

DCNR State Forest/State Park Visitor Use Monitoring (VUM) Project

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Background

National Visitor Use Monitoring (NVUM) Study

- * Purpose - understand the number of recreation users and attain basic visitor use information in the US National Forest system nationwide
- * USDA Forest Service collects recreation visitation data in each National Forest unit every fifth year
- * Pennsylvania is the first/only state to adopt this approach for monitoring recreation use in State Forests and Parks

Study Objectives

Surveys of visitors to selected Pennsylvania State Forests and State Parks and develop a visitor profile:

- * Overall use and recreation visitation patterns
- * Visitor expectations and levels of satisfaction
- * Visitor opinions about possible future area management
- * Visitor expenditures and levels of economic impact on surrounding communities
- * Visitor reactions to Marcellus gas activities and the impacts of these activities on recreational visitation patterns and experiences

Current PA-VUM Study

- * 5-year agreement (2011-2016)
- * Includes 10 State Forest Districts
 - * 2 State Forests per year
- * Also includes 30 State Parks
 - * 3 State Parks adjacent to or near each designated forest
- * Data collection period: October, 2011 – September, 2016
- * Current Status: Year 3 of project

Project Sampling Locations

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
State Forests	State Forests	State Forests	State Forests	State Forests
Sproul	Forbes	Tioga	Elk	Michaux
Susquehannock	Delaware	Tiadahton	Moshannon	Buchanan
State Parks	State Parks	State Parks	State Parks	State Parks
Bald Eagle	Keystone	Little Pine	Clear Creek/ Cook Forest	Caledonia
Kettle Creek	Laurel Hill	R. B. Winter	Bendigo	Codorus
Hyner Run	Ohiopyle	Worlds End	Elk	Pine Grove Furnace
Lyman Run	Tobyhanna	Hills Creek	Parker Dam	Cowans Gap
Cherry Springs	Jacobsburg	Leonard Harrison	S. B. Elliott	Blue Knob
Sinnemahoning	Promised Land	Colton Point	Black Moshannon	Shawnee



SOME BRIEF HIGHLIGHTS:

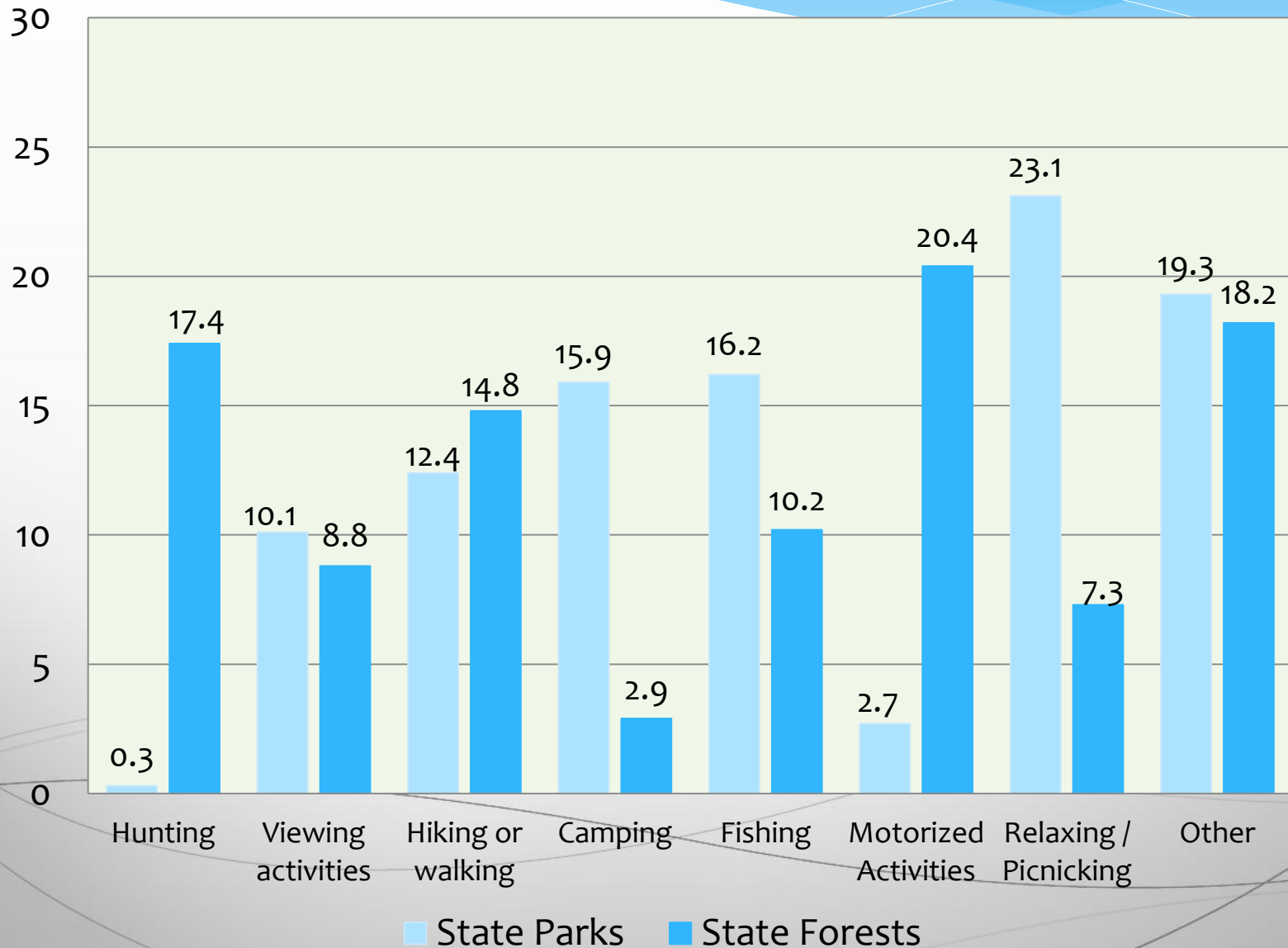
**COMBINED RESULTS FROM THE FIRST
TWO YEARS OF DATA COLLECTION**



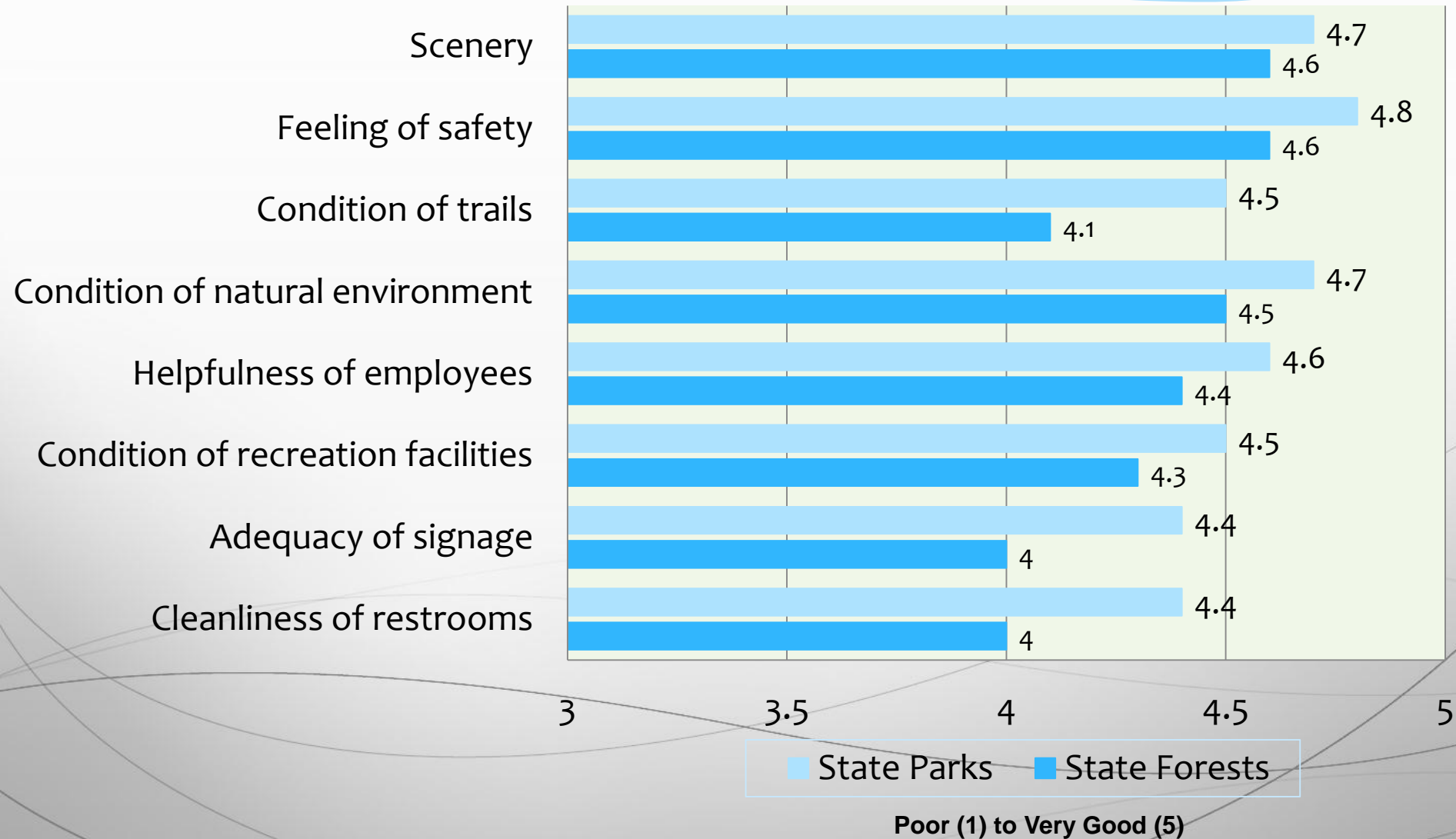
Visitor Surveys Completed

State Forests		State Parks	
Year 1 (10/11-9/12)	Year 2 (10/12-9/13)	Year 1 (10/11-9/12)	Year 2 (10/12-9/13)
Sproul (n=351)	Forbes (n=395)	Bald Eagle (n=207)	Keystone (n=304)
Susquehannock (n=319)	Delaware (n=273)	Hyner Run/ Hyner View (n=199)	Laurel Hill (n=252)
		Sinnemahoning (n=173)	Ohiopyle (n=326)
		Kettle Creek (n=188)	Tobyhanna (n=293)
		Lyman Run (n=165)	Jacobsburg (n=239)
		Cherry Springs (n=119)	Promised Land (n=314)

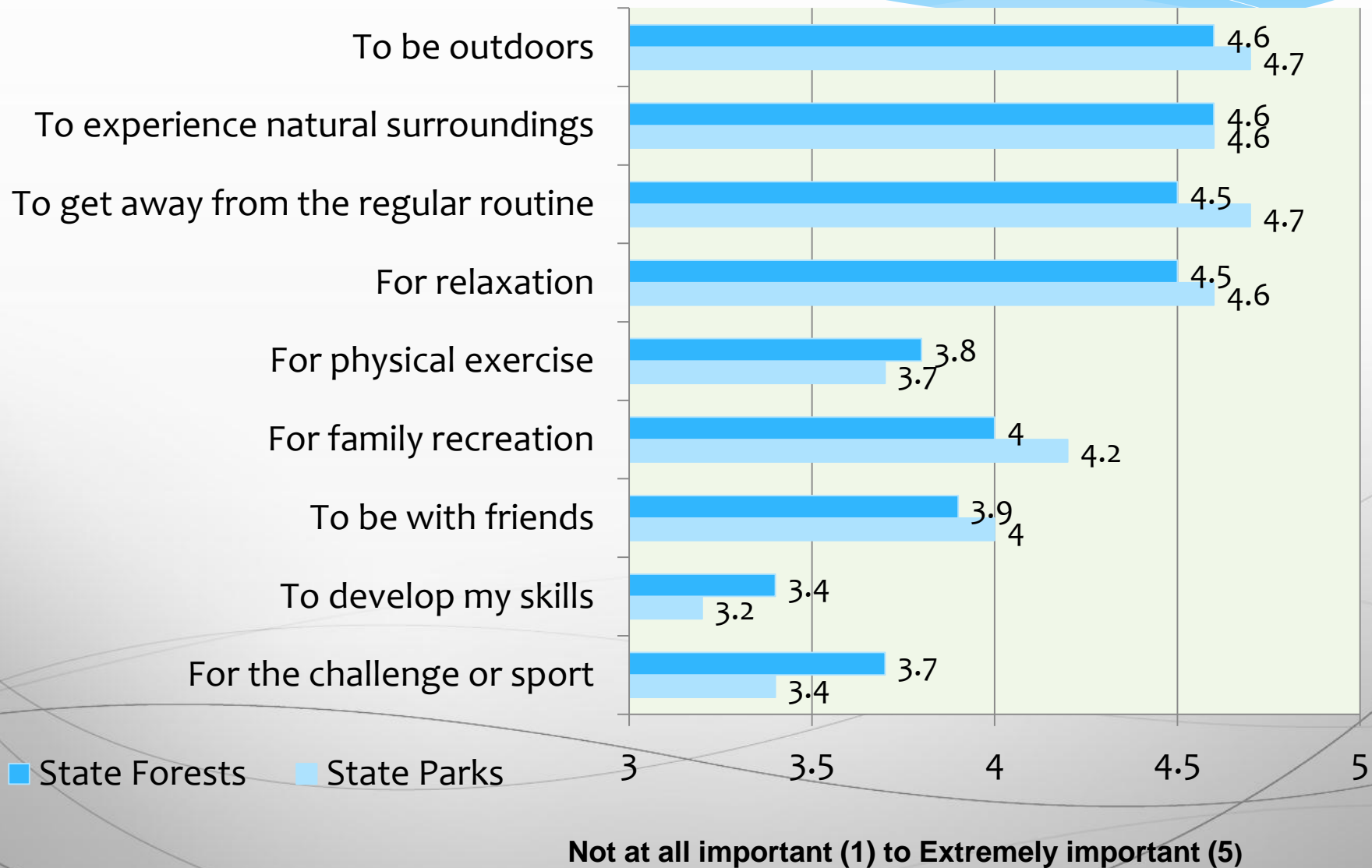
Primary Activities: State Parks vs. Forests (%)



Satisfaction with Forest/Park Attributes



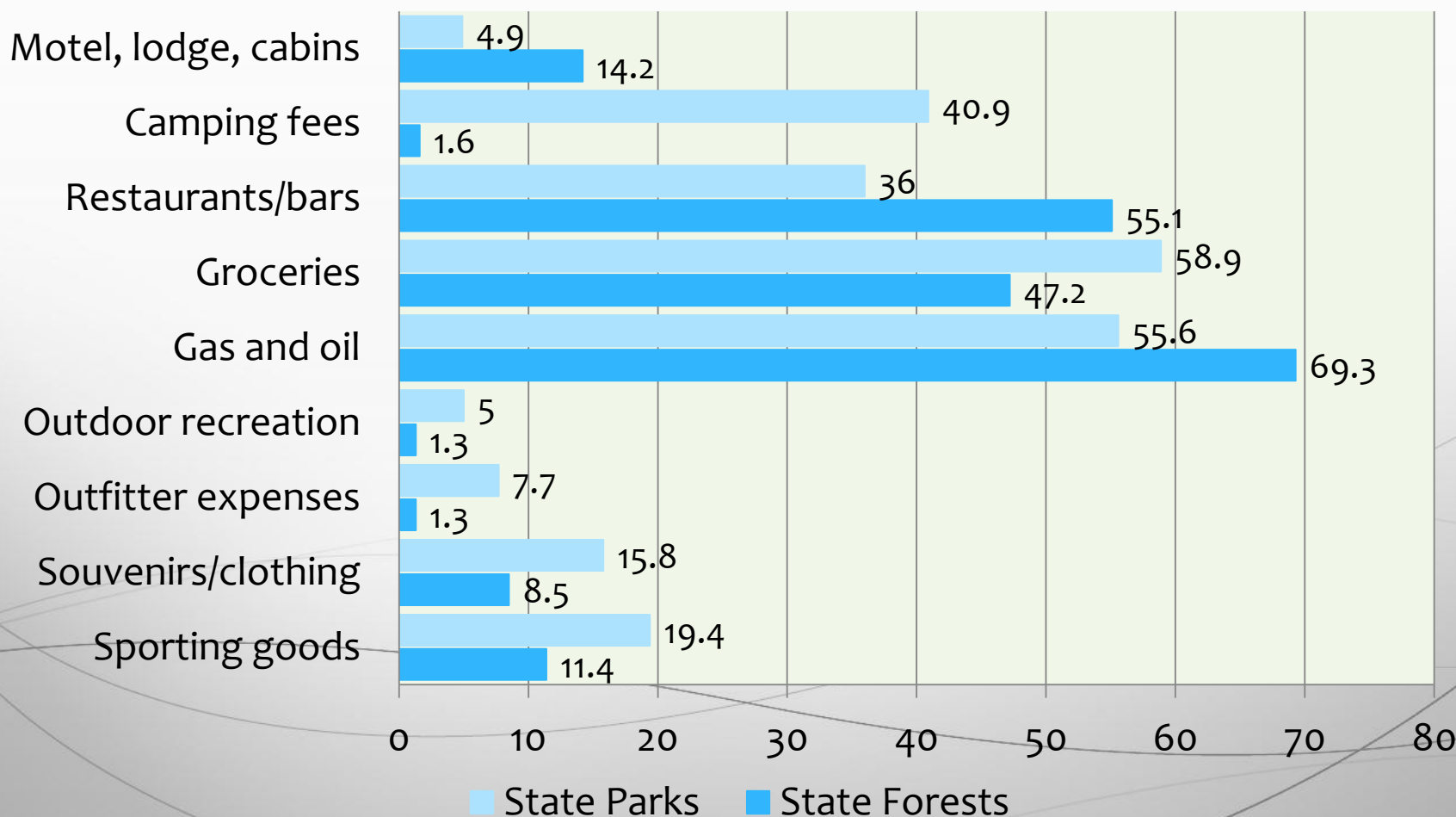
Reasons (Motivations) for Visiting



Recreation Expenditures on This Trip

(within 50 miles, based on visitors who spent something on their trip)

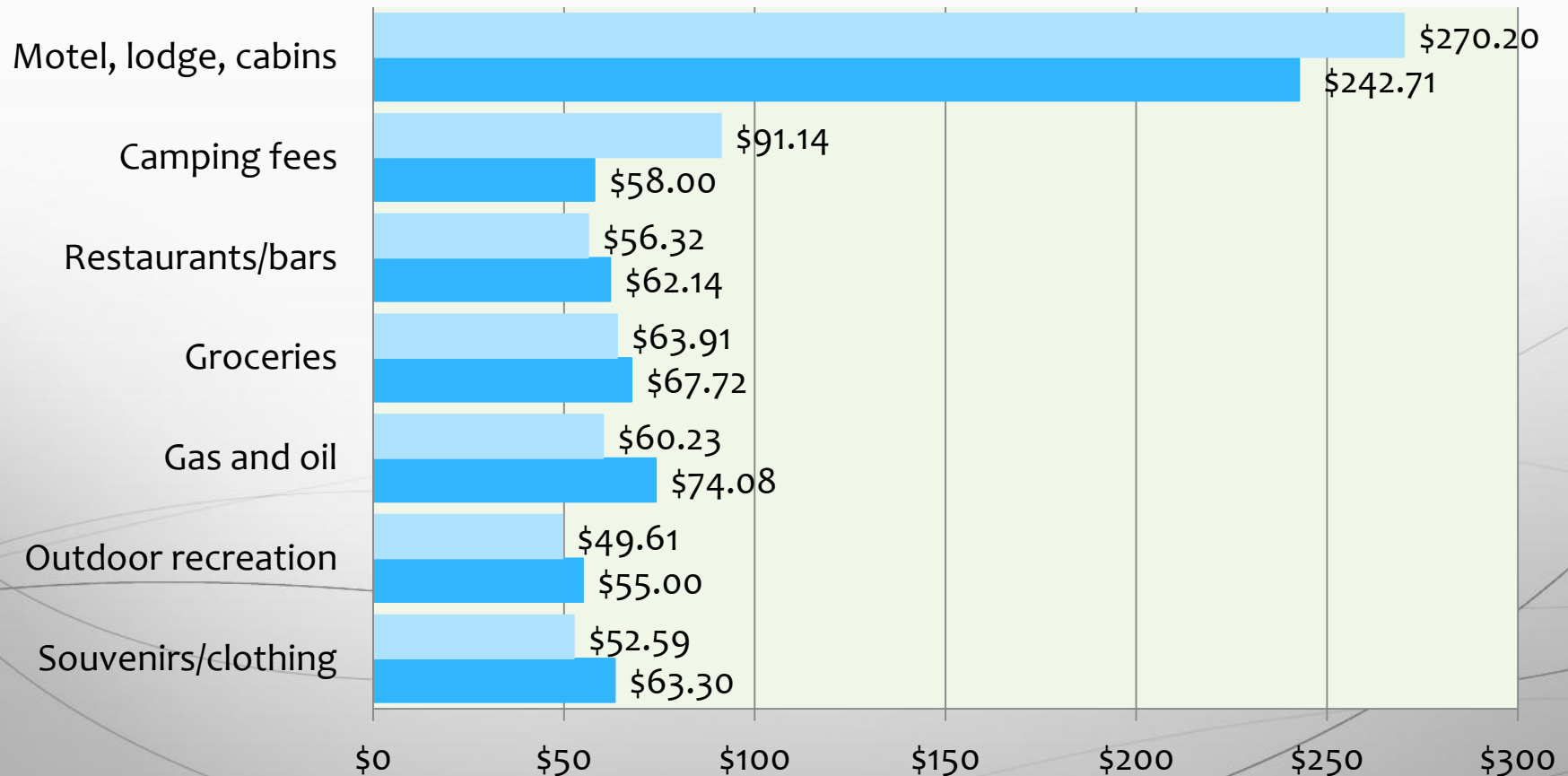
Proportion of Visitors Spending Something (%)



Recreation Expenditures on This Trip - Average Amount Spent

(among those visitors who spent something in each category)

State Parks State Forests



Responses to Marcellus Shale Questions

	State Forests	State Parks
Has Marcellus shale-related activity changed <u>your</u> recreational use of this state forest/park?		
Yes	14%	4%
No	86%	96%
Has Marcellus shale-related activity changed <u>your</u> recreational experience at this state forest/park?		
Yes	17%	4%
No	83%	96%

Responses to Marcellus Shale Questions: Comparison of Forests

	Sproul	Susquehannock	Forbes	Delaware
Has Marcellus shale-related activity changed your recreational use of this state forest/park?				
Yes	28%	20%	6%	3%
No	72%	80%	94%	97%
Has Marcellus shale-related activity changed your recreational experience at this state forest/park?				
Yes	39%	24%	7%	5%
No	61%	76%	93%	95%

Responses to Marcellus Shale Questions: Comparison of Parks

	Cherry Springs	Other Parks
Has Marcellus shale-related activity changed <u>your recreational use</u> of this state forest/park?		
Yes	14%	3%
No	86%	97%
Has Marcellus shale-related activity changed <u>your recreational experience</u> at this state forest/park?		
Yes	24%	3%
No	76%	97%

Future PA-VUM Tasks

- * Address planning/management issues
- * Data analysis
 - * Build State Forest and Park system databases
 - * Activity-based analysis
 - * Seasonal analysis
 - * Zip code analysis – Examine visitors from various geographic regions
- * Continue data collection for upcoming rounds of state forests and parks

OTHER PENNSYLVANIA STUDIES/REPORTS

- * PA-VUM is one source of pre-existing data that could be used to inform the Pennsylvania's Outdoor Recreation Plan...
- * Other studies/sources have emerged since 2009 and these will be reviewed/synthesized for inclusion into the Plan
 - * 2012 PA State Park Economic Impact Study
 - * Urban recreation focus groups
 - * OIA or NSRE Data from Pennsylvania
 - * Other state-level outdoor recreation and conservation studies



Thank You for your Time!
Questions?

For further information on PA-VUM contact Alan R. Graefe at gyu@psu.edu

