Improving estimates of wilderness use from mandatory travel permits

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Abstract
Mandatory permits provide recreation managers with better use estimates. Because some visitors do not obtain permits, use estimates based on permit data need to be corrected. In the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, a method was devised for distinguishing noncomplying groups and finding correction factors that reflect the impact of these groups. Suggestions for improving compliance are also discussed. Overall compliance was 88% of the sample. Groups without permits were primarily daytime motorboat users. The method is applicable to other wilderness areas where permits are required.

Keywords
use estimates, recreation management, dispersed recreation areas, overuse

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NRS at a Glance
The wilderness is the largest in California, covering some 580,323 acres in all. It also lays claim to the highest point in the contiguous United States, with elevations within the wilderness ranging from 4,000 ft all the way to 14,494 feet at the summit of Mt. Whitney. Unfortunately, to go along with these superlatives, it is also the most heavily visited wilderness in the state. Wilderness permits are required in winter (November–April) but are available on a self-registration basis. No reservations are necessary. During winter, self-register for permits at any normal permit-issuing station. JMT Hikers: If you are flexible on the start date for your trip, you may now submit one application for a longer range of dates by use of the JMT rolling lottery application. This form should be used by anyone requesting a backpacking permit to hike from Yosemite outside the park boundary over Donohue Pass, primarily John Muir Trail hikers. Jmt rolling lottery application. Note: In 2015, NPS began enforcing an exit quota for backpackers exiting Yosemite over Donohue Pass. No use of this publication may be made for resale or for any other commercial purpose whatsoever without prior permission in writing from the United Nations Environment Programme. CMS, in collaboration with TUI, a leading private sector travel firm which sold a total of 18 million holidays in 70 different countries around the world in 2004, decided to explore this tourism niche market, to identify benefits and limits of the activity and set some principles and guidance to the sector, in order to reduce environmental impacts and maximize benefits, both. This growth is set to continue with an estimated 1.6 billion inter-national tourist arrivals in 20207.