

**Vital Sign: Visitor Use**  
[shortened name: Visitor\_use]

**Parks Where Vital Sign will be Implemented:**

BICY, BISC, BUIS, DRTO, EVER, SARI, VIIS – SFCN analyzes existing data; summarizes reports

**Justification/Issues being addressed:** Visitor Use ranked 13<sup>th</sup> among the 44 SFCN vital signs. Without quantitative data on the types, amounts and distribution of activities occurring in the parks, managers are unable to develop reliable and sufficient park plans. Park managers must have documentation of the full range of activities occurring within their parks, how many people are doing each activity, and where these activities are occurring, as well as information on the changes in these activities over time, in order to understand the linkages between the condition of resources and specific park uses of concern. These data can also provide some indication of how changes in park management are reflected in park uses of natural areas.

**General Monitoring Questions to be Addressed by the Vital Sign:**

- What are the seasonal and long-term trends in the distribution and abundance of visitors and associated activity types? In areas of critical concern, how is visitor use changing over time?

**Measures:**

Distribution and abundance of visitors including: activities, demographics, person days, spatial distribution/ density, numbers of people/cars/boats - both commercial and private

**Basic Approach:**

SFCN will use the National Park Service Public Use Statistics Office reports to evaluate changes in visitation. Monthly information is available on the NPStats website: <http://www2.nature.nps.gov/mpur/>. Annual reports will be generated each January for the previous calendar year and posted to the intranet site with the url for those who might want to see updated information during the year.

Other measures will be deferred unless additional funding becomes available.

**Principal Investigators/Key Contacts and NPS Lead:**

SFCN Data Manager

**Development schedule, budget, and expected interim products:**

An inventory of the range of visitor use information collected by each park will be completed by 2009. A SOP will be generated by 2010 that describes the process of using the query on the site and posting the report to the intranet by the data manager.

Expected SFCN staff time requirements once program is fully implemented in 5 years:

SFCN Staff	Full Time Equivalent (FTE)
Coordinator	
Marine Ecologist	
Fisheries Biologist	
Marine Biologist Technician (So FL)	
Marine Biologist Technician (VI)	
Community Ecologist	
Wildlife Technician (Wildlife)	
Wildlife Technician (Vegetation)	
Quantitative Ecologist	
Data Manager	0.04
GIS/Data Tech	
Interns	
SFCN Total	0.04