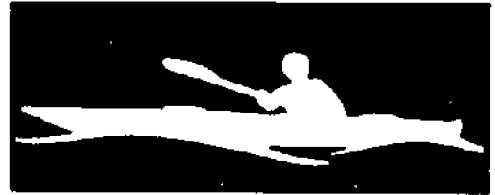


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A summary of a 1996 paddlers survey

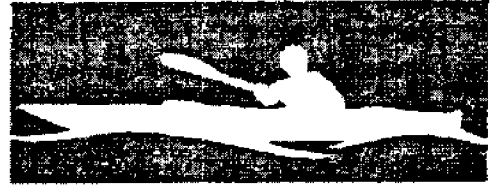
Paddling the Lower Columbia River

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About Washington Sea Grant Program

Washington Sea Grant Program's mission is to encourage the understanding, use and conservation of marine resources and the marine environment through research, education and public service. The program involves interaction, communications and partnerships with other educational institutions, industry, government and the public.

In support of this, the program's Marine Advisory Services provides university resources and technical information needed to make wise and informed decisions—decisions that solve local, regional and national problems and bring economic and social benefits to people. Marine Advisory Services staff provide statewide informal marine education, develop public awareness of resource management and conservation, transfer new technology to those who will use it, conduct applied research projects that benefit marine users, and serve as links between university research and marine users.

The Columbia River element of the 1995-96 Marine Advisory Services program plan delineates a goal directly pertinent to this study: to work on marine recreational issues, when specific opportunities arise where staffing and alternative resources are available. Washington Sea Grant Program Marine Advisory Services provided funding and support for this project.

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Preparation of this report was funded through grants from Washington Sea Grant Program, University of Washington, pursuant to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Award No. NA36RG0071, and NA76RG0119, Project A/FP-7 (Marine Advisory Services). The views expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of NOAA or any of its subagencies.

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Foreword

During 1995, Washington Sea Grant Program and the Washington State Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC) jointly funded and supervised a graduate student intern to undertake a study of recreational motorboat access needs on the Lower Columbia River from Dallesport downstream to the Columbia River Bar. Three comparable studies were undertaken on the Oregon shore by Oregon Extension/Sea Grant student interns, with funding from the Oregon Marine Board: Astoria to St. Helens, St. Helens to The Dalles, and The Dalles to Pasco, Wash. The last covered both sides of the river. (The Washington shore study was published by Washington Sea Grant Program—see Bibliography at the end of this document—and the results of the Oregon studies were made available by the Oregon Marine Board.)

In May 1996, a workshop was held in Jantzen Beach, Portland, to review the findings of all four studies and to suggest priorities for improving access to, and transient moorage along, the Columbia River from Pasco to the Bar for recreational motorboaters over the next five years. One hundred participants representing ports, marinas, local and state parks and recreation departments, state boating facilities funding agencies, federal river system managers, marine law enforcement agencies and Columbia River boating organizations, developed a list of 44 sites for improvements. These improvements included boat ramp lanes, transient moorage docks and mooring buoys, at both new and existing sites on both Washington and Oregon shores.

The needs of non-powered boaters were not considered at this workshop since the principal source of funds used to conduct the studies was unrefunded marine fuel tax revenues kept in dedicated accounts for motorized vessel facilities development. Washington Sea Grant Program recognized that little was known about paddlers' use of the same reaches of the Columbia River and planned a study to fill this information gap. The pages that follow report the results of that study and will be used to inform a similar audience.

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Acknowledgments

The authors wish to thank all of the people that contributed to this study, especially members of the paddling community that offered their insight and expertise in guiding the study. Special thanks to Lee Moyer of Pacific Water Sports, Cindy Scherrer and Dave Slover of Alder Creek Kayak and Canoe, Steve Nelson of the Oregon Ocean Paddling Society, Chris Cunningham of Sea Kayaker Magazine, Sandy Nelson and Mary Monforte of the Washington Water Trails Association, Andrea Hurley and Tim Walsh of the Washington Kayak Club, and Bill Stewart of the Northwest Outdoor Center. Also, the authors thank Sea Kayaker Magazine, Pacific Water Sports, Alder Creek Kayak and Canoe, and the Oregon Ocean Paddling Society for the use of their mailing lists.

Many local, state, and federal government employees also contributed greatly to this study. Special thanks to Wayne Shuyler of the Oregon State Marine Board, Jim Eychaner of the Washington Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation, Mike Ramsay of the Washington State Department of Natural Resources, Steve McClain of the Wahkiakum County Parks Department in Washington, Terry Dufour of the Sauvie Island Wildlife Area in Oregon, and Jurgen Hess of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

Closer to home, the authors wish to thank the staff of the University of Washington Sea Grant Program's Marine Advisory Services for their hard work, steady support, and patience. Special thanks to Jerry Simpson for constructing the database for the study, Nancy Blanton and Victoria Loe for refining and preparing the questionnaire for printing, and Mike Spranger for supporting the study.

Padding the Lower Columbia River

Executive Summary

Purpose of the Study

The Lower Columbia River Paddlers Study had three main goals: (1) to describe the general characteristics of the paddling community in western Oregon and Washington; (2) to describe when, where, and why they paddle on the lower Columbia River; and (3) to identify prioritized needs of paddlers for safe, convenient, and enjoyable use of the lower Columbia River in the future. Washington Sea Grant Program will use the information gathered in this study to better inform organizations involved in managing the Columbia River about the unique needs of paddlers on the lower Columbia River.

Methods of Study

The main tool used to gather information in the Lower Columbia River Paddlers Study was a survey instrument mailed to people in western Oregon and Washington identified as potentially active paddlers on the river. An effort was made to involve the paddling community in the study at an early stage. We enlisted leaders in the paddling community to help identify the most important issues for paddlers that needed to be addressed in the survey. In compiling a mailing list for the survey sample, we were primarily interested in gathering information from paddlers who were likely to have had experience paddling on the Columbia River and, therefore, be the most knowledgeable about the region. The study did not attempt to determine the level of paddling activity within the general public.

Survey Returns

Nineteen hundred and fifty-eight surveys were mailed to potentially active paddlers in western Oregon and Washington. Five hundred and fifty-nine surveys were returned in time to be included in the database of survey respondents (3 additional surveys arrived months after the database was completed). This is a 29% return rate, which falls at the high end of the 20-30% goal set for the study.

General Description of the Paddling Community

Responses to the survey's socio-economic and family questions paint a picture of paddlers being relatively wealthy, highly educated, and stable, home-owning, adult women and men. Men outnumber women 3 to 1 and both sexes are, on average, in their mid-forties.

Paddling the Lower Columbia River

Respondents have 10 years average paddling experience and rate themselves somewhere between "intermediate" and "advanced" in skill. Almost all paddlers own at least one kayak, and half belong to one of nearly 50 northwest paddling organizations mentioned by respondents. But they prefer paddling by themselves, or with one other friend or family member, to paddling with large groups. Most consider themselves "flatwater" as opposed to "whitewater" paddlers.

Description of Paddling Activity in the Study Area

Respondents paddled year-round in the study area during 1995, but the majority of the 11 trips each made on average on the Lower Columbia River that year were in the spring and summer months. Very few of those trips lasted more than one day and, perhaps for this reason, respondents tended to paddle on river reaches that were close to their residences. Guidebooks were the most important resource for planning trips in the study area.

Wildlife viewing, picnics, and natural history and ecology exploration were the activities that the respondents most frequently participate in while paddling in the study area. Natural beauty, wildlife, access to islands, and convenient put-in/take-out sites were the factors that added the most to the respondents' paddling enjoyment in the study area. Personal water craft (jet skis), recreational motorboats, and noise were the factors that detracted the most from the respondents' paddling enjoyment in the study area.

Each reach of the river drew paddlers for different reasons: for the adventurous, challenging water in The Gorge below Bonneville Dam and close to the Bar; convenient access for Portland-Vancouver metro area paddlers on the Columbia between Camas and Vancouver, and upstream on the Willamette to Oregon City; abundant wildlife to view along the sloughs of the Sauvie Island, Ridgefield and Julia Butler Hansen Wildlife Reserves; and scenic stretches of river in The Gorge and among the islands of the lower river below Longview. The most compelling reasons for avoiding certain locations on the river were human-caused: conflicts with power boats, particularly personal water craft, topped the list; water pollution was mentioned by many paddlers.

A very small number of put-in/take-out sites account for nearly one half of the uses by the respondents. Respondents used sites in Oregon twice as frequently as in Washington. Put-in/take-out sites in Reach 2 were on average used the most frequently. Willamette Park on the Willamette River in the Portland metropolitan area was the most frequently used site. More than a third of the put-in/take-out sites suggested as candidates for development or

improvement were in Reach 2. Knappa Boat Dock in Reach 2 on the Oregon shore was the highest ranked site for improvement.

More than one third of the respondents stayed overnight in the study area while paddling. Most camped overnight and half of the camp sites used were accessed by paddling boat from the river. More than one third of the camping activity occurred at undesignated camp sites. Camp sites on the Washington shore were used nearly three times as often as sites on the Oregon shore. More than two thirds of the sites used and more than three quarters of the uses were in Reach 2 of the study area. Skamokawa Vista Park in Reach 2 on the Washington shore was the most frequently used camp site. Almost half of the camp sites suggested as candidates for development or improvement were in Reach 2. The respondents expressed a clear interest in providing camp site facilities adjacent to the Lewis and Clark National Wildlife Refuge.

Of the survey respondents that did not paddle in the study area during 1995, a lack of information was clearly the most important reason for not doing so. The respondents did indicate a strong interest in paddling in the study area in the future.

Future Needs of Paddlers in the Study Area

Creating a water trail from Portland to the Columbia Bar at the Pacific Ocean, developing additional put-in/take-out sites for human powered craft, and publishing a guidebook for paddling on the Columbia River were the highest rated improvements for enhancing the study area for paddling. The respondents strongly supported policies for interstate (Oregon and Washington) coordination of enhancement projects for paddling in the study area, and the designation of human powered craft priority zones on the water and at camp sites. The respondents felt foundation grants, state park and recreation funds, and user fees at developed camp sites were the best approaches to funding enhancements.

When asked to prioritize the most important enhancements, the respondents' top priorities for meeting the needs of paddlers in the lower Columbia River study area were to solve conflicts between human powered craft and motorboats, improve and add put-in/take-out sites and camp sites, increase environmental protection and water quality in the river, and provide information sources such as guidebooks for paddling on the lower Columbia River.

Padding the Lower Columbia River

Introduction

Origins of the Study

The idea to conduct a study about paddling on the lower Columbia River emerged during the 1995-96 Lower Columbia River Boating Access Study supported by the Washington State Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation and Washington Sea Grant Program. Researchers working on the Boating Access Study found that paddling, predominantly kayaking or canoeing, is a popular activity on the Columbia River. A 1994 study by the Oregon Marine Board reported that paddlers are one of the two fastest growing boater groups on the Columbia River in the Portland metropolitan area (OMB, 1994).

The main focus of the Boating Access Study was to identify the access and transient moorage needs of motorboating on the Washington shore of the Columbia River. Hence, the questionnaire used in the IAC study was not designed with paddlers in mind, even though paddlers were given the opportunity to respond to the IAC survey. Washington Sea Grant Program, recognizing the growing importance of paddling activity on the Columbia River and the unique needs of paddlers, began a separate study in October 1995 of paddlers on the lower Columbia River.

Purpose of the Survey

For this study, the primary focus was on kayaks and canoes paddling on "flat water" rather than "whitewater." The distinction is important because river paddling is usually associated with whitewater paddling. The Columbia River has no whitewater in the lower portion of the mainstream and very little upstream where much of the river is dammed for hydroelectric production, navigation, irrigation, and flood control. The two types of water conditions also provide a distinction between two sports and the two groups that participate in the sports.

The lower Columbia River study area comprised waters downstream of the Bonneville Dam to the mouth of the Columbia at the Pacific Ocean, including the Willamette River from its mouth to Oregon City, and all tributary outlets, side sloughs, and lakes connected to or adjacent to the Columbia River. These bodies of water are considered flat water.

Paddling the Lower Columbia River

The study had three main goals: (1) to describe the general characteristics of the paddling community in western Oregon and Washington; (2) to describe when, where, and why members of this community paddle on the lower Columbia River; and (3) to identify prioritized needs of paddlers for safe, convenient, and enjoyable use of the lower Columbia River in the future. Washington Sea Grant Program will use the information gathered in this study to better inform organizations involved in managing the Columbia River about the unique needs of paddlers on the lower Columbia River.

River Reach Descriptions

We segmented the study area into eight river reaches, each approximately 20 river miles in length. This length is about the limit for a one day, point-to-point trip down river on the Columbia. The following section includes brief descriptions of each river reach. Refer to Figure 1 for a map of the Columbia River study area.

River Reach 1

Reach 1 extends from the mouth of the Columbia River at the Pacific Ocean to a line just east of Knappton on the Washington shore and Astoria on the Oregon shore. The area also includes the Oregon towns of Warrenton and Hammond, and the Washington towns of Ilwaco and Chinook. There are two state parks in the reach: Fort Canby State Park on the Washington shore and Fort Stevens State Park on the Oregon Shore. The paddling conditions vary greatly in this reach. Near the mouth of the Columbia at the Pacific Ocean, large waves, river and tidal currents, and strong winds create both challenging and potentially dangerous conditions. There are also calm backwater sloughs associated with the Lewis and Clark River, Youngs River, and Wallooskee River.

River Reach 2

Reach 2 extends from just east of Knappton and Astoria to the eastern end of Puget Island. This reach is characterized by many islands. Shoreline communities include Oneida, Altoona, Dahlia, Brookfield, and Skamokawa on the Washington shore, and Fern Hill, Svenson, Knappa, and Westport on the Oregon shore. There are two national wildlife refuges in Reach 2: the Lewis and Clark National Wildlife Refuge and the Julia Butler Hanson National Wildlife Refuge. Skamokawa Vista Park is a Wahkiakum County park on the Washington shore providing day use, as well as overnight camping facilities. The water conditions in Reach 2 vary greatly from broad, open parts of the river in the western portion of the reach, to more narrow and confined sections in the eastern portion of the reach near

Tenasillahe Island and Puget Island. Winds, currents, and waves create both challenging and potentially dangerous conditions here, while sloughs and channels between islands provide many calm water paddling areas.

River Reach 3

Reach 3 extends from the eastern end of Puget Island to just west of the confluence of the Cowlitz River with the Columbia River. The Columbia becomes very narrow and confined in this reach. Shoreline communities include Cathlamet, Oak Point, Stella, and Longview on the Washington shore, and Clatskanie and Mayger on the Oregon shore. The water conditions in this reach are less varied due to the narrowing of the river and the steep shore line, especially on the Washington shore. There are some calm sloughs on the Oregon shore between Westport and Mayger. Because the main channel of the Columbia is narrow in this reach, shipping traffic has a greater impact on paddlers than in other reaches.

River Reach 4

Reach 4 extends from just west of the Cowlitz River to just southeast of St. Helens, Oregon. The Columbia River bends southward at this point and continues to be narrow, though the shore broadens on the Oregon side near Deer Island and on the Washington side near Woodland. Shoreline communities include Kalama and Woodland on the Washington shore, and Rainier, Prescott, Goble, Columbia City, and St. Helens on the Oregon shore. The water conditions are similar to those in Reach 3.

River Reach 5

Reach 5 extends from just southeast of St. Helens, Oregon, to the south end of Sauvie Island and the confluence of the Willamette River with the Columbia River. Shoreline communities include Ridgefield on the Washington shore, and Warren, Scappoose, Holbrook, and Burlington on the Oregon shore. The Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge and the Sauvie Island Wildlife Management Area are in this reach. The main stem of the Columbia is very narrow in this reach, but there are many side channels, sloughs, bays, and adjacent lakes in this reach that provide excellent paddling areas. This reach is also adjacent to the Portland/Vancouver metropolitan region.

River Reach 6

Reach 6 extends from the confluence of the Willamette River with the Columbia upstream on the Willamette to Oregon City. This reach is very urbanized and includes the Portland waterfront. Shoreline communities include St. Johns, University Park, Portland,

Paddling the Lower Columbia River

Sellwood, Lake Oswego, Concord, West Linn, and Oregon City — all in Oregon. The water conditions are heavily influenced by the surrounding urbanization and heavy boat traffic. Lake Oswego (the actual lake rather than the town) provides less congested paddling adjacent to the Willamette River.

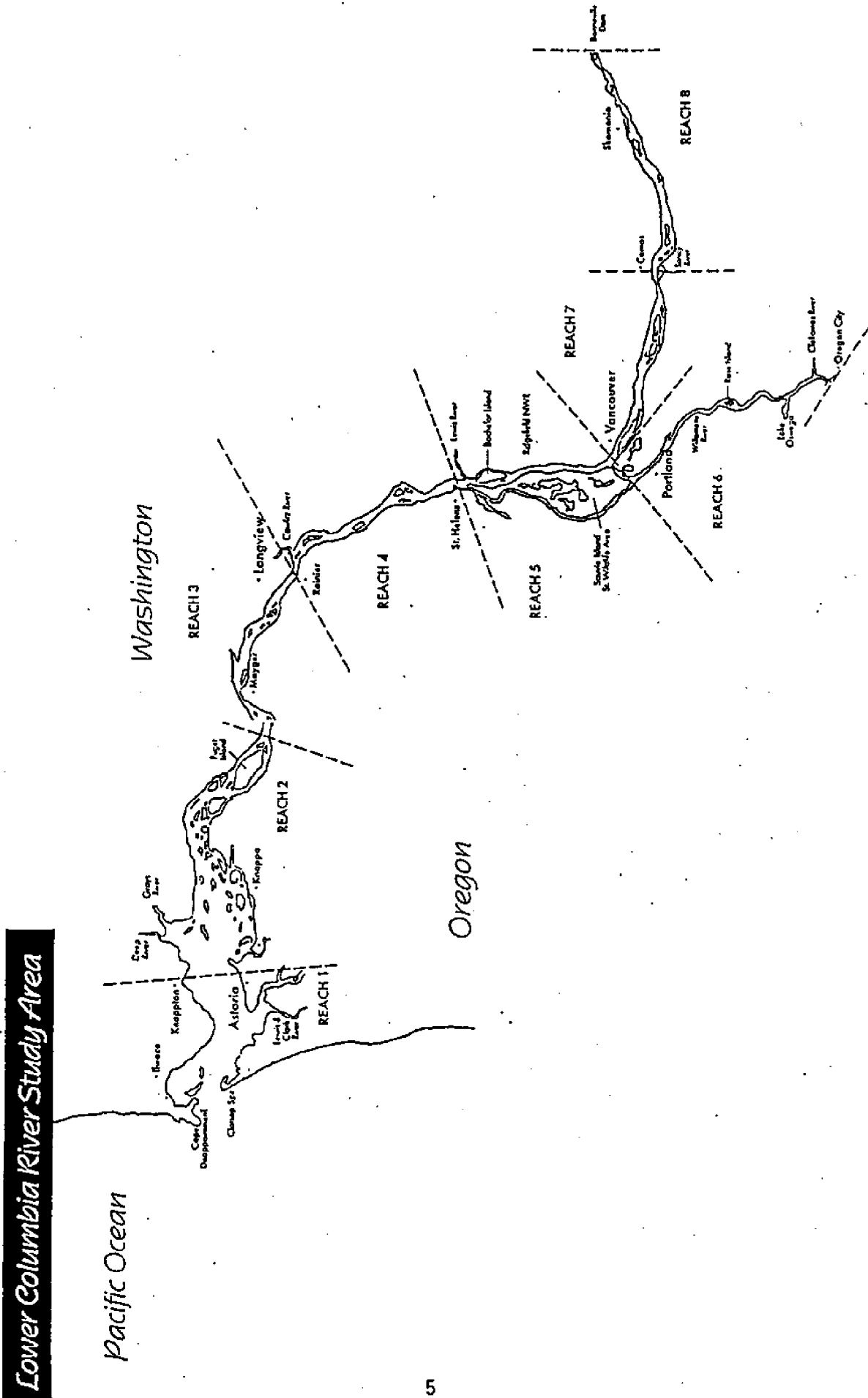
River Reach 7

Reach 7 extends from the confluence of the Willamette River, with the Columbia eastward to the confluence of the Sandy River and with the Columbia on the Oregon shore. This reach is also highly urbanized. Shoreline communities include Vancouver, Camas, and Oak Park on the Washington shore, and North Portland, Fairview, and Troutdale on the Oregon shore. Portland International Airport borders several miles of this reach. Water conditions are similar to those in Reach 6.

River Reach 8

Reach 8 extends from the Sandy River confluence to the Bonneville Dam. Shoreline communities include Washougal, Mt. Pleasant, Prindle, Skamania, and North Bonneville on the Washington shore, and Corbett, Latourell, Bridal Veil, Warrendale, and Bonneville on the Oregon shore. The eastern portion of Reach 8 is in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. The water conditions in The Gorge are influenced by strong winds and waves that have made this area of the Columbia River world famous for board sailing. Paddling conditions are challenging and potentially dangerous. There are two state parks in the reach: Beacon Rock State Park on the Washington shore and Rooster Rock State Park on the Oregon Shore.

Figure 1. The Lower Columbia River Study Area River Reach Map



Paddling the Lower Columbia River

Audience

The Lower Columbia River Paddlers Study's results should be of interest to four main groups: (1) individual paddlers and paddling organizations, especially those in Oregon and Washington; (2) agencies managing the Columbia River for multiple use or diverse user groups, including the Department of the Interior, the Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the U.S. Coast Guard; (3) individuals and organizations that are involved in managing specific locations within the lower Columbia River, such as wildlife refuges, county shoreline, and city waterfronts; and (4) individuals and organizations that provide and manage facilities on the lower Columbia River or promote its use for recreational purposes, such as state and municipal parks departments, public ports and private marina operators, owners of private campsites or lodging facilities, chambers of commerce, and economic development interests.

Further Information

This report includes a summary of the methods and findings of the Lower Columbia River Paddlers Study as well as specific conclusions and recommendations based on the findings. For access to more detailed information gathered in the study please contact Robert Goodwin at Washington Sea Grant Program, University of Washington, 3707 Brooklyn Avenue, Seattle, WA 98105-6715, (206) 685-2452. A computer disk containing the database from the study is available at a small charge upon request.

Methods

We were not able to find any previous published studies of paddling in the Columbia River. Therefore, we decided the best approach would be a general exploration of the paddling community in the Pacific Northwest, resulting in a foundation of information on which future research, as well as management decisions, could be based. The main tool used to gather information in the Lower Columbia River Paddlers Study was a questionnaire mailed to persons in western Oregon and Washington identified as possibly being active or potentially active paddlers on the river.

Survey Design

An effort was made to involve the paddling community in the study at an early stage. We enlisted leaders in the paddling community to help identify the most important issues for

paddlers that needed to be addressed in the survey. These leaders also reviewed draft versions of the survey.

The final survey was nine pages long and divided into five parts (refer to Appendix A for a copy of the Lower Columbia River Paddlers Survey). This is a relatively long survey. However, respondents who did not paddle within the Columbia River study area in 1995 were asked only to respond to the two parts of the survey containing general questions not involving the Columbia River. The respondents who did paddle within the study area during 1995 were asked to complete all five parts of the survey. We believed the latter group would be enthusiastic about the survey and willing to complete it.

Survey Sample

In compiling a mailing list for the survey sample, we were primarily interested in gathering information from paddlers who were likely to have had experience paddling on the Columbia River and, therefore, be knowledgeable about the region. The study did not attempt to determine the level of paddling activity within the general public. That is why the survey mail list was directed at active or potentially active paddlers who resided close to the Columbia River, rather than a random sample from the total population. To this end, we drew from the mailing lists of four paddling organizations in the Pacific Northwest region, including two outfitters (Pacific Water Sports in the Seattle, Washington and Alder Creek Kayak Supply Inc. in the Portland, Oregon), a regional paddlers' club (the Oregon Ocean Paddling Society), and a paddlers' publication (Sea Kayaker Magazine).

Some of the mail lists were very large — over 7,000 names — requiring us to select random samples of names from the lists, stratified by zip code zones. The heaviest concentration of mailings went to zip codes zones adjacent to the Columbia River. A large number of surveys were also sent to Seattle because there are a large number of committed paddlers in that area. A few surveys were sent as far away as southwestern Oregon and northwestern Washington in order to test just how far paddlers would travel to paddle in the Columbia River.

We used the entire Sea Kayaker Magazine mailing list for the selected zip codes zones because we felt confident that the list contained committed flat water paddlers rather than whitewater paddlers.

Table 1 summarizes the survey mailing by zip code and mail list source (first three digits). Figure 2 displays the zip codes zones in Oregon and Washington used for the survey mailing list.

Padding the Lower Columbia River

Table 1. Survey Mailing List

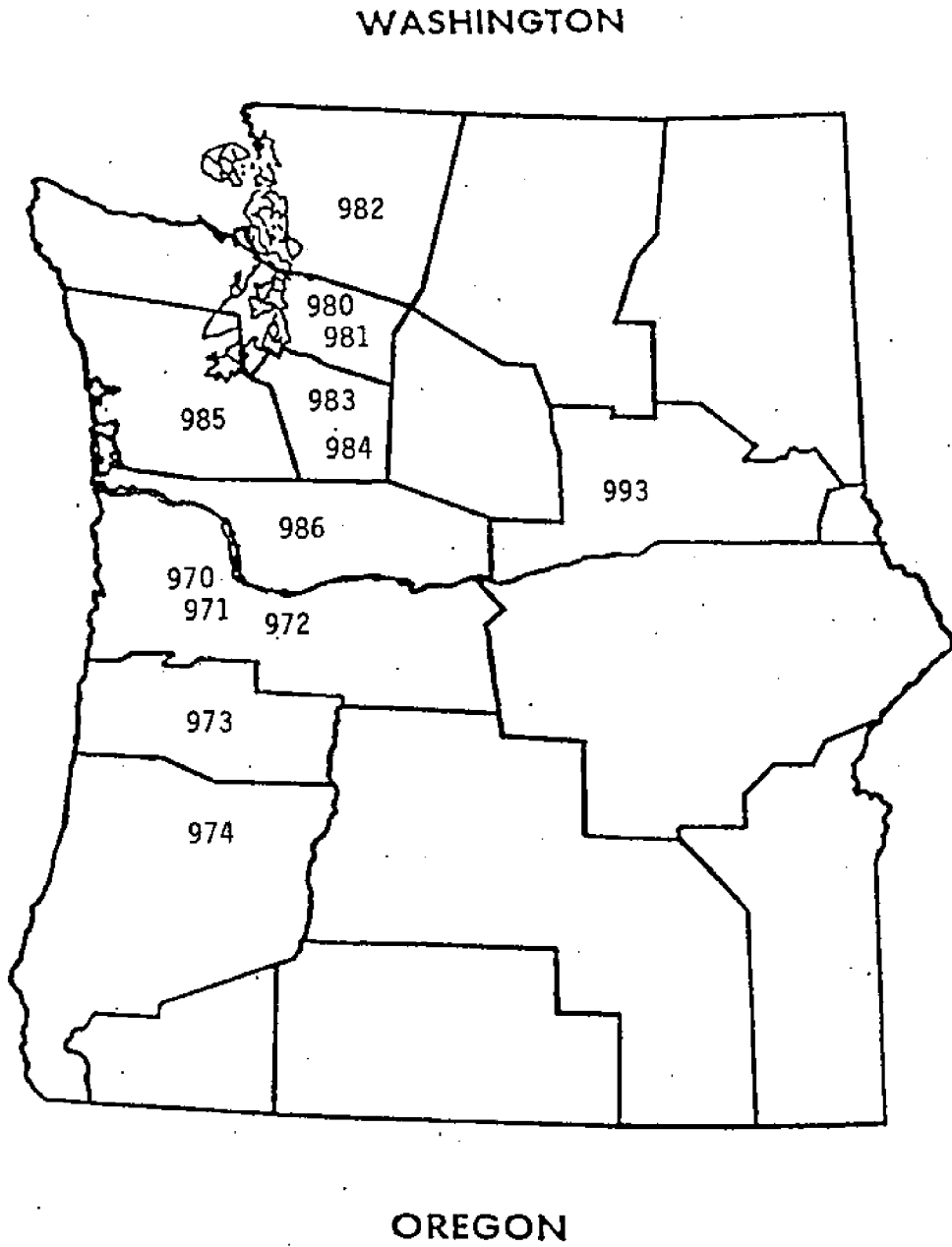
Zip Code (by 1st 3 digits)	# of Surveys Sent/Returned/Respondent Paddled in Study Area	# of Surveys Sent/Returned/Respondent Paddled in Study Area by Source*
Oregon		
970	200 / 51 / 37	Alder Creek Kayak Supply Inc. 86 / 10 / 8 Oregon Ocean Paddling Society 57 / 16 / 13 Sea Kayaker Magazine 57 / 25 / 16
971	71 / 26 / 20	Alder Creek Kayak Supply Inc. 32 / 5 / 3 Oregon Ocean Paddling Society 10 / 6 / 6 Sea Kayaker Magazine 29 / 12 / 8 Not on Original List - / 3 / 3
972	567 / 138 / 112	Alder Creek Kayak Supply Inc. 299 / 38 / 24 Oregon Ocean Paddling Society 147 / 62 / 58 Sea Kayaker Magazine 121 / 38 / 30
973	60 / 17 / 6	Alder Creek Kayak Supply Inc. 20 / 3 / 1 Oregon Ocean Paddling Society 12 / 2 / 1 Sea Kayaker Magazine 28 / 11 / 4 Not on Original List - / 1 / 0
974	40 / 15 / 4	Alder Creek Kayak Supply Inc. 11 / 3 / 0 Oregon Ocean Paddling Society 11 / 2 / 1 Sea Kayaker Magazine 26 / 10 / 3
Oregon Total	938 / 247 / 179	Alder Creek Kayak Supply Inc. 448 / 59 / 36 Oregon Ocean Paddling Society 229 / 88 / 79 Sea Kayaker Magazine 261 / 96 / 61 Not on Original List - / 4 / 3
Washington		
980	140 / 38 / 5	Sea Kayaker Magazine 140 / 38 / 5
981	160 / 76 / 2	Sea Kayaker Magazine 160 / 76 / 2
982	50 / 7 / 0	Pacific Water Sports 50 / 7 / 0
983	151 / 52 / 3	Sea Kayaker Magazine 151 / 52 / 3
984	46 / 24 / 0	Sea Kayaker Magazine 46 / 24 / 0
985	80 / 26 / 5	Sea Kayaker Magazine 80 / 26 / 5
986	368 / 66 / 47	Sea Kayaker Magazine 43 / 18 / 16 Alder Creek Kayak Supply Inc. 296 / 37 / 23 Oregon Ocean Paddling Society 29 / 11 / 8
993	25 / 4 / 0	Pacific Water Sports 25 / 4 / 0
Washington Total	1020 / 293 / 62	Sea Kayaker Magazine 620 / 234 / 31 Alder Creek Kayak Supply Inc. 296 / 37 / 23 Oregon Ocean Paddling Society 29 / 11 / 8 Pacific Water Sports 75 / 11 / 0
Overall Total	1958 / 559 / 253	Sea Kayaker Magazine 881 / 330 / 92 Alder Creek Kayak Supply Inc. 744 / 96 / 59 Oregon Ocean Paddling Society 258 / 99 / 87 Pacific Water Sports 75 / 11 / 0 Not on Original List - / 4 / 3 Returned Without Zip Code - / 19 / 12 **

* Some paddlers requested to participate in the survey after the initial mailing. Four respondents from Oregon returned these requested surveys. Hence, we have four returned surveys that did not originate from our source list and were coded with an N for Not on original list.

** Some respondents failed to record their home zip code

Figure 2. Zip Code Zones in Oregon and Washington

Zip Code Zones in Oregon and Washington



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Survey Returns

Nineteen hundred and fifty-eight surveys were mailed to active or potentially active paddlers in western Oregon and Washington. Five hundred and fifty-nine surveys were returned in time to be included in the database of survey respondents (3 additional surveys arrived months after the database was completed). This is a 29% return rate, which falls at the high end of the 20-30% goal set for the study.

Two hundred and forty-seven survey respondents were from Oregon, representing 48% of the total respondents. Two hundred and ninety-three survey respondents are from Washington, representing 52% of the total respondents. Nineteen respondents did not record their home zip code.

Two hundred and fifty-three of the survey respondents had paddled within the study area during 1995, representing 45% of the total respondents. Of the 253 respondents who paddled in the study area during 1995, 71% are from Oregon, 25% are from Washington, and 4% have unspecified origins. These respondents completed all five parts of the survey. The 253 complete surveys exceeded the study goal of 200 complete surveys. The remaining 306 survey respondents had not paddled within the study area during 1995. They only answered the general questions in Parts I and V of the survey.

Database and Analysis

We entered responses from 559 returned surveys into a Filemaker Pro 3.0 database for Macintosh™ computers. The database software allowed for detailed and time efficient analysis of the responses. The database also allowed for complex calculations involving responses by all the survey respondents or sub-groups within the full set of respondents.

The results of the analysis were recorded in Microsoft Excel 5.0 spreadsheets on a Macintosh computer. We used the spreadsheet software to rank responses and display priorities exhibited by the paddlers' responses.

Strengths and Weaknesses of the Methods

We chose to compile a mailing list from two commercial outfitters, a paddling club, and a sea kayaking magazine. Each source creates separate biases in our results. This is probably most evident in the results from the two parts of the survey that explore general

information about a respondents' paddling activity and personal information unrelated to the Columbia River. For instance, the age, income, and education level of the respondents may be biased to a small degree by the fact that our mailing list was compiled from lists of paddlers who had either associated with a commercial paddling outfitter or joined a club. However, this approach allowed us to achieve our primary goal of reaching paddlers active in the study area.

While entering responses into the database, we had difficulty interpreting vague text answers and in grouping similar answers. This was not a pervasive problem, but we did have to do some cross checking with the Oregon Gazetteer and Atlas, the Washington Gazetteer and Atlas, and the River Cruising Guide: Columbia, Snake, and Willamette to confirm specific locations described in responses.

In some cases, we grouped answers that seemed to us to be similar. For instance, the respondents gave 66 reasons for paddling in the various reaches within the study area. These reasons were grouped into nine broader categories such as sport or location. It is possible that we misinterpreted a few responses.

Another problem we faced in interpreting the responses occurred when respondents were inconsistent in recording the number of times they went paddling. Often, the respondents recorded many trips when asked how many times they had paddled in 1995, but far fewer trips when they were asked to distribute those trips amongst categories such as location or time of year. The difference was as great as 25%. These questions relied on each respondent's memory to recall the many fine details of the paddling year and, therefore, are only estimations.

Overall the respondents did a thorough and detailed job of answering the survey. Many respondents wrote comments in space provided at the end of the survey. The written comments are recorded in the database and are included in Appendix B of this report.

Results

General Description of the Respondents

The following results are from Part V of the survey where the respondents were asked to provide information about themselves. The results are summarized in six categories: gender, age, education, income, marriage and children, and residence. The information reflects the make-up of the 559 survey respondents and is only an estimate of the overall paddling community in western Oregon and Washington. Some of the results are compared with data for the general population of Oregon and Washington produced by combining the data for both states from the 1990 Census.

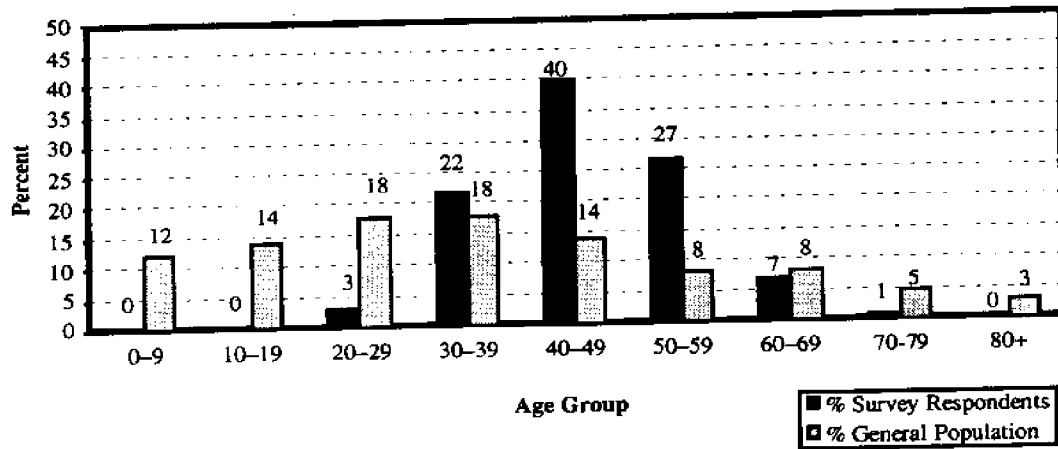
Gender

Male respondents out-numbered female respondents by a 3:1 ratio. Seventy-six percent of the respondents were male while 24% were female.

Age

The average age of the respondents was 46. The female respondents tended to be slightly younger with an average age of 44. The youngest respondent was 14 years old and the oldest was 75 years old. Eighty-seven percent of the respondents were between 30 and 60 years old. This result contrasts clearly with the age distribution for the general population in Oregon and Washington. Paddling involves expenses that may keep young people from participating and physical rigors that may prohibit older people from paddling. Figure 3 shows the age distribution of the respondents compared to the general population in Oregon and Washington.

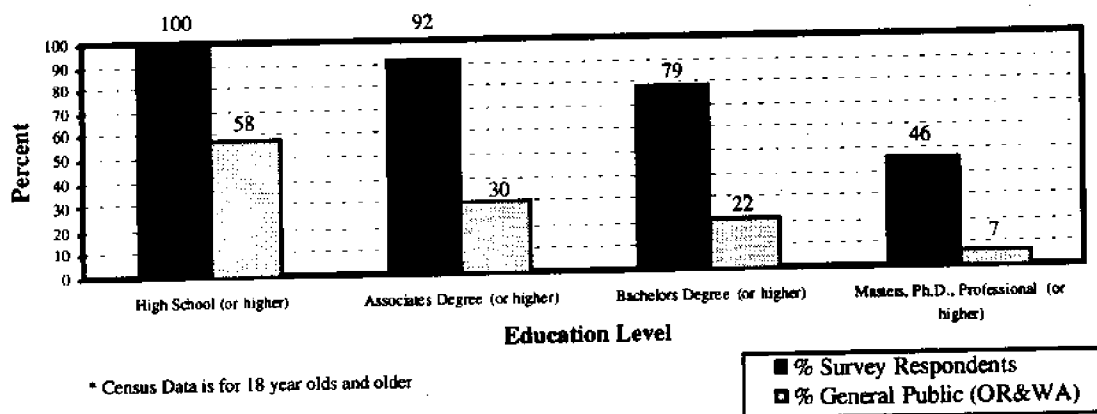
Figure 3. Age Distribution of the Respondents Compared to the General Population of Oregon and Washington



Education

The respondents have reached a high level of education relative to the general public. All the respondents were high school graduates except one, and that respondent was 14 years old, still working toward a diploma. Seventy-nine percent have attained a 4-year college degree or higher. Forty-six percent have attained a masters, Ph.D., or a professional degree. Figure 4 compares educational attainment between the respondents and the general population in Oregon and Washington aged 18 years and older.

Figure 4. Educational Attainment of Respondents Compared to the General Public in Oregon and Washington*

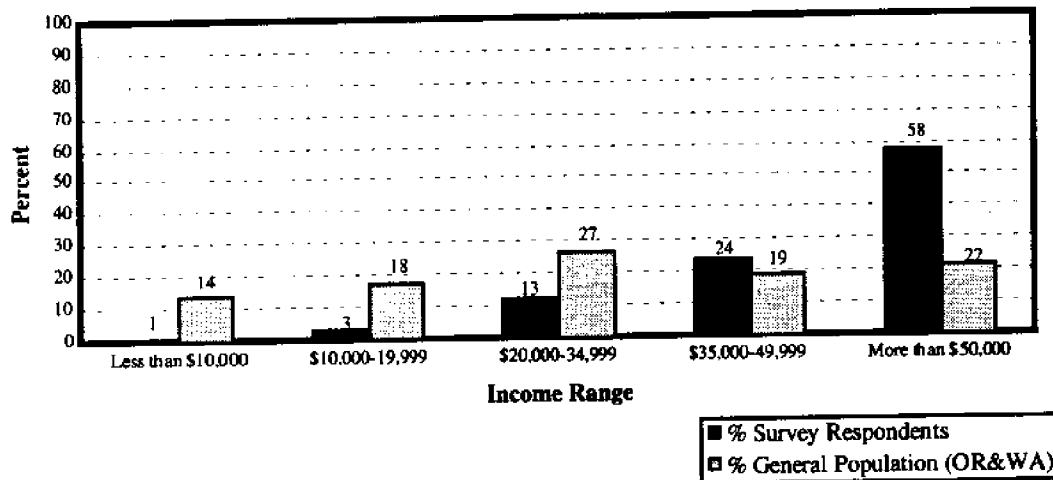


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Income

Fifty-eight percent of respondents indicated their household income was greater than \$50,000 in 1995. Eighty-two percent had incomes greater than \$35,000. This is much higher than the general public. Figure 5 compares household income levels between the respondents and the general public in Oregon and Washington.

Figure 5. Household Income of the Respondents Compared to the General Public in Oregon and Washington



Marriage and Children

Sixty-three percent of the respondents are married. Seventy percent of the male respondents are married, while only 42% of the female respondents are married.

Fifty-three percent of the respondents have children. The average number of children is 2.2. Fifty-eight percent of the male respondents have children, while 38% of the female respondents have children.

Residence

The respondents' average length of stay at their current residence was a little over nine years. Eighty-two percent own their current residence. Both these results are higher than those for the general population of Oregon and Washington. Figure 6 and Table 2 compare household residence characteristics of the respondents with those of the general population in Oregon and Washington.

Figure 6. Length of Stay at Current Residence of Respondents Compared to the General Population in Oregon and Washington*

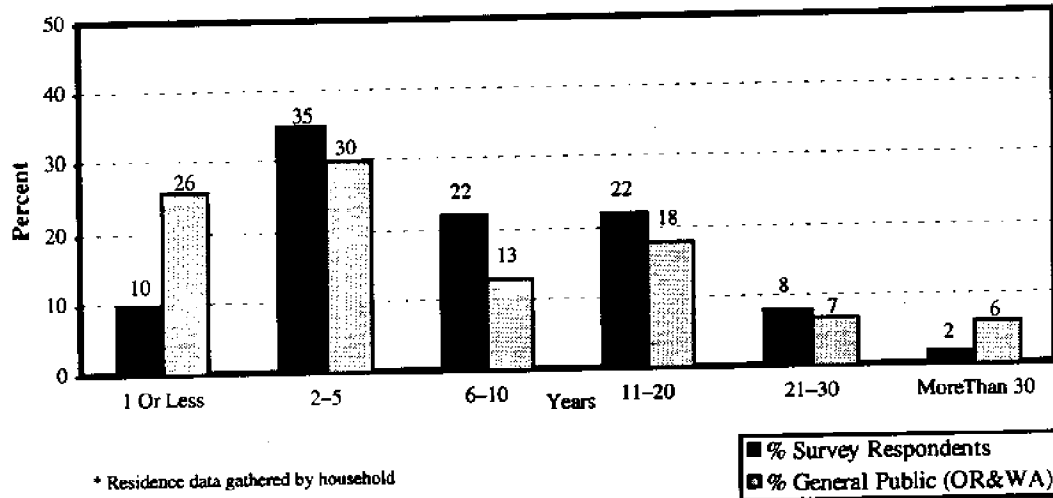


Table 2. Homeownership Rate of Respondents Compared to the General Public in Oregon and Washington

Population	% Own Residence*
Survey Respondents	82
General Public (OR&WA)	63

* Residence Data Gathered by Household

General Description of Paddling Activity

The following results are from Part I of the survey where the respondents were asked to provide information about their general involvement in paddling without reference to the Columbia River study area. The results are summarized in seven categories: years of involvement, skill level, membership in clubs and organizations, type of paddling, boat ownership, boat rental, and number of trips in 1995. The information reflects the make-up of the 559 survey respondents and is only an estimate of activity amongst the overall paddling community in western Oregon and Washington.

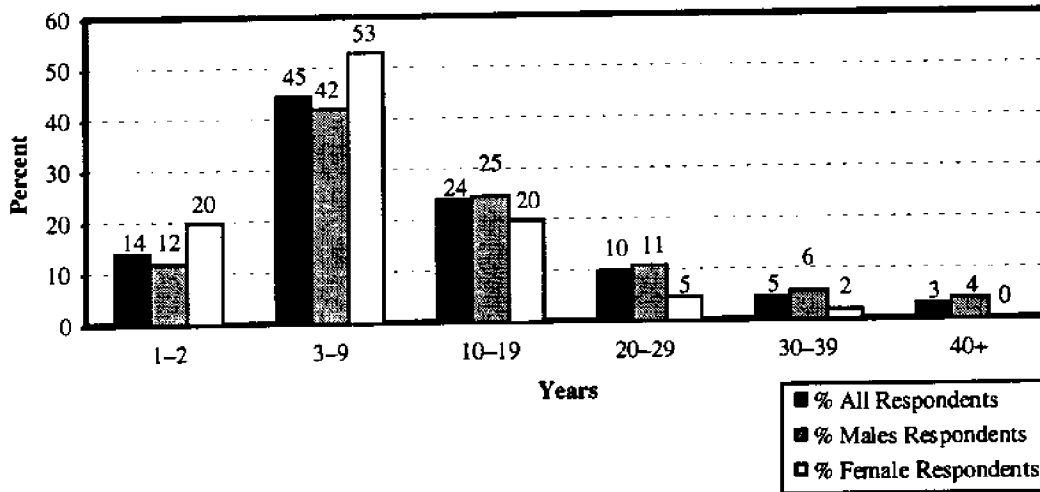
Years of Involvement

The respondents averaged over 10 years of involvement in paddling. Male respondents have over 11 years of involvement, while female respondents have only a little

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over seven years of involvement. Figure 7 shows the distribution of years of paddling involvement amongst all respondents, male respondents, and female respondents.

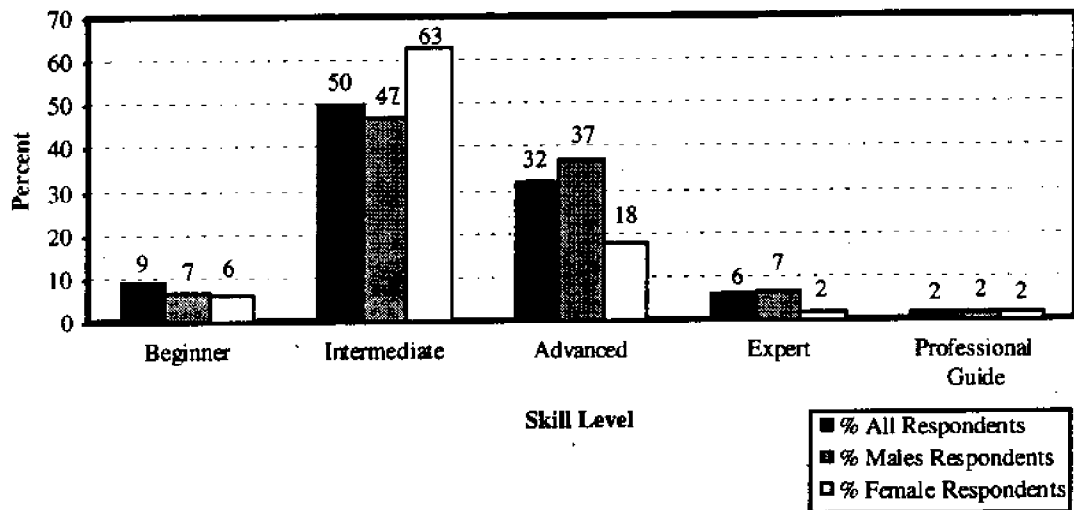
Figure 7. Years of Paddling Involvement



Skill Level

The respondents were asked to rate their level of paddling skill. A paddling ability level of 1.0 corresponds to *beginner*, 2.0 corresponds to *intermediate*, 3.0 to *advanced*, 4.0 to *expert*, and 5.0 to *professional guide*. The respondents indicate an average paddling ability level of 2.4. Male and female respondents again differed. Males indicated an average skill level of 2.5, while females indicated an average of 2.1. Figure 8 shows the distribution of paddling skill level for all respondents, male respondents, and female respondents.

Figure 8. Paddling Skill Level of All Respondents, Male Respondents, and Female Respondents



Membership in Clubs and Organizations

Fifty-two percent of the respondents are members of paddling clubs or organizations. These overall results may be skewed by the fact that we placed 258 names from the Oregon Ocean Paddling Society (OOPS) into our mailing list. One hundred and one of the OOPS members responded to the survey. Excluding the OOPS respondents from the data, we found that 41% of the “non-OOPS” respondents are members of paddling clubs or organizations.

Forty-nine paddling clubs or organizations are mentioned by the respondents. The Oregon Ocean Paddling Society and the Washington Water Trails Association were mentioned most often. Table 3 lists the clubs and organizations mentioned by the respondents and the number of respondents who are members. The clubs or organizations most frequently mentioned are shaded.

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Table 3. Membership in Clubs or Organizations

Organization	State	# of Respondents Who Are Members
Oregon Ocean Paddling Society	OR	139
Washington Water Trails Association	WA	51
Washington Kayak Club	WA	32
The Mountaineers	WA	29
Seattle Sea Kayak Club	WA	15
Oregon Kayak and Canoe Club	OR	15
Lower Columbia Canoe Club	WA	11
North Sound Sea Kayaking Association	WA	9
Puget Sound Paddle Club	WA	6
Olympic Kayak Club	WA	5
Ancient Mariners	(unknown)	5
Sound Rowers	WA	4
Northwest River Rafting Association	(unknown)	4
American Canoe Association	National	4
Willamette Kayak and Canoe Club	OR	3
Port Orchard Paddle Club	WA	3
No Name Kayak Club	OR	3
Paddle Trails Canoe Club	WA	2
Oregon Canoe Racing Association	OR	2
Olympic Canoe and Kayak Club	(unknown)	2
Eddyline Kayak Club	WA	2
Boeing Employees Whitewater and Touring	WA	2
Bainbridge Island Paddling Society	WA	2
American Whitewater Association	National	2
Willapa Water Trails	WA	1
Washington Canoe Club	WA	1
University of Oregon Outdoor Program	OR	1
U.S. Canoe and Kayak Team	National	1
Trade Association of Sea Kayaking	National	1
SWWA Paddle	(unknown)	1
Soak'em So. Oregon Assoc. of Kayaking Maniacs	OR	1
Seattle Lesbian and Gay Paddlers	WA	1
River Pirates	(unknown)	1
Puget Sound Lesbian and Gay Sea Kayakers	WA	1
Portland Kayak and Canoe Team	OR	1
Portland Amazing Dragons	OR	1
Port Ludlow Paddlers	WA	1
Olympia Mountaineers	WA	1
National Organization of White Water Rowers	National	1
Long Lake Rowers	(unknown)	1
Dragon Sports	(unknown)	1
Cottonwood Drifters	(unknown)	1
Columbia River Outrigger Canoe Club	(unknown)	1
Cascadia Marine Trail	WA	1
Cascade Canoe Club	(unknown)	1
California Kayak Friends	CA	1
Baidarka Historical Society	B.C.	1
B. C. Water Trails	B.C.	1

Type of Paddling

We asked the respondents what type of paddling do they most often participate in and provided three choices: whitewater, flat water, or both. Seventy-nine percent of the respondents participate in flat water paddling most often. Ninety-three percent of the respondents participated in flat water paddling during 1995 (79% flat water and 14% both). This is important, since the study was interested in exploring flat water paddling rather than whitewater paddling, and we were not sure that the persons that we sent surveys to were actually flat water paddlers.

Boat Ownership

Ninety-one percent of the respondents own a paddling boat. The paddling boat owners own an average of 2.5 boats each. Eighty-three percent of these respondents own sea kayaks, 27% own canoes, 20% own whitewater kayaks, and 12% own other types of paddling boats (the percentages do not sum to 100 because many respondents own more than one type of boat).

There was space for respondents to add other types of boats not listed in the survey. The most frequently mentioned other types of boats were inflatable boats, surf boats, open cockpit boats, folding kayaks, and rowboats.

Boat Rental

Nineteen percent of the respondents rented paddling boats for paddling on flat water during 1995. These respondents rented an average of three boats each during 1995. It is interesting to note that 16% of the paddling boat owners also rented paddling boats during 1995. Eighty-eight percent of the rentals were for sea kayaks. Ninety-five percent of the rentals were from a commercial paddling outfitter.

The respondents who rented paddling boats were asked to list the three places they rented most frequently in rank order. Alder Creek Kayak Outfitter was the most popular rental place. However, the results here are skewed by the fact that we used the Alder Creek mailing list to compile our survey mailing list. Table 4 lists the rental places used by the respondents and a ranking of which were used most often. The most frequently mentioned places are shaded.

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Table 4. List of Rental Facilities Used by the Respondents

Place	Most Often	2nd Most Often	3rd Most Often	Total	%
Alder Creek, OR	32	6	2	40	36%
Ebb and Flow, OR	18	6		24	22%
Northwest Outdoor Center, WA	13	3		16	15%
Pacific Water Sports, WA	8	2		10	9%
Olympic Outdoors/Poulsbo, WA	5	1		6	5%
Tacoma Outdoor Pursuits, WA	2			2	2%
Annie's, Nehalem Bay, Wheeler, OR	1	1		2	2%
Eddyline Kayaks, WA	1	1		2	2%
Pacific Wave Sports, Warrenton, OR	1	1		2	2%
River Trails	1			1	1%
Sportcraft Marine, Oregon City, OR	1			1	1%
Swallows Nest, Seattle, WA	1			1	1%
Waterwalker, Stevenson, WA	1			1	1%
REI	1			1	1%
Lake Oswego Sports, OR		1		1	1%
Northwest Kayak		1		1	1%
Young's Bay Kayak, OR			1	1	1%

Paddling Activity in the Columbia River Study Area

The following results are from Part II of the survey in which respondents who had paddled within the study area during 1995 were asked to describe their paddling activity in detail. These questions relied on each respondent's memory to recall many finer details of the paddling year. Hence, there are some inconsistencies in the data. In these cases, we averaged the lower estimates and presented the most conservative data.

Number of Paddling Trips during 1995

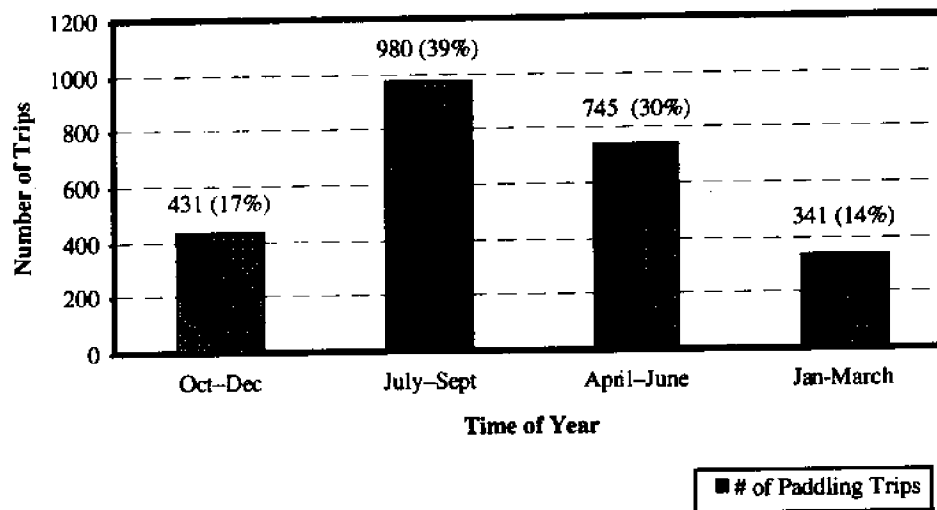
The respondents participated in a total of 10,808 paddling trips during 1995. They averaged 19 trips per respondent. Approximately 2,450 of these paddling trips took place within the lower Columbia River study area during 1995. The average number of trips in the study area for the respondents who paddled in the study area during 1995 was 11, which is more than half the average overall number of trips taken in or out of the study area.

Characteristics of Paddling Trips

The respondents were asked to distribute their total number of study area trips into categories within the following characteristics: time of year, duration of trip, number of paddlers on trip, and relation to paddlers on trip.

Sixty-nine percent of the paddling trips within the study area occurred during the spring and summer of 1995. However, paddlers remained active during the fall and winter months, taking a third of the paddling trips in the study area during these months. Figure 9 summarizes the distribution of trips by time of year.

Figure 9. Number of Paddling Trips During 1995: By Time of Year*

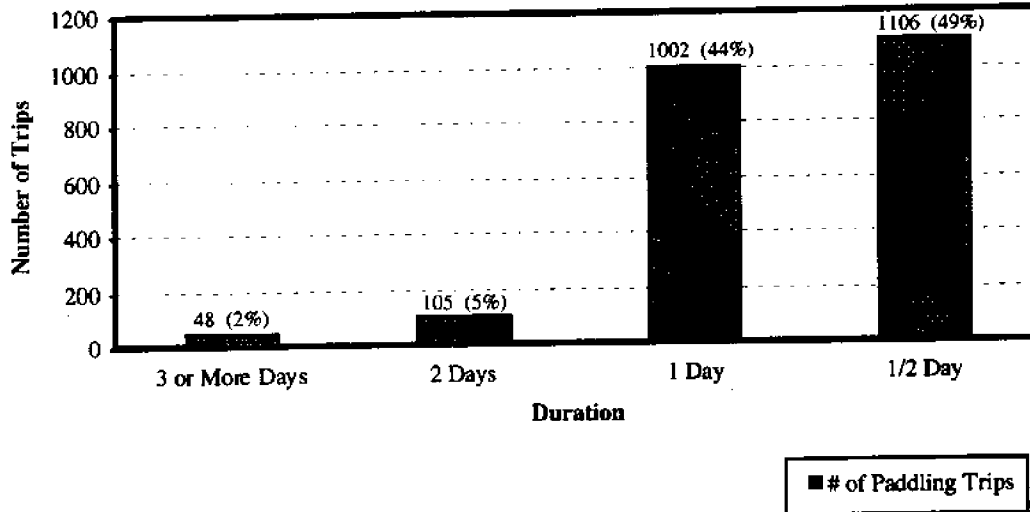


* The number of trips within a category is followed by the corresponding percentage of the overall trips in parenthesis

Ninety-three percent of the trips were a full day or less in duration. Only 7% of the trips were longer than a day. Figure 10 summarizes the distribution of trips by duration of trip.

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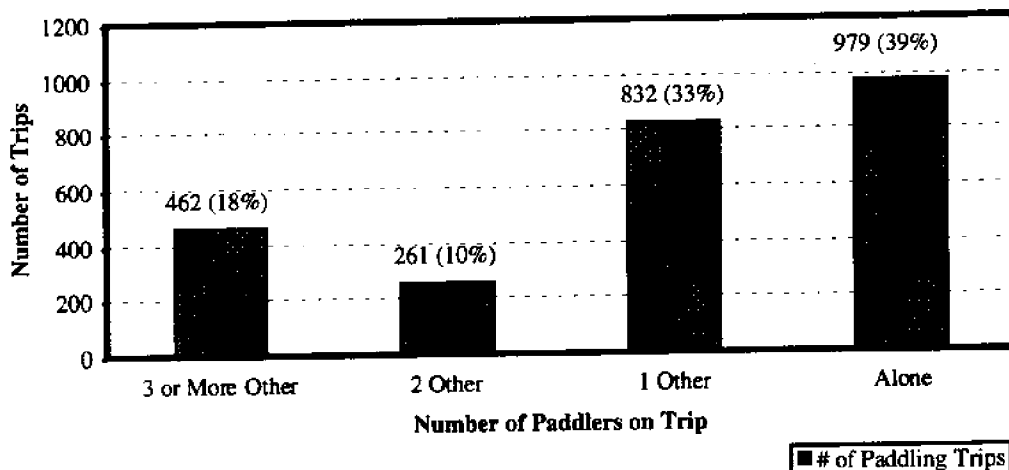
Figure 10. Number of Paddling Trips During 1995: By Duration of Trip*



* The number of trips within a category is followed by the corresponding percentage of the overall trips in parenthesis

Seventy-two percent of the trips were either alone or with one other paddler; the remaining trips were with groups of three or more paddlers. Figure 11 summarizes the results by number of participants on a trip.

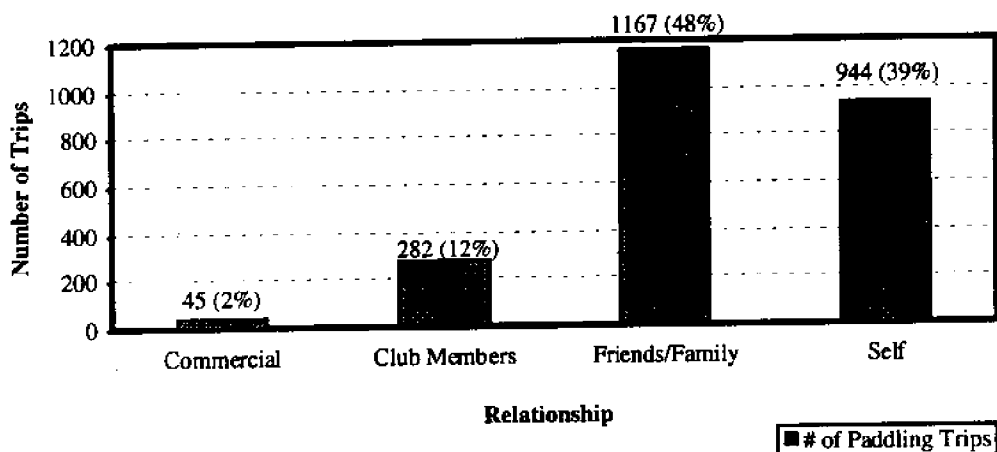
Figure 11. Number of Paddling Trips During 1995: By Number of Participants*



* The number of trips within a category is followed by the corresponding percentage of overall trips in parenthesis

Forty-eight percent of the trips were taken with a friend or family member. Figure 12 summarizes the results by relationship with paddlers on a trip.

Figure 12. Number of Paddling Trips During 1995: By Relationship of Participants*



* The number of trips within a category is followed by the percentage of the overall trips in parenthesis

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Distribution of Paddling By River Reach

The respondents recorded the most paddling activity in Reaches 6 and 5 near the metropolitan Portland/Vancouver region. (Refer to Figure 1 in the Introduction for an indication of the river reach locations.) These reaches had the most users, as well as the most trips. Sixty-three percent of the respondents who paddled within the study area during 1995 paddled in Reach 6 and 52% paddled in Reach 5. More than half of all the trips by respondents in the study area occurred in Reaches 6 and 5. Reach 2 and Reach 7 were the next most active, followed by Reach 1 and Reach 8, and then by Reach 4 and Reach 3. These results are biased by the fact that we sent many surveys to the Portland/Vancouver metropolitan region. Figure 13 summarizes the results for the number of users and trips within the 8 reaches. Just below Figure 13, Table 5 shows the average number of trips taken by respondents that paddled within the corresponding reach.

Figure 13. Distribution of Paddlers and Paddling Trips in 1995 by River Reach

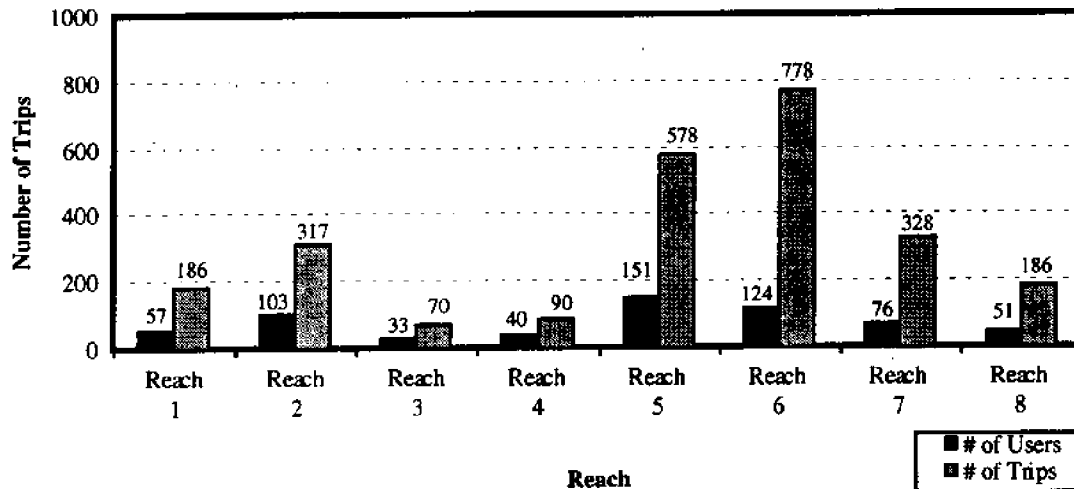


Table 5. Average Number of Trips Within Reach

	Reach 1	Reach 2	Reach 3	Reach 4	Reach 5	Reach 6	Reach 7	Reach 8
Average Number of Trips	3.3	3.1	2.1	2.3	3.8	6.3	4.3	3.3

Reasons for Paddling in Particular River Reaches

We asked the respondents to specify their most important reason(s) for paddling in the particular river reaches. The respondents mentioned 66 specific reasons which we grouped into seven categories: location (9 reasons/233 mentions), aesthetics (18 reasons/226 mentions), wildlife (3 reasons/146 mentions), facilities (6 reasons/109 mentions), challenging water (4 reasons/51 mentions), sport and recreation (8 reasons/37 mentions), and easy water (4 reasons/21 mentions). It was easy to place most of the reasons within the 7 categories. However, some reasons were too distinct to either place in one of the 7 categories or a new category. We grouped these in a category called other (14 reasons/63 mentions).

Table 6 summarizes the data on reach use reasons. The values represent the percentage of times a category of reasons was mentioned within a particular reach. The table allows comparisons between reaches for a single category (horizontal rows) and comparisons between categories for a single reach (vertical columns). The last column is an average percentage for the entire study area for the corresponding category. If a reach exhibits a very high response compared to the average for the study area, then it is darkly shaded. If a reach exhibits a very low response compared to the average for all the reaches, then it is lightly shaded. The category of reasons that is most often given for paddling within a particular reach and in the study area as a whole is noted with a bold font.

Table 6. Reasons for Use of Each Reach

Category of Reasons	R 1	R 2	R 3	R 4	R 5	R 6	R 7	R 8	Average for the Study Area
Location	22%	7%	15%	25%	29%	32%	32%	17%	26%
Aesthetics	21%	27%	27%	27%	19%	13%	22%	32%	26%
Wildlife Conditions	10%	13%	13%	10%	10%	6%	6%	3%	17%
Facilities	12%	13%	15%	14%	12%	12%	9%	14%	13%
Challenging Water Conditions	14%	4%	2%	6%	3%	1%	4%	14%	6%
Sport and Recreation	6%	2%	4%	2%	1%	6%	6%	6%	4%
Easy Water Conditions	5%	3%	2%	2%	1%	2%	1%	0%	2%
Other	5%	8%	6%	14%	6%	5%	10%	5%	7%

Location was mentioned most often as a reason for choosing to paddle in a particular river reach. It was the overwhelming reason for paddling in Reaches 6 and 7 near the Portland/Vancouver metropolitan area. Aesthetics was a close second to location and was

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mentioned most frequently as a reason for paddling in Reaches 2, 3, and 8. Wildlife was a frequent reason for paddling in Reaches 2 and 5. Reach 1 had a high response for both challenging water and easy water conditions. Reach 1 has diverse water conditions ranging from extremely rough water on the Columbia Bar to very calm water in the back sloughs of Youngs Bay.

Of the 66 specific reasons mentioned by the respondents, close to home was the most frequent reason for paddling in a reach. Table 7 is a list of the 20 specific reasons that were mentioned most often. The category that we grouped a reason into appears in parentheses next to the reason. The table also records the number of times the reason was mentioned for a particular reach. We ranked the reasons by the total number of times they were mentioned in descending order. The ten most frequently mentioned reasons in the whole study area are shaded. The most frequently mentioned reason within a particular reach is noted in bold.

Table 7. Specific Reasons for Paddling on a River Reach

Specific Reason (Category)	R 1	R 2	R 3	R 4	R 5	R 6	R 7	R 8	Study Area
Close to Home (Location)	16	5	2	6	35	43	23	8	138
Wildlife (Wildlife)	6	32	5	2	42	7	4	1	99
Easy Access (Facilities)	11	9	5	5	23	15	8	8	84
Enjoy Landscape Scenery (Aesthetics)	10	20	8	5	8	3	2	10	66
Proximity to Portland (Location)	0	0	3	4	13	10	5	0	35
Enjoy Islands (Aesthetics)	2	21	2	2	3	0	3	1	34
Challenging Water (Challenging Water)	8	2	0	2	3	1	3	12	31
Bird Watching (Wildlife)	4	11	1	2	9	1	1	1	30
Quiet Water (Aesthetics)	0	7	0	1	10	4	5	2	29
Enjoy Specific Location (Location)	3	5	1	1	9	6	2	1	28
Exploration (Aesthetics)	2	4	5	2	6	1	1	1	22
Short Trips Possible (Location)	0	2	1	2	3	8	2	2	20
Isolated (Aesthetics)	4	11	1	1	2	0	0	0	19
Club Outings (Other)	0	8	1	2	4	3	0	0	18
Natural Areas (Wildlife)	0	8	0	1	8	0	0	0	17
Camping (Facilities)	1	12	1	2	1	0	0	0	17
Solitude (Aesthetics)	1	8	1	1	3	0	1	1	16
Exercise (Sport and Recreation)	0	0	1	1	2	6	4	1	15
Fishing (Sport and Recreation)	3	4	1	0	0	0	1	1	10
Friends Know Area (Other)	1	3	0	1	3	0	1	1	10

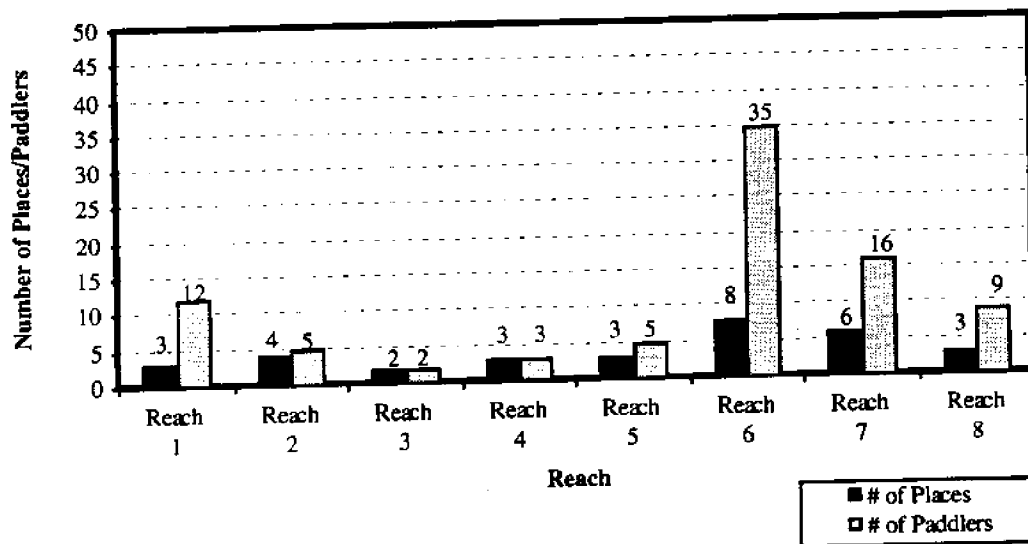
Note that very few respondents paddled in Reach 2 because it was close to home. However, the most frequent reason for paddling in Reach 1, just down river from Reach 2, was close to home. This result may be related to a high concentration of paddlers that live in Astoria in Reach 1, as well as a special request for surveys made by a paddling club in Astoria

after seeing a press release about the Lower Columbia River Paddlers Study. Generally speaking, the close to home reason for paddling in a reach relates closely to how far a reach is located from the Portland metropolitan area, where many of the respondents reside. It is also interesting to note that when looking at specific reasons for paddling in a reach, rather than the grouped categories, challenging water becomes more important in Reach 8 where wind and current conditions can be very extreme. For these same reasons, this area has become world famous for board sailing.

Places Avoided Within The Study Area

We were interested in learning whether there were locations within the study area that paddlers intentionally avoided and, if so, why they avoided these locations. Forty-three percent of the respondents avoided places within the study area. Forty-three specific places were named or described by the respondents. Reach 6 was the most frequently avoided reach in the study area, followed closely by Reach 7. The most frequently mentioned reasons for avoiding a reach were conflicts with motor boat traffic. Pollution and dangerous wind, wave, and current conditions were also mentioned frequently. Figure 14 shows the number of places avoided and how many paddlers avoided the places distributed by river reach.

Figure 14. Distribution of Places Avoided and Number of Paddlers that Avoided Places By Reach



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Table 8 lists the reasons why respondents avoided a reach and the number of respondents who mentioned the reason. None of the reasons for not paddling in Reaches 2, 3, and 4 were mentioned more than once by the respondents. Therefore, we rated these reasons as not significant.

Table 8. Reasons for Avoiding Places by River Reach

Reach	Reason	# Times Mentioned
Reach 1	Dangerous River and Tidal Currents	8
Reach 2	No Significant Reasons	-
Reach 3	No Significant Reasons	-
Reach 4	No Significant Reasons	-
Reach 5	Too Much Power Boat Traffic	4
Reach 6	Too Much Power Boat Traffic	26
Reach 7	Too Much Power Boat Traffic	12
Reach 8	Rough Water	5

Note that 75% of the respondents who avoided Reach 1 did so because the conditions were too dangerous. Reach 1 is often associated with the mouth of the Columbia River and the famously rough Columbia Bar. However, there are areas within Reach 1 that are very calm, protected, and safe for paddling.

Paddling Locations Outside The Study Area But In The Columbia Basin

During 1995, thirty-eight percent of the respondents paddled in waterways located outside the study area, but still in the Columbia River basin. Forty-eight waterways were mentioned: 10 were tributaries that flow into the study area; 10 were tributaries that flow into the Columbia River, but not within the study area; 19 were lakes or reservoirs; and eight were locations such as a town or wildlife refuge on the Columbia River. Table 9 is a list of the 10 most frequent waterways the respondents paddled that were located outside the study area, but still in the Columbia River basin. Each waterway is followed by a brief geographic description, its category, and the number of paddlers that mentioned it.

Table 9. Waterways That The Respondents Paddled Outside The Study Area But In The Columbia River Basin

Waterways	Category	# of Paddlers
Willamette River (above Oregon City)	Tributary	32
Lewis River (tributary to Columbia)	Tributary	11
Tulatin River (tributary to Willamette)	Tributary	11
Deschutes River (tributary to Columbia)	Tributary	10
Clackamas River (tributary to Willamette)	Tributary	9
Sandy River (tributary to Columbia)	Tributary	7
White Salmon River (tributary to Columbia)	Tributary	7
John Day River (tributary to Columbia/eastern Oregon)	Tributary	7
Santiam River (tributary to Willamette)	Tributary	5
Klickitat River (tributary to Columbia)	Tributary	4
Wind River (tributary to Columbia)	Tributary	4
Lake Merwin (Lewis River reservoir)	Adjacent Lake	4

It is not surprising that one third of the respondents who paddled in places within the Columbia basin, but outside the study area, did so on the Willamette River upstream of the study area. The Willamette is the second largest tributary to the Columbia basin after the Snake River and a very popular kayak and canoe destination. River Reach 6 of the study area, encompassing the Willamette River from Oregon City through the Portland metropolitan area to the Columbia River, was the most paddled reach in the study area. Also, there is a guidebook about paddling the Willamette River from Eugene, Oregon, to the Columbia River that provides detailed information on put-in/take-out sites, camp sites, rest areas and picnic sites, parks, museums, and interesting natural history attractions along the river. Most of the other areas mentioned by the respondents were also tributaries of the Columbia or Willamette Rivers. These rivers provide some flat water paddling in their lower reaches and whitewater paddling farther upstream. Eighteen percent of the respondents who paddle in other areas paddled in reservoirs and lakes within the Columbia basin.

Put-in And Take-out Sites Within The Study Area

We defined a "put-in/take-out" site as an area where paddlers either launch or haul out their paddling boat at the start or end of a paddling trip. Parks and marinas are likely put-in/take-out sites. Launching a canoe or sea kayak is very different from launching large motor boats. A canoe or sea kayak can be carried to the shore and set into the water by hand, while most motorboats are backed down a boat ramp into the water on a trailer. Paddlers tend to use boat ramps for a number of reasons, even though they don't need the ramps to access the water. Among these reasons are public access to the water, parking facilities, and, perhaps,

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availability of rest rooms, trash cans, water, and other shore side amenities. Figure 15 shows the location of designated put-in/take-out sites throughout the study area.

The respondents identified 133 put-in/take-out sites within the study area that they used during 1995. Eighty-three sites are in Oregon, and 48 sites are in Washington. The location of 2 sites could not be determined from the description in the survey response. Table 10 is a summary of results for put-in/take-out sites identified by the respondents. The data is given for the entire reach and then partitioned by state within parentheses.

Table 10. Put-in/Take-out Sites by River Reach

Reach	# of Sites (OR/WA)	# Times Used (OR/WA)	Average Uses Per Site (OR/WA)
Reach 1	14 (9/5)	66 (56/10)	5 (6/2)
Reach 2	14 (8/6)	315 (214/101)	22 (26/17)
Reach 3	9 (5/4)	34 (26/8)	4 (5/2)
Reach 4	6 (3/3)	22 (16/6)	4 (5/2)
Reach 5	24 (12/12)	400 (251/149)	17 (21/12)
Reach 6	29 (29/0)	446 (446/0)	15 (15/0)
Reach 7	14 (8/6)	126 (93/33)	9 (12/6)
Reach 8	20 (8/12)	235 (40/195)	12 (5/16)
Study Area	130 (82/48)	1644 (1142/502)	13 (14/10)

The put-in/take-out results correlate to the overall river reach use data. The largest number of sites, uses, and average uses are in Reach 6, Reach 5, Reach 8, and Reach 2. What is most interesting about these results is the distribution by state. The number of sites, times used, and average times used per reach are distributed between Oregon and Washington on a 2:1 average ratio, with wide variance among reaches. This is obviously not the case in Reach 6 which is entirely contained within Oregon. It is also not the case in Reach 8, where the respondents identified significantly more sites, uses, and average uses in Washington than in Oregon. Also note that the highest average use per site is in Reach 2 on the Oregon side of the study area.

The 10 most frequently used put-in/take-out sites account for 53% of the total uses in the study area during 1995. Table 11 is a list of the twenty most frequently used put-in/take-out sites identified by the respondents. Some of the data on put-in/take-out sites are skewed when a single respondent identifies a site he or she used often, but no other respondent used.

The put-in/take-out sites that have the most users are shaded. Because Sauvie Island has three put-in/take-out sites, the respondents often failed to specify which site they used. We presented the data for all of the sites on Sauvie Island followed by the averaged data for the three sites in parentheses.

Table 11. Put-in/Take-out Sites Used by the Respondents

Put-in/Take-out Site	Reach	State	County	# Users	# Uses	Average Uses per Users
Willamette Park	6	OR	Multnomah	47	220	5
Ridgefield	5	WA	Clark	38	76	2
Skamokawa Vista Park	2	WA	Wahkiakum	35	75	2
Sauvie Island (3 sites)	5	OR	Multnomah	62 (21)	176 (59)	3 (3)
Aldrich Point	2	OR	Clatsop	18	70	4
Knappa Boat Ramp	2	OR	Clatsop	17	20	1
John Day River	2	OR	Clatsop	15	92	6
Beacon Rock State Park	8	WA	Skamania	13	60	5
Scappoose Bay	5	OR	Columbia	12	36	3
Rooster Rock	8	OR	Multnomah	9	19	2
Alder Creek Kayak Shop	7	OR	Multnomah	7	29	4
Tomahawk Island	7	OR	Multnomah	6	20	3
Sellwood Bridge	6	OR	Multnomah	5	26	5
Oaks Park	8	WA	Clark	5	99	20
42nd Avenue Boat Ramp	6	OR	Multnomah	4	32	8
Hawthorne Bridge	6	OR	Multnomah	1	40	40
Morgan's Landing	5	WA	Clark	1	36	36
Lake Oswego	6	OR	Clackamas	1	20	20
Young's Bay	1	OR	Clatsop	5	17	3
Cathlamet	2	WA	Wahkiakum	12	15	1

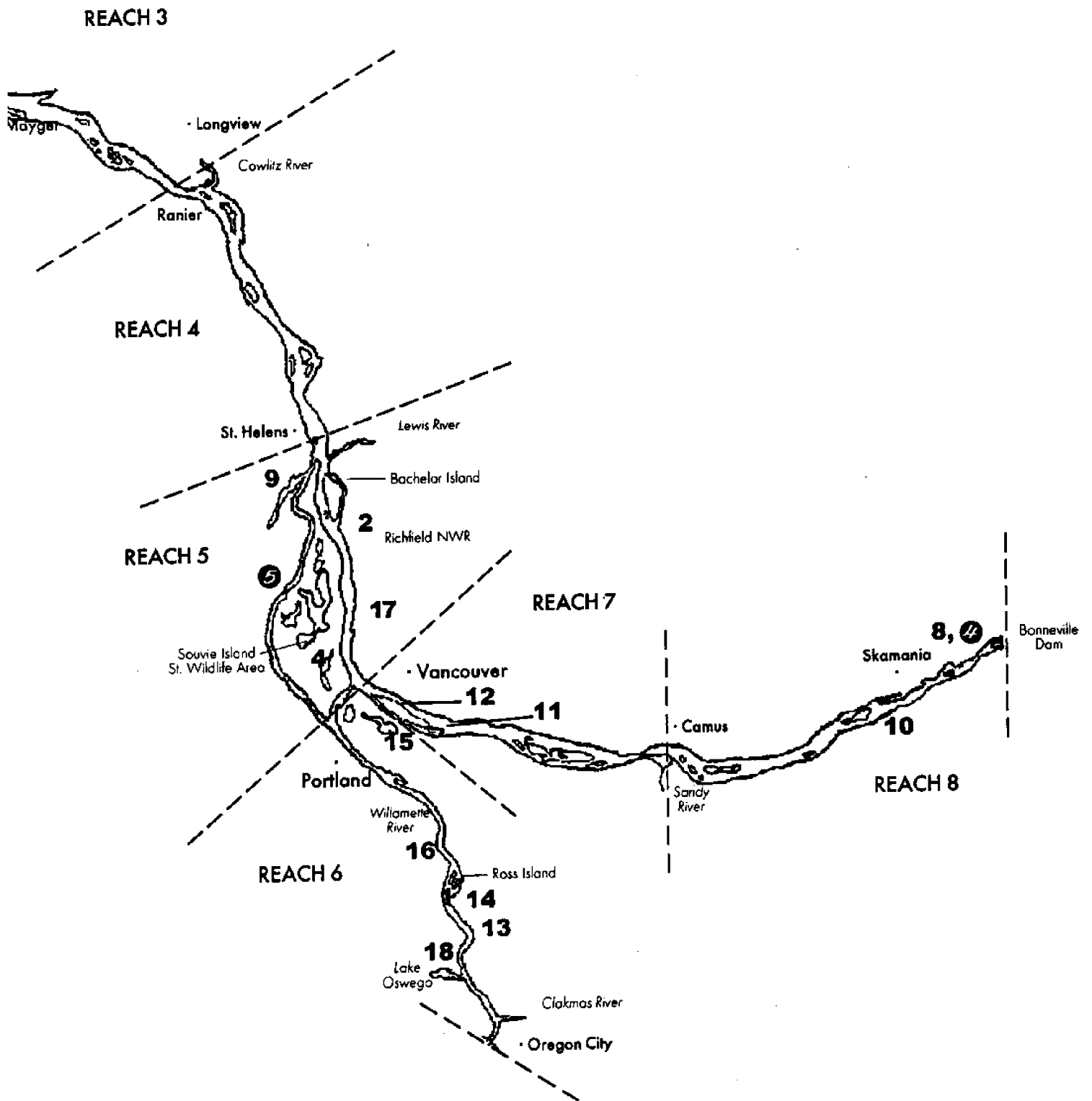
We also asked the respondents to suggest three put-in/take-out sites which they would like to see developed or improved. We asked for the name of an existing site or a general description of an area where put-in/take-out sites were needed. The sites were ranked as 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choices. The respondents suggested 74 sites for improvement. Forty sites are on the Oregon shore, 30 are on the Washington shore, and four are areas that include both shores. Nearly 40% of the sites suggested were in Reach 2. Table 12 is a list of the five most frequently mentioned sites.

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Figure 15



Washington



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Table 12. Put-in/Take-out Sites for Development or Improvement

Put-in/Take-out Site	Reach	State	County	# of Mentions	# Times 1st Choice
Knappa Boat Ramp	2	OR	Clatsop	14	11
Sauvie Island (3 sites)	5	OR	Multnomah & Columbia	10	6
Aldrich Point	2	OR	Clatsop	6	5
Ridgefield/Bachelors Island	5	WA	Clark	6	3
Lewis and Clark National Refuge	2	WA	Clatsop	4	3

Three of the top five sites are adjacent to, or in, the Lewis and Clark National Wildlife Refuge. The other two sites are also adjacent to, or in, a state or national wildlife refuge. However, while these are very popular paddling areas, public access is limited in these refuges in order to protect wildlife from human disturbance.

Camping within the Study Area

Eighty-nine respondents spent the night within the Columbia River study area as part of a paddling trip. We asked the respondents to distribute their overnights in the study area within the seven categories and indicate the number of overnights they spent at each type of facility. There was space provided to add other types of facilities not listed in the survey. Most of the respondents who spent the night in the study area did so at a camp site. Table 13 summarizes the results on overnights in the study area. The most frequently mentioned facility types are shaded.

Table 13. Type of Facility Where Respondents Spent Nights in the Study Area

Type of Facility	Amount of Times Mentioned		Number of Nights	
	#	%	#	%
Undesignated camp site on the river	32	27%	102	35%
Public camp site accessed by car	29	25%	60	20%
Public camp site accessed by boat from the river	23	19%	65	22%
Commercial lodging	13	11%	18	6%
Private camp site accessed by boat from the river	6	5%	8	3%
RV park	5	4%	29	10%
Private camp site accessed by car	3	3%	5	2%
Other Types of Facilities				
Friends House	3	3%	3	1%
Sailboat	4	3%	4	1%

The respondents who camped in the study area mentioned 28 separate camp sites, either by name or description. Thirteen sites are in Oregon, eight are in Washington, two are areas that include both the Oregon and Washington shores of the study area, and five are areas where neither the reach nor the state could be determined. The respondents camped a total of 120 times during 1995. Sixty-six percent of the uses occurred in Washington, 23% occurred in Oregon, 4% occurred in areas that include both Oregon and Washington sides of the Study Area, and 8% occurred in areas where neither the reach nor the state could be determined. Table 14 summarizes the results on camping by river reach. The data is given for the entire reach and then partitioned by state within parentheses. When the reach was certain but it could not be determined in which state a camp site was located, we included the data for that camp site only in the Total slot. Figure 15 shows the location of designated camp sites throughout the study area.

Table 14. Camp Sites by River Reach

Reach	# of Sites Total/OR/WA	# Times Used Total/OR/WA	Average Times Used Per Site Total/OR/WA
Reach 1	3/2/1	16/11/5	5/5/5
Reach 2	15/8/6	83/13/69	6/2/11
Reach 3	0/0/0	0/0/0	0/0/0
Reach 4	1/1/0	1/1/0	1/1/0
Reach 5	2/1/1	3/2/1	2/2/1
Reach 6	0/0/0	0/0/0	0/0/0
Reach 7	0/0/0	0/0/0	0/0/0
Reach 8	1/0/1	4/0/4	4/0/4

More than half of the camp sites identified, and 70% of the camp site use recorded by the respondents, are in Reach 2 — most on the Washington shore. No camp sites were identified in reaches 3, 6, or 7. Reach 3 is a steep-banked, narrow section of the Columbia River; reaches 6 and 7 are in a highly urbanized environment.

Skamokawa Vista Park in Washington was the most frequently mentioned camp site in the entire study area. Thirty-one respondents used the Skamokawa park a total of 54 times — almost half of the totals for the entire study area. Fort Canby, also in Washington, was used by 4 respondents a total of 10 times. The high use of Skamokawa Vista Park may be due to the fact that the Oregon Ocean Paddling Society holds their annual club camping trip at Skamokawa Vista Park. Approximately 50 club members attended the 1995 event.

We asked the respondents to list and rank three camp sites which they would like to see developed or improved. We asked for the name of an existing site or a general

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description of an area where camp sites were needed. The sites were ranked as first, second, and third choices. The respondents suggested 52 sites for improvement — 17 in Oregon, 17 in Washington, and 18 in locations that include both states. Forty-five percent of the sites suggested were in Reach 2. Table 15 summarizes the data for camp site improvements by reach. The data is given for the entire reach and then partitioned by state within parenthesis. When the reach was known but it could not be determined in which state a camp site was located, we included the data for that camp site only in the total. We grouped together camp sites for which the reach could not be determined. Table 16 lists eight of the most frequently mentioned camp sites for improvement.

Table 15. Camp Site Improvements by River Reach

Reach	# of Sites Total/OR/WA	# Times Mentioned Total/OR/WA	1st Choice Total/OR/WA
Reach 1	6/2/4	6/2/4	1/0/1
Reach 2	24/12/12	45/26/19	34/20/13
Reach 3	2/1/0	2/1/0	0/0/0
Reach 4	1/0/0	1/0/0	1/0/0
Reach 5	4/2/1	6/3/2	2/2/0
Reach 6	1/1/0	1/1/0	0/0/0
Reach 7	1/1/0	3/3/0	2/2/0
Reach 8	4/1/3	8/1/6	2/0/2
Reach Not Determined	9/-/-	16/-/-	13/-/-

Table 16. Camp Sites for Development or Improvement

Camp Sites	Reach	State	County	# Mentioned	# 1st Choice
Islands in Reach 2	2	OR	Clatsop	7	7
Lewis and Clark National Refuge	2	OR	Clatsop	7	6
Knappa	2	OR	Clatsop	4	3
Aldrich Point	2	OR & WA	Clatsop and Wahkiakum	4	3
Skamokawa Vista Park	2	WA	Wahkiakum	3	3
Sauvie Island	5	OR	Multnomah and Columbia	3	2
Government Island	7	OR	Multnomah	3	2
Reed Island	8	WA	Clark	3	1

Again, Reach 2 dominates the results for camp site improvement or development. The five most frequently mentioned sites are in this reach — all either in or adjacent to the Lewis and Clark National Wildlife Refuge. Sauvie Island is in a state wildlife management area. Government Island and Reed Island are mid-channel islands 10 miles apart.

Point-to Point Paddling Trips

Paddling trips generally start and finish at the same put-in/take-out site involving a round trip paddling route. However, the Columbia River has a strong current that favors downstream, point-to-point paddling trips. It is also possible to schedule paddling trips to coincide with the flood tides in reaches 1 and 2 within the Columbia River estuary and actually complete point-to-point trips upstream. (We defined a point-to-point trip as a trip that starts at one put-in site and ends at a different take-out site.)

Twenty-five percent of the respondents who paddled within the study area during 1995 paddled at least one point-to-point trip. The respondents paddled a total of 154 point-to-point trips during 1995. Ninety-seven percent of the point-to-point trips were downstream with the river current. Twenty-eight percent of the point-to-point trips started in Reach 2; 20% started in Reach 6. Fifty-one percent of the trips started and ended in Oregon; 18% of the trips started and ended in Washington; 19% of the trips were interstate (8% of the trips started in Oregon and ended in Washington and 11% of the trips started in Washington and ended in Oregon). In 13% of the trips, neither the origin nor the destination state could be determined. Table 17 is a list of the ten point-to-point trips that the respondents paddled most often.

Table 17. Point-to-Point Trips Within The Study Area During 1995

Put-in Name/Description	Reach	Take-out Name/Description	Reach	Frequency	# of Days
Brown's Landing (OR)	4	Scappoose Bay (OR)	4	14	1
Cathlamet (WA)	2	Skamokawa (WA)	2	9	1-2
Cathlamet (WA)	2	Knappa (OR)	2	8	2
Meldrum Bar (OR)	6	Sellwood Park (OR)	6	6	1
Sellwood Park (OR)	6	Kelly Point Park (OR)	6	6	1
Pixie Park (OR)	4	Goble (OR)	4	5	1
Scappoose Bay (OR)	4	Pixie Park (OR)	4	5	1
Clatskanie Park (OR)	2	John Day River (OR)	2	4	2-4
Multnomah Channel (OR)	5	St. Helen's (OR)	4	4	1
Willamette Park (OR)	6	Cathedral Park (OR)	6	4	0.5

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Note that the Cathlamet to Knappa trip is an interstate trip starting in Washington and ending in Oregon. Also note that the only overnight point-to-point trips in this top ten list occurred in Reach 2, where the respondents tended to use camp sites most often.

Planning Paddling Trips

The survey listed seven potential sources of information that a respondent may have used to plan a paddling trip in the study area. We provided space for respondents to add other sources not listed in the survey. The respondents were also asked to choose which source they considered most important. Maps, guidebooks, and word of mouth were the most frequent choices for planning paddling trips. Table 18 summarizes the results for information sources. The most frequently mentioned information sources are shaded.

Table 18. Information Sources for Planning Paddling Trips in the Study Area

Source	# Mentioned	# Rated Most Important
Maps	165	54
Word of Mouth	157	34
Guidebook	124	61
Retail/Commercial Outfitter	59	19
Unplanned	22	2
Internet	5	2
Professional Guide	2	1
Other		
Paddling Clubs	24	9
Personal Experience	10	6
Nautical Charts	3	3
River Cruising Atlas	3	0
Magazines	4	1
Sea Kayaker Magazine	3	0
Newspapers	3	0
Coast Pilot Guide	2	1
Friends	2	1

Although guidebooks was only the third most-mentioned information source, it was rated the most important source more times than any other. Also note that paddling clubs had a significant result, considering it was a category added by the respondents.

Reasons for Not Paddling in the Columbia River Study Area

In view of the fact that 253, or only 45%, of the respondents paddled within the study during 1995, we were interested in why the other 306, or 55%, of the respondents did not paddle in the study area. We provided a list of six possible reasons and added space for other reasons. The respondents were also asked to choose which reason they considered most important. Table 19 summarizes the results of the reasons for not paddling in the study area. The most frequently mentioned reasons are shaded.

Table 19. Reasons for Not Paddling in the Study Area

Reason	# Mentioned	# Rated Most Important
Lack of Information	129	52
Too Far Away From Home	93	44
Better Paddling Close to Home	90	37
Not Enough Camp Sites	37	4
Too Much Boat Traffic	26	5
Too Dangerous	18	5
Other		
Other Priorities	14	10
No Knowledge of the Area	11	4
Did Not Get Around to It	10	4
Have Not Thought of It	6	3

Lack of information was clearly the most frequently mentioned reason and, judged by the respondents, the most important reason for not paddling in the study area. No knowledge of the area and have not thought of it are other reasons added by the respondents, which are closely related to the lack of information reason listed in the survey. Too far away from home and better paddling close to home are both reasons related to geography. If these two were combined into a category of geographic or location reasons, then they would be the most frequently mentioned and most important reasons for not paddling in the study area.

As a final gauge to measure interest for paddling in the study area, we asked all the respondents to rate their level of interest in paddling within the Columbia River study area in the future. Table 20 summarizes the results of this question. The respondents are broken into sub-groups in order to compare some significant differences.

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Table 20. Future Interest for Paddling Within the Study Area

Respondent Group	% Not Interested	% Interested	% Very Interested
All Respondents	5%	44%	51%
Oregon Respondents	1%	27%	72%
Washington Respondents	8%	60%	32%
Study Area Paddlers	1%	22%	78%
Non-Study Area Paddlers	9%	64%	27%
Zip Code Zones Adjacent to the Study Area (OR&WA)	1%	24%	75%
Zip Code Zones Not Adjacent to the Study Area (OR&WA)	9%	68%	24%

Generally, there is strong interest in paddling in the Columbia River study area in the future. The level of interest differs between the respondents who reside in Oregon versus Washington; between the respondents who paddled in the study area during 1995 and those who did not; and between the respondents who resided in a zip code zone adjacent to the study area and those that did not. Oregon residents, the respondents who paddled in the study area, and the respondents who resided in a zip code zone adjacent to the study area tended to have a higher level of interest in paddling in the study area in the future.

Quality of Paddling within Columbia River Study Area

The following results are from Part III of the survey where respondents were asked to rate their level of participation in a list of activities while paddling within the study area. They were also asked to rate the degree to which various factors either added to or detracted from their paddling enjoyment within the study area. The rating scale was from 1 to 5. We summarized the results across the rating scale as a normalized score (0 to 1.0 scale).

Activities While Paddling

Twelve potential activities were listed in the survey. Wildlife viewing was rated the highest. Sixty-three percent of the respondents report that they always participate in wildlife viewing while paddling in the study area. Table 21 summarizes data for each potential

activity listed in the survey. The table shows the percentage of participants who participate in the activity *very often* (4) or *always* (5). The most favored activities are shaded.

Table 21. Paddling Trip Activities Within the Study Area

Paddling Trip Activities Within the Study Area	% Rated 4-5
Wildlife Viewing	79%
Picnics	49%
Natural History and Ecology Explanation	39%
Exploring Cultural and Historical Sites	18%
Exploring Marinas and Boatyards	14%
Hiking	11%
Camping	7%
Exploring Waterfront Towns on Foot	7%
Eating at Waterfront Restaurants	5%
Swimming	5%
Fishing	6%
Hunting	2%

Respondents added 22 other activities that they participate in while paddling within the study area. Five respondents mentioned exercise, five mentioned viewing scenery, and four mentioned photography. Respondents participated in these activities either very often or always.

Factors That Add To Paddling Enjoyment

Fifteen factors that enhance paddling enjoyment were listed in the survey. Natural beauty and wildlife were the highest rated factors. Table 22 summarizes the responses. The table shows the percentage of participants that enjoy the factor much (4) or very much (5). The factors that add most to paddling enjoyment are shaded.

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Table 22. Factors That Add To Paddling Enjoyment

Natural Beauty	94%
Wildlife	93%
Access to Islands	72%
Convenient Put-in/Take-out Sites	67%
Feeling Safe in the Water Conditions	59%
Pleasant Weather	54%
Sandy Beaches	57%
Primitive Camps	48%
Currents for Drifting	32%
Cultural and Historical Sites	31%
Rest Areas	29%
Freshwater Sources	24%
Developed Camp Sites	17%
Interaction with Local Residents	9%
Restaurants	4%

The respondents added 17 other factors that add to their paddling enjoyment. Five respondents mentioned jet ski ban areas, five respondents mentioned lack of crowds, and four respondents mentioned no motorized traffic. These factors added to paddling either much or very much.

Factors That Detract From Paddling Enjoyment

Twenty-three items that are potential detractors from paddling enjoyment were listed in the survey. Personal water craft (jet skis) was the highest rated factor detracting from paddling enjoyment. Table 23 shows the percentage of participants that rate the factor as detracting much (4) or very much (5). The factors that detract most from paddling are shaded.

Table 23. Factors That Detract From Paddling Enjoyment

Factors That Detract From Paddling Enjoyment	% Rated 4-5
Personal Watercraft	78%
Recreational Motorboats	66%
Noise	59%
Crowded Put-in/Take-out Sites	57%
Vandalism at Parking Lot	57%
Inadequate Put-in/Take-out Sites	52%
Urbanizing Waterfront	46%
Hunting	47%
Wind	27%
Recreational Fishing Boats	24%
Lack of Camp Sites	30%
Distance You Must Carry Boat to Put-in/Take-out Site	26%
Cargo Ships and Barges	23%
Strong Currents	19%
Poor Weather	14%
Waves	14%
Difficult River Conditions	13%
Commercial Fishing Vessels	13%
Tidal Flows	8%
Changing Water Levels	6%
Lack of Paddling Experience	6%
Interaction with Locals	4%
Wildlife Management	5%

The respondents added 15 other factors that detract from their paddling enjoyment: 11 mentioned pollution and three mentioned *noise*.

Enhancing the Columbia River Study Area for Paddling

The following results are from Part IV of the survey where the respondents were asked a series of questions about enhancing the Columbia River study area for paddling. In the first two questions, respondents were asked to rate the desirability of various improvements and policies for paddling in the study area. In a third question, the respondents were asked their level of support for funding methods to enhance the study area for paddling. Again, the rating scale was from 1 to 5. The research team averaged and normalized (0 to 1.0 scale) the scores for each activity or item.

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In the final question for this part of the survey, we asked the respondents to list the three most important priorities for enhancing paddling in the study area. The respondents were free to select any priority regardless of whether it appeared in the preceding questions. This was the last question about paddling in the survey. We felt it was the perfect point for the respondent to make a final judgment after having been immersed so fully in reviewing their paddling activity on the Columbia River.

Improvements for Paddling

Six improvements for paddling were listed in the survey. An improvement is an action that results in a concrete, tangible facility that would be used when paddling on the Columbia River. Creating a water trail from Portland to the Columbia Bar at the Pacific Ocean was the highest rated improvement. Table 24 summarizes data for each improvement listed in the survey. The table shows the percentage of participants that rate the improvement *desirable* (4) or *very desirable* (5). The most favored improvements are shaded.

Table 24. Improvements For Paddlers

Improvements For Paddlers	% Rated 4-5
Create Water Trail from Portland to the Columbia Bar	89%
Develop Additional Put-in/Take-out Sites for Human Powered Craft	88%
Publish a Guidebook/Map for Paddling on the Columbia River	84%
Improve Current Put-in/Take-out Sites	69%
Develop Additional Camp Sites Along the Columbia River	69%
Establish Rest Areas Along the River	58%

The respondents added 25 other improvements for paddling in the Study Area. Seven respondents mentioned banning personal watercraft and two mention creating human-powered-craft-only zones, three mention improving water quality, and three mention providing natural history information.

In Part I of the survey the respondents were asked: (1) whether they are aware of the Cascadia Marine Trail (the Trail) in Puget Sound, Washington; (2) if they had used the Trail; and (3) whether they intended to use the Trail in the future. The Cascadia Marine Trail was designated a water trail in 1993 by the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission and the Washington State Department of Natural Resources. It extends from the south end of Puget Sound to the San Juan Islands at the northern portion of the Puget Sound in Washington. There are established camping sites along the Trail reserved for human powered

craft only. The Washington Water Trails Association produced a guidebook with maps for the Trail. Table 25 summarizes the results of the Cascadia Marine Trail question.

Table 25. Paddlers' Knowledge and Experience with the Cascadia Marine Trail in Puget Sound

Groups	Aware of	Used Trail	Will Use Trail
All Respondents	61%	16%	69%
Oregon Respondents	45%	4%	59%
Washington Respondents	75%	25%	79%

The Cascadia Marine Trail is just three years old. Awareness and use will probably increase over time, especially as new campsites are added to the system.

Policies for Paddling

Seven policies for paddlers are listed in the survey. A policy is an action by a governmental organization that has direct legal authority to regulate portions of the Columbia River study area. Interstate coordination and funding of paddling enhancements was the highest rated policy for enhancing paddling. Table 26 summarizes data for each policy listed in the survey. The table shows the percentage of participants that rate the policy *desirable* (4) or *very desirable* (5). The most favored policies are shaded.

Table 26. Desired Policies

Desired Policies	% Rated 4-5
Interstate Coordination of Enhancements for Paddling	84%
Designate Camp Sites for Human Powered Craft Only	80%
Create Priority Zones for Human Powered Craft Only	80%
Expand the Use of Wakes and Speed Zones	72%
Allow Permits for Access to Wildlife Areas	70%
Limit the Size of Groups at Camp Sites	62%
Limit Commercially Guided Trip Use of Camp Sites	54%

The respondents added four other policies for paddlers in the study area; sign-ins for paddlers, power boater education, limiting people at camp sites, and licensing power boaters and personal watercraft were each mentioned once.

Funding Methods for Paddling Enhancements

Ten funding methods for enhancing paddling within the study area were listed in the survey. Pursuing foundation grants was ranked the highest. Table 27 summarizes data for each funding method listed in the survey. The table shows the percentage of participants who

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rated their level of support for the funding method as support or strongly support. The most favored funding methods are shaded.

Table 27. Methods for Funding Paddling Enhancements

Methods for Funding Paddling Enhancements	% Rated 4-5
Pursue Foundation Grants	80%
Use State Park and Recreation Funds	83%
User Fee at Developed Camp Sites	83%
Tax Guide Services	62%
Tap State General Funds	58%
Sell Yearly Passes for Camp Sites	60%
User Fee at Primitive Camp Sites	48%
Tax the Rental of Canoes and Kayaks	43%
User Fee at Put-in/Take-out Sites	42%
Tax the Purchase of Canoes and Kayaks	32%

The respondents added 12 other funding methods for enhancing paddling in the study area. Three respondents mentioned a registration fee for canoes and kayaks, two respondents mentioned a tax on both power boats and personal watercraft, and two mentioned a tax on jet skis only.

Priorities for Paddling Enhancement

The respondents were asked to list their three most important priorities for enhancing paddling within the study area. The priorities were ranked first, second, and third. The respondents mentioned 135 specific priorities for enhancing paddling. We grouped these priorities into 13 categories. For most specific priorities, it was easy to assign it to a category. For instance, specific enhancement priorities such as *camp site improvements*, *more camp sites*, and *primitive camp sites* all went in the *camp site* category. A few specific priorities that were too difficult to group within a category were placed in a *miscellaneous* category which did not play a role in the analysis.

Table 28 summarizes the data for these categories. It includes a list of the categories; the number of distinct enhancement priorities mentioned by the respondents who fall within that category; the number of times priorities within the category were chosen as either a first, second, or third; and the number of times priorities within the category were chosen as a first priority. We ranked the categories by the number of times priorities within the category were mentioned as either a first, second, or third priority in descending order. The most frequently mentioned enhancement categories are shaded.

Table 28. Enhancement Priorities

Enhancement Categories	# Times Priorities Mentioned within Category	# Times 1st, 2nd, or 3rd Priority	# Times 1st Priority
Camp Sites	23	100	28
Solve Human Powered vs. Motorboat Issues	15	97	42
Put-in/Take-out sites	22	95	38
Environmental Protection	13	70	44
Information Sources	13	66	26
Wildlife	10	30	12
Water Trails	4	29	11
Facilities (other than camp and put/take sites)	3	19	2
Safety	6	16	5
Funding	8	12	4
Number of Users	9	12	3
Education	7	16	1
Miscellaneous	2	3	0

Camp site enhancement priorities were the highest ranked category. Four other enhancement categories – *solving human powered vs. motor boat issues*, *put-in/take-out sites*, *environmental protection*, and *information sources* – were also mentioned very often. It is especially interesting that respondents mentioned *environmental protection* so often since it was never introduced as a topic or choice anywhere in the survey.

Of the 135 specific priorities mentioned by the respondents, *power boat and personal watercraft ban areas* was the enhancement priority most often mentioned. Table 29 lists the 20 specific enhancement priorities that were mentioned most often, the category they were grouped in, the number of times they were mentioned and the number of times they were mentioned as a first priority. We ranked the priorities by the number of times they were mentioned in descending order. The ten most frequently mentioned priorities are shaded.

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Table 29. List of Specific Priorities

Specific Priority	Priority Category	# Mentioned	# Mentioned 1st
Power Boat and Jet Ski Ban Areas	Human Powered Craft vs. Power Boats	41	22
Guide Book	Information	31	15
Water Quality Improvement	Environmental Protection	29	20
Put-in/Take-out Site Improvements	Put-in/Take-out Sites	28	9
Human Powered Craft Zones Only	Human Powered Craft vs. Power Boats	23	10
Water Trail	Water Trails	22	9
Camp Sites (general) Increased	Camp Sites	19	6
Camp Sites (primitive) Increased	Camp Sites	15	5
Camp Sites for Human Powered Craft Only	Camp Sites	15	4
Camp Sites (general) Improved	Camp Sites	13	6
Wildlife Protection Improved	Wildlife	13	5
Rest Areas Increased	Other Facilities	12	2
Access (interpreted as "Access to River")	Put-in/Take-out Sites	11	6
Information (about river) Improved	Information	10	6
Protect Paddlers from Motor Boats	Human Powered Craft vs. Power Boats	10	2
Maps (about river) Improved	Information	9	2
Environmental Protection	Environmental Protection	8	
Put-in/Take-out Sites Increased	Put-in/Take-out Sites	8	3
Put-in/Take-out Sites for Human Powered Craft Only	Put-in/Take-out Sites	8	1
Environmental Clean-up and Restoration	Environmental Protection	7	6

Although none of the specific camp site enhancement priorities are in the top five of the above list, four are in the top ten. Specific put-in/take-out site enhancements are in a similar situation. Both camp site and put-in/take-out site enhancements are clearly very important as broad categories as exhibited in Table 26, but when broken down into specific enhancements they become less of a priority.

Conclusions

We set out to answer three main questions: (1) what are the general characteristics of the paddling community in Oregon and Washington; (2) when, where, and why do paddlers paddle on the lower Columbia River; and (3) what are the needs of paddlers for safe, convenient, and enjoyable use of the lower Columbia River in the future? The following conclusions are a distillation of the survey results, and should be considered the “take home messages” of the Lower Columbia River Paddlers Study.

General Description of the Paddling Community

Description of Respondents

Responses to the survey’s socio-economic and family questions paint a picture of paddlers being relatively wealthy, highly educated, and stable, home-owning, adult women and men. Men outnumber women 3 to 1 and paddlers of both sexes are, on average, in their mid-forties. Most male paddlers are married with children, while a slight majority of the women are single and childless.

Description of Respondents’ Paddling Activity

Respondents have, on average, 10 years of paddling experience and rate themselves somewhere between intermediate and advanced in skill. Almost all respondents own at least one kayak, and half belong to one of nearly 50 northwest paddling organizations. But they prefer paddling by themselves, or with one other friend or family member to paddling with large groups. Most consider themselves flatwater as opposed to whitewater paddlers.

Description of Paddling Activity in the Study Area

Description of Paddling Trips

Respondents paddled year-round in the study area during 1995, but the majority of the 11 trips each made on average on the Lower Columbia River that year were in the spring and summer months. Very few of those trips lasted more than one day and, perhaps for this reason, respondents tended to paddle on river reaches that were close to their residences. The respondents rarely take point-to-point trips. Guidebooks were the most important resource for planning trips in the study area.

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Wildlife viewing, picnics, and natural history and ecology exploration were the activities that the respondents participate in most frequently while paddling in the study area. Natural beauty, wildlife, access to islands, and convenient put-in/take-out sites were the primary factors that added the most to the respondents' paddling enjoyment in the study area. Personal water craft (jet skis), recreational motorboats, and noise were the factors that detracted the most from the respondents' paddling enjoyment in the study area.

Description of Paddling Trips by Reach

Each reach of the river drew paddlers for different reasons: for the adventurous, challenging water in The Gorge below Bonneville Dam and close to the Bar; for Portland-Vancouver metro area paddlers, convenient access on the Columbia between Camas and Vancouver, and upstream on the Willamette to Oregon City; abundant wildlife to view along the sloughs of the Sauvie Island, Ridgefield and Julia Butler Hansen Wildlife Reserves; and scenic stretches of river in The Gorge and among the islands of the lower river below Longview.

Description of Places Avoided

Just as challenging water attracted some paddlers, it repelled others. But the most compelling reasons for avoiding certain locations on the river were human-caused: conflicts with power boats, particularly personal water craft, topped the list; water pollution was mentioned by many paddlers.

Description of Put-in/Take-out Sites

A very small number of put-in/take-out sites account for nearly half of the uses reported by the respondents. Respondents used sites in Oregon twice as frequently as in Washington. Put-in/take-out sites in Reach 2 were on average used the most frequently. Willamette Park on the Willamette River in the Portland metropolitan area was the most frequently used site. It outranked each of the next three sites in number of uses by 3:1.

More than a third of the put-in/take-out sites suggested as candidates for development or improvement were in Reach 2. Knappa Boat Dock in Reach 2 on the Oregon shore was the highest ranked site for improvement.

Description of Camp Sites

More than one third of the respondents stayed overnight in the study area while paddling. Most camped overnight and half of the camp sites used were accessed by paddling boats from the river. More than one third of the camping activity occurred at undesignated camp sites.

Camp sites on the Washington shore were used nearly three times as often as sites on the Oregon shore. More than two thirds of the sites used and more than three quarters of the uses were in Reach 2. Skamokawa Vista Park in Reach 2 on the Washington shore was the most frequently used camp site. It outranked the next site — Fort Canby State Park in Reach 1 also on the Washington shore — in number of uses 5:1.

Almost half of the camp sites suggested as candidates for development or improvement were in Reach 2. The respondents expressed a clear interest in providing camp site facilities adjacent to the Lewis and Clark National Wildlife Refuge.

Description of Reasons for Not Paddling in the Study Area

Of the survey respondents who did not paddle in the study area during 1995, a lack of information was clearly the most important reason for not doing so. The respondents did indicate a strong interest in paddling in the study area in the future.

Future Needs of Paddlers in the Study Area

Improvements, Policies, and Funding Methods

Creating a water trail from Portland to the Columbia Bar at the Pacific Ocean, developing additional put-in/take-out sites for human powered craft, and publishing a guidebook for paddling on the Columbia River were the highest rated improvements for enhancing the study area for paddling. The respondents strongly supported policies for interstate (Oregon and Washington) coordination of enhancement projects for paddling in the study area, and the designation of human powered craft priority zones on the water and at camp sites. The respondents felt foundation grants, state park and recreation funds, and user fees at developed camp sites were the best approaches to funding enhancements.

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Top Priority Needs

The respondents' top priorities for meeting the needs of paddlers in the lower Columbia River study area were to solve conflicts between human powered craft and motorboats, improve and add put-in/take-out sites and camp sites, increase environmental protection and water quality in the river, and provide information sources such as guidebooks for paddling on the lower Columbia River.

Summary of the Results of the Paddlers Survey by Reach

River Reach 1

Reach 1 is a popular area for paddling due to its diverse water conditions and its proximity to the Pacific Ocean and two state parks. Some paddlers did avoid this area because the wave, current, and wind conditions can be dangerous. However, some paddlers are attracted to these conditions as challenges to their paddling skill. The quieter backwaters of the Lewis and Clark River, the Youngs River, and the Wallooskee River are attractive paddling areas. A put-in site on the Washington shore near Knappton was mentioned as a possible enhancement for the reach.

River Reach 2

Reach 2 is a very popular area for paddling. The Lewis and Clark and Julia Butler Hanson National Wildlife Refuges are destinations for many paddlers that enjoy wildlife viewing. The camping facilities at Skomakawa Vista Park on the Washington shore are very popular with paddlers that camp in Reach 2. The paddlers expressed the strongest desire for enhancements in this reach. The greatest need is for more put-in/take-out sites, improvements at existing put-in/take-out sites, and more camping sites. Establishing camp sites on some of the islands that are in the reach, but not part of the wildlife refuge system, is a priority.

River Reach 3

Reach 3 is not used very often by paddlers. Paddling may not be popular in this reach because it is very narrow, has few backwaters and side channels, no wildlife refuge areas nor any parks, and limited access points. Suggestions for enhancing this reach include adding put-in/take out sites on both shores and camp sites on the islands. The camp sites are a priority for overnight facilities for paddlers traveling downriver on extended trips on the Columbia from the Portland/Vancouver metropolitan region to the lower reaches of the Columbia.

River Reach 4

Reach 4 is very similar to Reach 3. Again, establishing camp sites on the islands in this reach is considered to be a priority for enhancing paddling. Paddlers traveling both Reaches 3 and 4 would benefit from the publishing of a guidebook on paddling on the Columbia River, which is an enhancement that paddlers suggested for improving paddling throughout the study area. The respondents were least knowledgeable of these two reaches.

River Reach 5

Reach 5 is the second most popular paddling area in the study area. Paddlers are very attracted to the calm waters, sloughs, and side channels around Bachelor Island on the Washington shore and Sauvie Island on the Oregon shore. Wildlife viewing is also very attractive at the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge on the Washington shore and at the Sauvie Island Wildlife Management Area. Put-in/take-out sites on Sauvie Island and at Ridgefield are considered adequate, but camping facilities in the reach are very scarce. Requested enhancements in the reach include more camp sites, improved information on hunting activity on Sauvie Island, and the creation of human-powered-craft-only zones to reduce conflicts between motorboaters and paddlers.

River Reach 6

Reach 6 is the most popular reach for paddling in the study area. This is probably due to the fact that the reach has the largest population in the study area. Most of the paddling in this reach consists of short half-and full-day trips. Willamette Park is the most frequently used put-in/take-out site in the reach as well as in the entire study area. There are many conflicts between paddlers and motorboaters in Reach 6. Suggested enhancements include creating separate put-in/take out areas for paddlers and motorboaters, creating human-powered-craft-only zones, creating no wake zones, enforcing stricter motorboat safety regulations, providing boater safety and operation classes, and requiring the licensing of motorboat operators. The paddlers also expressed concern for the water quality in Reach 6. Stormwater overflow and industrial discharge were both mentioned as damaging the aesthetic value of paddling in the area and potentially posing a health risk to paddlers. The paddlers support strict pollution control laws and control of shoreline development as solutions to these water quality issues.

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River Reach 7

Reach 7 is similar to Reach 6. It is a very popular reach for paddling, most likely due to its proximity to a large population center. The main concern of paddlers is conflicts between human-powered craft and motorboaters. Many of the enhancements suggested for Reach 6 apply to Reach 7. An additional enhancement for Reach 7 is creating camping facilities on the islands, particularly Government Island on the Oregon side.

River Reach 8

Reach 8 is a popular reach for paddling. Paddlers are attracted to the scenery in the Columbia River Gorge. The two state parks, Beacon Rock and Rooster Rock, provide put-in/take-out areas and camping facilities. As in Reach 1, paddlers are attracted to the diverse water conditions in Reach 8. Also, similar to Reach 1, the water conditions are considered to be both challenging and potentially dangerous. Enhancements include creating island camping facilities and providing more information about the area, perhaps within a guidebook of the entire study area.

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Appendix A

Lower Columbia River Paddlers Survey

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University of Washington

Lower Columbia River Paddlers Survey

Washington Sea Grant Program

Dear Paddler:

This survey is designed to gather information about how kayakers and canoeists use the lower Columbia River from the Bonneville Dam to the Pacific Ocean including the Willamette River from the mouth to Oregon City. This is our study area. We are particularly interested in what improvements you believe are needed to make paddling on the Columbia River more accessible, convenient and safe, and how they might be funded. We also want to know where you get information to plan your trips. Washington Sea Grant Program, University of Washington, will use this information to inform outdoor recreation facility providers about your needs for improved put-in/take-out sites, camping facilities, water trails and other amenities on both the Washington and Oregon shores of the river. We will assess the need for a new or expanded guidebook for paddlers on the lower Columbia River. Your knowledge and ideas are important to us and your fellow paddlers. Please complete the survey as soon as possible. We hope to receive most of the surveys by February 29. Your responses will be kept absolutely anonymous—there is no way to link you to the survey form you return. A pre-paid business reply envelope is provided. Thanks for taking the time to respond.

Sincerely,

Robert Goodwin
Principle Investigator
Marine Advisory Services
Washington Sea Grant Program

William Green
Research Assistant
School of Marine Affairs
University of Washington



Washington Sea Grant Program, 3716 Brooklyn Avenue N.E., Seattle, WA 98105 (206) 543-6600

Paddling the Lower Columbia River _____

What is your home zip code? _____

If you received more than one survey, please indicate how many: _____

Part I. General information About Your Paddling Activity

1. How many years have you been involved in paddling? _____
2. What level of skill best describes your paddling ability? (Check the box next to the appropriate level.)
 beginner intermediate advanced expert professional guide
3. Are you currently a member of a paddling organization(s) or club(s)? yes no
If yes, then please name the organization(s) or club(s).

4. What type of paddling do you most often participate in? (Check box next to the appropriate answer.)
 white water
 flat water (large rivers, lakes, sloughs, estuaries, coastal bays, etc.)
 both
5. Do you currently **own** a canoe or kayak? yes no **[If no, skip to question 6.]**
If yes, then what type of boat do you own and how many? (Simply place the number of boats owned after the appropriate type.)
a. canoe # _____ b. sea kayak # _____ c. river kayak # _____
d. other (description/#) _____
6. Did you **rent** a boat(s) for paddling on flat water in 1995? yes no **[If no, skip to question #10.]**
7. How many times did you rent the following types of boats to paddle in flat water in 1995?
a. canoe # _____ b. sea kayak # _____ c. river kayak # _____
d. other (description/#) _____
8. How many times did you rent a boat from the following types of places to paddle on flat water in 1995?
a. a retail/commercial outfitter # _____ b. a club # _____
c. other (description/#) _____
9. Name the specific places from which you rent boats most often. If you rent from many places, then just include the three used most frequently.
Name (most frequent) _____
Name (2nd most frequent) _____
Name (3rd most frequent) _____
10. Are you aware of the Cascadia Marine Trail between Olympia, WA and the San Juans? yes no
Did you use the Cascadia Marine Trail in 1995? yes no
Do you intend to use the Cascadia Marine Trail in the future? yes no
11. How many times did you go paddling in flat water in 1995? _____
[If none, then skip to question #34. Otherwise, go to question #12.]

Part II. Paddling Activity within the Columbia River Study Area

For the following questions, refer to the map on pages 6 and 7 which shows the Columbia River study area.

12. Did you go paddling within the Columbia River study area in 1995? yes no
[If no, then go to question #13. If yes, then skip to question #14.]

13. Which of the following statements reflect your reasons for **not** paddling within the Columbia River study area in 1995? (Check the box(es) next to the statements that apply to you.)
- a. There is a lack of information about paddling on the Columbia River
 - b. The Columbia River is too far away from where I live
 - c. The Columbia River has dangerous wind, wave, and current conditions for paddling
 - d. There is better kayaking closer to my home
 - e. There are not enough campsites on the Columbia River
 - f. There is too much ship, barge, and motor boat traffic on the Columbia River
 - g. other _____
 - h. other _____
 - i. other _____

Which reason above is most important? (Place appropriate letter in box.)

14. How interested are you in paddling within the Columbia River Study Area in the future?
- not interested
 - interested
 - very interested

[If you answered no to question 12, skip to question 34 now. Otherwise continue with question 15.]

15. How many times did you go paddling within the Columbia River study area in 1995? _____

How many of these trips occurred in:

- a. Jan/Feb/March 95 # _____
- b. April/May/June 95 # _____
- c. July/Aug/Sept 95 # _____
- d. Oct/Nov/Dec 95 # _____

How many of these trips lasted:

- a. half day # _____
- b. full day # _____
- c. 2 days # _____
- d. more than 2 days # _____

How many of these trips were with:

- a. myself only # _____
- b. 1 other paddler # _____
- c. 2 other paddlers # _____
- d. 3 or more other paddlers # _____

How many of these trips were with:

- a. myself only # _____
- b. friends/family # _____
- c. club members # _____
- d. a commercial guide service # _____

16. While on paddling trips within the Columbia River study area in 1995, how many times did you spend the night at:

- a. a public camp site accessed by boat from the river # _____
- b. a private camp site accessed by boat from the river # _____
- c. an undesignated camp site accessed by boat from the river # _____
- d. car camping at public camp site # _____
- e. car camping at private campsite # _____
- f. RV park # _____
- g. commercial lodging # _____
- h. other (specify) # _____
- i. other (specify) # _____

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17. Which put-in/take-out site(s) did you use within the Columbia River study area in 1995? Either name or describe the location of the site(s) followed by the number of times (frequency) you used the site(s) in 1995. If you have used more than three sites, please identify the three you used the most.

Put-in/ Take-out Site	Frequency
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

18. Are there put-in/take-out site(s) within the Columbia River study area that you would like to see developed or improved? Either name or describe the location of the site(s).

Site #1 (1st Choice) _____
 Site #2 (2nd choice) _____
 Site #3 (3rd choice) _____

19. Which camp site(s) did you use within the Columbia River study area in 1995? Name or describe the location of the site(s) followed by the number of times (frequency) you used the site(s) in 1995. If you have used more than four sites, then identify the four you used most.

Camp Site	Frequency
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

20. Are there camp site(s) in the Columbia River study area that you would like to see developed or improved? Either name or describe the location of the site(s).

Site #1 (1st Choice) _____
 Site #2 (2nd choice) _____
 Site #3 (3rd choice) _____

21. Did you take any point-to-point trips (i.e. - put-in and take-out sites are different) within the Columbia River study area in 1995? yes no [If no, then go to question #22.] If yes, either name or describe the put-in site, the take-out site, the number of times (frequency) you did this trip, and the duration of this trip in days (# of day(s)). If you completed more than three point-to-point trips please list the three most frequent trips.

	Put-in Site	Take-out Site	Frequency	# of day(s)
Trip #1	_____	_____	_____	_____
Trip #2	_____	_____	_____	_____
Trip #3	_____	_____	_____	_____

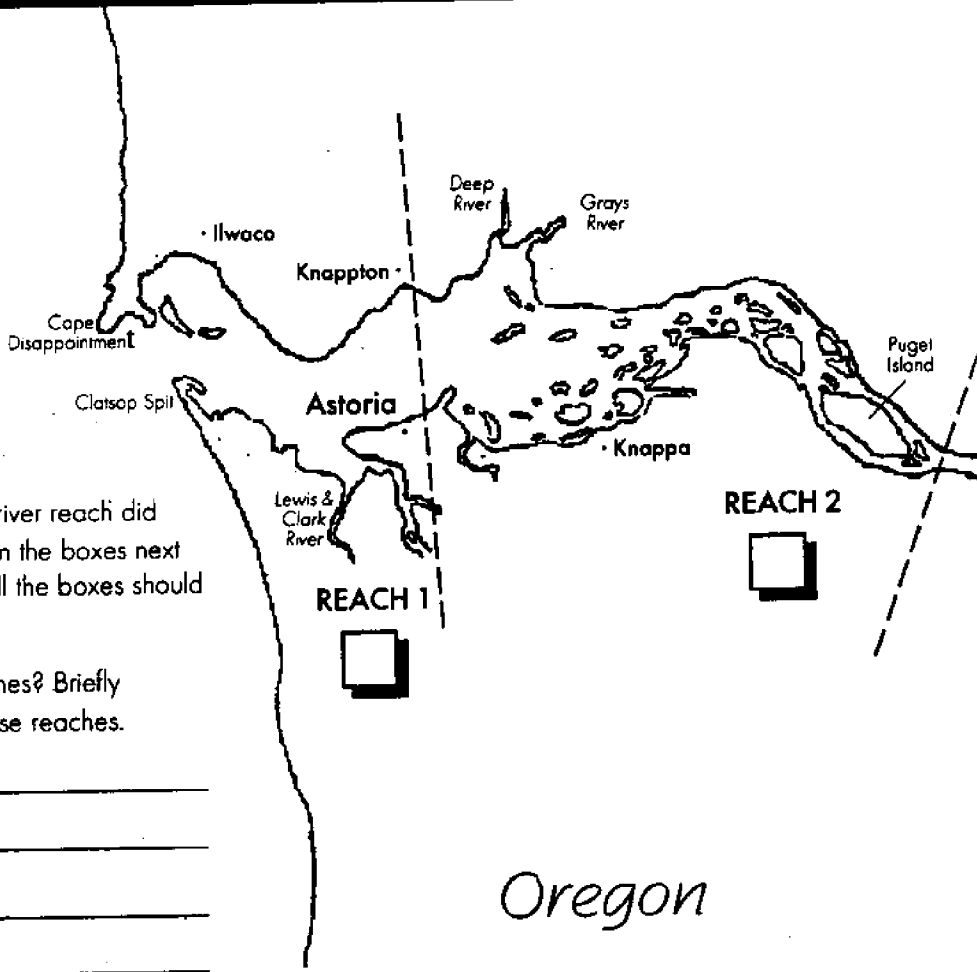
22. When planning a paddling trip on the Columbia River where do you most often find information?

- a. word of mouth
- b. a guidebook
- c. retail/commercial outfitter
- d. professional guide
- e. maps
- f. internet
- g. unplanned
- h. other (please specify): _____
- i. other (please specify): _____
- j. other (please specify): _____

Which information source listed above is most important? Place the appropriate letter in this box.

Lower Columbia River Study Area

Pacific Ocean



Oregon

23. How many paddling trips within each river reach did you take during 1995? Place the numbers in the boxes next to the appropriate river reach. The sum of all the boxes should equal the number given in question #15.

24. Why do you use these particular reaches? Briefly describe the main reason you paddle in these reaches.

Reach #1 _____

Reach #2 _____

Reach #3 _____

Reach #4 _____

Reach #5 _____

Reach #6 _____

Reach #7 _____

Reach #8 _____

25. Are there place(s) within the Columbia River study area where you purposefully **avoided** paddling in 1995?
 yes no If yes, please name or describe the place(s) you avoid the most, include the river reach number from this map, and describe why you avoid the place(s).

Place _____ Reach # _____

Reason _____

Place _____ Reach # _____

Reason _____

Place _____ Reach # _____

Reason _____

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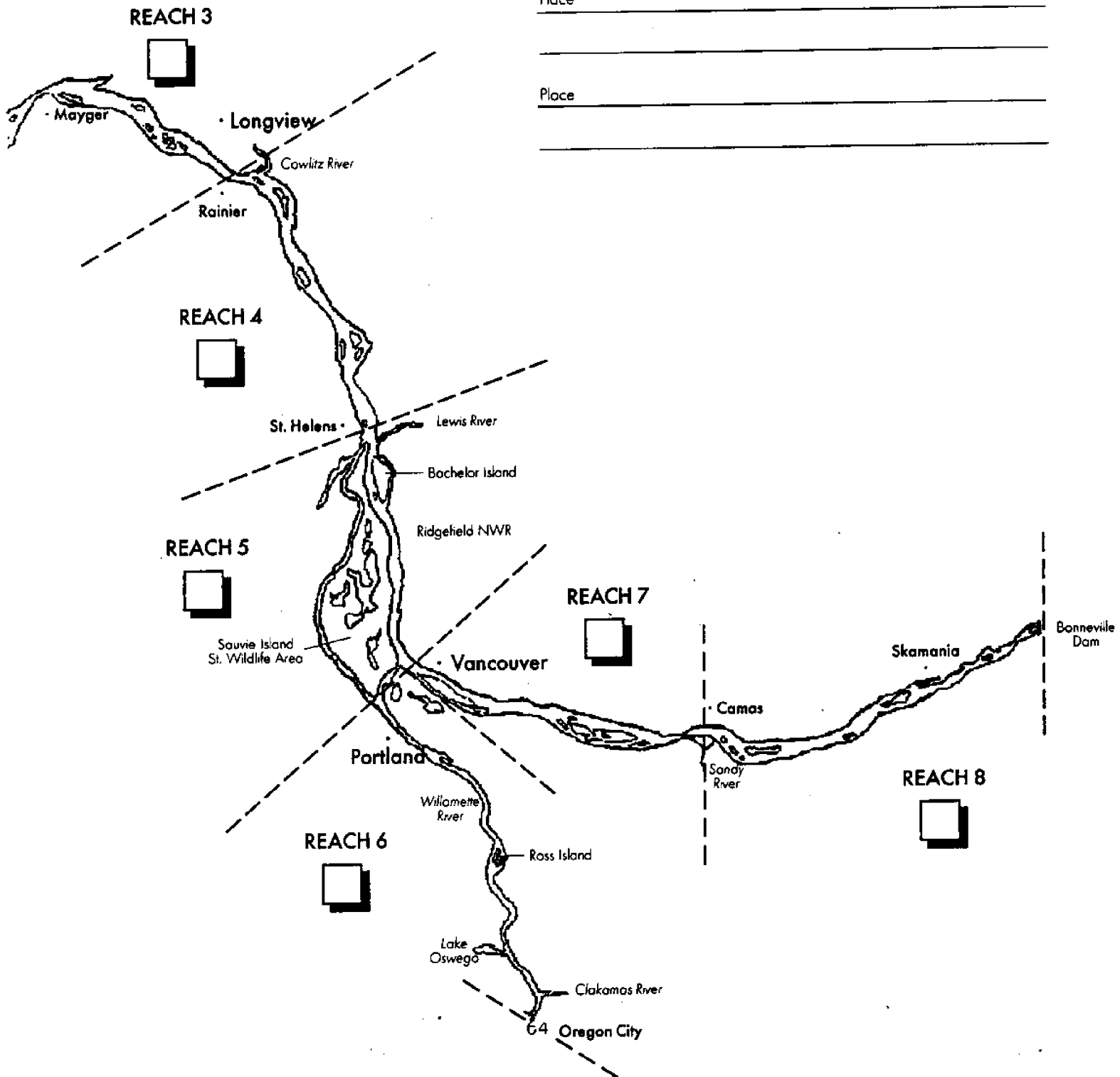
26. Have you paddled in other place(s) in the Columbia River basin or its major tributaries in 1995 that are **outside** the study area? yes no If yes, then please name or describe the place(s). If you have used more than three, just indicate the three places you used most.

Place _____

Place _____

Place _____

Washington



Part III. Quality of Paddling Experience within the Study Area

27. How often do you participate in the following activities while paddling within the Columbia River study area?

	Never	Occasionally	Often	Very Often	Always
a. wildlife viewing	1	2	3	4	5
b. swimming	1	2	3	4	5
c. fishing	1	2	3	4	5
d. picnics	1	2	3	4	5
e. camping	1	2	3	4	5
f. hunting	1	2	3	4	5
g. hiking	1	2	3	4	5
h. exploring waterfront towns on foot	1	2	3	4	5
i. eating at waterfront restaurants	1	2	3	4	5
j. natural history/ecology exploration	1	2	3	4	5
k. exploring cultural and historical sites	1	2	3	4	5
l. exploring marinas and boatyards	1	2	3	4	5
m. other _____	1	2	3	4	5

n. other _____	1	2	3	4	5

o. other _____	1	2	3	4	5

28. How do each of the following items add to your enjoyment while paddling within the Columbia River study area?

	Not at All				Very Much
a. natural beauty	1	2	3	4	5
b. wildlife	1	2	3	4	5
c. primitive camp sites	1	2	3	4	5
d. developed camp sites	1	2	3	4	5
e. pleasant weather	1	2	3	4	5
f. feeling safe in the water conditions	1	2	3	4	5
g. convenient put-in /take-out sites	1	2	3	4	5
h. rest areas	1	2	3	4	5
i. fresh water sources	1	2	3	4	5
j. cultural and historical sites	1	2	3	4	5
k. restaurants	1	2	3	4	5
l. interaction with local residents	1	2	3	4	5
m. access to islands	1	2	3	4	5
n. currents for drifting	1	2	3	4	5
o. sandy beaches	1	2	3	4	5
p. other _____	1	2	3	4	5

q. other _____	1	2	3	4	5

r. other _____	1	2	3	4	5

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29. How do each of the following items **detract** from your enjoyment while paddling within the Columbia River study area?

	Not at All				Very Much
a. crowded put-in/take-out sites	1	2	3	4	5
b. inadequate put-in/take-out sites	1	2	3	4	5
c. lack of camp sites	1	2	3	4	5
d. strong currents	1	2	3	4	5
e. tidal flows	1	2	3	4	5
f. wind	1	2	3	4	5
g. waves	1	2	3	4	5
h. cargo ships and barges	1	2	3	4	5
i. commercial fishing vessel	1	2	3	4	5
j. recreational fishing vessels	1	2	3	4	5
k. recreational motorboats	1	2	3	4	5
l. personal watercraft (jet skis)	1	2	3	4	5
m. wildlife management	1	2	3	4	5
n. poor weather	1	2	3	4	5
o. urbanizing shoreline	1	2	3	4	5
p. noise	1	2	3	4	5
q. hunting activity	1	2	3	4	5
r. changing water levels	1	2	3	4	5
s. fear of difficult river conditions	1	2	3	4	5
t. interaction with local residents	1	2	3	4	5
u. distance you must carry your boat at put-in/take-out sites	1	2	3	4	5
v. vandalism at parking lots	1	2	3	4	5
w. personal lack of paddling expertise	1	2	3	4	5
x. other _____	1	2	3	4	5

y. other _____	1	2	3	4	5

z. other _____	1	2	3	4	5

Part IV. Enhancing Paddling within the Columbia River Study Area

30. How desirable are the following **improvements** for paddlers within the Columbia River study area?

	Very Undesirable	Undesirable	Neutral	Desirable	Very Desirable
a. improve current put-in/take-out sites	1	2	3	4	5
b. develop additional designated put-in/take-out sites for canoes, kayaks and other human powered craft	1	2	3	4	5
c. develop additional camp sites along the river	1	2	3	4	5
d. establish rest areas along the river	1	2	3	4	5
e. create a water trail system from Portland to the Columbia River Bar	1	2	3	4	5
f. publish a guidebook/map for paddling on the Columbia River	1	2	3	4	5
g. other _____	1	2	3	4	5

h. other _____	1	2	3	4	5

i. other _____	1	2	3	4	5

31. How desirable are the following **policies** for paddlers within the Columbia River study area?

	Very Undesirable	Undesirable	Neutral	Desirable	Very Desirable
a. designate campsites for human powered craft only	1	2	3	4	5
b. allow permits for access to special wildlife areas	1	2	3	4	5
c. create priority zones for human-powered craft only	1	2	3	4	5
d. expand the use of no wake and speed limit zones	1	2	3	4	5
e. limit the size of groups at camp sites	1	2	3	4	5
f. limit commercially-guided trips' use of camp sites	1	2	3	4	5
g. interstate coordination and funding of river enhancements for paddling	1	2	3	4	5
h. other _____	1	2	3	4	5

i. other _____	1	2	3	4	5

j. other _____	1	2	3	4	5

32. What level of support do you feel for the following **funding methods** for enhancing paddling within the Columbia River study area?

	Strongly Oppose	Oppose	Neutral	Support	Strongly Support
a. tax the purchase of canoes and kayaks	1	2	3	4	5
b. tax the rental of canoes and kayaks	1	2	3	4	5
c. user fee at developed camp sites	1	2	3	4	5
d. user fee at primitive campsites	1	2	3	4	5
e. user fee at put-in/take-out sites	1	2	3	4	5
f. tax guide services	1	2	3	4	5
g. sell yearly passes for camp sites and put-in/take-out sites	1	2	3	4	5
h. tap state general funds	1	2	3	4	5
i. use state parks and recreational funds	1	2	3	4	5
j. pursue foundation grants	1	2	3	4	5
k. other _____	1	2	3	4	5

l. other _____	1	2	3	4	5

m. other _____	1	2	3	4	5

33. What are the three most important priorities for enhancing paddling within the Columbia River study area?
Priorities do not have to derive from questions # 30, 31, and 32.

1st Priority _____

2nd Priority _____

3rd Priority _____

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Part V. Information About Yourself.

This information would be very helpful in better understanding the paddling community and how the community may grow in the future. It is completely anonymous.

34. Are you: male female

35. What is your age? _____

36. Are you married? yes no

37. Do you have children? yes no If yes, how many? _____

38. How long have you lived at your present address? _____(yrs) Do you own this property? yes no

39. Please check the box next to the highest education level you have completed:

- high school
- 2 year Associates
- 4 year BS or BA
- MA/MS
- Ph.D. or professional (specify) _____
- other (specify) _____

40. Please check the box next to your household income range for last year.

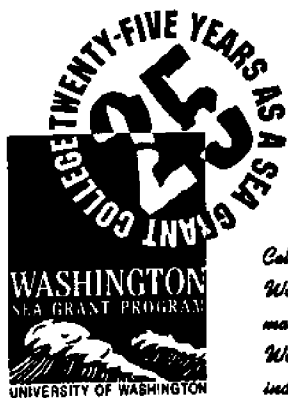
- below \$10,000
- \$10,000 to \$19,999
- \$20,000 to \$34,999
- \$35,000 to \$49,999
- \$50,000 or more

Comments

Please make any additional comments or suggestions for improving paddling within the Columbia River study area. Use the space below or the next page as needed.

Thank you for your participation in this survey.

Comments (continued)



Celebrating 25 years of service to the marine community, 1971—1996.

Washington Sea Grant Program encourages the understanding, use and conservation of marine resources and the marine environment through research, education, outreach and technology transfer. Based at the University of Washington, the program involves interaction, communications and partnership with other educational institutions, industry, government and the public.

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Appendix B

Survey Respondents' Comments

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Survey Respondents' Comments

The following comments were offered by the respondents after filling out the survey. Before each comment there is a code. "Y" pertains to respondents who paddled within the study area during 1995. "N" pertains to respondents who did not paddle within the study area during 1995. Two hundred and thirty respondents added final comments. We only present the comments that deal with paddling issues in the Lower Columbia River study area.

Respondents Who Paddled Within The Lower Columbia River Study Area During 1995

- Y007 41. "Your survey seems directed toward physical improvements/enhancements. My feeling is, we have a lot already. Let's just take better care of it!"
- Y011 41. "If you do develop financial resources... ..leverage those funds with volunteer services from clubs like OOPS, etc. for construction, and other improvements & access projects including developing and designing campsites, launching locations, etc. Thank you for taking an interest."
- Y013 41. "Hunting activity and subsequent exclusion of kayaker's on Sauvie Island sucks. There are increasing number of vandals and thieves at Corbett. Thank You!!"
- Y017 41. "To improve river experience, lower Columbia, and recreation/tourism in general, we need to restrict/improve forest land use practices in the foothills. Destroying the scenery limits use and appeal, particularly to non-locals. Need to get this message to state forestry office and timber industry."
- Y019 41. "Enforce water rules (no wake, speed, etc.). Designate paddle / sail only areas (or days). Limit strongly areas and times jet skis may be used. Thanks for doing it!"
- Y022 41. "I would love to see a marine trail developed on the Columbia and many tributaries from beginning to ocean."
- Y026 41. "Wildlife needs should be respected but are few put in's/take outs in Reaches 1 and 2. Is it really necessary to have NO camping in Lewis and Clark refuge. Brookfield, upstream to Skamokawa, is very special & should be preserved."
- Y028 41. "It is time that human powered craft get the same kind of attention and respect that motor craft. Oregon's State Marine Board basically gives this segment of water users a passing nod!"
- Y035 41. "1. Currently nice blend of urban and rural destinations, 2. Hate to see too much regulation & fee structures, 3. In the populated urban areas, needs to be some speed and wake considerations with power boaters."
- Y037 41. "Work on trying to clean the river up."

Paddling the Lower Columbia River

- Y038 41. "1) Boat launch area for canoe & kayak such as a filed sandy beach area, 2) Protection from speed, water ski and jet ski traffic, 3) Fishing boat & commercial vessels have never created a safety problem to me, 4) Coordination of launch sites between Oregon & Washington."
- Y042 41. "De-commercialize, and don't make it too easy (leading to fools suing the state if they sprain an ankle, etc.)"
- Y046 41. "Weather conditions (i.e., wind, rain) sometimes make it difficult to get to / from campsite to campsite, since they are so far apart. We have paddled 11 hours in bad conditions and couldn't stop to rest or camp. A rest area or campsite every 8-10 miles would be great, especially when unexpected bad weather hits. A route complete with markings would be great! Unfortunately many people have torn down old markings of the 'Columbia River Heritage Canoe Trail'."
- Y047 41. "Heritage Trail was poorly marked but fun to navigate."
- Y056 41. "I think it's great you're doing this!"
- Y058 41. "I'm appalled at the general apathy and disregard for our marine environment (and the environment in general). I strongly support efforts to educate the public on the consequences of our resource use and how urban living patterns effect the natural environment."
- Y059 41. "I use my kayak as I use my bicycle for a work-out. More reachable put-in sites would enhance the variety of my exercise."
- Y061 41. "Oppose hydro on the White Salmon."
- Y063 41. "There are many tributaries that end up in the river, these should be made widely known to paddlers. Paddlers should be educated on zero impact paddling. Many paddlers believe they have zero impact on the river & that's false. I have a farm on the Lewis & Clark river so I paddle that river a lot. I enjoy seeing other paddlers on the river, but I'm very worried about them stopping on 'my land' to rest or camp. People, and paddlers, can really be pigs when the land is not theirs. Paddlers should not only not leave trash, but should strive to bring others' trash back with them. I live in a beautiful area because of the lack of people using it. I'd hate to sacrifice my pastures, 20 lowland acres of river front to promote human activity."
- Y066 41. "1) Thanks for asking. 2) My dilemma is making the lower river so accessible that it loses its deserted feeling. Many of the barriers help keep the experience worthwhile."
- Y068 41. "I don't find the current camping opportunities very attractive, if there were better campsites, I'd camp from a kayak in the study area. Thanks for doing this."
- Y070 41. "I have been a flatwater canoeist for 15+ years, and last year finally took up sea kayaking. Owing to the speed of a sea kayak, longer trips on the river are well within range of a weekend's paddle. This opens more of the river to exploration, use, and impact. The high growth in the popularity of kayaking makes impact & needs assessments crucial. What about using self-report stations at put-in and take-out sites, like they do at many hunting and fishing reserves? Many, if not most, paddlers are casual, day-only paddlers, and will not be captured by list-based referral source. It would give an idea of general and seasonal use patterns, if returns high enough. A simple infrared beam counter could be installed (rotate among sites) to count vehicles entering the sites, give an estimation of % of users answering survey cards (keep them less than or equal to 6 questions)."

- Y073 41. "Very happy to learn of Sea Grant study of area. We plan to paddle Willapa Bay (despite recent death of a paddler there) — conceivably in Skamokawa area."
- Y089 41. "I ___ appreciate the opportunity to comment. I also applaud Sea Kayaker for supporting this survey effort. I hope the survey results will appear in a number of venue, including Sea Kayaker & Canoe magazines – sport boaters, county land-use planners, fish & wildlife departments, etc. The survey form was nicely laid out. Nice job!"
- Y091 41. "I suspect that 'improving paddling' is often seen by governmental agencies in terms of 1) development (ramps, parking lots, toilets, campsites) and 2) increased ability to tax and regulate. Both of these trusts enable increased entry of participants with lower skills, lower commitment, and lower appreciation of ecological web through which they paddle. To my mind, 'improving paddling' will only be fostered by transmitting skills and values to new paddlers – and by political action to manage and limit both residential and economic development regionally and globally. Any further development for recreational paddling should be focused on lands that are already developed for other purposes."
- Y093 41. "This survey covers 1995. Over the past 6 or 7 years I have made trips in all the Reaches of the study area. I intend to continue doing trips ____ (through the ?) entire study area. The trips in 1995 were representative but only coincidentally confined to Reaches 4, 5, and 7."
- Y099 41. "It is my favorite area to paddle in – I'm not familiar enough to add much – I would patronize local businesses when available – I do not want to pay for a put-in unless it is dedicated to use for improving the area – I would camp if it were close to put-in & there was shade for my dog. Thank you for doing this survey."
- Y100 41. "Thanks for asking for this information. There is a crying need for a coordinated approach to preserving & enhancing the paddling opportunities in the Lower Columbia."
- Y102 41. "A group of paddlers in SW Wash. are promoting the Willapa Water Trail, see enclosed info. Hoping to have a guidebook published soon. An important goal is developing a portage between Willapa Bay and the Columbia River, using the Bear and Chinook drainage's. Perhaps we can collaborate."
- Y103 41. "Get a list of river guides that know the lower Columbia River. I am one of the few that I know of that use human powered craft exclusively."
- Y104 41. "Keep it simple, collect information on existing facilities and fill in the gaps on put-ins, simple campsites, coordinate wildlife preservation areas."
- Y111 41. "I need information on Reaches 2, 3 & 4. Jet ski operators are out of control on public waterways: alcohol, excessive speed & noise, emissions. I feel very unsafe around them. They should be excluded from all wildlife areas, all quiet-water tributaries, etc. Motorboats are destroying the recreational value of Oregon's waterways in general. Motorboats create 70 times the emissions that autos produce, (Cruising World, June, 1995, p.79) and it goes directly into the water."
- Y113 41. "Make use of jet skis illegal in this area and paddling will be great."
- Y115 41. "I would appreciate your remembering the need for handicap access and restroom facilities in whatever recommendations you make based on this survey. Thanks! Thank you for your efforts to improve paddling in the Columbia Basin." Above Part I. "2/20/96 Please note that I am a paraplegic and my choice of canoeing sites is affected by handicap accessibility; usually a dock with handicap bathrooms nearby."

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- Y121 41. "Thanks for this survey. It feels good to give this input!"
- Y124 41. "Please don't make it too accessible. I paddle often & if I can help in anyway..."
- Y126 41. "Would be interested in participating in this program. In 1993 I paddled the entire length of the Columbia in a Sea Kayak - 1214 mile 57 days Have a slide program of paddling the Columbia from headwaters to mouth. Have a master plan for paddling the Columbia that I have developed over the years. It covers many aspects of our river from Native American, railroad & etc. & it covers the entire length. Will include a couple of sample pages. Ref(A). Also have similar plan for paddling the Snake from Hells Canyon to mouth. Will include page. Ref(B). Have a substantial library collection on the Columbia River & willing to share same with some restrictions (some books are just too old to come out & visit!!). Copy of collection included. Ref(C). Mr. W. Green, good to see someone addressing this need. If I can be of assistance, feel free to call Mon. through Wed. & weekends."
- Y131 41. "As in #30 - charts for paddlers with sites where camping is allowed, other than improved or primitive sites. I worry about staying on private property. These are probably available - but I don't know of them. Also a charting of inputs other than boat ramps. Charts show boat ramps, but kayaks can put in elsewhere."
- Y133 41. "Thank you for working on this matter. Multi-use of this resource is not going to be easy in this area - so some major form of education covering issues of who helps pay for use may be very helpful - schedules of group use in advance can help my planning - not unlike current state campgrounds. Some better means of enforcing speed limits in some areas and having some areas designated no-wake and enforced - The safety issue for young kids and new paddlers is of major concern to me. Pay to play is not a problem for most people - fishing licenses seem to be in wide use - permits don't always feel good, but if there is some service returned I feel I'm getting good value for my \$. Very few things we want will be free in the future. The State of Oregon does not have funds for schools, etc., because so many people don't want to pay for things they aren't using right now - too bad! - but they will pay for their own fun - if they must. Our future may surprise a lot of these short sighted people when they live 10 or 20 years longer than they plan and wish the environment were nicer to them. Thanks..."
- Y137 41. "My responses were based on one '95 trip in the study area and on a hope to do more. Safe use of the Columbia River by paddlers will be influenced by their experience and judgment; therefore, education on the dangers of wind, current, boat traffic, etc. should be emphasized in any printed material about Columbia boating."
- Y139 41. "If you're going to spend money to "develop" the river—please just CLEAN IT UP!!"
- Y142 41. "More publicity and information about each reach of what each has to offer unique to its own area."
- Y144 41. "I would like to see quiet areas set aside for human powered craft only for safety reasons for children and/or inexperienced paddlers to gain skills, experience. Another reason, I believe in the therapeutic value of quiet, peaceful paddling."
- Y146 41. "Overnight commercial trips ruin everything for the rest of us, wherever they occur."
- Y147 41. "Protection of natural resources, control of bank erosion and restoration of degraded areas are the most important things that can be done. The beauty of paddling is that it requires no management or facilities. Such things can actually detract from the experience (but I'm not a Republican...) Its the same with guide books or similar resources. They're a blessing and a curse."

- Y159 41. "All my views are based on day trips, but may change as I do more overnight camping. My only concern is that we keep the river open to 'all'."
- Y161 41. "Need more small, primitive put-in sites that are safe – i.e. esp. just west of Rainier by Lord & Walker Island, & into the Columbia at Clatskanie (avoiding Beaver Slough.) I'd be interested in the results of the study and possibly in doing some volunteer help in some areas. I paddle the Columbia 1 to 2 times per week when possible in spring & summer."
- Y162 41. "I feel power boaters should be more aware of paddlers. Jet skiers would be banned or used only in designated areas. More access made available to paddlers and definitely no fees charged for simply putting in your boat."
- Y163 41. "Most important is good paddlers info on public & private areas, good beaches, places to stay away from, etc."
- Y169 41. "Very much support efforts to enhance low impact uses of our waterways."
- Y171 41. "Thank you for a very perceptive survey which shows a lot of understanding about issues & difficulties facing boaters. The common tide table and weather report are our best tools along with maps. Boater safety is important for all of us, as it is no fun, so boater education such as the OOPS monthly meetings, is very important. I am very concerned about water quality in the Columbia in general, and specifically about radiation leakage from Hanford. Has anyone really looked into this? Is there radiation in sands or sediment, or dredge spoils?? Can this be monitored and the results published? I am very interested in this idea you mention about creating special areas for human powered craft only. Jet skis and even power boats can be very frightening when they come blasting toward you. We try to keep to the edges of the Columbia but do get onto open water at times and also need to do crossings at times, so power boaters need to watch out for us. Drinking alcohol while operating a power boat should be illegal for simple reasons of safety. I also believe backwaters should be closed to recreational boating where hunting is allowed so boaters don't get caught in hunting zones. But I also think hunting should not be over emphasized nor should it create excessive restriction on boaters. We have become very happy doing single direction day trips off-season on the Columbia when public use is almost minimal. We hardly see anyone in fall & winter which makes for a more relaxed trip. It would be nice if you would lobby for more respect for kayakers while on the water, although most people are nice or at least neutral."
- Y178 41. "New paddler – it is a wonderful sport – very intimate experience with the river and its residents – Thanks for asking!"
- Y181 41. "Thank you for your interest & efforts! I feel ambivalent about 'improvements' that would increase crowding, wildlife disturbance & potentially add to polluted & trashed camp sights (sites). Jet skis (some motor craft) should be banned from wildlife areas, should require a license & adult operation. Encourage cooperation between sports, environmental, fishing & other river interests."
- Y187 41. "Identify sites where water is available either for sale at commercial sites or county park, safe water."
- Y188 41. (hard to read...) "The most essential thing in paddling trip planning is knowing where you can haul out to rest and take care of business. There isn't near enough information about this for the Columbia. More information about tidal impacts in currents & exposed sand would also be good. I don't really see the Columbia as being setup for long trips with various campsites. It would be nice if it were possible."

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- Y189 41. "It was not clear if you were asking about boating or tributaries to Columbia, so I restricted my reports of trips on the Columbia. I do lots of trips on rivers that flow into the Columbia."
- Y190 41. "It is fun to camp on the Columbia River. There is great need for primitive camping on Reaches 1-4 & some more access to the water, the camping should be limited to human powered craft. The distances are to far apart now, unless you want to camp on a wildlife refuge. It is very difficult, as I found out a couple of years ago when I went down the river and found that we had to go 25 miles per day to go from Sauvie Is. to Ft. Canby, we had to camp in the wildlife refuge. Nowhere else to go. Commercially guided trips should not be allowed in the wildlife refuge. This would let small impact camping. If you go to Vancouver Is., CA, you will find areas where the outfitters run off people/make permanent structure that they believe are for them only. I thought that wildlife refuges are closed to commercially guided trips. We already have one commercial group guiding trips to this area on the Columbia. Friends in Willapa Bay Long Island have been issuing warnings for this activity. I have strong feelings on this and all other aspects of this river. The most important is that due to water and weather, the Columbia River is a dangerous area! If you want to get in touch with me I would be glad to talk to you."
- Y193 41. "The Columbia study area in question has already been sold out to commercial interests making paddling "exercise area only" quality! The real opportunities are in saving the great white water rivers of Oregon and Washington, the coast, the west coast of Vancouver Island (which is being raped by logging interests). Good luck with the survey. Remember, less is better!"
- Y199 41. "Develop water only, human powered campsites. Make better info available. Develop program to improve user etiquette to protect area resources."
- Y203 41. "I'm still getting started... I'd like to paddle the length of the study area.. Extended summer trips would be great, but seems to be a shortage of designated campsites... Maybe I need better knowledge of informal sites?"
- Y220 41. "For Reaches 1 & 2, kayakers & canoeists need properly spaced primitive campsites. The current lock-up by wildlife agencies poses a safety risk. A paddler can't run to a safe haven outside the area if a storm comes up, and the distances now required for camp-to-camp paddling are way out of reason."
- Y222 41. "Mainly need to look at ecological point of view & improve waterways for both humans & wildlife by cleaning up the trash that lines the beaches & clogs the creeks."
- Y230 41. "Hope this isn't too late. Thanks for all the work you are doing. I am also a cyclist and have spent considerable energy on the issue of pedestrian, equestrian, cyclist conflict. As more and more people use outdoor parks, recreation areas, and National Forest Land, crowding forces the issue of who gets to use an area and what is appropriate etiquette. Dialogue between user groups is one of the best ways to at least increase the awareness of others viewpoints. Perhaps there should be organization towards getting the different user groups of waterways together for similar sessions of idea sharing so it is not so much a us vs. them attitude."
- Y231 41. "I think the water quality is very poor. If I over-turned, I would be appalled. I particularly enjoy the sloughs and backwaters which seem to be cut off from a natural flushing action at one end or the other. I would also like to see kayakers involved in monitoring discharge sites and/or sampling for water quality."

- Y232 41. "Convenient access and information about good access sites and overnight camping sites have been the major reasons I have limited my kayaking. I have generally found it easier to access areas in Canada, or Alaska, than to access areas locally."
- Y233 41. "The greatest concern I have is pollution – of the water, lands. Perhaps more education of public (TV spots showing pollution, garbage, etc. – broken glass). More media awareness when & where pollution occurs. I cannot believe if more people knew the joy of paddling – they would get on the bandwagon & keep our environment intact. Thanks for allowing me to voice my opinion. I am only able to speak as someone who has just begun paddling (1 yr). I've experienced ocean, lake & river paddles. Smooth & rough water, (the rougher the more exciting!) beautiful, warm & clear weather, rain, wind & dark. Each & every trip was a heart thriller. I loved paddling off the Island of Corfu in Greece – and around Friday Harbor in the San Juans – Often I think if we could take kids (people) out of the water so they can experience themselves & mother nature, one on one, there would be much healing. When I paddled in the ocean I had a feeling of "just keeping on paddling" – not wanting to return to land – and the little I experienced the surf, the hungrier I was for it!! It would be my greatest dream to Kayak in Vietnam – Paddling is a wonderful way to spread peace & love."
- Y241 20. "I understand there are a lack of campsites in the vicinity of the wildlife refuges."
41. "I used Knappa Landing because Aldrich Point road had been temporarily closed. In finding another launching area, I had to decide if I could get away with parking there and how difficult it would be to get the boat to the water. Knappa has room for about two cars. It is difficult to launch from, especially if the tide is up. I believe the dock is too high to launch from. An auxiliary dock for paddlers would be nice. Thanks for your survey!"
- Y247 41. "Controlling and limiting human access to the fragile and delicate natural environment on the Columbia River is critical! Designation of a Marine "Trail" like the one in Puget Sound would be a disaster for the lower River (Reaches 1 and 2). Improvement of campsites like Vista Park in Skamokawa to enhance day use of the River is needed and long overdue. Formulate policies to educate the public on the following: 1. fragile natural environments in the Columbia, 2. minimum impact camping/use, 3. negative impacts on wildlife, 4. hazards of shipping traffic. Much of reaches 1 and 2 is a Federal Wildlife Refuge – there to enhance the environment for wildlife. Increased human use will have an enormous negative impact on wildlife. The very limited opportunities for primitive camping can not stand publicizing or development in the normal sense. I guess I have to tolerate WA shore and OR shore based auto accessible camping. But do not put any designated campsites on the islands. Most of the islands in reaches 1 and 2 are wildlife refuge anyway, and the remaining sites (on islands) are tiny and can not support people traffic."
- Y248 41. Campsites between Jim Crowe Point and Skamokawa
- Y253 41. "It's a great place, don't louse it up. I tell everyone it's our own Puget Sound for paddlers. A designated campsite in the preserve would help preserve the beaches, as many tired boaters must camp somewhere and Skamokawa will turn paddlers away. The paddlers are forced to camp across the River in the preserve."

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Respondents Who Did Not Paddle Within The Lower Columbia River Study Area During 1995

- N004 41. "I have largely not used Columbia River Area because 1) I know little about it 2) Have tended to stay in Puget Sound Area / San Juan's. However, information obtained through articles in Sea Kayaker may suggest Columbia River would offer excellent paddling. Particularly as Cascadia Marine Trail became more crowded."
- N007 41. "Need more information. Impressions of the area include a lot of commercial boat traffic and bad tide/wind/current conditions. If there is accurate information to counter that impression and data (i.e. campsites) it would make it more enticing to plan a trip to the area."
- N015 41. "I support all paddle oriented activities within this region. I despise motor-driven boats. Protect and preserve existing wild areas and reclaim those areas when and where possible."
- N018 41. "My parents have a house in Mattawa and we paddled a lot between Priest Rapids & Wanapun dams. It was a very attractive area to us. The other area we would like to paddle is from Priest Rapids to Tri-cities. But due to restrictions brought about by Hanford, it is not worth doing at this time. If the restrictions were reduced/removed, it would be much more attractive if camping sites are available."
- N023 41. "I like to participate in open water races (kayaks & rowers) in Puget Sound/Lake Washington area. I'm not aware of similar races in the Portland/ _____ River area. I would be very interested in information on racing events and _____ for those."
- N025 41. "As somebody who makes my living running guided kayak tours in the San Juans, Seattle area and Baja, Mexico, I think it is a great idea to develop some other places to paddle. The San Juans are getting more & more crowded every year with everybody vying for limited campsites - not to mention stressing the environment. I've been interested in doing some paddling/birding on the Columbia for some time but haven't followed through..."
- N028 41. "More information in Sea Kayaker magazine or Seattle newspapers or mailings."
- N030 41. "My wife & I wanted paddle the 3 day trip on the lower Columbia. I think it was put together by the Oregon Historical Society. Last year 'Sea Kayaker' magazine gave it a very bad review."
- N033 41. "After 20 years and 14 to 15 thousand miles of paddling and portaging - much of it in Alaska - it is my observation that there are two main threats to quality paddling (travel by water). 1. Economic exploitation which inevitably has a deleterious effect through restricted access and damage to the waterway itself - i.e. - dams, pollution, silting, etc. 2. Recreational Exploitation - professionally guided group operations which ultimately have the same effects. I must say that the seemingly restrictive access policies of the Everglades Nat'l Park and Okefenokee provide a much more satisfying wilderness experience than the unlimited access approach for pseudo wilderness travel where the sheer numbers often degrade the experience. For the Okefenokee it's one party per trail per day and campsite must be pre-selected. Group interaction is limited and the habitat is affected only by the wake of the canoe."
- N034 41. "No paddling in 1995 (due to remodeling my home). In previous years my favorite paddling has been on the rivers and creeks of Willapa Bay. With my remodeling complete this spring, I do plan some day trips on the tributaries of the lower Columbia River."

- N037 41. "If information were available (launch sites, parking, route descriptions, wind & current info), I could be tempted to drive down for lower Columbia trips."
- N039 41. "Aside from the distance from my home to the Columbia, I don't know where the launch sites are and don't know how to find out. On the other hand, I kayak less now than 5 years ago because the sport has become too popular in Puget Sound and the launch area parking lots fill to capacity on weekends."
- N041 41. "I intend to paddle the lower Columbia in the next year or two. A guidebook listing camping facilities, put-ins and hazards would be helpful in planning the trip(s)."
- N044 41. "Guidebook of area! Extension of Cascadia Marine Trail into area."
- N047 41. "I'm kind of out of touch due to work pressures. I wonder if there is a good source of information showing reviews of Columbia River put-in locations and waterways. I've been to about 5-8 places."
- N055 41. "More information would help me ~ I would like to explore the area if there are food campsites and not a lot of motor boat traffic."
- N060 41. "I've read J. C. Fremont's accounts of traveling the Columbia in the 1840's. I wish I could have seen the un-dammed Dalles in ___! I'd really like to paddle Bonneville to Astoria. The Winter trail/campsites make the prospects attractive."
- N064 41. "Can't wait to visit the Columbia - I know about the Reach 2 canoe trail, but don't know about info on other reaches. Send info to clubs to encourage Columbia as a destination - or provide local volunteer guides for club introduction paddles. Thanks for doing this!"
- N070 41. "Sounds like you are headed in the right direction - thanks! I would be interested in doing paddle research or work party on the river."
- N074 41. "Paddling Guide. Safe put-ins and take-outs with parking and overnight camping."
- N079 41. "Even though I do not paddle on the Columbia, I value the river as a resource for many uses and hope that recreational uses will be a vital part of that mix."
- N085 41. "As a beginner-to-intermediate paddler I'm interested in finding out about the Columbia River area, both about the area and about level of skill involved."
- N086 41. "I have not paddled on the Columbia in 6 years - primarily due to family changes - however, I expect to paddle in the Columbia area within the next five years and beyond. I am pleased _____ are being taken to preserve and enhance this beautiful and exciting - challenging! - area."
- N087 41. "I'm really looking forward to paddling both Willapa Bay and the Columbia! Hopefully in 1996."
- N091 41. "My wife & I did paddle on the lower Columbia (Reach 2) in 1994, and enjoyed the experience. I think the area has high potential, but needs better public access points developed."

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- N092 41. "Sea kayaking has grown without standards and too many boat dealers are exploiting 'adventure seekers'. I am tired of groups (commercial) monopolizing primitive areas. I would like to see trail permits and fees going to maintain these water trails. This includes everyone in a commercial group. I cannot tell you how many times I have seen guides giving a 20 minute training lesson to people who have never been in a kayak before."
- N096 41. "A booklet of specific points of interest on the Columbia would be good, i.e., caves, rock formations, waterfalls, wilderness areas, wildlife, Indian sites, ghost towns, etc., would be great to plan trips, areas to go to. Many more people would kayak there if you gave them a reason to. Campsite locations, access to drinking water, taboo/stay out areas, etc. would help for camping trips. The high wind/waves on 13c., is, and would be, a great selling point to many kayakers (myself included). Send out or present info on where and when, launching points, etc."
- N100 41. "Seven years back I supplied information about paddling the Columbia to a group of 4 British paddlers who made an expedition to Washington specifically to paddle the fall length of the Columbia. Must hold some fascination for our European friends. A paddling guide on the river would help us plan a trip there."
- N105 41. "Thanks for asking and we'd be very interested in lists or maps of put-in sites in this area!"
- N112 41. "We can improve paddling everywhere by banning jetskiers."
- N115 41. "Historical aspects (Lewis & Clark) & natural history (fish & wildlife) should be emphasized in any development of paddling information or other resources."
- N117 41. "I spent a weekend paddling in Reach 8 a few years ago. Inspired by an article in Sunset Magazine. Found only one campsite at County Park. The water trail signs were in need of upkeep. Advice on paddling earlier in the day to avoid winds needs to be made very prominent in all materials advertising this area. Enjoyed the change from usual salt water paddling. Take a lesson from Washington Water Trails in how to get your area organized. Big things are happening in the Puget Sound area with volunteer help. Kayaking is growing rapidly. I'm pleased to see you seem to realize the importance of doing something for this popular water sport."
- N125 41. "Keep it simple. People do not go paddling to look for paved parking lots & developed camping sites. A narrow path is sufficient access to carry a boat to a beach. A well hidden outhouse is all that is needed at a campsite (& that primarily for the city folks who haven't learned about cat-holes)."
- N127 41. "Send more info on this area, access sites & camping areas."
- N128 41. "Information on routes, campsites, access."
- N130 41. "Clean up the quality of water."
- N132 41. "Make more established but wilderness camping. Have established 2-3 sites & outhouse."
- N135 41. "I would like to see more information provided in paddling magazines. I have not seen any guide books for paddlers on the Columbia River. Possibly, government guides could be published that are geared toward paddlers."

- N143 41. "A) Remove dams B) Restore salmon runs C) Improve water quality D) Better/more campsites."
- N144 41. "I have paddled in most places in your survey, but not recently. I enjoy quiet water where I can get away from any motor boats. That is, if it is developed, there are probably too many obnoxious motor boats & jet skis."
- N148 41. "I have just began my interest in flatwater/sea kayaking and am planning to build my first boat in the spring of '96. Primary interests in paddling areas will be lower Columbia River area, Reaches 2, 3 and 7 & 8. I would be supportive of policies and activities which would promote kayaking within these areas of the lower Columbia. Also I would be interested in facilities or activities related to kayaking in the specific reaches mentioned above."
- N151 41. "Currently reside in Kennewick WA. Moving to Portland area this summer. Looking forward to the rivers in the area very much. Next survey will have more in-depth information."
- N155 41. "I have paddled the entire Snake River, from its origin at Jackson Lake Wyoming, to the Columbia and on to Vancouver. The floods here in Vancouver have delayed my expedition for a few days, but came across your survey and felt compelled to include my comments. The Snake River system had many campsites, parks, and historical landmarks. I was impressed with Idaho's plan of having Idaho Power install and maintain these campsites and parks. They were very clean and feasible. The state parks however, were run down and unkempt. Wyoming state parks are very well taken care of and pleasing to the eye. I would suggest Washington and Oregon involve the Corps of Engineers to make campsites or designated public use parks everywhere possible along the Columbia. The Columbia is obviously far behind Idaho and Wyoming's Snake River Parks. Paddling the Columbia should be more accessible. It can be with at least river access to parks and campsites, even if private property makes it impossible for road access. Thank you and please include me in any progress you have made and I'll be thinking and learning more about this situation."
- N158 41. "I have paddled the Hanford Reach – It was very nice but why risk possible contamination by WWII disposals, etc. If not for nuclear waste possibility I'd love to do more in that area."
- N160 41. "Even if there were no effects from Hanford, the lower Columbia River appears ugly and industrialized. It's not worth it for me to drive 250 miles to paddle a river of dubious quality."
- N161 41. "I'm a relative newcomer to paddling. Most of it has been done with commercial "expedition" groups. I do, however, intend to paddle on the lower Columbia as time permits."
- N168 41. With an arrow to "Columbia River study area" he commented, "Where is it??"
- N169 41. "Promotion of area as paddling destination."

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- N173 41. "Will be going to Masset – Queen Charlottes B.C. Canada – to help make 2 Haida canoes for public school there. Just finished a Nootka Whaling Canoe in Neah Bay for youth at Neah Bay, WA. 26.5 feet long and 44 inches wide, 330 lbs. Would like to float the Columbia from Canada to the sea. Have had groups 3-4 times (5 day trips) on the Columbia near Pateros, WA. Also had groups on Methow, Okanogan Rivers and Banks Lake & Sun Lakes in eastern WA. About 8-10 times – 5 day trips. Raced our large Nootka Whaling Canoe down the Spokane River 3 times – ending in state park in Spokane. 29 feet long, 54 inches wide, 586 lbs. One of the biggest problems I have with kayaking or canoeing – is the amount of oil and gas – pollution – created by solo car – kayak – use of huge numbers just getting to put-ins & take-outs. A van carrying 8 persons & trailer with canoes – gear – is much more appropriate to traveling gently on this paradise of the Northwest. I don't mind sharing my name – experiences – time."
- N185 41. "Exploring the Columbia remains on my 'To Do' list. I look forward to it, but use my kayak for whitewater instead. Good luck. I hope others have info for you."
- N189 41. "A marine trail down the Columbia would give protection & structure to our use of this resource."
- N190 41. "As I know more, I will be more inclined to plan paddles there."
- N195 41. "I apologize for the mistake, I thought the survey included south to the Briny Chinook Area. I did no kayaking in the Columbia area. Friends have thought about it & we will do it sometime – nice to see the survey – hope to see your work. In 1993 I ventured from PDX to Red Lion Inn on the Columbia & thought the river had enormous variety, from house boats to what appeared untouched islands & spits to the airport ____ there to the blue heron – very unique & somewhat clean, too!! My normal trips are to Otter Crest (Pacific Ocean) (great gray whale watching in Oct., Nov.) & to the larger Cascade lakes for fly fishing & beautiful water."
- N196 41. "I'm glad to see there is interest in providing more/better paddling opportunities on the Columbia – I used to live in Portland and spent many a great day paddling around the Willamette & Columbia Rivers. Thanks! You may want to check out a master's thesis @ OSU – marine resource management – by Jodi Cassell – maybe 1992? I think it also dealt with enhancing access in Columbia River for motorboats. Contact Jim Good at (541) 737-5189."
- N198 41. "I paddled once in this area in 1993 (?). I was interested in coming back but just haven't made it yet. In general, maps and river-access campsites are important."
- N205 41. "Get out the info and maps, etc."
- N212 41. "Get rid of jet skiers."
- N215 41. "Ocean kayak surfing at Ft. Canby is the closest I got to the Columbia River this year. So little time, so much to paddle... The Columbia River has been on the 'high priority' list to paddle, for about 5 years – too busy with work, kids to get there."
- N223 41. "Get the information out!!"
- N227 41. "Now that my attention is on this area I plan to check it out and paddle the area in the coming years. I'm pleased to see an interest in making the area (or any area) more accessible to kayaking. Thanks. Paddle in peace."
- N228 41. "Where can we get information for paddling in the study area?"

- N230 41. "1. Need the info: a) Resources available and 2. Relationship of paddling to: a) activities 1) fish, 2) hunt, and 3) other."
- N231 41. "I would be more likely to paddle in the study area with - more info/general, wildlife viewing, human powered campsites access, launch, natural history. User fees are OK when used to support specific facilities...."
- N237 41. "I would love to explore the Col-River study area; but I need good info., i.e. guidebooks, maps, current info, camping info & put-in / take-out info. Thanks."
- N238 41. "A suggestion to have a speaker inform more paddlers to the Columbia River study area... at an OOPS meeting."
- N241 41. "The more canoe access the better!!"
- N243 41. "I have never paddled in the study area, but enjoy the area upriver because of the closeness to home and the wind by Hood River makes some great waves."
- N244 41. "If I lived up north I might get involved with boating on the Columbia."
- N245 41. "Guide book similar to the 'Recreation Guide to the Willamette River' would be helpful - not a full blown rock-by-rock guide, but a solid rundown of put-ins, campsites, restaurants within walking of river, etc."
- N249 41. "I am interested in paddling the Columbia River for historic & recreational reasons. If an agreed-upon route was established for paddlers to float down river, and if over-night camp spots were identified (every 10-15 miles), then I would plan on exploring the Columbia by sea kayak."
- N255 41. "Ramps/launch sites oriented to human-powered boats rather than to trailered power boats."
- N257 41. "I have paddled the lower Columbia 2 times...all restricted to 1994, I didn't make it down there in '95. May '94 Clatskanie (park), day 1 to Skamokawa (park), day 2 to John Day River (Astoria). September '94 Clatskanie (city park), day 1 to Cathlamet (marina), day 2 to Skamokawa (park). The charts - obtained at Capt's Nautical in Seattle were the most helpful equipment. Because of fog I'd rec. a compass for river crossings. Key navigation aids are the numbered N-buoys - know where they are. I'd rec. eating at B.J.'s in Cathlamet. Having a support crew to move cars around is a must on the 2 day trips. The experience is very worthwhile, it's so different from Hood Canal and Puget Sound! Tides, currents, ships are not a significant problem. The big thing is knowing where you are and where you are headed. I suppose there could be more signs; personally that would detract from the adventure, I feel."
- N259 41. "I am just starting to do more flat water paddling. I've avoided the lower Willamette & Columbia as a flat water destination because in the past I did more white water. Lack of camping spots, an excess of motor boats & jet skis are major factors as is urbanization."
- N262 41. "Get rid of the dams and power lines and nuclear facility and shipping channels and ships other than kayaks and sailboats and revert the Columbia River from an irrigation ditch to a true scenic river."
- N269 41. "A guidebook of some sort with difficulty ratings for trips."
- N271 41. "Would support water trail development in the lower Columbia."

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- N272 41. "I saw an article in Sea Kayaker about a route on the Columbia a few years ago. It's on my list to try."
- N274 41. "Saving and protecting natural resources must be an international priority."
- N277 41. "I have currently quit sea kayaking because it's too hard to find companions at my level on short notice because of my irregular job hours. I couldn't ___ my sea kayak in spite of 1 to 2 years practicing (irregularly) & I don't think it's at all smart for me to go out alone. So have returned to my preferred water sport – scuba - which I've done for many years. PTO."
- N287 41. "Take out a few dams!"
- N288 41. "Your survey has reached a person who seldom gets near your study area. I usually head west or north. Perhaps a better use of your research dollar would be coordination with a team studying the Puget Sound area. Sea Kayakers' mailing list is profound, but your team needs to sort the zip codes better!"
- N293 41. "In '94 we paddled 1/2 day possibly in Reach 2, but have kept our day trips to estuaries, the Willamette above Oregon City and a nearby mountain lake or two. I am interested in water trail and (maintained) primitive campsites on the lower Columbia for 2, 3 or more days out. Would strongly support user fees at put-in & campsites, plus state parks funds for supervision. Our interest in kayak camping is to be away from people – no tourist facilities, few sites per campground ..."
- N294 41. "Paddling the Columbia is something my wife & I really want to try, but not sure where to start."

Appendix C

List of Contacts

Paddling the Lower Columbia River

List of Paddling Contacts

Lee Moyer
Pacific Water Sports
16055 Pacific Highway South
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Alder Creek Kayak and Canoe
250 NE Tomahawk Island Drive
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Chris Cunningham
Sea Kayaker Magazine
P.O. Box 17170
Seattle, WA 98107

Bill Stewart
Northwest Outdoor Center on Lake Union
2100 Westlake North
Seattle, WA 98109

Steve Nelson
Oregon Ocean Paddling Society
P.O. Box 69641
Portland, Oregon 97261

Mary Monforte
Washington Water Trails Association
4649 Sunnyside Avenue North
Room #345
Seattle, WA 98103

Wayne Shuyler
Oregon State Marine Board
435 Commercial Street NW
Salem, OR 97310

Jurgen Hess
Columbia River Gorge National
Scenic Area
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Hood River, OR 97031

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