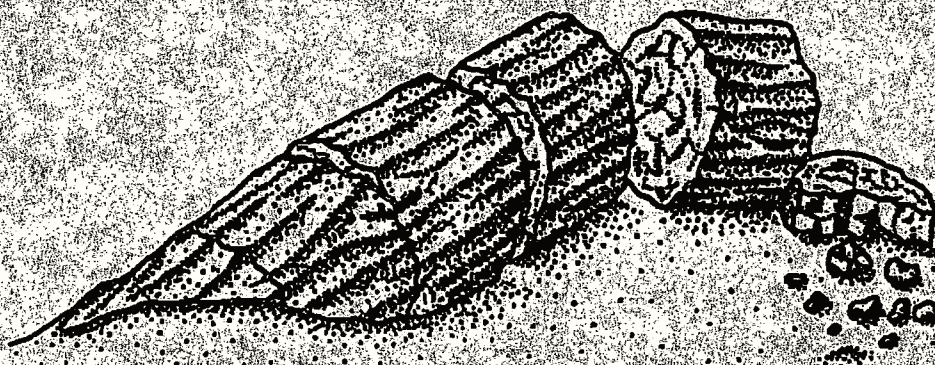


Petrified Forest National Park

2001/2002 Visitor Study

Final Report



School of Forestry



July 27

Petrified Forest National Park Visitor Study

Final Report

Prepared for

Petrified Forest National Park

National Park Service

by

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April 2002

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Table of Contents

	Page
Purpose.....	1
Methods.....	1
Results.....	1-2
Executive Summary.....	3-5
Trip Characteristics.....	6-8
Is this your first visit to PFNP?	
How many previous visits have you made?	
Where did you begin your trip today?	
Where do you plan to stay tonight?	
How many people in your group are in these age classes?	
Which of the places listed have you visited or do you plan to visit on this trip?	
How did you first learn about PFNP?	
Why did you choose to visit PFNP on this trip?	
Describing Your Visit.....	8-9
How long did you stay at PFNP on this trip?	
Which of the following activities did you do during this visit to PFNP?	
Indicate which places in PFNP that you visited and what you did there.	
Management of Petrified Forest National Park.....	10-22
During your visit to PFNP, did you do any of the following things?	
How important is it to you that petrified wood can be purchased at gift shops in the park?	
In your opinion, what effect do you think having petrified wood for sale in the park gift shops has on visitors stealing petrified wood in the park?	
Which management actions do you support to prevent the theft of petrified wood in PFNP?	
Are you familiar with the National Wilderness Preservation System?	
Did you know about the Wilderness areas in PFNP prior to this visit?	
Did you learn about the park Wilderness areas during this visit to PFNP?	
How did you learn about the Wilderness areas?	
During this trip to PFNP, did you visit either of the park's Wilderness areas?	
Which Wilderness areas did you visit, and how long did you stay?	
How would you rate the quality of your Wilderness experience?	
Where is your current residence?	
Is there anything else you would like to tell Petrified Forest NP managers?	
Seasonal Comparison.....	23-30
Is this your first visit to PFNP?	
How many people in your group are in these age classes?	
Why did you choose to visit PFNP on this trip?	

Table of Contents

Seasonal Comparison (continued)

How long did you stay at PFNP on this trip?
Which of the following activities did you do during this visit to PFNP?
Indicate which places in PFNP that you visited.
During your visit to PFNP, did you do any of the following things?
How important is it to you that petrified wood can be purchased at gift shops
in the park?
In your opinion, what effect do you think having petrified wood for sale
in the park gift shops has on visitors stealing petrified wood in the park?
Are you familiar with the National Wilderness Preservation System?
During this trip to PFNP, did you visit either of the park's Wilderness areas?
Where is your current residence?

Appendices..... 31-55

- Appendix A- Where did you begin your trip today?
Where do you plan to stay tonight?
How did you first learn about Petrified Forest National Park?
Why did you choose to visit Petrified Forest NP on this trip?
Other suggestions to prevent the theft of petrified wood
How did you learn about the Wilderness area?
- Appendix B- Is there anything else you would like to tell PFNP managers?
- Appendix C- Copy of the questionnaire.

Purpose

The purpose of this study was to gather information on Petrified Forest National Park visitors to be used as input into a planned revision of the Park's General Management Plan and a Wilderness Management Plan. Researchers at Northern Arizona University, in coordination with the social science office of the National Park Service, and Petrified Forest National Park created a visitor survey to collect information on visitor and trip characteristics, on-site activities, perceptions of Park services, experiences, and management activities.

Methods

A questionnaire developed in collaboration with Park staff and approved by the Office of Management and Budget was used to gather information from Park visitors. The questionnaire included questions on trip characteristics, visitor activities and locations visited, preferences for management of the Park, and visits to the Park's Wilderness areas. Questionnaires were distributed by Park staff from February 2001 through January of 2002, at both the north and south entrances to Petrified Forest National Park. Participants were asked to complete their 20-minute questionnaire and drop it in one of the VISITOR SURVEY DROP BOXES, which were located at both entrance/exit stations and in the Visitor Center. A copy of the questionnaire is provided in Appendix C.

Results

A total of 1000 questionnaires were distributed, 334 at the south entrance and 666 at the north entrance. While 530 surveys were returned from the north entrance, 267 were returned from the south entrance. Overall, 636 surveys were collected from weekday visitors, and 161 surveys were collected from weekend visitors. Of 1000 surveys distributed, 797 were returned for an overall response rate of 80%. The following table shows the number of surveys collected by month.

Table 1

MONTH	Number of Surveys Collected
February	35
March	55
April	50
May	74
June	123
July	130
August	107
September	73
October	64
November	36
December	22
January	28
Total	797

A select number of variables were used to explore differences in the characteristics, behavior and preferences among visitors across the seasons. The seasonal analysis involved grouping visitors by season of visit:

Winter (December, January, February) n=85

Spring (March, April, May) n=179

Summer (June, July, August) n=360

Fall (September, October, November) n=173

The results of the survey are detailed in this report. An executive summary containing highlights of the survey results is presented first, followed by more detailed tables containing results for all questions in the survey. The executive summary and tables are broken into two sections: all visitors together and a comparison of visitors by season of the year.

Executive Summary

All Visitors

- The largest proportions of visitors were from California (11%), followed by Arizona (8%), Texas (6%) and Florida (4%).
- 79% of those surveyed said it was their first visit to Petrified Forest National Park.
- Holbrook, AZ was the most common point of daily origin for visitors. The second and third most common points were Flagstaff, AZ and Albuquerque, NM. The most common destination for the night was Flagstaff, AZ. The next three most common destinations for the night were the Grand Canyon, Holbrook, AZ and Albuquerque, NM. Sixty-two percent of visitors were traveling west when they entered the Park compared to 38% traveling east.
- The average group size was 3 people, with a standard deviation of 1.47. The most typical group size for those who were surveyed was between 1 and 5 people.
- The two most common places that visitors to Petrified Forest NP had also visited during their trip, or were planning to visit, were Grand Canyon NP and Meteor Crater.
- Many people learned about Petrified Forest NP through books and magazines, maps, or were told to see it by others. Some visitors commented that they had seen it as a child, learned about it in school, or have known all along about the Park.
- Seeing petrified wood and viewing the Painted Desert were the two most common reasons people said they come to Petrified Forest NP.
- Two-thirds of all visitors stayed one to three hours.
- Stopping at overlooks (90% of visitors) taking photographs (89% of visitors) and driving through (75% of visitors) were the most popular activities in the Park.
- The most commonly visited place in Petrified Forest NP was the Painted Desert Overlooks, as 89% of those surveyed said they stopped there. Over half of visitors stopped at each major attraction site included in the survey.
- While a large majority (76%) of visitors said they took photographs of petrified wood, only 2% said they observed someone taking and keeping a piece of wood from Park land. This amounts to 15 such instances over the yearlong study.

- Visitors have mixed feelings about the importance of being able to buy petrified wood at gift shops in the Park. Fifty-six percent said it was not at all or sometimes important, while 45% said it was moderately to very important.
- When asked about the effect of having petrified wood for sale in the Park gift shops on visitors stealing petrified wood, over half of visitors thought that the sale of petrified wood decreases wood theft because people can buy it rather than steal it.
- Increasing educational programs on the importance of not stealing wood received the most visitor support (86% of visitors), among actions designed to prevent petrified wood theft in the Park. Increasing regulatory signs warning of the consequences of petrified wood theft (81%) and the use of surveillance cameras (62%) were also supported by a majority of visitors. Half of visitors do not support putting fencing along trails to prevent theft and 54% of visitors do not support discontinuing sales of petrified wood in the gift shops.
- One-third of all visitors to Petrified Forest National Park said they went to one of the Park's two Wilderness areas during their visit.* Of those visitors almost all said they went to the Painted Desert Wilderness for a day use visit. Only 1% of those that said they went to Painted Desert Wilderness and 2% of those who said they went to Rainbow Forest Wilderness stayed overnight.
- Three-fourths of visitors said they did not know about the Wilderness areas in Petrified Forest NP before they came, but 54% said they learned about the two Wilderness areas during their visit, most commonly from brochures.
- In response to an open-ended question asking why they visited the wilderness, the most common responses were to see it, sightseeing and curiosity.
- The Painted Desert, and views were two of the most common replies given when asked what the visitors liked most about their wilderness experience. While not enough time and the wind were the most frequent responses in what was least liked about their visit to the wilderness.
- Overall, the quality of visitors' Wilderness experiences was very high, as the average rating was 4 on a scale of 1-5, with 5 being the best possible rating.

*This may be an over-estimate of wilderness use due to possible confusion among visitors as to the actual location of the wilderness boundaries.

Seasonal Comparison

- The proportion of first time visitors stayed consistent throughout the seasons with the exception of spring where about $\frac{3}{4}$ were first time visitors and $\frac{1}{4}$ were repeat visitors compared to the other seasons where approximately 80% of visitors were first time visitors.
- A comparison of group composition found more children visiting in the summer (4% vs 1-2% in other seasons) and fewer seniors in the summer (13% vs 20-30% in other seasons).
- Curiosity was more often given as a reason for visiting the Park by winter visitors (57%) compared to 38-46% in other seasons.
- Spring and fall visitors stayed longer than winter and summer visitors (30% and 24%, respectively, staying more than three hours compared to 17% and 19%, respectively).
- Two activities that showed noticeable seasonal differences were watching the movie and driving through the Park, both higher during the winter than the other seasons.
- The Desert Inn was visited the most during the summer months, whereas Puerco Pueblo and Crystal Forest were visited most often during the winter and fall. Giant Logs and Long Logs both had relatively high visitation during the fall, while Jasper Forest and Blue Mesa were visited more often during the winter.
- Four percent of fall visitors observed someone taking and keeping a piece of petrified wood compared to 1-2% of visitors in other seasons.
- Overall, winter visitors felt that it was less important to be able to purchase petrified wood at gift shops than visitors in other seasons.
- Fall visitors were slightly less familiar with the wilderness preservation system (20% vs 24-29%) and less likely to have visited the wilderness (26% vs 33-34%) than visitors during other seasons.
- The largest percent of winter visitors were from California (18%) and Texas (6%).
- Springs visitors were mostly from Arizona (9%) and California (6%), as were summer visitors (11% from Arizona and 14% from California). The fall visitors were primarily from California (13%) and Texas (6%)

Summary Tables: All Visitors

Trip Characteristics

1. Is this your first visit to Petrified Forest National Park? (n=790)

Yes 79% No 21%

If no, about how many previous visits have you made? (n=161)

N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	St. Deviation
161	1	10	1.62	1.479

2. Where did you begin your trip today? (n=766)

Most common points of origin were*:

Phoenix Metro Area	17%
Holbrook, AZ	16%
Gallup, NM	12%
Flagstaff, AZ	11%
Albuquerque, NM	8%
Grants, NM	3%
Winslow, AZ	3%

Where do you plan to stay tonight? (n=763)

Most common destinations were:

Flagstaff, AZ	20%
Phoenix Metro Area	12%
Grand Canyon, AZ	6%
Holbrook, AZ	6%
Albuquerque, NM	6%
Sedona, AZ	5%

* See Appendix A for a complete list of answers for question #2.

Direction of Travel

All Visitors
(n=630)

Westbound	62%
Eastbound	38%

3. How many people in your group are in each of the following age classes? (n=787)

Senior (62+ years old)	37% of all groups had seniors
Adult (17-61 years old)	81% of all groups had adults
Youth (6-16 years old)	23% of all groups had youths
Child (5 and younger)	6% of all groups had children

Average visitors per group:	3.0
Standard deviation:	1.47

4. Which of the places listed below have you visited or do you plan to visit on this trip? (n=743)

Grand Canyon NP	74 (% that said yes)
Meteor Crater	33
Mesa Verde NP	19
Canyon de Chelly NM	17
Sunset Crater NM	15
Walnut Canyon NM	12
Glen Canyon NRA	11
Wupatki NM	10
Hubbell Trading Post NHS	8
El Morro NM	3
Chaco Culture NHP	2

5. How did you first learn about Petrified Forest NP? (n=772)

Book/ Magazine	38 (% that said yes to source)
Map	34
Recommended by others	31
Road sign	18
Internet	5
Another National Park	4

Other popular sources included*:

School
Have known all along
Learned as a child
Have been here before
Rock collecting

*See Appendix A for complete list of "Other" answers listed

6. Why did you choose to visit Petrified Forest NP on this trip? (n=777)

To see petrified wood	81 (% that said yes)
To see the Painted Desert	78
Just curious to see what was here	44
In the area	18
To have a wilderness experience	15
To use the facilities	8
Part of Route 66 experience	8

Other reasons* included:

Bring child to it

Always wanted to see

* See appendix A for complete list of "Other" answers listed.

Describing Your Visit

7. How long did you stay at Petrified Forest NP on this trip?
(n=735)

Less than one hour	9%
One to three hours	68%
More than three hours	22%

8. Which of the following activities did you do during this visit to Petrified Forest NP? (n=772)

Stopped at overlooks	91%
Took photographs	89%
Drove through	75%
Visited the gift shop	58%
Hiked or walked	56%
Watched wildlife	27%
Watched the visitor center movie	24%
Ate in the restaurant/ snack bar	12%
Picnicked	11%
Purchased gas	5%
Participated in a ranger-led program	3%
Conducted business	<1%

* See Appendix A for a complete list of "Other" activities listed.

9. Indicate which places in Petrified Forest NP that you visited and what you did there. (n=731)

Painted Desert Inn	55% visited
stopped and looked	96%
hiked	24%

Painted Desert Overlooks	89% visited
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Painted Desert Visitor Center	67% visited
got information	77%
looked at exhibits	79%
made a purchase	44%
watched movie	34%

Puerco Pueblo	61% visited
stopped and looked	94%
hiked	45%

Newspaper Rock	70% visited
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Jasper Forest	60% visited
stopped and looked	98%
explored off-trail	10%

Blue Mesa	61% visited
stopped and looked	94%
hiked	28%

Rainbow Forest Museum	55% visited
got information	54%
looked at exhibits	85%
made a purchase	36%
hiked	47%

Crystal Forest	64% visited
stopped and looked	93%
hiked	44%

Giant Logs	59% visited
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Long Logs	65% visited
stopped and looked	91%
hiked	49%

Management of Petrified Forest NP

10. During your visit to Petrified Forest NP, did you:
(n=741)

purchase petrified wood in the gift shop?	25%
pick up pieces of wood to look at and replace them where you found them?	20%
photograph petrified wood?	76%
observe someone taking and keeping a piece of wood from park land?	2%

11. How important is it to you that petrified wood can be purchased at
gift shops in the park? (n=771)

Not at all important	31%
Somewhat important	24%
Moderately important	21%
Very important	24%

12. In your opinion, what effect do you think having petrified wood for sale in
the park gift shops has on visitors stealing petrified wood in the park? (n=760)

It has no effect on people stealing petrified wood	28%
It increases wood theft because people see it and want it, but don't want to pay for it	13%
It decreases wood theft because people can buy it rather than steal it	55%
No opinion	11%

13. In order to prevent the theft of petrified wood, park managers are considering a number of actions. Which do you support and which do you not support? (n=396)

Management Action	Support	Do not support	Don't know
Discontinue sales of petrified wood in the gift shops	18%	65%	17%
Put fencing along trails	35%	54%	11%
Remove trails from petrified wood areas	8%	83%	9%
Allow visitors access to petrified wood areas only if accompanied by a ranger	37%	48%	15%
Increase regulatory signs warning of the consequences of petrified wood theft	81%	12%	7%
Use surveillance cameras to monitor petrified wood sites	62%	28%	10%
Increase educational programs on the importance of not stealing petrified wood	86%	8%	7%
Other recommendations* included:			
Increase ranger presence on trails			
Allow random searches			
Give out samples from sources outside the park			
Increase fines			
Provide more education/ information			
Sell wood very cheap or give it away			

*See Appendix A for a complete list of "Other" recommendations listed.

14. Are you familiar with the National Wilderness Preservation System? (n=758)

Yes	25%
No	54%
Not sure	21%

15. Did you know about the Wilderness areas in Petrified Forest NP prior to this visit? (n=739)

Yes	26%
No	74%

Did you learn about the park Wilderness areas during this visit to Petrified Forest NP? (n=739)

No	46%
Yes	54%

How did you learn about the Wilderness areas*? (n=626)

Brochure	86% said yes
Exhibit	58%
Park staff	30%

*See Appendix A for a complete list of answers for question #15.

16. During this trip to Petrified Forest NP, did you visit either the Painted Desert Wilderness or the Rainbow Forest Wilderness? (n=715)

Yes	32%
No	62%
Not sure	6%

17. Which Wilderness area(s) did you visit? (n=257)

Painted Desert Wilderness	98% of those who went to a Wilderness
day use	99%
overnight stay	1%
Rainbow Forest Wilderness	79% of those who went to a Wilderness
day use	98%
overnight stay	2%

18. What was your primary reason for visiting the park Wilderness area(s)?
(n=164)

To see it
To see
To see it
Just to see

To look
To see
To see it
See it
To see the sights
Wanted to see it
Just wanted to see it
To see what it was about
Just to see it. It sounded interesting
To check it out

Curiosity
Curiosity
Curiosity
Curious
Curious
Curiosity
Just Curious
We were curious – we wanted to get closer
Curiosity and sightseeing.

Sightseeing
Sightseeing
See sights
Site Seeing
Sightseeing
Site Seeing
Sightseeing
Site seeing
To see the site
To see the sights
To view sites
The sights
Wanted to see the sights
Sightseeing. Peace and contemplation.

To see the Painted Desert and petrified wood
Just to see the painted desert
To see the Painted Desert
To see the Painted Desert
To look at the Painted Desert
To see what the Painted Desert was about
See the Painted Desert

Petrified Forest
See petrified forest

To see petrified trees
To see the Petrified Forest
Always wanted to see the Petrified Forest
Petrified wood
See wood and desert

To see Gods creation
To observe Gods beauty
To see the awesomeness of God's creation

Because it is very historic
Historic

Educational for family, enjoy the beauty of the planet
Education
Education
Education and entertainment

Taking pictures
Photos
To see and take pictures
To observe and take pictures
Photos, memories, and aesthetics

To see what was here
To see what it was like
To see what it was like

Scenery
To enjoy the scenery
Scenery – hiking
View scenery

To enjoy nature's gift
To see nature
To see the natural areas
To enjoy nature

Interesting and beautiful
Interest and curiosity
Interest on nature
Interesting
Interested in natural formations

To see it for the first time
I have never been here before. I have heard it is beautiful

Touring and sightseeing
Tourism

New experience
Unique experience

Beauty
Beauty
Beauty
To enjoy the beauty
Views of beauty
Observe the beauty
Quiet, beauty
Looks beautiful
The beauty and serenity

Wilderness experience
Desert Experience

We're on vacation
On vacation
Vacation
For vacation
Family vacation, site seeing
Family vacation

Get away from road traffic
Pictures without fences, cars, or roads
To look at Mother Nature
Experience the park with grandsons and daughter
Had heard about it
We like to learn about our country
Its beauty and source of how it got this way
Our need to get out of the car was great. We needed to get some exercise and break in our new pants.
Might have gone if we had learned in advance of accessibility
We love beautiful sights
To see the beauty of this natural landscape
To experience natural wonders.
To take a short walk
To see wildlife and terrain
Easy access form I-40. We are stopping in Flagstaff and had extra time.
For the outdoor adventure and for the scenery
It is a place we have been talking about visiting for several months. I t was on our way home from visiting relatives – so we stopped
Lunch stop – brief look at Painted Desert

Because we wanted to
Children
Sightseeing and education
Because no other place in the world had such beautiful sites to offer
To educate ourselves about the area and see the beautiful landscape
It's beautiful and unspoiled
Look around more
Wanted to be able to see the past preserved and exposed for us today.
To see every preserve available to us
It's along the way
Experience and adventure for an eight year old
To make films for students studying about these resources
N/A
We wanted to see the natural beauty of this unique desert! It's so pretty.
Family visitor to see
It was there
To view the sights and introduce our children to those natural wonders
Enjoy nature and beauty and wildlife
To view the beauties of God's creation through geology
Four wheel
We wanted an educational adventure for the kids, site seeing.
Too see scenery and history with Grand kids
Pretty colors
Instinct
Pleasure
Passing through and have Golden Eagle Pass
To take in the entire park area accessible by car
Traveling to Kentucky
Enjoy walking /hiking unspoiled natural areas rather than paved trails. Hike to look at nature and
leave it undisturbed.
Always had a desire to see the area
Sightseeing, to learn more. Vacation
Passing thru area and wanted to see Park
Wanted to see its unparalleled beauty
Wanted to get a picture of the historical setting.
Interest in my country and its natural resources and treasures
Wish we had known about them not sure how different from park don't remember anyone telling
us about wilderness areas
Took the wrong road, getting back to highway I-40
To see what all's here
Future visit for possible longer stay
Will probably never get the chance to see it again.

19. How would you rate the quality of your Wilderness experience?
(on a scale of 1-5, with one being very poor, and five being very good). (n=261)

N	Average	Standard Deviation
261	4.44	.745

20. What did you like most about your Wilderness experience?
(n=127)

The beauty of the land

The beauty

Natural beauty

Natural beauty

The pretty view

Natural

Beauty

Beauty and wonder

Beauty

Beautiful Views

The beauty of the area

Beautiful Things

Seeing the beauty of it all

The beauty of nature

Beauty

The beautiful scenery

The beauty of the wilderness

Natural Setting

Scenery – hiking

Scenery

The scenery

Beautiful scenery. Takes you back to the past

The quiet

Quiet, beauty, history, and geology

Quiet one could be reflective and clean

Quietness and amazing

Quiet and Beautiful

The view

The views

The views

The views

The interesting views

Very good vista points
Overwhelming views
Seeing different views
Diversity of vistas
Views and wood

Painted Desert
Painted desert
Painted desert
The Painted Desert
The Painted Desert
Painted Desert
Painted Desert
The Painted Desert

Petrified wood
Seeing petrified wood
Petrified Wood. Enjoyed everything

Petrified wood, Painted Desert
Painted Desert and Newspaper Rock
Newspaper Rock
Petrified Forest Exhibit.
Long Logs and Painted Desert View
Large Logs
Crystal Forest

Colorful scenery
The colors
Vivid colors and silence
Geologic color
All the pretty colors in the hills

Solitude, silence, and the surroundings
Solitude. Weather
The solitude

The land was beautiful
It was so beautiful
How beautiful it is and I hope I come again.
Pretty
How pretty it is. How beautiful it is.

All of it.
Everything
Everything

It was all enjoyable
Enjoyed it all
I loved it all it was so beautiful

The quality and maintenance exhibited in all the stop areas.
Being able to take pictures.
The ability to participate and increase knowledge by experiencing and expanding base of knowledge.
The rock and petrified wood, views
Info. At each station
Seeing the solar calendar on 6/21. Going back in time.
Walking in Blue Mesa
Up close viewing of the ecosystem
Beautiful scenery and the quietness
Reading the brochure to know what I was looking at
Wood
The sight was breath taking and left me speechless
The landscape
The fact that energy effort has been made to preserve the environment with least human impact
Hiking trails
See it - on 1 mile hike the old inn being restored
Petroglyphs
Seeing pronghorn sheep, all of it
That we were allowed to walk around, look at and touch the wood, but place it back where it was found.
Saw something I never saw before
Ease of getting around the signs helped a lot
Rock formations, colors, and changes in the formations
The area was nice and clean. Absence of picnic areas really helped keep people clean.
The intimacy with nature
Curiosity
The beauty of Gods creations
The reason I visited
Good
Pictures
Wildlife (coyote and antelope)
Petrified logs and that everything is viewable from the car
Vastness
The vast beauty and Blue Mesa
Love rocky terrain
Very accessible, safe overlooks, maps, cleanliness of environment and bathrooms
The Visitor center at Petrified Forest with the trail behind and the petrified wood
The scenery was very intense and colorful and the base of the desert looked like sea
We enjoyed the Crystal Forest the best
Wilderness
The things we got to see and information at the visitor center

Ruins, atmosphere

The openness of the area; the change to walk through some of the area, the colors and formations – all of it!

Seeing the beauty of the natural landscape.

Showing our grandson for the first time. He loved it, he is 13 yrs. Old.

Unusual sights, cannot see other places.

Everything was great!! Being able to get up close to rocks and get a good look.

Beauty of park landscape and starkness of the land.

Peace.

Learned a lot

Saw things never seen before

Petrographs and ranger tour

Awesomeness

It's all awesome – very different from home (Alaska) worth any and all time. Clean – well kept up

21. What did you like least about your Wilderness experience?

(n=81)

Cold winds, but realize you have no control

Just a cold day

Cold weather

Cold, windy, and wet

The wind

Wind too strong!

The wind!

Wind

The wind

Wind

Not enough open bathrooms

Lack of restrooms

Lack of restrooms

None

Nothing

Nothing

Nothing

Nothing

Nothing

Nothing – great trip

Heat

Heat

Heat

Heat, walking

It was very hot!!

Not enough time to enjoy it

Not enough time

Not enough time

Not enough time in my day.

Not enough time

Time factor

We did not have enough time to cover everything

Didn't have time to visit

Our limited time

Not enough water spots

Lack of area for water

There should be a place to get water during some of the longer hikes.

Ten dollars

Cost

The prices in gift shop and restaurant. C'mon \$5,000 for two foot log?

That the wood at the gift shop was so expensive, I couldn't afford it.

High prices in the tourist shops

Should have more Ranger tours daily.

Wish there were rangers at the sites to answer questions

We did not get a map to help guide us along

I'd like info (along the way) about the plants I see and birds. It all adds to the experience.

Didn't see Petroglyphs at Puerco Pueblo. It was hot

No off roading possible

Wish we had younger legs.

Lack of contrast

Wilderness areas discriminate against the handicapped person

Need solid trails for wheel chairs. We got really stuck

No mile markers on map

That the Inn was closed

The thought that the way the world is going it'll be gone soon

We ran out of time...having to skip a few of the points of interest

Wanted more geological history at all stops

Not much wood to see. We thought there would be more of it than there is.

The bugs (biting)

Would like to see more pullouts on roads to allow for photography

The Park closed too early for us. We're here for a relative short time and need to maximize our days.

Sky writing in area by planes ruins the views and pictures

Too far apart

Some was repetitive

Lengthy drive to points of interest
 Long Logs
 I wish I could do an overnight
 Train too short
 I wasn't properly dressed (too warm)
 Other people around
 Long periods of seeing nothing but flat desert
 The tiresome hiking
 Inability to wonder around
 My wife wouldn't shut up
 The word Wilderness, the wind
 N/A
 Concrete and restrooms (too many)
 The walk back up, you should inquire about a ski lift
 To help realize what a beautiful country that we live in

22. Where is your current residence? (n=797)

State of residence:

California	11%	Virginia	2%	New Mexico	1%
Arizona	8%	Tennessee	2%	Alaska	<1%
Texas	6%	Wisconsin	2%	Iowa	<1%
Florida	4%	Washington	2%	Idaho	<1%
Colorado	3%	Massachusetts	1%	Maine	<1%
Illinois	3%	Alabama	1%	Mississippi	<1%
Ohio	3%	Arkansas	1%	Montana	<1%
Indiana	2%	Oregon	1%	South Carolina	<1%
Michigan	2%	Nevada	1%	Connecticut	<1%
Pennsylvania	2%	Kansas	1%	Nebraska	<1%
Oklahoma	2%	Kentucky	1%	South Dakota	<1%
Maryland	2%	Minnesota	1%	New Hampshire	<1%
New York	2%	Louisiana	1%	Utah	<1%
New Jersey	2%	Missouri	1%	Vermont	<1%
Georgia	2%	North Carolina	1%	West Virginia	<1%

Country of residence:

Canada	3%	Ireland	<1%	Sweden	<1%
England	2%	New Zealand	<1%	Switzerland	<1%
Germany	1%	Hungary	<1%	Japan	<1%
Australia	<1%	Scotland	<1%	France	<1%
Belgium	<1%	South Africa	<1%	Netherlands	<1%

23. Is there anything else you would like to tell Petrified Forest NP managers?

See Appendix B for a list of responses to this question.

Summary Tables: Seasonal Comparison

1. Is this your first visit to Petrified Forest National Park?

	Winter (n=85)	Spring (n=178)	Summer (n=358)	Fall (n=169)
Yes	80% yes	76%	80%	79%
No	20% no	24%	20%	21%

3. How many people in your group are in each of the following age classes?

	Winter (n=196)	Spring (n=444)	Summer (n=1183)	Fall (n=402)
Seniors	23%	26%	13%	33%
Adults	68%	62%	59%	62%
Youth	8%	11%	24%	3%
Children	1%	1%	4%	2%

6. Why did you choose to visit Petrified Forest NP on this trip?

	Winter (n=84)	Spring (n=173)	Summer (n=355)	Fall (n=168)
To see wood	80% yes 20% no	85% 15%	81% 19%	76% 24%
To see Painted Desert	75% yes 25% no	80% 20%	78% 22%	77% 23%
Have a wilderness experience	14% yes 86% no	20% 80%	17% 83%	8% 93%
Use facilities	6% yes 94% no	10% 90%	8% 92%	9% 91%
Just curious	57% yes 43% no	38% 62%	43% 57%	46% 54%

7. How long did you stay at Petrified Forest NP on this trip?

	Winter (n=78)	Spring (n=162)	Summer (n=335)	Fall (n=161)
Less than one hour	8%	10%	9%	11%
One to three hours	75%	60%	72%	65%
More than three hours	17%	30%	19%	24%

8. Which of the following activities did you do during this visit to Petrified Forest NP? (n=772)

	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall
Hiked or walked	54% yes 46% no	58% 42%	55% 45%	55% 45%
Took Photographs	90% yes 10% no	93% 7%	89% 11%	83% 17%
Picnicked	11% yes 89% no	14% 86%	11% 89%	11% 89%
Restaurant/snack bar	10% yes 90% no	9% 91%	13% 87%	14% 86%
Stopped at overlooks	93% yes 7% no	92% 8%	90% 10%	91% 9%
Conducted business	0% yes 100% no	1% 99%	1% 99%	2% 98%
Watched movie	32% yes 68% no	24% 76%	21% 79%	26% 74%
Watched wildlife	29% yes 71% no	32% 69%	28% 72%	23% 78%
Visited gift shop	60% yes 40% no	54% 46%	60% 40%	58% 42%
Ranger-led program	5% yes 59% no	4% 96%	3% 97%	3% 97%
Drove through	82% yes 18% no	70% 30%	74% 26%	77% 23%
Purchased gas	2% yes 98% no	7% 93%	3% 97%	8% 92%

9. Indicate which places in Petrified Forest NP that you visited.

	Winter (n=79)	Spring (n=163)	Summer (n=336)	Fall (n=156)
Painted Desert Inn	65% yes 35% no	60% 40%	47% 53%	62% 38%
Painted Desert Overlooks	95% yes 5% no	86% 14%	85% 15%	99% 1%
Painted Desert Visitor Center	66% yes 34% no	73% 27%	62% 38%	74% 36%
Puerco Pueblo	70% yes 30% no	58% 42%	57% 43%	70% 30%
Newspaper Rock	81% yes 19% no	73% 27%	63% 37%	78% 22%
Jasper Forest	70% yes 30% no	60% 40%	56% 44%	65% 35%
Blue Mesa	70% yes 30% no	62% 38%	50% 50%	79% 21%
Rainbow Forest Museum	58% yes 42% no	51% 49%	53% 47%	62% 38%
Crystal Forest	71% yes 29% no	60% 40%	58% 42%	81% 19%
Giant Logs	63% yes 37% no	53% 47%	57% 43%	73% 27%
Long Logs	62% yes 38% no	62% 38%	61% 39%	84% 16%

10. During your visit to Petrified Forest NP, did you.

purchase petrified wood in the gift shop?

Winter (n=74)	Spring (n=152)	Summer (n=384)	Fall (n=169)
20% yes	28%	26%	22%
80% no	72%	74%	78%

**pick up pieces of wood to look at and replace
them where you found them?**

Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall
19% yes	24%	20%	20%
81% no	76%	80%	80%

photograph petrified wood?

Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall
77% yes	89%	76%	66%
23% no	11%	24%	32%

**observe someone taking and keeping a piece of
wood from park land?**

Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall
100% no	1% yes	2%	4%
	99% no	98%	96%

11. How important is it to you that petrified wood can be purchased at
gift shops in the park?

	Winter (n=83)	Spring (n=178)	Summer (n=347)	Fall (n=164)
Not at all important	43%	29%	29%	29%
Somewhat important	23%	28%	24%	21%
Moderately important	17%	23%	20%	23%
Very important	17%	20%	27%	27%

12. In your opinion, what effect do you think having petrified wood for sale in the park gift shops has on visitors stealing petrified wood in the park?

It has no effect on people stealing petrified wood

Winter (n=80)	Spring (n=172)	Summer (n=342)	Fall (n=167)
24%	20%	22%	23%

It increases wood theft because people see it and want it, but don't want to pay for it

Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall
12%	14%	12%	13%

It decreases wood theft because people can buy it rather than steal it

Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall
49%	58%	56%	50%

No opinion

Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall
15%	8%	10%	14%

14. Are you familiar with the National Wilderness Preservation System? (n=758)

	Winter (n=81)	Spring (n=174)	Summer (n=341)	Fall (n=164)
Yes	24%	24%	29%	20%
No	54%	51%	54%	58%
Not sure	22%	26%	17%	22%

16. During this trip to Petrified Forest NP, did you visit either the Painted Desert Wilderness or the Rainbow Forest Wilderness? (n=715)

	Winter (n=79)	Spring (n=159)	Summer (n=321)	Fall (n=157)
Yes	33%	33%	34%	26%
No	57%	63%	62%	65%
Not sure	10%	4%	4%	9%

22. Where is your current residence?

State of residence:	Winter (n=80)	Spring (n=171)	Summer (n=332)	Fall (n=162)
Alabama	5%	<1%	1%	1%
Alaska	1%	2%	<1%	1%
Arizona	6%	9%	11%	6%
Arkansas	2%	1%	2%	1%
California	18%	6%	14%	13%
Colorado	5%	3%	3%	4%
Connecticut	0%	1%	0%	<1%
Florida	2%	2%	5%	5%
Georgia	1%	3%	2%	0%
Idaho	0%	1%	<1%	1%
Illinois	6%	3%	4%	2%
Indiana	0%	2%	2%	3%
Iowa	1%	1%	<1%	1%
Kansas	0%	<1%	1%	2%
Kentucky	0%	2%	1%	1%
Louisiana	0%	<1%	0%	0%
Maine	0%	0%	1%	1%
Maryland	0%	2%	2%	2%
Massachusetts	0%	2%	2%	1%
Michigan	2%	2%	3%	1%
Minnesota	5%	3%	<1%	2%
Mississippi	0%	<1%	1%	1%
Missouri	1%	1%	1%	2%
Montana	1%	1%	<1%	0%
Nebraska	0%	<1%	0%	1%
Nevada	1%	<1%	1%	1%
New Hampshire	1%	0%	<1%	1%
New Jersey	2%	2%	2%	1%
New Mexico	1%	<1%	1%	1%
New York	4%	2%	2%	4%
North Carolina	1%	2%	2%	1%
Ohio	1%	4%	3%	4%
Oklahoma	0%	4%	2%	1%
Oregon	2%	2%	<1%	1%
Pennsylvania	2%	3%	2%	3%
South Carolina	1%	1%	<1%	2%
South Dakota	1%	0%	0%	1%
Tennessee	0%	2%	3%	3%
Texas	6%	5%	8%	6%

22. Where is your current residence, Continued.

	Winter (n=80)	Spring (n=171)	Summer (n=332)	Fall (n=162)
Utah	0%	1%	<1%	0%
Vermont	0%	1%	1%	0%
Virginia	2%	2%	2%	4%
Washington	1%	2%	2%	2%
Washington DC	0%	0%	0%	1%
West Virginia	0%	1%	<1%	1%
Wisconsin	0%	2%	<1%	0%

	Winter (n=80)	Spring (n=171)	Summer (n=332)	Fall (n=162)
Country of residence:				
Canada	4%	3%	2%	4%
Ireland	0%	0%	<1%	0%
Sweden	<1%	0%	0%	0%
England	0%	3%	1%	1%
New Zealand-----	1%	0%	0%	0%
Switzerland	0%	1%	0%	<1%
Germany	0%	2%	<1%	1%
Hungary	0%	0%	0%	1%
Japan	0%	0%	1%	0%
Australia-----	0%	0%	<1%	1%
Scotland	0%	1%	0%	0%
France	0%	0%	<1%	0%
Belgium	0%	1%	0%	0%
South Africa	0%	0%	<1%	0%
Netherlands	0%	0%	1%	0%

Appendices

Appendix A

Q2a. Where did you begin your trip today? (n=766)

Phoenix Metro Area, AZ (Scottsdale, Mesa, Tempe, Sun City Glendale, Gilbert, Paradise Valley)	17%	Camped at south entrance	<1%
Holbrook, AZ	16%	Tucumari, NM	<1%
Gallup, NM	12%	Taos, MN	<1%
Flagstaff, AZ	11%	Prescott, AZ	<1%
Albuquerque, NM	8%	Navajo, AZ	<1%
Grants, NM	3%	Las Vegas, NV	<1%
Winslow, AZ	3%	Heber, AZ	<1%
Sedona, AZ	2%	Snowflake, AZ	<1%
Santa Fe, NM	2%	San Francisco, CA	<1%
Chinle, AZ	2%	San Angelo, TX	<1%
New Mexico	2%	New Mexico	<1%
Arizona	2%	Monticello, UT	<1%
Williams, AZ	2%	Los Lunas, NM	<1%
Show Low, AZ	2%	Los Angeles, CA	<1%
Grand Canyon N.P., AZ	2%	Illinois	<1%
Chambers, AZ	2%	Houston, TX	<1%
Pinetop, AZ	1%	Farmington, NM	<1%
Amarillo, TX	1%	Edgewood, NM	<1%
Tucson, AZ	1%	Chicago, IL	<1%
Springerville, AZ	1%	Durango, CO	<1%
Here (PFNP)	1%	Austin, NM	<1%
Cortez, CO	1%	Wichita, KS	<1%
Texas	<1%	United Kingdom	<1%
Santa Rosa, NM	<1%	Tulsa, OK	<1%
Payson, AZ	<1%	Tropic, UT	<1%
Canyon De Chelly, AZ	<1%	Sun City, NM	<1%
		Stevenson, CA	<1%

Spring, TX	<1%	Losan, NM	<1%
Socorro, NM	<1%	Los Alamos, NM	<1%
Silver City, NM	<1%	Lindsay, CA	<1%
Shreveport, LA	<1%	Lee's Summit, MO	<1%
Shreveport, LA	<1%	Laughlin, NV	<1%
Second Mesa, AZ	<1%	Las, Vagas, NV	<1%
Seattle, WA	<1%	Lake Charles, LA	<1%
Sanders, AZ	<1%	Lafayette, CO	<1%
San Diego, CA	<1%	Knoxville, TN	<1%
Salinas, CA	<1%	Kingman, AZ	<1%
Saguaro N.P., AZ	<1%	Kayenta, Az	<1%
Roswell, NM	<1%	Imbester, MT	<1%
Prewitts, NM	<1%	Huntingdon Beach, CA	<1%
Prairville, LA	<1%	Hempstead, TX	<1%
Pangburn, AR	<1%	Green Valley, AZ	<1%
Palatine, IL	<1%	Green River, UT	<1%
Page, AZ	<1%	Glenwood, AR	<1%
Ottawa, Canada	<1%	Gaithersburg, MD	<1%
Ohio	<1%	Gaithersburg, MA	<1%
North Palm Beach, FL	<1%	Forrest Lake, AZ	<1%
New Jersey	<1%	Enid, OK	<1%
Nevada	<1%	Elk City, OK	<1%
Mesa, AZ	<1%	Elephant Butte, NM	<1%
McDonald, TN	<1%	EL Paso, TX	<1%
Marshall, IL	<1%	El Morro Park, NM	<1%
Marble Canyon, AZ	<1%	Eager, AZ	<1%
Mancos, CO	<1%	Dallas, TX	<1%
Maine	<1%	Curthage, TX	<1%
Lubbock, TX	<1%	Cookville, TN	<1%

Columbia, MO	<1%
Clinton, TN	<1%
Clinton, IA	<1%
Cleveland, OH	<1%
Clarkston, MI	<1%
Cincinnati, OH	<1%
Cedar Crest, NM	<1%
Cave Springs, AZ	<1%
Camp Verde, AZ	<1%
California	<1%
Butler, MO	<1%
Broken Arrow, OR	<1%
Bluewater, NM	<1%
Atlanta, GA	<1%
Apache Jct, AZ	<1%
Stateline Hwy 40 East	<1%

Q2b. Where do you plan to stay tonight? (n=763)

Flagstaff, AZ	20%	Page, AZ	<1%
Phoenix Metro Area, AZ (Mesa, Scottsdale, Tempe, Sun City, Chandler)	12%	Yuma, AZ	<1%
Grand Canyon	6%	Chambers, AZ	<1%
Holbrook, AZ	6%	Needles, CA	<1%
Albuquerque, NM	6%	Santa Rosa, NM	<1%
Don't know	6%	Los Angeles, CA	<1%
Sedona, AZ	5%	Snowflake, AZ	<1%
Gallup, NM	4%	Barstow, CA	<1%
New Mexico	3%	Los Alamos, NM	<1%
Williams, AZ	3%	Colorado	<1%
Las Vegas, NV	2%	Kayenta, AZ	<1%
Arizona	2%	California	<1%
Santa Fe, NM	2%	Lake Havasu City, AZ	<1%
Show Low, AZ	2%	Lubbock, TX	<1%
Winslow, AZ	2%	Texas	<1%
Arizona/California	2%	Farmington, NM	<1%
Winslow, AZ	1%	Mesa Verde NP	<1%
Chinle, AZ	1%	Oklahoma	<1%
Tucson, AZ	1%	Nevada	<1%
Kingman, AZ	1%	Dewey, AZ	<1%
Pinetop, AZ	1%	Moab, UT	<1%
Amarillo, TX	1%	Painted Desert	<1%
Laughlin, NV	1%	Prescott	<1%
Texas/Oklahoma	1%	Zion, UT	<1%
Durango, CO	1%	Heber, AZ	<1%
Canyon De Chelly	<1%	Tusayan, AZ	<1%
Cortez, CO	<1%	Raton, NM	<1%
		Roswell, NM	<1%
		Springerville, AZ	<1%

Smith Lake, NM	<1%	Chaco Canyon	<1%
San Carlos, AZ	<1%	Page, AZ	<1%
Payson, AZ	<1%	Visalia, CA	<1%
Albe, NM	<1%	Pueblo, CO	<1%
Bluff	<1%	Pasadena, CA	<1%
El Paso, TX	<1%	Jacob Lake	<1%
Jerome, AZ	<1%	Fountain Hills, AZ	<1%
Glendale, AZ	<1%	Telluride, CO	<1%
Painted Desert Wilderness	<1%	Benson, AZ	<1%
Grants, NM	<1%	Red River, NM	<1%
Cottonwood, AZ	<1%	Socorro, NM	<1%
Eastern, AZ	<1%	Shamrock, TX	<1%
Eager, AZ	<1%	Camp Verde, AZ	<1%
Globe, AZ	<1%	Boulder, Co	<1%
Hon Dah, AZ	<1%	Lake Forest, CA	<1%
Bakersfield, CA	<1%	Denver, CO	<1%

"Other" responses listed for Q5, "How did you first learn about Petrified Forest N.P.?"
(n=149)

	<u>Number of responses</u>
School	40
Known all along	16
Have been there before	16
AAA guide	13
Learned as a child	12
Know from collecting rocks	6
On route to my destination	4
TV	4
Parent	4
Passed by as a child	3
Grew up in the area	3
Employed by NPS	3
Read about it	2
Live in the area	2
NPS video	2
Discovery channel	1
Childs school book	1
Knowing history of the country	1
AZ tourist info center (Phoenix)	1
Had to do a job instillation here	1
Cub Scouts	1
Flagstaff brochure	1
Ranger friend	1
Grandfather	1
Resident of AZ	1
Daughter request	1
Grandmother	1

Atlas	1
Chamber of Commerce, Showlow White Mt. Magazine	1
Family	1
Chippy Chipmunks vacation in 3 rd grade (1952)	1
We have a petrified forest in Utah, but herd yours was prettier	1
Friend visited in 1960	1
Our parents visited here 50 yrs. ago	1

"Other" responses listed for Q6, "Why did you choose to visit Petrified Forest N.P. on this trip?" (n=77)

	<u>Number of responses</u>
In the area	14
Part of Rt. 66 experience	6
Extended our vacation	6
To see it one more time	3
Brought child to it	3
To show a friend	3
Family fun	2
Photograph wood	2
Close to Interstate	2
Enroute to Grand Canyon	2
Pleasant and relaxing	2
Always wanted to see	2
On the way	2
To pass on to my students	1
To play	1
Education/experience	1
My mom made me	1
go where time has stood still because of preservation.	1
Newspaper Rock	1
Petroglyphs	1
Passport stamp	1
To be amazed	1
To show my father	1
Solar calendar	1
Picnic	1
Educational trip for grandchildren	1
Different scenery	1

Recommended	1
Have wanted to visit, enjoy National Parks, hiking, nature	1
Cheap	1
To show my wife	1
Nice day trip	1
Children were studying in school	1
Talk to other visitors	1
Son's request	1
Wanted to enjoy the natural beauty of the area	1
Interested in recent fossil finds	1
Husband never saw	1
Duty with company	1
Here to visit family	1
Our brother from Oregon wanted to go again	1
To travel where ancestors traveled and to go where time has stood still because of preservation.	1

"Other" activities listed for Q8, "Which of the following activities did you do during this visit to Petrified Forest N.P.?" (n=14)

	<u>Number of responses</u>
Morning and evening walks	4
Books	2
Encountered extraterrestrials	1
Talked with other visitors	1
Passport stamp	1
Purchased NPS pass	1
Junior ranger	1
Wilderness camping	1
Video taped visit	1
Sketched Petroglyphs	1

“Other” recommendations listed for Q13, “Other suggestions to prevent the theft of petrified wood.”(n=162)

	<u>Number of responses</u>
Rangers on trails	24
Random searches	17
Increase fines	17
Give out samples from sources outside of the park	11
More information/education	11
Inspect cars	8
Sell wood very cheap or give it away	5
Publish amount of fine	4
Some fences and rangers	4
People who steal will steal no matter what	4
Sell inexpensive but good-sized pieces so people don't feel like they can't afford it.	3
Encourage ranger-guided tours	3
Volunteer patrols	3
Make the movie mandatory	3
Advise public of video cameras	2
Indicate somehow the myth that stealing petrified wood brings bad luck	2
Further encourage citizen reporting	2
Don't allow visitors to stop in dangerous areas alone only bus tours with ranger explorations can stop and hike.	2
Mix sites with free access and ones with rangers where site is highly sensitive	2
Let visitors know that they are subject to random searches	2
Use non-uniformed rangers	2
Take family to church where they learn right from wrong	1
Minimum fine	1
Lower admission fee to park so people will be more open to spending money in the park.	1

Jail time for offenders	1
All petrified wood sales should be polished wood this way you can tell if it was bought or stolen.	1
Any solution as long as entry fees are used and not tax payer dollars	1
Make visitors read and sign a contract saying they understand and will follow the rules.	1
Use infrared surveillance	1
Awareness of rarity of this natural beauty	1
Make thieves perform hours of community service in the park	1
Offer man-made plastic replica	1
Thieves are thieves	1
Have designated supervision location where visitors can go and "find" a piece of petrified wood for small fee.	1
At entrance put up "wall of shame", mug shots of stealers	1
Talk to rangers at Mesa Verde, they have a good solution	1
Assassinate all thieves	1
Don't touch signs in park (all over).	1
Raise admission price include souvenir price	1
Aggressive foot patrols	1
Spot checks at exists	1
Teach children right form wrong	1
Use the trails for ranger walks only	1
Post rangers at sites	1
Ranger visit schools	1
Sell wood at sites and monitor people coming out	1
I'm not sure about how prevalent theft is, but the "honor code" is probably OK for the most part.	1
Mandatory fines of \$100,000 and for any removal of petrified wood. Imprisonment mandatory for taking more than one once of petrified wood. Severe penalties for the wrong doer to protect the freedoms of the innocent.	1
Have rangers ask vehicles if they have any petrified wood and would like to turn it in without any penalties at exits.	1

Signs about not taking any wood might stop "casual" theft	1
Tours with hands on capabilities	1
Step up patrols in private cars	1
Post signs that says, "If you take it today, your children's children will not see it tomorrow.	1
Perhaps make a little exhibit of the letters people sent when returning pieces of petrified wood they had taken from the park. The part of the video in the visitor's center that showed these letters was very effective, in my opinion.	1

“Other” responses listed for Q15, “How did you learn about the Wilderness areas?”
(n=23)

	<u>Number of responses</u>
Movie	5
This packet	5
Plaques	3
Map	2
Internet	2
Saw signs	2
Government employee	1
Book purchased in visitor center	1
Friends	1
Visitor center	1

Appendix B

Q23. Is there anything else you would like to tell Petrified Forest N.P. managers? (n=228)

General thank you

Thank you

Thanks

Thank you

Thank you glad to help

Thank you for preserving the parklands

Thank you for trying to preserve an important part of the United States

Thanks for all your hard work

Thanks for caring for our resources.

Thanks for sharing this beautiful and important piece of history with us.

Thanks for a great visit.

Thanks for the nice time.

Enjoyed it very much. Thank you

Very good place – thank you

Doing a great job – thanks

You are doing a great job

Keep up the good work

Keep up the good work

Keep up the good work

Good job of keeping it clean

Everyone that I talked to who works here has been very friendly and helpful. Thank you for your wonderful work in protecting beautiful places like petrified forest and the painted desert.

Wonderful place! Keep up the good work of preserving this national treasure

I appreciate you all taking such good care of God's handiwork

Keep up the good work, have fun. Peace, love and happiness

Doing and having done a fine job.

We appreciate their friendliness and helpfulness. Keep up the good work

You have managed the NP well.

We enjoyed it very much

This is a fantastic place. Keep up the good work

Well worth the visit.

You do a job that I'm sure you don't get thanked enough for or paid enough for. America is a better place of its parks and wilderness. Thank you

Keep up the good work so our grandchildren can come to visit.

Your efforts and those of other NP and wilderness areas are extremely appreciated. Much thanks.

We enjoyed our visit. You seem to be doing a good job. Thank you

Awesome!! Keep up the good work.

Done a great job. Loved everything we saw. Thank you for taking good care of our past and future

Park Appreciation

Very nice park
This is a beautiful NP, thanks so much.
This is a well worth visit
We enjoyed this wonderful visit
It was cool
Love it
It was wonderful
Very beautiful
Enjoyed it very much
A great place of beauty
The park is beautiful and is in great shape.
This place is very nice and scenic.
Enjoyed the park very much
Really enjoyed our visit
A wonderful experience
Beautiful Park
Great Park
Nice park thanks
It was beautiful
It is beautiful keep up the good work
Surprisingly interesting
Fantastic trip
It was very interesting and we enjoyed our visit
We totally enjoyed our experience
Very beautiful park. Nice employees, we enjoyed it very much
It was amazing.

Employees

Our ranger led a hike into the area around keepers was great. Rita and Jack were great and very patient with our questions. Great Job.
You have great help here they are very nice people
Rachel at the entrance was extremely nice and friendly. She was very helpful and gave lots of information. We enjoyed the visit to this beautiful land.]
The lady at the entrance in the little place where you pay was very nice and pleasant
We loved our tour with ranger – Hallie at Puerco Pueblo. Shaded areas for photographing.
We really enjoyed our visit. The staff was friendly and the park is beautiful.
The rangers where very good and helpful
Doing a good job. The entrance person was very friendly and it is always nice to see a happy person.
Your ranger staff was professional and helpful
The rangers were very friendly and full of information, which is very helpful. Thank you
The ranger at the entrance gate was very nice!

Great Job. Ranger who gave 3.00 Long Log tour on Mon 9/10 was terrific.

Great Park

Enjoy it! Enjoyed what the ranger (Rainbow) told us! She was great!

Very helpful at gate and shop. Thanks for helping preserve our natural wonders

Theft

You should have cameras. Check people's trunks. Make a fine on stealing the stumps.

Keep some stumps in building to protect them more.

The prices are much too high for petrified wood. If they were to lower you would have less wood stolen

We understand theft is a problem, but don't ruin the park. Higher penalties and jail time for violators. Rangers at the outposts might help. Remind the visitors' rules as they enter park and ask to phone violators to rangers.

In addition to surveillance cameras some rangers' presence during park visit times might help at the most vulnerable sites.

Suggest to people that might have taken petrified wood to return it and they would not be prosecuted

Too much petrified wood for sale, looks like everything is for sale, so only for the money too much petrified wood is gathered from this area. Temptation to pick a little piece is quite big

During our visit through here (approx. 4 hrs) we didn't see one park ranger. We believe that visibility alone (of park rangers and staff) is a deterrent in itself. Chart at Agate house a bit confusing

Rangers and park attendants should encourage preservation awareness. More signs posted re: preservation and wood theft and the affects of the environment.

You take the stealing thing really seriously! I think that's great! I love you people!

If rangers were available at all major stopovers people might pay more need to the fact they should stay on the paved trails. Put more collection points for voluntary contributions. I enjoyed my visit very much. A beautiful place!

If rock theft is a problem, having rangers at trail heads would probably deter it. I would like to have had a better access to the Petroglyphs at the newspaper wall, possibly accompanied by a ranger, more hiking trails.

You have a good plan for theft in Petrified Forest. Thank you

More Information

More info on the vegetation and wildlife found within the park

More information in brochures

Need more publicity – this park is as amazing as the Grand Canyon. It's a shame more people don't see it.

It would be helpful to have a free or low cost self-guiding packet to help better

More educational information

More rangers to tell you info. The ones that we saw were very polite and informative

Trial guides (similar to Giant Logs Trail Guide) would be helpful at all trails – specifically the Long Logs Trail/ Agate house.

understand the various stops in the park.

We really learned a lot from talking to Jack - a volunteer guide. Suggestions for official map and guide - consider providing more geological explanation at each point of interest, also consider providing info. on highlights for those who only have a short period of time to spend.

Accessibility

Needs to be more, easier for handicap people and more roads to where you can see more
Most sites are close to the road - good for handicapped
Need much trails that can and cannot take wheel chairs due to surface
Please make more of trails wheelchair accessible. Thank you.

Water

Maybe more drinking fountains along the way.
Need to take water on trails

Smoking

No smoking in the parks
It was an oxymoron to go on a wilderness hike in the land of the cleanest North American air and have the person in front of you smoking. Smoking should be banned on all Federal Land indoor and outdoor. Other than that my visit was most pleasant

Campgrounds

Room for a campground! Black rock and carving tools, rental tapes
Campgrounds in the park (2 or 3) would be excellent

Restrooms

Restrooms at Agate Bridge were still not open on Mach 27, 2001. Could they not be opened earlier in the season?
Would you please put some outhouses so we could go to the bathroom?
A restroom should be left open at midpoint unless we missed it
Restroom was clean but there was no soap and no tampon machine

Entrance Fee

Park fee too high
Admission price is rather high
Reduce entrance fee by 40-50%

Garbage cans and trash

Put garbage cans and ashtrays at each stop to deter littering
Place waste cans at all vantage points
Trash containers at sites
More trash receptacles, place is very well kept
Some more trashcans would do good. We couldn't believe that people left their motors running while walking the trails just to have their AC working for them. This is a National Park.

Trails

More walks!

Exceeded expectations. Past length of all hikes

Designate trails better probably add more at certain points

Aren't most people coming to see the large rocks/logs? I don't see how those would get stolen

Enjoyed the hike at Blue Mesa. Please don't guard rail the hike. You would be punishing those of us who love and seek to protect our parks because of a few.

Please don't close the trails.

Signs

More signs that segregate the Painted Deserts and Petrified Forest, because the signs now confused me

Too many signs, warnings etc. ruin the experience. Be careful you don't ruin the area over regulating.

Place mile mark indicators on official map and guide to coincide with roadway markers

Petroglyphs

At the Petroglyphs sites an enlarged photograph of the markings would be an asset. Most tourists' cameras are not equipped with telephoto lenses to really get a good look at the Petroglyphs. More awareness of the damage caused by removal of the petrified wood may help deter damage.

Would like to get closer to Petroglyphs

Miscellaneous

So happy we stopped! Unique and beautiful in its own way. Would love to return in the spring when the vegetation is in bloom.

It was very beautiful, nothing I'd ever seen before. Keep up the good work on protecting everything.

Do what you must to preserve this natural wonder

We really enjoyed the hike at Blue Mesa.

Eliminate dogs on trails.

No

No

No

No

At third stop we saw bulldozers! No more construction. National Parks should be free like the National Zoo and the Smithsonian. Triple theft fines and littering fines. This should be on recycled paper! Then we could stop logging my parks in the East.

My husband and I enjoyed a wonderful time here and hope it can stay just as it is - without further interference by humans. We could not walk very far, as my husband is handicapped, but completed sufficient walks to get a good idea. Trying to describe the area we are both running out of words and thank you to all involved.

A lot of the wood fences are a distraction

The park is a good value, \$10 for a family trip

I wholeheartedly support your efforts to preserve our beautiful national park. I believe that educating people to the determinants caused by selfish actions (eg. stealing petrified wood) is most helpful. Also, if you put up more fences use the type you have to blend in well with the environment and don't detract from the beauty of the park.

Keep the park open longer

Conservation

Good to make people walk

Put dates on "closed for winter signs"

There should be an exit to I-40 east so one could go through the park without having to turn around

I appreciate areas I could see from car get tired very easily due to radiation and chemo-Rx last year but wanted to see area as much as possible

Please stop selling the petrified wood

Gum on the Blue Mesa sign. Lady at the gate was totally cool, knowledgeable, and friendly.

Turn-out areas on roads for photo opportunities

The above criticism in Q21 is only a mild criticism. We think it is a wonderful National Park with good observation areas and facilities. There is also good information available to appreciate the park. Long may you continue.

The best part of this experience was the opportunity to walk quietly at our own pace and see/hear birds, wildlife, etc. We really enjoyed this National Park. In fact, we stayed an extra day. The worst part of National Parks is that the NPS wants to talk you to death and herd people in groups of 40. Things we really appreciated: shady seating, trails, the freedom to walk the trails unaccompanied, early and late hours, asphalt trails instead of concrete. For the problem of wood theft, do not implement one solution. Be flexible about making strategies for each individual area.

I liked my visit and the freedom to go to the sites of my choice and stay as long as I chose. I'm sorry to hear that theft is such a problem. I hope a solution can be reached that won't be too restrictive. Could you post a ranger or even a volunteer at each site?

I hope my children will bring their grandchildren just like my parents brought me and I am bringing them. This is a memory they will have forever.

Really important to protect the natural environment in all National Parks so private entities don't spoil them. As people enter park, tell them verbally about not taking any wood.

Restrooms very clean. Thank you. Nice gift shops, lands were trash free. Enjoyed the views at the viewpoints. Could there be more shade covers?

Movie and ranger too preachy. Maybe posters of people getting arrested throughout the park – rather than a ranger at each spot where you can hike. Make everyone watch the movie.

Keep up the good work. Your bathrooms are the cleanest we've seen yet in the National Parks service.

Have more patrols moving instead of just sitting at one end or the other.

We will come back when we have more time – love all our National Parks

Maybe a shuttle bus system like in Zion because there are so many places to stop. Could do a bus/train service to each site, making theft in car impossible. Ask each car if they have stolen anything

We will be back.

Were maintained – nice tours

Keep this park clean

Have better food at concessions (more health conscious, for vegetarians) list elevations and storm warning information; also people unfamiliar with Arizona's desert need to have signs posted info. given regarding water, hats, sunscreen sunglasses and venomous critters. Please have recycling facilities at snack bar

We don't like the high priced museum/stores outside the entrance

I would have loved to attend a ranger talk but they were few and far between. I would support a raise in the park entrance fees.

There should be a field fossil display of ferns, bones ect., that kids can walk up to and touch. Most children understand fossils and bones but don't an idea of where they come from. Thank you

I think it is great that we are allowed to see such amazing sites. The price was good. It's a shame that people steal from this park, but for us honest people it was a wonderful experience.

I hope you are able to succeed in preserving this area

We appreciate the info at the overlooks

IN reference to 13, I marked "DK" to the one that which I would hate to see be implemented. However if you believe they are needed to prevent theft, then I support you and these actions. Preserving the history and beauty of the park is priority one.

Good Luck trying to keep humans from destroying any property. We volunteer at home and destruction is an ugly problem. Not In My Back Yard seems to be the philosophy of most ignorant humans.

I liked the fact it was available to the public and also had some handicapped accessible areas. Bathrooms a plus, could use a few more but very clean. Great photo opportunities, more pull-offs for autos would be useful along road. Thank you we had a very enjoyable visit.

There should be more parks, bigger, more secure of park treasure, cleaner bathrooms at the INN

This really is one of the most beautiful places I have ever seen. I hope everyone that visits here can learn to appreciate the beauty of nature

Worthwhile experience for entire family

Niche marketing for families – emphasize dinosaurs. Use national public radio to promote stories about National Parks. Emphasize Painted Desert more – I was familiar with Petrified Forest but Painted Desert would have pulled me in off the road. We bought the guided tour cassette to listen to as we drove through the park. We often buy NP videos and pass them around the family

This is essential to keep this park with all the beauty that we have seen. This survey is an excellent way to gather data to improve. Thank you and good luck and success

Didn't know there was a movie at the center, see Petrified wood at both entrances
It would be more interesting to visit the Petrified Forest for the children if the dinosaur models or pictures were amongst the petrified wood

National Parks are always the best parks – clean, high class, educational – no trash

Beautiful Park. We enjoyed our visit, would of liked a few brochures on the Long Log or other hikes. We will be coming back.

Magnificent scenery – thank for a wonderful day. If I had one criticism it would be that the scientific information in the museums could be more in depth. Thanks.

I found the support used to maintain Agata Bridge to be ugly and quite unimaginative. It really detracts from the natural shape of the petrified log.

We really enjoyed are visit with you. Have never been through a Petrified forest enjoyed the history wildlife, and beauty. Thank you

We live near the Smokey Mountains. This landscape is so different and beautiful we enjoyed it so much. Everyone was so nice.

Think about turning the Petrified Forest Inn into a bed and breakfast. No fences ever!

Make off roading course

Thank you for your courtesy and concern on keeping the wildlife preserved for everyone to see.

I was impressed with the fact that we could actually walk into some if the areas without having to be fenced in (or out). I spent much more time in the park than I anticipated.

The Native American Indians appear to have more connected to the earth and therefore have more land and respect for it.

Time was a problem or we would have stopped more. Enjoyed.

I think it adds to the experience to be able to hold and feel a piece of wood so many years old – the sensuous part helps the memory of this amazing place of history.

Ask at exit for surveys. Have a trip tapes available at entrance for rent.

I think the PFNP is run very well and I enjoy visiting as often as possible.

Guided ranger tours would be a great thing. Also, it would be nice to have a shuttle service for those wishing to bike one way.

The beauty of the park is beyond description. It is the highlight of our trip along with the Grand Canyon.

Enjoyed our visit but only saw about half of what there was to see. will come again to see Rainbow Forest.

This is 100% better than Lake Powell. I like it when you go to places like Yellowstone, Zion, and Grand Canyon etc. and there is lodging in the park.

Short on time this trip next year will do wilderness tour and answer in detail – thank you for a beautiful day. It was so peaceful.

Advertise a lot more this place is gorgeous!!

Keep at it. Prepare education units to be disturbed to grade (and beyond) Schools throughout the US

More shade in parking lots

I have impression that limits in budget and staff restricts enforcement

Have many people stop at the Visitor Center – Interpretative information displayed in the parking lot could reach/educate people that may not enter the park at all.

God's work is breath taking and you guys keep doing the great job you are for future generations! We enjoyed it!!

Possible dog walk areas

Cloudy day – some rain not many people – wonderful.

Please start fundraising campaign to freely restore the Painted Desert Inn, which clearly has very serious structural concerns. Ts wonderful and should be saved even though the cost will be high. We would contribute.

A real pleasant surprise. Wish we could have spent more time here.

Wonderful experience! I hope you can address theft issue effectively

We appreciated the entry being free on Veterans Day as we are veterans and spouses of veterans

Consider offering pre-addressed (or partially addressed) postcards to visitors to send to their government representatives to express their support for the NPS.

Check runs to make sure people are not lost or stranded anywhere. More signs! We did not know if we were going the right way half the time

Why not extend Canadian dollars at Par program to National Parks?

"Removal" too gentle a word

Be very aggressive with protection of all N.P.

Don't let your mom brush your hair when she's mad at your dad. Nice place. Nice people. Good access. Thanks for soliciting my opinion

More access and parking in the Tepees area – at trail through the Tepees and more turnouts along the road.

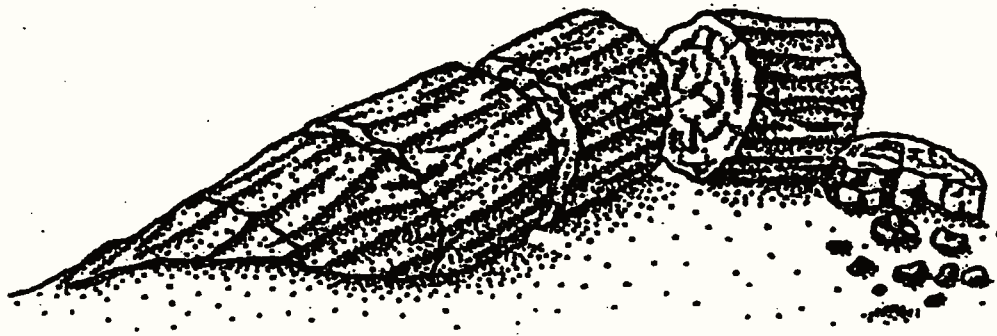
Visitor well kept, stocked guides, informed. Educational movie. Thx.
In the two years since we visited it seems a lot of small pieces have disappeared. Maybe you should triple the fines. It would make wood a lot cheaper to buy.

I liked this and will return with grandchildren

Appendix C:
Petrified Forest N.P. Survey
Questionnaire

PETRIFIED FOREST NATIONAL PARK

Visitor Survey



School of Forestry

OMB Approval #1024-0224 (NPS01-001)
Expiration Date: 07/31/02

Dear Petrified Forest National Park Visitor:

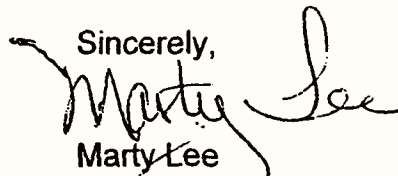
Thank you for agreeing to share your opinions about this special national park. This is your opportunity to help direct the future management of this park. You are one of a relatively small number of visitors who are being asked to give their opinions about the park. Your responses are critical to the success of this project.

It should take you about 20 minutes to complete the survey. Your answers are strictly confidential and you will in no way be connected with the results of the project.

When you have completed the survey, please drop it in one of the VISITOR SURVEY DROP BOXES provided at the entrance/exit stations and in the Visitor Center. The National Park Service has asked Northern Arizona University to conduct the survey and we are truly grateful for the help you will give us. If you have any questions about the survey, please feel free to contact me, the study director, at the following address:

Dr. Marty Lee
School of Forestry
Box 15018
Northern Arizona University
Flagstaff, AZ 86011
(520) 523-6644
martha.lee@nau.edu

Thank you again for your help!

Sincerely,

Marty Lee
Project Director

Instructions: Please answer all of the questions. If you do not understand an item, qualify your answer by writing in the margin. Your answers will be confidential.

SECTION I. Trip Characteristics. We would like to begin by asking you some questions about your visit to Petrified Forest National Park (N.P.).

1. Is this your first visit to Petrified Forest National Park? (check one)

☐ YES

☐ NO → (If no) About how many previous visits have you made?

_____ previous visits

2. Where did you begin your trip today (city/state)? _____

— Where do you plan to stay tonight (city/state)? _____

3. How many people in your group are in each of the following age classes?

Senior (62+ years old) _____

Adult (17- 61 years old) _____

Youth (6-16 years old) _____

Children (5 and younger) _____

Total number in your group _____

4. Which of the places listed below have you visited or do you plan to visit on this trip? (check all that apply)

☐ Grand Canyon National Park

☐ Canyon de Chelly National
Monument

☐ Meteor Crater

☐ Wupatki National Monument

☐ Chaco Culture National
Historical Park

☐ Sunset Crater Volcano National
Monument

☐ Glen Canyon National
Recreation Area

☐ Hubbell Trading Post
National Historic Site

☐ Mesa Verde National Park

☐ El Morro National Monument

☐ Walnut Canyon National
Monument

5. How did you first learn about Petrified Forest N.P.? (check all that apply)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Road sign | <input type="checkbox"/> Map |
| <input type="checkbox"/> At another National Park Service area | <input type="checkbox"/> Internet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Books/magazines | <input type="checkbox"/> Recommended by other people |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) _____ | |

6. Why did you choose to visit Petrified Forest N.P. on this trip? (check all that apply)

- ☐ To see petrified wood
- ☐ To see the Painted Desert
- ☐ To have a wilderness experience
- ☐ To use the facilities (gift shop, restaurant, restrooms)
- ☐ Just curious to see what was here
- ☐ Other (please explain) _____

SECTION II. Describing Your Visit

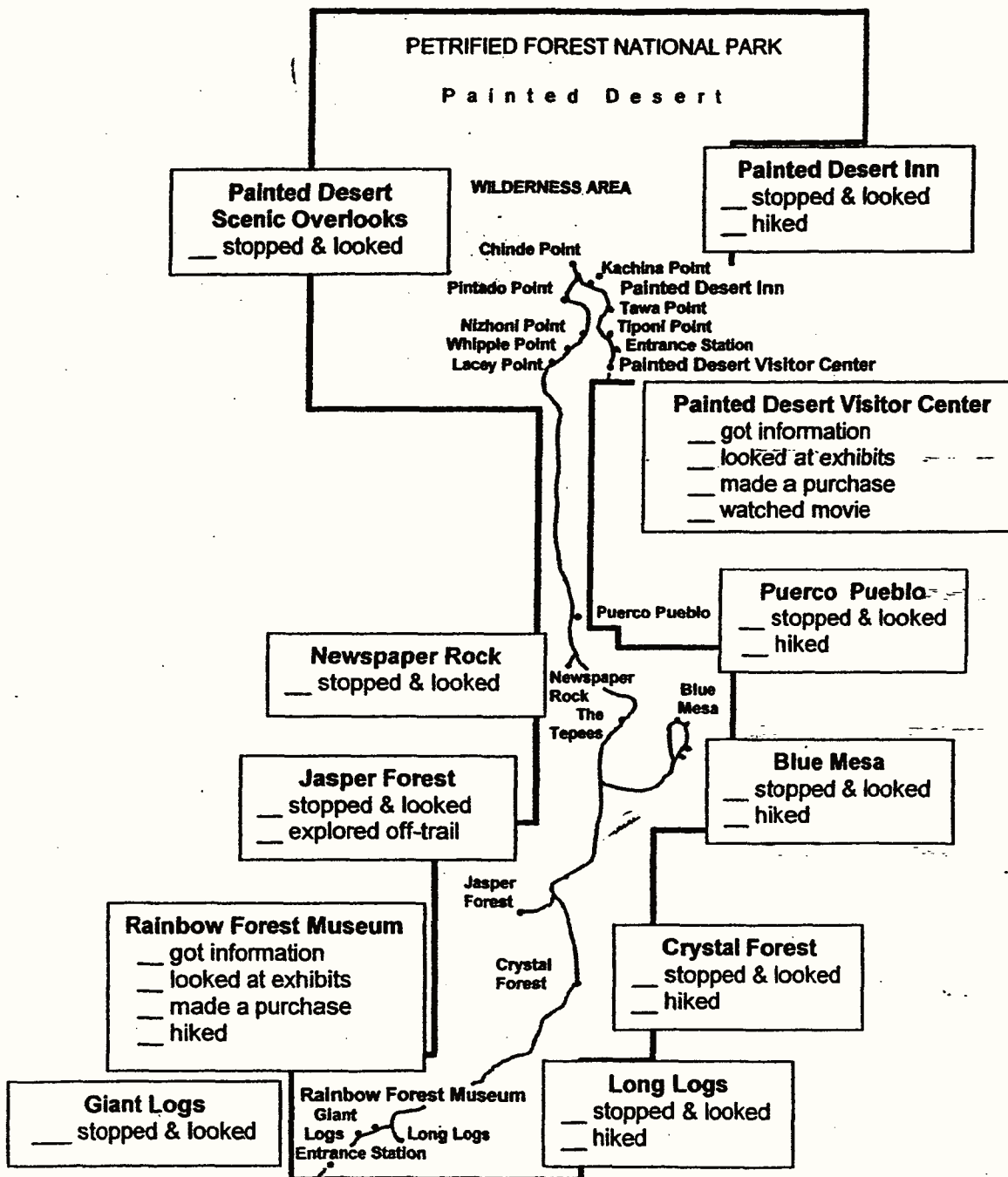
7. How long did you stay at Petrified Forest N.P. on this trip? (check one)

- ☐ less than one hour
- ☐ one to three hours
- ☐ more than three hours

8. Which of the following activities did you do during this visit to Petrified Forest N.P.? (check all that apply)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> hiked or walked | <input type="checkbox"/> watched the visitor center movie |
| <input type="checkbox"/> took photographs | <input type="checkbox"/> watched wildlife |
| <input type="checkbox"/> picnicked | <input type="checkbox"/> visited the gift shop |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ate in the restaurant/
snack bar | <input type="checkbox"/> participated in a ranger-led program |
| <input type="checkbox"/> stopped at overlooks | <input type="checkbox"/> drove through |
| <input type="checkbox"/> conducted business | <input type="checkbox"/> purchased gas |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> other (please explain) _____ |

9. Using the map below, please tell us the places you went during your visit to Petrified Forest N.P. Put an "X" by each place you visited and indicate what you did there (hiked, stopped and looked, etc.).



SECTION III. Management of Petrified Forest N.P.

Petrified Forest N.P. experiences a high rate of theft of the primary park resource, petrified wood. Your responses to the following questions will help us develop ways to prevent the theft of these resources. As you answer these questions, please keep in mind that the petrified wood sold in the park gift shops comes from private land, not national park land.

10. During your visit to Petrified Forest N.P., did you: (check all that apply)

- ☐ purchase petrified wood in the gift shop?
- ☐ pick up pieces of petrified wood to look at and replace them where you found them?
- ☐ photograph petrified wood?
- ☐ observe someone taking and keeping a piece of petrified wood from park land?

11. How important is it to you that petrified wood can be purchased at gift shops in the park? (check one)

- ☐ not at all important
- ☐ somewhat important
- ☐ moderately important
- ☐ very important

12. In your opinion, what effect do you think having petrified wood for sale in the park gift shops has on visitors stealing petrified wood in the park? (check one)

- ☐ it has no effect on people stealing petrified wood
- ☐ it increases wood theft because people see it and want it, but don't want to spend the money to buy it
- ☐ it decreases wood theft because people can buy it rather than steal it
- ☐ no opinion

13. In order to prevent the theft of petrified wood, park managers are considering a number of actions. Please put an "S" next to the actions listed below that you would SUPPORT, an "N" next to the actions you would NOT SUPPORT, and "DK" next to the actions you DON'T KNOW if you could support.

_____ Discontinue sales of petrified wood in the gift shops

_____ Put fencing along trails

_____ Remove trails in petrified wood areas

_____ Allow visitors access to petrified wood sites only if accompanied by a ranger

_____ Increase regulatory signs warning of the consequences of petrified wood theft

_____ Use surveillance cameras to monitor petrified wood sites

_____ Increase educational programs and exhibits on the importance of not stealing petrified wood

_____ Other – Please suggest possible solutions:

Petrified Forest N.P. is developing a plan to manage the Painted Desert and Rainbow Forest National Wilderness areas located within the Park. Your responses to the following questions will help us develop that plan.

14. Are you familiar with the National Wilderness Preservation System?
(check one)

☐ Yes ☐ Not sure

☐ No

15. Did you know about the Wilderness areas in Petrified Forest N.P. prior to this visit? (check one)

☐ Yes → (if Yes) Skip to Question 16.

☐ No → (if No) Did you learn about the park Wilderness areas during this visit to Petrified Forest N.P.? (check one)

☐ No

☐ Yes → (If yes) How did you learn about the Wilderness areas? (check all that apply)

☐ Brochure

☐ Exhibit

☐ Ranger or other park staff

☐ Other (please explain)

16. During this trip to Petrified Forest N.P. did you visit either the Painted Desert Wilderness or the Rainbow Forest Wilderness? (check one)

☐ No → (If No, skip to Question 22)

☐ Yes → (If Yes, please continue)

☐ Not sure → (If Not sure, skip to Question 22)

17. Please check which Wilderness area(s) you visited and whether you were there only for the day or if you stayed overnight:

___ Painted Desert Wilderness: ___ day use OR ___ overnight stay

___ Rainbow Forest Wilderness: ___ day use OR ___ overnight stay

18. What was your primary reason for visiting the park Wilderness area(s)?

19. How would you rate the quality of your Wilderness experience? (circle one number)

- 1 very poor
- 2 poor
- 3 average
- 4 good
- 5 very good

20. What did you like most about your Wilderness experience?

21. What did you like least about your Wilderness experience?

22. Where is your current residence?

City _____ State/Country _____

Zip code _____

23. Is there anything else you would like to tell Petrified Forest N.P. managers?

THANK YOU VERY MUCH for your help. Please give your completed survey to one of the Park staff or leave it in one of the VISITOR SURVEY drop boxes.

PRIVACY ACT and PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT statement:

16 U.S.C. 1a-7 authorizes collection of this information. This information will be used by park managers to better serve the public. Response to this request is voluntary. No action may be taken against you for refusing to supply the information requested. Your name is requested for follow-up mailing purposes only. When analysis of the questionnaire is completed, all name and address files will be destroyed. Thus permanent data will be anonymous. Data collected through visitor surveys may be disclosed to the Department of Justice when relevant to litigation or anticipated litigation, or to appropriate Federal, State, local or foreign agencies responsible for investigating or prosecuting a violation of law. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Burden estimate statement: Public reporting for this form is estimated to average 20 minutes per response. Direct comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this form to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of OMB, Attention Desk Officer for the Interior Department, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, D.C. 20503; and to the Information Collection Clearance Officer, WASO Administrative Program Center, National Park Service, 1849 C Street, Washington, D.C. 20240. om (T

