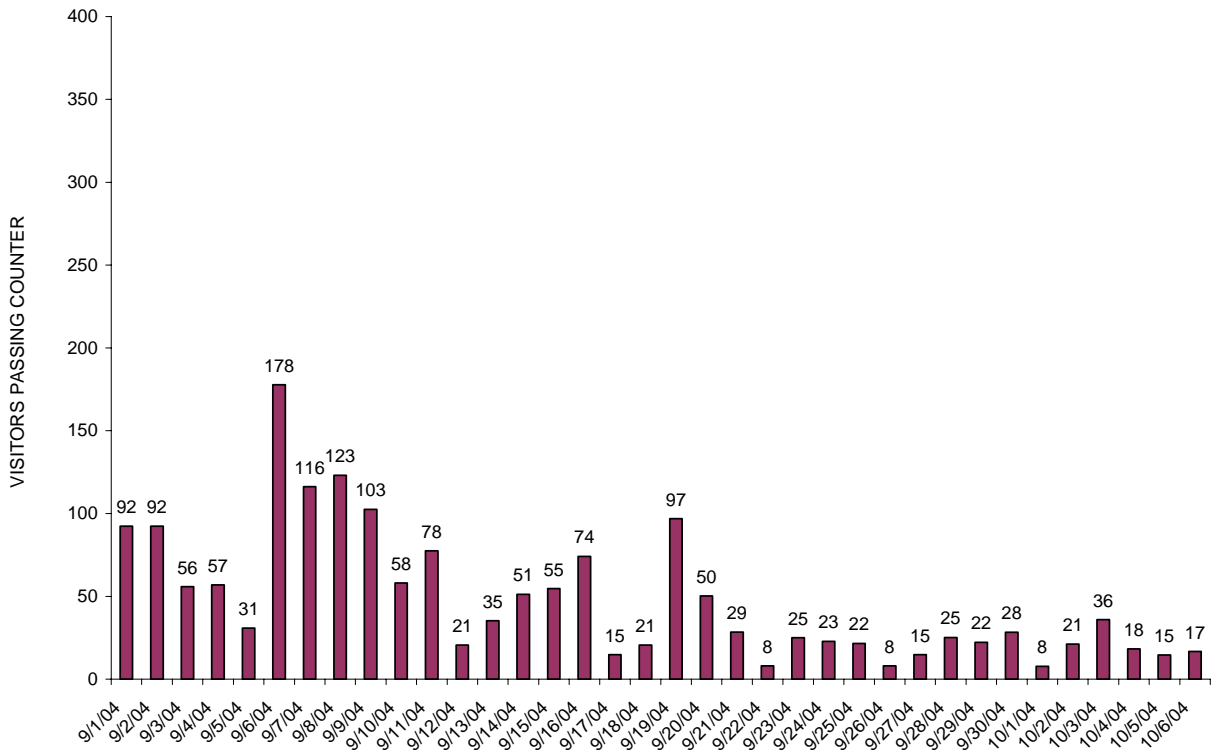
**FIGURE 3.43: DAILY COUNTS OF TIMES VISITORS PASSED THE NELSON SLOUGH TRAIL COUNTER BETWEEN 7/1/04 AND 7/31/04**



**FIGURE 3.44: DAILY COUNTS OF TIMES VISITORS PASSED THE NELSON SLOUGH TRAIL COUNTER BETWEEN 8/1/04 AND 8/31/04**



**FIGURE 3.45: DAILY COUNTS OF TIMES VISITORS PASSED THE NELSON SLOUGH TRAIL COUNTER BETWEEN 9/1/04 AND 10/6/04**



### ***3.5.7 Bicycle Tour Data***

The figures reported by the Incidental Business Permittees for guided bicycle tour use are confidential and proprietary business information that can not be released to the public.

Accordingly, the information in this section will be sent to the Project Technical Representative as a confidential memo.

### ***3.5.8 Breakdown of Dyea Town Site Use and Users***

The confidential and proprietary information concerning guided bicycle tours could be inferred from information describing the breakdown of users at the Dyea Townsite. Accordingly, the information in this section will be sent to the Project Technical Representative as a confidential memo.

### ***3.5.9 Hikers and Bicyclists Present at the Dyea Townsite at One Time***

The confidential and proprietary information concerning guided bicycle tours could be inferred from the estimates of the number of hikers present at one time at the Dyea Townsite. Accordingly, the information in this section will be sent to the Project Technical Representative as a confidential memo.

### **3.6 Estimating Total Dyea area Visitation Based on the Number of Persons Who Visit Multiple Sites**

The analyses to this point have produced independent estimates of use at five attraction sites in the Dyea area. However, it can't be assumed that the total number of visitors was equal to the sum of those five estimates. Some people visited a combination of sites on the same trip. In order to determine the proportion of such people, and to estimate the total number of visitors to the Dyea area, a survey card (see Appendix F) was used to ask a sample of visitors which sites at Dyea they had visited or planned to visit during their trips.

#### **3.6.1 Survey Card Study Methods**

##### **Respondent Universe**

The respondent universe consisted of persons over the age of 17 who visited the Dyea area of Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park. The survey worker contacted a random sample of adult visitors at sites including a) the trailhead to the Chilkoot Trail, b) the developed campground, c) the Dyea town site, d) the Slide Cemetery, and e) the Dyea Flats.

##### **Sampling Plan and Procedures**

During each study period the survey worker contacted visitors at specified attraction sites during randomly selected blocks of time. The researcher approached visitor parties and requested participation in the on-site questionnaire. When a party refused to participate, the worker recorded the time, location, and party size of the refusing party. Visitors were contacted between June 19 and August 30. A stratified random sample of days was selected such that for each location the proportion of sampled weekend days and weekdays was five to two. Daily sampling periods consisted of two-hour blocks.

##### **Instrument Administration**

All visitor parties leaving each site that passed the survey worker during the randomly selected sampling periods were asked to participate in the on-site questionnaire. Approximately 300 parties were contacted during the sampled time periods.

##### **Non-response**

Response rates were 97.6 percent (289 out of 296). Most of the refusals occurred during one of the first sampling periods at the Dyea flats. However, because the possibility of non-

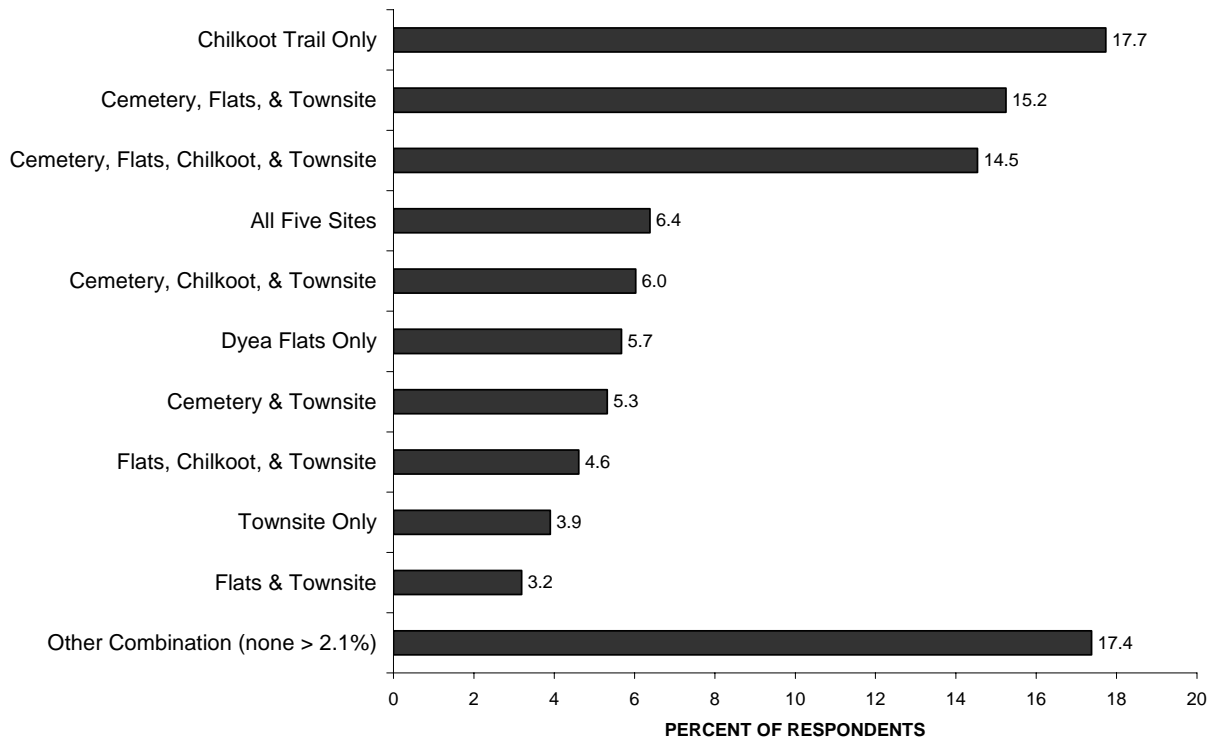
response bias is extremely low even in that sub-population, analyses comparing respondents and non-respondents were not conducted.

### 3.6.2 Survey Card Study Results

#### Combinations of Sites Visited

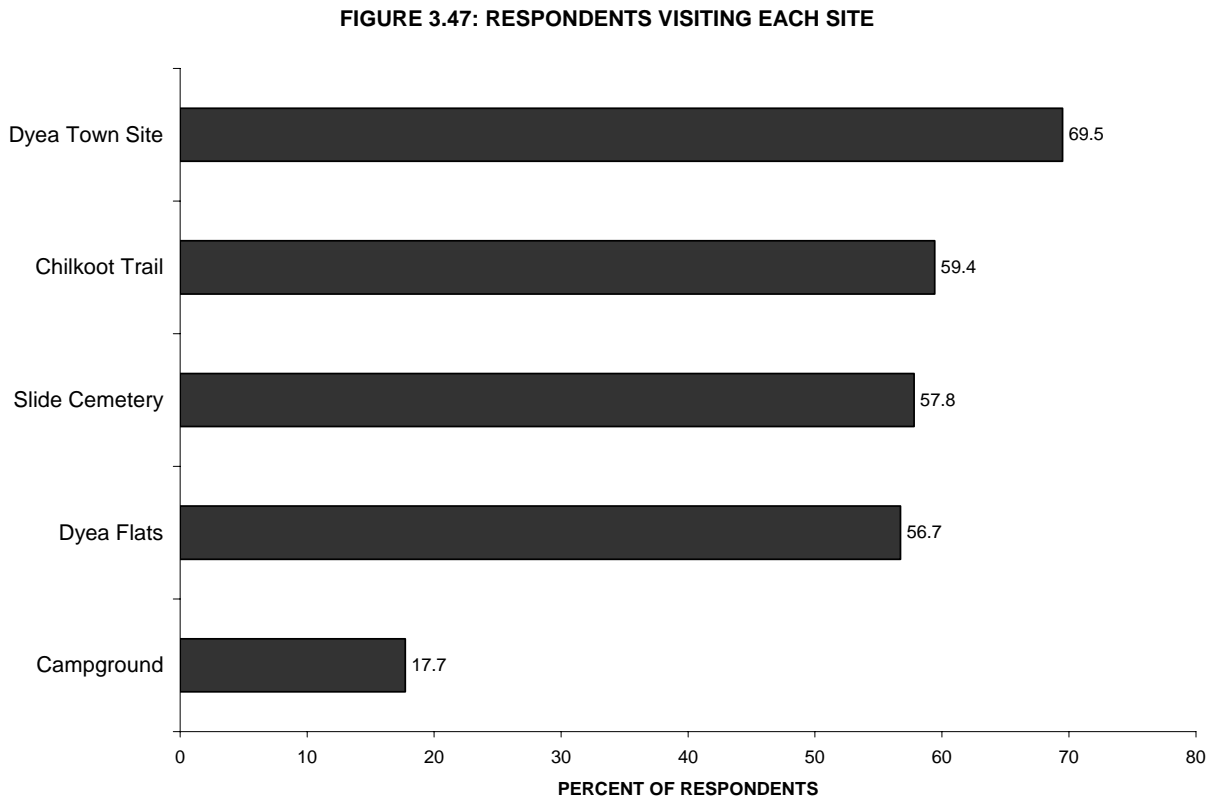
The information of primary interest that was collected by the survey card concerns the different patterns of visited sites. The proportion of survey card respondents that listed the most popular patterns of use can be seen in Figure 3.46 below.

FIGURE 3.46: MOST COMMON COMBINATIONS OF SITES VISITED



**Proportion of Respondents Visiting Each Site**

Visitation to each of the five sites in the Dyea area can also be calculated separately. The proportion of respondents who said they visited or planned to visit each of the five sites is shown in Figure 3.47.

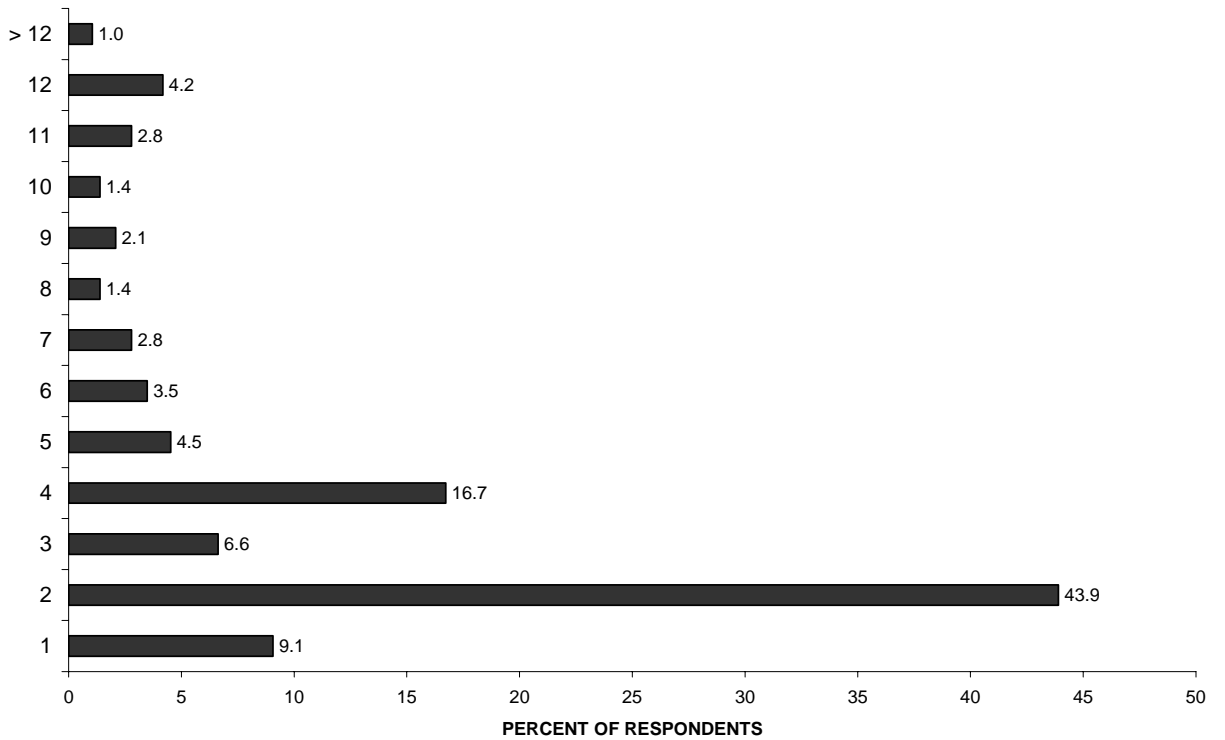


In addition to the primary information, the survey cards also asked for respondents' party size, their zip code/home country, and whether they took ranger-guided tours.

### Party Size

Respondents' average party size was 3.87. The frequency distribution of different party sizes is shown in Figure 3.48. The average party size from the survey cards was considerably larger than the party sizes observed at the Slide Cemetery (2.88) and the Dyea Townsite (2.81), probably because the survey card sample included relatively large parties of hike-and-float visitors who were not observed at the cemetery or townsite.

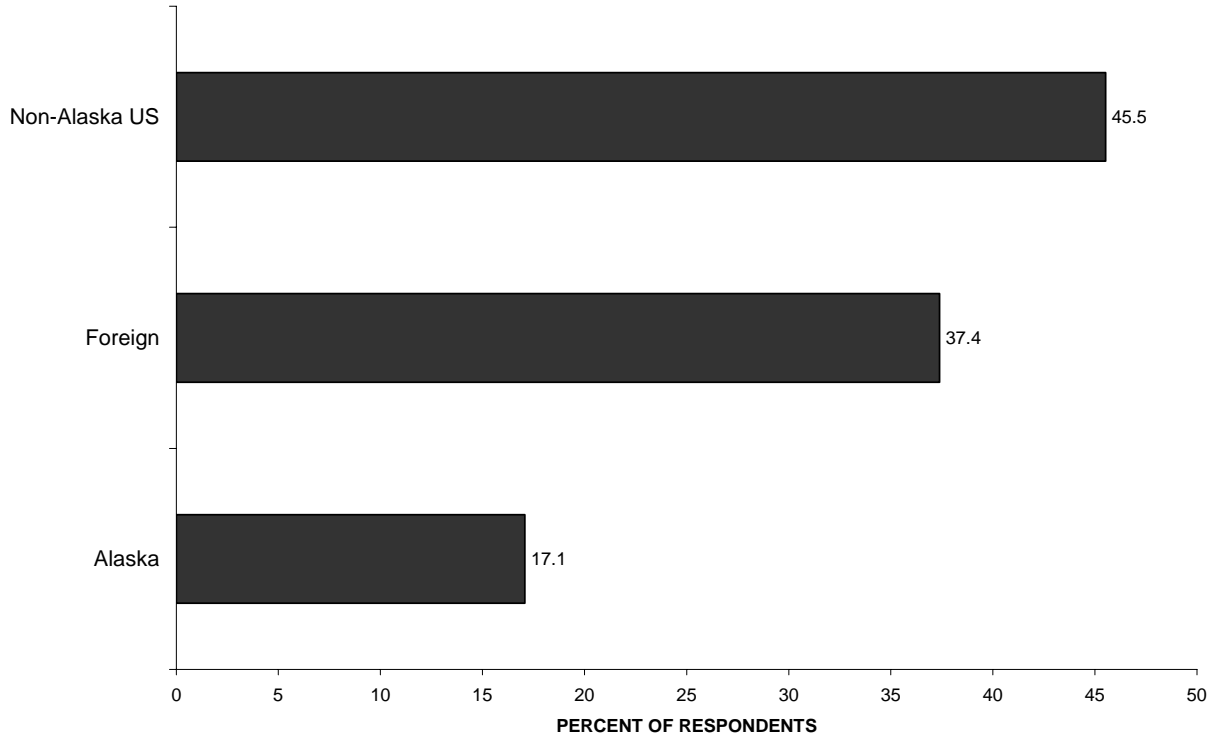
FIGURE 3.48: PARTY SIZES



**Residence**

Figure 3.49 shows that almost half of the responding parties were from states other than Alaska and that a large proportion of visitors did not live in the US. Of the foreign visitors, 57.6 percent were from Canada (thus Canadians made up 21.5 percent of all responding parties).

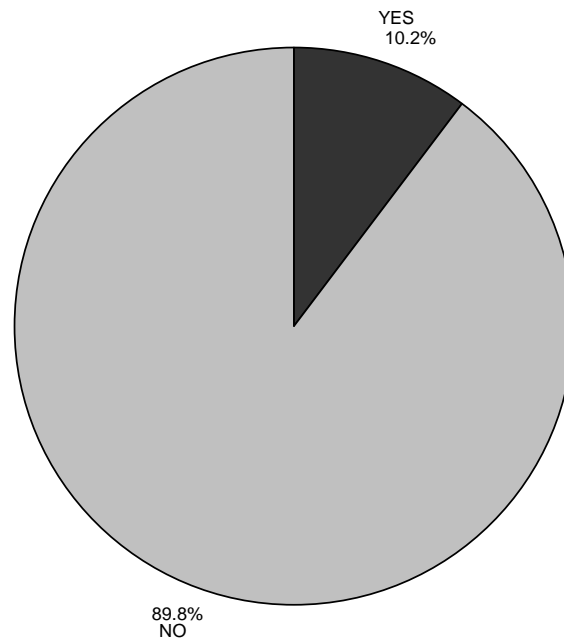
**FIGURE 3.49: RESPONDENTS' RESIDENCE**



### Ranger Guided Hikes

Most respondents had not taken a ranger-guided hike see Figure 3.50. The questionnaire should have included a question asking if respondents intended to take such a hike, but due to an oversight that question was not included in the printed questionnaire.

FIGURE 3.50: PARTY HAD TAKEN RANGER GUIDED TOUR



### 3.6.3 Estimates of Total Dyea area Use

Separate estimates of total Dyea area use were calculated based on the vehicle counts collected and estimated at the Slide Cemetery, and the counts and estimates for the Dyea Flats and Dyea Town Site (see Section 3.5.2 above). For example, if the total number of vehicles visiting the Dyea area is represented by X, we can estimate X by solving the equation:

$$\text{Vehicles visiting the Cemetery} = X(\text{proportion of parties that visited the Cemetery})$$

### Daily Estimates of Vehicles Visiting Dyea area from May 26 to October 6

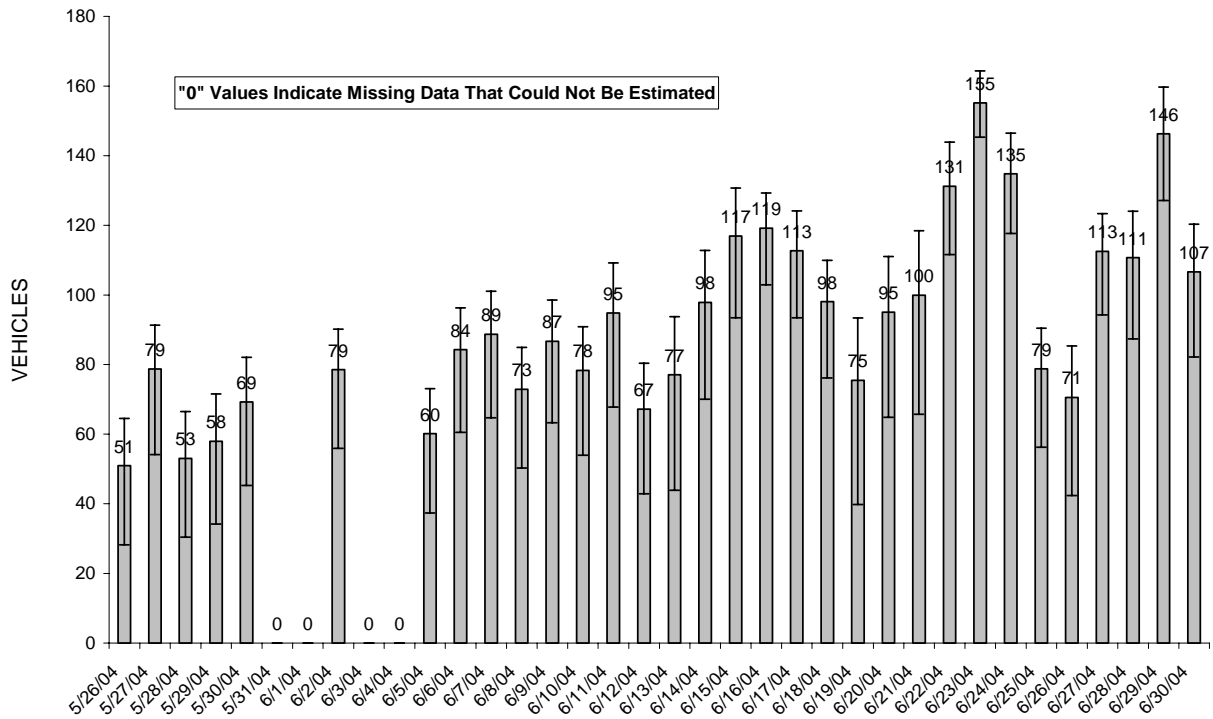
Based on the formula above, the charts below represent the average of the three estimates of total vehicles visiting the Dyea area calculated based on visitation at: 1) the Slide Cemetery; 2) Dyea Flats; and 3) Dyea Town Site. The lowest and the highest of the three estimates are shown on the charts as error bars. In addition, all three daily estimates are included in Appendix G. The busiest week was August 8 – 14, and the 95th percentile day was 139 vehicles (based on the average estimate). The 95th percentile days for highest and lowest estimates were 122 and 158, respectively.

The average of the three estimates of the number of vehicles visiting the Dyea area were highly correlated with the expected daily cruise ship passenger counts published by the Skagway Convention and Visitors' Bureau,  $r = 0.549$ ,  $p < .001$ . A regression equation based on the expected daily passenger counts and the daily high temperature in Skagway produced very accurate predictions of the daily visitation, accounting for more than 60% of the variability in visitation;  $F(2,127) = 100.9$ ,  $p < .001$  (Daily Vehicles = [Expected Passengers \* 0.005] + [High Temp \* 2.5] – 97.4).<sup>9</sup>

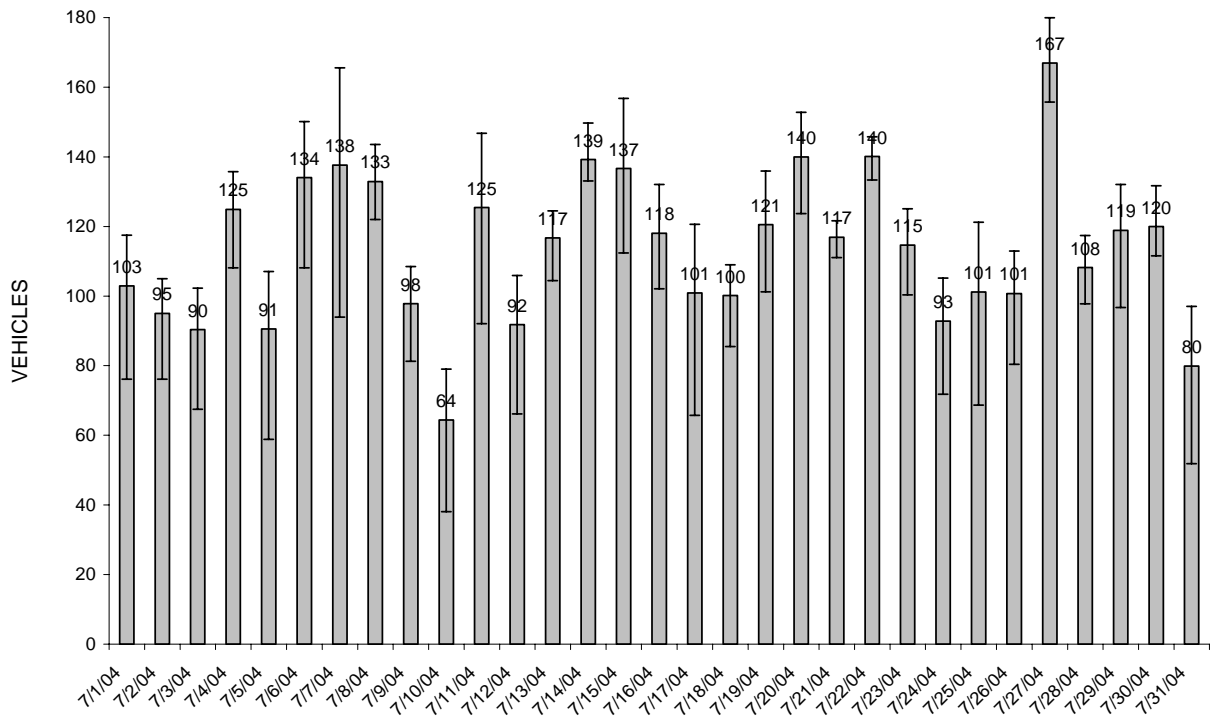
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<sup>9</sup> Including precipitation and wind measurements as predictors did not add significantly to the accuracy of the regression equation.

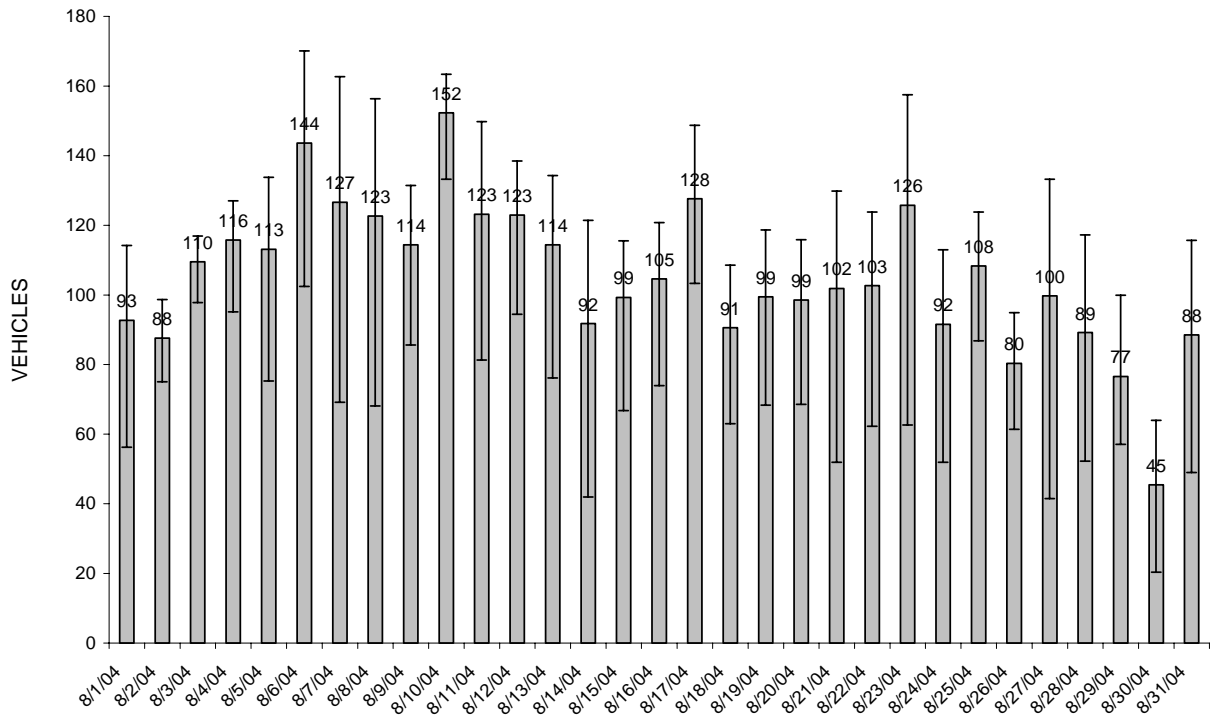
**FIGURE 3.51: ESTIMATED DAILY TOTALS OF VEHICLES VISITING THE DYE AREA BETWEEN 5/26/04 AND 6/30/04**  
 (Bars Span the Highest and Lowest of the Three Averaged Estimates)



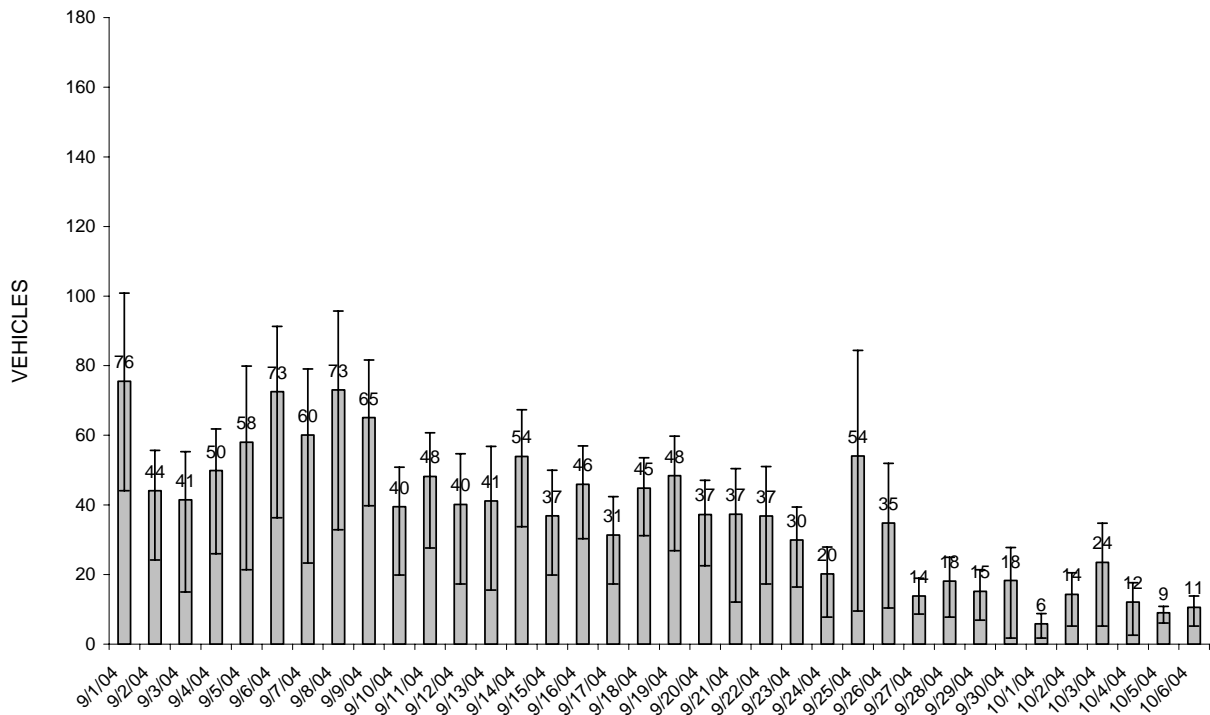
**FIGURE 3.52: ESTIMATED DAILY TOTALS OF VEHICLES VISITING THE DYE AREA BETWEEN 7/1/04 AND 7/31/04**  
 (Bars Span the Highest and Lowest of the Three Averaged Estimates)



**FIGURE 3.53: ESTIMATED DAILY TOTALS OF VEHICLES VISITING THE DYEA AREA BETWEEN 8/1/04 AND 8/31/04**  
 (Bars Span the Highest and Lowest of the Three Averaged Estimates)



**FIGURE 3.54: ESTIMATED DAILY TOTALS OF VEHICLES VISITING THE DYEA AREA BETWEEN 9/1/04 AND 10/6/04**  
 (Bars Span the Highest and Lowest of the Three Averaged Estimates)



The survey card study asked visitors to report the size of their party. Although we did not ask specifically for the number of persons sharing their vehicle, most visitors define their party in that manner. Respondents reported an average of 3.87 persons per party (see Figure 3.48). By simply multiplying the estimated number of visiting vehicles by 3.87, one can estimate the total number of visitors to the Dyea area.

### **3.7 Predicting Future Dyea area Visitation**

The use estimates at the five observed sites in the Dyea area, and in the area as a whole were well predicted by (i.e., strongly related to) the number of cruise ship passengers and the daily high temperature in Skagway. Thus, in the future, one might use the expected daily number of cruise ship passengers, a weather forecast, and the regression equations to predict visitation for any given day. For long term prediction, when weather forecasts are unavailable, average high temperatures can be used. In this section we present the information necessary to make such predictions. Readers should note that the resulting predictions are based on the assumption that there will be no change in the marketing of Dyea experiences or other changes that would alter the rates of Dyea visitation from those observed in 2004. Visitor use at Dyea should be monitored to determine whether such changes have occurred (see Appendix H for a proposed monitoring protocol).

Based on the equations presented below, an Excel spreadsheet titled Predicted Dyea Visitation was written that can be used to calculate daily use estimates for the five observed sites and for the area as a whole. The Excel file was sent to KLGO with the final copy of this report.

#### **3.7.1 Predicting Chilkoot Trail Hiker Passages**

A regression equation based on the expected daily passenger counts and the daily high temperature in Skagway produced very accurate predictions of the daily observed hiker passages counted on the Chilkoot Trail, accounting for more than 71% of the variability in the counts;  $F(2,127) = 156.1, p < .001$  (Daily Passages = [Expected Passengers \* 0.017] + [High Temp \* 3.6] – 181.8). By entering the predicted number of cruise ship passengers and the expected high temperature in this equation, one can predict the daily number of hikers passing the trail counter. See the Excel spreadsheet titled Predicted Dyea Visitation in order to estimate Chilkoot Trail hiker passages.

#### **3.7.2 Predicting Slide Cemetery Visitation**

A regression equation based on the expected daily cruise ship passenger counts and the daily high temperature in Skagway produced very accurate predictions of the daily number of vehicles counted at the slide cemetery, accounting for more than 55% of the variability in the counts;  $F(2,127) = 79.6, p < .001$  (Daily Vehicles = [Expected Passengers \* 0.003] + [High Temp \* 1.2] – 57.8). By entering the predicted number of cruise ship passengers and the

expected high temperature in this equation, one can predict the daily number of vehicles expected to visit the slide cemetery.

During the systematic observation periods, the survey worker also recorded an average of 2.88 visitors in each vehicle (based on 60 observed vehicles). Thus, the estimated daily number of visitors at the Slide Cemetery can be calculated by multiplying the predicted daily number of vehicles by 2.88. See the Excel spreadsheet titled Predicted Dyea Visitation in order to estimate vehicles and visitors.

### **3.7.3 Predicting Dyea Townsite and Dyea Flats Visitation**

Three primary estimates of visitor use were presented for these areas, 1) vehicles per day visiting the Dyea Flats, 2) vehicles per day visiting the Dyea Townsite, and 3) visitors per day passing the Nelson Slough trail counter.

#### **Daily Visitation to the Dyea Townsite**

A regression equation based on the expected daily cruise ship passenger counts and the daily high temperature in Skagway produced very accurate predictions of the daily number of vehicles visiting the Dyea Townsite, accounting for more than 60% of the variability in visitation;  $F(2,127) = 97.5, p < .001$  (Daily Visitation = [Expected Passengers \* 0.004] + [High Temp \* 2.0] – 73.1). By entering the predicted number of cruise ship passengers and the expected high temperature in this equation, one can predict the daily number of vehicles expected to visit the Dyea Townsite.

During the systematic observation periods, the survey worker also recorded an average of 2.81 visitors in each vehicle (based on 95 observed vehicles). Thus, the estimated daily number of visitors to the Dyea Townsite can be calculated by multiplying the predicted daily number of vehicles by 2.81. It should be noted, however, that such estimates will exclude bicycle riders who arrived on their own or with commercial bicycle tours, and that not all the visitors will hike into the townsite itself. See the Excel spreadsheet titled Predicted Dyea Visitation in order to estimate vehicles and visitors.

#### **Daily Visitation to the Dyea Flats**

A regression equation based on the expected daily cruise ship passenger counts and the daily high temperature in Skagway produced very accurate predictions of the daily number of

vehicles visiting the Dyea Flats, accounting for more than 58% of the variability in visitation;  $F(2,127) = 90.5, p < .001$  (Daily Visitation = [Expected Passengers \* 0.002] + [High Temp \* 1.5] – 49.4). By entering the predicted number of cruise ship passengers and the expected high temperature in this equation, one can predict the daily number of vehicles expected to visit the Dyea Flats.

There was no systematic observation of the number of visitors per vehicle parking at the Dyea Flats. It is likely that party sizes were similar to those observed at the Dyea Townsite. Thus, one might estimate daily number of visitors at the Dyea Flats by multiplying the predicted daily number of vehicles by 2.81. See the Excel spreadsheet titled Predicted Dyea Visitation in order to estimate vehicles and visitors.

### **Daily Counts of Visitors Passing the Nelson Slough Trail Counter**

A regression equation based on the expected daily passenger counts and the daily high temperature in Skagway produced very accurate predictions of the daily counts of visitors passing the Nelson Slough trail counter, accounting for more than 44% of the variability;  $F(2,127) = 50.3, p < .001$  (Daily Passages = [Expected Passengers \* 0.008 + [High Temp \* 4.5 – 193.8). By entering the predicted number of cruise ship passengers and the expected high temperature in this equation, one can predict the daily number of hikers and bicyclists passing the trail counter. See the Excel spreadsheet titled Predicted Dyea Visitation in order to estimate Nelson Slough passages.

### **3.7.4 Predicting Total Dyea area Visitation**

A regression equation based on the expected daily passenger counts and the daily high temperature in Skagway produced very accurate predictions of the average of the three estimates of the number of vehicles visiting the Dyea area, accounting for more than 60% of the variability in the number of vehicles;  $F(2,127) = 100.9, p < .001$  (Daily Vehicles = [Expected Passengers \* 0.005] + [High Temp \* 2.5] – 97.4). The low vehicle estimate can also be predicted using a similar regression equation accounting for 56% of the variability in visitation;  $F(2,127) = 81.6, p < .001$  (Daily Vehicles = [Expected Passengers \* 0.005] + [High Temp \* 2.1] – 99.7). Finally, the highest of the vehicle estimates can be predicted using a regression equation accounting for 59% of the variability in visitation;  $F(2,127) = 90.7, p < .001$  (Daily Vehicles = [Expected Passengers \* 0.005] + [High Temp \* 2.7] – 93.9). By entering the predicted number of cruise

ship passengers and the expected high temperature in any of these equations, one can produce estimates of the daily number of vehicles expected to visit the Dyea area.

The survey card study asked visitors to report the size of their party. Although we did not ask specifically for the number of persons sharing their vehicle, most visitors define their party in that manner. Respondents reported an average of 3.87 persons per party. Thus, the estimated daily number of visitors to the Dyea area can be calculated by multiplying the predicted daily number of vehicles by 3.87. See the Excel spreadsheet titled Predicted Dyea Visitation in order to produce high, low, and average estimates of the daily number of vehicles and visitors visiting the Dyea area.

### **3.8 Conclusion**

This report of the Dyea Quantitative Use Study is intended to serve as a reference document to support a wide range of planning and decision-making concerning the management of the Dyea area. Thus, the information that might be considered most important and worthy of summary will depend to a large extent on the issues that are of concern to a particular reader. Rather than attempting to anticipate the interests of diverse future readers, we have chosen to forego the presentation of summary or highlights from the information provided earlier.

Readers should note that the empirical information that is the basis for this document describes use in a single (2004) visitor season. Changes in the pattern of visitor use at Dyea can occur at any time, and are very likely to occur with any type of change that attracts more or different visitors to Dyea (e.g., road improvement, increased information promoting Dyea, etc.). Ongoing monitoring of visitor use at Dyea (see Appendix H) can help managers use the information in this report by indicating whether the described patterns and levels of use continue in future seasons.

## **APPENDIX A: DETAILED PRESENTATION OF CODED RESPONSES**

This detailed report of coded responses is organized in a manner similar to the summary report (see Section 3.2), but includes extensive listings of visitor responses to the specific interview questions. These transcripts are intended to inform management and planning in the Dyea Area of KLG0 by providing a rich, textual understanding of visitors', a) evaluations of park services, b) perceptions of their park experiences, and c) opinions regarding current and potential park management.

### **A.1 Questions Generally Related to the “Dyea Experience”**

#### **A.1.1 Visitor Activities**

Respondents were asked about the activities in which they participated during their visit to Dyea. Although respondents were not asked about activities they planned to do during the remainder of their visit to Dyea, those respondents who volunteered such information did not provide any new insights. Respondents commonly indicated that they had been hiking, camping, walking, “driving around”, bicycling, riding horses, rafting, and participating in NPS interpretive programs at the Chilkoot Trail, the Dyea town site, or the Dyea campground. Less commonly mentioned activities included fishing or shrimping, flying kites, boating/canoeing/kayaking, visiting Skagway, taking pictures, picnicking, and relaxing. More than half of responding groups mentioned only one activity. No groups listed more than four activities.

#### **Most Important Activity**

Respondents were also asked which activity was most important to them. In response, visitors mentioned the activities listed above (and in some cases multiple activities were most important), and also listed, a) visiting specific sites, b) viewing the historical aspects, c) getting away from town, d) personal exploration, and e) breathing the Dyea air.

**Visiting specific sites.** Examples of responses from individuals whose most important activity was visiting specific sites include:

*Q: “What activities did you do during your trip?”*

*R20: “We rented a vehicle to go up to Whitehorse, but we didn’t have time so we turned back this way.”*

Q: *"Which activity was most important to you?"*

R20: *"The historical points."*

Q: *"Specifically..."*

R20: *"The cemetery." [5.23.04; 3:25 pm; Slide Cemetery; 2: Male/Female]*

Q: *"What activities did you do during your trip?"*

R29: *"We hiked, we are going to paddle the Yukon River to Dawson City. We are doing the whole historic route."*

Q: *"Which activity was most important to you?"*

R29: *"The Chilkoot Trail, I guess. That's why we are here." [7.17.04; 11:35 am; Picnic Area, 2: Female/Male]*

Q: *"Which activity was most important to you?"*

R43: *"To go to the Cemetery." [7.18.04; 3:00 pm; Slide Cemetery; 2: Male/Female]*

**Viewing historical features.** Examples of respondents who expressed a general interest in viewing historical aspects of Dyea include:

Q: *"Sounds like you have been hiking, driving around and looking at the different sites, which activity was most important to you?"*

R23: *"Just the historic stuff ... seeing the historic stuff." [5.23.04; 4:30 pm; Slide Cemetery; 2: Male/Female]*

Q: *"What activities did you do during your trip?"*

R31: *"We just got here so not much. We were just walking."*

Q: *"Which activity was most important to you?"*

R31: *"I think to hike. Just to walk around and enjoy the history. The history is why you are here. The history of the area." [7.17.04; 2:30 pm; Chilkoot Trailhead Parking Lot; 2: Male/Female]*

**Escaping the city.** Examples of responses from individuals whose most important activity was to get out of town include:

Q: *"Sounds like you have been hiking and driving around and camping, what activity was most important to you?"*

R80: *"To get out of Whitehorse."*

Q: *"So just a change of scenery?"*

R80: *"Yes, a change of scenery. We were talking about camping and we decided, 'What the hell, let's go to Skagway'. And now that I've actually been out here, we were discussing, my friends and I, that we are going to come back next year and do the Chilkoot since we were up on the trail just past the guest book." [7.25.04; 9:20 am; Campground; 1: Male]*

Q: *"What activities did you do during your trip?"*

R30: "Today... walked out, had our picnic. The kids are playing around. We wanted to fly our kites, but we'll see what the wind does. Um... we are just kind of hanging out and relaxing."

Q: "Which activity was most important to you?"

R30: "Just to come out of town. You know it's been a few weeks since I have been out here. Just to get away from town. Just relax." [7.17.04; 1:10 pm; Dyea Flats; 2: Female/Female]

**Solitude.** An example of a unique response in which the respondent was interested in solitary exploration of Dyea is:

Q: "What activities did you do during your trip?"

R18: "Well, I just hiked and slept essentially. Drank a PBR or 2."

Q: "Which activity was most important to you?"

R18: "Well it was good to get out here just on my own instead of with a tour group. Just kind of personal explorations instead of always being with somebody else." [5.23.04; 1:50; Chilkoot Trail (overnight, trailhead); 1: Male (Chilkat Guide)]

**Experiencing nature.** Some respondents expressed that just being in nature was the most important activity in their visit to Dyea.

Q: "What activities did you do during your trip?"

R7: "We just arrived. We've been biking around and walking. We are going to go to the Flats and the city pier again. The water is going up."

Q: "Which activity was most important to you?"

R7: "Breathing the air." [6.22.04; 12:30 pm; Slide Cemetery; 2: Male/Male]

**Specific activities.** Examples of individuals' responses who were able to name a specific activity as most important for their visit include:

Q: "What activities did you do during your trip?"

R16: "Oh, just camping and fishing and going downtown and that's about it."

Q: "Which activity was most important to you?"

R16: "Probably the camping. Getting out and enjoying the ... it's a really nice campground. So it's nice to come here and it's beautiful." [5.23.04; 11:25 am; Campground 1: Female]

Q: "Did you hike on the Chilkoot Trail before rafting down here?"

R42: "Yes, we hiked. I think it was 1.8 miles and then came down on the raft."

Q: "Which activity was most important to you?"

R42: "I actually enjoyed the hike more. I really came more for the raft, but I really liked getting up into the woods and seeing all the scenery it was great." [7.18.04; 1:15 pm; Raft Take-out (Skagway Float Tours); 1:

*Female]*

Q: *“What activities did you do during your trip?”*

R41: *“In Dyea, camping, hiking.”*

Q: *“Which activity was most important to you?”*

R41: *“We needed a place to sleep.” [7.18.04; 12:30; Chilkoot Trail (day hikers, trailhead parking lot); 2: Male/Female]<sup>10</sup>*

### **A.1.2 Reasons for Visiting Dyea**

The interview guide used for the first round of interviews (conducted in May 2004) did not include questions specifically focused on the reasons why respondents chose to visit Dyea. However, analysis of those interviews showed that several themes related to reasons for visiting were present in the responses to the questions about visitor activities and the importance placed on the Dyea’s history. Based on this preliminary analysis, a question was added to the interview guide in order to explore respondents’ reasons for visiting Dyea. Because this question was included in the open-ended portion of the interview, its exact wording and the order in which it was asked varied. The question typically asked, “What was your primary reason for visiting Dyea?”

Some individuals responded to the “reason for visiting” question by repeating information that was (or would have been) elicited by other questions in the interview (e.g., by describing an activity, an interest in the cultural history, or an interest in the scenery/natural history). Such responses suggest that those trip characteristics were the primary reasons for visiting Dyea. Other themes that emerged included, a) viewing specific sites in Dyea, b) enjoying the climate of Dyea, c) showing the area to friends/relatives who had never been to Dyea, d) learning more about Dyea, e) exploring a part of Alaska, f) having fun, and g) learning more about family members. The examples below include responses to questions about reasons for visiting Dyea, grouped by themes.

#### **Specific Activities**

The activities mentioned as reasons for visiting include, a) the interpretive Dyea town

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<sup>10</sup> One of these respondents knew about Dyea and chose to visit because she teaches the works of Jack London. In addition, these respondents had just finished the Chilkoot Trail Ranger Guided Hike and were planning on attending the Dyea town site Ranger Guided Walk later that afternoon. It is somewhat puzzling why they reported that their most important activity was, “We needed a place to sleep.”

site walk, b) camping, c) hiking the Chilkoot Trail, d) horseback riding, e) bicycling, and f) rafting)

Q: "You mentioned that the area's cultural history was important to your visit, is that the main reason why you took the tour?"

R46: "We took it to ride the horses. We had no idea where we were going actually. And to see the scenery. We didn't really know historical significance of the area until we got out there."

Q: "Did you choose a ride that was in a natural environment? Would it have mattered if it was in Dyea or anywhere else?"

R46: "Again, we had no idea that we were headed in that direction. It was great that we were out there though. We knew this area was beautiful so I think just being out was what our goal was."

Q: "Do you think being out in the Dyea area added to your experience?"

R46: "Yes, definitely." [7.19.04; 2:15 p.m.; Cruise Ship Docks; 2: Male/Female]

Q: "What was the most important reason you decided to visit the Dyea area?"

R70: "My grandma brought us on a cruise so we decided to check it out."

Q: "Were you there for the horseback riding, the cultural history, or the natural history?"

R70: "The horseback riding."

Q: "Was the area's cultural history important to your visit in any way?"

R70: "Yeah, the cultural was. I love to see the sites and that way we got to go further out than normally."

Q: "Was the area's natural history important to your visit?"

R70: "Yeah." [7.22.04; 5:00pm; Cruise Ship Dock; 1: Female]

Q: "Was the purpose of your trip to go on the ranger led tour?"

R44: "Yes." [7.18.04; 3:35 p.m.; Dyea town site; 1: Female]

Q: "So your primary reason for coming out here was to go camping?"

R48: "Yes, well we arrived in Skagway on the Ferry yesterday and we just needed to camp and this seemed to be a good place to camp since we had tried it last year, so that is what we did."

Q: "Was the area's cultural history important to your visit?"

R48: "No, the cultural history probably wasn't at all important. What was really important was the campground, I guess."

Q: "Was the area's natural setting important to your visit to this campground?"

R48: "No. Mainly that it was just a campground and it was economical too because there are campgrounds in town too but they are more money. So since we had a vehicle it was easy to drive here." [7.20.04; 9:00; Campground, 1: Male]

Q: "So would you say that was the most important reason that you stayed here was the history, a place to camp, or something else?"

R79: "A place to camp but it's been a very nice place to camp."  
[7.25.04; 9:10 a.m.; Campground; 1: Female]

Q: "So are you just going to be hiking on the Chilkoot Trail during your trip?"

R55: "Yes, going all the way through."

Q: "What was your most important reason to hike the Chilkoot Trail?"

R55: "Skip work [laughter] and check the box."

Q: "So, this was just something that you had to do."

R55: "Yup."

Q: "Was the area's cultural history important to your visit?"

R55: "It is. We like to learn about it and see it."

Q: "Was the area's natural history important to your visit?"

R55: "That's good, yup."

Q: "Was either one of those more important to your visit?"

R55: "Nope. It's just a 4-day hike that is just what it is to me. For me it is just proving that I can do it." [7.20.04; 3:00 p.m.; Chilkoot Trail (thru-hikers, .6 miles); 2: Male/Male]

Q: "What was your primary reason for visiting Dyea?"

R69: "The bikes went there."

Q: "So you wanted to go for a bike ride?"

R69: "We wanted to go for a bike ride and look at stuff and see animals, so we did." [7.22.04; 2:30 p.m.; Sockeye Cycles shop; 2: Male/Female]

### **Interest in Cultural History**

Specific aspects of the cultural history that motivated visits included the Klondike Gold Rush and the Chilkoot Trail.

Q: "What is most important to you about this area?"

R21: "It's the head stopping off point for the Chilkoot Trail and for the gold seekers that were headed to Dawson in the early days. It's got a lot of history." [5.23.03; 3:45; Slide Cemetery; 1: Male]

Q: "Sounds like you have been hiking, driving around and looking at the different sites, which activity was most important to you?"

R23: "Just the historic stuff ... seeing the historic stuff."

Q: "Was the area's cultural history important to your visit?"

R23: "Yes."

Q: "Mainly the Gold Rush?"

R23: "Yeah".

Q: "Any other parts that are specifically interesting?"

R23: "Not really"

Q: "What do you think is special or unique about this area?"

R23: "Well it has to be the Gold Rush. If it wasn't for that we wouldn't be here."

Q: "Was the area's natural history important to your visit?"

R23: "Somewhat. Not as important as the Gold Rush."

Q: "As far as your natural history interests, is there anything that stands out to you as important?"

R23: "Oh, just everything. The whole package." [R23; 5.23.04; 4:30 pm; Slide Cemetery; 2: Male/Female]

Q: "Was it the cultural history or the natural history that drew you here?"

R35: "Well, I would probably suppose the Gold Rush history is what brought me over here."

Q: "Is there anything in particular about the Gold Rush that you wanted to see?"

R35: "Oh, I guess it was just kind of a general history. Well, I had heard about the Chilkoot Trail and I had imagined it to be a long strenuous route and now I find it is something like 30 miles, which doesn't seem to be all that long." [7.17.04; 4:00 pm; Dyea town site; 1: Male]

Q: "What would you say is the most important reason that you decided to visit Dyea?"

R78: "Well it is just part of a sequence of places that we wanted to visit. We visited Skagway. We've come down from Dawson along the Yukon River. We wound up in Skagway, but we had to come over to Dyea in order to complete the package." [7.25.04; 9:00 am; Campground; 2: Male/Female]

Q: "What would you say is the most important reason that you decided to visit Dyea?"

R87: "Historical interest. Certainly I've been on the high part of the Klondike Trail as well coming down through Yukon. So, it was just sort of the end of it. I'm heading down to BC on the ferry." [7.25.04; 1:50 pm; Dyea town site; 1: Male]

### **Interest in Scenery/Natural History**

Specific aspects of the scenery or natural history that motivated visits included topography, general natural features, primitiveness, beauty, and wildlife.

Q: "Which activity was most important to you?"

R40: "Well, I love nature and I love the scenery and I love the outdoors, so those are the things that are most important to me."

Q: "Is the cultural history of this area important to your visit?"

R40: "It's interesting."

Q: "But it is not one of the reasons you came here?"

R40: "No, but of course we didn't know about it. But those things are always interesting and I'd like to visit the old town site. I think that is an interesting thing to do." [7.18.04; 12:00; Chilkoot Trail (trailhead parking lot); 1: Male]

Q: "What was the most important reason you took this trip to the Dyea area?"

R51: "Curiosity about the topography and the natural features."

Q: "Anything in particular about the topography or natural environment drew you to Dyea?"

R51: "I live in the Southeast United States, where it is flat and hot, so the contrast is wonderful." [7.20.04; 11:55 am; Raft Takeout (Chilkat Guides); 1: Male]

Q: "What was the reason you chose to come here on this trip?"

R62: "Um, well our motivation was to check out what is around here. Seeing the landscape and enjoying the surroundings. We are doing a loop from Skagway to Haines." [7.21.04; 11:50 am; Chilkoot Trail (day-hikers); 2: Female/Male]

Q: "What was your primary reason for coming to Dyea?"

R67: "Well because we felt it was more primitive and we wanted to get a little exercise and get out into a little more primitive of an area." [7.21.04; 3:25 pm; Dyea town site; 2: Male/Female]

Q: "What was the most important reason that you decided to visit the Dyea Area?"

R68: "Just the beauty, the country, the animals. Just wanting to see the great outdoors and they really can be."

Q: "Was the area's cultural history important to your visit?"

R68: "Yeah, it was. It was nice to learn about the Pass and the people trying to get over it. And some of the buildings that were there and some of the people, [it] was all explained on the trip. So it was pretty good".

Q: "Was the nature more important than the cultural history to your visit?"

R68: "The beauty... the being outdoors... the beauty. Wanting to see the mountains and the animals, yes." [7.22.04; 11:15 am; Cruise Ship Dock; 1: Male]

Q: "What was the most important reason that you decided to come out

to Dyea?”

R76: “Oh, to see it. To see what is here I guess. And we are thinking of maybe camping at the campsite.”

Q: “Was the area’s cultural history important to your visit?”

R76: “I would say not really.”

Q: “Was the area’s natural history important to your visit?”

R76: “More the natural history, yeah.”

Q: “Anything in particular?”

R76: “The scenery and the river I guess.”

Q: “Where you planning on fishing or anything?”

R76: “No.”

Q: “Just sitting by the river?”

R76: “Um-huh.” [7.23.04; 2:00 pm; Chilkoot (day-hikers); 2: Male/Female]

### Viewing Specific Sites

Sites that motivated visits to Dyea included the town site, the Chilkoot Trail, and general Dyea sites.

Q: “What has been most important to your trip out here?”

R11: “The cemetery seems... we have only seen the cemetery and this... so we are doing those two. That’s certainly more important I think. More poignant and thought provoking.” [6.22.04; 3:30 pm; Dyea town site; 2: Male/Female]

Q: “Was the reason that you came out to Dyea to go on the ranger tour or were you planning on visiting the area anyway?”

R34: “Actually I didn’t know about it until we were in town and they told us that there was a competing town during the Gold Rush and that it was a ghost town and there were remnants of it. And that’s why we are here.” [7.17.04; 3:45 pm; Dyea town site; 2: Male/Female]

Q: “What do you think the most important reason was that you chose to come to Dyea?”

R38: “For me, it is just coming back to a place I enjoyed and I found it... when we took the train up to Bennett, I found that area especially interesting because I could remember standing up on the hill looking down at that train station. I could remember everything about the place and that place hasn’t changed that much.” [7.18.04; 10:05 am; Campground; 1: Female]

Q: “So the reason you came to this area was to check out the trail?”

R61: “Right.” [7.21.04; 11:25 am; Chilkoot Trail [Day hikers]; 2: Male/Female]

Q: *"What was your primary reason for coming out to the Dyea Area?"*  
R66: *"To see the Chilkoot Trail and the town, kind of where the town was."* [7.21.04; 3:15 pm; Dyea town site; 2: Male/Female]

Q: *"What is the most important reason that you decided to come to Dyea?"*  
R73: *"I suppose to see the Chilkoot Trail."* [7.23.04; 10:20 am; Dyea town site; 1: Male]

Q: *"What was the most important reason that you visited Dyea today?"*  
R75: *"Um... just to take in the sites and enjoy it."* [7.23.04; 11:45 am; Slide Cemetery; 3: Male/Male/Female]

Q: *"Why did you decide to come out to the Dyea area today?"*  
R84: *"Well, I wanted to come into Skagway for one thing and we wanted to see this Chilkoot Pass".*

Q: *"So you think that the Chilkoot Trail is why you came out to the Dyea area?"*  
R84: *"Well, basically yes."* [7.25.04; 10:55 am; Chilkoot Trailhead; 1: Male]

### **Other Reasons for Visiting**

There were a number of reasons for visiting that were mentioned by only a few respondents. Examples of such responses are presented below.

### **Enjoying the climate of Dyea.**

Q: *"What would you say was the most important reason you decided to come out here on this trip?"*  
R82: *"Usually the weather is pretty moderate and that is what I like about this area. Yeah, and we like to hike and that's the main thing we did was the first part of the Chilkoot."* [7.25.04; 9:50 am; Campground; 2: Male/Female]

### **Showing the Area to Friends/Relatives.**

Q: *"What is the reason that you chose to come out to the Dyea Area?"*  
R65: *"To show the parents of my partner the place here. That was it because that was here and I've seen all I've wanted to see and so I just did it for her parents."* [7.21.04; 2:20 pm; Dyea town site; 1: Male]

Q: *"What would you say is the most important reason that you decided to visit the Dyea area?"*  
R83: *"Uh, to show off to my sister and brother-in-law... the scenery"*

*and the history.” [7.25.04; 10:45 am; Chilkoot Trail (trailhead); 4: Male/Male/Female/Female]*

### **Learning More about Dyea.**

*Q: “What would you say is the most important reason that you decided to visit Dyea?”*

*R89: “To learn something more about the area.” [7.25.04; 3:20 pm; Dyea town site; 3: Male/Female/Female]*

### **Learning about Family.**

*Q: “What do you think is the most important reason that you decided to visit Dyea?”*

*R86: “Because there is some possibility that my great grandfather went up the Chilkoot Pass. I don’t have a lot of... well I have almost zero information about it. I was hoping to find his name on one of the rosters, but they referred me to the internet so that is my next stop to look at the internet and see what I find.” [7.25.04; 12:10 pm; Chilkoot Trail (trailhead); 1: Male]*

### **A.1.3 Special and Unique Qualities of Dyea**

During the interview, respondents were asked to describe what they thought were the special or unique attributes of Dyea. Many respondents reported that both the cultural history (the Gold Rush and First Nations/Native American aspects) and the natural history (e.g., geology, landscape, trees, lack of development) were special and/or unique characteristics of Dyea. Because managers were particularly interested in the relative importance visitors placed on the cultural and natural history, respondents who gave general answers about history and nature were asked follow-up questions about the specific aspects of the area’s history that were special, and/or were asked to distinguish between the cultural and natural historical qualities that they found important. Also, respondents who didn’t mention history as a unique aspect of Dyea were asked specific questions about whether the areas history was important to their visit.

### **General Statements that History and Nature are Both Special Aspects of Dyea**

Many respondents tended to focus on, a) the general link between Dyea and Gold Rush history, and b) a general appreciation for the scenic beauty of the landscape that characterizes Dyea (i.e., glacial rivers, ocean tides, temperate rainforest vegetation, and steep

mountains). For example:

Q: "What do you think is special or unique about this area?"

R10: "The history plus the natural landscape... as he said the Flat area and the creeks, and the mountains, and the whole landscape mixed with the historical part is quite neat."

Q: "Do you consider the cultural history as separate from the natural history of this area? When you are talking about the landscape, are you considering the history of the landscape or just the landscape itself?"

R10: "Well both, because we are amazed at the picture down here where we are camping that has a picture of the waterfront at the time and it is way, way down there now. It's like 2 miles. It's amazing to try and visualize what has happened to the landscape over time. And that's part of the natural history. And how old are these trees, would they have been here in the 19 hundreds?"

Q: "Is there anything about the cultural history that is of particular importance to you?"

R10: "Well there is two things that I think of; one is that ... are you asking what do we think should be added here?"

Q: "I will ask that later."

R10: "Well then we will leave it. The cultural history, the one thing that I think is missing from this is the first nations piece. You know I haven't seen much in here at all. There's a lot of history about the Gold Rush, but this area had to have been occupied, you know to some extent before that."

Q: "And that is important to you, to be able to learn about that as well?"

R10: "Yes." [6.22.04; 1:50 pm; Dyea town site; 2: Male/Female]

Q: "What do you think is special or unique about this area?"

R15: "It has so much history."

Q: "Anything in particular about the history that makes it special or unique?"

R15: "Well the Gold Rush history and that is really neat. I don't know... it's beautiful, it's really beautiful. It's unique ... the scenery and all that."

Q: "You said the cultural history was important to you. Was the area's natural history important to your visit as well?"

R15: "Yes. I don't know. I like the Dyea town site area and the land there and the land there... I don't know ... I think that is interesting."

Q: "The way that nature is coming back?"

R15: "Yeah." [5.23.04; 11:00 am; Campground; 1: Female]

Q: "What do you think is special or unique about this area?"

R19: "Obviously the history and I would say the vegetation is

amazing.”

Q: “What aspects about the area’s cultural history important to your visit?”

R19: “Probably the original Dyea town site and the history about when the boats came in and the Stampeders would get off and just have to start off with sort of a tent city and just the process of how they would have to get on the trail.”

Q: “Was the area’s natural history important to your visit?”

R19: “Yes, lesser so though. No, I just generally like the vegetation. It is very different from the Yukon, so the difference ... the fact that a 100 year old tree is significantly larger than a 100 year tree in the Yukon and the wildflowers that grow here versus there. It would be more along those lines that interest me.” [5.23.04; 3:10 pm; Slide Cemetery; 1: Female]

Q: “What do you think is special or unique about this area?”

R28: “It’s historic.”

Q: “Are you talking about the natural history or the cultural history?”

R28: “Both. Both are absolutely important.”

Q: “Anything in particular that is especially unique?”

R28: “Well the graveyard is really unique. The whole area is unique. The whole area should be protected, as far as I am concerned. I don’t really know what else to say...like to me the whole area is a historic trip; you can’t come here and just stay in the campground. You can’t. You know... It’s a learning thing, which is why a lot of the schools in the Yukon bring their kids out here is because of the history.” [7.17.04; 11:00 am; Campground; 2: Female/Female]

Q: “What do you think is special or unique about this area?”

R30: “Um... definitely the historic aspect and its kind of neat that there are still a few of the irises around. The wild iris. Unfortunately we missed... we try to make it out each year when they are in full bloom, but I just wasn’t able to this year. And yeah, the historical aspect and just... again for us to get out of Skagway. It does make it seem like the big city. It’s just nice to be away.”

Q: “Would you say you come here more for the cultural aspect or the natural aspect?”

R30: “The natural.” [7.17.04; 1:10 pm; Dyea Flats; 2: Female/Female]

Q: “What do you think is special or unique about this area?”

R41: “The Klondike history. Well, I really like that it is surrounded by the mountains and the silty rivers too. Kind of the nature itself is also part of it to me.”

Q: “You’ve mentioned that both the cultural history and the natural history were important for your visit. Does either one of those take precedence for you?”

R41: “For me the natural takes precedence over the history. [other

respondent] *For me its history because I teach it.*" [7.18.04; 12:30 pm; Chilkoot Trail (trailhead parking lot); 2: Male/Female]

Q: "What do you think is special or unique about this area?"

R54: "Well the other thing too, is that we are going to canoe the Yukon River so this is just part of the journey. I think that the coast, like this end, is really amazing how it just erupts out of the sea. So that is pretty cool."

Q: "Was the area's cultural history important to your visit or the natural history?"

R54: "I think the cultural history for me. Like that is why it is here, but then the natural history is a total bonus. But if it wasn't like really cool and pretty here like nice scenery and everything, we wouldn't come just for the history hike. Yeah, I guess you are right. Maybe just 50/50. For me, more for the nature because I probably would still come if it were a really cool trail without the history, but it is certainly way more appealing because of the history." [7.20.04; 2:35 pm; Chilkoot Trail (thru-hikers, 1.5 miles); 2: Male/Female]

Q: "What do you think is special or unique about this area?"

R55: "It's a pretty cool place. I mean just the woods, the openness, how wild it is. I think it is that plus the history. I think a lot of ... to do this... I think a lot about the people who did it 100 plus years ago and what it must have been like. That adds quite a bit for me." [7.20.04; 3:00 pm; Chilkoot Trail (thru-hikers, .6 miles); 2: Male/Male]

Q: "What do you think is special or unique about this area?"

R59: "It so far seems pretty ecologically intact. Bits and pieces that we probably haven't seen are probably torn up. But what I've seen it is as ecologically intact as it could be. Also, probably the historical remnants and it is fascinating I find."

Q: "Was the area's cultural or natural history important to your visit?"

R59: "Both, I love hiking and just to retake the steps. The historical is probably most important but to redo the trail is like a super bonus. You know there are lots of trails closer." [7.21.04; 10:55 am; Chilkoot Trail (thru-hikers, .5 miles); 6: 3 Male/ 3 Female]

Q: "What was the reason you chose to come here on this trip?"

R62: "Um, well our motivation was to check out what is around here. Seeing the landscape and enjoying the surroundings. We are doing a loop from Skagway to Haines."

Q: "So it sounds like the naturalness of the area motivated you to visit this area, but was the cultural history important to your visit?"

R62: "It's probably a secondary kind of interest. Just curious and I think it is a neat story, the Klondike."

Q: "What do you think is special or unique about this area?"

R62: *"I don't know, I think just the historical specialness. I like the terrain, how it changes, like you've got the rainforest area going up to the alpine area and that is kind of pretty unique as it goes near the coast. Yeah, that is interesting."* [7.21.04; 11:50 am; Chilkoot Trail (day-hikers); 2: Female/Male]

Q: *"What was the most important reason for taking this trip to Dyea?"*

R63: *"It's a combination...it's kind of ... the big power hitter is the trailhead for the Chilkoot Trail. I think that is the draw for most people, because it has the most historical oomph to it. For me personally, it is the scenery, the nature. For me it is revisiting history. I am very interested in it and I have read a lot about the Gold Rush and I have been to Dawson City and so on and so this is all part of that and so for me it is just revisiting."*

Q: *"So for you the natural history is more important and to you the cultural history is more important."*

R63: *"Yes, cultural. I'd say they are equally as important. No one would be out here. No one would be out here to view the nature if it wasn't for the historical draw, I think. Or very few people."*

Q: *"What do you think is special or unique about this area?"*

R63: *"Well again, it is a combination of those two things. It's the historical and it is the natural. I think they are really both very important. It's isolation."* [7.21.04; 1:20 pm; Dyea town site; 2: Male/Male]

Q: *"Was the area's cultural history the primary reason for your visit?"*

R66: *"Yes."*

Q: *"Was the area's natural history also important to your visit?"*

R66: *"I think it was the cultural history or the historical. The main reason was the cultural, the Chilkoot and Dyea but once we got out here the natural was beautiful too."*

Q: *"What do you think is special or unique about this area?"*

R66: *"I would think that it is right on the ocean and what is unique about the area is the Klondike stampede and stuff is what I think is what is unique. To me that is the most interesting."* [7.21.04; 3:15 pm; Dyea town site; 2: Male/Female]

Q: *"Was the area's natural history important to your visit as well as the cultural or do you think the cultural history really took precedence?"*

R73: *"Probably both."*

Q: *"For any particular reasons?"*

R73: *"I guess I am surprised from the photos you don't see any trees and now it is a dense forest, so that was kind of interesting."*

Q: *"What do you think is special or unique about this area?"*

R73: *"I guess that it... because of again, the Chilkoot Trail and um... it*

probably was a better trail than the White Pass, but ah... people who had money thought that was a better way... so." [7.23.04; 10:20 am; Dyea town site; 1: Male]

Q: "Was the area's cultural history important to your visit?"

R75: "Yea, pretty much. Yeah. It was interesting."

Q: "Was the area's natural history important to your visit?"

R75: "Oh, yeah, definitely."

Q: "Did one of those take precedence over the other?"

R75: "Probably the history, yeah."

Q: "Anything in particular about the history?"

R75: "Um... pretty much the miners, the landslides or um... the snow slides. The whole thing, you know, how they lived and what happened to them. We don't have this in Toronto. No, we don't have this in Toronto, this is definitely uh... not only that too, like my sons did um ...uh... a project last year so... not on the Dyea area, but pretty much just on the miners and such so."

Q: "What do you think is special or unique about this area?"

R75: "I would say the graves. And the foliage." [7.23.04; 11:45; Slide Cemetery; 3: Male/Male/Female]

Q: "Was the area's cultural history important to your visit?"

R79: "Uh-huh."

Q: "Anything in particular about the cultural history?"

R79: "No. Just how the people lived when they were here because it was such a boom-town and what they did in that short amount of time."

Q: "Was the area's natural history important to your visit?"

R79: "Not until we got here."

Q: "You didn't know what to expect beforehand?"

R79: "No."

Q: "Now that you have been here, is the cultural history or the natural history more important to your visit?"

R79: "I think they are both important." [7.25.04; 9:10 am; Campground; 1: Female]

Q: "Any one of those things [the scenery or the history] take precedence over the other or was it pretty much equal?"

R83: "Equal. To me, the history really. To me, I grew up in Arkansas and then we've been in Montana on and off again since '69 but history is so new in Alaska, things have really happened in our lifetime. We might have been pretty small but things are so new, the history is so, it is so interesting."

Q: "What do you think is special or unique about this area?"

R83: "Well it is natural. I like this where it starts up there [the Chilkoot Trail], so we can at least get an idea and the people back home can see pictures, you know, that there is something going up the mountain." [7.25.04; 10:45 am; Chilkoot Trail (trailhead); 4:

*Male/Male/Female/Female]*

Q: *“Was the area’s cultural history important to your visit?”*

R88: *“Sure.”*

Q: *“Anything in particular about it that is intriguing?”*

R88: *“I’ve seen a lot of movies about the Gold Rush and so I think it is really interesting to come and see where it really started.”*

Q: *“Was the area’s natural history important to your visit?”*

R88: *“Yup.”*

Q: *“Anything in particular about that?”*

R88: *“You know, I’ve never been here before so it is just kind of first experience thing for me.”*

Q: *“What do you think is special or unique about this area?”*

R88: *“Just spectacular scenery really... and the history too.” [7.25.04; 3:10 pm; Dyea town site; 1: Male]*

### **Specific Statements about History as a Special Aspect of Dyea**

Some respondents made more specific references to the uniqueness and importance of the cultural history at Dyea. Historical aspects that were mentioned include, a) the Gold Rush, b) the First Nations/Native American presence in the area, and c) the relationship of Dyea to the works of Jack London.

**Statements about the history of the Gold Rush.** Among respondents who emphasized the cultural history as unique, special, and/or important to their visit, response themes included the relationship between Dyea and the Gold Rush, an appreciation for the stampeders’ determination, the Chilkoot Trail, the Slide Cemetery, and the authenticity and lack of glamorization of Dyea. Examples of such responses include:

Q: *“As far as the history, was the area’s cultural history of the Gold Rush important to your visit?”*

R17: *“Yes, somewhat.”*

Q: *“Any other historical aspects that is important?”*

R17: *“Not really because if we are not informed about it on the ship, then obviously we wouldn’t know ...”*

Q: *“Was the area’s natural history important to your visit?”*

R17: *“It is important, yeah.”*

Q: *“What do you think is special or unique about this area?”*

R17: *“The cemetery is number one because when you come here and see and when you read the plague and see what happened it sort of gives you an idea of what happened 107 years ago. Like I said you feel sorry for the families although you don’t know them, but the fact that it happened and they were from out of town. People were affected from*

*all round... all areas of America that probably didn't even know one another." [5.23.04; 1:30; Slide Cemetery; 3: Male/Female/Female]*

Q: *"What do you think is special or unique about this area?"*

R25: *"The fact that the town isn't here any more. It just evaporated so quickly. Unfortunately.... It would be nice[if] there was a few more areas to mark it, like some more pile ... [unintelligible due to the wind] ... like population so and so went here." [5.25.04; 11:10 am; Raft Take-out (Chilkat Guides); 1: Female]*

Q: *"What do you think is special or unique about this area?"*

R27: *"Well, I think just the historical significance in relation to the Gold Rush. The scenery and all that is very pretty, but southeast Alaska is riddled with this stuff... it's all over the place. In that sense it is not unusual. Yeah, it's the connection to the Gold Rush is what makes it remembered."*

Q: *"You spoke about the importance of the cultural history to this area, was the area's natural history important to your visit?"*

R27: *"Uh, nothing is unusually important, but no less important than any other area in Alaska either. So the whole health of the ecosystem and everything else is just as important here as it is everywhere else. I don't know what the Park Service does for that... I guess they have a ranger I would imagine that does some kind of campground stuff around that, but to my knowledge I don't think the Park Service is doing much in the way of that I think." [7.17.04; 10:30 am; Campground; 1: Male]*

Q: *"What do you think is special or unique about this area?"*

R29: *"The historical, you know. The history of the Gold Rush... seeing it."*

Q: *"Anything in particular about the Gold Rush history that has some significant importance to your visit?"*

R29: *"Well we've all learned this stuff in history class and so it's a way to connect what is learned with what is actually there. We like to retrace historical routes or you know whatever."*

Q: *"Was the area's natural history important to your visit?"*

R29: *"I guess to a point. We enjoy the outdoors and ... preserving it." [7.17.04; 11:35 am; Picnic Area, 2: Female/Male]*

Q: *"Which activity was most important to you?"*

R31: *"I think to hike. Just to walk around and enjoy the history. The history is why you are here. The history of the area."*

Q: *"What in particular about the area's cultural history is important to your visit?"*

R31: *"Well the Gold Rush. Why Dyea existed in 1898 and 1900 and 1901. How it disappeared so quick. That's real interesting I think to most people. That's our main interest. We enjoy walking a lot and I*

wouldn't say that much else is. As far as canoeing or anything else, we just don't do that."

Q: "What do you think is special or unique about this area?"

R31: "Well, the fact that it is a pioneer cemetery from the avalanche back in 1898 or whenever it was... the history of it being part of the Chilkoot Trail route that people actually came in here when there was a wharf and were dropped off from all other cities in the United States and other countries. To spend a winter here before they would even attempt to go over the trail is just fascinating history."

Q: "Was the area's natural history important to your visit?"

R31: "The river. I find the Taiya River fascinating. And the drive out here is nice. It's a nice drive. But it's just being in the mountains too. We don't have these where we come from. Is the Chilkoot Trail itself considered part of the Dyea Area?"

Q: "Yes."

R31: "Well I think for us the main attraction would be the fact that the Chilkoot Trail starts here." [7.17.04; 2:30; Chilkoot Trail (trailhead parking lot); 2: Male/Female]

Q: "What do you think is special or unique about this area?"

R32: "Um... well I think it is just imagining all of those people getting here in a period of two or three years and building a town site in a year or less is just absolutely amazing."

Q: "Was the area's cultural history important to your visit?"

R32: "Yes. I wanted to see what had happened here a hundred years ago."

Q: "Was the area's natural history important to your visit?"

R32: "To a lesser degree. I actually haven't seen anything so far... everything is focused on the Gold Rush. Little bits and pieces come through of what was here before the Gold Rush but I just have no idea. I'm kind of curious about it actually." [7.17.04; 3:00; Dyea town site; 1: Male]

Q: "Was it the cultural history or the natural history that drew you here?"

R35: "Well, I would probably suppose the Gold Rush History is what brought me over here."

Q: "Is there anything in particular about the Gold Rush that you wanted to see?"

R35: "Oh, I guess it was just kind of a general history. Well, I had heard about the Chilkoot Trail and I had imagined it to be a long strenuous route and now I find it is something like 30 miles, which doesn't seem to be all that long." [7.17.04; 4:00 pm; Dyea town site; 1: Male]

Q: "What do you think is special or unique about this area?"

R36: "Well the history of course. The stampede, the Gold Rush era

*and how they built the railroad and how the incredible trip they... and now having been on Chilkoot Trail it is amazing that anybody did it at all. Lived through it. So, I think that the whole incredible part of our history is so important, really."*

Q: *"You mentioned that the area's cultural history was important to your visit, was the area's natural history important to your visit?"*

R36: *"Yes, now it is. I didn't realize... it wasn't my primary motivation on coming here, but now having been here and seeing how incredibly beautiful this location is, now it's a lot more important."* [7.17.04; 5:50 pm; Raft Take-out (Skagway Float Tours); 1: Male]

Q: *"What do you think is special or unique about this area?"*

R39: *"The heritage part, the whole history."*

Q: *"Anything in particular about the history like the Gold Rush or the 1st Nations history?"*

R39: *"The Gold Rush. Yeah, I prefer the Gold Rush part of it."*

Q: *"Anything about it that really brought you to Dyea. Sounds like you are going to hike the Chilkoot."*

R39: *"Just like the determination of the people. They are such strong people to be able to do that. It's amazing. You think now there is nobody that could do that; pack that much stuff. Now we do it with Gore-Tex and fleece and they were doing it with wool and canvas. We are much weaker."*

Q: *"Was the area's natural history important to your visit, or does the cultural history take precedent on this trip?"*

R39: *"To a certain amount but we don't have a lot of time on this trip so we won't be able to take it all in. We are primarily focused on the trail, but for sure there is more stuff here and we will be back."* [7.18.04; 10:25 am: Campground; 1: Male]

Q: *"Was the area's cultural or natural history important to your visit?"*

R44: *"A combination really. I enjoy being outside and the history was an added plus."*

Q: *"Did one take precedence over the other?"*

R44: *"Probably the nature."*

Q: *"What do you think is special or unique about this area?"*

R44: *"The way they preserve this and how it ties into the history of the Gold Rush that we have been hearing about since we have been in Alaska. It really pulls it together."* [7.18.04; 3:35 pm; Dyea town site; 1: Female]

Q: *"What do you think is special or unique about this area?"*

R46: *"It's very historical. It has a great significance for the Alaska Gold Rush at the time period. There was a lot of activity out there at the time. It's fun to hear about."* [7.19.04; 2:15 pm; Cruise Ship Docks; 2: Male/Female]

Q: "Sounds like you are going to head out on a great hike, what do you think was the most important reason for visiting this area?"

R56: "I'd say the history. The ... all of the historical information about the area. So there is an opportunity to relate to some extent to the experiences that those people had way back when ... in a much more pleasant setting. And we know we will come out alive. And poorer [laughter]"

Q: "Sounds like the cultural history was really driving your visit, what about the natural history, was that important to this visit as well?"

R56: "Yeah. I am fully aware of the spectacular scenery and all that sort of stuff and a couple people that we have talked to have said the same thing. So we are looking forward to that."

Q: "Was it a combination or the cultural history..."

R56: "For me initially it was the cultural history of the whole area."

Q: "What do you think is special or unique about this area?"

R56: "I'd say just its uniqueness... its history... the history of the area and the stampedeers who came here in 1898 and 1899. It's unique. Should have done a little better job looking up the buildings, but yeah, I would say it is just the opportunity to relate back to the people that came here before and some of the pictures I just find absolutely incredible in the little film that they show at the information center too. And you can't really relive what they went through but that is always a part of the experience." [7.21.04; 8:30 am; Campground; 3: Female/Male/Male]

Q: "What do you think is special or unique about this area?"

R61: "All the people who hiked up this trail. The sense of history. It is very important. That is why we wanted to hike this just to say we have done some of it."

Q: "So it sounds like the cultural history was really driving your visit to the Dyea Area?"

R61: "Well, the Skagway area, we didn't know Dyea was part of Skagway until we got here."

Q: "Was the area's natural history important to your visit?"

R61: "Yup."

Q: "Was that another reason you chose to visit this area?"

R61: "Yup."

Q: "Does one take precedence over the other or is it a combination?"

R61: "I'd say the natural history takes precedence. I am a photography freak that is why it took so long getting here, I had to stop and take pictures of things." [7.21.04; 11:25; Chilkoot Trail (day hikers, trailhead); 2: Male/Female]

Q: "Was the area's cultural history important to your visit?"

R65: "Yes, we are interested in it because we saw the film in Skagway"

about the Gold Rush and it must have been really something for people that did this area here. It must have been incredible. You can see what gold fever can do to people.”

Q: “Was the area’s natural history important to your visit?”

R65: “Yea, we’ve seen seals down here, eagles, glaciers. Very nice.”

Q: “What do you think is special or unique about this area?”

R65: “Um, that there was so much going on with 10,000 people trying to get over the Pass.” [7.21.04; 2:20 pm; Dyea town site; 1: Male]

Q: “What do you think is special or unique about this area?”

R72: “Well what is really intriguing about it for me is that I think about all of the Gold Rush people that came through here, you know a little over a hundred years ago, so that to me is intriguing, you know to just kind of explore and see what they saw... you know.”

Q: “Was the area’s natural history important to your visit?”

R72: “Yes.”

Q: “Anything in particular about the naturalness of this environment?”

R72: “Just to keep it as less impact, human impact, as possible. I can see a lot of that has happened. I mean compared to other travels that I have done in the lower 48 where they built houses and cabins up the sides of the mountains.” [7.23.04; 8:30 am; Campground; 1: Male]

Q: “What do you think is special or unique about this area?”

R74: “Well I think the history is unique. As far as the ruins are concerned they are kind of ... [laughter]... iffy. But just to imagine so many people that were here, it is hard to imagine that it was that crowded.” [7.23.04; 10:45; Dyea town site; 2: Male/Female]

Q: “Would you say that your primary interest for coming here was for the cultural history?”

R86: “Yes.”

Q: “Was the area’s natural history important to your visit?”

R86: “Only partially though because I am not interested in the natural history of this location in particular but I like to be outdoors walking the trails.”

Q: “What do you think is special or unique about this area?”

R86: “Because it has very authentic history. Not something that is made up and glamorized but something that is well documented and it is a place that people can in some way... at least I can... relate to.” [7.25.04; 12:10 pm; Chilkoot Trailhead; 1: Male]

Q: “Was the area’s cultural history or natural history important to your visit?”

R89: “Cultural.”

Q: “The Gold Rush history?”

R89: “Yes. We never had heard about Dyea before. So when we

*arrived to Skagway the only reason that we heard about it was because they talked about it being the other part of the Gold Rush.”*

Q: *“Was the area’s natural history important to your visit?”*

R89: *“No, not as interested. It was interesting what the tour guide [ranger guided walk in town site] talked about with the trees and the tides but I am more interested in the culture.” [7.25.04; 3:20 pm; Dyea town site; 3: Male/Female/Female]*

**Statements about non-European history.** Among some respondents, Dyea was perceived as special, unique, and/or important because of links to both the First Nations/Native American and the Gold Rush cultural histories. Some respondents indicated that their responses concerning First Nations/Native American cultural history lacked specificity because they perceived a lack of interpretive information on those topics. Examples of responses concerning aspects of First Nations/Native American cultural history include:

Q: *“What do you think is special or unique about this area?”*

R22: *“For us, it’s like the huge, big trees and how green everything is much more so than where we are in the Yukon. I enjoy that.”*

Q: *“Was the area’s cultural history important to your visit?”*

R22: *“It is important, yup”.*

Q: *“Anything in particular about it.”*

R22: *“The cultural history... whether you are referring to the 1st Nations and such? I guess I find that perhaps lacking. There is not much information about the 1st Nations in this area. When we looked at some of the headstones we could see 1st Nations, at least one had a stone there for a burial. But aside from that I don’t know very much about the 1st Nations history in the Dyea area”.*

Q: *“Is that something that you think the park should provide?”*

R22: *“I think yes. If they played an important part that should be part of it.”*

Q: *“How about the Gold Rush history, is that important to your visit?”*

R22: *“Yes, for sure”.*

Q: *“Anything in particular about the Gold Rush?”*

R22: *“No, just to preserve and ... my generation, I’m 50 plus, is perhaps more aware of it, but for perhaps younger generations coming up it has got to be something you keep working at it to make people aware of the contributions that people made coming into this area”.*

Q: *“Was the area’s natural history important to your visit? You mentioned the flora earlier, is the geologic history important to you on this trip?”*

R22: *“No, not that important on this trip.” [5.23.04; 4:00 pm; Slide Cemetery; 1: Female]*

Q: *“Was the area’s cultural history important to your visit?”*

R82: *“Probably not on this particular visit, but I am aware of the*

*cultural history in the area. It would be if we hadn't been in Whitehorse... from Whitehorse."*

Q: *"Inundated with the cultural history?"*

R82: *"Exactly [laughter]. We hear about it every day. I work for the 1st Nations of the Yukon so I am quite familiar with a lot of the 1st Nations scenarios out here. We've been in Whitehorse for quite some time, so we have pretty much been around the history of the Yukon and the Chilkoot for a long time. Yeah, like I've been in the Yukon for 25 years and I traveled the Skagway road when it was first opened and have been coming back ever since."*

Q: *"Was the area's natural history important to your visit?"*

R82: *"Yea it was. I am quite interested in the background of the area and the history of the Chilkoot and Skagway and the significance of the Klondike Gold Rush."*

Q: *"How about the naturalness of the area, is that what the big draw was for this visit?"*

R82: *"I would say yes. It's quite a beautiful area. You know, the scenery is breathtaking. It's the only way I can describe it. It's beautiful. It reminds us a lot of BC [British Columbia]."*

Q: *"What do you think is special or unique about this area?"*

R82: *"Well I would say the history of the area is pretty unique both 1st Nations and people that were involved in the Gold Rush that came through this area. So I find that is quite interesting and there are lots of relics left along the trail that kind of show that they have been there. There is kind of a romance to it when you are walking the trail; you are thinking about what people would have been doing on the trail... what they would have been carrying over the trail." [7.25.04; 9:50 am; Campground; 2: Male/Female]*

Q: *"As far as the natural history and the cultural history, was one of them more important to your visit or were they both important?"*

R85: *"Historic, political, cultural, they are all equally important."*

Q: *"What do you think is special or unique about this area?"*

R85: *"Well we know by the name that it is a 1st Nations traditional place. We know that the Gold Rush occurred afterward, so we are aware of the historical significance of it for people from around the world as well as people who are indigenous to Skagway and Dyea." [7.25.04; 11:40 am; Chilkoot Trail (trailhead); 3: Male/Female/Female]*

**Jack London and Dyea.** One respondent mentioned the historical uniqueness associated with the stories of Jack London:

Q: *"So what do you think is special or unique about this area?"*

R37: *"Oh, I think its historic value definitely. You know, I mean I've been to Skagway one other time just driving in and out but I thought it would be nice to visit the area. We've watched White Fang and I keep reiterating, "You know this is exciting girls. We are in the area where it*

*actually took place,” even though it was filmed in Haynes because we went through that whole thing over there and now we’re giving the same spiel over here but this is where it actually happened.” [7.18.04; 9:35; Campground; 2: Female/Male]*

### **Specific Statements about Nature/Natural Features as Special Aspects of Dyea**

Respondents who said that the naturalness and/or natural history of Dyea makes the area special and/or unique made specific references to aspects such as, a) climate, b) the ecosystem, c) vegetation, d) geologic features, e) evidence of isostatic rebound, f) changes in ecology from the ocean to the mountains, g) natural reclamation of the Dyea town site, h) wildness, I) accessibility, j) isolation, k) peacefulness, l) lack of development, and m) scenic beauty.

**Dyea’s climate and/or ecosystem.** Examples of respondents who perceived Dyea to be unique and/or special because of its climate and/or ecosystem features include:

Q: *“What activities did you do during your trip?”*

R6: *“We’ve just walked into the Slide Cemetery.”*

Q: *“Is this an important aspect of your trip?”*

R6: *“Yes, this has been wonderful. The setting. The huge growth is impressive to us all because where we live it’s um... I mean... from where we live we are not that far away, 2 ½ hours away but the timber is quite different where we are. The whole setting here is gorgeous.”*

Q: *“What do you think is special or unique about this area?”*

R6: *“I guess maybe just a bit the coastal climate influence here.”*

Q: *“You mentioned that the history is similar to your home, is it the cultural history that is important to you or the natural history?”*

R6: *“Well, I guess a bit of both. I would say the culture though... Atlin came to live because of the Klondike Rush too... so we were a spin off of that time so I think it is very connected to where we are.”*

Q: *“Anything of particular importance regarding the natural history?”*

R6: *“I can’t say.” [6.22.04; 12:00 pm; Slide Cemetery; 1: Female]*

Q: *“What do you think is special or unique about this area?”*

R7: *“It’s warm and it’s not windy. We are just enjoying all of the places.”*

Q: *“Is the area’s history important to you?”*

R7: *“Sure.”*

Q: *“What part of it?”*

R7: *“I’m sure we have some [of our] oldest friends passing by the Chilkoot Trail and they had to stop at Dyea at the pier or maybe*

Skagway. Everyone had to pass by here during the Gold Rush.”

Q: “So the cultural history of the Gold Rush important to you?”

R7: “Yes.”

Q: “And how about the natural history of the area.”

R7: “As I said, breathing good air. It’s not a big city here. Whitehorse is not too big too. Here the air is incredible.” [6.22.04; 12:30; Slide Cemetery; 2: Male/Male]

Q: “What do you think is special or unique about this area?”

R13: “For us it is the different climate. To come down here it is a completely setting, close to the ocean, you see the tidal flats, and you see all the animals here. Everything teaming with wildlife, so biologically it is an important thing. For us, being from Whitehorse we already know a lot about the history of the Gold Rush, so that is less of a critical thing for us. The kids don’t really seem to have a huge interest in that. They are somewhat interested in that, but the primary thing for us is the camping and the wildlife and I can see for a lot of tourists that come from down south, they probably would be really keen on learning about the Gold Rush history, but for the people that already live here, they get kind of inundated with that and its all they see all the time, so that’s not really on the top of our list for priorities.”

Q: “So it’s not that important to you?”

R13: “No, not that important but I would say that’s because we live in Whitehorse in the Yukon and that’s... so I wouldn’t say that you should have less of an emphasis on that here... I think its good to have an emphasis on that but it’s more for people who come up with the cruise ships and they’re from down south somewhere.”

Q: “You said the cultural history of the area was not that important to you, but what about the natural history of the area?”

R13: “I am very interested in that. I am a biologist and the girls are keen observers too. It’s a fantastic place that way. It’s because the seasons are different here, it is always exciting for us to come from the Yukon where everything is further developed and the whole ocean world here and we like to do Salmon fishing too and shrimping and observe all of the animals ... eagles, seals, and everything. It’s just a gorgeous spot that way.” [6.23.04; 10:30 am; Campground; 1: Male]

Q: “What do you think is special or unique about this area?”

R33: “I think the unique thing about it is the climate it has here, but it is warmer I think like they were saying... It’s beautiful, the area is pretty and just... being out here I guess. Something different.” [7.17.04; 3:30 pm; Dyea town site; 1: Male]

Q: “What do you think is special or unique about this area?”

R59: “It so far seems pretty ecologically intact. Bits and pieces that we probably haven’t seen are probably torn up. But what I’ve seen it is as ecologically intact as it could be. Also, probably the historical remnants

*and it is fascinating I find.”*

*Q: “Was the area’s cultural or natural history important to your visit?”*

*R59: “Both, I love hiking and just to retake the steps. The historical is probably most important but to redo the trail is like a super bonus. You know there are lots of trails closer.” [7.21.04; 10:55 am; Chilkoot Trail (thru-hikers, .5 miles); 6: 3 Male/ 3 Female]*

*Q: “What do you think is special or unique about this area?”*

*R81: “For us, it is a lot warmer than Whitehorse. It’s got the ocean, big trees. Spring comes here earlier than Whitehorse so we often come down in May. We like the campsites. There’s a lot of... it’s a nice campground. We love this campground.”*

*Q: “So it sounds like what I’ve heard from you is that the naturalness of the area is why you decided to come here more than the cultural history?”*

*R81: “Right. We’ve grown up with the cultural history... for us.*

*Q: “But you see the cultural history as important for other visitors.*

*R81: “Oh yes! We’ve done the Chilkoot many times and we hope to do it again next year. It may be our last hurrah.” [7.25.04; 9:35 am; Campground; 4: Females]*

**Specific vegetation.** For respondents who perceived the vegetation of Dyea to be unique and/or special, examples of specific vegetative components mentioned include:

*Q: “What do you think is special or unique about this area?”*

*R8: “Everything is so magical...the nature.”*

*Q: “Is the area’s history important to you?”*

*R8: “I think so, it is quite interesting. I went to Skagway and I never been here and it’s like I was missing something.”*

*Q: “What part of it?”*

*R8: “The town that was here and about ... that they started with the trail here and you know going to Dawson City.”*

*Q: “And how about the natural history of the area, was that important to you as well?”*

*R8: “Yes.”*

*Q: “Anything in particular about the natural history?”*

*R8: “Probably the trees and ... I was thinking why not any remains of the town there... I was thinking... no, really I don’t know.” [6.22.04; 1:00; Slide Cemetery; 1: Female]*

*Q: “What do you think is special or unique about this area?”*

*R9: “The vegetation. Yeah, all those big trees. When you come from Yukon you are really... miss that part. Maybe about the Flat too, it’s quite funny to go and walk on the sand and go onto the Bay. It’s really nice ... the mountain. You think there is nothing in this and that is really beautiful. The other side is mainly sand and desert and here it is kind*

of rich and really big trees, old growth.” [6.22.04; 1:15 pm; Slide Cemetery; 2: Female/Female]

Q: “What do you think is special or unique about this area?”

R70: “Well I liked how the trees ... there are so many... they are vast. I am not... the forest near where... the closest forest to us doesn’t have near the amount of trees that that does.” [7.22.04; 5:00 pm; Cruise Ship Dock; 1: Female]

Q: “Was the area’s cultural history important to your visit?”

R80: “A little. It was more important to one of my friends in the tent though.”

Q: “Was the area’s natural history important to your visit?”

R80: “I like that. That had a whole new aspect to it. It was really good. I am more for the natural and nature.”

Q: “What do you think is special or unique about this area?”

R80: “I’ve got a swamp right there. Seriously, there is a swamp. I like it that right now you have a lot of foliage on the ground and the trees are green and when you go by the Slide Cemetery, the trees are HUGE!!! We don’t have trees that big in the Yukon, they are just little tiny trees and I thought that was cool.” [7.25.04; 9:20 am; Campground; 1: Male]

**Geologic features.** Examples of responses about specific geologic features, the ecological change due to topography, and the change associated with isostatic rebound include:

Q: “What do you think is special or unique about this area, Dyea?”

R4: “I would say the sea, it’s the ocean and the glacier and the view and yeah, that’s about it I guess. And the change of ... (unintelligible) ...because we are so close from Whitehorse so it is nice to sometimes get out of the town and come here to be close to the sea and have fun with the kids on the beach and stuff like that.” [6.22.04; 10:00 am; Campground; 2: Male/Female]

Q: “What do you think is special or unique about this area, Dyea?”

R18: “Well the fact that there was a town and now there’s not is pretty insane. It was here for what 10 years ... the whole town? I think that the history of the town was about 10 years. They built it up and tore it down really fast ... it’s pretty amazing. And just the topography is interesting too... all the berries... you can see where the forest line starts or stops, whichever way you are looking at it. It’s pretty cool.”

Q: “It sounds like the area’s cultural history is important to your visit?”

R18: “Somewhat, I’m more interested in the natural history than the cultural history ... but... and I like the native history... the Gold Rush kind of bores me because I’ve heard too much about it.”

Q: “So you enjoy more information on the native history?”

R18: "Yea, I like the native stuff."

Q: "Anything about the area's natural history that is really intriguing?"

R18: "Well, the isostatic rebound is really interesting. It's a strange phenomenon. I think glaciers, etc., etc." [5.23.04; 1:50 pm; Chilkoot Trail (backpacker, trailhead parking lot); 1: Male]

Q: "What do you think is special or unique about this area?"

R24: "Um... [long pause] ...couldn't pick any one thing... Do you have a list?"

Q: "No. I am just curious if you think there are any unique attributes of this area? But if you can't think of one that is fine too."

R24: "Well I guess going from water up to mountains and change."

Q: "So the naturalness of the landscape?"

R24: "Yes."

Q: "Was the area's cultural history important to your visit?"

R24: "Yes. Um, well I do want to the Chilkoot Trail and check that out and see what people have left behind." [5.24.04; 8:00 am; Campground; 1: Female]

Q: "Was the area's cultural history important to your visit?"

R50: "Partly, I would say."

Q: "What else was important to your visit?"

R50: "The wilderness."

Q: "Anything about the cultural history or the wilderness that made you want to visit Dyea?"

R50: "Well I think the Gold Rush. The Gold Rush was a factor and interesting to us too."

Q: "What do you think is special or unique about this area?"

R50: "Well just on the short 2 ½ miles that we hiked the terrain was so different from um... I think we went through 3 different... from swampy to mountain to rainforest." [7.20.04; 11:20 am; Raft Takeout [Chilkat Guides]; 2: Male/Female]

Q: "What do you think is special or unique about this area?"

R71: "I guess the tidal flow and... I'm a water person, I want to be by the water and add a horse, it just makes it very unique. It really does. And we could hear the sled dogs in the distance. It's really all I can say." [7.22.04; 5:05 pm; Cruise Ship Dock; 1: Female]

Q: "What do you think is special or unique about this area?"

R84: "Oh I don't know. I guess your mountains and your what do you call it... the river and whatever." [7.25.04; 10:55 am; Chilkoot Trail (trailhead); 1: Male]

Q: "Was the area's cultural history important to your visit?"

R90: "No but it was an interesting anecdotal part of... actually the

family was trying to do something all together that we would all enjoy.”

Q: “So bike riding was the choice.”

R90: “Yes, bike riding was the choice and the rest was a nice addition to it all.”

Q: “Was the area’s natural history important to your visit?”

R90: “Yes.”

Q: “Was the natural history more important than the cultural history?”

R90: “I enjoyed the cultural history. That was an addition that was beyond what I expected.”

Q: “What do you think is special or unique about this area?”

R90: “For me it was the fact that it used to be a waterfront area and that the ground is actually rising. She had a technical term for it that I don’t remember. Isostatic rebound. So that was really interesting.”

[7.26.04; 11:15 am; Sockeye Cycles; 3: Female/Female/Male]

**Other natural processes and features.** Examples of responses about the natural reclamation of the Dyea town site, the wildness, the accessibility, the isolation, the peacefulness, the lack of development, and the scenic beauty as unique and/or special attributes of Dyea include:

Q: “What do you think is special or unique about this area?”

R14: “It is nice and quiet and peaceful. It’s a complete change of scenery for us from Whitehorse even though we are only two hours from home... it’s a rainforest area. It’s just a nice change of scenery, relaxing... away from Skagway and Whitehorse. Nice and quiet.”

Q: “Was the area’s history important to your visit?”

R14: “I wouldn’t say this visit but it has been in the past.”

Q: “The cultural history?”

R14: “Yup, the cultural history and also the history of the area pertaining to the Gold Rush. It’s fascinating history, especially with us coming from Whitehorse then there is a big connection there. Yeah, it’s been great. That was part of our reason for coming here originally to learn a little more about that. Not so much this trip but in the past.”

Q: “How about the natural history of the area, has that been important to you?”

R14: “Yea, well, certainly from an enjoyment point of view definitely. If you do the Chilkoot Trail it is something you really notice... is the change in the area. The geology, the geography and the biology of the area. It changes quite dramatically between the start of the trail and the end of the trail. It is really neat to see that. And from a photographic perspective too.” [5.23.04; 10:30 am; Campground; 4: 2 Male / 2 Female]

Q: “What do you think is special or unique about this area?”

R16: “It’s virtually untouched. There is virtually no development at all, which is nice. And it seems to be well maintained. A few areas do need

to be tweaked, such as the wash rooms, but other than that it is beautiful and you know you get a little bit of everything here, so it is quite nice.”

Q: “Was the area’s cultural history important to your visit?”

R16: “Very much so. Being a Yukoner our history is rich in the Gold Rush times as well. Oh, we are quite close with Skagway people, so I think preserving that history is important.”

Q: “Was the area’s natural history important to your visit?”

R16: “Equally as well.”

Q: “Anything in particular about the natural history?”

R16: “I think being from Yukon and Alaska that whole area is the last frontier and I think it would be nice to see that stay as undeveloped as much as possible. I think the natural aspect is very important.”

[5.23.04; 11:25 am; Campground; 1: Female]

Q: “Which activity was most important to you?”

R20: “The historical points.”

Q: “Specifically...”

R20: “The cemetery.”

Q: “And the history about this area...”

R20: “Right.”

Q: “Was the area’s natural history important to your visit?”

R20: “Yes.”

Q: “Anything in particular about the natural history?”

R20: “The formation ... how it came about.”

Q: “What do you think is special or unique about this area?”

R20: “It’s beauty.” [5.23.04; 3:25; Slide Cemetery; 2: Male/Female]

Q: “What do you think is special or unique about this area?”

R26: “Oh it is gorgeous. It is totally natural. There is no civilization around and it is just incredible.”

Q: “So it is the natural landscape that is unique to you?”

R26: “Oh absolutely.”

Q: “Was the area’s cultural history important to your visit?”

R26: “Somewhat, somewhat but we haven’t been exposed to too much of it yet.” [5.25.04; 11:15 am; Overlook; 1: Female]

Q: “What do you think is special or unique about this area?”

R34: “That the forest has completely taken over. It’s a very different type of ghost... abandon town from others we have been to. It’s not a mining town that is in the forest. The forest has covered it over in a hundred years.”

Q: “Was the area’s cultural history important to your visit?”

R34: “Um... yeah, I think so and the scenery.”

Q: “Was the area’s natural history important to your visit?”

R34: “Yes.”

Q: “Was one more important than the other?”

R34: "The natural history."

Q: "Anything in particular about the natural history that is real special to the Dyea area?"

R34: "I think that if you really walk out to the Flats and look back up this valley, you see how vast it is and what a cut it is through the mountains and yeah, this is a pretty interesting place to have a trail. The weather must have been bitchin' in 1897 or when the Gold Rush was." [7.17.04; 3:45 pm; Dyea town site; 2: Male/Female]

Q: "What do you think is special or unique about this area?"

R38: "Well I think just the fact that they are letting it go wild. I mean they are letting nature take over and not trying to rebuild. They are just leaving it the way it was and telling the history. I think the National Park does a nice job. I think the rangers do a nice job of explaining things."

Q: "Was the area's history important to your visit?"

R38: "Yes, to me it was."

Q: "Was the area's cultural or natural history important to your visit?"

R38: "Both. The cultural history is important, but I think it would be interesting to have more native culture history maybe if they can find it to explain what went on before the stampeders came through here. I think the Gold Rush changed Alaska forever so I think it is really important to let people know that. And I like the natural history. I like the woods and the flowers and that type of stuff." [7.18.04; 10:05 am; Campground; 1: Female]

Q: "Was the area's cultural history important to your visit?"

R51: "Much less important."

Q: "Anything in particular about the topography or natural environment drew you to Dyea?"

R51: "I live in the Southeast United States, where it is flat and hot, so the contrast is wonderful."

Q: "What do you think is special or unique about this area?"

R51: "The accessibility. That it is incredibly wild and there is wildlife, but yet you are only 10 miles from a cruise ship." [7.20.04; 11:55 am; Raft Takeout (Chilkat Guides); 1: Male]

Q: "What do you think is special or unique about this area?"

R53: "Of the Dyea area, I don't know I've never looked at it. I don't what the... other than being historically part of the Gold Rush being a curiosity to see what might have happened there."

Q: "The portion of the trail that we are on now is considered part of the Dyea area, so is there anything special or unique about this area?"

R53: "Not really, other than the scenery." [7.20.04; 1:35 pm; Chilkoot Trail (backpacker, .5 miles); 1: Male]

Q: "Was the area's natural or cultural history important to your visit?"

R58: "Natural beauty of the area. Yes definitely the natural."

Q: *"Is the cultural history important to you on this trip?"*  
R58: *"Irrelevant. Secondary more than anything. It's an externality. It's just a benefit I guess."*  
Q: *"What do you think is special or unique about this area?"*  
R58: *"We are from Kansas City so the whole thing. It is gorgeous more than anything. Yeah, the terrain. The natural landscape."*  
[7.21.04; 10:35 am; Chilkoot Trail (thru-hikers, .5 miles); 2: Male/Male]

Q: *"What do you think is special or unique about this area?"*  
R64: *"The way it is here, now, nothing."*  
Q: *"So for you, the cultural history was the most important reason you came out here?"*  
R64: *"Yes."*  
Q: *"Was the area's natural history important to your visit?"*  
R64: *"The natural beauty... what I found amazing was how quickly that nature revives. That this was a city in 1920's, the city and its heydays, it's gone and it's the year 2000 and how thick the forest is. How old the trees are. How nature returns and just covers everything, which is interesting. Very interesting, very fascinating to see how nature returns but it would be just as interesting if you had indication that this is where houses were and look how big the trees are now. It's been 70 years; 80 years ... how fast nature can revive and take back the land to herself out here."* [7.21.04; 1:40 pm; Dyea town site; 1: Female]

Q: *"Was the area's cultural history important to your visit?"*  
R69: *"Well it was once we got there and found out there was some history. We got off and looked at the landslide cemetery were everybody had died on the same day, which was interesting."*  
Q: *"Was the area's natural history important to your visit?"*  
R69: *"Yea, it was kind of interesting. We had heard it on the ship and on the tour about that stairs... the stairway to heaven or whatever it was. So it was kind of interesting to see a little more about it. It was beautiful being in the mountains and the scenery. It was surprising how much the water has receded in that area. I was surprised about that and how fast the trees had grown back, which was kind of an interesting thing because it has only been a hundred years."*  
Q: *"What do you think is special or unique about this area?"*  
R69: *"No traffic. It's just nice and quiet and outback kind of looking. So far this has [been] the nicest thing that we have actually done."*  
[7.22.04; 2:30 pm; Sockeye Cycles; 2: Male/Female]

### **Statements about Unique Experiential Qualities of Dyea**

Rather than focusing on the cultural and/or natural qualities of Dyea as special and/or unique attributes, some responses focused on the experiential qualities such as being free

from rules, confirming beliefs, and seeing how others respect the land, that made Dyea unique. Examples of such responses include:

Q: *"What do you think is special or unique about this area?"*

R5: *"The semi-isolation away from most rules kind of thing. Like being able to go out camping and do what you want to do."*

Q: *"Is the area's history important to you?"*

R5: *"Yup".*

Q: *"What part of it?"*

R5: *"Every part about how people showed up here... what they did...what they went through and I agree it should be preserved and that's basically the Yukon attitude is the wilderness is for us, but when you get lots of people around you obviously have to keep them on trails."*

Q: *"Is the cultural history of the Gold Rush important to you?"*

R5: *"Yup."*

Q: *"And how about the natural history of the area."*

R5: *"That's important too because it was almost Canada once. It was only a million dollars, right?! Not too much these days." [6.22.04; 10:30 am; Campground; 1: Male]*

Q: *"Is the area's history important to you?"*

R12: *"I think it is. It helps us tie in all of our beliefs about the area. You know you have these preconceived ideas that you've learned about Alaska your whole life and it really brings it alive to you. So it's really great."*

Q: *"Is the cultural history that is really important to you or is it the natural history of the area?"*

R12: *"I think both are equally important." [6.22.04; 4:45 pm; Raft Take-out; 1: Female]*

Q: *"Was the area's cultural history with the Gold Rush important to your visit?"*

R21: *"Oh for sure."*

Q: *"Was the area's natural history important to your visit?"*

R21: *"Not too much. Not really no. I'm not geologically inclined."*

Q: *"What do you think is special or unique about this area?"*

R21: *"I don't know. Just like I said it is very historic ... that in itself makes it special. Just the way that people treat the surrounding area. I don't see any garbage around, everything looks nice and neat and tidy and clean, well respected and that kind of makes it special." [5.23.03; 3:45; Slide Cemetery; 1: Male]*

Q: *"Was the area's natural history important to your visit?"*

R87: *"Oh yeah, seeing the animals but unfortunately you only get to see a few of the animals. The bigger ones don't tend to be there."*

Q: *“Was the area’s cultural history the main reason for your visit?”*

R87: *“Yes, but the natural scenery is gorgeous in any case.”*

Q: *“An added benefit?”*

R87: *“Yes.”*

Q: *“What do you think is special or unique about this area?”*

R87: *“It is really a one of.. It is a one of... there is nowhere else like it.” [7.25.04; 1:50; Dyea town site; 1: Male]*

### **Specific Sites as Unique Features of Dyea**

One group of respondents indicated that they found the cemetery to be unique. They also noted that a lack of information limited the value of that unique feature. Another group of respondents commented that the Dyea town site was the unique and special feature of the Dyea area.

Q: *“What do you think is special or unique about this area?”*

R43: *“I think the only thing that is unique about it is the fact that all those people died ... who died up on the mountain are buried here. I think the rest of it is really uninteresting because nothing has been preserved, there is nothing left here. If you want a walk in the woods, it is a nice walk in the woods but there is nothing. There are very few signs. Very little information. Right before we saw you I was complaining about the fact that this is really in rotten’ condition and how come they don’t do anything about it. Because we were in Boston last summer looking at an old cemetery and the cemetery had tours. It had information regarding who was buried there and what they had done in their lives, which made it relevant. And there is a bunch of people there [pointing to cemetery] and you go “who are they, what did they do, how did they get here” and maybe there is no information but it would make it much more relevant if you knew more about in general who those individuals were, what happened, even the rescue. Clearly to rescue people from an avalanche is an amazing thing, especially a hundred years ago. How did they do it, who was involved, what did they see and none of that. I thought... I was trying to figure out how they could spend so much money on old buildings in Skagway and no money out here except maybe for your study.” [7.18.04; 3:00 pm; Slide Cemetery; 2: Male/Female]*

Q: *“What do you think is special or unique about this area?”*

R67: *“I think the town center with the trees still remaining that identify the streets. That’s kind of intriguing. Along with the dock, the pier. And the front... the one remaining store front is just incredible.” [7.21.04; 3:25 pm; Dyea town site; 2: Male/Female]*

### Responses from Visitors Who Felt They Had Little Basis for Naming Special Features

Some respondents did not believe that they had seen enough of Dyea or had enough information about Dyea to determine what was special and/or unique about the area.

Nonetheless, these respondents made statements about the importance of the natural or cultural history on their visit to Dyea.

Q: *“What do you think is special or unique about this area?”*

R11: *“Not sure that I can think of different from other areas... other than it's... the specific population and culture imprinted here... yeah, I think the culture. The human historical interest... culture.”*

Q: *“So is it the Gold Rush culture.”*

R11: *“As far as I know about this, that's what I know... I don't know much about the native peoples, but I understand this was a village site and... I don't know what the title is but that those people found and owned the space (unintelligible)... the Chilkoot Trail. But most of our historical information picks up from about the Gold Rush.”*

Q: *“Is that what is more interesting to you about coming out here.”*

R11: *“No, I don't think so... not necessarily. All the history of the area is important and interesting. But the Gold Rush only being a very small part of it.”*

Q: *“What about the natural history of this area?”*

R11: *“Oh, that's very interesting. I don't think... we haven't really read too much about it. I think that would be very interesting.”*

Q: *“So you haven't come across any information about that?”*

R11: *“Not specific to Dyea, just the real general glacial thing here.”*

*[6.22.04; 3:30 pm; Dyea town site; 2: Male/Female]*

Q: *“What do you think is special or unique about this area?”*

R42: *“Um... I don't really know. We haven't really seen a whole lot of Alaska. This was the first time we were actually able to get up into the mountains so that was really unique, getting up close and personal with the plants and the different berries that are grown here. That was neat.”*

Q: *“Was the area's cultural history important to your visit?”*

R42: *“Yes, I really enjoyed learning about it. She [Skagway Float Tours guide] explained about the Gold Mining, what all brought so many people here and then the different things that took them away. The hardships. That was great.”*

Q: *“Was the area's natural history your primary reason for coming out here?”*

R42: *“Yea, we kind of really don't like doing the typical tourist things... the towns and the shopping. We like to get out and see more of the nature part, so that was nice.”*

Q: *“Out of the cultural and the natural history, what really drew you*

to Dyea?”

R42: “Probably the nature. She just added the history of all it on it for us.” [7.18.04; 1:15 pm; Raft Take Out (Skagway Float Tours); 1: Female]

Q: “Sounds like the natural history of the area is driving your visit?”

R60: “Yes. Challenge to get up the Chilkoot Pass.”

Q: “Was the area’s cultural history important to your visit?”

R60: “That is certainly of interest. It is a historic trail.”

Q: “So is it a combination of history and nature of why you decided to come out here?”

R60: “It would be both I think for me, maybe the natural a little bit more. I think the Chilkoot Trail is one of the trails that people talk about being of interest along with the west coast trail and some of the other significant trails you might hike, so this ranks up there as one of the must do trails.”

Q: “What do you think is special or unique about this area?”

R60: “I’m not sure I know yet. I haven’t been here long enough. I think I haven’t discovered it yet. Uh... unique landscape, I’ll say when I was driving in, that was the noticeable thing yesterday when we were driving in from Whitehorse. One might call it moonscape, but the ... the geologic features along the highway, we haven’t seen that before.”

[7.21.04; 11:00 am; Chilkoot Trail (trailhead, thru-hikers); 2 Male/Female]

Q: “So for you it was really the Gold Rush history that was driving your visit?”

R78: “Yes.”

Q: “Was the area’s natural history important to your visit?”

R78: “Yeah. We’ve enjoyed... we’ve been out on this trip for 2 months and we came up the inland passage and we’ve gone through Alaska and really have been focused on the natural history of each place. So it is so interesting to come back to the sort of rainforested area that for a month or so we have not been near.”

Q: “So for you, was the natural history most important to your trip to Dyea?”

R78: “Well I think the cultural was number one. The natural also...”

Q: “What do you think is special or unique about this area?”

R78: “We haven’t been here long enough to tell you that. We just came in and grabbed the first campsite we could get.” [7.25.04; 9:00 am; Campground; 2: Male/Female]

#### **A.1.4 Preservation for Future Generations**

Respondents were asked about their perceptions of what should be preserved in Dyea for future generations. Responses were fairly evenly split between attributes associated with

the natural environment and the cultural history. The most common comment was that everything about Dyea should be preserved. Also, respondents commonly volunteered multiple attributes of Dyea that should be preserved for future generations. Therefore, some of the example responses blend different themes concerning the attributes that should be preserved.

### **Statements about Specific Sites**

Respondents were concerned about preservation of the historical sites in the Dyea Area, either as a single focus or coupled with concerns about the preservation of the natural features. Descriptions of specific sites in Dyea that respondents would like to see preserved for future generations include:

Q: *“What do you think needs to be preserved here for future generations?”*

R4: *“The whole sites I would say, especially the campground... I believe that the state area here, no?”*

Q: *“It’s National.”*

R4: *“National... should maybe put more effort to manage it a bit I would say.*

Q: *“So you would like to see the campsites enhanced?”*

R4: *“Yeah... yeah, there are so many people that come here and I could see that for the last ten years I can see some degradation. You can see that because more trees are cut by people. They cut trees and they shouldn’t. They pick flowers. They don’t know. Maybe they should put more emphasis on the historical maybe more and conservation... don’t pick flowers and be aware about the bears.”*

Q: *“So do you think that that type of information would suffice to be put on a board or do you think that there should be more people out here actively talking to people?”*

R4: *“Both I would say... both.” [6.22.04; 10:00 am; Campground; 2: Male/Female]*

Q: *“What would you like to see preserved for future generations?”*

R9: *“All the history about the start of the Klondike. The beginning of the Klondike. But the vegetation... if somebody cut down these trees it would be really sad.”*

Q: *“Is there anything in particular about the area’s history that you would like to see preserved?”*

R9: *“I never did the Chilkoot Trail, but I presume some pieces left on the trail around, should be good if it stayed there for the future. If everybody come in here and take something from that and going with that ... our kids and other kids would never be able to see that.*

*Because you can imagine all the trip, but that's nice if you can see some piece around so you can visualize." [6.22.04; 1:15 pm; Slide Cemetery; 2: Female/Female]*

Q: *"What would you like to see preserved for future generations?"*  
R11: *"I guess the Cemetery. The Slide Cemetery is pretty interesting. That's really the only thing we have seen human out here. So that should be preserved... in terms of human preservation. Obviously the ecological ... um... interests should be preserved." [6.22.04; 3:30 pm; Dyea town site; 2: Male/Female]*

Q: *"What would you like to see preserved for future generations?"*  
R13: *"If ... I think people did a good job here making simple campsites, I wouldn't like them to overbuild like not too fancy you know ... like RV Parks with lots of facilities. Just simple like this, keep it in a natural kind of state. I really enjoy that part of it. I don't mind if there is some interpretation and history and all that, that's fine too, but I would like if I could choose not to let it be too overbuilt and like big hotels and stuff like that, that would be not my first choice. If it could stay in a natural camping type of simple state, I appreciate that." [6.23.04; 10:30 am; Campground; 1: Male]*

Q: *"What would you like to see preserved for future generations?"*  
R16: *"I'd say the waterfront... the wetlands area because you get quite a diverse eco-structure there and when you start developing on those types of wetlands everything is lost. The whole community in there starts to break down. So I would hate to see development along there."*

Q: *"Anything that you would like to see preserved for future generations?"*  
R16: *"Probably the overall structure of the campground. I have traveled throughout the states and they start putting in ice cream stands and things like this and it just commercializes it. I'd say just keep it as natural as possible." [5.23.04; 11:25 am; Campground; 1: Female]*

Q: *"What would you like to see preserved for future generations?"*  
R17: *"I think they should keep this site preserved. I think they should upkeep it a little bit. I think they should make tourists more aware of it so the more will come out and more will have an idea of what happened and... Keep it so the tourists will be able to come out and ... it should be preserved... it should be preserved." [5.23.04; 1:30; Slide Cemetery; 3: 1 Male 2 Female]*

Q: *"What would you like to see preserved for future generations?"*  
R25: *"Definitely the trail... maintaining the trail up to the Gold Rush area, it was pretty interesting. And probably develop more trailheads*

*and maybe rest stops along the way. You know we can't make it along the full route; perhaps they can do a progressive hike in the area and maybe develop a sense of history. It may take them 3 days to do it. But that would be an interesting trip I think."* [5.25.04; 11:10 am; Raft Take-out (Chilkat Guides); 1: Female]

Q: "What would you like to see preserved for future generations?"  
R31: "Well, I think that the Flats and where the old Dyea town site was... I don't think there is much to preserve, but what is there should certainly be preserved. I think the old wharfs. I think they've done a reasonably good job putting up the signs and stuff although I haven't been down there for three or four years but they used to be there. And I think the people who come out here, I think they don't know where to go. That's not criticism, but I know, I've been here before, but if you didn't know that graveyard was over there you might not cross the bridge. So a little more marketing needs to be done. I think the river adds a lot to it." [7.17.04; 2:30 pm; Chilkoot Trail (trailhead parking lot); 2: Male/Female]

Q: "What would you like to see preserved for future generations?"  
R33: "Well I think they need to keep what they've got there now. You need to keep that building out there that was the Front; that's history. People see that thing and think "oh, that's what that looked like". Areas that have been here years ago, they should try to keep them as restored as possible." [7.17.04; 3:30 pm; Dyea town site; 1: Male]

Q: "What would you like to see preserved for future generations?"  
R39: "Well the history. Hopefully it doesn't get disturbed too much as far as... we haven't been over the trail yet but hopefully the trail stays fairly the way it is and not a paved highway with all of the artifacts going missing. I like that it is still the same that it was. I don't like it when people come in and see how great it is and then the next year you come and it is totally different. You know they want to change it to the way they like it. I'd like it to stay as natural as possible." [7.18.04; 10:25 am; Campground; 1: Male]

Q: "What would you like to see preserved for future generations?"  
R41: "Well, I guess obviously the Chilkoot Trail seeing as it seems like it would be pretty cool. Probably it would be pretty neat ... I haven't seen the township yet, but I assume that would be something just because it is historical. I really like historical things and to preserve that. I would say that the campground could actually be expanded. It's been packed every night and there aren't many camping places here. Um... definitely more bathrooms, there are only two working ones right now for 50 people. That's pretty good." [7.18.04; 12:30 pm; Chilkoot Trail (day hikers, trailhead parking lot); 2: Male/Female]

Q: "What would you like to see preserved for future generations?"  
R46: "It's interesting to hear, for me... the human element is interesting, so I like to hear the stories about individuals. So if there is anything remaining, structure-wise... It would be interesting to see the trail. I'd like to see what the trail was like, so to have that preserved, I would go hiking on it or something. We weren't out there long enough to get off and onto the trailheads or the lakes or any of that. We were pressed for time." [7.19.04; 2:15 pm; Cruise Ship Docks; 2: Male/Female]

Q: "What would you like to see preserved for future generations?"  
R53: "The trail and the Park itself as it is, even though the trees do grow over it, it was there at one time." [7.20.04; 1:35 pm; Chilkoot Trail (backpacker, on trail .5 miles); 1: Male]

Q: "What would you like to see preserved for future generations?"  
R54: "Well definitely the wilderness aspect of it. The whole, I mean the more you develop it the more of what appeals to us, at least to me, gets lost. I think less development. I think it is great how there is not much... there is a limit. Yeah, limited people on the trail. Well, I guess it has its advantages. I was reading on the internet and they said when it was... the reason that the trail is here was because the Gold Rush thing and there were 2200 people on here at a time. So that wasn't really much of a wilderness experience, but I think now it should be." [7.20.04; 2:35 pm; Chilkoot Trail (thru-hikers, 1.5 miles); 2: Male/Female]

Q: "What would you like to see preserved for future generations?"  
R62: "Definitely all of the old-growth is important to preserve. Just keeping the trail so that we can use it. I like how the Parks manage the flow of people, not having too many. I liked that when I did the trail." [7.21.04; 11:50 am; Chilkoot Trail (day-hikers); 2: Female/Male]

Q: "What would you like to see preserved for future generations?"  
R64: "I noticed that there is this warehouse that is just a lot of boards that are rotting away and you get this history of a warehouse with historic value and all I see is rotting boards and as far as I can see they are not being preserved and in 5 years I may not even see these boards anymore if they are just left to themselves. And what I miss is ... little indications that shows where the city was and I think what was here, where were the roads, where were the houses? Little markers which indicate where anything was ... [unintelligible due to wind]..."

Q: "So you would like to see them add more information?"  
R64: "Yes, a little more information. You come out here and all the signs say Dyea is historically very important. It belongs to this Gold Rush era and it was an important city it had its golden days and it grew up and went down really fast because the railway came. And you come

out here and actually you don't see anything. The trails are not really the roads that used to be part of the city except for this one major trail there. You've got sites that say this is the warehouse there and all I see is a pile of planks, which is okay but if they are left to rot themselves they aren't going to be here very long and then you are not even going to see this pile of planks. And there is no indication that this was a city. If there were just little markers where the boundaries of the properties and here was the town and just say use your imagination and just imagine what it was like at the time it was a bustling city, but there is nothing there to help you along with your imagination."  
[7.21.04; 1:40 pm; Dyea town site; 1: Female]

Q: "What would you like to see preserved for future generations?"  
R65: "Well it's too bad, you don't see too much because the buildings, most of them are all gone and I think that... only in a few years and you won't see a thing from the warehouse and that is too bad."  
Q: "Is there anything you would like to see saved out here?"  
R65: "Yes, I would like to see saved the buildings that were here."  
[7.21.04; 2:20; Dyea town site; 1: Male]

Q: "What would you like to see preserved for future generations?"  
R75: "I would say the gravesites. I think that is important to the history of the events." [7.23.04; 11:45; Slide Cemetery; 3: Male/Male/Female]

Q: "What would you like to see preserved for future generations?"  
R82: "Well I would say any of the sites, especially along the Chilkoot Trail. I find the area over where the town site used to be quite interesting, there are still areas where you can see where there were old buildings and that type of thing and I would like to see that preserved. Possibly a bit more development in this area to accommodate more campers, that type of thing. We know that there were lots of people driving through the campground last night looking for a spot and there was not really enough area down there [pointing down the road of the campground], I suppose."  
Q: "So you think the campground needs to be expanded?"  
R82: "I would say a little bit, yes." [7.25.04; 9:50 am; Campground; 2: Male/Female]

Q: "What would you like to see preserved for future generations?"  
R85: "Bald eagles. Wildlife, certainly. Certainly wildlife. The trail. We like that the trail is kind of controlled. We know that it is much more controlled than it used to be and I think that is a good idea and necessary to preserve it." [7.25.04; 11:40 am; Chilkoot Trailhead; 3: Male/Female/Female]

### Statements Focusing on the Historical Features of Dyea

Some respondents felt that the human history at Dyea was an attribute particularly worthy of preservation for future generations. Examples of these responses include:

Q: *“What would you like to see preserved for future generations?”*  
R19: *“Certainly whatever artifacts you can keep and the natural state. I’d say most of everything that is here and there are not many artifacts left to be seen so if there were any more uncovered to make them more prominent so people could see them.” [5.23.04; 3:10 pm; Slide Cemetery; 1: Female]*

Q: *“What would you like to see preserved for future generations?”*  
R32: *“Well, there is so little left of the actual town site itself, but I think the um... the general area itself that you ...uh.... Even if it was somebody telling you that there was a town site here, it gives you a sense... your still standing there where all of those things happened a hundred years ago. So keep it the way it is.” [7.17.04; 3:00 pm; Dyea town site; 1: Male]*

Q: *“What would you like to see preserved for future generations?”*  
R34: *“I like what they have. Maybe if they put more historic... a few more historic signs out. Actually, you know what needs to be preserved is the tombstones over in the cemetery. They need to be... a few of them need to be ... ah, I know that they are current tombstones, but since they are false they need to be repaired.” [7.17.04; 3:45 pm; Dyea town site; 2: Male/Female]*

Q: *“What would you like to see preserved for future generations?”*  
R38: *“Well, I think the signs, you know the billboard signs that explain what was here and how long it was here, I think those are helpful. So I hope the National Park keeps them up. You know how they put them up and in this type of climate it wouldn’t help the signs, so to make sure that they replace the signs and things like that.” [7.18.04; 10:05 am; Campground; 1: Female]*

Q: *“What would you like to see preserved for future generations?”*  
R43: *“It would just be nice to know more about what happened out here. But I have to say, Skagway looks to me like a big mall is all it has become and the history is sort of in between here and there. It’s a big mall; it’s a big shopping zone. And it’s disappointing. I don’t want them to do what they did there here, but I want to see more interpretation. I don’t want to rebuild the town site. It’s gone. Let’s leave it gone. After what I’ve seen done to Skagway, I am not happy with the changes. Some change is good; a good example is Dawson City. Dawson, the Parks Canada has made decisions about the buildings which ones*

*they will work and restore and do everything to and which ones they will just stabilize and which ones they will just allow to disappear and I think that it gives it a more natural environment. Our environment is not natural, what we sell should be the history.”*

Q: *“Out here, what would you like to see preserved for future generations?”*

R43: *“There is nothing here to be preserved. What is here to be preserved? There is nothing left; it went to Dyea... they moved the stuff to Skagway. Even 20 years ago there was more stuff around. There were some older structures still left, now everything is gone.”*  
[7.18.04; 3:00 pm; Slide Cemetery; 2: Male/Female]

Q: *“What would you like to see preserved for future generations?”*

R57: *“All the Gold Rush history. I’d like to see no development out here. Yeah, there has been a lot of development on the way in. I don’t know what it is like on the other side of the river, but no development, no more roads. It is certainly a lot busier than it used to be. It would be nice to keep a road from Juneau out of here... yeah, out of Juneau. We would like to not see a road to Juneau.”* [7.21.04; 9:00 am; Campground; 4: 2 Male 2 Female]

Q: *“What would you like to see preserved for future generations?”*

R73: *“I guess the... what you have here ... there isn’t much you can... um... wood rots so you have to just let nature take its course.”*  
[7.23.04; 10:20; Dyea town site; 1: Male]

Q: *“What would you like to see preserved for future generations?”*

R74: *“I don’t know, I think they need more signage because it is really hard to find your way around and if there is a historic site like the old warehouse or the false front or something like that... I don’t know how you would preserve that because it is just going to rot away with as much moisture as there is in this area. Whether you construct something like this at those sites...”*

Q: *“This’ as in the kiosk in the parking lot?”*

R74: *“Yeah, and commemorate them that way because they are going to be gone in the next 30 or 40 years probably and nobody will know what it looked liked ... except from the pictures.”* [7.23.04; 10:45 am; Dyea town site; 2: Male/Female]

Q: *“What would you like to see preserved for future generations?”*

R81: *“Well the historical value is... we may not get all excited about it but we certainly recognize the importance of it. So it should be that... the irises. I think just the layout of the campground as well it is very... like I said before it has lots of natural growth, which is important.”*  
[7.25.04; 9:35 am; Campground; 4: Females]

Q: "What would you like to see preserved for future generations?"  
R86: "Let me think. Well mainly the trail, the location of the trail. Just information so that people are aware of what is here and keep presenting it through the medias so that people won't bypass it thinking that it well is something that is history and I am not interested in it. So keep presenting it on like PBS. Preserve whatever there is left that is authentic." [7.25.04; 12:10 pm; Chilkoot Trail (day hiker, trailhead); 1: Male]

Q: "What would you like to see preserved for future generations?"  
R87: "There is not a whole awful lot to preserve really in the fact that most of it isn't here in the first place. It's all been taken away over time so I think the main thing about it is providing people with some insight, maybe some more original pictures or something like that or even maybe a small reconstruction but I am not very keen on those to be honest. But certainly if there are any old archive photographs, they ought to be put on display so that people can get actually more of a feel of what it was like." [7.25.04; 1:50 pm; Dyea town site; 1: Male]

### **Preserving the Natural Features of Dyea**

Some respondents focused on the natural environment in Dyea as the target of preservation for future generations. The natural qualities mentioned include the natural state of Dyea, the geologic features of Dyea, the lack of development, and the trees (specifically the old growth). Examples of these responses include:

Q: "What would you like to see preserved for future generations?"  
R12: "Well, I think part of it is already too late because the natural part of the land is taking over. Anything that hasn't been preserved isn't going to be. So I think just keeping the land natural is most important to me." [6.22.04; 4:45; Raft Take-out (Chilkat Guides); 1: Female]

Q: "What would you like to see preserved for future generations?"  
R22: "I guess to keep it as much natural as you could. It would be nice to make sure the cemetery and those types of things are kept up. It's important for the history. But as far as the area, just to make sure things stay natural." [5.23.04; 4:00 pm; Slide Cemetery; 1: Female]

Q: "What would you like to see preserved for future generations?"  
R27: "Well, if you didn't do any more than you are doing now it will be preserved. So not... I'm always a fan of limited development of National Park Service stuff. There supposed to be wilderness areas when all is said and done unless it is a historic site, so here there is not much left of the history to keep except the actual site that town was in

*and that kind of thing. Just minimal... minimal development is the way to do it. There is not many structures and stuff to preserve.” [7.17.04; 10:30 am; Campground; 1: Male]*

Q: *“What would you like to see preserved for future generations?”*  
R42: *“All of it. I mean the trees are so beautiful, the natural ways the trees fall, and the glacier how it changes the structure. I wouldn’t want to see things built out here. I think that would be really sad.” [7.18.04; 1:15; Raft Take Out (Skagway Float Tours); 1: Female]*

Q: *“What would you like to see preserved for future generations?”*  
R69: *“Keep it the way it is. Well, the more that you can keep it as natural as possible, the more people will love it. Because you start cleaning it up and making it paved and toilets everywhere, then it is just another city then. So it is better to keep it as simple as possible and attract the people that really want to go out there instead of everybody and their brother.” [7.22.04; 2:30 pm; Sockeye Cycles; 2: Male/Female]*

Q: *“What would you like to see preserved for future generations?”*  
R72: *“Just basically the natural landscape, you know, and keep the development way down and I was talking to the guy a couple campgrounds down and he has been out here for a while and he has been coming out here for years and he says it hasn’t changed much, so that was good news to me.” [7.23.04; 8:30; Campground; 1: Male]*

### **Preserving All Aspects of the Dyea Area**

The most common single response to the question about preservation for future generations was that everything in Dyea should be preserved. Examples of responses that elaborated on what constitutes “everything” include:

Q: *“What would you like to see preserved for future generations?”*  
R14: *“Everything. Uh... anybody want to add to that? Well everything covers it... the wildlife in particular. The seclusion, the wildlife. This campsite is really great to have but it could do with some... there could be some improvements to the campsite that would help to preserve the area a little better.”*

Q: *“Do you have any suggestions?”*  
R14: *“Lack of gray water pits is a big, big problem because there is no way to dispose of gray water effectively here. And I guess potable water, but it is a fairly primitive campsite... so I think we like it that way. But I think gray water pits would certainly improve the area... preserve the area for a long time because the people don’t have anywhere to put it is basically going into the bush I think so.... And another thing would be if in the bathrooms, I don’t know how realistic it is, but to have*

people not throw their toilet paper down into them because it would keep them fresh a little bit longer so to speak. I think they are bucket toilets so they get pulled... I think but I don't know. I think they have some pit toilets and I think if they had bucket toilets, you know it is basically a tank that they pump out then I mean that will keep the groundwater in the area secure for a number of years. Other than that the campsite we really enjoyed it. In fact it's really basic and there is not a lot of ... the rules are great but that there isn't a lot of development. A good recycling bin would be good too. Improve signage for recycling area. We'll take ours but not everybody is as responsible... they just chuck them in the garbage." [5.23.04; 10:30 am; Campground; 4: 2 Male 2 Female]

Q: "What would you like to see preserved for future generations?"

R21: "Oh everything. Don't let loggers in here whatever you do. My gosh, some of these trees have got to be 150 to 200 years or more. There's not many of them left. Look at that one right there we are standing right underneath it. It's dying in the next few years its going to come down because the other ones next door to it are dead too... beetles and different bugs and parasites, but I'd like to see some of these old trees taking out of here, especially the ones that are dead you know because the infestation will just go from one tree to another then you won't have any big trees left.

Q: "So then you would like to see it managed for the health of the forest?"

R21: "That part yes." [5.23.03; 3:45 pm; Slide Cemetery; 1: Male]

Q: "What would you like to see preserved for future generations?"

R44: "Just the way it is now. Hopefully the buildings that have fallen down will still be there and the rangers can take people out and teach them about what is going on here." [7.18.04; 3:35; Dyea town site; 1: Female]

Q: "What would you like to see preserved for future generations?"

R49: "Just the way... exactly the way it... yeah, not changing the way it is managed right now. Not for it to become developed. I'm not going to do NIMBYism but it is like if you just manage it so people can walk softly so that generations beyond us... besides getting rid of all these flies [laughter]." [7.20.04; 10:35 am; Raft Take-out (Chilkat Guides); 2: Male/Female]

Q: "What would you like to see preserved for future generations?"

R71: "The entire Park, oh absolutely. Just the way it is. It is so unspoiled. We did run across a few cars... I guess... I'm not quite sure what they were doing there but they shouldn't have access."

Q: "So you don't think vehicles should have access?"

R71: "Well, maybe in a general parking area but people can walk in

*easy enough and hike or whatever.” [7.22.04; 5:05 pm; Cruise Ship Dock; 1: Female]*

## A.2 Questions Generally Related to Planning Issues

### A.2.1 Knowledge of Dyea and its Management

Respondents were asked if they knew that the Dyea area was a National Historic Site managed by the National Park Service. Only a small number of respondents said they did not know about NPS management of Dyea.<sup>11</sup> Respondents who said that they had prior knowledge were asked about the source of their knowledge.

### Sources of Information about Dyea and Its Management

Respondents listed a large variety of sources they used to learn about Dyea area management. The most commonly listed source was signs in Dyea. Other common sources of information were the highway sign at the Dyea road, commercial tour guides, sources of camping recommendations, literature, interpretive displays, and rangers at the KLGO Visitor Center in Skagway. These, and other sources are mentioned in the groups of responses quoted below.

**Literature as a source of information.** Some respondents said that they had read about Dyea being part of the Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park prior to their visit to Skagway. The types of literature mentioned were usually general, and included brochures, books, school, and the internet. Other respondents were a bit more specific. Examples of more specific statements about the literature respondents used as informational sources include:

Q: *“Did you know that this area is a National Historic site managed by the National Park Service?”*

R11: *“Well, we read that ... as part of the Klondike Gold Rush 4-unit Park.... I don't know what the exact name is.”*

Q: *“And did you learn that in Skagway or on the ship?”*

R11: *“In ... uh... in a book on my own prior... but reinforced in Skagway.” [6.22.04; 3:30 pm; Dyea town site; 2: Male/Female]*

Q: *“Where did you learn about it?”*

R14: *“Well basically from visiting and information... the marketing information we received from doing the Chilkoot Trail.” [5.23.04; 10:30]*

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<sup>11</sup> Questions that ask about prior knowledge are consistently biased because people often claim to know things that they would not spontaneously recall. For example, if we asked, “What agency manages the Dyea area?” it would be unlikely that nearly all respondents would answer correctly. We accept the bias and avoid the more demanding “test” questions because they are stressful to respondents and can limit survey participation. However, the true knowledge of NPS management in the population is undoubtedly lower than the survey indicated.

am; Campground; 4: 2 Male 2 Female]

Q: "Did you know that this area is a National Historical Park managed by the National Park Service?"

R22: "I did. I certainly knew the Chilkoot was, but perhaps I didn't realize that it extended to all of this area. I certainly knew about the Chilkoot."

Q: "Where did you learn about it?"

R22: "I guess it is just something we were aware of when we read about it and what not and we recognize that on the Canadian side as well." [5.23.04; 4:00 pm; Slide Cemetery; 1: Female]

Q: "Where did you learn about it?"

R29: "Literature. We're staying at the Chilkoot Outpost. We know people that are local and know all the history... [Unintelligible due to wind]." [7.17.04; 11:35; Picnic Area, 2: Female/Male]

Q: "Where did you learn about it?"

R51: "Through cruise data." [7.20.04; 11:55 am; Raft Takeout (Chilkat Guides); 1: Male]

Q: "Where did you learn about it?"

R54: "Internet, books. Just when we looked up the trail or found out about the trail. Maybe we assumed. Big name trails are always governed by the government. They are always Parks Canada or US people." [7.20.04; 2:35 pm; Chilkoot Trail (thru-hikers, 1.5 miles); 2: Male/Female]

Q: "Where did you learn about it?"

71 "Well we had read about it but our guide confirmed all that. I just wish I had more time to do everything."

Q: "Was the reading something from the cruise ship or reading on your own?"

R71: "That was reading on our own. We were on-line and checking out the area and what there is... and following their suggestions but checking other websites." [7.22.04; 5:05 pm; Cruise Ship Dock; 1: Female]

**Information sources in Skagway.** Examples of responses from individuals who had prior knowledge about the classification of the Dyea as a National Historical Park from informational sources in Skagway include:

Q: "Did you know that this area is a National Historical Park managed by the National Park Service?"

R30: "Yes. And I know that you are not to pick flowers or remove anything."

Q: *"Where did you learn about it? From living in Skagway?"*

R30: *"No, I've actually been around National Parks for a long time and I just know that."*

Q: *"What about this site out here, did you know that it was a National Park from living in Skagway?"*

R30: *"Yes."*

Q: *"Did you hear about it from word of mouth or did you go into some of the Park Service buildings in Skagway to find out about Dyea."*

R30: *"I've been here 7 years, so back when I first came, you know it was probably a combination of hearing about it from around town and then initially when I was there I was going into all the Park Service buildings and watching the movies and the literature and so on."*  
[7.17.04; 1:10; Dyea Flats; 2: Female/Female]

Q: *"Where did you learn about it?"*

R34: *"Probably in Skagway because I thought it was part of the Forest Service instead of the Park Service. [7.17.04; 3:45 pm; Dyea town site; 2: Male/Female]"*

Q: *"Where did you learn about it?"*

R39: *"I think I remember from last time we talked to the Park people. Last time we talked to them quite a bit. There wasn't very many other people in the campground, there was nobody out here last time. So the Park's guy, we talked to him a lot. He wasn't busy because the weather was so crappy. Yeah, we talked to him about the trail and the area. He was really helpful."*

Q: *"Last time, did you go into the Visitor Center in Skagway to learn about it or did you learn about it on the street?"*

R39: *"We went into the visitor center. All the backpackers all know about it because of course they all start the trail from here. We were just looking for a place to camp. We just came into town and I think we just talked to some people." [7.18.04; 10:25 am; Campground; 1: Male]"*

Q: *"Where did you learn about it?"*

R56: *"Well I guess I sort of knew that from my readings and obviously once you get into town you are well aware of that." [7.21.04; 8:30 am; Campground; 3: Female/Male/Male]"*

**Information sources related to the Chilkoot Trail.** Examples of responses from individuals who knew about the status of the Dyea Area as a National Historical Park managed by the NPS from previous knowledge about the Chilkoot Trail include:

Q: *"Where did you learn about it?"*

R31: *"I just knew it from when we did the Chilkoot Trail hike. From the history of the Chilkoot Trail." [7.17.04; 2:30 pm; Chilkoot Trail (trailhead parking lot); 2: Male/Female]"*

Q: *"Where did you learn about it?"*

R48: *"Oh, I think... I hiked over the Chilkoot Trail in '83, I think it was a Park then and so even back then I was aware that it was a Park of some kind. You couldn't pick up artifacts and things like that. I guess we knew in preparing for that hike over in '83 we did some reading and we were aware and I don't know if we just learned it just through reading newspapers or we got some brochures. Living not too far from the area in Juneau, that's part of local news, you hear what is going on."* [7.20.04; 9:00 am; Campground, 1: Male]

**Sources of information in the Dyea area.** Examples of respondents who had learned about the Dyea Area's classification as a National Historical Park managed by the NPS from this or prior visits to the Dyea Area include:

Q: *"How did you learn about it?"*

R5: *"Through previous park rangers."* [6.22.04; 10:30 am; Campground; 1: Male]

Q: *"Did you know that this area is a National Historical Park managed by the National Park Service?"*

R19: *"We didn't know that previously. We discovered that today over at the Dyea town site. We knew the Chilkoot was a national site but I didn't know that the Dyea town site was part of it."* [5.23.04; 3:10 pm; Slide Cemetery; 1: Female]

Q: *"Did you know that this area is a National Historical Park managed by the National Park Service?"*

R24: *"I didn't know its title, but I knew it was a Park."*

Q: *"Did you know that it was a historical area as well?"*

R24: *"Yes."*

Q: *"Where did you learn about it?"*

R24: *"Probably the signs around here, not before Skagway."* [5.24.04; 8:00 pm; Campground; 1: Female]

Q: *"Did you know that this area is a National Historical Park managed by the National Park Service?"*

R25: *"I'd guessed as much but it was never mentioned to me. I knew it was part of the Forest Service, but I assume because of the history involved that it was national."*

Q: *"Did you know that the Park had historical designation as well?"*

R25: *"I didn't quite realize it, but as I became involved in the hike I did begin to realize it a little more and it was drawn to my attention."*

Q: *"So the only place that you received information was from your guides?"*

R25: *"Correct, I didn't quite know it was national. I knew it was somewhat historical, but a National Park is a different reverence."* [5.25.04; 11:10 am; Raft Take-out (Chilkat Guides); 1: Female]

Q: *“Did you know that this area is a National Historical Park managed by the National Park Service?”*

R32: *“Not until I got to here, no.”*

Q: *“Not until you got here to Dyea or when you arrived in Skagway?”*

R32: *“Here in the Dyea area.” [3:00 pm; Dyea town site; 1: Male]*

Q: *“Did you know that this area is a National Historical Park managed by the National Park Service?”*

R49: *“We do now. Actually we did know that it was a National Park but I didn’t know that it was a National Historical Park.”*

Q: *“Where did you learn about it?”*

R49: *“From our guide.” [7.20.04; 10:35 am; Raft Take-out (Chilkat Guides); 2: Male/Female]*

Q: *“Where did you learn about it?”*

R61: *“We read it from the brochure we got at the ranger station in Dyea.” [7.21.04; 11:25 am; Chilkoot Trail (day hikers); 2: Male/Female]*

Q: *“Did you know that this area is a National Historical Park managed by the National Park Service?”*

R70: *“I didn’t know that until I was out there.”*

Q: *“Where did you learn about it?”*

R70: *“My guide.” [5:00 pm; Cruise Ship Dock; 1: Female]*

**Other sources of information.** Some respondents had learned about the classification of the Dyea Area as a National Historical Park managed by the NPS from other sources (i.e., employment in Skagway and Parks Canada). These more unique responses include:

Q: *“Did you know that this area is a National Historical Park managed by the National Park Service?”*

R18: *“Yes, yes I do.”*

Q: *“Where did you learn about it?”*

R18: *“Through the job [Chilkat Guides].” [5.23.04; 1:50 pm; Chilkoot Trailhead; 1: Male]*

Q: *“Where did you learn about it?”*

R78: *“The ranger. Actually we heard about it yesterday. We took the train all the way up to Lake Bennett and talked to the Canada Parks ranger and got a better concept of how everything is related.”*

Q: *“So you heard about it on the Canadian side?”*

R78: *“Yes.” [7.25.04; 9:00 am; Campground; 2: Male/Female]*

Q: *“Where did you learn about it?”*

R82: *“Well my uncle used to be the director of tourism for the Yukon Territory so he is quite familiar with the Chilkoot Park Program, both on*

*the US and the Canadian side.” [7.25.04; 9:50 am; Campground; 2: Male/Female]*

**Non-specific sources of knowledge about Dyea.** Examples of responses from individuals who did not state specific sources for their knowledge that the Dyea Area is a National Historical Park managed by the NPS include:

Q: *“How did you learn about it?”*

R7: *“From friends in the Yukon, because I’ve seen TV and movies with the Alaska sites, but Dyea, I never knew.” [2:30 pm; Slide Cemetery; 2: Male/Male]*

Q: *“Did you know that this area is a National Historical Park managed by the National Park Service?”*

R16: *“Yes.”*

Q: *“Where did you learn about it?”*

R16: *“I’ve just always known that, you know being from around this area, you know.” [5.23.04; 11:25; Campground; 1: Female]*

Q: *“Where did you learn about it?”*

R21: *“I’ve known that for years. I can’t remember the exact date in the late 1980s, that’s a guess, the National Historic Sites and parks made the whole route right from Dyea here to Dawson City... there’s a corridor here that was all made into a Park. Before that it was just some place to visit and for hikers.” [5.23.03; 3:45; Slide Cemetery; 1: Male]*

Q: *“Where did you learn about it?”*

R27: *“In general, we spend so much time in National Parks and I’ve been in Alaska 20 years... so by osmosis. You got to know it if you are alive.” [7.17.04; 10:30; Campground; 1: Male]*

Q: *“Where did you learn about it?”*

R55: *“Osmosis, I don’t know. Just sort of knew that it was a National Park.” [7.20.04; 3:00; Chilkoot Trail (thru-hikers, .6 miles); 2: Male/Male]*

### **A.2.2 Comments Regarding Interpretive Programs**

Respondents commonly reported that they participated in NPS interpretive programs, and their comments may be of interest for planning. Thus, comments concerning the experiences provided by the interpretive programs are presented here even though many of them are repeated elsewhere in this document.

Q: "Did you encounter people other than those in your party during your visit?"

R32: "There were probably 12-15 on the walk we went on."

Q: "Did you see any other people?"

R32: "No."

Q: "Did the people on your tour affect your experience?"

R32: "It was fine with a group of that size on the walk. It was kind of special not having a lot of other people tromping around. I've been to places that are closer to cities, etc... where... Well in fact in April we were down in Page, Arizona in the slot canyons and we were in one canyon where there were two or three other people and in another there must have been 50 coming through and it just uh... it was a heck of a lot better with just two or three." [7.17.04; 3:00 pm; Dyea town site; 1: Male]

Q: "Was the reason that you came out to Dyea to go on the ranger tour or were you planning on visiting the area anyway?"

R34: "Actually I didn't know about it until we were in town and they told us that there was a competing town during the Gold Rush and that it was a ghost town and there were remnants of it. And that's why we are here." [7.17.04; 3:45 pm; Dyea town site; 2: Male/Female]

Q: "Are there positive things that park managers could add or negative things they could improve in other parts of Dyea?"

R38: "The cemetery is a cemetery and I don't think you would want to have much more commercialism there. Maybe... well there was some placards there in the cemetery. I don't know what else they could do out there. In the town site I think it is important to take the nature walk because you learn more that way than just strolling around by yourself, but I thought the rangers did a good job. I thought they told the story, which was important, and also they told the natural history story but they told the history of the town sometimes showing pictures of what it looked like. That is always helpful. They had pictures, which is amazing that they have all these old pictures." [7.18.04; 10:05 am; Campground; 1: Female]

Q: "Is there anything else that you would like to add?"

R41: "I think the tour we went on with the ranger was spectacular. It was awesome to learn about the plants and ask any questions that we wanted to about the history. I think it is really a great experience. I think maybe even if for people who want to go a little further on the trail... our ranger was really nice and went further with us, so I thought that was great. To keep that program running, definitely." [7.18.04; 12:30 pm; Chilkoot Trail (day hikers, trailhead parking lot); 2: Male/Female]

Q: "Did you notice any evidence of past visitor use?"

R44: "She [NPS Interpretive Ranger] did point out where somebody

*had been digging somewhere that they shouldn't have been and there was a motorcycle parked out there on Park land, so that showed me somebody had been here."*

Q: *"Did you encounter people other than those in your party during your visit?"*

R44: *"Just the ranger and the other couple on the tour."*

Q: *"Did they affect your experience?"*

R44: *"Added to it. She was terrific. The ranger was terrific." [7.18.04; 3:35 pm; Dyea town site; 1: Female]*

Q: *"Would you favor any changes to the character of the area that would increase its historical focus?"*

R56: *"Oh yeah, I think as long as it doesn't detract from the environmental aspect of things, if something could be done as they say... people who would have ideas on that are probably better to talk to... if they could recreate something similar to what was here in the Dyea area, even the Main St.... you can see all kinds of pictures as to what the main street looked like, if they could recreate that even in town [Skagway], but not in the Dyea town site. More interpretive signs at the site. Interpretive signs would be worthwhile. I don't know we haven't been out to the tidal flats, but I've got the picture book and I'll take that with me because some of the pictures are showing what it is like and the only thing that is the same now are the mountains. So the interpretive information I find very worthwhile, and you don't want to overdo that, but there could probably be a little more information there. You know one thing I find that for somebody who came here and did not go on the ranger tour, they wouldn't have a clue to what was going on in the Dyea town site and again the ranger was really good at explaining that and in my own case I knew a little bit about what was there but I was not prepared for the fact that forest had replaced the whole Dyea town site tidal area or whatever it was and that some kind of explanation of what people are going to find relative to what it was like a hundred and seven years ago would be very worthwhile. When you wander into town [Skagway] you see the Mascot saloon and Soapy Smith's building and the Ice House that they are putting in, if they were to take one of the pictures from the 1898 thing and say okay we are going to set aside one street in town and recreate something there so people can get some idea of what things were like and then they come out to the Dyea town site, I think that would be very worthwhile." [7.21.04; 8:30 am; Campground; 3: Female/Male/Male]*

Q: *"Did you encounter people other than those in your party during your visit?"*

R66: *"5 maybe 6, 7."*

Q: *"Did they affect your experience?"*

R66: *"Just the Ranger. She gave us information that we wouldn't have*

*known. You can read so much in signs but she gave us more information that we would have not gained if it wasn't for her. Where the pilings were. We would have totally missed that. And the fact that the tide used to come up that far and if we could have stayed with her longer, I'm sure we wouldn't learned more, but we have to head back so we had to cut it short, so..." [7.21.04; 3:15 pm; Dyea town site; 2: Male/Female]*

*Q: "Did you encounter people other than those in your party during your visit?"*

*R78: "Just the campers. We went to the campfire last night for the discussion. No campfire but a lot of discussion."*

*Q: "Did they affect your experience?"*

*R78: "No, I wouldn't think so. Not specifically except for that they were interesting. The ranger was very interesting." [7.25.04; 9:00 am; Campground; 2: Male/Female]*

*Q: "Did you notice any evidence of past visitor use?"*

*R89: "Horse droppings and footprints."*

*Q: "Did that affect your experience?"*

*R89: "Well actually the horses, not down there but seeing them up here, I think I would have liked to have done that. Actually if we had seen that advertised at the hotel we probably would have done that. The tour guide [ranger guided walk in town site] said the horses weren't supposed to be back there. A more interesting, different type of tour would make... that would have been a different way to see it and if we were at the hotel deciding where to go see and saw a horseback tour of Dyea, we would have done that."*

*Q: "Was the area's natural history important to your visit?"*

*R89: "No, not as interested. It was interesting what the tour guide [ranger guided walk in town site] talked about with the trees and the tides but I am more interested in the culture." [7.25.04; 3:20 pm; Dyea town site; 3: Male/Female/Female]*

### **A.2.3 The Presence of Other Visitors: Past and Present**

#### **Encounters With Other Visitors**

During the interviews, respondents were asked to recall: a) the number of visitors they had encountered since they had been in Dyea; b) the location of the encounters; c) whether or not the encounters affected their experiences; and, if so, d) what the effects were. The trail and campground were by far the most commonly mentioned sites at which encounters occurred, although some encounters were reported at a wide variety of sites in the

Dyea area. The number of visitors encountered and the specific location of the encounters are more meaningful when presented with their effects on respondents' experiences. Thus, quoted responses to the various questions will be presented together, organized into themes that correspond to the different types of effects.

Respondents who indicated that they had visited the Chilkoot Trail were also asked if the number of other visitors they encountered was what they had expected when they planned their trip. These results are also presented below.

**Positive encounters.** A few respondents reported that their encounters with other Park visitors were positive. They said that they enjoyed seeing others recreate, other visitors made their experience more interesting, other people were friendly, the number of encounters was the right amount for the experience, they recognized some of the other visitors, and the interpretive rangers enhanced their experiences. Examples of positive encounters with other visitors include:

Q: *"Have you encountered people other than those in your party during your visit?"*

R5: *"Yup."*

Q: *"How many do you think you have encountered."*

R5: *"Ten to Fifteen."*

Q: *"Have they affected your experience?"*

R5: *"Well, they're just friendly and that's why you come here because you don't want snotty people when you're camping. It should be a sociable experience." [6.22.04; 10:30 am; Campground; 1: Male]*

Q: *"Have you encountered people other than those in your party during your visit?"*

R9: *"On the Flat, there nobody... No, we saw those people by bike when we were leaving, but we were alone for a long time. And now same people."*

Q: *"Have they affected your experience?"*

R9: *"I find that great. Kids outside biking." [6.22.04; 1:15 pm; Slide Cemetery; 2: Female, Female]*

Q: *"How many do you think you have encountered other than those in your rafting party during your visit?"*

R12: *"A couple of dozen folks out and about. Playing in the sand with a bunch of kids and their dogs. We saw some campers making a fire. People walking across the bridge stopped to wave. Yeah, a few dozen."*

Q: *"Have they affected your experience?"*

R12: *"We love to see the people out there enjoying themselves." [6.22.04; 4:45 pm; Raft Take-out (Chilkat Guides); 1: Female]*

Q: "Did you encounter people other than those in your party during your visit?"

R16: "Um-hum."

Q: "Has it been mainly in the campground?"

R16: "I would say right now a good 75% of this campground is all Whitehorse people."

Q: "So you recognize a lot of the faces?"

R16: "Oh, yeah."

Q: "Did they affect your experience?"

R16: "Oh it's great because you are camping and somebody walks past and says, 'Hey, how's it going?' ...so it is kind of neat." [5.23.04; 11:25 am; Campground; 1: Female]

Q: "Did you encounter people other than those in your party during your visit?"

R18: "I saw about 7 Germans ... and I got to practice my German. I know a little bit so it was kind of fun. And then I saw a jeep tour going up."

Q: "Did they affect your experience?"

R18: "No, not too much. It was kind of fun to see people from Germany out here. It was cool because they weren't on a cruise ship either ... so I was like, 'right on'. It was kind of impressive."

Q: "Did you consider the potential number of visitors when you decided to go on an overnight hike on the Chilkoot yesterday?"

R18: "I got here about 2 am so ... there wasn't anybody out here but me." [5.23.04; 1:50 pm; Chilkoot Trail (backpacker, trailhead); 1: Male]

Q: "Did you encounter people other than those in your party during your visit?"

R32: "There were probably 12-15 on the walk we went on."

Q: "Did you see any other people?"

R32: "No."

Q: "Did the people on your tour affect your experience?"

R32: "It was fine with a group of that size on the walk. It was kind of special not having a lot of other people tromping around. I've been to places that are closer to cities, etc... where... Well in fact in April we were down in Page, Arizona in the slot canyons and we were in one canyon where there were two or three other people and in another there must have been 50 coming through and it just uh... it was a heck of a lot better with just two or three." [7.17.04; 3:00 pm; Dyea town site; 1: Male]

Q: "Did you encounter people other than those in your party during your visit?"

R42: "Yes, 20 or so, not a lot."

Q: "Where?"

R42: "We saw some on the trail, some on the raft and then just kind of coming and going out here. We passed a few on the road coming out here."

Q: "Did they affect your experience?"

R42: "It was interesting; some of them actually had a question about a plant that our tour guide knew the answer to, so we kind of talked a bit. It was fine. It was very quiet and enjoyable." [7.18.04; 1:15 pm; Raft Take-out (Skagway Float Tours); 1: Female]

Q: "Did you encounter people other than those in your party during your visit?"

R44: "Just the ranger and the other couple on the tour."

Q: "Did they affect your experience?"

R44: "Added to it. She was terrific. The ranger was terrific." [7.18.04; 3:35 pm; Dyea town site; 1: Female]

Q: "Did you encounter people other than those in your party during your visit?"

R47: "No."

Q: "Did they affect your experience?"

R47: "It made it feel like you were really out there in the middle of nowhere. We know that is not true but it kind of felt that way." [1 47: 7.19.04; 5:05 pm; Cruise Ship Docks; 2: Male/Female]

Q: "Did you encounter people other than those in your party during your visit?"

R53: "Six groups."

Q: "Where?"

R53: "On the trail."

Q: "How many people?"

R53: "About 20. There were 2 large groups and 4 groups of 2."

Q: "How many days have you been out here?"

R53: "Three."

Q: "Did you see a lot more people in those three days?"

R53: "Oh, yeah. The night I stayed at Sheep Camp, there were 48 people... there were probably more there than I have seen coming back but that doesn't mean that there won't be more than that."

Q: "Did they affect your experience?"

R53: "Well they've all been good because everybody is out to see the trail and have a good time. I think part of the experience is just being able to meet different people from different places and talk to people."

Q: "Are your expectations of how many people you would see out here similar to what you've experienced?"

R53: "Sure, oh yeah." [7.20.04; 1:35 pm; Chilkoot Trail (backpacker, .5 miles); 1: Male]

Q: "Did you encounter people other than those in your party during your visit?"

R55: "2 groups so far. On the trail here. Two small groups of thru-hikers. Um 5 in one and about 15 in the other."

Q: "Did they affect your experience?"

R55: "It was swell."

Q: "Were you expecting to see that many people when you started the trip?"

R55: "Yeah. We knew that there were going to be a lot of people out here." [7.20.04; 3:00 pm; Chilkoot Trail (thru-hikers, .6 miles); 2: Male/Male]

Q: "Did you encounter people other than those in your party during your visit?"

R66: "5 maybe 6, 7."

Q: "Did they affect your experience?"

R66: "Just the Ranger. She gave us information that we wouldn't have known. You can read so much in signs but she gave us more information that we would have not gained if it wasn't for her. Where the pilings were. We would have totally missed that. And the fact that the tide used to come up that far and if we could have stayed with her longer, I'm sure we wouldn't learned more, but we have to head back so we had to cut it short, so..." [7.21.04; 3:15 pm; Dyea town site; 2: Male/Female]

Q: "Did you encounter people other than those in your party during your visit?"

R78: "Just the campers. We went to the campfire last night for the discussion. No campfire but a lot of discussion."

Q: "Did they affect your experience?"

R78: "No, I wouldn't think so. Not specifically except for that they were interesting. The ranger was very interesting." [7.25.04; 9:00 am; Campground; 2: Male/Female]

Q: "Did you encounter people other than those in your party during your visit?"

R81: "Lots. The campground has been full. We are quite amazed actually at how full it is. We don't come down to Dyea not to see people we went shopping yesterday."

Q: "So you expect to see people when you come here?"

R81: "Yes."

Q: "Did they affect your experience?"

R81: "Those people over there lent us sticks to make hotdogs with... they gave us real oak and maple to make hotdogs with."

Q: "So it's been good?"

R81: "Oh yeah (laughter). The only noise has been our own children, so what can I say." [7.25.04; 9:35 am; Campground; 4: Females]

Q: "Did you encounter people other than those in your party during your visit?"

R85: "About 20 to 30 on the trail and that is just twenty until one in the afternoon."

Q: "Were you expecting to see that many people when you decided to come and hike on the Chilkoot today?"

R85: "Yes."

Q: "Did they affect your experience?"

R85: "Well, somebody told us that they had seen a bear so that was interesting. We were looking out but we didn't see any." [7.25.04; 11:40 am; Chilkoot Trail (day hikers, trailhead); 3: Male/Female/Female]

**Negative encounters.** A few respondents' experiences were negatively affected by the other visitors they encountered. Negative effects included crowding associated with the number of visitors, the behaviors of other visitors, the presence of tour operators, the presence of vehicles, and a lack of private property signs. Examples of negative impacts associated with visitor encounters include:

Q: "Did you encounter people other than those in your party during your visit?"

R24: "This weekend this campground was full... it was completely full. It looked like a couple tents in each site, so hundreds probably."

Q: "Did they affect your experience?"

R24: "Well... a little, slightly."

Q: "Was it the crowding or other visitor behaviors?"

R24: "The crowding. Everybody was cool. And I realize it was a holiday weekend so that is going to happen. I've done the same thing, just gone somewhere just for a holiday weekend. So I understand that that happens. So I was still doing my own thing so it was okay."

[5.24.04; 8:00 pm; Campground; 1: Female]

Q: "Did you encounter people other than those in your party during your visit?"

R41: "I don't know, including at the campground and here."

Q: "How many?"

R41: "About 150. You think really. There's a lot of people at the campground and every hiker we have passed."

Q: "Did they affect your experience?"

R41: "There were a lot of people at the campground in the morning. Uh... there is a lot of people that would drive through at like 11 pm. It would actually be actually kind of nice if the campground could be closed at a certain hour so people aren't driving through looking for sites at like midnight and they are disturbing the people that are trying to sleep. Yeah, quiet hours could be encouraged and enforced. When you are thinking about being in the nature and stuff... it hasn't been overall too bad, there was just like this one rowdy group yesterday but

they left, thank goodness.”

Q: “How about on the Chilkoot Trail?”

R41: “Yes.”

Q: “Did you expect that number of hikers when you came out here today?”

R41: “Well we knew that 50 people a day go up there at least to hike the whole trail, but I was surprised that there were more day hikers than I thought.

Q: “Did they affect your experience in any way?”

R41: “No”. [7.18.04; 12:30; Chilkoot Trail (day hikers, trailhead parking lot); 2: Male/Female]

Q: “Is there anything the park could do that would have improved your visit?”

R58: “I think, we were just talking and we noticed that there’s... at least with the guy we rode out here with... dropped off at least 20 people up until now on the trail. Maybe we are crazy but that seems like a lot to us 20 people all in one day getting dropped off, but maybe it is different. Maybe we are imagining things but it seems like a lot.”

Q: “Did you encounter people other than those in your party during your visit?”

R58: “25. Well he... we were going to ride up with him at 8:30 and there were 11 people on the bus. We rode up at 9:30 and there were 9 or 10 people on the bus, so 20 people bum-rushing out here in a 2 hour span seems like a lot to me.”

Q: “Since you have been on the trail, how many people do you think you have seen?”

R58: “8 or 9... we saw that group down there of 8 or 9, and 4 there, and the 9 people behind us that got dropped off. Thirty-ish.”

Q: “Did they affect your experience?”

R58: “Yeah, we have been here for ten minutes. We have four days ahead of us and we have been here for ten minutes.”

Q: “Did you expect to see that many people when you planned your trip?”

R58: “Just the fact that it is such a well known trail and that it is relatively easy compared to some other trails.”

Q: “You seemed to be a little shocked about how many people were coming out here?”

R58: “I guess I should have... I kind of expected it because I looked at stuff on the internet and I saw a lot more than I expected at the time. So I kind of knew that it was a well traveled and well documented area so more people are going to come.” [7.21.04; 10:35 am; Chilkoot Trail (thru-hikers, .5 miles); 2: Male/Male]

Q: “Did you encounter people other than those in your party during your visit?”

R60: “Two dozen, 24.”

Q: *"Did they affect your experience?"*

R60: *"I'd like less. If you came for solitude it isn't solitude, but these day-hikers, they'll pass. They'll fade."*

Q: *"Were you expecting this many people when you were planning the trip?"*

R60: *"We knew that there would be 50 people on the trail per day, so I thought there would be other people hiking. I was prepared for people." [7.21.04; 11:00 am; Chilkoot Trail (thru-hikers, .75 miles); 2 Male/Female]*

Q: *"Did you encounter people other than those in your party during your visit?"*

R61: *"Two groups. This one and the one before them."*

Q: *"How many?"*

R61: *"5 plus the guide in the 1st one. And this one, maybe 7 plus the guide."*

Q: *"Did they affect your experience?"*

R61: *"Nope."*

Q: *"Were you expecting to see this many people when you decided to visit the Chilkoot?"*

R61: *"Yes because it is famous."*

Q: *"Did you notice any evidence of past visitor use?"*

R61: *"Nope, not yet."*

Q: *"Did that affect your experience?"*

R61: *"No. I was looking for a worn out trail and I see some very sharp rock and I was expecting to, with the amount of traffic, I would have seen some wear and tear. Thirty-thousand soles with all the carriage they went back and forth. Although that was a hundred years ago."*

Q: *"Is there anything the park could do that would have improved your visit?"*

R61: *"No, just make it harder to get to because there would be less people."*

Q: *"That would be something you would desire out here, is to see fewer people?"*

R61: *"Yes. That is a selfish perspective. But I don't like crowds of people. We live in the bush miles off the road on a dirt road specifically to get away from people. So we came to the Yukon to get away from crowds, but then we stop here and we see the crowds here. There is a lot of traffic in Skagway itself, but when you get here it is not too bad. The Park is adequately sized and it is down a rough enough road you don't get the..."*

Q: *"So you were speaking more about Skagway having too many people?"*

R61: *"Yes. It's not bad here. A lot of the traffic is generated from the Skagway tours that take people up here. Buses and stuff and you see the rafts on the river and stuff."*

Q: *"Does that have an effect on your experience?"*

R61: "A little. Very little. I prefer individuals coming up here not groups of people. I don't want it to get commodified." [7.21.04; 11:25 am; Chilkoot Trail (day hikers, .75 miles); 2: Male/Female]

Q: "What would you like to see preserved for future generations?"

R71: "The entire Park, oh absolutely. Just the way it is. It is so unspoiled. We did run across a few cars... I guess... I'm not quite sure what they were doing there but they shouldn't have access."

Q: "So you don't think vehicles should have access?"

R71: "Well, maybe in a general parking area but people can walk in easy enough and hike or whatever."

Q: "Did they affect your experience?"

R71: "I was annoyed that they were driving by us. I mean I knew the horses could handle it but I didn't want to be around vehicles. This is a non-driving vacation. Anything we can do to get away from being in the car for vacation is what we want. I'm sure a lot of people feel that way too." [7.22.04; 5:05 pm; Cruise Ship Dock; 1: Female]

Q: "Did you encounter people other than those in your party during your visit?"

R74: "Well the counter said 38 when we came through so, but we didn't see them all. We did see the bicyclers. But in the area we did see the horseback riders... driving in yes, but out here we've probably only saw ½ dozen people besides the bikers. We were the only ones at the Chilkoot and the cemetery."

Q: "Did they affect your experience?"

R74: "No. We thought they were a little bit unfriendly by our standards in Colorado, they were a little unfriendly." [7.23.04; 10:45; Dyea town site; 2: Male/Female]

Q: "Did you encounter people other than those in your party during your visit?"

R75: "Not that many. What do we figure, maybe 15 to 20."

Q: "Did they affect your experience?"

R75: "Actually we did stumble across private property where the dog sled stuff is and we walked in and we had no clue. We had no idea because we didn't see the sign that said no trespassing, so we got kicked off. He wasn't very nice. The only thing is that there is not really signs here telling you where to go for stuff. Like we walked back there and there is like a ton of roads and we didn't know where we were going. Other than that, it's been a pretty good experience." [7.23.04; 11:45 am; Slide Cemetery; 3: Male/Male/Female]

Q: "Did you encounter people other than those in your party during your visit?"

R86: "On the trail, there was a large group of about 10 with a private guide who was giving them wrong information and there was one other

*couple that I passed and that was it other than the 2 Park Service employees.”*

Q: *“Did they affect your experience?”*

R86: *“Well yes the guide giving them wrong information affected my experience by giving me something to laugh at. Well I am assuming that the Park Ranger was telling me the straight story and that is that the original trail does not meet this trail until four miles up yet the guide of this private party was telling them very specifically at the first knoll there that is about a half a mile up that “now we are on the authentic trail” and they discussed that and some of the people said “yes you could present this just like Disney Land and tell us that we are on the original trail when we are really not,” but if the Park Service was telling us correctly then we weren’t. They think they were.” [I 86: 7.25.04; 12:10 pm; Chilkoot Trailhead; 1: Male]*

**Encounters that had no effect.** Almost half the respondents reported that their experiences were neither positively nor negatively affected by encountering other visitors. They gave a variety of reasons why encounters did not affect them, including: a) because the other visitors were friendly; b) because encounters were expected or typical; c) because other visitors had the right to be there too; d) because there were fewer visitors in Dyea than in Skagway; e) because the presence of other visitors reduced fear; f) because the day hikers on commercial float tours weren’t hiking too far on the Chilkoot Trail; g) because they didn’t interact with other visitors; h) because they could adjust their behaviors to meet their own needs; and i) because other visitors were having similar experiences.

Q: *“Did you encounter people other than those in your party during your visit?”*

R30: *“Just when we walked across the bridge... I think they were all together. There were like four people who were leaving.”*

Q: *“Did they affect your experience?”*

R30: *“No. It certainly didn’t take away from it. You know, we all said, ‘Hi’.” [7.17.04; 1:10 pm; Dyea Flats; 2: Female/Female]*

Q: *“Did you encounter people other than those in your party during your visit?”*

R35: *“Yes, there are other people wandering around here.”*

Q: *“Did they affect your experience?”*

R35: *“No, probably not. They seemed to be pretty friendly. Most of them seemed to be tourists like me.” [7.17.04; 4:00 pm; Dyea town site; 1: Male]*

Q: *“Did you encounter people other than those in your party during your visit?”*

R40: *“Well I haven’t visited with anybody much other than the people taking care of the campground here, but the other campers I just said hello to them and basically that is it.”*

Q: "Did they affect your experience? How so?"

R40: "No, not in any negative way. Of course I like to visit with people to see where they come from, but I haven't visited with anybody yet other than the Park Ranger today and there was a lady yesterday I don't know what her capacity is but she is probably a ranger too. Anyway, that's the only two people we have visited with other than yourself." [7.18.04; 12:00 pm; Chilkoot Trail (walker from campground; trailhead parking lot; 1: Male]

Q: "Did you encounter people other than those in your party during your visit?"

R59: "You mean these folks coming up the trail. At least 50."

Q: "Where you counting on seeing that many when you started your trip."

R59: "Probably. Because it is short hikes and stuff."

Q: "Did they affect your experience?"

R59: "No. They all smile." [7.21.04; 10:55; Chilkoot Trail [thru-hikers, .5 miles]; 6: 3 Male/ 3 Female]

Q: "Did you encounter people other than those in your party during your visit?"

R90: "Only our group, although we did hear people on horseback and we heard the dogs from the dog camp."

Q: "How many in your group?"

R90: "In our group there was six and we were alone with a guide. There was another group that came off the ship with us, they were a group of seven and they split us into 2 smaller groups so our family was with one guide."

Q: "Did any other groups affect your experience?"

R90: "Nope not at all, which is how we wanted it by the way." [7.26.04; 11:15; Sockeye Cycles; 3: Female/Female/Male]

Q: "Have you encountered other people than those you traveled with since you have been in Dyea?"

R4: "Yes."

Q: "How many?"

R4: "Oh man, a lot. I mean the sites are full, so maybe 20 people at least."

Q: "What about at the Slide Cemetery or the Flats?"

R4: "On the flats yesterday we seen 2, 4, 6, I would say 7 people and more dogs. Well a lot of dogs yesterday. And also at the cemetery, no, nobody."

Q: "Seeing the people, did that affect your experience at all?"

R4: "No, we expected to see people, especially this weekend it's a long weekend in Canada. A lot of Canadians come here on long weekends for three days. We were aware of too many people here for sure." [6.22.04; 10:00 am; Campground; 2: Male/Female]

Q: "Have you encountered people other than those in your party during your visit?"

R11: "We just saw six people on bicycles and one woman in a car. And two just before we got to Dyea... that woman... oh that's right... right around that water area... where the ducks were. So that would be six, seven, eight, nine."

Q: "So some of them were over at the Slide area?"

R11: "No, not the Slide area, coming into the Dyea area, they were kind of watching at the marshlands. We didn't see anyone at the cemetery. There was one other car parked there, but we didn't see anybody."

Q: "Have they affected your experience?"

R11: "I don't think so, neither positive or negative. Better than being completely alone and saying we didn't see anyone for the whole ten miles. A little less scary maybe. We keep hearing things in the bushes and we think its bears." [6.22.04; 3:30 pm; Dyea town site; 2: Male/Female]

Q: "Have you encountered many people other than those in your party during your visit?"

R13: "No, it's astonishing how few people there are. There basically are people from the campground and we see some rafters go down sometime. I assume they are from the cruise ships. And we see a helicopter fly over top, I think that is from the Park Service to build up stuff on the Chilkoot Trail and that is about it. If you get up early enough or stay up late enough, there is lots of peace and quiet."

Q: "Where would you say that you have seen the most people?"

R13: "Just the campers."

Q: "Have they affected your experience?"

R13: "I don't mind them, no. If I need more solitude, I just head up the trail a little more and, yup, so I am okay with that." [6.23.04; 10:30 am; Campground; 1: Male]

Q: "Did you encounter people other than those in your party during your visit?"

R14: "Lots of dogs, which is okay because we are dog owners. Absolutely, this weekend... it's a busy weekend here this weekend so we have."

Q: "Where?"

R14: "Mostly here at the campground, because we weren't anywhere else besides between here and AB Mountain. So mainly here in the campground but this campground never really feels packed with lots of people even though it has to be full this weekend."

Q: "Did you say that you went over to the Slide Cemetery and the Dyea Flats?"

R14: "Not this trip. In the past."

Q: "Have the amount of people affected your experience?"

R14: "Not really, no. Just the usual. The first night some people were partying pretty late, but you would expect that on the May 21st weekend [Victory Day]. Even though it's been full it's not really a big deal. We don't feel cramped or imposed on by other people." [5.23.04; 10:30 am; Campground; 4: 2 Male / 2 Female]

Q: "Did you encounter people other than those in your party during your visit?"

R22: "Yup, for sure."

Q: "Where?"

R22: "Not huge amounts. But in the campground there are certainly some around and we visited with some."

Q: "Did they affect your experience?"

R22: "No it's just nice to run into other people. Everyone has been friendly for the most part." [5.23.04; 4:00 pm; Slide Cemetery; 1: Female]

Q: "Did you encounter people other than those in your party during your visit?"

R27: "No. There [are] more people in here today than there normally is. It's usually fairly light when I come through here."

Q: "Since you've only been in the campground, how many people do you think you've seen?"

R27: "I've seen quite a few. Actually, they are walking back and forth to this new spiffy outhouse they've got out here. So that... I think... I don't know if there's...maybe a general... I don't know who's got the wall tent down there and doing whatever. There seems to be quite a bit of trail maintenance that has historically gone on around here from youth organizations. You know, work on the Chilkoot Trail. I assume that is why there are many people over there. My impression on the whole though is that Skagway gets the vast brunt of the tourist thing, so Dyea is kind of out of your way and the road is pretty torturous to get out here. But that is a good thing. They don't need to be improving that road. I think it keeps the amount of people down you know so... I don't think there is any reason, unless you are hiking the Chilkoot Trail, which a lot of people do that too, but other than that you don't come out here to see Main St. Skagway and businesses and all that because there aren't any." [7.17.04; 10:30 am; Campground; 1: Male]

Q: "Did you see anybody when you were out at the Slide Cemetery or at the Dyea town site?"

R29: "Well we saw a tour guide with a group. We went by that. We saw a gang of horse riding people touring around. There were bikers on bicycles. Cycling touring outfit. The rafters."

Q: "Did they affect your experience?"

R29: "Well I think it is something you just have to accept. People come

here to see it, so I guess the way I view it is the commercialization or whatever, but I guess we are doing the same thing in a way. Well we said maybe the rafting or the horseback riding, but I said at least they are not in Ferrari's. Well they have anything. There are people charging around in little jeeps. There are people on horses. There are people on bikes. You know everything. The train... I'd love to go on the train, but we won't have time."

Q: "Are your expectations of how many people you would see out here similar to what you've experienced?"

R29: "Well there are only 50 people allowed on the trail a day, so that is what we are expecting. But it seems that there are a lot of people who are coming and have done it. And the group that came into the lodge who had done it. It's like there are people in the campground who go out and hike it and stay the night. It's still only 50 people a day, so it isn't bad." [7.17.04; 11:35 am; Picnic Area, 2: Female/Male]

Q: "Did you encounter people other than those in your party during your visit?"

R31: "No."

Q: "Did they affect your experience?"

R31: "Doesn't matter a bit, couldn't care less. Just being here is kind of fun." [7.17.04; 2:30 pm; Chilkoot Trail (trailhead parking lot); 2: Male/Female]

Q: "Did you encounter people other than those in your party during your visit?"

R39: "Yea, more than last time we were here, for sure, yeah. We were surprised how busy the campsite is."

Q: "Did they affect your experience?"

R39: "No [hesitant]."

Q: "I can't tell if you are sure or not."

R39: "Well, no it's good. I was surprised to see there are some bigger trailers and stuff in there this time; whereas, last time it was just backpackers. Which is fine too... I mean that's... No improvements which is fine because it all makes it part of it. Well as soon as the road gets better and they start ... get more people in here... the campground, lay it all out more organized, then you will never be able to get a spot. The bathrooms have changed, they're fantastic. We first drove in here yesterday." [7.18.04; 10:25 am: Campground; 1: Male]

Q: "Did you encounter people other than those in your party during your visit?"

R54: "A bunch of people doing some raft float trip just down the way there, but no other than that. Just those three boys that just passed us."

Q: "Is the number of people what you expected to see when you

first started on this journey?”

R54: “Yes.”

Q: “Did they affect your experience?”

R54: “No, because the people on the float trip, you know, they are not going far. I mean if there were that many people on the trail the whole time you would probably feel that it was a little crowded or something, but I think the physical challenge of the trail itself keeps a lot of people off it, and that is great.” [7.20.04; 2:35 pm; Chilkoot Trail (thru-hikers, 1.5 miles); 2: Male/Female]

Q: “Did you encounter people other than those in your party during your visit?”

R63: “Lots, it’s a rough estimate. A couple hundred.”

Q: “Did they affect your experience?”

R63: “No. Everybody has a right to be here. Everybody got a right to enjoy it so bring them on.” [7.21.04; 1:20 pm; Dyea town site; 2: Male/Male]

Q: “Did you encounter people other than those in your party during your visit?”

R64: “We saw 2 men.”

Q: “Did they affect your experience?”

R64: “No. They just walked out this way. We just realized that there are four big ships in Skagway with whole lots of tourists on them and my husband said that not even one percent of those people will be coming out here to have a look at this because they just stay in Skagway and look in the shops and go shopping and that is it.” [7.21.04; 1:40; Dyea town site; 1: Female]

Q: “Did you encounter people other than those in your party during your visit?”

R73: “Since we have been walking, maybe 30.”

Q: “Did they affect your experience?”

R73: “I didn’t take time to interact with anyone or... mostly bikers and horse riders.” [7.23.04; 10:20 am; Dyea town site; 1: Male]

Q: “Did you encounter people other than those in your party during your visit?”

R79: “Oh, probably maybe 50 since I’ve been here.”

Q: “Did they affect your experience?”

R79: “No.”

Q: “Is that how many people you were expecting to see?”

R79: “Probably about that amount.” [7.25.04; 9:10 am; Campground; 1: Female]

Q: “Did you encounter people other than those in your party during your visit?”

R80: "I can't count."

Q: "So a lot I take it?"

R80: "Yes."

Q: "Did anyone affect your experience?"

R80: "No."

Q: "Were you expecting to see as many people as you saw out here?"

R80: "Not past the campground... like... I was actually kind of surprised to see how many people were here when we pulled in the first night. We were the only ones in this area and I thought that was like, 'SWEET!' And I woke up in the morning and they were there, they were there, they were there, they were there [pointing to each visible site] and I was like, 'doh'." [7.25.04; 9:20 am; Campground; 1: Male]

Q: "Did you encounter people other than those in your party during your visit?"

R82: "I would probably say we probably passed 50 people on the trail. The campground was full when we showed up on Friday night and last night again. I don't know how many sites there are here but I would probably say there has been a few hundred people in the area over the weekend."

Q: "Were you expecting to see that many people?"

R82: "No, not really. No, it is usually a lot quieter out here. The road is usually enough of a deterrent."

Q: "Did they affect your experience?"

R82: "No not at all. No. No." [7.25.04; 9:50 am; Campground; 2: Male/Female]

Q: "Did you encounter people other than those in your party during your visit?"

R83: "Gosh, I don't know 20 or 30. There are several over there and since we've been in this area. We just got here this morning."

Q: "Did they affect your experience?"

R83: "They are kind of like we are. They are eager too." [7.25.04; 10:45 am; Chilkoot Trail (day hikers, trailhead); 4: Male/Male/Female/Female]

**Hypothetical effects if encounters were different.** A few respondents also stated that they were not affected by the encounters they had with other visitors but if the number of encounters or the group sizes encountered were any greater, then their experiences would have been negatively affected. Examples of these responses include:

Q: "Did you encounter people other than those in your party during your visit?"

R50: "4 people."

Q: "Where?"

R50: "On the trail."

Q: "Did they affect your experience?"

R50: "No, but I think if we would have seen a big group it would have, negatively." [7.20.04; 11:20 am; Raft Takeout [Chilkat Guides]; 2: Male/Female]

Q: "Did you encounter people other than those in your party during your visit?"

R89: "25 were on our tour. We also saw the horse tours."

Q: "Did they affect your experience?"

R89: "It was a nice number. More would have been too much." [7.25.04; 3:20 pm; Dyea town site; 3: Male/Female/Female]

### **Evidence of Past Use**

Respondents were also asked whether or not they had noticed evidence of past visitor use (when necessary during interviews this was described as evidence beyond the developed areas, roads, and trails). Most respondents (70%) who were asked this question indicated that they had not seen any evidence of past visitor use. Respondents who had seen such evidence (and some of those who had not) were also asked if the presence or lack of evidence affected their experience in Dyea.

Types of evidence indicating past visitation mentioned by respondents included litter (in the campground, in the fire pits at the campground, along the Chilkoot Trail, and in the Dyea town site), damage to trees in the campground, historical artifacts (along the Chilkoot Trail and in the Dyea town site), horse manure, animal & human tracks, vehicles within the Dyea town site boundary, holes where people had been digging for artifacts, trail erosion along the Chilkoot Trail, and the fire rings at the campground on the Dyea Flats.

**Positive effects from evidence of past use.** A few respondents indicated that evidence of past use had a positive effect on their experience. Examples of such responses include:

Q: "Did you notice any evidence of past visitor use?"

R18: "Well there is that really, really old artifact tin can ... so that's something. There is this old rusted-ass can. It's HISTORIC TRASH!!!!"

Q: "Did that affect your experience?"

R18: "It helps me when I am spieling to my customers." [5.23.04; 1:50 pm; Chilkoot Trail (trailhead); 1: Male]

Q: "Did you notice any evidence of past visitor use?"

R47: *I saw a kitchen sink that apparently had been there for a few decades. Gold Rush people stuff.*

Q: *“Did that affect your experience?”*

R47: *“Yes. Obviously if I saw... you know lots of current bottles and stuff, it would be a little bit different. But in this case it was just things here and there, scattered around.” [7.19.04; 5:05 pm; Cruise Ship Docks; 2: Male/Female]*

Q: *“Did you notice any evidence of past visitor use?”*

R66: *“Just some tracks. Dog tracks, horse tracks.”*

Q: *“Did that affect your experience?”*

R66: *“No, I am glad people are enjoying it. I’m glad that it is here.” [7.21.04; 3:15 pm; Dyea town site; 2: Male/Female]*

**Negative effects from evidence of past use.** Examples of responses from individuals who were negatively impacted by evidence of past visitor use include:

Q: *“Have you seen any evidence of past visitor use?”*

R4: *“You mean like garbage?”*

Q: *“Anything.”*

R4: *“Unfortunately yes, some garbage here and there. Tree cutting. Garbage lying around on the ground. That’s about it I guess.”*

Q: *“Has that affected your experience?”*

R4: *“Well it’s always sad. It’s here even in Canada as well some people don’t care about nature and their garbage. They should pack in and pack out, but I guess it is part of human nature.” [6.22.04; 10:00 am; Campground; 2: Male/Female]*

Q: *“Did you notice any evidence of past visitor use?”*

R24: *“What do you mean?”*

Q: *“Not roads and trails, but the site conditions or litter or anything that might affect your experience.”*

R24: *“Well the campsite is as I would expect it to be. It is a developed campground. That’s okay. And I guess the trails; I’ve found one cigarette butt and one piece of plastic off of someone’s nutrition bar. The trails are pretty clean.”*

Q: *“Did that affect your experience?”*

R24: *“A little. I wish people would pick up after themselves. I mean you can’t go following everyone around and say “hey pick that up” or have a huge fine or something like that; it has to be just part of someone to just have respect for the area and not trash something. I don’t think there is anything anyone can do about that.” [5.24.04; 8:00 pm; Campground; 1: Female]*

Q: *“It sounds like upon your first impression, when you first showed up to this site and saw the garbage, it detracted from your experience. Did you notice any other evidence of past visitor use?”*

R28: "No, it's usually the fire pits. To me that is a lack of education because we wouldn't do it and any camper we know wouldn't do it because we have been told that no that is not how you leave things. In fact it should be cleaner than when we came. And even things like we have a dog, we have doggie bags and even when we are out we still pick up after that dog. You know what I mean? Not that I've seen any feces out here, dog scat, um... to me it goes back to the orientation, they should bring up how important it is that these places be kept clean. You know bear poop is one thing; dog poop is totally another thing." [7.17.04; 11:00 am; Campground; 2: Female/Female]

Q: "Did you notice any evidence of past visitor use?"

R44: "She [NPS Interpretive Ranger] did point out where somebody had been digging somewhere that they shouldn't had been and there was a motorcycle parked out there on Park land, so that showed me somebody had been here."

Q: "Did that affect your experience?"

R44: "That is sad that that happens." [7.18.04; 3:35 pm; Dyea town site; 1: Female]

Q: "Did you notice any evidence of past visitor use?"

R62: "Yea, lots of garbage in the fire pits. Lots of plastic and bottles."

Q: "Did that affect your experience?"

R62: "No it just made me realize that a lot of campers are slobs. Yeah, it was kind of gross. It wasn't that bad, but I am sure if someone from the Park came through every now and then and just checked on these places and did a little mopping up it might help or else part of the introduction being cleaning up after yourselves... I don't know but maybe there is something out there on a sign." [7.21.04; 9:00 am; Campground; 4: 2 Male/ 2 Female]

**Evidence of past use that had no effect.** Responses from individuals who had neutral feelings about seeing evidence of past visitation include:

Q: "Have you noticed any evidence of past visitor use?"

R7: "Trail erosion."

Q: "Has that affected your experience?"

R7: "Not really. I am part of it." [6.22.04; 12:30 pm; Slide Cemetery; 2: Male/Male]

Q: "Have you noticed any evidence of past visitor use?"

R10: "Yes. Glass and campfire pits [City of Skagway Campground on Dyea Flats] that are kind of spread out... burnt logs. Looks like people have come down and made bonfires, not campfires. So you get a lot of the stuff from that... interesting enough not a lot of refuse. You don't see garbage and stuff lying around. No. It's pretty clean that way."

Q: "Has that affected your experience?"

R10: "No, the kids would wear their shoes at any rate." [6.22.04; 1:50 pm; Dyea town site; 2: Male/Female]

Q: "Did you notice any evidence of past visitor use?"

R14: "In the campsite area there is evidence of other people being here previously but nothing, there is not a heavy amount of garbage or other evidence. Just small amounts... no, but we know somebody has been here before." [5.23.04; 10:30 am; Campground; 4: 2 Male 2 Female]

Q: "Did you notice any evidence of past visitor use?"

R34: No, you mean like trash?"

Q: "Anything."

R34: No. Oh there was horse manure."

Q: "Did that affect your experience?"

R34: "It didn't affect my experience, it is just interesting to see that people take the opportunity to come out here and utilize the National Park. That's important." [7.17.04; 3:45 pm; Dyea town site; 2: Male/Female]

Q: "Did you notice any evidence of past visitor use?"

R42: We saw just a tiny bit of trash. It was just a little bit of tissue. In fact we had just mentioned how clean it was and how well kept and it seems like people take care of it and that was nice."

Q: "Did that affect your experience?"

R42: "No." [7.18.04; 1:15 pm; Raft Take Out (Skagway Float Tours); 1: Female]

Q: "Did you notice any evidence of past visitor use?"

R56: "Relative to Dyea, I noticed that there were broken glass bottles, a few, around some of the artifacts but not artifacts. There wasn't a lot, but there was some."

Q: "Did that affect your experience?"

R56: "No, you just wonder why people are such slobs. No, I would say that we haven't had anything that has been negative at all, other than all the people coming off the cruise ships [laughter]." [7.21.04; 8:30 am; Campground; 3: Female/Male/Male]

Q: "Did you notice any evidence of past visitor use?"

R82: "I did notice some garbage on the Chilkoot Trail like on the section we did yesterday I was kind of surprised... toilet paper and some wrappings and things like that. Other than that, not really I guess. It is pretty well preserved." [7.25.04; 9:50 am; Campground; 2: Male/Female]

Q: "Did you notice any evidence of past visitor use?"

R87: "The burn areas where people have been having camps in the

*natural part as well, which is a shame [Dyea Flats campground, but I don't think he knows it is a campground]."*

Q: *"Did that affect your experience?"*

R87: *"It doesn't affect it; it just makes you think they shouldn't be doing it." [7.25.04; 1:50 pm; Dyea town site; 1: Male]*

Q: *"Did you notice any evidence of past visitor use?"*

R89: *"Horse droppings and footprints."*

Q: *"Did that affect your experience?"*

R89: *"Well actually the horses, not down there but seeing them up here, I think I would have liked to have done that. Actually if we had seen that advertised at the hotel we probably would have done that. The tour guide said the horses weren't supposed to be back there. A more interesting, different type of tour would make... that would have been a different way to see it and if we were at the hotel deciding where to go see and saw a horseback tour of Dyea, we would have done that."*

Q: *"Because you enjoy horseback riding?"*

R89: *"Because it would have been a different experience." [7.25.04; 3:20 pm; Dyea town site; 3: Male/Female/Female]*

**Statements about not seeing evidence of past use.** Examples of responses from individuals who did not see any evidence of past visitor use but elaborated on their responses and/or the effects of not seeing any evidence of past visitation on their experience include:

Q: *"Did you notice any evidence of past visitor use?"*

R22: *"It's been kept fairly clean I would say. Certainly the trails are well worn and that kind of thing. But I don't see a lot of evidence of people wondering through the bush and breaking down trees or destroying plants or anything, which is a good thing. [5.23.04; 4:00 pm; Slide Cemetery; 1: Female]*

Q: *"Did you notice any evidence of past visitor use?"*

R25: *"No I think the trail was pretty clean and maintained."*

Q: *"Did that affect your experience?"*

R25: *"The fact that there wasn't any trash and there wasn't an over-abundance of people, we kept the party down to 12 or under, which is part of the wilderness experience. We were able to view some eagles and things like that and I think that is the fact that we did is because we were a small party and we could see eagles. Kind of quiet up and observe a little bit more with such a small party to observe the wildlife." [5.25.04; 11:10 am; Raft Take-out (Chilkat Guides); 1: Female]*

Q: *"Did you notice any evidence of past visitor use?"*

R31: *"No. I would say that it is maintained in that respect." [7.17.04; 2:30 pm; Chilkooot Trail (day hiker, trailhead parking lot); 2:*

Male/Female]

Q: "Did you notice any evidence of past visitor use?"

R38: "You mean things left by other people? No I don't think so. I mean I think it has been pretty good considering the type of site it is and how it has not been all that many years since they have been preserving it and I am sure that before that there was a lot of things removed that might have told the history better, but of course you can't get those back again. Since they have been managing it, I think it has been pretty good." [7.18.04; 10:05 am; Campground; 1: Female]

Q: "Did you notice any evidence of past visitor use?"

R46: "No, they did mention that there was a turn we were taking on the road and they wanted us to swing wide so we wouldn't damage the grassy area that had been damaged in the past by horses, I guess." [7.19.04; 2:15 pm; Cruise Ship Docks; 2: Male/Female]

Q: "Did you notice any evidence of past visitor use?"

R61: "Nope, not yet."

Q: "Did that affect your experience?"

R61: "No. I was looking for a worn out trail and I see some very sharp rock and I was expecting to, with the amount of traffic, I would have seen some wear and tear. Thirty thousand soles with all the carriage they went back and forth. Although that was a hundred years ago." [7.21.04; 11:25 am; Chilkoot Trail (day hikers); 2: Male/Female]

Q: "Did you notice any evidence of past visitor use?"

R69: "No, it was actually pretty clean. That's all I can think of, it was clean and there were wild berries around so you know it wasn't too overrun with people." [7.22.04; 2:30 pm; Sockeye Cycles; 2: Male/Female]

Q: "Did you notice any evidence of past visitor use?"

R78: "I don't think we have been here long enough since we got here late yesterday. It was early evening. So I don't know if we've had a chance to really assess that. It is much more heavily vegetated, forested than I thought based on the reading that I had done, but that was 100 years ago." [7.25.04; 9:00 am; Campground; 2: Male/Female]

#### **A.2.4 Changes to the Character of the Area to Increase the Historical Focus**

Respondents were asked if they would favor changes to the character of the Dyea area to increase the historical focus. Respondents who answered affirmatively were asked to elaborate on what types of changes they would like to see. Many respondents found it

difficult to respond to either the initial question or the follow-up question – asking for examples, appearing confused, or pausing for long periods. In those cases, examples of possible changes were provided (e.g., trails in the Dyea town site that are the width of the original roads, and/or trails in the Dyea town site that follow the original town grid). Respondents who indicated that they did not favor changes, and respondents who did not favor the examples provided were encouraged to elaborate on the reasons why they would not favor any changes.

Due to the complexity of the questions, responses did not fall into simple favor/oppose categories. For example, interviews were coded as: 1) being “in favor” of changes generally but “not in favor” of the examples of changes; 2) “don’t know” in general to changes and “in favor” of the examples of change; and 3) “don’t know” in general to changes and “not in favor” of the examples of changes. Other interviews were coded as “in favor” of some changes and “not in favor” of other changes.

### **Responses in Favor of Changes**

Almost half the respondents were in favor of at least some changes. The most common type of change that respondents favored was an increase in interpretive information, but respondents who favored change often indicated that they only supported changes that would not disturb the natural environment of Dyea.

**Adding more interpretive information.** Examples of responses from groups who favored an increase in the level of interpretive information at Dyea in order to increase the historical focus of the area include:

Q: *“Would you favor changes to the character of this area that focuses on the history.”*

8: *“Probably a little more information but I was hoping to receive information in Skagway about this area.”*

Q: *“So you are hoping that when you go to Skagway, you will learn more about Dyea?”*

R8: *“Yeah. I was asking questions about the area but we didn’t know.” [6.22.04; 1:00 pm; Slide Cemetery; 1: Female]*

Q: *“Would you favor changes to the character of the area that increases the historical focus?”*

R9: *“I don’t understand.”*

Q: *“If the Park did things to enhance the history of the area.... For example, one thing that they are considering doing in the town site is*

opening the trails to the width of the how the roads used to be.”

R9: “To open for the car, you mean?”

Q: “No, so that you can get a sense of what the street felt like, even though there are no buildings.”

R9: “I don’t know, maybe too much is too much too. Sometimes you want to put more thing, but you take away the other part of it... the naturalness and I think that is the more important.”

Q: “So the naturalness is more important to you than the history?”

R9: “Yes, even if I talk about signs... recreate something, no. Just a panel that says take a look and just imagine would be nice.” [6.22.04; 1:15 pm; Slide Cemetery; 2: Female/Female]

Q: “So would you favor some type of changes to the character of the area that would focus on the history?”

R10: “Yes, I guess as long it didn’t disturb what was here. Yeah, I would rather have the natural thing and then just more interpretive signage. Not to start building buildings or something like that.”

Q: “What about opening some areas to the width of the roads the way they used to be, not to allow vehicle access, but to have that sense of what it looked like?”

R10: “I don’t know, I kind of like forest. With all these trees springing up, I think they will have to do some management over time. We were just looking in the area where we are camped and you know there is a lot of little trees and they get big pretty quick. They spread out. Yeah, so it’s going to change the whole area if it is not managed. But on the other hand, I wouldn’t want to see big cleared areas... it’s quite nice the way it is.” [6.22.04; 1:50 pm; Dyea town site; 2: Male/Female]

Q: “Would you favor any changes to the character of the area that would increase its historical focus?”

R22: “That would probably be nice, yup.”

Q: “Anything in particular that you would like to see?”

R22: “You could put up more signage or like the small plaques here by the cemetery. I don’t [know] if there is any way... It’s hard I know with vandalism and the weather conditions in the winter are not ... it would be difficult to keep things up. But if there were just more things that people could read that might be worth while.” [5.23.04; 4:00 pm; Slide Cemetery; 1: Female]

Q: “Would you favor any changes to the character of the area that would increase its historical focus?”

R31: “Yea, I’d like to have more information available in terms of local signs, really well done signs. I’d like more interpretative signs, I love those, those are nice. And sometimes that is the only chance you get to read about it. I think the graveyard has one. Those are worth doing.”

Q: “The Park is also considering some larger scale changes, such as widening some of the trails in the town site to the original road size.

*Not all of them and not for motorized traffic, just for visitors to get a better understanding of what it was like and to help deter social trails that are going over archaeological sites. Would you be in favor of a change like that?"*

*R31: "I would say no. I tend to like the narrow trails, but I guess if that was part of what Dyea looked like at the turn of the century it might be worth looking at. The problem with wide roads, you do encourage traffic, ATVs, um... I think the narrow trails where you can walk gets people out of their cars. So I would encourage them to get out of their cars and walk the area." [7.17.04; 2:30 pm; Chilkoot Trail (trailhead parking lot); 2: Male/Female]*

*Q: "Would you favor any changes to the character of the area that would increase its historical focus?"*

*R42: "Again, just maybe if we had a pamphlet or... you know, but our tour guide was so good. I don't know, maybe if people came up on their own, they would have a lot more questions. But particularly about how the glaciers changed things and how just the water level, how the tide comes in and out so high. Just more information I guess." [7.18.04; 1:15; Raft Take-out (Skagway Float Tours); 1: Female]*

*Q: "Would you favor any changes to the character of the area that would increase its historical focus?"*

*R47: "More signs just pointing out areas that were particular things. Not that the guides don't like answering questions, but some historical site signs. ... [Unintelligible due to wind and helicopters]... so if you were out there you could see the significance of it." [7.19.04; 5:05 pm; Cruise Ship Docks; 2: Male/Female]*

*Q: "Would you favor any changes to the character of the area that would increase its historical focus?"*

*R56: "Oh yea, I think as long as it doesn't detract from the environmental aspect of things, if something could be done as they say... people who would have ideas on that are probably better to talk to... if they could recreate something similar to what was here in the Dyea area, even the Main St.... you can see all kinds of pictures as to what the main street looked like, if they could recreate that even in town [Skagway], but not in the Dyea town site. More interpretive signs at the site. Interpretive signs would be worthwhile. I don't know we haven't been out to the tidal flats, but I've got the picture book and I'll take that with me because some of the pictures are showing what it is like and the only thing that is the same now are the mountains. So the interpretive information I find very worthwhile, and you don't want to overdo that, but there could probably be a little more information there. You know one thing I find that for somebody who came here and did not go on the ranger tour, they wouldn't have a clue to what was going on in the Dyea town site and again the ranger was really good at*

*explaining that and in my own case I knew a little bit about what was there but I was not prepared for the fact that forest had replaced the whole Dyea town site tidal area or whatever it was and that some kind of explanation of what people are going to find relative to what it was like a hundred and seven years ago would be very worthwhile. When you wander into town [Skagway] you see the Muscat saloon and soapy smiths building and the icehouse that they are putting in, if they were to take one of the pictures from the 1898 thing and say okay we are going to set aside one street in town and recreate something there so people can get some idea of what things were like and then they come out to the Dyea town site, I think that would be very worthwhile.”*

Q: *“One example the Park is considering doing is widening some of the paths through the town site or putting part of the old road grid into trails, not so that vehicles can access the town site, but just so you can get a better perspective of what the town site was like and discourage social trails from forming over the archaeological sites. Would you be in a favor of a change like that?”*

R56: *“I wouldn’t do it. To me it is nice to see the land sort of heal itself and take things back again and I am sure whoever is in charge of that can manage that well enough so that people can wonder around and experience things and get some perspective, especially with the park person. If they wanted to do something like that I would probably do it in town [Skagway] and find an area where they can really do that well.”*  
[7.21.04; 8:30 am; Campground; 3: Female/Male/Male]

Q: *“Would you favor any changes to the character of the area that would increase its historical focus?”*

R61: *“No, I don’t think I would. Well we did a lot of reading before we got here but some people may not know much about it. I know in the Yukon they have lots of... if you look around there are a lot of interpretive signs. But we did a months worth of reading before we got here in the RV every night, so we read the books and the whole bit. But still I found the stuff useful in the Yukon because you read a lot.”*

Q: *“So you would like to see a few more interpretive signs?”*

R61: *“Yes, I think that would be nice at the bottom of the trail because you don’t want to intrude too much on the natural beauty of the place with the interpretive signs.”* [7.21.04; 11:25 am; Chilkoot Trail (day hikers); 2: Male/Female]

Q: *“Would you favor any changes to the character of the area that would increase its historical focus?”*

R66: *“I don’t think so because you don’t want anything commercial out here. I wouldn’t do anything commercial but if there was more... If you didn’t have a ranger, maybe just more interpretive signs, because those are always real interesting to read. If you are walking along, being able to learn if there were things to tell about. They would have to have information to do a sign, if they didn’t have information....”*

*Maybe you could stand there where we were standing and have a sign that said that is where the pilings used to be and that the tide used to come up this high because glacier period sunk the earth.” [21.04; 3:15 pm; Dyea town site; 2: Male/Female]*

Q: *“Would you favor any changes to the character of the area that would increase its historical focus?”*

R71: *“Um, I think that perhaps maybe ... uh... a little museum or something to that affect so that if you are a visitor you can read about the information right there and then you will see it as you walk, bike, or ride your horse.” [7.22.04; 5:05 pm; Cruise Ship Dock; 1: Female]*

Q: *“Would you favor any changes to the character of the area that would increase its historical focus?”*

R74: *“I think probably the signs would help a lot. I mean signage where people drive to”.*

Q: *“One example the Park is considering doing is widening some of the paths through the town site or putting part of the old road grid into trails, not so that vehicles can access the town site, but just so you can get a better perspective of what the town site was like and discourage social trails from forming over the archaeological sites. Would you be in a favor of a change like that?”*

R74: *“No.” [7.23.04; 10:45 am; Dyea town site; 2: Male/Female]*

Q: *“Would you favor any changes to the character of the area that would increase its historical focus?”*

R81: *“I guess I ... overemphasize the historical focus but it is a campground where you are supposed to camp so I think there is a balance there. It was interesting to see that they had talks, like last night, which is a very good thing for a lot of the other people. We missed it.”*

Q: *“One example the Park is considering doing is putting part of the old road grid into trails, not so that vehicles can access the town site, but just so you can get a better perspective of what the town site was like and discourage social trails from forming over the archaeological sites. Would you be in a favor of a change like that?”*

R81: *“That would be kind of interesting. And I think even signage, I can’t remember what is over there because it has been a long time since I have been over there. People don’t notice what is there off-hand, sometimes there needs to be a sign with it because there is a lot of neat stuff over there. And I find also the photos or the impressions of the old town or even when you go out to the Chilkoot the impression of what it was like then. I think there is a tremendous value with that because I think many people that come to the area have no idea how many people used to live here. And that may be an interesting ... something like that on this side to let people know that this was a city. A lot of people don’t know that.” [7.25.04; 9:35 am; Campground; 4:*

Females]

Q: "Would you favor any changes to the character of the area that would increase its historical focus?"

R87: "Not particularly, unless it is something that is worth excavating and archaeologically digging up. Really it is going to spoil it rather than do any good to it."

Q: "One example the Park is considering doing is putting part of the old road grid into trails, not so that vehicles can access the town site, but just so you can get a better perspective of what the town site was like and discourage social trails from forming over the archaeological sites. Would you be in a favor of a change like that?"

R87: "You don't want to knock all the trees out. Maybe lay out the main street. There is obviously one down there, which you can see where there is a road sign on it but that is a fairly obvious thing. The Main Street one would be... maybe with little signs that said 'this was so and so' or 'this was a shop' or 'this was a warehouse' or 'this was a store' or 'this was a blacksmith' or something like that would be interesting but it really doesn't do anything to the ecology the way it is nowadays. It would spoil it in the fact that you have actually got new ecology here and to put something back over the top of it wouldn't do any good in any case." [7.25.04; 1:50 pm; Dyea town site; 1: Male]

Q: "Would you favor any changes to the character of the area that would increase its historical focus?"

R88: "Sure, if you have got more to point out. I mean it is fairly rustic as it is but I think it is pretty nice the way it is."

Q: "One example the Park is considering doing is putting part of the old road grid into trails, not so that vehicles can access the town site, but just so you can get a better perspective of what the town site was like and discourage social trails from forming over the archaeological sites. Would you be in a favor of a change like that?"

R88: "I actually think it is just interesting seeing how the trees have overtaken the town." [7.25.04; 3:10 pm; Dyea town site; 1: Male]

**Expanding trails to road width.** Example statements from respondents who indicated that they would favor road-width trails to increase the historical focus of Dyea include:

Q: "Would you favor any changes to the character of the area that would increase its historical focus?"

R15: "Yes."

Q: "Anything in particular that you would like to see more of out here?"

R15: "A little more information and uh... you know... especially in the historic town site if you could see ... I have trouble picturing that ... if

there was more information of how it stood and what it looked like. “

Q: “Would you be in favor of the trails in there being expanding to the original width of the roads in there.”

R15: “Yes.” [5.23.04; 11:00 am; Campground; 1: Female]

Q: “Would you favor any changes to the character of the area that would increase its historical focus?”

R23: “Sure that would be fine with me.”

Q: “Anything in particular, such as the trails in the town site being expanding to the original street widths so you can see where some of the streets were?”

R23: “Oh yeah, that would be a good idea.”

Q: “What about reconstruction to buildings?”

R23: “No, I wouldn’t go that far.”

Q: “So there is a limit to what you would like to see?”

R23: “Um, huh.” [5.23.04; 4:30 pm; Slide Cemetery; 2: Male/Female]

Q: “Would you favor any changes to the character of the area that would increase its historical focus?”

R35: “I am afraid I don’t have any suggestions of what you can do. No.”

Q: “One example the Park is considering doing is widening some of the paths through the town site or putting part of the old road grid into trails, not so that vehicles can access the town site, but just so you can get a better perspective of what the town site was like and discourage social trails from forming over the archaeological sites. Would you be in a favor of a change like that?”

R35: “Well yeah, that might be pretty good idea but how do you keep people out of archaeological sites. I’ve poked around a number of archaeological sites in the four-corners area. They attempt to keep people out, but how do you do it? But expanding the trails certainly would do no harm.” [7.17.04; 4:00 pm; Dyea town site; 1: Male]

Q: “Would you favor any changes to the character of the area that would increase its historical focus?”

R39: “I don’t know. I noticed... it seems like there are more trails. I don’t know if it is just because the weather has been more favorable this time so we are paying more attention. But there are trails right here and along the way out to Dyea there is one to AB Mountain. And I don’t know if I noticed any of that last time we were here. And they have pamphlets now.

Q: I know that you haven’t been over to the town site yet, but it is a 2nd generation forest over the old site and one example the Park is considering doing is widening some of the paths through the town site or putting part of the old road grid into trails, not so that vehicles can access the town site, but just so you can get a better perspective of what the town site was like and discourage social trails from forming

over the archaeological sites. Would you be in a favor of a change like that?"

R39: "That would be good as far as preserving it so you can at least get an idea."

Q: "The trade-off would be removing trees, would you still favor it?"

R39: "The archaeological history is more important. I think it is worthwhile as long as you don't clear cut it. To be able to see more of the history would be good." [7.18.04; 10:25 am; Campground; 1: Male]

**Expanding trails over the historical road grid.** Other respondents indicated that they would favor a trail system over the historical road grid in Dyea to increase the historical focus. Examples of these responses include:

Q: "Would you favor any changes to the character of the area that would increase its historical focus?"

R29: "No. If they could restore some of the things that they have there. They have the store front, I don't know what else is there that they could restore."

Q: "An example the Park is considering is widening the trails to the old streets so that you could see what that is like but not for vehicle access."

R29: "So like laying out the grid system again?"

Q: "Yes."

R29: "I don't think the entire grid system, but just... [End of side of tape]... It's very peaceful and quiet and it's hard to imagine that there was 10,000 people in there and all their stuff. But if you are just a tourist to see something, there really is only two or three things that you could see. So I don't know if there is a lot of things there that they know about and could take the vegetation off and expose or add to enhance it." [7.17.04; 11:35 am; Picnic Area, 2: Female/Male]

Q: "One thing the Park is considering doing is widening some of the paths through the town site or putting part of the old road grid into trails, not so that vehicles can access the town site, but just so you can get a better perspective of what the town site was like and discourage social trails from forming over the archaeological sites. Would you be in a favor of a change like that?"

R64: "For instance, if there is trails that would coincide with the old roads that you would have the idea that this graveyard of an old city this way. I'm not so sure it is a Park. This Park could be anywhere; it doesn't have to be Dyea because there is nothing here. Okay, we walked through the woods on a trail and found a metal band with a heavy nail, which is an indication that this is an old... this is something somebody left but this is one little piece and we happened to cut across. If we hadn't cut across we wouldn't even have come across this. I think it would be more interesting if it could have more a

*feeling... Skagway, we left Skagway because it is so full of tourists that are everywhere... it's horrible and you come out here but you miss this feeling, it's a beautiful country, it's a beautiful forest, it's a beautiful park and it is nothing more than that. You miss the feeling that this is a dead city." [7.21.04; 1:40 pm; Dyea town site; 1: Female]*

Q: "Would you favor any changes to the character of the area that would increase its historical focus?"

R76: "Do you mean like adding tours?"

Q: "One example the Park is considering doing is widening some of the paths through the town site or putting part of the old road grid into trails, not so that vehicles can access the town site, but just so you can get a better perspective of what the town site was like and discourage social trails from forming over the archaeological sites. Would you be in a favor of a change like that?"

R76: "Well maybe that but I don't think I would like to see that over the whole area but just a certain amount to show an example of what it was like. Like maybe one block or something. One little spot that you could see to have an idea. Shouldn't have a big impact... it looks like there are lots of blocks there so there would be lots left over that are untouched." [7.23.04; 2:00 pm; Chilkoot Trailhead (day hikers); 2: Male/Female]

**Reconstruction or restoration.** Some respondents said that they would like to see different types of reconstruction and/or restoration to increase the historical focus of Dyea. Examples of these responses include:

Q: "Would you favor any changes to the character of the area that would increase its historical focus?"

R53: "As long as it wasn't commercialized. Maybe if ... by recreating something it would enhance the visit for people. Like the historical cemetery in Skagway. Maybe if they were to... never having seen it I don't know... but maybe if they were to maybe maintain it or clean it up maybe that would give people more of a.... it's like going to see the Alamo and if you've never seen the Alamo and you go to San Antonio, you say, 'Huh! What? I drove all this way for THIS?' Maybe some people drive all this way and see trees and say, 'well I've seen trees before,' but I don't know." [7.20.04; 1:35 pm; Chilkoot Trail (backpacker, on trail .5 miles); 1: Male]

Q: "Would you favor any changes to the character of the area that would increase its historical focus?"

R69: "I can't think of anything... well they've got some signs up for your information and they have done a pretty good job on that... that one shed is kind of worn down, the warehouse, they could do a little more to make that look like it was a building ... and it surprises me how

*much of the trees grow back... you can't really picture it because it was all clear-cut in those days and now its pretty much forest, you can't even see the mountain. So I don't know if that would help or not. I'm not advocating clear-cutting. It just looks very different, you can't picture it the way it was." [7.22.04; 2:30 pm; Sockeye Cycles; 2: Male/Female]*

Q: *"Would you favor any changes to the character of the area that would increase its historical focus?"*

R83: *"No, not unless they maybe build back the boardwalk that used to be at one time and run river tours up here where you could walk up the boardwalk to the old town of Dyea or whatever, you know." [7.25.04; 10:45 am; Chilkoot Trail (day hikers, trailhead); 4: Male/Male/Female/Female]*

**Change without disturbing nature.** Examples from respondents who favored changes to the character of the Dyea to increase the historical focus as long as the changes did not disturb the natural environment include:

Q: *"Would you favor any changes to the character of the area that would increase its historical focus?"*

R16: *"Oh sure. Anything that enriches it, but not pollutes it. Verbally or physically."*

Q: *"So not major changes?"*

R16: *"No, I don't think major changes in the way of concrete or anything like that, just the subtle nuances that make going into an untouched land as this more fulfilling. You don't want it to turn into like 'Frontier Land' in Florida or anything like that."*

Q: *"What might be an example of a subtle nuance?"*

R16: *"I think with the area being rich in not only the Gold Rush, but the 1st Nations history, probably... I noticed that there was a walking tour that goes past... maybe at the end of they could teach them how to make banek or something like that... you know... a little ... an elder maybe... get the tour involved in making rosehip jam or Indian ice cream is easy as well, just little things like that. Maybe the tour guide could dress up in period costume. Just little things. Nothing commercial at all." [5.23.04; 11:25 am; Campground; 1: Female]*

Q: *"Would you favor any changes to the character of the area that would increase its historical focus?"*

R62: *"Probably would be in favor of that because I think it is kind of neat to learn about the story, the history of the area and yeah, I think it would be fine as long as it didn't have huge impacts on the trails and how they look." [7.21.04; 11:50 am; Chilkoot Trail (day-hikers); 2: Female/Male]*

### Responses Opposing Changes to Dyea

About two-thirds of respondents were opposed to at least some changes. Respondents who were not in favor of changes commonly mentioned that they would like to see the management of Dyea remain as it is currently. Other respondents indicated that they wanted Dyea to remain natural and wanted to let nature continue to heal itself (i.e., forest regeneration over the Dyea town site).

**General opposition to change.** Examples from respondents who indicated a general opposition to any changes in the character of Dyea that would increase its historical focus include:

Q: *“Would you favor any changes to the character of the area that would increase its historical focus?”*

R50: *“Probably not, because information was at the trailhead about what they had to do ... and I think if you’re inundated with it, it would take away from the true effect of them hiking up the Pass with a thousand pounds of materials.” [7.20.04; 11:20 am; Raft Takeout (Chilkat Guides); 2: Male/Female]*

Q: *“Would you favor any changes to the character of the area that would increase its historical focus?”*

R85: *“No. Don’t turn it into Skagway, we don’t want that. Skagway is fine, but two wouldn’t be. Keep the one.” [7.25.04; 11:40 am; Chilkoot Trailhead; 3: Male/Female/Female]*

Q: *“Would you favor any changes to the character of the area that would increase its historical focus?”*

R86: *“No I don’t think so because the museum is back in town and people can look at the presentations there and everything is done very well there and leave that back in town. We can get our education there and come out here and get our exposure.” [7.25.04; 12:10 pm; Chilkoot Trail (day hiker, trailhead); 1: Male]*

**Favoring the natural environment in Dyea.** Some respondents explained that they were opposed to any changes to the character of Dyea that would increase its historical focus because they valued the naturalness of the environment. Examples of these responses include:

Q: *“Would you favor any changes to the character of the area that would increase its historical focus?”*

R14: *“I don’t know. It depends on what that means. If that means more development, then probably not. If that means further human encroachment on the area, then no. Because that means higher fees. It is five dollars to camp, which is great because that means anyone*

can come and enjoy it. That's important. No I think things are pretty much fine the way that they are. I would hate to see it turn into a Gold Rush theme park, which is what we are getting in Skagway and I would hate to see more development here. I like the fact that there is a gravel road coming out here because it deters a lot of people coming out and I think if it just turned into another subdivision of Skagway as it were or another focus of tours and things coming from Skagway then I think it would really start to impact upon the area. If it was easier for people to drive out here, even though the road is not bad. Again, if it involves more humans in the area, then no, I am not in favor of it."

Q: "I know one thing that they have mentioned for people who aren't quite sure what that means is opening up the width of the trail in the historic town site to the width of the road that used to be there... the actual grid of the roads."

R14: "No, because I don't really see any particular need for that unless they want vehicle access which would destroy it."

Q: "They do not want vehicle access; they want people to have the feel of what the town felt like."

R14: "No, I don't see any real need for that. I think as long as maintaining trails that allow you to be able to explore the town site but not recreating something... not having what was there...turn it back into what it was." [5.23.04; 10:30 am; Campground; 4: 2 Male 2 Female]

Q: "Would you favor any changes to the character of the area that would increase its historical focus?"

R26: "No."

Q: "Why not?"

R26: "I like to see the landscape the way it is... the way nature intended it to be." [5.25.04; 11:15 am; Raft Take-out; 1: Female]

Q: "Would you favor any changes to the character of the area that would increase its historical focus?"

R30: "...pause..."

Q: "Would you like me to give you an example?"

R30: "Okay."

Q: "One of the things the Park is considering doing is widening some of the paths through the town site, not so that vehicles can access the town site, but just so you can get a better perspective of what the town site was like."

R30: "No, I can't say that something like that would have... would change the perspective for me. You know, I think you either have to have a good imagination and have read about the area and the history to really envision it or you just can't. And even with what remains, I can't really... I'm not very good... I don't have a vivid imagination. It doesn't really do all that much to me. You know, I see the remnants and say "oh, they're a hundred years old". It's not a big deal to me. So

*making it more obvious wouldn't do that much for me unless it was a recreated little town site, but that would be the only thing that would do it for me. And that I really wouldn't want anyway because that would just take away from it. Because I think this really should be more of a really natural area and there really shouldn't be a lot of improvements."* [7.17.04; 1:10 pm; Dyea Flats; 2: Female/Female]

Q: "Would you favor any changes to the character of the area that would increase its historical focus?"

R38: "I don't want to see it be commercial. I think it is natural the way it is. And I think they have to tell the story the way it is."

Q: "One example the Park is considering doing is widening some of the paths through the town site or putting part of the old road grid into trails, not so that vehicles can access the town site, but just so you can get a better perspective of what the town site was like and discourage social trails from forming over the archaeological sites. Would you be in a favor of a change like that?"

R38: "I think it might show the town site better, you might get a better view of what the town site looked like and I know people wander off on other trails over things if things aren't wide enough or going... but then you've got the problem of when you are not supervising it, what's going to go on that road when you are not supervising it. I think I have to think about what the value... what the positive value would be versus the negative value." [7.18.04; 10:05 am; Campground; 1: Female]

Q: "Would you favor any changes to the character of the area that would increase its historical focus?"

R82: "I think leave it as it is. It is so beautiful the way that is and it leaves it to your own imagination to think of what it would have been like and there is the odd thing on the trail we noticed... there was an old army truck door and there is an old cabinet part of the way up the trail. I like it that way. I think too many of our National Parks have ... they've built big hotels at them and really developed them and I think it has taken away from the ... I guess the history of the area somewhat because it detracts from it. We noticed that the trail was quite busy, so I can imagine that it would be even more busy if there was more development." [7.25.04; 9:50 am; Campground; 2: Male/Female]

**Forest regeneration.** Some respondents' explanations of why they did not favor changes to the character of the area indicated that they placed a high value on the natural processes of forest regeneration. Examples of these responses include:

Q: "Would you favor any changes to the character of the area that would increase its historical focus?"

R34: "The area is going to change naturally. In respect to what she said earlier, the natural environment is changing, it is going to cover

over whatever Dyea truly was in the past and the only [part] that can actually be preserved is the history of it in story. So I would not favor changes to Dyea. [other respondent] No I wouldn't change it either, because you would have to cut down all the trees, then you would have to excavate it and prop up buildings that you don't have the ... there's not enough of them left to restore them. [other respondent] Well what I think would be interesting would be to have sort of a diorama... at least an image of what the town looked like so when you saw the different areas you had an understanding in your mind exactly where it was in relation to the other buildings that were there. [other respondent] That's the same thing like I said, more interpretive signs. Maybe, yeah, that would be an idea [diorama] of what the town looked like as a whole in probably the parking lot area." [7.17.04; 3:45 pm; Dyea town site; 2: Male/Female]

Q: "Would you favor any changes to the character of the area that would increase its historical focus?"

R80: "Such as?"

Q: "One example the Park is considering doing is widening some of the paths through the town site or putting part of the old road grid into trails, not so that vehicles can access the town site, but just so you can get a better perspective of what the town site was like and to discourage social trails from forming over the archaeological sites. Would you be in a favor of a change like that?"

R80: "No. Leave it the way it is. By keeping it that way it keeps the feel of history down there whereas if you add modernization it kind of takes away from it. I don't think it would be as cool. In the old town site there is the False Front and you walk along there and there is the old, I guess they call it Main St., and the trees are lined up... it looks COOL because the trees are starting to grow over, but as soon as you add modernization it's not going to be cool anymore." [7.25.04; 9:20 am; Campground; 1: Male]

**Keeping Dyea the same.** Respondents also indicated that they would prefer the character of Dyea to remain the same rather than change to increase the historical focus. Examples of these responses include:

Q: "Would you favor any changes to the character of the area that would increase its historical focus?"

R18: "Like I said, I am not that interested in the cultural history really so that wouldn't affect me too much. More information is always cool but I probably only half read it. I say just leave it alone." [5.23.04; 1:50 pm; Chilkoot Trail (day hiker, trailhead); 1: Male]

Q: "Would you favor any changes to the character of the area that would increase its historical focus?"

R21: *“Not really. It’s better left just the way it is. It was quite a well, tragic site in the early years... so the more things you do to enhance it or what some people call enhancement is going to detract from the normal site I think.” [5.23.03; 3:45 pm; Slide Cemetery; 1: Male]*

Q: *“Would you favor any changes to the character of the area that would increase its historical focus?”*

R32: *“Oh, I uh... No, I don’t think they should change it in order to make that happen. No.”*

Q: *“One example the Park is considering doing is widening some of the paths through the town site, not so that vehicles can access the town site, but just so you can get a better perspective of what the town site was like and discourage social trails from forming over the archaeological sites. Would you be in a favor of a change like that?”*

R32: *“Um, I don’t think it is necessary to widen the roads. The pictures the Ranger had and the pictures on these display signs, if you have any imagination at all you can stand there and go “Wow, imagine a hundred years ago this was a big wide road.” And it is almost more fun to use your imagination. It’s like reading a book versus watching TV. And the other thing they are thinking of doing to protect the archaeological sites. I noticed a few of those. I certainly wouldn’t be in favor of widening the pathways to stop that. I think the widening would be much worse than the social paths.” [7.17.04; 3:00 pm; Dyea town site; 1: Male]*

Q: *“Would you favor any changes to the character of the area that would increase its historical focus?”*

R36: *“No.”*

Q: *“Any reason why not?”*

R36: *“Just the way it is, it has its own beauty, just the way it is. Flawed perhaps, but it is so beautiful.”*

Q: *“Flawed, how so?”*

R36: *“I didn’t mean to say it was flawed... I mean, you know, it’s perhaps imperfect because nature isn’t perfect.” [7.17.04; 5:50 pm; Raft Take Out (Skagway Float Tours); 1: Male]*

Q: *“Would you favor any changes to the character of the area that would increase its historical focus?”*

R41: *“Not necessarily, I think part of the history is just where it is right now and not like building it up or anything. I think it is just maintaining it as is or as it has been rather than trying to recreate it. I think it is fine.” [7.18.04; 12:30 pm; Chilkoot Trail (day hikers, trailhead parking lot); 2: Male/Female]*

Q: *“Would you favor any changes to the character of the area that would increase its historical focus?”*

R48: *“No. I think it is fine just how it is. I enjoy little signs or brochures*

*or whatever that point out where certain things are. Like last year when we walked around in the old Dyea town site we had a brochure and it was interesting to locate those points and look at what was left and get a lay of what the town looks like. I think it is fine how it is, although... if you had... if I knew more about what the changes were I could answer better.”*

Q: *“One example the Park is considering doing is widening some of the paths through the town site or putting part of the old road grid into trails, not so that vehicles can access the town site, but just so you can get a better perspective of what the town site was like and discourage social trails from forming over the archaeological sites. Would you be in a favor of a change like that?”*

R48: *“I guess that would be ... I guess I wouldn't care one way or the other. I enjoy just looking as it is without being changed around to emphasize ... I mean it is real natural right now and I enjoy seeing it as it is a hundred years later as well as any.” [7.20.04; 9:00 am; Campground, 1: Male]*

Q: *“Would you favor any changes to the character of the area that would increase its historical focus?”*

R55: *“No. I wouldn't. I'd leave it like it is. And I like that they ask you to leave it like it is up there where there are a bunch of artifacts lying around up. I like that and I think people should leave that alone.” [7.20.04; 3:00 pm; Chilkoot Trail (thru-hikers, .6 miles); 2: Male/Male]*

Q: *“Would you favor any changes to the character of the area that would increase its historical focus?”*

R90: *“Hmm... well, you know it would be interesting to see more of how that little town was out there but if that is all that is left, why recreate it? You know, that store front kind of tells the story. No, I would just leave it the way it is ... just keep it up. Keep up the good work.” [7.26.04; 11:15 am; Sockeye Cycles; 3: Female/Female/Male]*

### **Responses Indicating Indifference or Uncertainty about Changes**

Some respondents indicated that they neither favored nor opposed changes in the character of Dyea that would increase the historical focus. Some such respondents felt changes were of no particular importance to them, others weren't certain how those changes would affect the current experiences in Dyea, and some felt they did not have enough first-hand experience in the area to take a position. Examples of these responses include:

Q: *“Would you be in favor of the Park focusing more on the historical content of the area and enhancing it so that the history is more obvious.”*

R13: *"I am not against that. It wouldn't do a lot for me, but I can see that the people that ...the large number of people are people that come on the cruise ships from down south, and I can see that for them it would mean a lot. I would be open to that, I wouldn't be opposed, but it wouldn't do much for me if that would happen."* [6.23.04; 10:30 am; Campground; 1: Male]

Q: *"Would you favor any changes to the character of the area that would increase its historical focus?"*

R19: *"Yes, but I like the fact that you can actually get in and walk around and be part of it rather than seeing it from a far. So yes to a degree, but if it was overly protected I think you would have less connection though because if you had to see it from afar rather than walking up to it."* [5.23.04; 3:10 pm; Slide Cemetery; 1: Female]

Q: *"Would you favor any changes to the character of the area that would increase its historical focus?"*

R27: *"I don't know what that would be."*

Q: *"I can give you an example."*

R27: *"Okay."*

Q: *"Currently in the town site there are some trails, some wider than others, and they are considering expanding the trails to the width of the original roads, not for motor vehicle access, but for an appreciation of what the road looked like when the town was there."*

R27: *"Well, I think Dyea was more important than Skagway for quite a while, so something that could... whatever it is out there... that could remind people of an image of what that might have been like. I don't know what that may be. Being a historic site. Yeah, I don't know how that could be within the framework of a historic site."* [7.17.04; 10:30 am; Campground; 1: Male]

Q: *"Would you favor any changes to the character of the area that would increase its historical focus?"*

R40: *"That might be interesting, however I haven't been up to the old town site yet, so I can't really answer that, but that would be interesting."* [7.18.04; 12:00 pm; Chilkoot Trail (trailhead parking lot); 1: Male]

Q: *"Would you favor any changes to the character of the area that would increase its historical focus? One example the Park is considering doing is widening some of the paths through the town site or putting part of the old road grid into trails, not so that vehicles can access the town site, but just so you can get a better perspective of what the town site was like and discourage social trails from forming over the archaeological sites. Would you be in a favor of a change like that?"*

R43: *"I mean it makes some kind of sense. [other person]... I'm*

*suspicious of change. I'm suspicious of Park Service change.”*  
[7.18.04; 3:00 pm; Slide Cemetery; 2: Male/Female]

Q: *“Would you favor any changes to the character of the area that would increase its historical focus?”*

R54: *“See, I don't know if I would necessarily favor or not favor, it would change it but then maybe like a different kind of people would visit. I think something that might benefit it would be like an interpretive center at the trailhead, where you can learn about it and people who are not as able can walk in a mile or two and do their thing and for people who want to hike the whole thing, kind of keep going. I think that would increase the historical feel. Like that 1st little bit, while you realize it's not much of anything, for people who are... it's discouraging for people who aren't able.... But I think that gives them a really good taste for what the whole thing might have been like a hundred years ago and so I think even just giving that opportunity for them, little day trips or little guided tours, I think that would be very beneficial.”*

[7.20.04; 2:35 pm; Chilkoot Trail (thru-hikers, 1.5 miles); 2: Male/Female]

Q: *“Would you favor any changes to the character of the area that would increase its historical focus?”*

R57: *“For instance, like what?”*

Q: *“One example the Park is considering doing is widening some of the paths through the town site or putting part of the old road grid into trails, not so that vehicles can access the town site, but just so you can get a better perspective of what the town site was like and discourage social trails from forming over the archaeological sites. Would you be in a favor of a change like that?”*

R57: *“That sounds cool as long as... like we are from Juneau and we see a lot of development that happens and the next thing you know you have people doing horse-drawn carriages, bike trips. I think the Park should be managed for people not for commercial users. I am concerned about helicopter noise; I am concerned about bike tours coming through Dyea... I mean it is nice to have walking tours because that is less impact. When we pulled up there were like 6 vans from Chilkat Guides and apparently they hike the trail with you, right, and then float down the area. Now, see that kind of stuff can just overwhelm an experience. In Juneau, commercial guiding trips can get... well I think the Forest Service and the Park Service give too many permits out that wreck the experience for normal people, non-paying customers. So that is something that in planning and in consideration the Park Service should keep in mind. I think more interpretive services would be nice. I don't know what they have over in Dyea. I don't know how much of this is National Park land. Dyea is all National Park land? There are private in-holdings right?”* [7.21.04; 9:00 am; Campground; 4: 2 Male 2 Female]

Q: *“Would you favor any changes to the character of the area that would increase its historical focus?”*

R60: *“I don’t know we have really had time to appreciate what is there. I don’t think we have seen it there.” [7.21.04; 11:00 am; Chilkoot Trail (thru-hikers, 2 miles); 2 Male/Female]*

### **A.2.5 Campground Attributes, Positive and Negative**

Respondents visiting the campground in Dyea were asked during the interviews about their most and least favorite campground attributes. Responses to these questions were varied and respondents mentioned a wide variety of features.

#### **Favorite Campground Attributes**

Favorite campground attributes that were commonly mentioned included the campsites, the naturalness, the primitiveness, the remoteness, the peacefulness, and the price. Attributes of the Dyea campground that were the favorites of only one or two respondents included the Park Rangers, the new toilet, the historical significance, viewing the Chilkoot thru-hikers’ preparations, the scenic view from the picnic area parking lot, the bear-pole, and the evening interpretive programs.

**Descriptions of favorite attributes.** Examples from respondents who provided more elaborate explanations of their favorite attributes include:

Q: *“What is your favorite thing about this campground?”*

R5: *“The peace and quiet. It’s a private campground...like all the campsites are far enough apart that you are not imposing on anyone else.”*

Q: *“What do you like least about the campground?”*

R5: *“I couldn’t say I like anything least.” [6.22.04; 10:30 am; Campground; 1: Male]*

Q: *“What is your favorite thing about this campground?”*

R4: *“I guess it’s that we are close to the sea and the beach. It’s like maybe 15 minutes bike to go down or maybe 5 minutes in the car and there we are on the beach, which is great.”*

Q: *“Is there anything that you don’t like about the campground?”*

R4: *“No, I think it is okay. It’s quiet it’s nice. People are friendly and mostly on vacation so we talk. It’s very relaxing, it’s very quiet.” [6.22.04; 10:00 am; Campground; 2: Male/Female]*

Q: *“What is your favorite thing about this campground?”*

R13: *"The beauty of the setting and the place where it is. It is just a gorgeous spot. The river and the mountains all around...still snow, and the ocean close by... I think that's....I really appreciate that."*

Q: *"So the river and the mountains really create the beauty of the campground for you?"*

R13: *"Yes."*

Q: *"Being near the river."*

R13: *"Yes."* [6.23.04; 10:30 am; Campground; 1: Male]

Q: *"What was your favorite thing about the campground?"*

R14: *"How peaceful it is. The peacefulness and the quiet. In particular the walk-in campsites, those have always been my favorite. The peaceful and sort of primitive aspect where you are able to come here without feeling like there is going to be a huge fee charge and there is... you are going to be in a managed area. It feels like a nice natural place to camp."* [5.23.04; 10:30 am; Campground; 4: 2 Male 2 Female]

Q: *"What is your favorite thing about the campground?"*

R28: *"My favorite thing is the Park Ranger. Um... I feel more secure with him there. I feel safer. I have camped in campgrounds where bears have actually come right into the campground. I myself prefer not to handle a gun, I can, I know how, I have taken all the courses. It's just a whole safer experience with a Park Ranger in case anything gets rowdy or whatever. That I can bring my family here and my family is safe and my girls can go hiking or whatever and to me that Park Ranger is all important."* [7.17.04; 11:00 am; Campground; 2: Female/Female]

Q: *"What would you say is your favorite thing about this campground?"*

R39: *"Probably just a chance to see all the backpackers getting ready to go. Like, we aren't leaving until tomorrow so it is kind of neat to sit back and have coffee and watch all the backpackers get ready to go on the trail and then them walking by. They're all excited about heading out. Excited or reluctant, it's hard to say."* [7.18.04; 10:25 am; Campground; 1: Male]

Q: *"What is your favorite thing about the campground?"*

R40: *"Well there [are] natural barriers of trees between the campsites. I like a little bit of privacy. That's nice."* [7.18.04; 12:00 pm; Chilkooot Trail (trailhead parking lot); 1: Male]

Q: *"What is your favorite thing about the campground?"*

R41: *"The river parking lot. I love looking out and seeing the glacier from the parking lot where the Chilkooot parking is."* [7.18.04; 12:30 pm; Chilkooot Trail (day hikers, trailhead parking lot); 2: Male/Female]

Q: "What is your favorite thing about the campground?"

R56: "Probably the price. Five dollars a night it is GREAT! The spot is beautiful. We saw any number of sites that would be excellent. I wish we had more time to explore the area here, but maybe we will the next time we come back." [7.21.04; 8:30 am; Campground; 3: Female/Male/Male]

Q: "What is your favorite thing about the campground?"

R57: "I love it. It is beautiful. The big trees. These little walk-in tent sites is really a nice touch. So you are not right next to the road, yeah, that is... I haven't seen a lot of other campgrounds with it."

Q: "What do you like least about the campground besides the lack of water?"

R57: "Kids [laughter], my kids. That bear-pole over there is one of the best bear-poles I've ever seen... it is really nice. I've used a bunch of different kinds and that one is really well done. Congratulations on who ever built and designed that." [7.21.04; 9:00 am; Campground; 4: 2 Male 2 Female]

Q: "What is your favorite thing about the campground?"

R61: "The remoteness. No power. And the road leading to it is kind of neat. It took about an hour to get here from Skagway because we had to stop every ten minutes and take a picture." [7.21.04; 11:25 am; Chilkoot Trail (day hikers); 2: Male/Female]

Q: "What is your favorite thing about the campground?"

R72: "It's low-key, not many people." [7.23.04; 8:30; Campground; 1: Male]

Q: "What is your favorite thing about the campground?"

R79: "The campsites are very nice. I like the ranger programs that it has going." [7.25.04; 9:10 am; Campground; 1: Female]

Q: "What is your favorite thing about the campground?"

R80: "I like this site. It's a nice big site. You've got tree coverage and you put your tent under the trees and like last night it rained and my tent was hardly wet this morning. That's what I like about this campsite. Like in Canada we have got campgrounds where they have CLEARED all the trees and then they plant trees. I don't understand it. They cut down all the trees and then they plant some... it's like why don't you just leave them and clear out certain spots." [7.25.04; 9:20 am; Campground; 1: Male]

Q: "What is your favorite thing about the campground?"

R81: "The location. I like that it is close to the ocean and close to the river. Close to Skagway. Lots of things nearby to do." [7.25.04; 9:35 am; Campground; 4: Females]

Q: "What is your favorite thing about the campground?"

R82: "The beauty. It is gorgeous. The scenery is amazing. It's a nice area. I like the way that there is a lot of trees and you are kind of protected from the wind... it's just a real nice spot." [7.25.04; 9:50 am; Campground; 2: Male/Female]

### Least Favorite Campground Attributes

The campground attributes described by respondents as their least favorite included the toilets (i.e., the condition and limited number of toilets), the campsites, the lack of dry firewood, and the lack of potable water. Other least favorite attributes included the dust from the Chilkoot Trail overnight parking lot and the road, the fire pits, and the picnic tables.

**Descriptions of least-favorite attributes.** Examples of detailed responses from respondents who elaborated on one or more undesirable campground attribute include:

Q: "What do you like least about the campground?"

R13: "Maybe that the campsites are fairly close together, it tends to fill up a lot. Well, it's just...when I go camping I like to be close to nature not necessarily close to the next neighbors, but I ... it's not painful or anything. It's easy. It's quite tolerable, so I wouldn't say that's anything really bad, but that is the thing I like least." [6.23.04; 10:30 am; Campground; 1: Male]

Q: "What do you like least about the campground?"

R62: "Well, I think um... I don't know if it could be... yeah, we wanted to be close to the river, but it is hard to say... Oh yeah, the fire pits are really weird. They were full of ashes and I don't know how they would empty the ashes. The fire pits were very dysfunctional. We found that to be kind of frustrating." [7.21.04; 11:50 am; Chilkoot Trail (day-hikers); 2: Female/Male]

Q: "What do you like least about the campground?"

R80: "Actually there isn't anything. The picnic table is kind of too modern, how it is all metal and stuff. Like we have wooden ones back home and I think it would be kind of cool to have a wooden picnic table because it gives you more of an outdoor, natural feel because if you are sitting here you are sitting on metal. That's just me though." [7.25.04; 9:20 am; Campground; 1: Male]

### **Distance to the Chilkoot Trail**

Respondents camping at the Dyea campground were also asked if the distance to the trailhead for the Chilkoot Trail was important to their stay at the campground. Almost half of respondents said the distance to the Chilkoot Trail was important on this visit and a few others said the distance was important on prior visits. About half the respondents said the distance was not important.

**Distance to the Chilkoot Trail is important.** Examples from respondents who explained why the distance to the Chilkoot Trail from the Dyea campground was important to their visit include:

Q: *“Is the proximity of the campground to the Chilkoot Trail important to you?”*

R4: *“Not as much as many years ago when we hiked more before the kids. For sure it is a plus for the hikers, those one who want to hike the trail for sure.” [6.22.04; 10:00 am; Campground; 2: Male/Female]*

Q: *“Is the distance to the Chilkoot Trail important to you in regards to the location of the campground?”*

R14: *“Um, in terms of easy access?”*

Q: *“That there is a spur trail that goes to it from the campground and it is not very far away.”*

R14: *“Oh, yes. I remember the first time I came here I was so pleased because I got here by walking here and then I had to walk there. So I appreciate that. And when I took the kids [referring to a school group] hiking, you know that was important. The fact that it is so close to the Chilkoot Trail is good. [5.23.04; 10:30 am; Campground; 4: 2 Male 2 Female]*

Q: *“Is the distance to the Chilkoot Trail from the campground important to you.”*

R38: *“Not to this visit necessarily, but it would be... but it is close to the trail, so campers could camp here ... it's not that far so they wouldn't have to walk a long distance. I think it is important to have a campground here for that, but I don't know how many people use this campground before they hike the trail and I can't remember 25 years ago... I don't think there was a campground here if I remember right.” [7.18.04; 10:05 am; Campground; 1: Female]*

Q: *“Is the distance of the Chilkoot Trail from the campground important to you?”*

R39: *“Yeah, it is nice. Nice and close. You can get your backpack all packed up here and pack your car. I like how they have a parking area here for it. Yeah, right across from the Ranger, it seems a bit safe. We*

*camped our whole way here and we have all our camping stuff. So you don't want to leave your vehicle, but most people do."* [7.18.04; 10:25 am; Campground; 1: Male]

Q: *"Is the distance to the Chilkoot Trail from the campground important to you?"*

R57: *"Absolutely. We don't have a car, we just got dropped off."* [7.21.04; 9:00 am; Campground; 4: 2 Male 2 Female]

Q: *"Is the distance to the Chilkoot Trail from the campground important to you?"*

R81: *"Not this time, but sometimes it is because it is close to the trailhead."* [7.25.04; 9:35 am; Campground; 4: Females]

**Distance to the Chilkoot Trail is not important.** Examples from respondents who did not perceive the distance to the Chilkoot Trail to be important include:

Q: *"Is the distance to the Chilkoot Trail important to you?"*

R13: *"It's not important, no. With a bike or with the truck, it's easy to get there."* [6.23.04; 10:30 am; Campground; 1: Male]

Q: *"Is the distance to the Chilkoot Trail from the campground important to you?"*

R16: *"I don't think it is, nor it should be. If you are an avid hiker you are prepared to go any distance."* [5.23.04; 11:25 am; Campground; 1: Female]

Q: *"Is the distance to the Chilkoot Trail from the campground important to you?"*

R27: *"I'm not sure where the trailhead is ... I imagine it is close that way. If I was going to hike it or take a bunch of kids over it, it wouldn't matter if I started here or there, it would just be part of the hike. It's how they did it. It's how you're supposed to do it."* [7.17.04; 10:30 am; Campground; 1: Male]

Q: *"Is the distance to the Chilkoot Trail from the campground important to you?"*

R40: *"Well, not particularly because we weren't planning on going up this long trail here anyhow."* [7.18.04; 12:00 pm; Chilkoot Trail (trailhead parking lot); 1: Male]

### **A.2.6 Suggested Improvements to Enhance Visitor Experiences**

Respondents were asked if there were any negative things in Dyea that needed improvement or any positive things that could be added to enhance their experiences. Almost

half of the respondents said that improvements were needed in the amount and type of information available, but nearly the same proportion said that no improvements were needed. Suggestions for improving the campground were also quite common (about one-third of respondents). Some respondents suggested multiple improvements to Dyea. Thus, some of the example responses below could have been placed in any of several sections.

Most of the respondents who suggested improvements in information wished to see improvements in informational signs. This pattern was particularly strong at the Dyea town site. Less than half of the visitors to the Slide Cemetery and Chilkoot Trail suggested improvements in informational signs.

### **Improving the Dyea Town Site**

Among respondents who visited the Dyea town site, suggested improvements focused on interpretive information. Suggestions included: a) the quantity of signs; b) the quality of the signs; c) the location of the signs; d) the type of signs (e.g., panels, kiosks, models); and e) a need for self-guided tours. Examples of these responses include:

Q: *“Is there anything the park could do that would have improved your visit?”*

R7: *“More signs to give us more information about the structures and the village. The information is quite a minimum.” [6.22.04; 12:30 pm; Slide Cemetery; 2: Male/Male]*

Q: *“Is there anything the park could do that would have improved your visit?”*

R10: *“More interpretive signs I would say. And trail markings. You don’t know you are on an interpretive trail until you stumble across something.”*

Q: *“Any specifics of what you would like to see on the signs? Distances or directions?”*

R10: *“Directions, yes, just something that tells you that you are on a ... You know, it wouldn’t hurt either... there is a tremendous amount of flora that is here that is really interesting. To do a combination of a nature and historic trail that somebody could follow would be really nice. To talk about ... again... what some of the flora is. I’ve seen in other parks where they have little signs telling you what some of the things are. And especially here because it is a rainforest type of area and there is an awful lot of stuff here that you don’t see other places, so it would be really nice to know what it is. You don’t want to get it too cluttered, but you could do it really tastefully. But the nature trail thing would be nice. The other thing that would be really nice for me, and*

*this is just personal, would be to try and play up a little bit more some of the Gold Rush history. I mean there are a few things but they ... but there are two or three things in there and it's hard to get a sense of what was here. So a little bit more of that way."* [6.22.04; 1:50 pm; Dyea town site; 2: Male/Female]

Q: *"Is there anything the park could do that would have improved your visit?"*

R23: *"More information. Like more signs about the town site ... what was here, what was there... that sort of thing. You drive around out in the town site; you don't even know you are in a town site. It's just a big flat, but if it had more signs saying what it was and what was there... pictures."*

Q: *"Did you see any informational signs when you were over in the Town Site?"*

R23: *"No. Well we saw the one where the building had collapsed and where that little farm was. But like even on the main road, when you come in on the main road there is a sign here for the cemetery but there is no other sign... you know, you know what I mean. Like, so where is the town site? To me like the town site was maybe a square block or two... three blocks, but seeing a map somewhere, I don't know where, it was this whole area. Anyway... more information."* [5.23.04; 4:30 pm; Slide Cemetery; 2: Male/Female]

Q: *"Are there positive things that park managers could add or negative things they could improve or is there anything the park could do that would have improved your visit?"*

R32: *"I certainly can't think of anything negative. I would like to see a little more information pieces on what if anything was here before the Gold Rush."*

Q: *"I saw you wave your hand at these interpretive signs at the beginning of the trail from the parking lot, is this what you mean?"*

R32: *"Yes."* [7.17.04; 3:00 pm; Dyea town site; 1: Male]

Q: *"Is there anything the park could do that would have improved your visit?"*

R33: *"Probably better signing."*

Q: *"What type of signing?"*

R33: *"Well we kind of got lost back here. Better signs about how to get where certain places are at. Maybe a little bit more about the buildings that were there. They could put up something that shows this was a building here. A little more than what they've got."*

Q: *"Interpretive signs rather than recreations?"*

R33: *"Yea, well that could be both. I don't know if you've got a lot of pictures or not, but that could help out. Put like "this is an area here where they stored all of their equipment. This is houses where they lived." Kind of give you an idea of what was back here."* [7.17.04; 3:30

pm; Dyea town site; 1: Male]

Q: “Is there anything the park could do that would have improved your visit?”

R71: “Actually, I think what... sometimes I think is a great idea... I'm really into trees and the variety of trees to have those types of things at least marked in areas. We do that a lot in the Connecticut region where I am from and I think it is the... um, Northern Virginia, the Skyline Drive, so that would be helpful. I don't know how many people are as interested as I, but I posed a few questions to the guide and he was able to confirm a couple and just simply say he didn't know.” [7.22.04; 5:05 pm; Cruise Ship Dock; 1: Female]

Q: “Is there anything else the park could do that would have improved your visit?”

R63: “Not really. I don't know if there is a handout of the area or even a paid map that links everything together and maybe designates the area by number where a specific name... And better signage. Because it is a big sprawling area, right. And I think that would be helpful.” [7.21.04; 1:20 pm; Dyea town site; 2: Male/Male]

Q: “Is there anything the park could do that would have improved your visit?”

R87: “I think doing that kind of bibliography type thing with photographs and words is a lot better. Let people use their imaginations instead of trying to force something on them. I've been to several sites in the States and Canada where they have reconstructed... they have rebuilt an area and it is great to see it as it was and it is also nice to go to other ones where you can get the feel of it just by being there and I think it's a nice to be able to visualize it and use your imagination. But as I say, anything that can be done with photographs and that kind of thing... what you have done over there [kiosk and interpretive signs in parking lot] but on a bigger scale would be a much better idea so that people can actually see what it looked like and then imagine it. The signs now are great, but they are not in the places where they actually were so perhaps they should be placed where they actually were and then people would be able to imagine it better. Imagination is better than reconstruction.” [7.25.04; 1:50 pm; Dyea town site; 1: Male]

### **Improving the Slide Cemetery**

Respondents who suggested improvements at the Slide Cemetery most commonly made recommendations about the quantity and quality of the interpretive information, and the overall condition of the headstones. A few respondents indicated that the size of the parking lot at the Slide Cemetery needed to be expanded. Examples of responses suggesting

improvements at the Slide Cemetery include:

Q: *“Is there anything the park could do that would have improved your visit?”*

R17: *“Have the wildlife ... we just talked about it. We want to see that. Make it more public... or publicize it more so more people would be aware of it. Maybe you would get more tourists in.”*

Q: *“So you don’t think this area is well publicized?”*

R17: *“Number 1, it is kind of scary and I think that the tombstones they need to bring them more up to date. Right now it looks like everybody is forgotten ... all of the people that have died in there. And they downplayed the avalanche 107 years ago.”*

Q: *“Anything else?”*

R17: *“And the roads a little bit better for getting in ... a little wider... very scary. Thank you for your time we have to go back to the ship.”*  
[5.23.04; 1:30 pm; Slide Cemetery; 3: 1 Male 2 Female]

Q: *“Is there anything the park could do that would have improved your visit?”*

R21: *“I think maybe they could expand on the parking lot at the Slide Cemetery because there is only enough room up there for six or seven vehicles. It should be a little bigger.”*

Q: *“Are there positive things that park managers could add or negative things they could improve?”*

R21: *“Leave it the way it is.”* [5.23.03; 3:45 pm; Slide Cemetery; 1: Male]

Q: *“Is there anything the park could do that would have improved your visit, because it sounds like you are dissatisfied?”*

R43: *“More information. Well, I mean the Park Service doesn’t have to do anything. It seems to me that those people who died there deserve more than what information is provided and that avalanche and those deaths are a signal event. There are not a lot of other special dates here with the Gold Rush, but that was one of them. I’m just disappointed that there is not more here.”*

Q: *“Are there any other positive things that park managers could add or negative things they could improve, besides information, which you mean by interpretive signs?”*

R43: *“I assume signs or more information about what went on. I think that was a big event. There should be more information.”* [7.18.04; 3:00 pm; Slide Cemetery; 2: Male/Female]

Q: *“Is there anything the park could do that would have improved your visit?”*

R45: *“I think it would be nice if at a few vista points they had some telescopes for looking at the peaks, the glaciers and that kind of thing. I*

*think they should ... there is a bit where they put up blurred pictures, which were actually reworked clear pictures. They should put the clear pictures up.” [7.19.04; 10:45 am; Sockeye Cycles; 4: 2 Male/2 Female]*

### **Improving the Chilkoot Trail**

Some respondents at the Chilkoot Trail suggested improvements to the site, such as more interpretive signs, better trail maintenance, and the construction of a visitor center. Unique suggestions for improvements at the Chilkoot Trail included having the permit station at the trailhead and changing the permit system’s requirement that all group members be present to register for a backcountry permit. Examples of responses that focus on the Chilkoot Trail include:

*Q: “Is there anything the park could do that would have improved your visit?”*

*R18: “Actually some of the changes the Forestry Service made to the trail are kind of awkward. There are a couple steep parts where they built steps that I think were in a better spot last year. Other than that ... I had to take some old ladies on my trip and that kind of sucks sometimes. I ask, ‘You okay?’ and they say, ‘Oh, I don’t know.’ I could be a little ... I don’t think it should be smoothed out but there are a couple spots that are overly rocky especially given the clientele that comes out here.”*

*Q: “Do you think that type of maintenance should be to the 2 miles to the put in?”*

*R18: “Yeah, absolutely. The rest of it ... leave it alone.”*

*Q: “Are there positive things that park managers could add or negative things they could improve?”*

*R18: “It’s got an outhouse, that’s plenty for me. I don’t even use that.” [5.23.04; 1:50 pm; Chilkoot Trail (backpacker, trailhead); 1: Male]*

*Q: “Is there anything the park could do that would have improved your visit?”*

*R25: “You know if you want to give it national reverence, you probably could develop more of a lodge and an interpretive center near the restrooms. And I don’t know, but it would be nice to have a forest ranger present in summer if there is questions or anything like that if you had a lodge somewhat in the summer to help.”*

*Q: “As a lodge, do you mean a visitor center.”*

*R25: “Yeah, a visitor center or a lean-two... something were people could come in and if the weather is a little dicey that day, they could come in that day. A little shelter should be developed.”*

*Q: “And you think that should be over by the Chilkoot Trailhead?”*

R25: "Yes, yes I do. Because then you could read the history boards that are up."

R25: "Yes."

Q: "So you would like more information?"

Q: "So if there were interpretive signs out there, would you be in favor of that if there wasn't a visitor center?"

R25: "More information on the trail." [5.25.04; 11:10 am; Raft Take-out (Chilkat Guides); 1: Female]

Q: "Is there anything the park could do that would have improved your visit?"

R29: "I guess the only thing is the registration for the hike. Like one thing that is holding up our hike is the fact that the group that we are sort of associated with has to go and register. And they have like a large group and they all have to be there at the same time. So that is really slowing things down. They've been at that all morning and they are still not back."

Q: "So you are going to hike the entire trail?"

R29: "Yes. We left a canoe at Fraser Lake. So there is a lot of logistics. We've camped since Toronto. We have driven 5,200 km. Took us a little over a week to drive here. So we camped all the way across, so we did all that stuff and then you've got all your hiking stuff and you've got all your canoeing stuff. And then we've got to camp our way back, so there is that stuff."

Q: "So, you were talking about the permitting system that is holding you up... Do you have any ideas for improvement on that?"

R29: "Well I think if they could work it so that if you had two families hiking together and they happen to be under the same permit number, that as long as they knew the permit number and they came in as a family or whatever and showed their ID and it is still the same registration number. But I think the people that we are with is a group of 12 and they are from all over the place, so all 12 have to go at the same time to hear this spiel at the same [time]. Whereas, as long as you hear the spiel and sign for it and your party is checked in and you have your ID, it seems to me I don't [see] why it can't work that way. So a little more flexibility that way, maybe. But everything else. The trail with the regulation of how many people go and being very strict about the provision of food, I think that is all excellent."

Q: "How about in the Dyea town site, and the Cemetery, is there anything that park managers could add or negative things they could improve?"

R29: "Um... there is not a lot to see, so I don't know what you could do about that." [7.17.04; 11:35 am; Picnic Area, 2: Female/Male]

Q: "Is there anything the park could do that would have improved your visit?"

R41: "Maybe just more campsites because it is a problem being full."

*We got one of the last ones. And we've seen so many people just camp on the side of the road because they didn't know where to sleep. I guess just from a historical perspective, I am curious too, at what point the created Chilkoot Trail joins the actual historical Chilkoot Trail and there is no marker for that. And for someone who really likes history, I guess I would want to know the actual point of conjunction. That's kind of my nerve button."* [7.18.04; 12:30 pm; Chilkoot Trail (day hikers, trailhead parking lot); 2: Male/Female]

Q: *"Is there anything the park could do that would have improved your visit?"*

R42: *"You know we've been to Yosemite and Sequoia and we love how they have signs telling about the history or like you know how the glacier brought the water here, things that maybe our tour guide might not have known. Just different signs marking different sites and things like that would be good."* [7.18.04; 1:15; Raft Take Out (Skagway Float Tours); 1: Female]

Q: *"Is there anything the park could do that would have improved your visit?"*

R73: *"Maybe if you had more descriptive information early on ... like if we a couple miles back, if you had a visitor center or something that would lay out the information because we are still trying to figure it out yet."* [7.23.04; 10:20 am; Dyea town site; 1: Male]

Q: *"Is there anything the park could do that would have improved your visit?"*

R77: *"Yes. We would like to walk the whole trail but because we are rather old we cannot carry all our stuff... maybe it is better, like the mountains in Europe... to have some...huts where you can buy food and where you can sleep. I don't think it is...uh.... It's too heavy for us. I saw a man who carried 60 pounds in his backpack and that is too heavy."* [7.23.04; 2:30; Chilkoot Trailhead (day-hiker); 1: Male]

### **Improving the Dyea campground**

Respondents staying at the Dyea campground suggested a variety of improvements for the campground, such as the number of campsites, the size of campsites, the privacy of campsites, the toilets, firewood/ fire rings, potable water, gray water pits, and the quantity and quality of information/education.

The toilets were in very bad condition during the first sampling period, and although one of the toilets was improved before the second sampling period, respondents during both sampling periods reported a need for toilet improvements in the campground. However, after the improvements, respondent comments focused on the need for more (not better) toilets.

Examples of responses suggesting a variety of campground improvements include:

Q: *"Is there anything the park could do that would have improved your visit?"*

R5: *"Not really I don't think. I don't know... we have different rules in different countries. If they supplied firewood that would be a great kind of thing, but you can't... it's just the way things are. Firewood is nice, but we have the same thing on our side, there's bans and when you supply wood people get carried away, big humongous fires... camping is camping not a bonfire scene. Right, it's camping."*

Q: *"Are there negative things the Park could improve?"*

R5: *"To me no. Because you are pretty well left alone. A couple years ago, your dogs have to be on a leash and blah blah blah, but our dogs stay quiet. I like the part here where you are allowed to put four or five vehicles in one campsite because limited campsites and you can't just say well there's two vehicles there and that's all you are allowed. As long as they allow group camping that's a major thing."*  
[6.22.04; 10:30 am; Campground; 1: Male]

Q: *"Is there anything the park could do that would have improved your visit?"*

R13: *"Better firewood. You guys have the lousiest firewood in the world. Like look at the chunks. They are wet, they are huge, you can hardly split them. That's the only thing. So that's it. Other than that I think it's great. I think it's a wonderful spot. I think maybe another idea would be to have for people who like a little bit more privacy, like this campground is fairly dense, right, there is a lot of people. Some people might like more privacy, like if there is more campsites that are further up that has a bit more space between them; I think that would be nice too. Like where there would be like a hundred feet rather than five feet between two different campsites for people who like a bit more space and a bit more peace and quiet. That might be good, yes."*

Q: *"Anything else that you can think of?"*

R13: *"To make it a better experience here, um... well I think that is about it. I think that it is a wonderful spot."* [6.23.04; 10:30 am; Campground; 1: Male]

Q: *"Is there anything the park could do that would have improved your visit?"*

R14: *"Improving the sanitation facilities just from an environmental point of view. Pump tank toilets would be great. I think more talks, because I just happened to be in a couple of talks because I was in the right place at the right time. It would be nice if people were here... like I noticed that this is new, the area over there where they have the presentations that wasn't there a few years ago. We're here out of season, so there are talks here. As soon as June there are talks. I*

*think basically improve the sanitation and maybe improve signage for waste disposal, beyond that the campsite is great as it is. We would like ... well I would like it to stay as a more primitive site as opposed to more development."*

Q: *"How about in the Slide Cemetery or town site from your past experiences, is there anything you could think about that you would like to see improved in those areas."*

R14: *"Not really, the interpretive signs out there have been great. I like it. I like the fact that you can go and I've always gone with the Park Warden and I like the fact that there is a lot there and you might see a lot more damage. So I personally like it the way it is. I like the fact that you can explore sort of unimpeded. The interpretive signage has been fine and I like ... [unintelligible] ... the remains you are looking at."*  
[5.23.04; 10:30 am; Campground; 4: 2 Male 2 Female]

Q: *"Is there anything the park could do that would have improved your visit?"*

R16: *"Well I think it is pretty well unanimous at this campsite that the washroom facilities are ... it's pretty... it needs to be monitored I think. Hourly checks or quarterly throughout the day, just to keep them clean, the bugs and all that. We couldn't use them yesterday they were pretty bad. Other than that, the campground is well maintained."*

Q: *"Are there positive things that park managers could add or negative things they could improve including the entire Dyea town site and Cemetery?"*

R16: *"I don't think so. Like I said, I've been coming here all my life and every year a little bit more reading gets added and a little bit more... now they've got the walking tours and what not. I think it is progressing nicely. I think if it progressed any faster, then you would see unwanted development in a pristine area. I don't think that would be beneficial to Skagway people. It would just run it down in the long term."* [5.23.04; 11:25 am; Campground; 1: Female]

Q: *"Is there anything negative about the campground that needs to be improved?"*

R19: *"It's not very organized. The roads aren't very wide so it's tough to get vehicles into the parking spots. So we have a 5th wheel and it's tough to get it jack-knifed in there because it is not very organized. There is not enough outhouses. And ... that's about it. Some of the sites aren't very nice ... the ones in the middle... the ones on the outside are very nice and [aren't] quite as developed as a lot of the campsites that we see in the Yukon. The ones in the Yukon have woodbins and easier access for parking. More sites. And a playground [repeating young daughter] quite often. Some of the parking spaces have very nice vegetative sites and stuff, but the ones in the middle you know you are parking right next to somebody else who is parking there... they are just not... it could definitely be better developed."*

[5.23.04; 3:10 pm; Slide Cemetery; 1: Female]

Q: "Is there anything the park could do that would have improved your visit?"

R24: "Um... maybe if there was water available. I can get my water filter out, but I don't want to."

Q: "How about areas outside of the campground in Dyea, are there positive things that park managers could add or negative things they could improve?"

R24: "No... oh, I did want to say that one of the toilets around here really stinks but it does look like they are putting new ones in so that is already taken care of. It is actually worth it to walk to the one over by the Chilkoot Trail." [5.24.04; 8:00 pm; Campground; 1: Female]

Q: "Is there anything the park could do that would have improved your visit?"

R28: "Do they give free wood here?"

Q: "I don't know for sure."

R28: "Well, we've had a good wood supply just from wandering around to the other campsites. To me what they really need in this Park, when I am looking around and I look at the signs on the bulletin board and I see that it is a bear area... yeah, they have places for you to put your garbage and all, what I don't see anywhere in this campsite is a place for you to put your gray water. So what my daughter is going to do know is take our gray water down to the river, because there is no where to put it. And you know ... in gray water there is always food particles, things like that in it, and I, being a Yukoner, I don't take any chances. Gray water has got to go, everything has got to go. And too... a few more washrooms would be nice. It's like, one bathroom, 21 campsites... one bathroom doesn't cut it. It's a nice bathroom, but there is only one."

Q: "How about in other parts of the Dyea area, is there anything you've noticed from past trips, that you would like park managers to add or negative things they could improve?"

R28: "Well, to me, my main thing is I wouldn't wanted to see anything changed, because you don't want to change things because no longer would it have the same meaning. And like I said, I haven't been out yet, but we are going out, but it seemed to me the last time we went out, I know most people should keep their garbage in their vehicles but it would be nice if there was a garbage can out there... I know with the bear situation, rather than people being tempted to throw garbage out... a place where you could throw your garbage out would be nice. We, our policy is that when you go into a campsite you shouldn't know what we have eaten, there should be nothing left behind. Sort of, like... we got here and there were eggshells in the fire pit and all this type of things, but to me that is somebody... I don't know why they do that, but when we leave no one will know what we ate. We know they had

bacon, we know they had eggs. We even know what kind of juice they ate, because it was all in the fire pit. So to me, maybe if you guys, I don't know if they give an education over here on like camping or whatever, because I see that they have a fire pit there where they do programs... So like to me when they are giving their orientation, they might mention when you go into a campsite and when you leave people should not be able to tell what you've eaten for breakfast, what you've been drinking...in other words, you have a garbage can, USE IT. That's not good... I don't think anyways." [7.17.04; 11:00 am; Campground; 2: Female/Female]

Q: "Is there anything the park could do that would have improved your visit?"

R37: "Well, those little water things are nice. You know those little well things that they have at some campgrounds that you just pump. I don't know if it is possible to have one of those out here, you know some places might be too low. Water. You know it doesn't have to be drinkable, but for washing or boiling. We brought drinking water, but if we have to use it to wash we will have to fill it up somewhere. He didn't see any trash. At Cathleen Lake they had the bear proof containers at every other campsite. It was a very nice park. Definitely well kept. They were just very concerned about bears. Every picnic table had little how to do it right "if this is what your campsite looks like it is wrong; this is what a bear proof campsite needs to look like" "don't do this, don't do that". I guess there was a bear in the area and they all stopped by to warn us. They obviously have lots of... it's bear country, I'm sure this is bear country too, so we're aware, but they made sure that even if it was your 1st time that you knew not to leave food out, not to put in the ... you know ... make sure it is all taken care of so the rest of us don't suffer." [7.18.04; 9:35; Campground; 2: Female/Male]

Q: "Is there anything the park could do that would have improved your visit?"

R38: "Make sure there is toilet paper in the bathroom. Other than that (laughter)... I mean the campground is a rustic campground, but I think that is good too for an area like this to have a rustic campground. I think maybe the campground is going to have to be bigger because there seems to be a lot of people. And there was a lot of people here last night."

Q: "Are there positive things that park managers could add or negative things they could improve in other parts of Dyea?"

R38: "The cemetery is a cemetery and I don't think you would want to have much more commercialism there. Maybe... well there was some placards there in the cemetery. I don't know what else they could do out there. In the town site I think it is important to take the nature walk because you learn more that way than just strolling around by yourself, but I thought the rangers did a good job. I thought they told the story,

*which was important, and also they told the natural history story but they told the history of the town sometimes showing pictures of what it looked like. That is always helpful. They had pictures, which is amazing that they have all these old pictures.” [7.18.04; 10:05 am; Campground; 1: Female]*

Q: *“Is there anything the park could do that would have improved your visit?”*

R48: *“Yea, one thing... it seems like all the wood is, last year and this year, was pretty much wet wood and there was a pile of wet wood here when we arrived, which I had to work very hard at to get it to burn into a fire and then when I did get a fire going, you had to keep all the wood up on top or its not going to burn. It just takes a lot, all of it piled up to start drying itself out before you get it going. The one thing is that it is not an economical use of wood and the other I think it is just very difficult to make your fire. I think fires are an important part of camping experiences, for cooking on and for warmth and for smoke keeping the bugs away. It just is an important part of the whole thing and it seems like the Forest Service does try to supply wood. There was a pile over by the ranger station and there was some here, but it was like they cut right two weeks before people are going to use it. If you are going to put the effort into cutting wood, why not cut the pile up in the fall, stack it and let it dry for a year or so.”*

Q: *“Are there positive things that park managers could add or negative things they could improve?”*

R48: *“Um, well... I guess the... overall it is pretty good. I guess the only thing I could possible think of is last night somebody came by and said that there was a black bear up at that end and just so we would be aware of it...and I would just as soon not have bears around. Um... it wouldn't hurt my feelings at all if they did whatever to it to really discourage them. Especially with kids and everything, it makes for a night that you don't sleep very good because every noise you want to check out and see if he's over trying to molest you or your camp or something and... um... so I don't agree with the idea that we are having a nature experience when there are bears roaming around your tent and I camp in a lot of areas that aren't parks, just out in the woods on hunting trips and such and we have bears around then too, but we have our guns with us and... uh, I'm not sure what the rule is but we don't have a gun now because of all the regulations and I dislike those types of regulations that say you can't bring your gun because it just makes for a very nervous camping trip when there are bears in the area.” [7.20.04; 9:00 am; Campground, 1: Male]*

Q: *“Is there anything the park could do that would have improved your visit?”*

R56: *“No, I don't think so. I think it is important for the people that come out here that they have some idea as to what the history of the*

area is before they come out. If you didn't it would be very hard to get that here completely. If you come out with some kind of idea as to what did go on here then I think your imagination fills in the rest and I think it makes it a very worthwhile experience."

Q: "Are there positive things that park managers could add or negative things they could improve?"

R56: "A water tap is the only thing I can think of in the campground. There is no access to water here in the campground. But I'm not a real big one for a whole lot of modern conveniences in this sort of a setting but the water would be obviously a benefit." [7.21.04; 8:30 am; Campground; 3: Female/Male/Male]

Q: "Is there anything the park could do that would have improved your visit?"

R57: "Running water would be good with all of these people. Yeah, what is the deal with the water? Are we supposed to just go through the woods and find it some place? There is no water pump anywhere? That would be good with this many people, even if it were not potable to have a place to go get it without having to go through a swamp to get it. We just happened to know that there is a river over there, but the average Joe might not."

Q: "Are there positive things that park managers could add or negative things they could improve?"

R57: "A shower [laughter]. And then also water, we were wondering about water. The mineral route campground just put in showers... yeah, but that is development for you... yeah, but for people getting off the Chilkoote, they're going to want a shower. They can go into town. Yeah, you're right. [this was a back and forth conversation between 2 of the respondents]. We'd like to see a well or something put in here so we could get water. And more fireside chats, once a week seems pretty marginal, especially with 40... like, today we go over the pass and there are 50 people using the Park, that's a lot of people." [7.21.04; 9:00 am; Campground; 4: 2 Male 2 Female]

Q: "Is there anything the park could do that would have improved your visit?"

R72: "A shower [laughter]..."

Q: "Anything else that could improve your visit?"

R72: "Not really, it's got nice level ground for camping. Easy in, easy out... um... it's kind of remote, I kind of like that. The only thing that I would want to do ... is have a shower." [7.23.04; 8:30; Campground; 1: Male]

Q: "Is there anything the park could do that would have improved your visit? Are there positive things that park managers could add or negative things they could improve?"

R78: "I don't know what the population is that is visiting here, but the

road could be improved. Well, as we already mentioned, considering the population of campers they need to continue with the upgrade on the toilet facilities, but uh..."

Q: "What do you think would be a good number of toilets for this campground?"

R78: "I think that the issue is that a lot of people here are tent campers as opposed to campgrounds that are more easily accessible. As you can see here we have a camper-van, conversion that is pretty much self-contained and in a lot of campgrounds other people are too so the ratio wouldn't need to be so high, since there is a lot of tent-campers there needs to be more than one." [7.25.04; 9:00 am; Campground; 2: Male/Female]

Q: "Is there anything the park could do that would have improved your visit?"

R79: "Maybe add another bathroom with some of the sanitize hand wash, that would be nice."

Q: "How about at the Chilkoot Trail, the Slide Cemetery, or the Old town site, are there positive things that park managers could add or negative things they could improve?"

R79: "I don't think so. I think it is done very well." [7.25.04; 9:10 am; Campground; 1: Female]

Q: "Is there anything the park could do that would have improved your visit?"

R80: "I didn't see anything... wait... outhouses. You need another outhouse."

Q: "Do you think once the one over here that they are working on is opened that it will be better?"

R80: "Yes. The fire pit here... like that in Canada, we have 45 gallon drums that are sliced and that is the ring... so to me that is what a fire pit is and this is different." [7.25.04; 9:20 am; Campground; 1: Male]

Q: "Remember that for any of these questions you can answer them for any of the sites in Dyea. Is there anything the park could do that would have improved your visit?"

R81: "Well they are working on the bathrooms. The outhouse is like... there is one. The other thing we have in the Yukon is gray water pits. It's really awkward thing not to have gray water pits. It would just keep it cleaner for the food bits around for bear. Firewood, maybe have some you can buy."

Q: "Are there positive things that park managers could add or negative things they could improve in the cemetery or the town site?"

R81: "Well I didn't notice signs but maybe I missed them last night. There was the one that said 'Slide Cemetery this way and old town site this way' but after that I didn't see where to go. That's where we thought we would go with the bikes today. I know where it is."

Q: "So perhaps better signage?"

R81: "Yeah, for people ... on this side."

Q: "Anything else?"

R81: "We like it. It is my favorite camp spot ever since I was little."  
[7.25.04; 9:35 am; Campground; 4: Females]

Q: "Is there anything the park could do that would have improved your visit?"

R82: "If they offered possibly some interpretive walks and things like that where you could come into the campground and register for a walk of your choice and maybe have a few different walks to the different areas that are fairly close so that senior citizens can participate in them as well or even have a horse drawn buggy or something where you can actually hop in...something that can hold a lot of people and you can tow them down to the town site by horse, that would be kind of neat."

Q: "Anything else that could improve your experience?"

R82: "No. I like it the way it is. I like the fact that it is still a natural setting. I don't want to see too much development in the area I guess because you want to keep the numbers fairly low. I would say you wouldn't want to have a mass amount of people coming at one time."  
[7.25.04; 9:50 am; Campground; 2: Male/Female]

### **Improving the Dyea Road**

Some respondents indicated that the Dyea Road needed to be improved. Examples of these responses include:

Q: "Is there anything the park could do that would have improved your visit?"

R83: "I don't know. Looks fine. Is this a National Park down here also?"

Q: "Yes."

R83: "Gosh, if I knew that I would have come down here and camped last night but we need a better road for a bigger camper to get in here. That would be the only thing. You know, as of course you are in a National Park but maybe it has so many people that you couldn't well get in probably. Is it pretty well booked up all the time?" [7.25.04; 10:45 am; Chilkooot Trail (day hikers, trailhead); 4: Male/Male/Female/Female]

Q: "Is there anything the park could do that would have improved your visit?"

R86: "Smoothen the road a little bit so that people with large vehicles that are designed for smooth roads can get out here with a large... we are with a group of 14 motor homes and a number of them say that there is no way that they would drive out here on what has been

*described as a rough road.”*

*Q: “Anything else that the Park could do to enhance your experience?”*

*R86: “Not that I can think of. Don’t over do it. That’s the main thing, don’t over do it.” [25.04; 12:10 pm; Chilkoot Trail (day hiker, trailhead); 1: Male]*

### **Improving Road Signs**

Suggestions for specific improvements in the Dyea Area’s road signs included directional and mileage signs, as well as signs with maps on them. The respondents who suggested such improvements commonly noted that navigation in the Dyea Area was difficult due to the quality of road signs. Responses to this question varied across the sample periods because road signs were installed in the interim period. However, some suggestions for improving signage were still made during the latter sampling period. Examples of responses suggesting improvements in signage include:

*Q: “Is there anything the park could do that would have improved your visit?”*

*R6: “Um... yeah, well you know we didn’t get any tourist publications and we kind of know what is around so we have come and done it on our own but I don’t know if there should be a little bit more publicity when you come into Skagway about what is out here. I didn’t realize that there is a cemetery out here until today when I was asking someone about the gold rush cemetery and then she was telling me about all the different cemeteries.”*

*Q: “And that was in town that someone was telling you about that?”*

*R6: “Yes. Well, we were up at the lookout coming out this way, but if I hadn’t heard what the Slide Cemetery was than I think we just would have stopped at the Chilkoot Trailhead. It was just by word of mouth.”*

*Q: “Would you like to see more information upon your arrival to the Dyea area?”*

*R6: “Well we didn’t know how far we were having to travel into the cemetery once we turned off the road. Well I said we’ll just keep going.”*

*Q: “So you would like to see some distances.”*

*R6: “Yes, mileage!”*

*Q: “How about information regarding the Dyea town site, since you didn’t know it was out here?”*

*R6: “Yes... there could be more signage, yup!”*

*Q: “Are there negative things the Park could improve?”*

*R6: “No.” [6.22.04; 12:00 pm; Slide Cemetery; 1: Female]*

*Q: “Is there anything the park could do that would have improved*

*your visit?”*

*R11: “A little bit better signage maybe and maybe like similar to what you are holding here. If there was something in a kiosk that had that and you could just use that and return.”*

*Q: “Like this map I have?”*

*R11: “Yes, that map would be wonderful if it were shown somewhere... maybe it is and we just didn’t find it. But that would be great.”*

*Q: “Particular about the signage, what types of information would you like.”*

*R11: “First of all to get here (the Dyea town site) because by chance after... when we got to the sign that said slide area this way and historic site and it didn’t give an arrow. And we thought did they forget an arrow or did they both mean to go this way. So that was one. And we got into here by chance because we thought we would give it another half mile. And now that we are here, it would be interesting if such... this type of visual map were here to say not only where this False Front and Warehouse were and since we can’t see them from here how far it is. To give us a little more help in deciding whether or not to spend the time.”*  
*Q: “So both for driving distances and directions and walking distances and directions.”*

*R11: “Yes.” [6.22.04; 3:30 pm; Dyea town site; 2: Male/Female]*

*Q: “Is there anything the park could do that would have improved your visit?”*

*R23: “More information. Like more signs about the town site ... what was here, what was there... that sort of thing. You drive around out in the town site; you don’t even know you are in a town site. It’s just a big flat, but if it had more signs saying what it was and what was there... pictures.”*

*Q: “Did you see any informational signs when you were over in the town site?”*

*R23: “No. Well we saw the one where the building had collapsed and where that little farm was. But like even on the main road, when you come in on the main road there is a sign here for the cemetery but there is no other sign... you know, you know what I mean. Like, so where is the town site? To me like the town site was maybe a square block or two... three blocks, but seeing a map somewhere, I don’t know where, it was this whole area. Anyway... more information.”*

*Q: “Both where you are at and where you want to go? Both directional and historical information?”*

*R23: “Yes.” [5.23.04; 4:30 pm; Slide Cemetery; 2: Male/Female]*

*Q: “So you think they could provide better maps?”*

*R34: “Yea, if I had been... if I hadn’t stopped at the National Park Service desk in town, I wouldn’t have known that you couldn’t park at the trailhead to the Chilkoot Trail for more than 24 hours. But I guess*

most people that are going to hike the whole thing; they know that they need a permit and so forth. But I mean there was no indication anywhere that you can't park there until you get out there." [7.17.04; 3:45 pm; Dyea town site; 2: Male/Female]

Q: "Is there anything the park could do that would have improved your visit?"

R67: "How about a new bathroom [laughter]... No, it was fine."

Q: "Everything, including things like signs?"

R67: "Well, signage could always be improved. The sign that said historical site we did not realize that was Dyea city itself, we thought that there were many historical sites and passed it the 1st time through, but we did find our way back." [7.21.04; 3:25 pm; Dyea town site; 2: Male/Female]

Q: "Is there anything the park could do that would have improved your visit?"

R69: "Well, I don't know if there... well we were with a guide, but if you were by yourself I don't know if you would know where to go. There were no signs and that may be an issue someday. Even a little hand painted thing that said "out here" or "this way"... we followed her, but I imagine if you hadn't been in there before you would get lost in there... for awhile, there are only a couple of roads so you are bound to come out."

Q: "Are there positive things that park managers could add or negative things they could improve?"

R69: "You might put a shelter or something if it is rainy in the area by the Cemetery because that is quite interesting, but if it were raining we wouldn't have stopped there because it wasn't THAT interesting... but one of those little rain shelters to sort of huddle in until the rain stops. Well, if you improve the rocks ...when you are riding your bike there you might have more people... yeah; nice bike path would have been good. That's the only thing... at the end I wasn't sure I was going to make it but I did... I was getting a little sore, you know, the rocks right before you get to the bridge... you know we haven't been on bikes in a while. We are 64 and we are not too used to riding a bicycle and the whole bottom is just a little tender but it'll manage." [7.22.04; 2:30 pm; Sockeye Cycles; 2: Male/Female]

Q: "Is there anything the park could do that would have improved your visit?"

R73: "Maybe if you had more descriptive information early on ... like if a couple miles back if you had a visitor center or something that would lay out the information because we are still trying to figure it out yet." [7.23.04; 10:20 am; Dyea town site; 1: Male]

Q: "Is there anything the park could do that would have improved

*your visit?”*

*R75: “More signs. Directional signs.”*

*Q: “Are there positive things that park managers could add or negative things they could improve?”*

*R75: “I would keep it pretty simple because you don’t want to spoil the natural beauty of it. So keep it simple, just a few more signs and I think nature will take care of itself.” [7.23.04; 11:45 am; Slide Cemetery; 3: Male/Male/Female]*

*Q: “How about in the Flats, Old Town Site, Cemetery, Chilkoot Trail, are there positive things that park managers could add or negative things they could improve?”*

*R80: “I was told about a place called Lost Lake out by the Slide Cemetery ... and that should be put on a map somewhere because I was told that it is really cool and I wasn’t paying attention when we were told how to get there and I figured she [pointing to other group member] would pay attention, but she wasn’t neither.”*

*Q: “So a little better signage on where things are?”*

*R80: “Yes.” [7.25.04; 9:20 am; Campground; 1: Male]*

### **Improvements in Off-site Visitor Information**

The following response is a good example of a respondent who perceived a need for more information about the Dyea Area in the form of advertisement:

*Q: “Is there anything the park could do that would have improved your visit?”*

*R31: “I guess from Skagway, we are not the typical tourist I guess because we usually seek out the places that we want to go visit, but I think that visitors coming into Skagway, I’m not sure how they would find out about the history of this unless they had an interest in the Gold Rush, but it certainly is worth coming to if they knew it was here. I agree. I think the area is certainly worth coming to, but you do have to dig the information out. You have to have an interest, otherwise you’d never even hear of Dyea. If you were in Skagway and you were a tourist there is not much in Skagway to put you toward Dyea... very little in fact. I think the area has a lot to offer. I hadn’t been in the campground since... I understand it’s been improved. Well, I understand it has been improved and I think a campsite here, but again, we didn’t know will that campsite hold trailers and RV’s, we didn’t know that, but maybe if we knew we would have continued and come out here and spent a day or two... even one night. We had never brought an RV on that road. I think in terms of improving it, it is just the marketing. Keep your signage, don’t get it too modern. Keep the basic signage. You get into some of these places and you get into real*

*modern signage just screws it up.” [7.17.04; 2:30 pm; Chilkoot Trail (trailhead parking lot); 2: Male/Female]*

### **Improvements Aren’t Needed**

Some respondents did not perceive the need for improvements. Examples of responses from respondents who elaborated on the reasons why they believed there was no need for improvements include:

Q: *“Is there anything the park could do that would have improved your visit?”*

R26: *“I don’t think so. It’s great. The trail was well maintained but still maintained its natural contours and the float is great. I really don’t think there is anything.” [5.25.04; 11:15 am; Raft Take-out; 1: Female]*

Q: *“Is there anything the park could do that would have improved your visit?”*

R35: *“Hmm... Ah... well, probably when I think about it I could come up with some ideas, but off hand no. I kind of get an idea from the signs that are here and the few remains that can be seen. There’s a vision... at least I think I kind of have a vision of what was here.” [7.17.04; 4:00 pm; Dyea town site; 1: Male]*

Q: *“Is there anything the park could do that would have improved your visit?”*

R39: *“I don’t think so. It’s nice because it is rustic. If you are looking for a 5 star place then this isn’t the place for you, but if you want nature and history and stuff this is perfect.” [7.18.04; 10:25 am; Campground; 1: Male]*

Q: *“Is there anything the park could do that would have improved your visit?”*

R47: *“No I think they just keep taking people out there so they can see it. It wasn’t known to us. The scenery speaks for itself. You can’t really add too much to what is already there.” [7.19.04; 5:05 pm; Cruise Ship Docks; 2: Male/Female]*

Q: *“Is there anything the park could do that would have improved your visit?”*

R49: *“The trail was really well maintained. A lot of the signs were really nice. Well we’ve to other National Parks were it is less than this; yeah, it is way less than this.” [7.20.04; 10:35 am; Raft Take-out (Chilkat Guides); 2: Male/Female]*

Q: *“Is there anything the park could do that would have improved*

*your visit?”*

*R53: “Really not anything really that I could think of. It is kind of a self-guided wilderness trail. You get out of it what you want. You can blaze through in 24 hours like a lot of speed hikers do or you can take your time and see what is there and maybe take a few pictures and use your imagination about what might have happened.”*

*Q: “Are there positive things that park managers could add or negative things they could improve?”*

*R53: “I like it the way it is. I don’t want to see any improvements as far as... maybe the Park should start considering something about for people that are 55 and above. I don’t want to say amenities because then you turn around and you’ve turned it into a theme park... maybe not a theme park. But it seems a lot of the groups are getting older and all the youngsters are from Europe and all the oldsters are coming from America and Canada.” [7.20.04; 1:35 pm; Chilkoot Trail (backpacker, on trail .5 miles); 1: Male]*

*Q: “Is there anything the park could do that would have improved your visit?”*

*R55: “Leave it like it is. You know, I don’t... just keep it like it is. The more they can keep it natural and the way it has always been, the better it is to me. They don’t have to do anything to it.” [7.20.04; 3:00 pm; Chilkoot Trail (thru-hikers, .6 miles); 2: Male/Male]*

*Q: “Is there anything the park could do that would have improved your visit?”*

*R65: “They said it before. Everything is well done, well guided, you can’t get lost and it is nice and clean. Yeah, very good.” [7.21.04; 2:20 pm; Dyea town site; 1: Male]*

*Q: “Is there anything the park could do that would have improved your visit?”*

*R74: “No, I think leaving it in the state it is in; the most natural state is the best.*

*Q: “Why do you think that?”*

*R74: “Well, I hate to intervene with nature. If it is going back to nature, let it go and put the memories in a kiosk or something.” [7.23.04; 10:45 am; Dyea town site; 2: Male/Female]*

### **A.2.7 Additional Comments**

Some respondents had additional comments that they wanted to add to their interview. Some of those comments expressed management concerns and recommendations for management, while others express satisfaction or compliment KLGO on the current management of the Dyea area.

## Recommendations or Concerns

Examples of additional management recommendations and/or concerns include:

R4: *"It would be nice to have water pits for your dishes. At some campgrounds you will find water pits for wastewater to go beside the campfire pit. Maybe a few more toilets or something. There is only one over there; the second one is locked from the inside. The campground has been used a lot. There is more erosion and cutting trees. The sites are like... more wide because people are cutting trees. The sites are getting bigger. I believe it is not a good thing. For bigger groups for sure, but for my family it is a pretty big site. You could put two tents. In Canada we have a water pit pretty far off the site because of bears and you could put your wastewater in there. Like I said, don't let food lie around and keep your dishes clean. The water pit with a mesh on top to catch food. Some tricks like that. The people in charge here, they are aware about that I'm sure. They made a decision and maybe it could be better. From the Gold Rush anniversary in 88, you can see that more and more people know more about this area and come here more often."* [6.22.04; 10:00 am; Campground; 2: Male/Female]

R10: *"Just before you shut that off, the other comment that I would like to make is that I am in a wheel chair and it is sure nice to have those accessible little outhouses and trails wide enough and solid enough that I can wheel around on... it's great."*

Q: *"I just turned the tape back on after continuing to chat with respondents... discussing that the City campground has real accessible facilities, as far as the toilets, for someone who is in a wheelchair to be able to get out. Right, that is what we were saying?"*

R10: *"These ones in here are big enough so that there is the proper turn radius inside them and they have got grab bars for anybody with mobility problems. The first time we came down here, we checked the other campground... is it the one on the other side of the river?"*

Q: *"Yes."*

R10: *"We did check that one out first and drove through and just kept on driving... that's what you do when there are no accessible bathrooms or anything. It was very obvious that there had been no accommodations made over there, so we just kept on driving. Well that's part of the reason that we are here."*

Q: *"I just turned the tape on again. You were saying?"*

R10: *"This is another addition. One of the big draws about this area is that is wild, it is not a campground. It's not set up with running water, facilities all over the place with plug-ins and hook-ups. It's natural, so you treat it well. Probably the big draw for us. We don't necessarily want to go where there are all the amenities, you want to go out and*

camp where you want to camp and if this got overcrowded and they started turning it into a major facility it would just ruin the ambiance that is here now.” [6.22.04; 1:50 pm; Dyea town site; 2: Male/Female]

Q: “That’s my last question, is there anything else that you would like to add?”

R30: “And actually I did think of something else, the question about how many people we encountered and if we saw any evidence of past visitor use and I was thinking about the dogs. The sled dogs, that we could hear them.”

Q: “Did that affect your experience?”

R30: “No, not in a bad way. I actually know the family that owns them and I knew if they were out here we could walk over and see the dogs and all. And no it doesn’t take away from my experience at all. And I’ve never actually seen...I’ve been out here a few times when I heard the dogs, but I’ve never seen them. Oh, one thing that I could comment on to is that it seemed... just driving out here on the road, you usually see a lot of evidence of the horses and I didn’t notice much. Maybe just because of the dry weather, it is just drying up and blowing away or what.”

Q: “Is there anything you would like to comment on?”

R30: “We did notice the infrared counter on the bridge. On an aside, I don’t know if you want to know this, but I sell tours in town and I am always telling people about this area and they have never heard about it so I am always directing them to the Park Service buildings to get directions and information about Dyea.” [7.17.04; 1:10 pm; Dyea Flats; 2: Female/Female]

R48: “My last comment... I do feel very strongly about firearms rules and .... I got the impression in the past that there weren’t firearms allowed in the Parks and I am not real sure that that is the true story or not, but I dislike laws that keep Americans from carrying firearms in a Park. It goes against the 2nd Amendment as far as I am concerned and you know it is fine if they want to have no hunting in the Park, but a lot of people just like to carry a firearm for their own protection. And every once in a while people actually get killed by bears in parks. It happened last year, I think, a well known person and his girlfriend got killed in a park and if it wasn’t in a park at least it was in the wilderness and...um... and so as a result many people would like to carry guns and we do have the 2nd Amendment, which is supposed to guarantee our right to carry firearms. So it really irritates me when somebody is actually going against that 2nd Amendment... um... Park or otherwise.” [7.20.04; 9:00 am; Campground, 1: Male]

R52: “I’m a Chilkat guide and have been out here many times in the past two years since I’ve been working for Chilkat Guides. I have a bit of an issue with the way the trail maintenance is done. I talked to the

trail crew about it. I think it is inappropriate that they weed-whack right down to the ground level. I talked to the trail crew about it. He was not aware of some of the ground-growing species, dwarf dogwood and wintergreen, that are not threatening to the access to the trail. He said if he knew about those, he would be willing maybe not to whack all the way down. After telling my people not to pick flowers or leaves, to see the kind of devastation we leave. Also I think it is kind of inappropriate to whack the access trail to our put-in. It is not part of the Chilkoot Trail proper. We could leave at least that portion for plant identification.”

Q: “Is there anything else you want to add?”

R52: “If these people could be made knowledgeable about what species of plants do threaten trail access and can overgrow and what are the ground-hugging species that are not a threat to the trail’s access. Maybe we could leave those portions. There is the shield fern that will not overgrow the trail and wintergreen and dwarf dogwood are three of the species that I can think of that could be left in some portions of the trail.” [7.20.04; 12:05 pm; Raft Takeout; 1: Male]

R76: “Like I said it is kind of secondary for us coming here. Our main reason was to come and see Skagway. Until we were planning to come to Skagway we had never heard of Dyea. I didn’t even realize that the Chilkoot Trail didn’t originate at Skagway so that was kind of the first I’d heard of this area... and so I mean this is kind of an aside trip coming here and possibly if the Chilkoot Trail wasn’t here we wouldn’t be coming up here either, but I did want to see a little bit of the trail and that is good.”

Q: “We were talking a bit after the tape was turned off about the road coming in and the condition of it.”

R76: “I think looking at the obvious discrepancy with the vehicles that are in Skagway, which is only a few miles away to what is here, if you are looking for an increase in traffic, I think you would get it if it was a little more advertised and the road was upgraded because a lot of people who drive those rigs don’t like to have anything rustic, dusty, gravelly, or anything. They’ll drive them if they don’t have. Like I said the road is pretty safe and I feel comfortable driving one in, a lot of people wouldn’t and if you had the road improved somewhat you would probably pick up a certain amount of the population of people in Skagway... the city people. Well, I suppose once you do get here there is really not a whole lot. We didn’t do the tour of the old town, but from what I kind of gather there is not too much to see. So maybe a little bit of a reconstructed part of it too, you know, some buildings restored or reconstructed, which is sort of along the lines of... well we have one in our town and it is the original town and most of the buildings there are original and have been restored and the whole town is there and if there were a few buildings around the town to sort of make a bit more of a museum out of it might make it interesting for somebody who wants to get here, other than that I think I have said enough.” [7.23.04;

2:00 pm; Chilkoot Trailhead (day hikers); 2: Male/Female]

### Positive Comments

Examples of additional comments that reflect general satisfaction with the current management of the Dyea Area include:

Q: *“Anything else that you would like to add?”*

R22: *“I don’t think so. It’s a beautiful day and we’ve always enjoyed anytime we’ve come to Skagway and the Dyea area so I hope we will be able to do it for a long time yet.”* [5.23.04; 4:00 pm; Slide Cemetery; 1: Female]

R40: *“Well I appreciate the Park Service doing what they do for us. It’s my tax dollars and I appreciate some of it being used for these efforts to keep it open for citizens of the US. I think it is nice that they do that.”* [7.18.04; 12:00 pm; Chilkoot Trail (trailhead parking lot); 1: Male]

R41: *“I think the tour we went on with the ranger was spectacular. It was awesome to learn about the plants and ask any questions that we wanted to about the history. I think it is really a great experience. I think maybe even if for people who want to go a little further on the trail... our ranger was really nice and went further with us, so I thought that was great. To keep that program running, definitely.”* [7.18.04; 12:30 pm; Chilkoot Trail (day hikers, trailhead parking lot); 2: Male/Female]

R50: *“Thanks for keeping it the way that it is, keep up the good work.”* [7.20.04; 11:20 am; Raft Takeout (Chilkat Guides); 2: Male/Female]

R63: *“The nice new bathroom at the bottom is a great idea. We heard it was new. No, I think just keep it as natural and close to what it should be as possible. Educate people so that they appreciate it.”* [7.21.04; 11:00 am; Chilkoot Trail (thru-hikers, 2 miles); 2 Male/Female]

R68: *“I think the Park Service is obviously doing a fantastic job. I loved everything I saw and it was just great, fantastic.”* [7.22.04; 11:15 am; Cruise Ship Dock; 1: Male]

R71: *“It’s just outstanding and whatever you’ve been doing has been tremendous. It is a wonderful experience.”* [7.22.04; 5:05 pm; Cruise Ship Dock; 1: Female]

R72: *“No... I just... it’s a privilege for me to be here. I’m on a 7 week vacation and we are just finishing up Alaska tour and all and it seems*

like my two favorite spots out of all of Alaska have been Valdez and here.” [7.23.04; 8:30 am; Campground; 1: Male]

R74: “... [pause]... I don’t have anything to add. I think they are doing a good job. I just think it is pretty low-key but this... I’ve noticed that in Alaska the signage is very lacking. They don’t even say much about it where you pull off the highway to come back here. There is no information about how far is it, what are you going to see, who’s there [laughter]... So I think if they want to make it a historic site, they have to not advertise, which we don’t do for the Park Service, but make the information a little more available.” [7.23.04; 10:45 am; Dyea town site; 2: Male/Female]

R79: “I think they are doing a good job. Just keep it natural and the way it is. I don’t know if they need more campsites but they should keep up Parks like this.” [7.25.04; 9:10; Campground; 1: Female]

R82: “I would say that they are doing a good job. Yeah, I would say so as well. I am pretty impressed. Increase the number of bathrooms... that would probably make it a little easier for people.” [7.25.04; 9:50 am; Campground; 2: Male/Female]

**APPENDIX B: QUALITATIVE INTERVIEW CONSENT FORM**

OMB Approval 1024-0224 (NPS #04-029)  
Expiration Date: 03/30/2005

**PRIVACY ACT and PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT statement:**

16 U. S. C. 1a-7 authorizes collection of this information. This information will be used by park managers to better serve the public. Response to this request is voluntary. No action may be taken against you for refusing to supply the information requested. Permanent data will be anonymous. Data collected through visitor surveys may be disclosed to the Department of Justice when relevant litigation or anticipated litigation, or to appropriate Federal, State, local or foreign agencies responsible for investigating or prosecuting violation of law. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

**Burden estimate statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 15 minutes per response. Direct comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this form to the Information Collection Clearance Officer, WASO Administrative Program Center, National Park Service, 1849 C Street, Washington, D.C. 20240.

**UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON CONSENT FORM**

**DYEA AREA VISITOR INTERVIEWS**

Investigators:

|                             |                             |                                 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Mark Vande Kamp, Ph.D.      | Jane Swanson, Ph.D.         | Erin Seekamp                    |
| University of Washington    | University of Washington    | University of Idaho             |
| College of Forest Resources | College of Forest Resources | Resource Recreation and Tourism |
| (206) 543-0378              | (206) 685-9150              | (208) 885-5846                  |
| mevk@u.washington.edu       | swansonj@u.washington.edu   | seek8556@uidaho.edu             |

**RESEARCHER'S STATEMENT**

I am asking you to be in a research study. The purpose of this consent form is to give you the information you will need to help you decide whether to be in the study or not. Please read the form carefully. You may ask questions about the purpose of the research, what I would ask you to do, the possible risks and benefits, your rights as a volunteer, and anything else about the research or this form that is not clear. When I have answered all your questions, you can decide if you want to be in the study or not. This process is called 'informed consent.' I will give you a copy of this form for your records.

**PURPOSE AND BENEFITS**

Park managers are interested in learning about visitors and their trips to the Dyea area of Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park. Your input will help managers and planners provide high quality experiences to visitors. If you do not visit the park again, you may not directly benefit from this study. You will receive no pay or compensation for participating in this study.

**PROCEDURES**

If you choose to participate, you will be asked a variety of questions. I will ask about the things you did in the Dyea area, about your experiences there, and about your suggestions for park policy. Interviews vary in length, but commonly range between 10 and 25 minutes. I would like to audiotape your interview so that I can have an accurate record. Only the research team will have access to the audiotapes, which will be kept in a locked file cabinet. We will transcribe your interview tape within ten weeks of your interview. Then we will assign a study code to the transcript, and destroy the tape. Please indicate below whether or not you give your permission for me to audiotape your interview. The transcribed text will be stored for possible use in future studies. Please indicate below whether or not you give permission to store the transcript of your interview for possible use in future studies.

**RISKS, STRESS & DISCOMFORTS**

There are no known risks associated with completing these interviews. Some people may feel that certain questions invade privacy. Some people feel self-conscious when they are audio taped.

**VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION**

Participation in this survey is voluntary. You are not required to answer any of the questions. You are free to stop the interview at any time.

**CONFIDENTIALITY**

All responses you provide are confidential. We will not link your name on this consent form with the information you provide in the interview. Because your voice might be identified on the audiotape, the tapes will be kept in a secure location until they are transcribed (within ten weeks of the interview). Then we will destroy the audiotape. Your name will not be published in any report or document.

---

Printed name of researcher                      Signature of researcher                      Date

**SUBJECT'S STATEMENT**

This study has been explained to me. I volunteer to take part in this research. I have had a chance to ask questions. If I have questions later on about the research I can ask one of the investigators listed above. If I have questions about my rights as a research subject, I can call the University of Washington Human Subjects Division at (206) 543-0098. I will receive a copy of this consent form.

\_\_\_\_\_ I give my permission for the researcher to audiotape my interview.

\_\_\_\_\_ I do NOT give my permission for the researcher to audiotape my interview.

\_\_\_\_\_ I give permission to store my transcription for possible use in future studies.

\_\_\_\_\_ I do NOT give permission to store my transcription for possible use in future studies.

---

Signature of subject                      Printed name                      Date



## APPENDIX C: INTERVIEW GUIDE

### A Survey of Visitors to the Dyea Area of Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park

*Introduction and request to participate.*

Hello, my name is Insert first and last name. I work for the Protected Area Social Research Unit at the University of Washington. Along with Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, we are doing a survey of visitors to the Dyea area. Here is some information about the survey for you to review [hand person copy of Consent Form — give them time to review].

There are a few key points that I'd like to reiterate while you're looking it over:

- The purpose of this consent form is to assure you that the interview process is completely voluntary and confidential.
- You have the option of stopping the interview at any time
- You don't have to answer any question you don't want to.

As you can see, park management is interested in learning about visitors and their trips to the Dyea area to help them provide the best quality of visitor experiences in this area. This survey involves an interview concerning your experience over the course of your current trip. The interview takes about fifteen minutes.

Do you have any questions about the study? *If yes, answer questions. If no, continue.*

Would you be willing to participate in the survey?

NO → Thank you for your time. Have a nice day.

YES → Thank you. Would you please sign the consent form in duplicate? I will be leaving one copy with you.

- **Sign your line in advance and point out the line where they'll sign.**

The consent form asks if I can tape-record this interview so that I can represent your thoughts most accurately for this study. Please indicate if that is OK.

- Please keep in mind that the cassettes will be destroyed as soon as they are transcribed and that all information in this interview is confidential.

Thank you for participating. I am going to start the interview by asking you some relatively simple questions.

Please feel free to stop me at any time for clarification.

1. What is your home zip code (or city and country if not US resident)?
2. Including this visit, how many trips have you made to the Dyea area in the last three years?

3. How did you learn about the possibility of visiting the Dyea area?
4. How did you get to the Skagway/Dyea area on this trip?
5. Which of the sites in the Dyea area have you already visited on this trip?
6. Which of the sites in the Dyea area do you still plan to visit on this trip?  
[Potential to strike next question; if asked, ask with sensitivity]
7. Do you think of the Dyea Flats as part of the area that you are visiting, or do you see it as a separate destination?  
[Show laminated map here to verify if the sites already or to be visited are the ones actually visited – this will help identify names of sites used by visitors]
8. Are these the sites that you have visited? Are these the sites you plan to visit?

The rest of the interview involves questions that are more open-ended. Feel free to talk through your answers in some detail.

[The topics addressed by the questions listed below will be addressed in the rest of the interview but may not be ordered or worded in the specific manner described here.]

- What activities did you do during your trip?
  - Which activity was most important to you?
- What do you think is special or unique about this area?
  - What would you like to see preserved for future generations?
- Did you know that this area is a national historic site that is managed by the National Park Service?
  - Where did you learn about it?
- Was the area's history important to your visit? How so?
  - [If only cultural history is discussed, probe for natural history] Was the area's natural history important to your visit? How so?
- Did you encounter people other than those in your party during your visit?
  - Where?
  - How many?
  - Did they affect your experience? How so?
  - [Probe for evidence of past as well as current visitors] Did you see any evidence of past visitor use? Did it affect your experience?
- Is there anything the park could do that would have improved your visit?
  - Are there positive things that park managers could add or negative things they could improve?
  - [Probe for historical information] Would you favor changes to the character to the area that increase the focus on its history?

**[Say this without referring to your notes]** We have come to the end of our interview. I would really like to thank you again for taking the time out of your day to talk with me. Please be assured that everything we've discussed in this interview will be held totally confidential and your input will be a great help to park managers.

- If you have any questions for me in the future, or any concerns regarding our study, contact information is included on your copy of the consent form.
- Thanks very much! *Offer to shake their hand.*

## APPENDIX D: LIST OF CODES

### 1 Dyea Flats as Separate from Dyea Town Site

- (1) Flats
- (1 1) Flats/Dyea Flats
- (1 1 1) Flats/Dyea Flats/Owned by Skagway
- (1 1 2) Flats/Dyea Flats/Able to Distinguish
- (1 1 3) Flats/Dyea Flats/Not Able to Distinguish
- (1 1 4) Flats/Dyea Flats/Don't Know
- (1 1 5) Flats/Dyea Flats/Dyea Flats Same (as Dyea Town Site)
- (1 1 6) Flats/Dyea Flats/Dyea Flats as Different from Town Site

### 2 Residence (Zip Code or City and Country)

- (2) Residence
- (2 1) Residence/Zip Code
- (2 2) Residence/Whitehorse
- (2 3) Residence/Other

### 3 Number of Visits (to Dyea in Last Three Years)

- (3) Number of Visits
- (3 1) Number of Visits/1
- (3 2) Number of Visits/2
- (3 3) Number of Visits/3
- (3 4) Number of Visits/4
- (3 5) Number of Visits/5
- (3 6) Number of Visits/6
- (3 7) Number of Visits/more than 6

### 4 Knowledge of Dyea

- (4) Knowledge of Dyea
  - (4 1) Knowledge of Dyea/No Previous Knowledge
  - (4 2) Knowledge of Dyea/In Skagway
  - (4 3) Knowledge of Dyea/Always Knew
  - (4 4) Knowledge of Dyea/Other
    - (4 4 1) Knowledge of Dyea/Other/Jack London
    - (4 4 2) Knowledge of Dyea/Other/Book
    - (4 4 3) Knowledge of Dyea/Other/TV
    - (4 4 4) Knowledge of Dyea/Other/Chilkoot Trail Location
    - (4 4 5) Knowledge of Dyea/Other/Cruise
  - (4 5) Knowledge of Dyea/Whitehorse

### 5 Transportation to the Skagway Area

- (5) Transportation
- (5 1) Transportation/Drove

- (5 2)Transportation/Ferry
- (5 1)Transportation/Cruise Ship
- (5 1 1)Transportation/Cruise Ship/Princess
- (5 1 2)Transportation/Cruise Ship/Celebrity
- (5 1 3)Transportation/Cruise Ship/Carnival
- (5 1 4)Transportation/Cruise Ship/Holland America

6Sites Visited in Dyea Prior to Interview

- (6)Sites Visited
- (6 1)Sites Visited/Dyea Campground
- (6 2)Sites Visited/Chilkoot Trail
- (6 3)Sites Visited/Slide Cemetery
- (6 4)Sites Visited/Dyea Town Site
- (6 5)Sites Visited/Dyea Flats
- (6 6)Sites Visited/Unsure

7Sites Plan to Visit in Dyea after Interview

- (7)Sites Plan to Visit
- (7 1)Sites Plan to Visit/Dyea Campground
- (7 1 1)Sites Plan to Visit/Dyea Campground/Dyea Flats Campground
- (7 1 2)Sites Plan to Visit/Dyea Campground/No
- (7 2)Sites Plan to Visit/Chilkoot Trail
- (7 2 1)Sites Plan to Visit/Chilkoot Trail/No
- (7 2 2)Sites Plan to Visit/Chilkoot Trail/Unsure
- (7 3)Sites Plan to Visit/Slide Cemetery
- (7 3 1)Sites Plan to Visit/Slide Cemetery/No
- (7 3 2)Sites Plan to Visit/Slide Cemetery/Unsure
- (7 4)Sites Plan to Visit/Dyea Town Site
- (7 4 1)Sites Plan to Visit/Dyea Town Site/No
- (7 4 2)Sites Plan to Visit/Dyea Town Site/Unsure
- (7 4 3)Sites Plan to Visit/Dyea Town Site/Another Time
- (7 5)Sites Plan to Visit/Dyea Flats
- (7 5 1)Sites Plan to Visit/Dyea Flats/No
- (7 5 2)Sites Plan to Visit/Dyea Flats/Unsure
- (7 6)Sites Plan to Visit/None
- (7 6 1)Sites Plan to Visit/None/No Time
- (7 6 2)Sites Plan to Visit/None/No Interest
- (7 6 3)Sites Plan to Visit/None/Visited Before
- (7 7)Sites Plan to Visit/Other
- (7 7 1)Sites Plan to Visit/Other/Don't Know of Other Sites
- (7 7 2)Sites Plan to Visit/Other/Unsure
- (7 8)Sites Plan to Visit/All

8Reason for Visiting on a Commercial Tour

- (8)Commercial Tour
- (8 1)Commercial Tour/Cultural History

(8 2) Commercial Tour/Natural History  
(8 3) Commercial Tour/Experience Alaska  
(8 4) Commercial Tour/Activity  
(8 4 1) Commercial Tour/Activity/Horseback Riding  
(8 4 2) Commercial Tour/Activity/Cycling  
(8 4 3) Commercial Tour/Activity/Float  
(8 4 4) Commercial Tour/Activity/Hike and Float

9 Reason for Visiting Dyea  
(9) Reason for Visiting Dyea

10 Activities  
(10) Activities  
(10 1) Activities/Hike  
(10 2) Activities/Camp  
(10 3) Activities/Walk  
(10 4) Activities/Bike  
(10 5) Activities/Drive  
(10 6) Activities/Horseback Ride  
(10 7) Activities/Raft  
(10 8) Activities/Other  
(10 9) Activities/Ranger Hike  
(10 9 1) Activities/Ranger Hike/Dyea Town Site  
(10 9 2) Activities/Ranger Hike/Chilkoot Trail  
(10 10) Activities/Self Guided Tour

11 Most Important Activity  
(11) Most Important Activity

12 Special or Unique Attributes of Dyea  
(12) Special~Unique  
(12 1) Special~Unique/Gold Rush  
(12 1 1) Special~Unique/Gold Rush/Slide Cemetery  
(12 1 2) Special~Unique/Gold Rush/Dyea Town Site  
(12 1 3) Special~Unique/Gold Rush/Chilkoot Trail  
(12 2) Special~Unique/Nature  
(12 2 1) Special~Unique/Nature/No Development  
(12 3) Special~Unique/Other

13 Importance of Cultural History  
(13) Cultural History  
(13 1) Cultural History/Important  
(13 1 1) Cultural History/Important/1<sup>st</sup> Nations  
(13 1 1 1) Cultural History/Important/1<sup>st</sup> Nations/Lacking Information  
(13 1 2) Cultural History/Important/Gold Rush  
(13 2) Cultural History/Somewhat Important

- (13 2 1) Cultural History/Somewhat Important/Additional Quality
- (13 3) Cultural History/Not Important
  - (13 3 1) Cultural History/Not Important/Not for Respondent(s) but for Other Visitors
- (13 3 2) Cultural History/Not Important/Not this Trip

14 Importance of Natural History

- (14) Natural History
  - (14 1) Natural History/Important
    - (14 1 1) Natural History/Important/Naturalness
    - (14 1 2) Natural History/Important/Ocean
    - (14 1 3) Natural History/Important/River
    - (14 1 4) Natural History/Important/Wildlife
    - (14 1 5) Natural History/Important/Trees
    - (14 1 6) Natural History/Important/Air
    - (14 1 7) Natural History/Important/Remote
    - (14 1 8) Natural History/Important/Climate
    - (14 1 9) Natural History/Important/Enjoyment
    - (14 1 10) Natural History/Important/Geology or Biology
  - (14 2) Natural History/Reclaiming Dyea
    - (14 2 1) Natural History/Reclaiming Dyea/Good
    - (14 2 2) Natural History/Reclaiming Dyea/Bad
  - (14 3) Natural History/Not Important
  - (14 4) Natural History/Changing
  - (14 5) Natural History/Interesting
  - (14 6) Natural History/Other

15 Importance of Cultural and Natural Histories

- (15) Natural vs. Cultural History
  - (15 1) Natural vs. Cultural History/Cultural More Important
  - (15 2) Natural vs. Cultural History/Natural More Important
  - (15 3) Natural vs. Cultural History/Equal Importance

16 Presence of Other Visitors

- (16) Other Visitors
  - (16 1) Other Visitors/Number
    - (16 1 1) Other Visitors/Number/Expected
    - (16 1 2) Other Visitors/Number/Not Expected
    - (16 1 3) Other Visitors/Number/Too Many
    - (16 1 4) Other Visitors/Number/Not Many
    - (16 1 5) Other Visitors/Number/Right Amount
    - (16 1 6) Other Visitors/Number/Commercial Tour Groups
  - (16 2) Other Visitors/Location
  - (16 3) Other Visitors/Effect on Experience
    - (16 3 1) Other Visitors/Effect on Experience/No Effect
    - (16 3 2) Other Visitors/Effect on Experience/Positive

(16 3 3)Other Visitors/Effect on Experience/Negative

17Evidence of Past Visitors

(17)Past Visitors

(17 1)Past Visitors/Evidence

(17 2)Past Visitors/No Evidence

(17 3)Past Visitors/Effect on Experience

(17 3 1)Past Visitors/Effect on Experience/Positive

(17 3 2)Past Visitors/Effect on Experience/Negative

(17 3 3)Past Visitors/Effect on Experience/No Effect

18Suggestions for Improvements

(18)Improvements

(18 1)Improvements/Signs

(18 1 1)Improvements/Signs/Road

(18 1 1 1)Improvements/Signs/Road/Direction

(18 1 1 2)Improvements/Signs/Road/Mileage

(18 1 1 3)Improvements/Signs/Road/Maps

(18 1 2)Improvements/Signs/Interpretation

(18 1 2 1)Improvements/Signs/Interpretation/Cemetery

(18 1 2 1 1)Improvements/Signs/Interpretation/Cemetery/Quantity

(18 1 2 1 2)Improvements/Signs/Interpretation/Cemetery/Quality

(18 1 2 1 2 1)Improvements/Signs/Interpretation/Cemetery/Quality/Need to be Restored

(18 1 2 1 2 2)Improvements/Signs/Interpretation/Cemetery/Quality/Compared to Skagway

(18 1 2 1 2 3)Improvements/Signs/Interpretation/Cemetery Quality/Currently Good

(18 1 2 2)Improvements/Signs/Interpretation/Dyea Town Site

(18 1 2 2 1)Improvements/Signs/Interpretation/Dyea Town Site/Quantity

(18 1 2 2 2)Improvements/Signs/Interpretation/Dyea Town Site/Quality

(18 1 2 2 3)Improvements/Signs/Interpretation/Dyea Town Site/Location

(18 1 2 2 4)Improvements/Signs/Interpretation/Dyea Town Site/Type

(18 1 2 2 4 1)Improvements/Signs/Interpretation/Dyea Town Site/Type/Kiosk

(18 1 2 2 4 2)Improvements/Signs/Interpretation/Dyea Town Site/Type/Panel

(18 1 2 2 4 3)Improvements/Signs/Interpretation/Dyea Town Site/Type Model

(18 1 2 3)Improvements/Signs/Interpretation/Chilkoot Trail

(18 1 2 3 1)Improvements/Signs/Interpretation/Chilkoot Trail/Signs

(18 1 2 3 2)Improvements/Signs/Interpretation/Chilkoot Trail/Visitor Center

(18 1 2 4)Improvements/Signs/Interpretation/Pre-Gold Rush

(18 1 3)Improvements/Signs/Trail

(18 1 3 1)Improvements/Signs/Trail/Direction

(18 1 3 2)Improvements/Signs/Trail/Distance

(18 1 4)Improvements/Signs/Plant Identification

(18 1 5)Improvements/Signs/Advertisement

(18 2)Improvements/Campground

- (18 2 1)Improvements/Campground/Development
- (18 2 1 1)Improvements/Campground/Development/More
- (18 2 1 2)Improvements/Campground//Development/Keep the Same
- (18 2 2)Improvements/Campground/Firewood
- (18 2 3)Improvements/Campground/Gray Water Pits
- (18 2 4)Improvements/Campground/Campsites
- (18 2 4 1)Improvements/Campground/Campsites/More
- (18 2 4 2)Improvements/Campground//Campsites/Size
- (18 2 4 3)Improvements/Campground/Campsites/Privacy
- (18 2 5)Improvements/Campground/Toilets
- (18 2 6)Improvements/Campground/Other
- (18 2 7)Improvements/Campground/Water
- (18 2 8)Improvements/Campground/Ranger Talk
- (18 3)Improvements/Self Guided Tour
- (18 4)Improvements/Other
- (18 5)Improvements/None
- (18 6)Improvements/Chilkoot Trail
- (18 7)Improvements/Slide Cemetery

19Changes to the Character of the Area to Increase the Historical Focus

- (19)Changes to the Character of Area
- (19 1)Changes to the Character of Area/In Favor
- (19 1 1)Changes to the Character of Area/In Favor/More Signs
- (19 1 2)Changes to the Character of Area/In Favor/Road-width Trails
  - (19 1 2 1) Changes to the Character of Area/In Favor/Road-width Trails/Unsure
- (19 1 3)Changes to the Character of Area/In Favor/Road-grid Trails
- (19 1 4)Changes to the Character of Area/In Favor/Reconstruction
- (19 1 5)Changes to the Character of Area/In Favor/No Disturbance
- (19 1 6)Changes to the Character of Area/In Favor/Restoration
- (19 2)Changes to the Character of Area/Not In Favor
- (19 2 1)Changes to the Character of Area/Not In Favor/Natural
- (19 2 2)Changes to the Character of Area/Not In Favor/Nature Heal
- (19 2 3)Changes to the Character of Area/Not In Favor/No Reconstruction
- (19 2 4)Changes to the Character of Area/Not In Favor/Keeps as Is
- (19 3)Changes to the Character of Area/Not Opposed
- (19 4)Changes to the Character of Area/Other

20Knowledge of National Historical Park Managed by the National Park Service

- (20)Knowledge of NHP
- (20 1)Knowledge of NHP/Prior
- (20 1 1)Knowledge of NHP/Prior/Reading
- (20 1 2)Knowledge of NHP/Prior/TV
- (20 1 3)Knowledge of NHP/Prior/Friends or Family
- (20 1 4)Knowledge of NHP/Prior/Cruise Ship
- (20 2)Knowledge of NHP/Prior/Skagway

- (20 2 1) Knowledge of NHP/Prior/Skagway/Visitor Center
- (20 2 2) Knowledge of NHP/Prior/Skagway/Word of Mouth
- (20 3) Knowledge of NHP/Prior/Dyea
- (20 3 1) Knowledge of NHP/Prior/Dyea/Signs
- (20 3 2) Knowledge of NHP/Prior/Dyea/Commercial Tour Guide
- (20 3 3) Knowledge of NHP/Prior/Dyea/NPS Ranger
- (20 4) Knowledge of NHP/Other
- (20 4 1) Knowledge of NHP/Other/Chilkoot Trail Location
- (20 5) Knowledge of NHP/None
- (20 6) Knowledge of NHP/Commercial Tour Guide (not in Dyea)
- (20 7) Knowledge of NHP/Assumed

21 Favorite Campground Attribute

- (21) Favorite Campground Attribute
- (21 1) Favorite Campground Attribute/Campsites
- (21 2) Favorite Campground Attribute/Nature
- (21 3) Favorite Campground Attribute/Remote
- (21 4) Favorite Campground Attribute/Other
- (21 5) Favorite Campground Attribute/Primitive
- (21 6) Favorite Campground Attribute/Peaceful
- (21 7) Favorite Campground Attribute/Price

22 Least Favorite Campground Attribute

- (22) Least Favorite Campground Attribute
- (22 1) Least Favorite Campground Attribute/Toilets
- (22 2) Least Favorite Campground Attribute/Firewood
- (22 3) Least Favorite Campground Attribute/Gray Water
- (22 4) Least Favorite Campground Attribute/Other
- (22 5) Least Favorite Campground Attribute/Campsites
- (22 6) Least Favorite Campground Attribute/Potable Water
- (22 7) Least Favorite Campground Attribute/Nothing

23 Importance of the Distance to the Chilkoot Trail from the Campground

- (23) Distance to Chilkoot
- (23 1) Distance to Chilkoot/Important
- (23 2) Distance to Chilkoot/Not Important
- (23 3) Distance to Chilkoot/Doesn't Matter

24 Expectations of the Number of Encounters on the Chilkoot Trail

- (24) # of Visitors on the Chilkoot
- (24 1) # of Visitors on the Chilkoot/Expected
- (24 2) # of Visitors on the Chilkoot/Not Expect

25 Additional Comments

- (25) Additional Comments

- 26 Preservation for Future Generations
- (26) Future Generations
- (26 1) Future Generations/Slide Cemetery
- (26 2) Future Generations/Dyea Campground
- (26 3) Future Generations/Everything
- (26 4) Future Generations/Wildlife
- (26 5) Future Generations/Dyea Town Site
- (26 6) Future Generations/Dyea Flats
- (26 7) Future Generations/Natural
- (26 8) Future Generations/Chilkoot Trail
- (26 9) Future Generations/Signs
- (26 10) Future Generations/Other

## **APPENDIX E: NOTES FROM INTERVIEWS FOR WHICH RECORDINGS WERE LOST**

- R1: Two people from Toronto on a horse back tour interviewed at the Dock. Male and female arrived on a cruise ship. They said they did not encounter any other people; the only use that they saw that was present was the roads. They were interested in the cultural history and they said that the natural history as far as the mountains was important to them and the trees. They had gone to the Flats and the Dyea town site and they did not see anything for improvement for the Park, just to preserve the entire thing for future generations. They found out about visiting the Park on the cruise ship. They did not know it was a National Historic site managed by the NPS until they got here. [1: 5.21.04; 11:00 am; Cruise Ship Dock; 2: Male/Female]
- R2: At the Sockeye Cycle shop outside on the sidewalk. Female from Ohio from a cruise ship. She had gone on a cycle tour and had seen two people on horseback while they were out there. They went to the Dyea town site, the Flats, and to the Cemetery. Said that nothing needed to be improved. She liked things the way that they were. The cultural history was what was important to her, but the tides as well was something that was an interesting feature of the natural landscape. Not really anything about the history so much. She really wants to see it preserved the way it is with the Flats area. She found out about visiting the Park on the cruise ship. She knew it was a National Historic site managed by the NPS beforehand. [12: 5.21.04; 11:30 am; Sockeye Cycle Shop; 1: Female]
- R3: Male from Arizona, a backcountry ranger with the National Park. Visiting from a cruise ship. He had been on the bicycle tour and said he saw three people on horseback and some people rock climbing on the sides, which he wasn't sure if it was Park property or not. They did not affect his experience. Bicycling was his favorite aspect of his trip and the most important activity that he did. He was very interested in the cultural history both of the Gold Rush and the native populations. He was impressed with the interpretive signs and said that they were good and nothing needed to be added there. At the Slide Cemetery some of the false wood headstones or wood stones as he called them needed to be replaced and kept up better. He had heard about the Park from friends of his that are rangers here and that is why he wanted to visit, which is how he knew it was a National Historic site managed by the NPS. [13: 5.21.04; 11:35 am; Sockeye Cycle Shop; 1: Male]



## **APPENDIX F: DYEА QUANTITATIVE STUDY SURVEY CARD**

The survey worker will generally make contacts with visitors at the 5 Dyeа area attraction sites. Visitors will be approached as they leave the attraction site and asked to participate in the survey.

*Introduction and request to participate.*

**Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ . Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park is conducting a survey of visitors to the Dyeа area this summer. The information we are collecting is important because it will help managers and planners understand the amount and pattern of use at Dyeа. This survey is voluntary and any information you provide will be anonymous. The survey takes about two minutes to complete.**

**Would you be willing to participate in the survey?**

NO → Thank you for your time.

YES → Thank you. Here is the survey and a pencil. Please return your completed survey to me.

The questionnaire below will be distributed to all visitors who agree to participate in the survey.

**Klondike Gold Rush National Historical  
Park  
Visitor Use Survey**

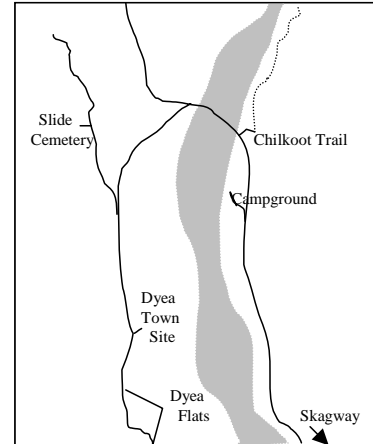
OMB Approval #1024-0224 (NPS #04-29)  
Expiration Date: 03/30/2005

1. How many people are in your party? \_\_\_\_\_
2. If US, what is your zip code? \_\_\_\_\_
3. If non-US, what is your country? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Which of the five sites indicated on the map **have you visited on this trip** to the Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park?  
(please mark an "X" next to the sites *you have visited*)

- |                                         |                                         |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Campground     | <input type="checkbox"/> Chilkoot Trail |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Slide Cemetery | <input type="checkbox"/> Dyea town site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dyea Flats     |                                         |

5. Which of the five sites indicated on the map **do you plan to visit during this trip** to the Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park?  
(please mark an "X" next to the sites *you plan to visit*)

- |                                         |                                         |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Campground     | <input type="checkbox"/> Chilkoot Trail |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Slide Cemetery | <input type="checkbox"/> Dyea town site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dyea Flats     |                                         |



**PRIVACY ACT and PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT statement:**

16 U. S. C. 1a-7 authorizes collection of this information. This information will be used by park managers to better serve the public. Response to this request is voluntary. No action may be taken against you for refusing to supply the information requested. Permanent data will be anonymous. Data collected through visitor surveys may be disclosed to the Department of Justice when relevant litigation or anticipated litigation, or to appropriate Federal, State, local or foreign agencies responsible for investigating or prosecuting violation of law. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

**Burden estimate statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 2 minutes per response. Direct comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this form to the Information Collection Clearance Officer, WASO Administrative Program Center, National Park Service, 1849 C Street, Washington, D. C. 20240.

## **APPENDIX G: DAILY ESTIMATES OF TOTAL DYEA AREA VISITATION**

Separate estimates of total Dyea area use were calculated based on the vehicle counts collected and estimated at the Slide Cemetery, and the counts and estimates for the Dyea Flats and Dyea Town Site (see Section 3.5.2 above). For example, if the total number of vehicles visiting the Dyea area is represented by X, we can estimate X by solving the equation:

Vehicles visiting the Cemetery =  $X(\text{proportion of parties that visited the Cemetery})$

Based on these analyses, the table below shows the average of the three estimates of total vehicles visiting the Dyea area as calculated from visitation at the Slide Cemetery, Dyea Flats, and Dyea Town Site. The lowest and the highest of the three estimates are also included in the table.

Appendix G: Daily Estimates of Dyea Area Visitation

| Date   | Ave. | Low | Hi  | Date   | Ave. | Low | Hi  | Date   | Ave. | Low | Hi  | Date   | Ave. | Low | Hi  |
|--------|------|-----|-----|--------|------|-----|-----|--------|------|-----|-----|--------|------|-----|-----|
| 25-May | 42   | 30  | 48  | 1-Jul  | 103  | 76  | 117 | 1-Aug  | 93   | 56  | 114 | 1-Sep  | 76   | 44  | 101 |
| 26-May | 51   | 28  | 65  | 2-Jul  | 95   | 76  | 105 | 2-Aug  | 88   | 75  | 99  | 2-Sep  | 44   | 24  | 56  |
| 27-May | 79   | 54  | 91  | 3-Jul  | 90   | 67  | 102 | 3-Aug  | 110  | 98  | 117 | 3-Sep  | 41   | 15  | 55  |
| 28-May | 53   | 30  | 66  | 4-Jul  | 125  | 108 | 136 | 4-Aug  | 116  | 95  | 127 | 4-Sep  | 50   | 26  | 62  |
| 29-May | 58   | 34  | 72  | 5-Jul  | 91   | 59  | 107 | 5-Aug  | 113  | 75  | 134 | 5-Sep  | 58   | 21  | 80  |
| 30-May | 69   | 45  | 82  | 6-Jul  | 134  | 108 | 150 | 6-Aug  | 144  | 102 | 170 | 6-Sep  | 73   | 36  | 91  |
| 31-May | NA   | NA  | NA  | 7-Jul  | 138  | 94  | 166 | 7-Aug  | 127  | 69  | 163 | 7-Sep  | 60   | 23  | 79  |
| 1-Jun  | NA   | NA  | NA  | 8-Jul  | 133  | 122 | 144 | 8-Aug  | 123  | 68  | 156 | 8-Sep  | 73   | 33  | 96  |
| 2-Jun  | 79   | 56  | 90  | 9-Jul  | 98   | 81  | 108 | 9-Aug  | 114  | 86  | 131 | 9-Sep  | 65   | 40  | 82  |
| 3-Jun  | NA   | NA  | NA  | 10-Jul | 64   | 38  | 79  | 10-Aug | 152  | 133 | 163 | 10-Sep | 40   | 20  | 51  |
| 4-Jun  | NA   | NA  | NA  | 11-Jul | 125  | 92  | 147 | 11-Aug | 123  | 81  | 150 | 11-Sep | 48   | 28  | 61  |
| 5-Jun  | 60   | 37  | 73  | 12-Jul | 92   | 66  | 106 | 12-Aug | 123  | 94  | 138 | 12-Sep | 40   | 17  | 55  |
| 6-Jun  | 84   | 61  | 96  | 13-Jul | 117  | 104 | 125 | 13-Aug | 114  | 76  | 134 | 13-Sep | 41   | 16  | 57  |
| 7-Jun  | 89   | 65  | 101 | 14-Jul | 139  | 133 | 150 | 14-Aug | 92   | 42  | 121 | 14-Sep | 54   | 34  | 67  |
| 8-Jun  | 73   | 50  | 85  | 15-Jul | 137  | 112 | 157 | 15-Aug | 99   | 67  | 116 | 15-Sep | 37   | 20  | 50  |
| 9-Jun  | 87   | 63  | 99  | 16-Jul | 118  | 102 | 132 | 16-Aug | 105  | 74  | 121 | 16-Sep | 46   | 30  | 57  |
| 10-Jun | 78   | 54  | 91  | 17-Jul | 101  | 66  | 121 | 17-Aug | 128  | 103 | 149 | 17-Sep | 31   | 17  | 42  |
| 11-Jun | 95   | 68  | 109 | 18-Jul | 100  | 86  | 109 | 18-Aug | 91   | 63  | 109 | 18-Sep | 45   | 31  | 54  |
| 12-Jun | 67   | 43  | 80  | 19-Jul | 121  | 101 | 136 | 19-Aug | 99   | 68  | 119 | 19-Sep | 48   | 27  | 60  |
| 13-Jun | 77   | 44  | 94  | 20-Jul | 140  | 124 | 153 | 20-Aug | 99   | 69  | 116 | 20-Sep | 37   | 22  | 47  |
| 14-Jun | 98   | 70  | 113 | 21-Jul | 117  | 111 | 122 | 21-Aug | 102  | 52  | 130 | 21-Sep | 37   | 12  | 50  |
| 15-Jun | 117  | 93  | 131 | 22-Jul | 140  | 133 | 146 | 22-Aug | 103  | 62  | 124 | 22-Sep | 37   | 17  | 51  |
| 16-Jun | 119  | 103 | 129 | 23-Jul | 115  | 100 | 125 | 23-Aug | 126  | 63  | 157 | 23-Sep | 30   | 16  | 39  |
| 17-Jun | 113  | 93  | 124 | 24-Jul | 93   | 72  | 105 | 24-Aug | 92   | 52  | 113 | 24-Sep | 20   | 8   | 28  |
| 18-Jun | 98   | 76  | 110 | 25-Jul | 101  | 69  | 121 | 25-Aug | 108  | 87  | 124 | 25-Sep | 54   | 10  | 84  |
| 19-Jun | 75   | 40  | 93  | 26-Jul | 101  | 80  | 113 | 26-Aug | 80   | 61  | 95  | 26-Sep | 35   | 10  | 52  |
| 20-Jun | 95   | 65  | 111 | 27-Jul | 167  | 156 | 180 | 27-Aug | 100  | 42  | 133 | 27-Sep | 14   | 9   | 19  |
| 21-Jun | 100  | 66  | 118 | 28-Jul | 108  | 98  | 117 | 28-Aug | 89   | 52  | 117 | 28-Sep | 18   | 8   | 25  |
| 22-Jun | 131  | 112 | 144 | 29-Jul | 119  | 97  | 132 | 29-Aug | 77   | 57  | 100 | 29-Sep | 15   | 7   | 21  |
| 23-Jun | 155  | 145 | 164 | 30-Jul | 120  | 112 | 132 | 30-Aug | 45   | 20  | 64  | 30-Sep | 18   | 2   | 28  |
| 24-Jun | 135  | 118 | 146 | 31-Jul | 80   | 52  | 97  | 31-Aug | 88   | 49  | 116 | 1-Oct  | 6    | 2   | 9   |
| 25-Jun | 79   | 56  | 90  |        |      |     |     |        |      |     |     | 2-Oct  | 14   | 5   | 21  |
| 26-Jun | 71   | 42  | 85  |        |      |     |     |        |      |     |     | 3-Oct  | 24   | 5   | 35  |
| 27-Jun | 113  | 94  | 123 |        |      |     |     |        |      |     |     | 4-Oct  | 12   | 3   | 18  |
| 28-Jun | 111  | 87  | 124 |        |      |     |     |        |      |     |     | 5-Oct  | 9    | 6   | 11  |
| 29-Jun | 146  | 127 | 160 |        |      |     |     |        |      |     |     | 6-Oct  | 11   | 5   | 14  |
| 30-Jun | 107  | 82  | 120 |        |      |     |     |        |      |     |     | 7-Oct  | 3    | 2   | 3   |

## **APPENDIX H: A PLAN FOR MONITORING DYEVA AREA VISITATION**

### **H.1 Introduction**

One of the benefits of relying on automated counting equipment for the collection of most of the visitor use information described in this report is the fact that the equipment remains available for further data collection. In this case, two Trailmaster TM 1550 infrared trail counters and three Diamond Traffic TT-6 pneumatic vehicle counters can be deployed in monitoring future visitor use of the Dyea area.

The primary goal of a plan to monitor visitor use is to provide early detection of changes in use that might create a variety of problems. Thus, managers can deal with those changes in a proactive manner. Without monitoring, managers would be limited to reacting to already-established problems.

The body of this report primarily describes two classes of information about visitor use: 1) hourly patterns of use across average or peak days, and 2) daily patterns of use across the visiting season. Yearly monitoring of the hourly pattern of use is not recommended because the added effort to collect and analyze hourly data yields information that is likely to be of limited use to managers. When a potential problem has been identified through the monitoring of daily use, additional information about the hourly distribution of use may prove useful. Similarly, it may be useful to monitor explicit efforts to alter the hourly distribution of use (e.g., changes in the scheduling of IBP visitor transportation). However, unless such situations arise, the added effort necessary to monitor hourly distributions is only advised every five to ten years. This monitoring plan does not address hourly distributions.

Like the report in general, this monitoring plan is organized around the primary visitor sites in the Dyea area. The plan primarily describes how data from the automated counting equipment will be used to monitor visitor use. Other sources of information included in the plan are the campground counts and backpacker permit records routinely collected by park staff, as well as some Incidental Business Permit holder records. To improve the clarity of this appendix, the five sites will be discussed in an order (Slide Cemetery, Dyea Flats and Townsite, Chilkoot Trail, and Campground) different from their order of presentation in the body of this report. The final section of this appendix discusses the monitoring of general visitor use in the Dyea area.

The primary steps in the monitoring plan are; 1) the observation of 30 days visitor use in the first half of the season, 2) analysis of whether use differs from the levels that would be expected based on patterns observed in 2004, 3) if use differs, observation of an additional 30 days visitor use, and 4) analysis and comparison of the new and old patterns of use. The details of this monitoring plan will be fleshed out for each of the sites discussed below.

The most efficient option for the monitoring of use is to deploy all five counters (2 trail counters and 3 vehicle counters) simultaneously for 30 days in the first half of the visitor season. Ideally, the first observation period would cover the month of June. As in 2004, making a single person responsible for the ongoing task of collecting the visitor counts is much more likely to be successful than collecting the information in a less formal manner. Because the data will be aggregated as daily counts, the need to read the counters on a daily basis is weaker than in 2004. However, with longer intervals between counter readout, more information can be lost due to malfunction.

## H.2 Monitoring Use at the Slide Cemetery

Use at the Slide Cemetery will be monitored by installing the vehicle counter in the manner described in Section 3.4.1. The counter should be set to a daily interval rather than the hourly interval used in 2004.

Proper recording of the information collected by the vehicle counters is complicated by the fact that the start of the counted interval (i.e., day) is determined by the last reset of the counter. For example, if you reset the counter at noon, then arrive at 12:10 the next day to read it, there will be two “bins” of information, one covering the first 24 hours since the reset, and one covering the 10 minutes after that interval ended. The best method for dealing with this issue is to: 1) make sure the counter is set to a daily counting interval, 2) reset the counter at a specifically noted time at the beginning of the 30-day observation period, then let it collect all 30 days of counts without resetting, 3) read the count information off the counter on relatively frequent basis, and 4) carefully note when counts are collected so that it is clear when a recorded count represents an incomplete counting interval.

### H.2.1 Comparing Observed Use to Past Use

The comparison of the monitored data with 2004 use levels requires daily records of the expected cruise ship passengers and high temperature in Skagway for every day in the observation period. In 2004 the expected cruise ship passengers were published by the Skagway Convention and Visitors' Bureau, and daily high temperature ratings are available from websites such as <http://www.wunderground.com/>. This information will be entered into the regression equation that was calculated using the 2004 data, and will thus predict use levels for the 30 monitored days. It is then simple to test whether the observed and predicted use levels differ statistically. Put differently (and more specifically):

For observed period (e.g., 6/1 to 6/30), calculate:

$$\text{Predicted}_{6/1} = [\text{Expected Passengers}_{6/1} * 0.003] + [\text{High Temp}_{6/1} * 1.2] - 57.8$$

Then:

Compare Predicted<sub>6/1</sub> thru Predicted<sub>6/30</sub> with Observed<sub>6/1</sub> thru Observed<sub>6/30</sub> using a t-test.

If the t-test does not detect a statistically significant difference, then we conclude that

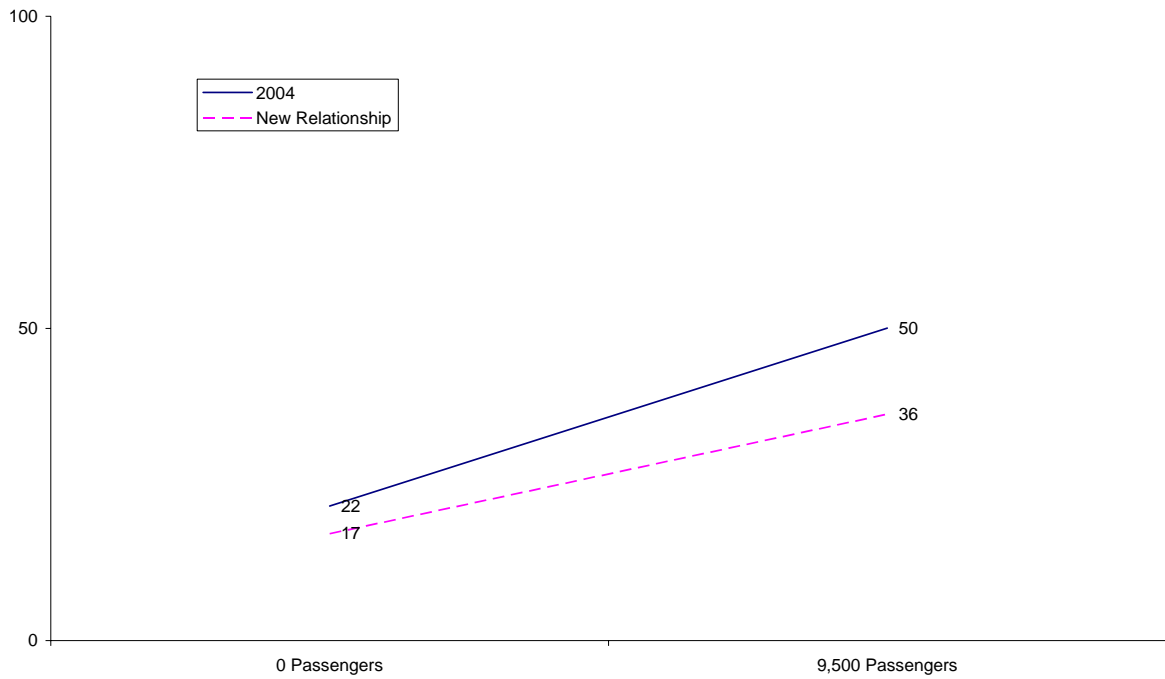
there is no evidence that the relationship of visitor use to cruise ship traffic and weather has changed. Note that this analysis does not test whether the absolute level of visitor use has changed. If the expected number of cruise ship passengers and/or the weather are different in the seasons being compared, then the number of Slide Cemetery visitors would be expected to reflect those changes. If the t-test suggests that the predictive relationship measured by the regression equation has not changed, then the absolute number of Slide Cemetery visitors in the monitored season (daily, weekly, monthly, or seasonally) can be estimated using the Predicted Dyea Visitation Excel spreadsheet (see Section 3.7) and readily available cruise ship and weather information.

### ***H.2.2 Defining a New Pattern of Use***

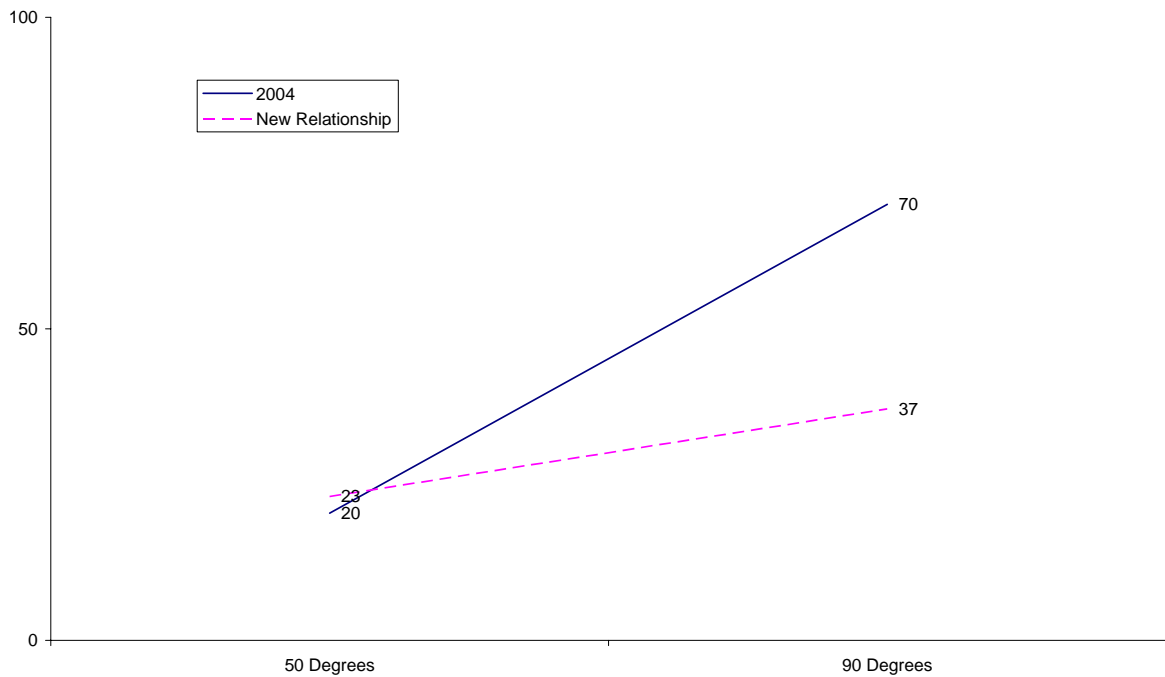
If the t-test detects a statistically significant difference, then we conclude that there is evidence that the relationship of visitor use to cruise ship traffic and weather has changed. In that case, the vehicle counter should be used to collect an additional 30 days of visitor use data at Slide Cemetery. These data can then be used (with the earlier 30 days of counts) in a regression analysis defining the new relationship predicting Slide Cemetery visitation based on cruise ship traffic and weather.

Visual inspection of charts showing the old and new regression lines can be used to infer the types of changes that have occurred. For example, the Figures H.1 and H.2 below each show the 2004 regression line and a hypothetical line representing some future year's visitation. The pattern shown in Figure H.1 is consistent with the interpretation that a smaller proportion of cruise ship passengers are visiting the Slide Cemetery. Figure H.2 suggests that weather had less influence than before on use at the Slide Cemetery.

**Figure H.1: Linear Relationship of Expected Cruise Ship Passengers and Daily Vehicles Visiting Slide Cemetery When Skagway High Temperature is 64 Degrees**



**Figure H.2: Linear Relationship of Skagway High Temperature and Daily Vehicles Visiting Slide Cemetery When 5,400 Cruise Ship Passengers are Expected**



Based on the new regression equation calculated for the 60 days of monitored data, the absolute number of Slide Cemetery visitors in the monitored season (daily, weekly, monthly, or seasonally) can be estimated. One can open the Predicted Dyea Visitation Excel spreadsheet (see Section 3.7) and replace the 2004 regression coefficients for the Slide Cemetery prediction with new regression coefficients. Then, entering readily available cruise ship and weather information will yield use estimates for unobserved days.

### ***H.2.3 A Tool to Conduct Analyses***

The above description of the analyses necessary to evaluate the visitor use data monitored at the Slide Cemetery suggests that they would be complex and difficult to carry out for any person not proficient in statistical analysis. In order to facilitate the ongoing monitoring of visitor use at Dyea, an Excel spreadsheet has been written to carry out all the analyses described above. Using the spreadsheet, park staff can: 1) test for differences in use, and if necessary, 2) calculate a new regression equation, and 3) produce charts showing the new linear relationship. All that is necessary is to enter the expected cruise ship passengers, Skagway high temperature, and the count of vehicle passages over the Slide Cemetery vehicle counter for the first 30-day observation period, and if necessary, for the second 30-day observation period. This Excel spreadsheet, called Monitoring Slide Cemetery, has been sent to KLGO with this final report.

### **H.3 Monitoring Use at the Dyea Flats**

Use at the Dyea Flats will be monitored by installing the vehicle counter in the manner described in Section 3.5.1. The counter should be set to a daily interval rather than the hourly interval used in 2004. Two different methods were used to estimate use at the Dyea Flats in 2004 (see Section 3.5.2). The estimates were highly consistent, so the estimate dependent only on the South counter will be monitored.

As at the Slide Cemetery, proper recording of the information collected by the vehicle counters is complicated by the fact that the start of the counted interval (i.e., day) is determined by the last reset of the counter. For example, if you reset the counter at noon, then arrive at 12:10 the next day to read it, there will be two “bins” of information, one covering the first 24 hours since the reset, and one covering the 10 minutes after that interval ended. The best method for dealing with this issue is to: 1) make sure the counter is set to a daily counting interval, 2) reset the counter at a specifically noted time at the beginning of the 30-day observation period, then let it collect all 30 days of counts without resetting, 3) read the count information off the counter on relatively frequent basis, and 4) carefully note when counts are collected so that it is clear when a recorded count represents an incomplete counting interval.

#### ***H.3.1 Comparing Observed Use to Past Use***

The comparison of the monitored data with 2004 use levels requires daily records of the expected cruise ship passengers and high temperature in Skagway for every day in the observation period. In 2004 the expected cruise ship passengers were published by the Skagway Convention and Visitors' Bureau, and daily high temperature ratings are available from websites such as <http://www.wunderground.com/>. This information will be entered into the regression equation that was calculated using the 2004 data, and will thus predict use levels for the 30 monitored days. It is then simple to test whether the observed and predicted use levels differ statistically. Put differently (and more specifically):

For observed period (e.g., 6/1 to 6/30), calculate:

$$\text{Predicted}_{6/1} = [\text{Expected Passengers}_{6/1} * 0.002] + [\text{High Temp}_{6/1} * 1.3] - 39.1^{12}$$

Then:

Compare Predicted<sub>6/1</sub> thru Predicted<sub>6/30</sub> with Observed<sub>6/1</sub> thru Observed<sub>6/30</sub> using a t-test.

If the t-test does not detect a statistically significant difference, then we conclude that there is no evidence that the relationship of visitor use to cruise ship traffic and weather has changed. Note that this analysis does not test whether the absolute level of visitor use has changed. If the expected number of cruise ship passengers and/or the weather are different in the seasons being compared, then the number of Dyea Flats visitors would be expected to reflect those changes. If the t-test suggests that the predictive relationship measured by the regression equation has not changed, then the absolute number of Dyea Flats visitors in the monitored season (daily, weekly, monthly, or seasonally) can be estimated using the Predicted Dyea Visitation Excel spreadsheet (see Section 3.7) and readily available cruise ship and weather information.

### **H.3.2 Defining a New Pattern of Use**

If the t-test detects a statistically significant difference, then we conclude that there is evidence that the relationship of visitor use to cruise ship traffic and weather has changed. In that case, the vehicle counter should be used to collect an additional 30 days of visitor use data at Dyea Flats. These data can then be used (with the earlier 30 days of counts) in a regression analysis defining the new relationship predicting Dyea Flats visitation based on cruise ship traffic and weather. Visual inspection of charts showing the old and new regression lines can be used to infer the types of changes that have occurred (see Section H.2.2 above for an example).

Based on the new regression equation calculated for the 60 days of monitored data, the absolute number of Dyea Flats visitors in the monitored season (daily, weekly, monthly, or seasonally) can be estimated. One can open the Predicted Dyea Visitation Excel

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<sup>12</sup> This equation differs slightly from that in Section 3.5.2 because it predicts the estimate of flats visitation that was based on the Nelson South counter rather than the average of the two estimates based on the Nelson North and Nelson South counters.

spreadsheet (see Section 3.7) and replace the 2004 regression coefficients for the Dyea Flats prediction with new regression coefficients. Then, entering readily available cruise ship and weather information will yield use estimates for unobserved days.

### ***H.3.3 A Tool to Conduct Analyses***

The above description of the analyses necessary to evaluate the visitor use data monitored at the Dyea Flats suggests that they would be complex and difficult to carry out for any person not proficient in statistical analysis. In order to facilitate the ongoing monitoring of visitor use at Dyea, an Excel spreadsheet has been written to carry out all the analyses described above. Using the spreadsheet, park staff can: 1) test for differences in use, and if necessary, 2) calculate a new regression equation, and 3) produce charts showing the new linear relationship. All that is necessary is to enter the expected cruise ship passengers, Skagway high temperature, and the count of vehicle passages over the Dyea Flats (i.e., Nelson South) vehicle counter for the first 30-day observation period, and if necessary, for the second 30-day observation period. This Excel spreadsheet, called Monitoring Dyea Flats, has been sent to KLGO with this final report.

## **H.4 Monitoring Use at the Dyea Townsite**

Two different aspects of use at the Dyea Townsite will be monitored. First, vehicle counts will be monitored by installing the vehicle counter in the manner described in Section 3.5.1. The counter should be set to a daily interval rather than the hourly interval used in 2004. Second, hiker and bicyclist traffic will be monitored by installing the trail counter in the manner described in Section 3.5.4. Monitoring of vehicle counts will be described first, and then monitoring of trail counts will be discussed.

### ***H.4.1 Monitoring Vehicles Visiting the Dyea Townsite***

As at the Slide Cemetery, proper recording of the information collected by the vehicle counters is complicated by the fact that the start of the counted interval (i.e., day) is determined by the last reset of the counter. For example, if you reset the counter at noon, then arrive at 12:10 the next day to read it, there will be two “bins” of information, one covering the first 24 hours since the reset, and one covering the 10 minutes after that interval ended. The best method for dealing with this issue is to: 1) make sure the counter is set to a daily counting interval, 2) reset the counter at a specifically noted time at the beginning of the 30-day observation period, then let it collect all 30 days of counts without resetting, 3) read the count information off the counter on relatively frequent basis, and 4) carefully note when counts are collected so that it is clear when a recorded count represents an incomplete counting interval.

### ***H.4.2 Comparing Observed Vehicle Use to Past Use***

The comparison of the monitored data with 2004 use levels requires daily records of the expected cruise ship passengers and high temperature in Skagway for every day in the observation period. In 2004 the expected cruise ship passengers were published by the Skagway Convention and Visitors' Bureau, and daily high temperature ratings are available from websites such as <http://www.wunderground.com/>. This information will be entered into the regression equation that was calculated using the 2004 data, and will thus predict use levels for the 30 monitored days. It is then simple to test whether the observed and predicted use levels differ statistically. Put differently (and more specifically):

For observed period (e.g., 6/1 to 6/30), calculate:

$$\text{Predicted}_{6/1} = [\text{Expected Passengers}_{6/1} * 0.004] + [\text{High Temp}_{6/1} * 2.0] - 73.1$$

Then:

Compare Predicted<sub>6/1</sub> thru Predicted<sub>6/30</sub> with Observed<sub>6/1</sub> thru Observed<sub>6/30</sub> using a t-test.

If the t-test does not detect a statistically significant difference, then we conclude that there is no evidence that the relationship of visitor use to cruise ship traffic and weather has changed. Note that this analysis does not test whether the absolute level of visitor use has changed. If the expected number of cruise ship passengers and/or the weather are different in the seasons being compared, then the number of vehicles visiting the Dyea Townsite visitors would be expected to reflect those changes. If the t-test suggests that the predictive relationship measured by the regression equation has not changed, then the absolute number of Dyea Townsite visitors in the monitored season (daily, weekly, monthly, or seasonally) can be estimated using the Predicted Dyea Visitation Excel spreadsheet (see Section 3.7) and readily available cruise ship and weather information.

#### **H.4.3 Defining a New Pattern of Vehicle Use**

If the t-test detects a statistically significant difference, then we conclude that there is evidence that the pattern of vehicle use at the Dyea Townsite has changed in one of two ways: 1) the relationship of visitor use to cruise ship traffic and weather has changed, but the ratio of use between the Dyea Flats and Dyea Townsite (0.7108 to 1 in 2004) has not changed, or 2) both the relationship of visitor use to cruise ship traffic and weather and the ratio of use between the Dyea Flats and Dyea Townsite have changed. In either case, both the Nelson North and Nelson South vehicle counters should be used to collect an additional 30 days of visitor use data. These data can then be used (with the earlier 30 days of counts) to test for changes in the ratio of use at the Dyea Townsite and Flats.

The analysis of the change in the ratio of use at the Dyea Townsite and Flats can be conducted by multiplying the daily counts from the north counter by the ratio observed in 2004 (0.7108) and comparing them to the daily counts from the south counter using a paired-samples t-test. If this test finds statistical evidence that the ratio of use at the Dyea Townsite

and Flats has changed (i.e., evidence that the south counts and adjusted north counts differ), we are forced to consider the possibility that our assumptions about the distribution of visitor use at the Dyea Townsite and Flats (based on the 2004 survey card data, see Section 3.5.2 and 3.6.2) is no longer valid. Because the test has a very high degree of statistical sensitivity, a statistically significant difference does not necessarily indicate a difference large enough to invalidate the estimates based on the 2004 visitation patterns. Therefore, we must compare the ratio observed in the monitored year to the ratio observed in 2004 and then decide whether to continue using the 2004 survey card information to estimate the number of vehicles visiting the Dyea Townsite. This is an important decision because it is not possible to infer the new visiting patterns based only on the vehicle count information. If the ratio is so different from 2004 that it invalidates the survey card data managers will then be left with two choices: 1) conduct a new survey of visitation patterns (e.g., a second survey card study), 2) accept the inability to confidently estimate how many vehicles are visiting the Dyea Townsite and limit monitoring and discussion to vehicle traffic on the road rather than estimated visitation at the Dyea Townsite.

If the paired-samples t-test and/or evaluation of the ratio of use allow us to continue using the visitation assumptions based on the 2004 survey card data (see Section 3.5.2), a regression analysis can be used to define the new relationship predicting Dyea Townsite visitation based on cruise ship traffic and weather. Visual inspection of charts showing the old and new regression lines can be used to infer the types of changes that have occurred (see Section H.2.2 above for an example).

Based on the new regression equation calculated for the 60 days of monitored data, the absolute number of Dyea Townsite visitors in the monitored season (daily, weekly, monthly, or seasonally) can be estimated. One can open the Predicted Dyea Visitation Excel spreadsheet (see Section 3.7) and replace the 2004 regression coefficients for the Dyea Townsite prediction with new regression coefficients. Then, entering readily available cruise ship and weather information will yield use estimates for unobserved days.

#### ***H.4.4 A Tool to Conduct Analyses of Vehicle Use***

The above description of the analyses necessary to evaluate the visitor use data monitored at the Dyea Townsite suggests that they would be complex and difficult to carry

out for any person not proficient in statistical analysis. In order to facilitate the ongoing monitoring of visitor use at Dyea, an Excel spreadsheet has been written to carry out all the analyses described above. Using the spreadsheet, park staff can: 1) test for differences in use, and if necessary, 2) test for changes in the ratio of use at the Dyea Townsite and Flats, 3) calculate a new regression equation, and 4) produce charts showing the new linear relationship. All that is necessary is to enter the expected cruise ship passengers, Skagway high temperature, and the count of vehicle passages over the Dyea Townsite (i.e., Nelson North) and Dyea Flats (i.e., Nelson South) vehicle counters for the first 30-day observation period, and if necessary, for the second 30-day observation period. This Excel spreadsheet, called Monitoring Dyea Townsite Vehicles, has been sent to KLGO with this final report.

#### ***H.4.5 Monitoring Trail Traffic at the Dyea Townsite***

Hiker and bicyclist traffic at the townsite will be monitored by installing the trail counter in the manner described in Section 3.5.4. Because the trail counter maintains a record (to the minute) of the time when it registers a visitor passage, there is no difficulty in grouping counts on a daily basis. The first caveat is that it is important that the counter operate all day for each day in the observed period. If the counter malfunctions or data are otherwise lost, it is not necessary that the observation period start over, but it is crucial to exclude any days that were only partially counted from the 30 day observation period. The second caveat is that some processing of the data is necessary (aggregation of the counts into daily totals). It is difficult to automate these operations but they should be straightforward for anyone with a basic familiarity with Excel.

#### ***H.4.6 Comparing Observed Trail Use to Past Use***

The comparison of the monitored data with 2004 use levels requires daily records of the expected cruise ship passengers and high temperature in Skagway for every day in the observation period. In 2004 the expected cruise ship passengers were published by the Skagway Convention and Visitors' Bureau, and daily high temperature ratings are available from websites such as <http://www.wunderground.com/>. This information will be entered into the regression equation that was calculated using the 2004 data, and will thus predict use levels for the 30 monitored days. It is then simple to test whether the observed and predicted use levels differ statistically. Put differently (and more specifically):

For observed period (e.g., 6/1 to 6/30), calculate:

$$\text{Predicted}_{6/1} = [\text{Expected Passengers}_{6/1} * 0.008] + [\text{High Temp}_{6/1} * 4.5] - 193.8$$

Then:

Compare Predicted<sub>6/1</sub> thru Predicted<sub>6/30</sub> with Observed<sub>6/1</sub> thru Observed<sub>6/30</sub> using a t-test.

If the t-test does not detect a statistically significant difference, then we conclude that there is no evidence that the relationship of visitor use to cruise ship traffic and weather has changed. Note that this analysis does not test whether the absolute level of visitor use has changed. If the expected number of cruise ship passengers and/or the weather are different in the seasons being compared, then the number of passages past the Nelson Slough trail counter would be expected to reflect those changes. If the t-test suggests that the predictive relationship measured by the regression equation has not changed, then the absolute number of passages past the Nelson Slough trail counter in the monitored season (daily, weekly, monthly, or seasonally) can be estimated using the Predicted Dyea Visitation Excel spreadsheet (see Section 3.7) and readily available cruise ship and weather information.

#### ***H.4.7 Defining a New Pattern of Trail Use***

If the t-test detects a statistically significant difference, then we conclude that there is evidence that the relationship of visitor use to cruise ship traffic and weather has changed. In that case, the trail counter should be used to collect an additional 30 days of visitor use data at the Dyea Townsite. These data can then be used (with the earlier 30 days of counts) in a regression analysis defining the new relationship predicting passages past the Nelson Slough trail counter based on cruise ship traffic and weather. Visual inspection of charts showing the old and new regression lines can be used to infer the types of changes that have occurred (see Section H.2.2 above for an example).

Based on the new regression equation calculated for the 60 days of monitored data, the absolute number of passages past the Nelson Slough trail counter in the monitored season (daily, weekly, monthly, or seasonally) can be estimated. One can open the Predicted Dyea Visitation Excel spreadsheet (see Section 3.7) and replace the 2004 regression coefficients for the Nelson Slough Trail Counter prediction with new regression coefficients. Then,

entering readily available cruise ship and weather information will yield use estimates for unobserved days.

#### ***H.4.8 A Tool to Conduct Analyses***

The above description of the analyses necessary to evaluate the trail use data monitored at the Dyea Townsite suggests that they would be complex and difficult to carry out for any person not proficient in statistical analysis. In order to facilitate the ongoing monitoring of visitor use at Dyea, an Excel spreadsheet has been written to carry out all the analyses described above. Using the spreadsheet, park staff can: 1) test for differences in use, and if necessary, 2) calculate a new regression equation, and 3) produce charts showing the new linear relationship. All that is necessary is to enter the expected cruise ship passengers, Skagway high temperature, and the count of visitors passing the Nelson Slough trail counter for the first 30-day observation period, and if necessary, for the second 30-day observation period. This Excel spreadsheet, called *Monitoring Dyea Townsite Trails*, has been sent to KLGO with this final report.

#### ***H.4.9 Monitoring Specific Types of Townsite Trail Users***

The breakdown of various types of visitors passing the Nelson Slough trail counter presented in Section 3.5.8 depended on confidential and proprietary information about guided bicycle tours and on untested assumptions about the number of times that bicyclists and hikers passed the trail counter. It is important to incorporate the Incidental Business Permit holder records into the total monitoring effort by comparing the percentage of estimated seasonal use due to guided bicycle tours in 2004 to the same percentage in future monitored years. By doing so, managers can monitor annual changes in the number and proportion of guided bicyclists and better understand changes in the general number of visitor passages.

## **H.5 Monitoring Use of the Chilkoot Trail**

Use of the Chilkoot Trail will be monitored by installing the trail counter in the manner described in Section 3.3.1. Because the trail counter maintains a record (to the minute) of the time when it registers a visitor passage, there is no difficulty in grouping counts on a daily basis. The first caveat is that it is important that the counter operate all day for each day in the observed period. If the counter malfunctions or data are otherwise lost, it is not necessary that the observation period start over, but it is crucial to exclude any days that were only partially counted from the 30 day observation period. The second caveat is that some processing of the data is necessary (aggregation of the counts into daily totals). It is difficult to automate these operations but they should be straightforward for anyone with a basic familiarity with Excel.

Monitoring of the Chilkoot Trail will focus on day use (i.e., hike-and-float rafters and day-hikers) because, a) overnight use is already closely monitored by the permit system, and b) day use is more closely related than overnight use to the predictor variables (expected cruise passengers and weather) used to evaluate whether changes in visitation have occurred.

In order to focus on day use, backpacking use figures must be subtracted from the trail counter readings. This factor will be considered in the analyses concerning changes in visitation.

### ***H.5.1 Comparing Observed Use to Past Use***

The comparison of the monitored data with 2004 use levels requires daily records of: a) expected cruise ship passengers, b) high temperature in Skagway, c) backpackers permitted to hike the trail, and d) backpackers hiking only the US side of the trail. All information must be available for each day in the 30-day observation period. In 2004 the expected cruise ship passengers were published by the Skagway Convention and Visitors' Bureau, and daily high temperature ratings are available from websites such as <http://www.wunderground.com/>. The last two types of information are included in the Chilkoot Trail permit information. The cruise passenger and weather information will be entered into a regression equation calculated using the 2004 data, and will thus predict day use levels for the 30 monitored days. It is then simple to test whether the observed and predicted use levels differ statistically. Put differently (and more specifically):

For observed period (e.g., 6/1 to 6/30), calculate:

$$\text{Predicted}_{6/1} = [\text{Expected Passengers}_{6/1} * 0.016] + [\text{High Temp}_{6/1} * 2.4] - 128.8^{13}$$

Then:

Compare Predicted<sub>6/1</sub> thru Predicted<sub>6/30</sub> with Observed<sub>6/1</sub> thru Observed<sub>6/30</sub> using a t-test.

If the t-test does not detect a statistically significant difference, then we conclude that there is no evidence that the relationship of visitor day use to cruise ship traffic and weather has changed. Note that this analysis does not test whether the absolute level of Chilkoot Trail day use has changed. If the expected number of cruise ship passengers and/or the weather are different in the seasons being compared, then the number of day users on the Chilkoot Trail would be expected to reflect those changes. If the t-test suggests that the predictive relationship measured by the regression equation has not changed, then the absolute number of day users on the Chilkoot Trail in the monitored season (daily, weekly, monthly, or seasonally) can be estimated using the Predicted Dyea Visitation Excel spreadsheet (see Section 3.7) and readily available backpacking permit, cruise ship, and weather information.

### ***H.5.2 Defining a New Pattern of Use***

If the t-test detects a statistically significant difference, then we conclude that there is evidence that the relationship of visitor use to cruise ship traffic and weather has changed. In that case, the trail counter should be used to collect an additional 30 days of visitor use data on the Chilkoot Trail. These data can then be used (with the earlier 30 days of counts) in a regression analysis defining the new relationship predicting Chilkoot Trail day use based on cruise ship traffic and weather. Visual inspection of charts showing the old and new regression lines can be used to infer the types of changes that have occurred (see Section H.2.2 above for an example).

Based on the new regression equation calculated for the 60 days of monitored data, the absolute number of Chilkoot Trail day users in the monitored season (daily, weekly, monthly, or seasonally) can be estimated. One can open the Predicted Dyea Visitation Excel

spreadsheet (see Section 3.7) and replace the 2004 regression coefficients for the Nelson Slough Trail Counter prediction with new regression coefficients. Then, entering readily available cruise ship and weather information will yield use estimates for unobserved days.

### ***H.5.3 A Tool to Conduct Analyses***

The above description of the analyses necessary to evaluate the visitor use data monitored on the Chilkoot Trail suggests that they would be complex and difficult to carry out for any person not proficient in statistical analysis. In order to facilitate the ongoing monitoring of visitor use at Dyea, an Excel spreadsheet has been written to carry out all the analyses described above. Using the spreadsheet, park staff can: 1) test for differences in use, and if necessary, 2) calculate a new regression equation, and 3) produce charts showing the new linear relationship. All that is necessary is to enter the expected cruise ship passengers, Skagway high temperature, permitted backpackers, permitted backpackers hiking only the US side of the trail, and the count of visitors passing the Chilkoot Trail counter for the first 30-day observation period, and if necessary, for the second 30-day observation period. This Excel spreadsheet, called Monitoring Chilkoot Trail, has been sent to KLGO with this final report. Note that confidential and proprietary information is included in this file and it is not to be publicly distributed.

### ***H.5.4 Monitoring Specific Types of Chilkoot Trail Users***

The breakdown of various types of visitors passing the Chilkoot Trail counter presented in Section 3.3.6 depended on confidential and proprietary information about guided hike-and-float tours. It is important to incorporate the Incidental Business Permit holder records into the total monitoring effort by comparing the percentage of estimated seasonal Chilkoot Trail use due to guided hike-and-float tours in 2004 to the same percentage in future monitored years. By doing so, managers can monitor annual changes in the number and proportion of guided rafters and better understand changes in the general number of visitor passages.

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<sup>13</sup> These coefficients differ from those reported in Section 3.3.2 and 3.3.4 because they predict the total number of passages due to day users (i.e., both rafters and day-hikers).

## **H.6 Monitoring Use at the Dyea Campground**

The campground occupancy data monitored by park staff and made available in monthly summaries at <http://www2.nature.nps.gov/mpur/index.cfm> provide information about the monthly user nights of use. However, different measures of campground use are likely to be needed in the course of planning campground management. In particular, site occupancy rates, and the proportion of nights that all sites are occupied are likely to be of interest. The procedure currently used to collect the visitor information should be modified so that the site occupancy information is also collected. These data should then become part of the total database used for visitor use monitoring.

## **H.7 Monitoring the General Pattern of Dyea Area Use**

The estimates of total Dyea area users are based on the patterns of use observed in the 2004 Survey Card study (see Section 3.6.3). Because there is no way to infer the visiting patterns based only on the vehicle count information, it is not possible to monitor the patterns of visitor use (and the total number of Dyea area visitors) without conducting a new survey of Dyea area visitors. However, conducting and analyzing an accurate visitor survey is too complex to be reliably conducted by park staff untrained in social science methodology. Thus, we suggest that such a study should not be part of the annual monitoring program, but should instead be conducted every five to ten years. The relatively infrequent surveying of general use patterns is justified in part because the only estimate of visitor use directly dependent on those survey results is the total number of Dyea area users. Unless managers intend to install some form of entrance gate and make policies on an area-wide (rather than site-specific) basis, precise estimates of the total number of area users are likely to have limited usefulness.



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