



Open Space and Mountain Parks “Overarching Issues”

Commercial Use Permit Program Evaluation



Program Goals:

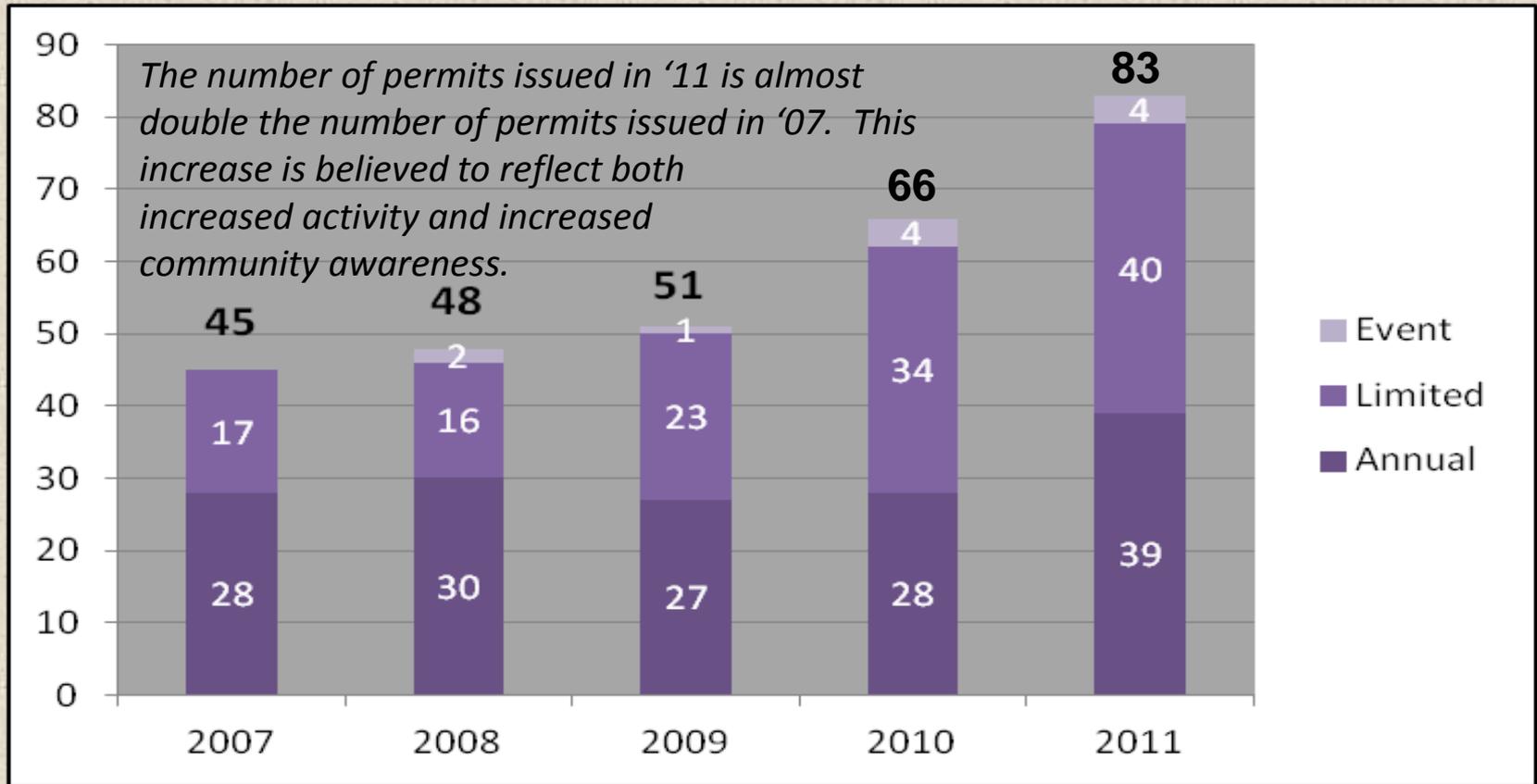
Minimize the impact of commercial activity on natural and other resources.

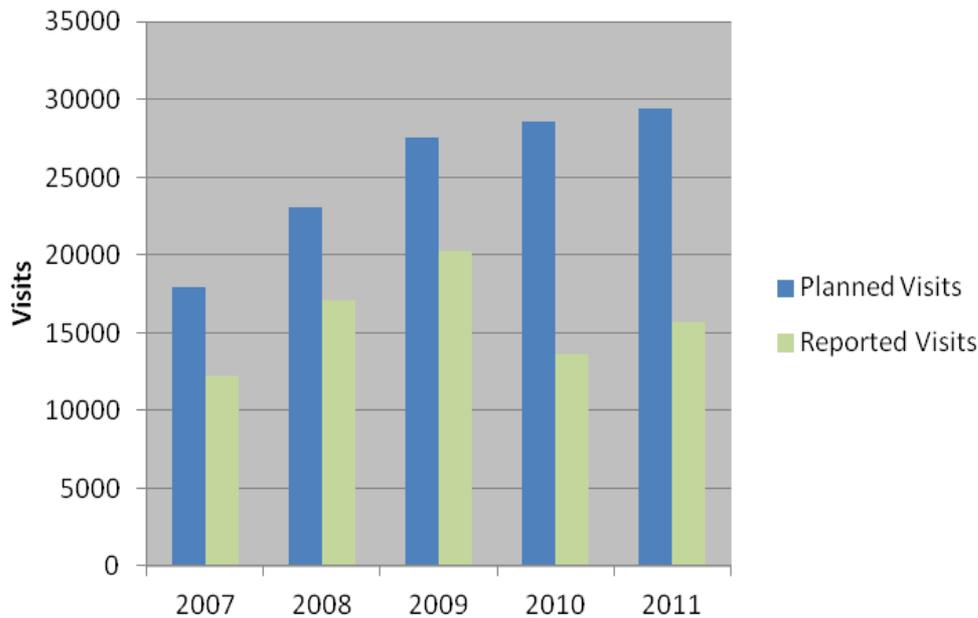
Minimize the impact of commercial activity on the visitor experience.

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



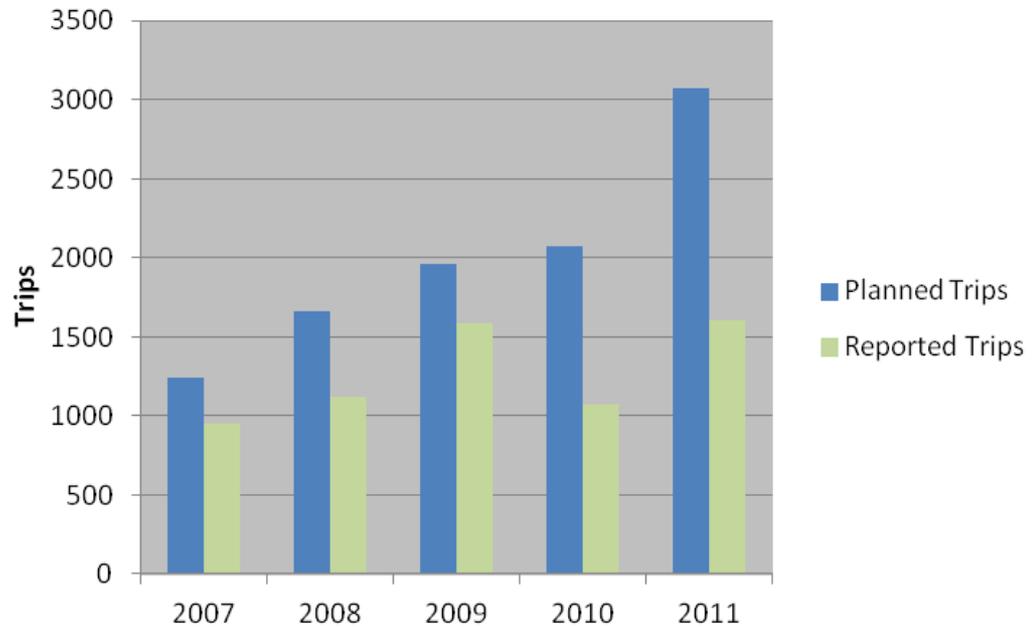


Commercial use accounts for between 0.25% and 0.43% of the total number of annual visits to OSMP. (15,000 visits)

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.

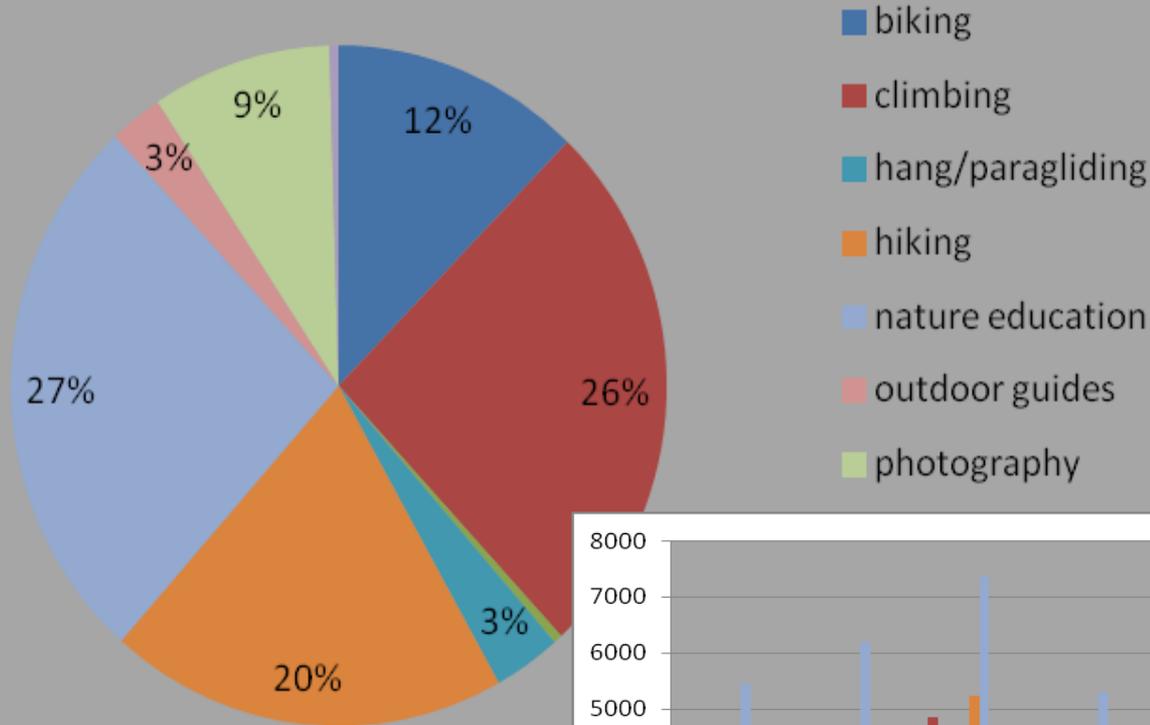
Planned and Reported Visits

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.



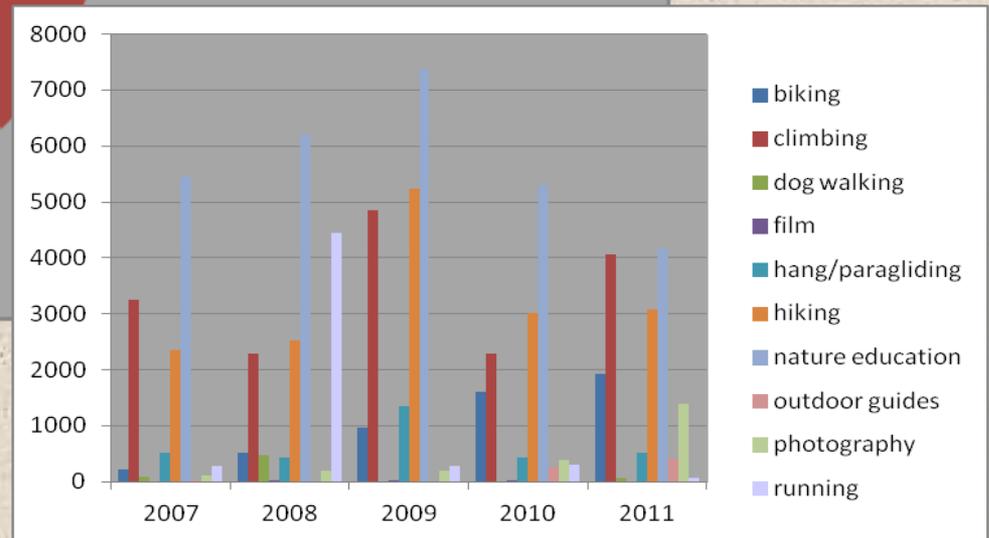
Planned and Reported Trips

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



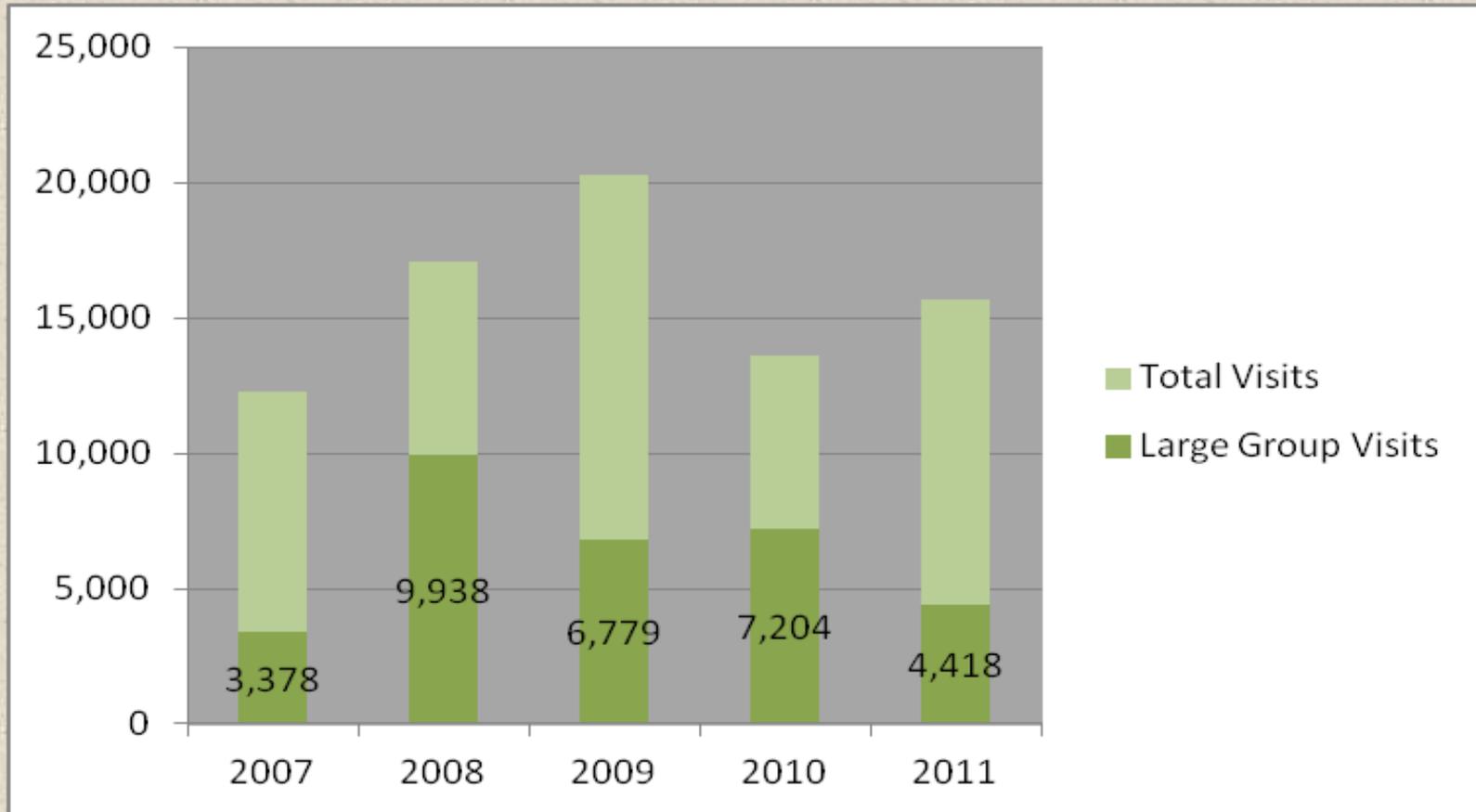
Nature education, climbing and hiking consistently have among the highest percentages of visits.

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

Recommendation

Continue the Commercial Use Permit Program with minor modifications.

Program Goals:

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



Minimize the impact of commercial activity on the visitor experience.



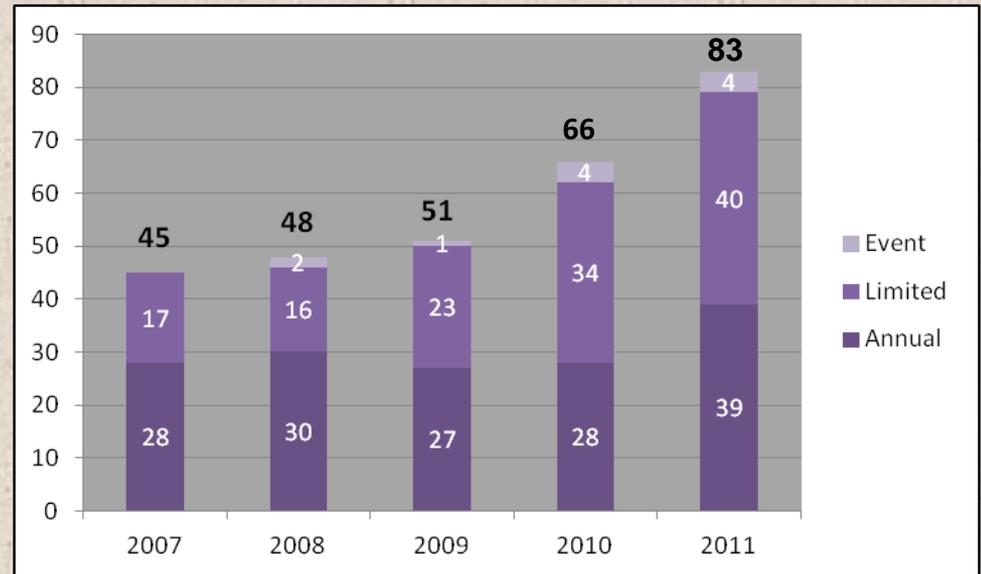
Make the permit application relatively simple and convenient, easy to administer, and accurately track.



Recommendation:

Eliminate the additional terms and conditions for Limited permit holders.

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



Recommendation:

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



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?

