

ADK Hikers 2020
Webinar 3/19/2020

Question	Asker	Answer(s)
I suspect your first images of people in the 2nd slide was before the pandemic. But it is strange not to see people wearing masks, especially in crowded areas without social distancing.	Marion	yes pre-covid photos! some post-covid photos in busy recreation areas also show lots of people without masks.
It looks like both sets of hikers were less likely to donate to a conservation organization in the ADK, post-hike. Did I read that correctly? Why might that be?	Anonymous	Yes you did. We don't know why that might be but something to explore.
Would it be interesting to seek out potential hikers who chose NOT to hike the high peaks because of either (a) overcrowding or (b) concern about their own impact on the trails and wildlife?	Doug	HK: Yes good idea - we didn't ask that question. JW: As I said in the talk Q/A there are a few strategies beginning with hiking club members that could expand understanding of dispersal choices.
Was this survey done only in the High Peaks?	Gary	HK: We were also surveying at trails around Saranac Lake, Tupper Lake, in the Jay Range, etc. JW: Our 11 sites were in the High Peaks or lead to high peaks areas
shifting baseline is relevant to Heidi's analysis. new covid hikers encounter a fairly crowded landscape as 'normal' so they are less concerned with it...	Rich	indeed!
Is there a way for us to access these slides? I'm here for a class assignment (and because I'm interested!), and it would be helpful to go back and look through the slides.	Maggie	Sure I can make a .pdf of the slides and share.
Heidi, any idea on publication dates for those data?	Kendra	Hopefully ASAP, but I do have a full-time job that mostly focuses on global conservation projects so I'm doing what I can! I'll keep you posted.
I was thinking the same thing as Doug Klein: there are many people who would typically hike in the High Peaks but avoid due to those reasons. Maybe surveys at less crowded trailheads?	Natasha	We surveyed 33 trailheads, many of which were not in the High Peaks but we did not ask specifically why they choose to hike at one place vs. another. We did ask about motivations so once we get into that data we might be able to ascertain if there are differences between those who chose High Peaks trails vs. non-high peaks trails.
I have two questions for Heidi: 1.I was interested in your selection of questions related to the likelihood of taking pro-conservation actions. I felt that a couple of the most likely possible actions were missing. Just to pick a specific one, is there a reason you did not include a question about voting behavior: i.e. , being more likely to vote for conservation issues. 2.On management actions, given the questions were about limiting use, do you have a comment on sample bias? After all, your sample consisted of hikers who were successfully able to hike.	Pete	live answered
Are there any methods to create a conservation mindset in Covid hikers?	Nathaniel	HK: I have not heard of that but it would be cool to develop! JW: One of the goals of the RUEADK survey was definitely to aid the ADK and AC and my work in improving education and messaging and/or lead to research that will do that.
Jill, what about the pandemic explains why 48% of the hikers were between age 25-44?	Stacy	live answered

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Wondering if Jill can speak about the racial composition of her sample. Is it that whites are overusing while other racial groups are underusing? Do we know anything about who *doesn't* come to these areas and why?	Joseph	live answered
Riffing off of Doug Klein's comment: my husband has always been an avid Adirondack hiker. He has been hiking Coon and Bouquet Mountains this fall and winter to enjoy the woods and views and to exercise. There was obviously quite a bit of traffic on these. It would be interesting to see if there were different motives or demographics hikes not in the high peaks.	Eileen	Agree and as we look at our data comparing motivations on high peaks trails and non-high peaks trails, perhaps we will gain some insights. HK:That would be for managers to determine - I agree that low-income access could become an issue. The Kingdom Trails in Vermont has an interesting system - very nominal fees to help pay for maintenance/infrastructure. I'm not sure if that system could help to limit numbers or not. JW: Structures of permitting systems were not investigated for this study.
Access passes and permits - would there be a cost? And how would a fee affect participation of low-income users to have same access to these public lands?	jeshockley	
59% of respondents support limits when wilderness/ecology are being degraded. Were there any questions asking people about if they agreed/disagreed that the current wilderness/ecology conditions actually are degraded?	Peter	live answered
Thanks for this research! How do you see your findings in relation to efforts to increase diversity and sense of inclusion in the outdoors?	Andrea	Hi Andrea! We sort of got to this in the live answers, it wasn't an explicit part of the research to look at that, but the findings of less place attachment and less knowledge leading to less likelihood for supporting pro-conservation behaviors speaks a little to the need for determining what would create that place attachment in more diverse communities and how do we make safe spaces where new visitors of diverse backgrounds feel welcomed and embraced?
Thanks, Jill. Would love to know more about the wealth breakdown too. Lots to think about there as well.	Joseph	We opted to not ask about income for brevity's sake.. we would take full demographics on the follow up research for characterizing hikers in a 2 part survey
Also, and I may have missed this in your excellent presentations, did you collect any information on educational levels/occupation? Thanks, EPK	Ellen	In our post-survey (so for ~600 respondents) we have information highest level of schooling, leisure time spent outdoors, and whether or not someone works outdoors as part of their employment. We haven't looked at that data yet.
Yes.	Peter	
Thanks to you both.	Peter	Thank you!

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any data about awareness of a management plan or scheme with legal teeth and a ranger force charged with enforcement and education about that plan's rules	David	<p>HK: We (Heidi and Michale) did not collect that information JW: We did not study ranger activities. Our public records research shows that many users are aware of existing management plans, but less have read them. Too often opinion is formed based on assumption of what may be in a given plan or policy rather than what is actually in them. I recommend reading the WMPs here 3/22/2021 and the recent HPAG report: https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/119187.html</p>
Any way to know if COVID hikers were new to hiking or just new to the ADKs?	j	<p>HK: We (Heidi and Michale) only asked that question in the post-hike survey, so of the ~600 people completing that we had 133 Covid hikers (those who wouldn't have been in the Adks hadn't it not been for Covid) and for 57% of them this was their 1st time. For the Non-covid hikers (had planned to be there anyway) there were 16% first time to the Adks visitors. JW: We will be looking at relationships between "Covid visitors", ADK experience, and sources. Later we may be able to connect this with other work that will answer this question, or add a version of this question in the next round.</p>
How might post-Covid mindsets influence a push for conservation and changes in management? Could the pandemic shift both local and non-residential approaches to newer management implications?	Luke	<p>HK: I'm not entirely sure, but certainly covid brought more people and people with less experience so we do need to be thinking about engagement with that group whether it is simply for abiding by leave no trace or getting more engaged in conservation in the Adks or support of management. Whether there is a shift may depend on what happens when borders reopen - will people who hiked here for the first time keep returning and will Canadians return in the numbers they previously had? If so the pressures will be mounting on the management infrastructure. JW: I concur with Heidi's response</p>
Heidi, do your findings provide evidence of a direct relationship between use level and wildlife impact, or does it suggest behavioral, activity type, and other factors confound and/or better explain wildlife impact?	Steve	<p>TBD, we haven't looked at the ecological data yet. That is forthcoming - we will look at use intensity and presence/absence of mammals and birds. We are actively looking for funds to help us analyze this data!</p>
Thank you Heidi and Jill!	Kendra	<p>Hey Kendra! You are welcome! JW</p>
The presentations were fantastic! Love this enhanced approach to understanding issues in the Park!!!!	Eileen	<p>thanks</p>