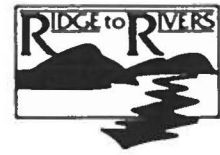


# Boise Foothills 2014 Trail Use Questionnaire

## Executive Summary



Blue sky and 79 degrees was on May 17th, 2014, the perfect day for setting a new record with the annual survey: 1680 filled questionnaires, which is 35% more than last year and 11% more than our old record in 2010! 13 trailheads, with Hillside to Hollow being added, were staffed for 12 hours by 3 shifts of 84 volunteers in total. As in 2013 Old Pen had most respondents (278), followed by Camel's Back (266).

**Age:** The number of 60+ year old trail users further increased to now 11% (from 2% in 2000), while the number of 31-50 year old trail users went down year after year to now 44% (from 58% in 2000).

**Female/Male:** Again there was an almost even split between female (49%) and male (51%) trail users, with 65% females at Hillside to Hollow and at Old Pen, and 75% males at Corrals.

**Zip Code:** Ada County visitors went down by 4% since 2012, visitors from other Idaho locations up by 4%. Not much change since 2012 for trail users from Boise areas. Downtown/North End/Foothills is leading with 44%.

**Frequency of Visits:** The frequency of trail use almost didn't change over the last 4 years. It is impressive that 58% are coming frequently and 19% even daily. 11% respondents at Old Pen visited the trails for the 1<sup>st</sup> time.

**Time of Visits:** Not much of a change from last fall's survey: 42% are early risers, 22% come around noon and 37% later in the afternoon. Homestead has the most early trail users (51%).

**Transport to Trails:** The trend continued also in 2014: The number of visitors who come by car increased from 42% in 2009 to now 63%, while the number of bikers went steadily down from 34% to 20%.

**Alone/With Others:** Like last year, 64% did use the trails in a group, with Old Pen leading the way with 77%, and at the other end Hillside to Hollow with only 35%.

**Dog Owners:** 28% of respondents were dog owners vs. 33% in 2013. At Hillside to Hollow 76% bring a dog.

**Trail Use:** The number of hikers/walkers increased from 35% in 2000, to 51% in 2013, and now 53%. Runners went down from 21% in 2000 to now 17%. Bikers went down from 45% in 2000, to 30% in 2013 and now 29%.

**Time on Trails:** 59% users spent 1-2 hours on the trails per visit. At Homestead for 15% it's more than 3 hrs.

**Favorite thing about Foothills:** Trail users who like everything about the Foothills went down from 70% in 2013 to now 55%. An increasing number, 12% in 2014, come for exercise. Hillside to Hollow is leading for proximity with 11%, for solitude with 8% and for freedom with 8%.

**Most used Foothills Area** (multiple choice): Again most respondents said that they visit Lower Hulls Gulch area most (41%, 2013: 47%), followed by Military Reserve (40%, 2013: 42%) and Table Rock (38%, 2013: 31%).

**Information about Foothills** (multiple choice): Word of Mouth (48%) is top information source, followed by the R2R Website (40%). Going forward R2R Website is seen as #1 (36%), followed by Word of Mouth (19%).

**Management Strategies:** Trail designations (pedestrians only, mountain bikers only) increased further to now 77% from 26% in 2009. Support for more dog on-leash trails went up to 53% this year from 48% last year.

**Interaction with other Trail Users:** Pleasant interaction of trail users with pedestrians increased since 2013 by 5%, with mountain bikers by 3% and with dogs by 1%.

**Trail Etiquette:** Knowledge that mountain bikers have to yield hikers (83%) and that downhill riders have to yield to uphill riders (84%), is both 3% down from 2010.

**Controlled Dog Off-Leash Guidelines:** Only 28% answered correctly the off-leash distance limit (30 ft.).

**Met a Trail Ranger:** 33% responded "yes", which is 3% down from 2013. Trail users taking the survey at Hillside to Hollow are leading with 43%. At Old Pen it's 17% (reason: least frequent trail users).

**Annual User Fee:** 3% less trail users than 2013 are willing to pay an annual user fee, with now 74%. Hillside to Hollow is at the top with 89%; Old Pen and 9<sup>th</sup> Street are at the end with 63%.