



# Open Space and Mountain Parks “Overarching Issues”

## Commercial Use Permit Program Evaluation



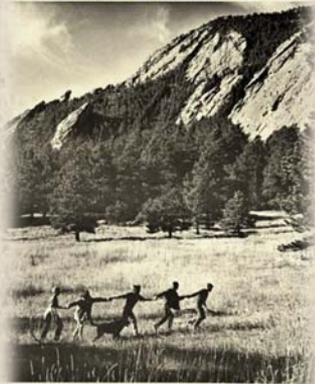
# City Council Identified Overarching Issues



Long-Term  
Sustainability



GREENBELT  
FOR BOULDER



VOTE FOR SALES TAX



## Program Goals:

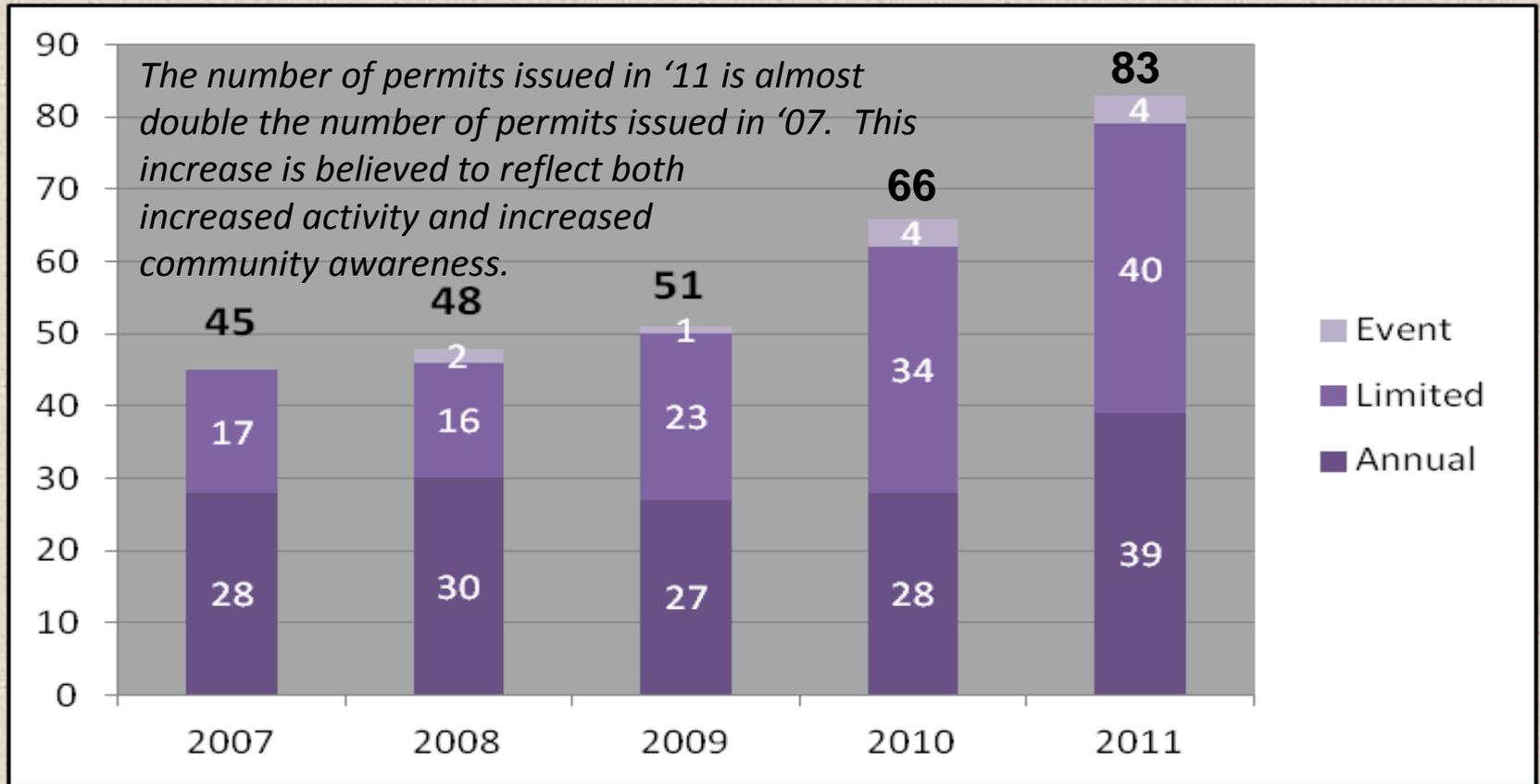
Minimize the impact of commercial activity on natural and other resources.

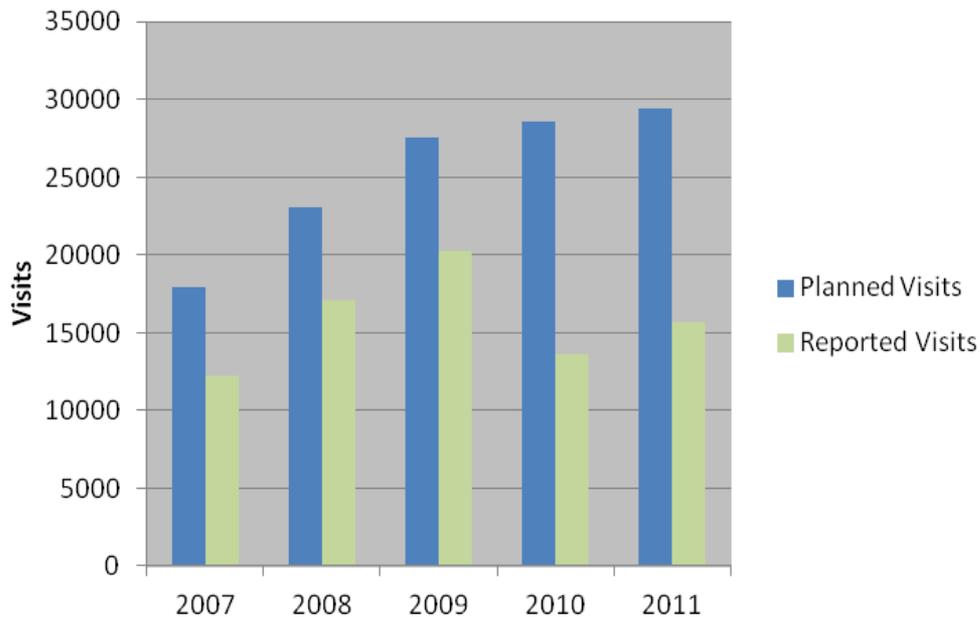
Minimize the impact of commercial activity on the visitor experience.

Make the permit application relatively simple and convenient, easy to administer, and accurately track.

*Commercial operators also assist OSMP in the goal of connecting people to nature.*

# Approved Commercial Use Permits '07-'11



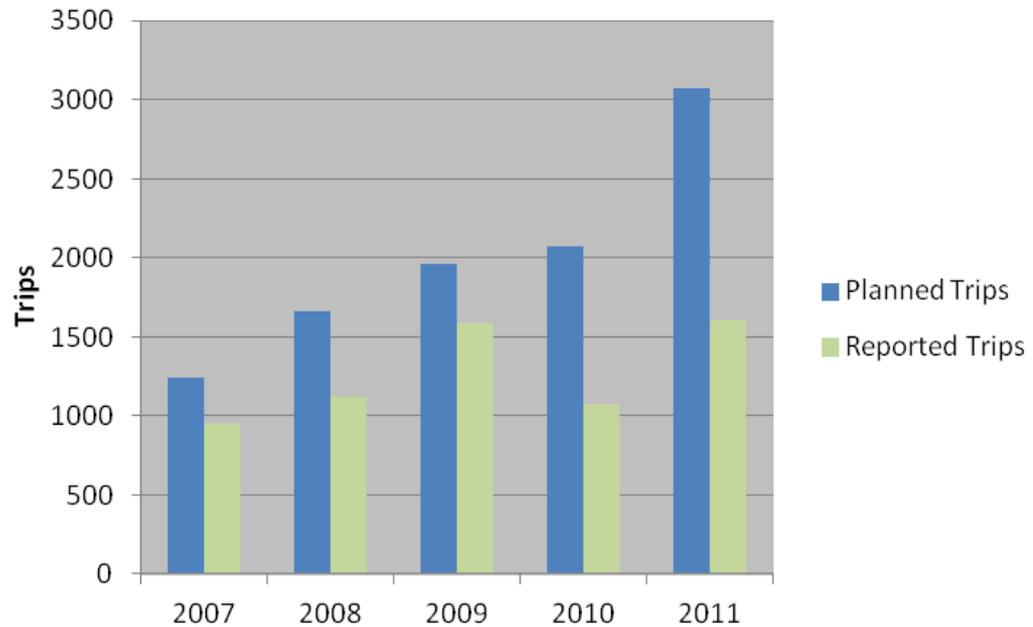


**Commercial use accounts for between 0.25% and 0.43% of the total number of annual visits to OSMP. (15,000 visits)**

*Both the planned and reported visits suggest an increasing trend from '07-'09. However, there was a drop in the number of reported visits in '10 and '11.*

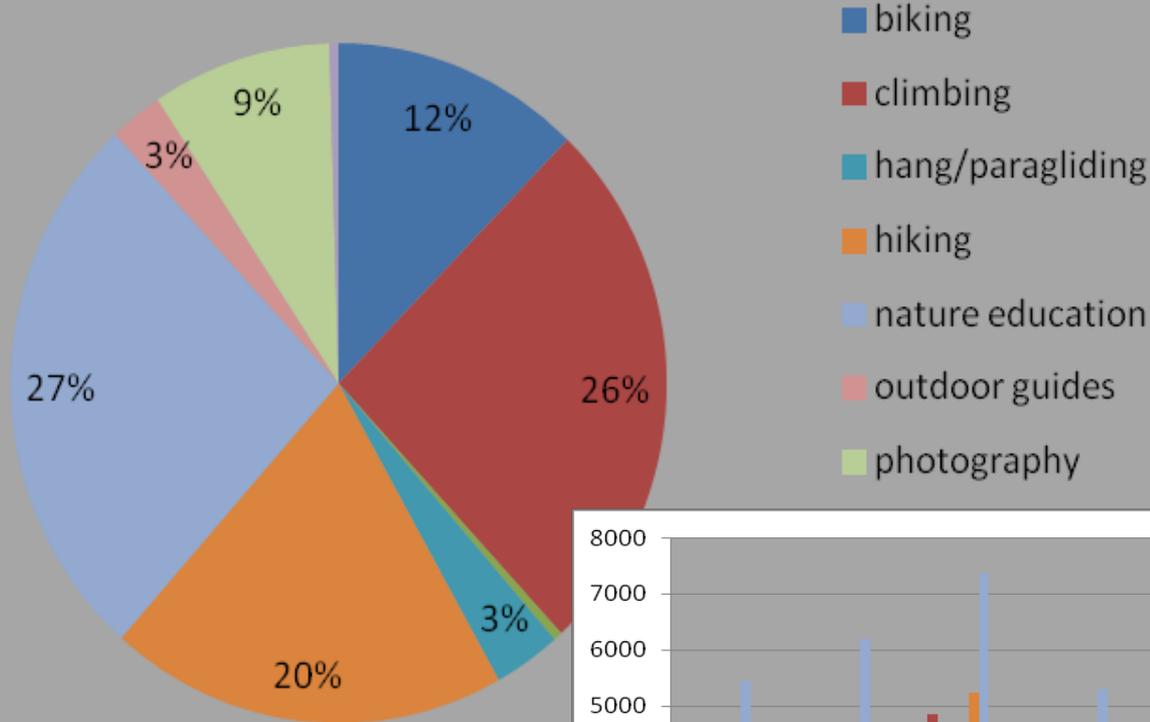
### Planned and Reported Visits

*The reported trips suggest a smaller increase of trips over the years than the planned trips. There were 35 more reported trips in 2011 than in 2009 and a relatively consistent increase in the number of trips in '07,'08, and '09.*



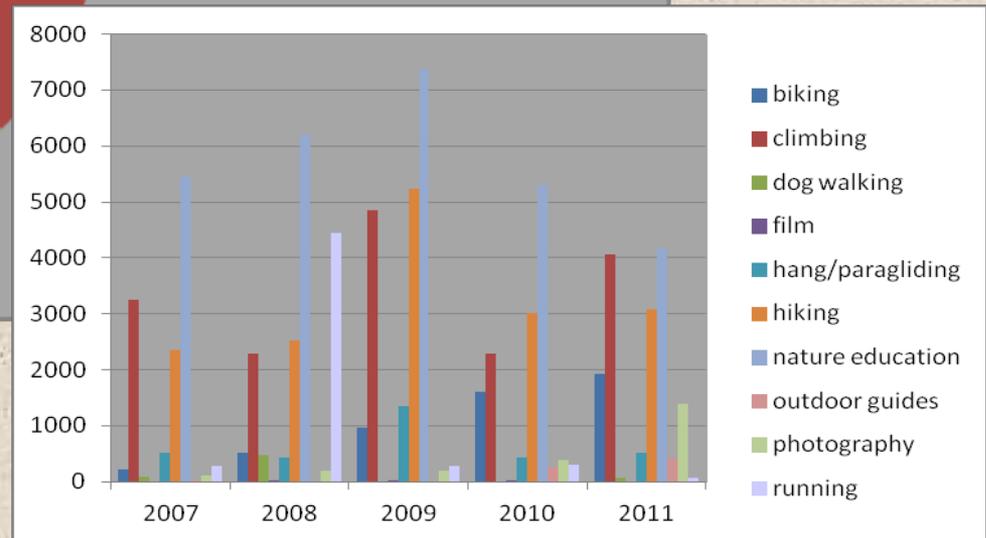
### Planned and Reported Trips

*In 2011 nature education and climbing generated approximately the same number of visits. Hiking had the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest percentage of visits.*



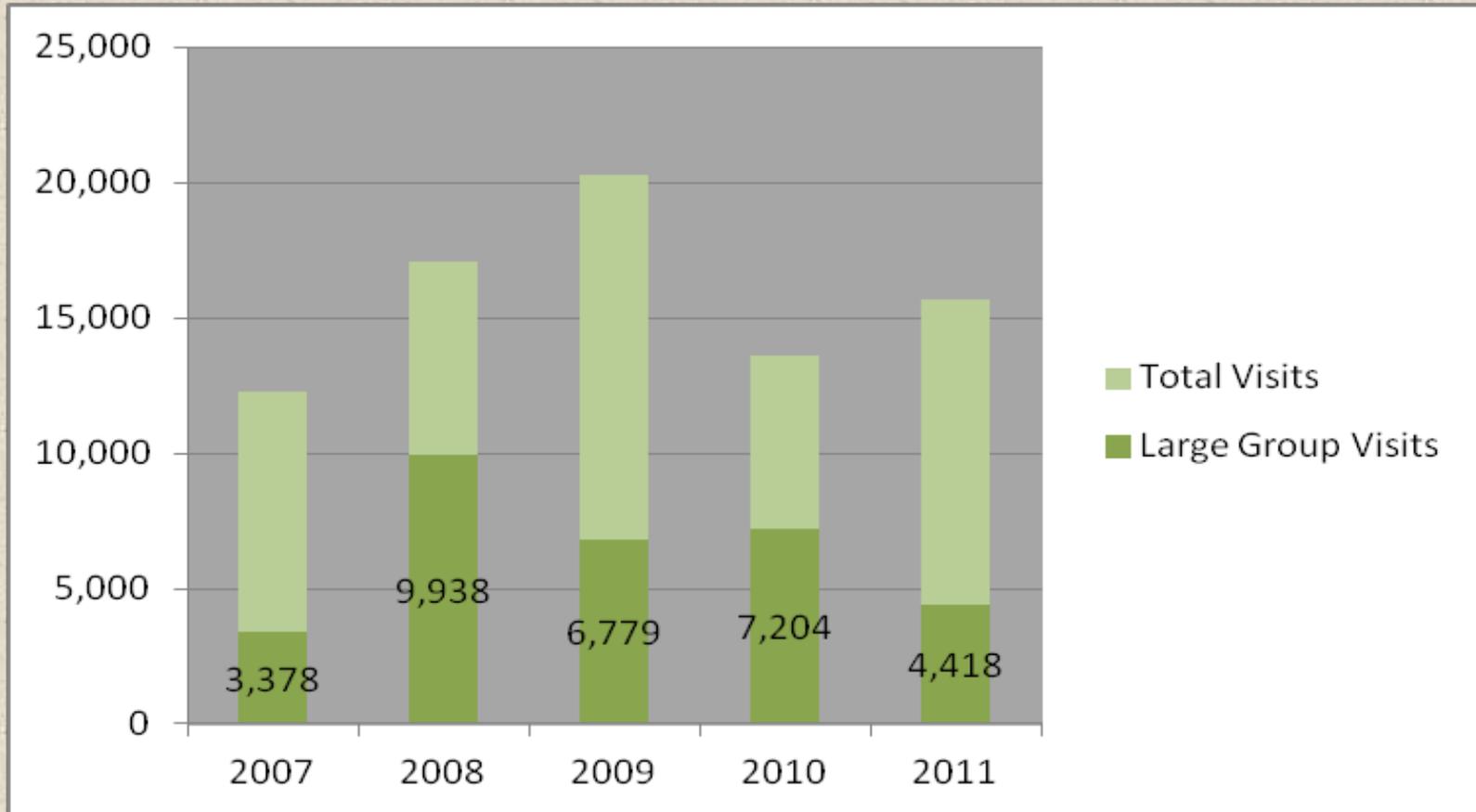
*Nature education, climbing and hiking consistently have among the highest percentages of visits.*

**2011 Reported Person Visits by Activity**



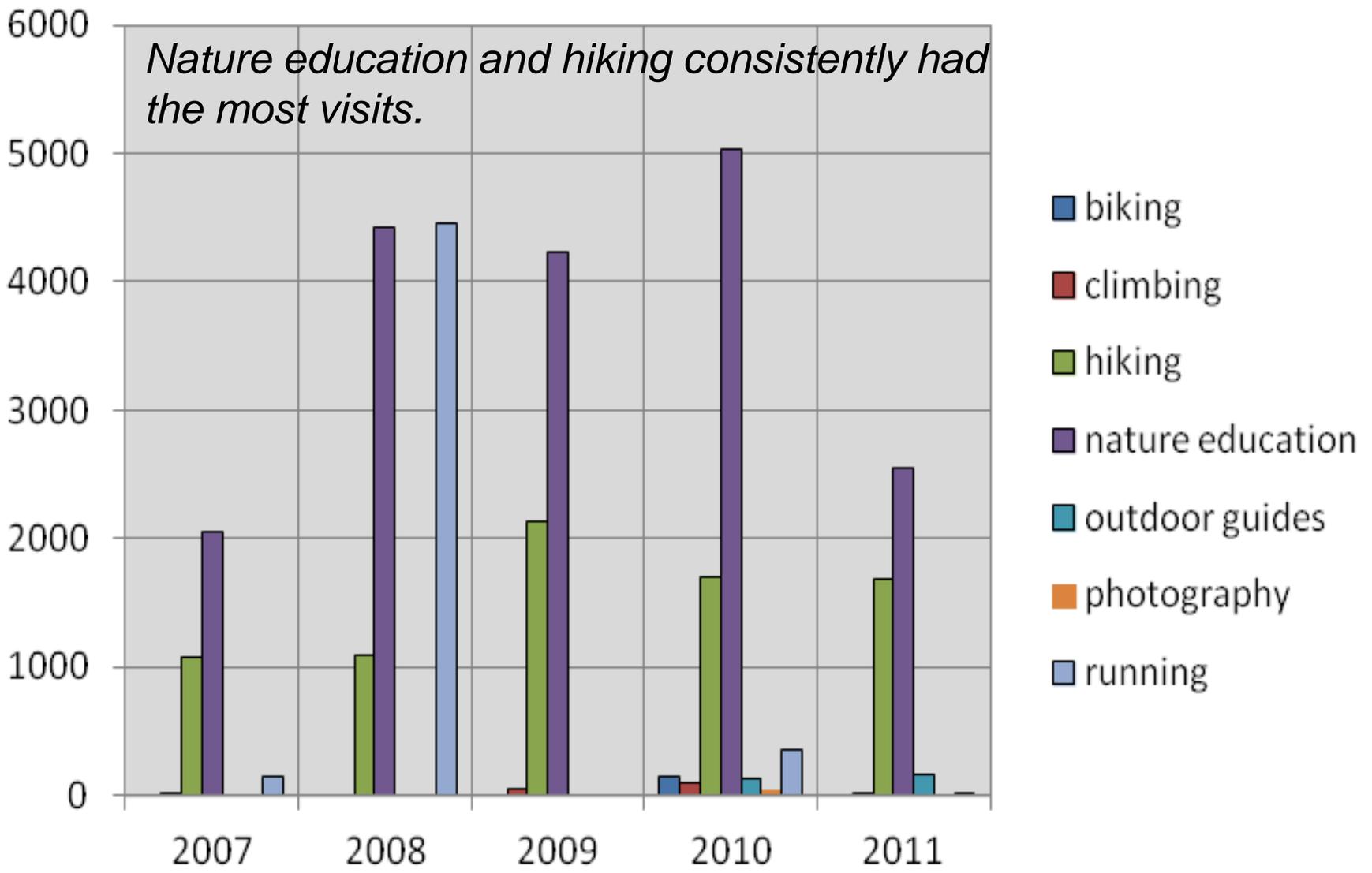
**Reported Person Visits by Year**

*Large groups account for between 28% and 58% of the total number of commercial visits, and between .07% and .2% of the total number of visits to OSMP.*

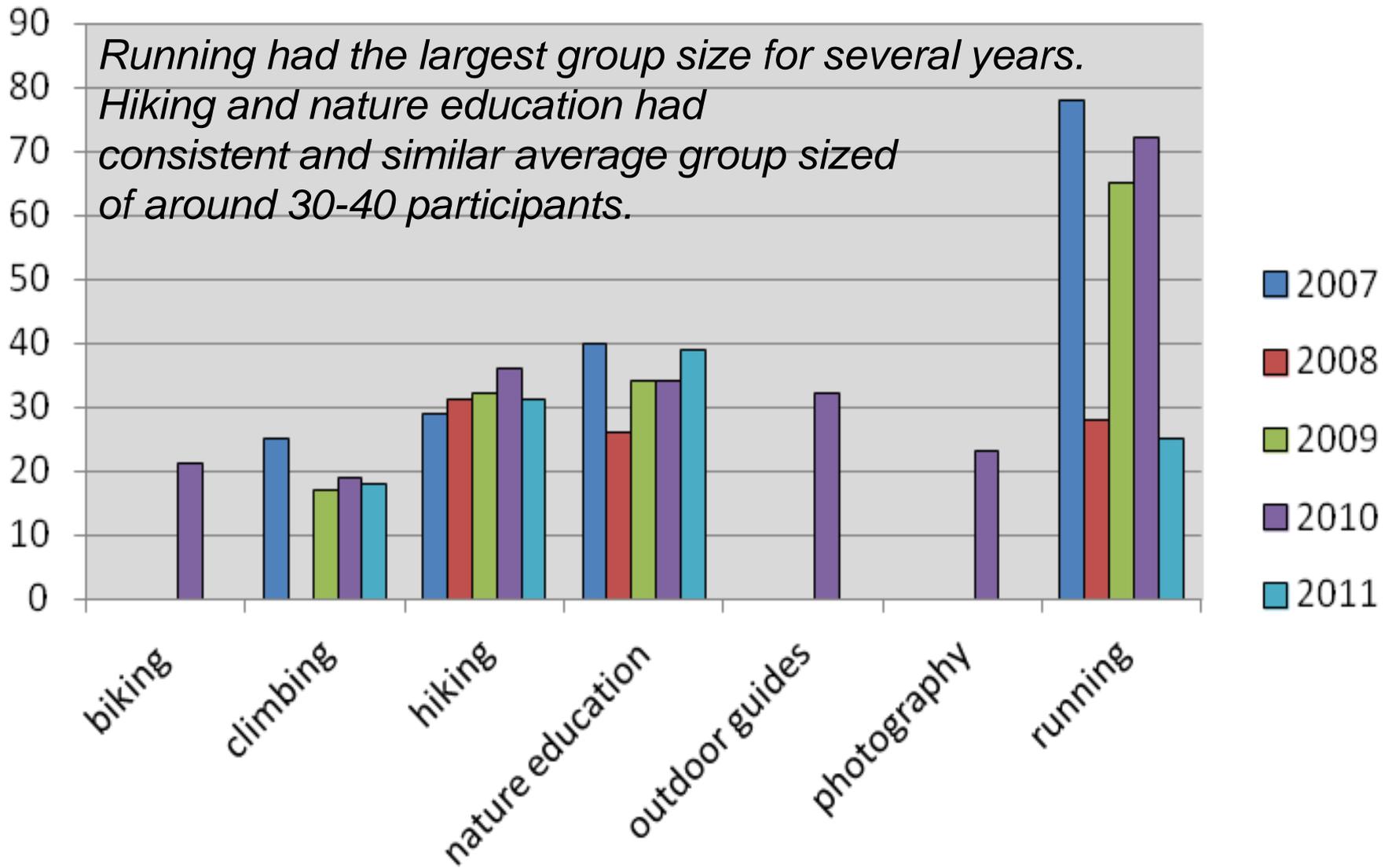


**Large Group (16+) Reported Visits**

*Nature education and hiking consistently had the most visits.*



**Large Group (16+) Visits by Year**



**Average Large Group (16+) Size by Activity**

# Terms and Conditions

## **18 Specific Terms and Conditions that apply to all Commercial Use Operators.**

- Group Size
- OSMP rules and regulations
- Frontcountry Leave No Trace principles
- Permits do not grant special privileges or exclusive use
- No trail improvements or modifications

## **Additional Terms and Conditions that apply to Limited Permit Holders**

- Activity must occur on designated trails.
- Group Size must always be 16 or fewer.
- Dogs must always be on leash
- All Trash must be packed out.

## **Additional Terms and Conditions for Large Groups (+16)**

- Activity must occur on designated trails
- Participants must break into groups with 16 or fewer participants and practice good trail etiquette.
- Dogs must always be on leash.
- Group leaders must be trained in Leave No Trace principles.
- Describe each trip in detail.
- Groups with more than 50 participants provide a plan addressing parking, trash, and restroom facilities.
- Additional permit-specific conditions may apply.

## Recommendation

Continue the Commercial Use Permit Program with modifications

### Program Goals:

Minimize the impact of commercial activity on natural and other resources.



Minimize the impact of commercial activity on the visitor experience.



Make the permit application relatively simple and convenient, easy to administer, and accurately track.



## Program Goals

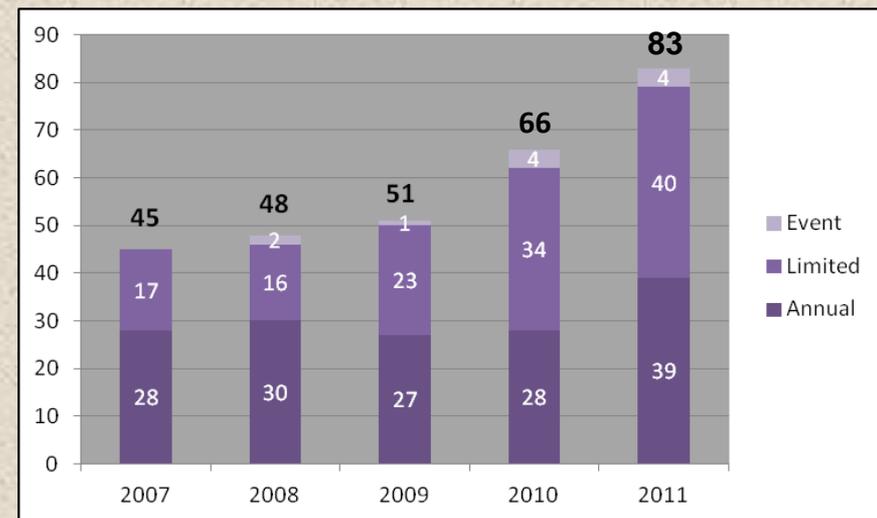
Minimize the impact of commercial activity on natural and other resources.



### Minor Modification Recommendation:

Eliminate the additional terms and conditions for Limited permit holders.

- On trail requirement
- Pack out trash requirement
- On leash requirement



## Program Goals

Minimize the impact of commercial activity on the visitor experience.



## Recommendation:

Retain the group size limit of 16 people for all activities; do not establish different group size limits for different activities.



## Program Goal:

Make the permit application relatively simple and convenient, easy to administer, and accurately track.



## Recommendation:

- Replace the detailed pre-trip reporting with general pre-trip reporting
- Redesign the on-line application and associated database
- Require \$25 application fee (not the cost of the permit)
- Accept a lower general liability amount or insurance for photographers
- Do not increase permit fees



# Questions?

