

APPENDIX B
PUBLIC INPUT SUMMARY

PUBLIC FEEDBACK ON THE CHEYENNE MOUNTAIN STATE PARK DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN

OVERVIEW

This report provides an overview and analysis of the public comments received by Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) during two public comment periods (November 29-December 20, 2011 and July 24-August 15, 2012) for the Cheyenne Mountain State Park Draft Management Plan. The Cheyenne Mountain State Park (CMSP) Planning Team received a combined total of 819 open house and online questionnaires, emails, phone calls, and written letters during the two public comment periods. The primary groups represented in the comments included: recreational mountain bikers, equestrians, hikers, park volunteers and other park users.

GOALS AND PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. Provide context for the main issues portrayed by Cheyenne Mountain State Park users and interest groups.
 2. Provide the Cheyenne Mountain State Park Planning Team with quantitative and qualitative data regarding top issues and suggestions related to park management.
 3. Synthesize salient points, key recommendations, and useful suggestions by issue to help guide future management of the park.
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METHODOLOGY

Comment Period One

An initial public meeting took place on November 29, 2011 at the Cheyenne Mountain Junior High School (hereafter referred to as “Public Meeting One”). The meeting was attended by 65 members of the public. In addition to collecting questionnaires at the public meeting, an online questionnaire was used to collect responses. The online survey was available from November 29, 2011 through December 20, 2011 (“Comment Period One”).

Comment Period Two

Colorado Parks and Wildlife hosted a second public open house meeting on July 25, 2012 (“Public Meeting Two”) at the Crowne Plaza – Colorado Springs to present the Cheyenne Mountain State Park 2012 Draft Management Plan. Ninety-two people attended the meeting. Members of the public were invited to submit feedback on the draft management plan via a written questionnaire at the meeting or through a similar online questionnaire. Throughout the comment period of July 24 to August 15, 2012 (“Comment Period Two”), comments were also received by email, phone and written letter. Written letters received by the planning team during this period included comments and suggestions from El Paso County and the Trails and Open Space Coalition (TOSC), a petition

from Sand Creek Sports with 67 signatures advocating for mountain bike access on the Top of Mountain Trail, and a letter from the Widefield Riders Riding Club.

SHARED QUESTIONS AND RESULTS

The following section highlights survey results common to both comment periods. Asking identical questions in both questionnaires allows for comparison of respondent demographics when interpreting results. Planning staff combined all comments received to calculate the total number of responses. In doing so, CPW staff should be aware of inflation of opinion due to respondents who submitted more than one document.

Response Method

Figure 2 illustrates the number of responses received by comment period response method. The number of responses received during Comment Period One was significantly higher than the number received during Comment Period Two (713 responses compared with 106 responses). However, a greater percentage of questionnaires were completed at the public open house during Comment Period Two (80%) than during Comment Period One (6%).

The Park Planning Team believes that the differences in response rate and type are a result of active outreach efforts from outdoor recreation interest groups during Comment Period One.

Visitation Frequency

During Comment Period One, most questionnaire participants indicated that they were infrequent users of the park. 501 of 697 (about 72%) of people visit the park once every six months or less. 196 of the 697 (28%) responses to this question were from members of the public that visit the park on at least a monthly basis. For Comment Period Two, the majority of respondents were regular park users with 53 of 96 respondents to this question (approximately 55%) indicating that they visit the park at least monthly. The distribution of park visitation frequency by comment period is displayed in Figure 3.

Figure 1: Response Method

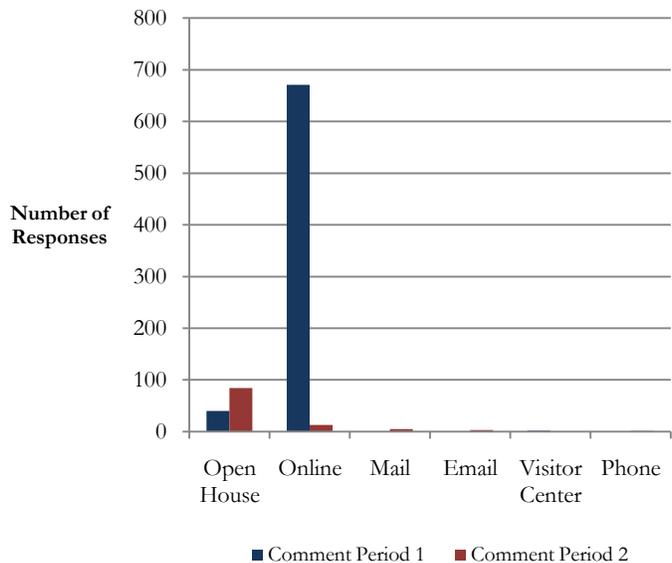
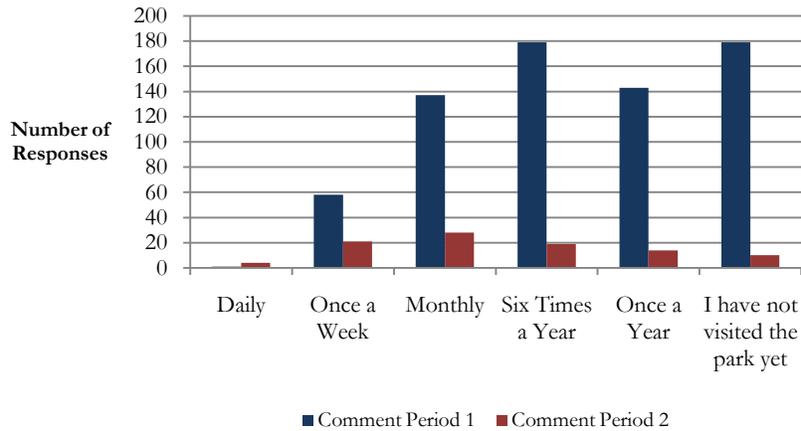


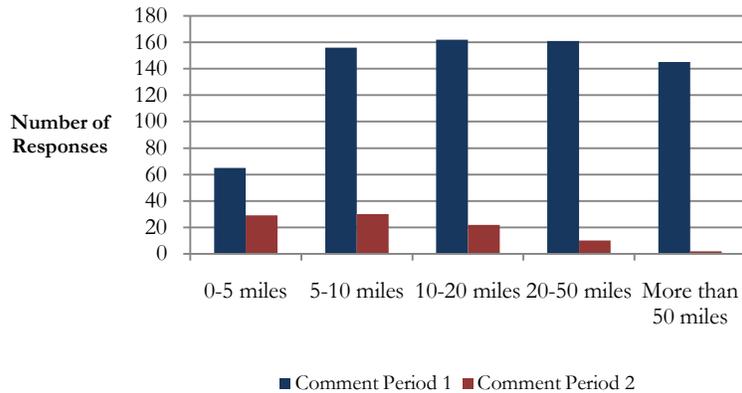
Figure 3: About how frequently do you visit Cheyenne Mountain State Park?



Distance Traveled

Figure 3 illustrates the distance respondents typically travel one-way to visit Cheyenne Mountain State Park. Survey respondents during Comment Period One travel to the park from a variety of distances. The majority of responses during this comment period were from users outside the immediate vicinity of the park with 468 of 689 (68%) travelling 10 miles or more to visit. In contrast, the majority of responses received during Comment Period Two (59 of 93, or about 63%) indicated that these users typically travel 10 miles or less to visit the park. 81 of 93 (87%) respondents from Comment Period Two travel 20 miles or less to visit the park.

Figure 4: About how far do you typically travel (one-way) to visit Cheyenne Mountain State Park?

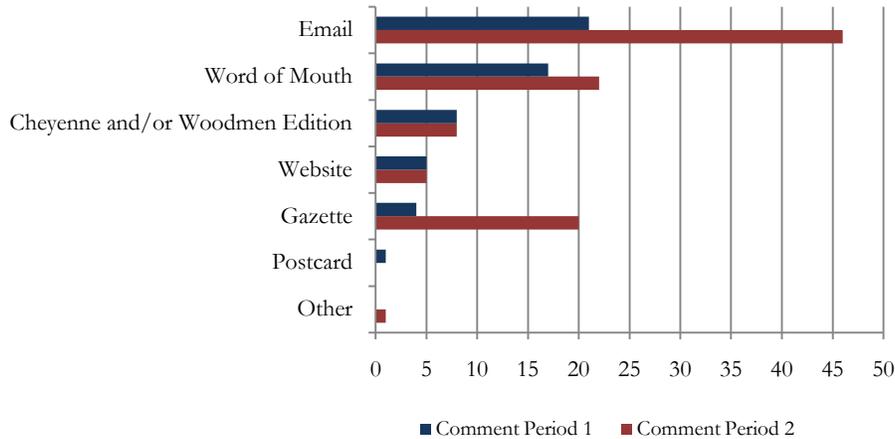


How Did You Hear About the Meeting?

As indicated in Figure 5, the majority of attendees at both public open house meetings heard about the open house through email, word of mouth, or public notices in local newspapers (46 of 56, or

82% for Public Meeting One and 96 of 102, or 94% for Public Meeting Two). Relatively few attendees found out about the meeting from the CPW website, other sources, or a postcard invitation (6 of 56, or about 11% for Public Meeting One and 6 of 102, or 6% for Public Meeting Two). Please note that respondents were provided the option to select as many responses as were applicable for this question.

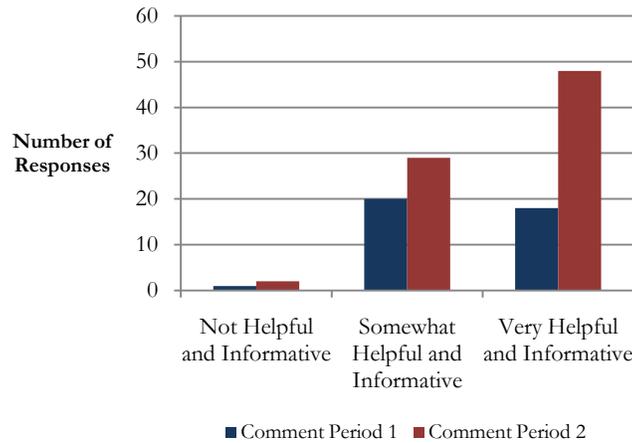
Figure 5: How did you hear about this meeting? [Open House Only]



Helpfulness and Informativeness of Public Meeting

Most attendees at both public open house meetings found the meeting to be helpful and informative. Of 39 response from Public Meeting One, 38 (about 97%) found the meeting at least somewhat helpful and informative. Only one response from Public Meeting One (3%) answered “not helpful and informative”. Forty-eight of 79 (61%) attendees at Public Meeting Two found the meeting very helpful and informative and 29 of 79 (37%) found it somewhat helpful and informative. Just 2 of 79 (2%) respondents from Public Meeting Two indicated that the meeting was not helpful and informative. Figure 6 shows responses by comment period to how helpful attendees found the public open house meetings.

Figure 6: Did you find the public open house meeting helpful and informative? [Open House Only]



**COMMENT PERIOD ONE
QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS**

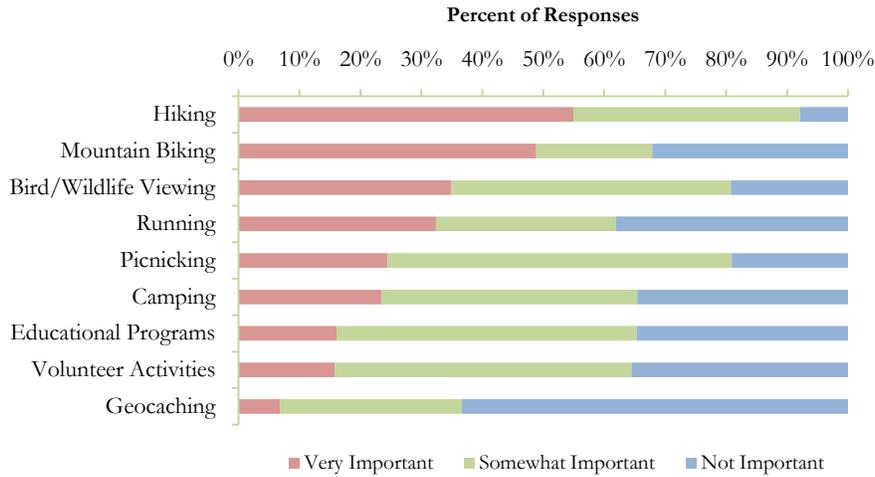
The first public open house for the Cheyenne Mountain State Park Draft Management Plan was held on November 29, 2011 and attended by 65 members of the public. The purpose of the open house meeting was to provide information about the plan and the planning process as well as to solicit input from the public on potential enhancement opportunities to be included in the plan. This section provides a breakdown of responses to unique questions posed to the public during Comment Period One.

OUTDOOR RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

Importance of Existing Outdoor Recreation Opportunities

Survey respondents were asked to rate the importance of existing recreational opportunities in the park as “very important”, “somewhat important”, or “not important”. Hiking, mountain biking, and bird/wildlife viewing were the three activities that received the highest number of “very important” responses. In contrast, geocaching, running, and volunteer activities were opportunities with a high percentage of “not important” responses. Figure 7 shows the relative importance of each activity to survey respondents.

Figure 7: How important are each of the existing recreational opportunities to your enjoyment of the Park?



Importance of Potential Outdoor Recreation Opportunities

Survey respondents were also provided with an opportunity to indicate another recreational opportunity at the park and to rate the importance of this “other” activity. Although horseback riding was not an allowed activity at the time of the questionnaire, a high number of responses (179) indicated that equestrian access or other equestrian amenities were “somewhat important” or “very important”. Of amenities existing in the park, natural resources and special events were ranked as the highest “other” opportunities. Table 1 presents all responses to the “other” category of existing outdoor recreation opportunities, noting response rate and importance rankings.

Table 1: Importance of Other Existing Outdoor Recreation Opportunities

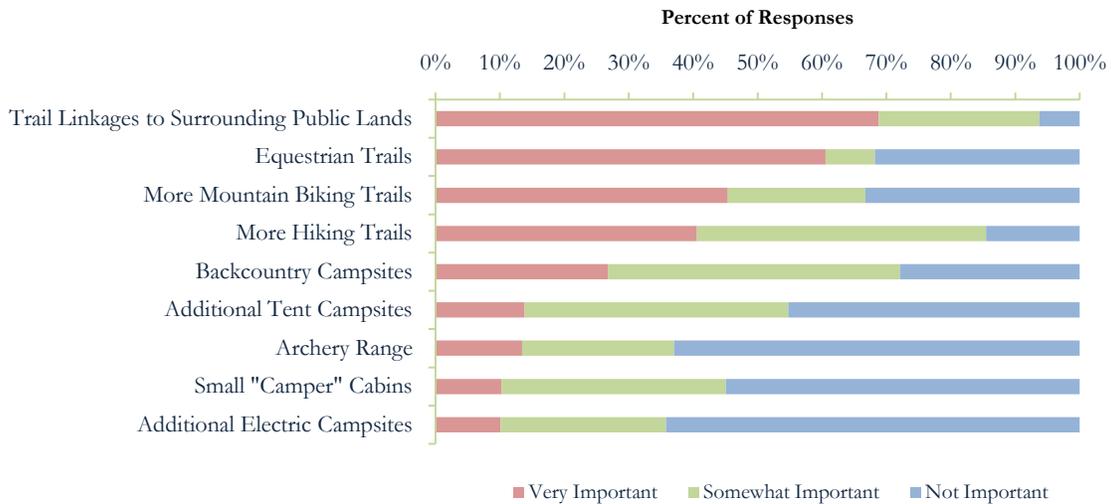
“Other” Activity	Not Important	Somewhat Important	Very Important	No Rating	Total Responses
Equestrian Access/Amenities	1	4	175	12	192
Archery			8		8
Natural Resources			6		6
Special Events			4		4
Cultural Resources			2		2
Mountain Biking			2		2
Rock climbing/bouldering			2		2
Snowshoeing			2		2
Adaptive Sports			1		1
Camper facilities			1		1
Day dreaming			1		1

“Other” Activity (cont.)	Not Important	Somewhat Important	Very Important	No Rating	Total Responses
Motorcycle riding			1		1
Orienteering			1		1
Trail maintenance			1		1
Trail Riding			1		1
Wifi	1				1
Youth Programming				1	1

Importance of Potential Facilities and Infrastructure

Members of the public were also invited to indicate what recreation facilities and infrastructure not currently existing in the park would be important for them. When asked to rate the importance of ten potential types of facilities or infrastructure, respondents indicated that trail linkages to surrounding public lands, equestrian trails, and more mountain biking trails were the three most important potential facilities or infrastructure (based on percentage of “very important” responses). The three facilities/infrastructure that received the highest percentage of “not important” responses were additional electric campsites, establishment of an archery range, and small “camper” cabins. The relative importance ranking of potential additional facilities or infrastructure is presented in Figure 8.

Figure 8: What additional recreational facilities / infrastructure, if any, would you like to see the park provide in the future?



Suggested Additional Facilities and Infrastructure

Survey participants were also provided the opportunity to indicate additional recreational facilities or infrastructure they would like to see at Cheyenne Mountain State Park. Other activities that survey respondents most wanted to see at Cheyenne Mountain State Park were equestrian access, opening the park to dogs, and preservation of natural resources. The full range of suggested additional recreation facilities and opportunities are listed in Table 2 by number of responses.

Table 2: "Other" recreational facilities or infrastructure listed by the public

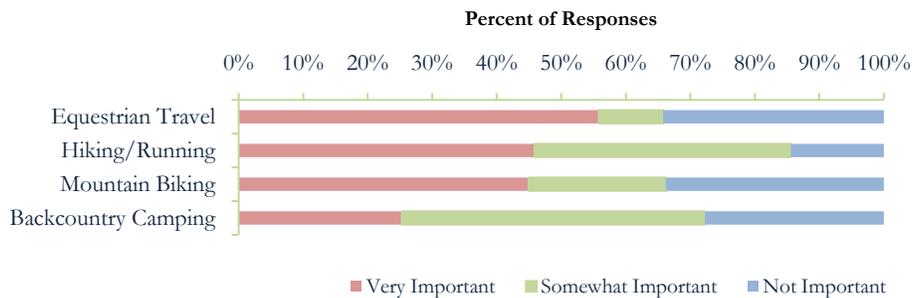
Activity	Number of Responses
Equestrian Access/Amenities	41
Dogs	7
Natural resource preservation	4
No horses	3
Access from Cheyenne Mountain AFB	2
Additional mountain bike trails or amenities	2
Additional visitor services/facilities	2
Environmental education/interpretation	2
Primitive trails	2
Rock climbing/bouldering	2
ADA accessibility	1
Archery	1
Bike path to park	1
Carriage driving	1
Hunting	1
Multi-use trails	1
Paragliding	1
Primitive camping	1
Pump station	1
Puppets and children's books for sale	1
Top of the Mountain trail	1
Trail maintenance	1
Water spigots	1
Yurts	1

TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN (TOM)

Importance of Potential Uses

Survey participants were asked to rate the importance of potential uses for the TOM area. Hiking/running was considered at least somewhat important by 528 of 617 (86%) of respondents while backcountry camping was considered at least somewhat important by 432 of 698 (72%) of respondents. Equestrian travel and mountain biking were both considered at least somewhat important in 66% of survey responses (448 of 681 for equestrian travel and 404 of 610 for mountain biking). Figure 9 depicts questionnaire responses ranking the importance of each potential use.

Figure 9: How important are each of the following potential uses of the Top of the Mountain Area to your enjoyment of the Park?



GENERAL PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Open-ended Comments

To help park planning staff identify potential enhancement opportunities to include in the final management plan, survey participants were asked to identify ways they would improve Cheyenne Mountain State Park. Open-ended responses were categorized and compiled into main categories and sub-categories by frequency of response. Equestrian use, trails, and other amenities or improvements were the three categories that received the highest number of mentions.

Table 3 presents all main comment categories by frequency of response for Comment Period One. The total frequency is higher than the number of comments because any one comment may involve feedback for more than one comment category or sub-category.

Table 3: Main Comment Categories by Frequency of Mention (Comment Period One)

Comment Category	Frequency
Equestrian Use	252
Trails (General)	63
Other Amenities or Improvements	56
Mountain Biking	44
Top of the Mountain	43
Dog Policy	32
Park Management Strategies	15
Entrance Fees and Passes	14
Camping	9
Natural Environment	8
Events	5
Public Meeting	1

Within each main comment category, responses were compiled into sub-categories based on similarity of individual responses. The three most frequent comments across all sub-categories were:

- Allow equestrian access (184 mentions)
- Add more trails for mountain bikers (29 mentions)
- Establish an archery range (26 mentions)

The full compilation of comments by sub-category, type of comment, and frequency of mention follows in Table 4.

Table 4: Comment Sub-Categories by Frequency of Mention and Type of Comment (Comment Period One)

Comment Sub-Categories	Frequency	Type of Comment
<i>Equestrian Use</i>		
Allow equestrian access	184	Suggestion
Do not allow horses in park	18	Suggestion
Add equestrian parking	17	Suggestion
Add trails for equestrian use	13	Suggestion
Establish camping for equestrians	11	Suggestion
Concern about erosion on trails due to equestrians	2	Issue
Add/develop other equestrian amenities	2	Suggestion
Concern about uninformed bias against horse use	1	Issue
Allow partial access for horses	1	Suggestion
Host events for equestrians	1	Suggestion
Suggestion that horses be segregated from other trail users	1	Suggestion
	<i>Total</i>	252

<i>Comment Sub-Categories</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Type of Comment</i>
<i>Trails (General)</i>		
Add trail connections within park and to other public lands	24	Suggestion
Add more trails (general)	11	Suggestion
Add more low-development trails	6	Suggestion
Add more multi-use trails	5	Suggestion
Add more trails for hikers	5	Suggestion
Segregate users on trails	4	Suggestion
Open all trails for multi-use	3	Suggestion
Concern that existing trails are too wide	2	Issue
Mitigate trail wetness and mud	2	Suggestion
Increase trail maintenance	1	Suggestion
	<i>Total</i>	<i>63</i>
<i>Other Amenities or Improvements</i>		
Establish an archery range	26	Suggestion
Enjoy park/existing facilities	15	Comment
Offer greater diversity of activities	4	Suggestion
Additional parking	3	Suggestion
Improve signage and maps	2	Suggestion
More classes/environmental education opportunities	2	Suggestion
Add a pond	1	Suggestion
Add scenic drives	1	Suggestion
Add more interpretive information	1	Suggestion
Allow rock climbing	1	Suggestion
	<i>Total</i>	<i>56</i>
<i>Mountain Biking</i>		
Add more trails for mountain bikers	29	Suggestion
Add more singletrack trails	7	Suggestion
Limit mountain bike access	3	Suggestion
Open a trail for downhill mountain biking	2	Suggestion
Ensure that all park trails are open to mountain bikes	1	Suggestion
Maintain access/amenities for mountain bikes	1	Suggestion
Make trails accessible for three-wheel hand mountain bicycles	1	Suggestion
	<i>Total</i>	<i>44</i>
<i>Top of the Mountain</i>		
Allow mountain bikes on the TOM trail	12	Suggestion
Connect TOM trail to other trails/open space in region	11	Suggestion
Open TOM Trail (general)	11	Suggestion

<i>Comment Sub-Categories</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Type of Comment</i>
<i>Top of the Mountain (cont.)</i>		
Open TOM trail to all users (multi-use)	2	Suggestion
Concern about trail design (erosion, signage, width, etc.)	1	Issue
Concern about user conflict between mountain bikers and equestrians or hikers	1	Issue
Allow horses on TOM trail	1	Suggestion
Design TOM trail as singletrack	1	Suggestion
Do not allow horses on the TOM trail	1	Suggestion
Do not allow mountain bikes on the TOM trail	1	Suggestion
Open TOM trail to hikers only	1	Suggestion
	<i>Total</i>	43
<i>Dog Policy</i>		
Allow dogs	19	Suggestion
Do not allow dogs	13	Suggestion
	<i>Total</i>	32
<i>Park Management Strategies</i>		
Increase marketing	4	Suggestion
Ban motorized uses	2	Suggestion
Involve organized interest groups	2	Suggestion
Minimize development	2	Suggestion
Allow hiker/biker access from alternative entrances	1	Suggestion
Acquire/preserve land on adjacent properties to create buffer from new development	1	Suggestion
Acquire/preserve land to increase size of park	1	Suggestion
Hire more full-time staff	1	Suggestion
Take a lead in incorporating sustainable infrastructure (facilities for charging electric cars, etc)	1	Suggestion
	<i>Total</i>	15
<i>Entrance Fees and Passes</i>		
Reduce or eliminate entrance fee	6	Suggestion
Allow sharing of annual pass between two cars	2	Suggestion
Consider other fee structures (buddy pass, punch card, video toll)	2	Suggestion
Have electronic option for paying park fees	2	Suggestion
Ask all users to pay entrance fee	1	Suggestion
Consider discounted entrance fee for active duty military	1	Suggestion
	<i>Total</i>	14
<i>Camping</i>		
More campsites	3	Suggestion
Add cabins/yurts	2	Suggestion

<i>Comment Sub-Categories</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Type of Comment</i>
<i>Camping (cont.)</i>		
Concern about cost effectiveness of backcountry camping	1	Concern
Improve camper services amenities	1	Suggestion
Keep camper services building open year-round	1	Suggestion
Offer opportunities for backcountry camping	1	Suggestion
	<i>Total</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Natural Environment</i>		
Hire a full-time naturalist	3	Suggestion
Wildlife protection/enhancement should be a priority	2	Suggestion
Avoid oven bird habitat	1	Suggestion
Keep as much land natural as possible	1	Suggestion
Reduce rattle snake population	1	Suggestion
	<i>Total</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Events</i>		
Host more mountain bike and running events	2	Suggestion
Concern about potential equestrian access interfering with mountain bike events	1	Concern
Build events center	1	Suggestion
Waive entrance fees for large events	1	Suggestion
	<i>Total</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Public Meeting</i>		
Concern regarding size of government and role of public in decision making	1	Concern
	<i>Total</i>	<i>1</i>

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD TWO
QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS**

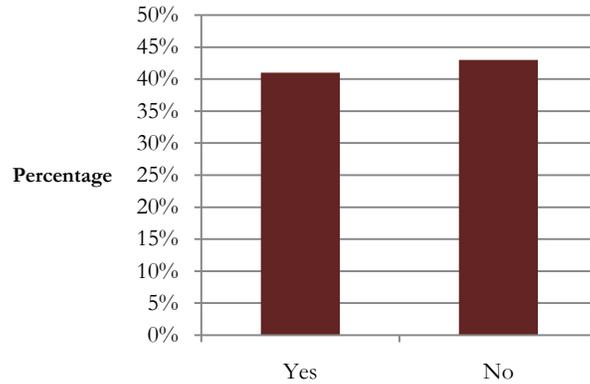
A second public open house meeting was hosted on July 25, 2012. The second meeting was attended by 92 members of the public. Focusing on proposed enhancement opportunities, the meeting provided an opportunity for the public to comment on enhancement opportunities and rate the relative importance of each enhancement. This section provides a breakdown of responses to unique questions posed to the public during Comment Period Two.

Attendance at Previous Public Meetings

Figure 10 shows that there was a relatively even split at Public Meeting Two between those who had attended previous public meetings related to the Cheyenne Mountain State Parks Management Plan

Update (41 of 84, or 49%) and those who had not previously attended such meetings (43 of 84, or 51%).

Figure 10: Have you attended previous public open house meetings related to the Cheyenne Mountain Management Plan Update?



ENHANCEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

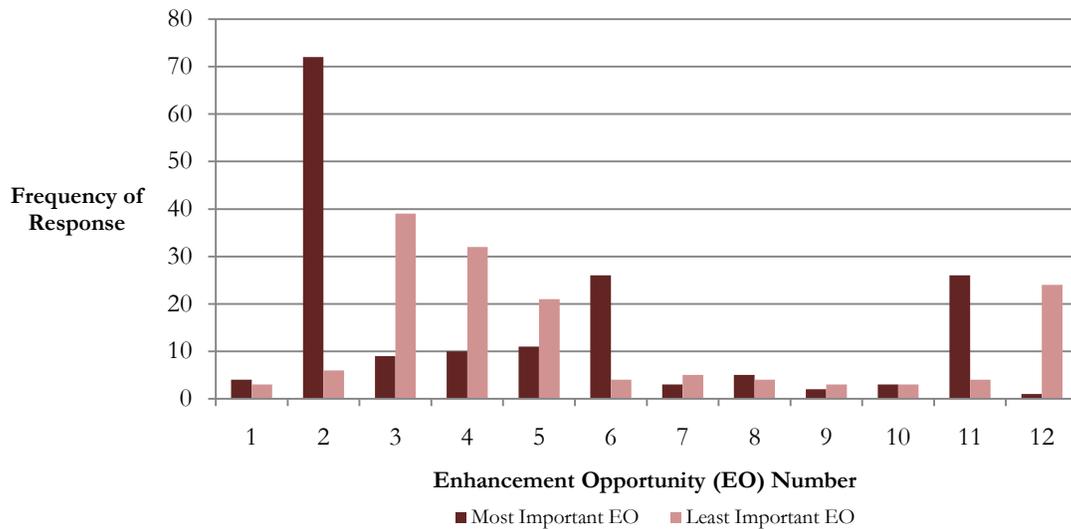
Importance of Proposed Enhancement Opportunities

Survey respondents were provided with an overview of enhancement opportunities proposed for the park plan. Respondents were asked to indicate which two enhancement opportunities they felt were most important, and which two they felt were least important. The following section highlights the ranking of enhancement opportunities as well as justifications provided for these responses.

Table 5: Proposed Enhancement Opportunities

Enhancement Opportunities (EO)	
EO #	EO
1	Address issues associated with Meadows Grinder Pumps
2	Develop and open the Top of the Mountain Trail
3	Establish an archery range
4	Provide four or five overnight camper-style cabins
5	Additional full-service campsites OR an environmental education/interpretive facility
6	Fuels mitigation
7	Seek ways to market Cheyenne Mountain State Park more effectively
8	Strengthen relations with key partners and neighbors
9	Develop a community connections plan
10	Continue efforts to expand the Friends of Cheyenne Mountain State Park
11	Establish western trail connection to Pike National Forest
12	Evaluate and improve park retail operations

Figure 11: Enhancement Opportunities Considered Most and Least Important Based on Frequency of Response



Responses to the questionnaire indicated that the three most important enhancement opportunities were:

- 1) **EO #2: Develop and open the Top of the Mountain Trail (72 mentions).** The most commonly cited rationale for this being an important enhancement opportunity was that the new trail would increase trail mileage and enhance opportunities for trail users.
- 2) **EO #6: Fuels mitigation (26 mentions).** Fuels mitigation was seen as being particularly important in light of recent dry conditions and devastating fires in the Pikes Peak region.
- 3) **EO #11: Establish western trail connections to Pike National Forest (26 mentions).** Similar to EO #2, this enhancement opportunity was considered important for its potential to increase the mileage of trails in the area and to enhance opportunities for trail users.

The three enhancement opportunities identified by respondents as least important were:

- 1) **EO #3: Establish an archery range (39 mentions).** Concerns noted about the archery range primary related to questions of actual demand and concerns about the proposed site location.
- 2) **EO #4: Provide four or five overnight camper-style cabins (32 mentions).** The rationale mentioned most often for placing this enhancement opportunity as least important was a concern about the cost-effectiveness of cabins.

- 3) **EO #12: Evaluate and improve park retail operations (24 mentions).** Respondents who ranked this enhancement opportunity as a low priority most often noted the perception that retail operations will improve naturally as other enhancements are implemented.

Suggested Enhancement Opportunities

When asked to provide ideas about park improvements not mentioned in the draft management plan, respondents provided a broad range of answers. A selection of unique suggestions follows:

- Open the park for seasonal hunting
- Expand the park’s volunteer program
- Establish a disc golf course
- Create an interpretive area for persons with limited physical abilities
- Allow paragliding in the park
- Provide interpretive information related to park geology

GENERAL COMMENTS

Open-ended Responses

Survey respondents were asked to provide additional general comments they would like to share with the Cheyenne Mountain State Park Planning Team. These open-ended responses were combined and categorized into main categories and sub-categories based on common themes observed in the comments. Table 6 represents the main comment categories, listed by frequency of mention.

Table 6: Main Comment Categories by Frequency of Mention (Comment Period Two)

Comment Category	Frequency
Top of the Mountain Trail	54
Equestrian Use	11
Existing Facilities and Amenities	11
Dog Policy	10
Facilities/Amenities not Currently Existing at the Park	9
Public Meeting Format	9
Park Management Strategies	2
Natural Environment	1

Table 7: Comment Sub-Categories by Frequency of Mention and Type of Comment (Comment Period Two)

Comment Sub-Categories	Frequency	Type of Comment
<i>Top of the Mountain (TOM)</i>		
Allow mountain bikes on the TOM trail	16	Suggestion
Open TOM trail to all users (multi-use)	7	Suggestion
Do not allow mountain bikes on TOM trail	7	Suggestion
Concern about user conflict between mountain bikers and equestrians or hikers	6	Issue
Do not allow horses on the TOM trail	4	Suggestion
Allow mountain bikes partial or trial access to the TOM trail	3	Suggestion
Open the TOM trail to mountain bikes and other portions of the park to equestrians	2	Suggestion
Allow horses on TOM trail	2	Suggestion
Concern about trail design (erosion mitigation, allowable tread width, signage, etc.)	1	Issue
Concern about trail difficulty (steepness, lack of water, etc.)	1	Issue
Profile of TOM trail is not rideable for many equestrians	1	Issue
Park neighbor concerned about trail alignment, access, and other issues related to adjoining property	1	Issue
Open TOM trail to hikers only	1	Suggestion
Consider wildlife habitat when building TOM trail	1	Suggestion
Establish primitive campsites on TOM property	1	Suggestion
	<i>Total</i>	<i>54</i>
<i>Equestrian Use</i>		
Allow horses on existing park trails	4	Suggestion
Do not allow horses in park	3	Suggestion
Concern about erosion on trails due to equestrians	1	Issue
Feels that horses should be segregated from other trail users	1	Issue
Concern about horse waste	1	Issue
Question about impact of equestrians on trails compared with other user groups	1	Question
	<i>Total</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Existing Facilities/Amenities</i>		
Enjoy park/existing facilities	8	Comment
Trails are well-marked	1	Comment
Open restrooms year-round	1	Suggestion
Encourage passive park uses	1	Suggestion
	<i>Total</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Dog Policy</i>		
Allow dogs	6	Suggestion
Do not allow dogs	3	Suggestion
Concern about dog waste	1	Issue
	<i>Total</i>	<i>10</i>

<i>Comment Sub-Categories</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Type of Comment</i>
Facilities/Amenities not Currently Existing at the Park		
Concern about archery range location	2	Issue
Consider adding a ropes course	2	Suggestion
Request for more interpretive information	2	Suggestion
Interest in details of archery range management/development	1	Question
Allow paragliding	1	Suggestion
Establish archery range	1	Suggestion
	<i>Total</i>	<i>9</i>
Public Meeting Format		
Publicize public meetings via other venues (TV/radio)	2	Suggestion
Open forum for discussion	2	Suggestion
Appreciates opportunity to provide feedback	1	Comment
Post draft plan online prior to open house	1	Suggestion
Utilize state park venues for open house events	1	Suggestion
Public meeting should have a formal presentation component	1	Suggestion
Request for a pro/con sheet on issues	1	Suggestion
	<i>Total</i>	<i>9</i>
Park Management Strategies		
Consult with mountain bikers regarding design of trails	1	Suggestion
Increase marketing	1	Suggestion
	<i>Total</i>	<i>2</i>
Natural Environment		
Wildlife enhancement should be a priority	1	Suggestion
	<i>Total</i>	<i>1</i>