

# Missouri-Madison 2024 Recreation Visitor Use Counts



*Prepared for*

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## **1 - Background and Purpose**

The primary objectives of the Missouri-Madison Recreation Visitor Use Count Study are to: (1) gain an understanding of total visitation to public recreation sites within the Missouri-Madison Corridor<sup>1</sup>, (2) understand use relationships between these public recreation sites, and (3) identify visitation trends over time. Use count (or visitor volume) information complements information about visitor satisfaction, opinions, and use characteristics acquired through visitor surveys. Information about the magnitude of visitor use helps public agencies effectively manage recreation sites. NorthWestern Energy uses visitation information for recreation planning and reporting associated with its Missouri-Madison Project. In addition, the information provided by the study can be used to support applications for projects considered for funding by the Missouri-Madison River Fund.

The Missouri-Madison Corridor, which extends one mile from the shoreline of Project waterways, is comprised of 155 public recreation sites. Of these, 95 are included in this study while the remaining 60 sites are excluded for various reasons<sup>2</sup>. Of the 95 sites included in the study, 40 are indicator sites and 55 are rotational sites that are monitored using automatic traffic and trail counters. Indicator sites, which are monitored every year, were established for the study to track change over time. Rotational sites are counted every few years, and Indicator sites act as proxies to help estimate use<sup>3</sup> at rotational sites in “non-count” years. Combining site counts with use estimates produces a comprehensive description of use for all study sites across the peak recreation season, which begins the Friday before Memorial Day and ends the Thursday after Labor Day (May 24 – September 5, 2024). Altogether, sites with use *counts* and sites with use *estimates* make up the set of **Inventoried Sites** each year. Use figures for Inventoried Sites are presented in annual reports.

## **2 - Methods**

At each recreation site included in the study, either vehicle counters or infrared trail counters were used to gather use information. At sites where the primary access is via automobile, vehicle counts serve as proxies for recreation groups and provide valuable insights into a site’s use patterns, such as volume and timing of visitation. At sites where the primary access is on foot or bicycle (such as a trail system), infrared counters record individual recreationists as they move past a specific point to generate a count of total site use. For linear trail systems, individual visitor counts at various points along the system provide a comprehensive account of site use.

Throughout this report, use information is presented as traffic volume and reports the number of times a visitor vehicle (or group) accessed Inventoried Sites<sup>4</sup> in the Corridor. For the purposes of

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<sup>1</sup> The Missouri-Madison Corridor includes areas within one mile of the shoreline of the Missouri-Madison Hydroelectric Project, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission license number 2188, consisting of Hebgen, Madison, Hauser, Holter, Black Eagle, Rainbow, Cochrane, Ryan, and Morony hydroelectric developments. The Corridor excludes the Broadwater and Canyon Ferry Projects operated by the State of Montana and Bureau of Reclamation, respectively.

<sup>2</sup> Of the 60 excluded sites, 51 cannot be counted with automatic counters due to site layout (23 are city parks in Great Falls). The remaining 9 sites are located within the Corridor but provide access to areas outside of the Corridor, so these are purposely excluded.

<sup>3</sup> To provide an estimate of site use in any given year requires that the site had previously been monitored with an automatic counter so that relationships of use with other sites were established, and that the site is open to the public with the same relative capacity as when automatic counts were collected.

<sup>4</sup> Total number of sites with use *counts* in 2024 plus sites with use *estimates* in 2024.

this study, visitor group counts assume that each vehicle<sup>5</sup> contained one visitor group (family and/or friends arriving and recreating at a site together). Every time a vehicle entered a site, a group visit was counted. Although the same group might have entered a site several times on a single “trip” to the site (after getting groceries or accessing other areas, for example), each time they re-entered the site it was counted as a group visit. For each site, the amount of vehicle use attributable to administrative or other non-recreational purposes has been estimated and removed from the counts.

At sites with infrared trail counters, one count was tallied each time the infrared beam was broken. On the Great Falls trail system, where trail counters recorded individual users, group estimates were calculated from trail counts based on assumptions about average group size obtained from the 2021-2022 Missouri-Madison Recreation Visitor Survey<sup>6</sup>. Therefore, trail use data is comparable to data from vehicle counts at other sites and allows for aggregation of results. Boat-in sites on Holter Lake were monitored with trail counters on access pathways into the sites.

Estimates of the number of individual recreationists using a site can be made, if necessary, by applying assumptions about the number of recreationists per vehicle at the site. For example, information about average group size and length of stay that was acquired from recreation site visitor surveys can be used to extrapolate “visitor days” from vehicle traffic counts.

This report provides visitor traffic. To convert the traffic information into visitor groups or visitor days, the following procedures were utilized:

- For reservoir sites, multiply traffic counts by 0.7 (70%). It is assumed that three in every ten entrances into a recreation site are made by groups that left and re-entered the site after their initial entry into it. This process accounts for those multiple entries.
- For river sites, multiply traffic counts by 0.53 (53%). Information from the 2021-2022 Missouri-Madison Visitor Survey reveals that about 53 percent of groups utilizing a recreation site located along one of the river stretches in the corridor indicated a primary activity of boating or boat fishing, which would take them from one access point (put-in) to another access point downstream (take-out). Shuttling of people with more than one vehicle between the sites creates a high number of counts, and this process accounts for those multiple entries.

### **3 - Factors Influencing Visitation**

There are a variety of factors that can influence participation in outdoor recreation and use of public recreation sites. While some of these factors are easier to identify than others, some of the most influential factors are weather (temperatures, precipitation, wind), water conditions (lake/reservoir elevation changes, river flows, timing or duration of spring runoff), wildfire, economic factors (general economic conditions, fuel and travel costs), situational factors that are specific to the Corridor or areas of the Corridor (site closures for reconstruction, dam repairs/upgrades, restrictions on specific activities such as fishing, etc.), and social conditions (such as a global pandemic).

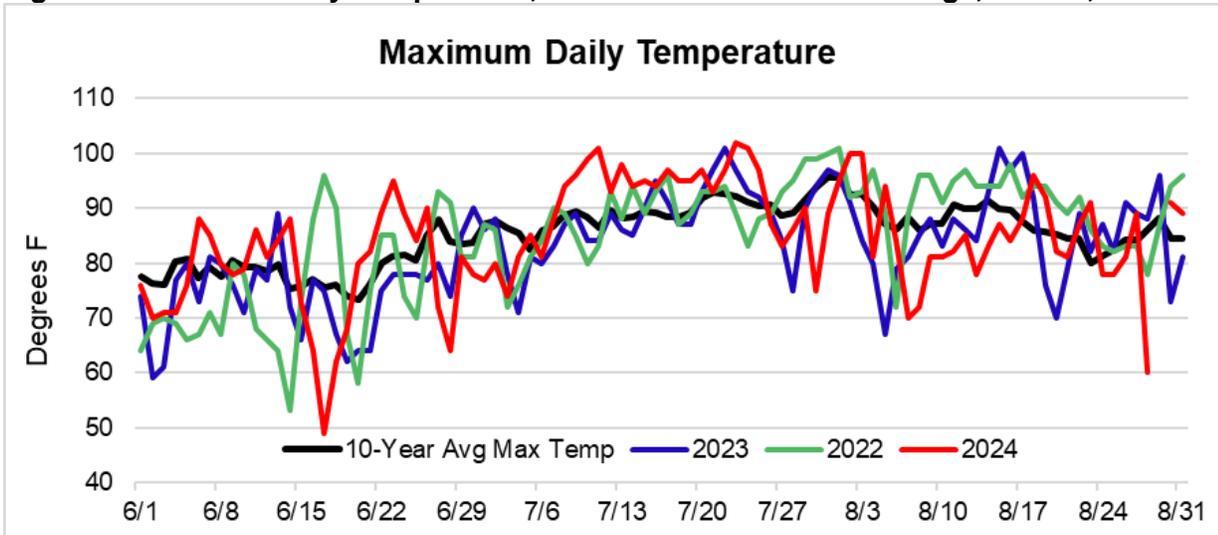
Maximum daily temperatures during the peak recreation season in 2024 were slightly higher than 2023 and 2022 overall, but with a few cooler and rainy days early in the season (Figure 1). The early season in 2024 brought 68 percent less precipitation than 2023 and 19 percent less than 2022 (Figure 2). Other factors influencing visitation along parts of the corridor were “Hoot Owl” restrictions where fishing on the Madison River was closed during the afternoon hours beginning July 22.

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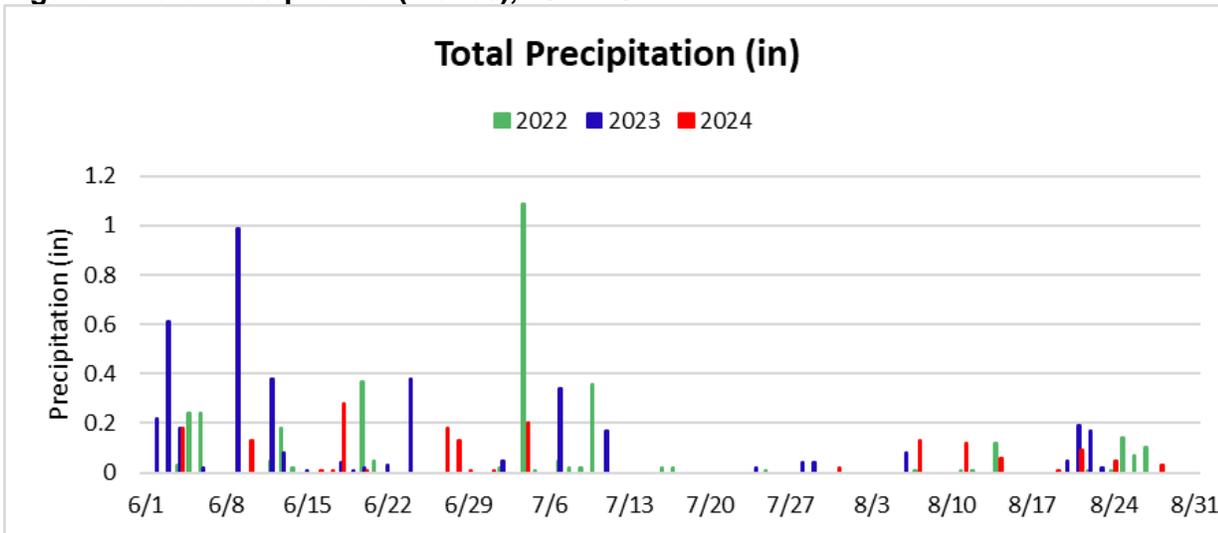
<sup>5</sup> “Vehicle” includes any units into, such as boats or trailers, without affecting the total counts collected.

<sup>6</sup> Missouri-Madison Project 2021-2022 Recreation Visitor Study Report, July 2023. NorthWestern Energy.  
*Missouri-Madison 2024 Visitor Use Counts*

**Figure 1: Maximum Daily Temperature, 2022-2024 and 10-Year Average, Helena, MT**



**Figure 2: Total Precipitation (inches), 2022-2024**



The U.S. Energy Information Administration<sup>7</sup> reported that the average per-gallon gas price during June, July, and August of 2024 were higher than average, but 23 percent lower than in 2022, when prices were higher than they had been for more than a decade. Prices decreased by 18 percent from 2022 to 2023 and 6 percent from 2023 to 2024.

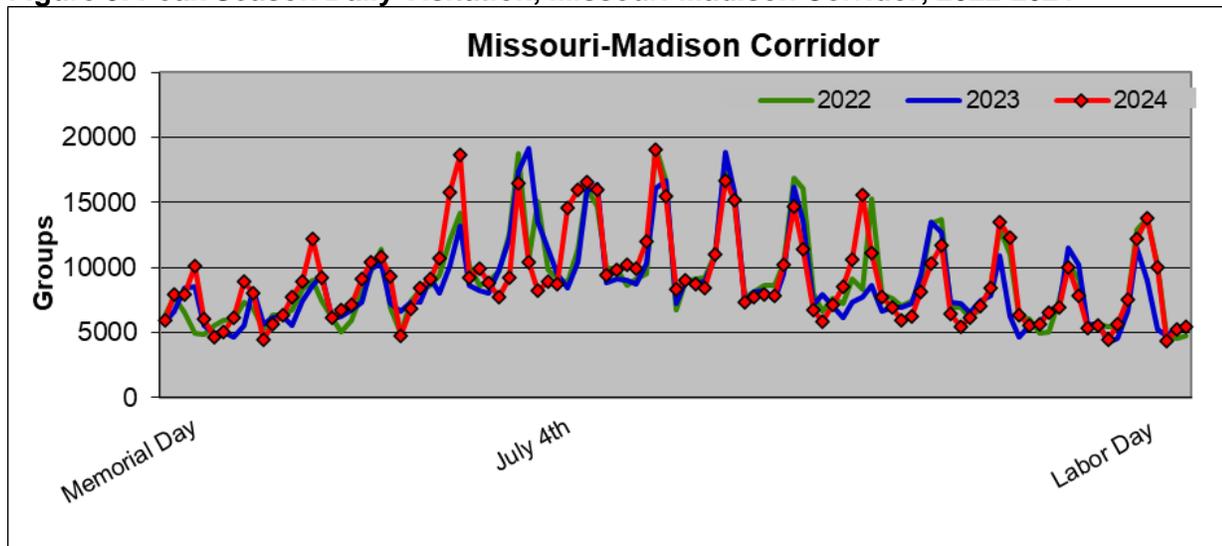
<sup>7</sup> [https://www.eia.gov/dnav/pet/hist/LeafHandler.ashx?n=pets&s=emm\\_epm0\\_pte\\_nus\\_dpg&f=m](https://www.eia.gov/dnav/pet/hist/LeafHandler.ashx?n=pets&s=emm_epm0_pte_nus_dpg&f=m)  
 Missouri-Madison 2024 Visitor Use Counts

#### 4 - Missouri-Madison Corridor 2024 Visitation Summary

Visitor use at recreation sites during summer 2024 exhibited the second highest visitation recorded over the past 18 years (since use counts began in 2007). In 2024, 30 percent of the total visitation throughout the Corridor occurred through the end of June and 70 percent of visitation occurred after June 30<sup>th</sup>. This pattern closely mirrors 2023 when 28 percent of total visitation occurred through June 30 and 72 percent after June 30, and 2022 when 27 percent of visitation occurred through the end of June and 73 percent occurred after June 30.

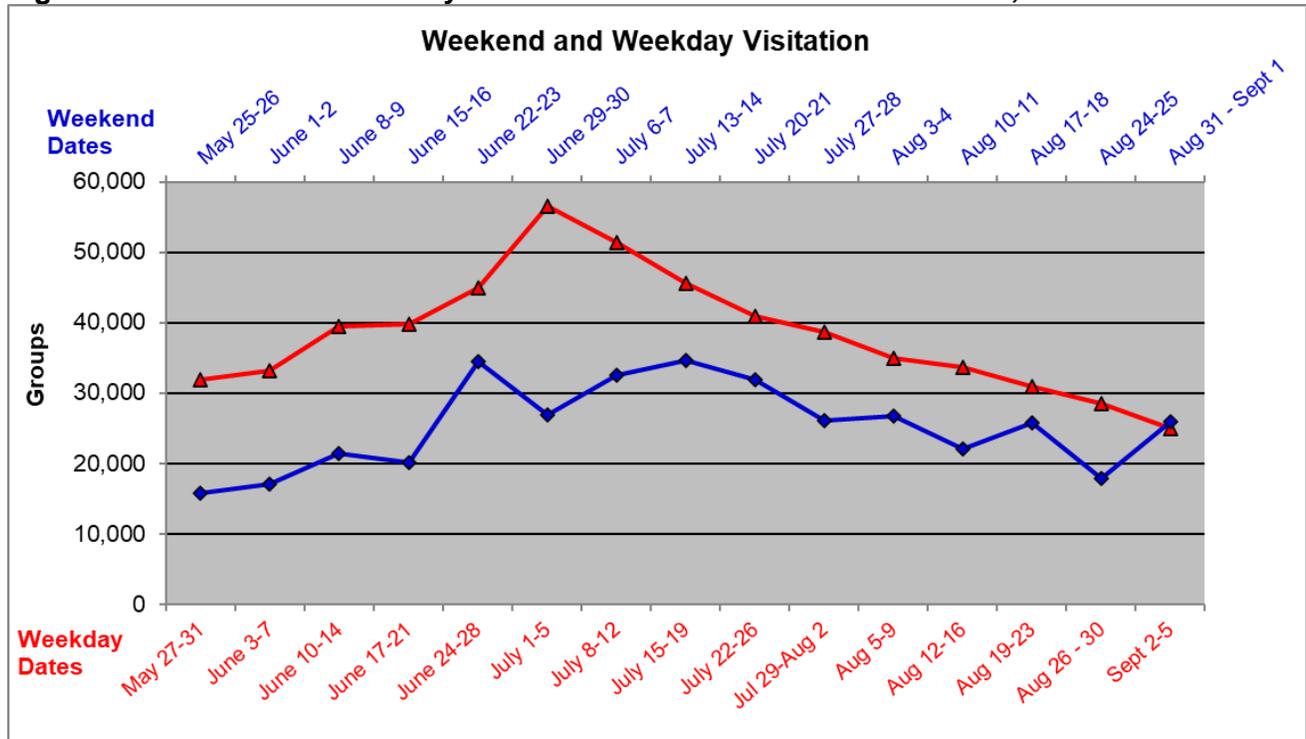
Inventoried Sites in the Missouri-Madison Corridor hosted 960,188 recreation group visits during the peak recreation season of May 24 – September 5, 2024. Peak daily use of Inventoried Sites occurred on July 13<sup>th</sup> when 19,058 group visits were recorded in the Corridor. On average, recreation sites hosted a total of 9,145 groups per day (Figure 3).

**Figure 3: Peak Season Daily Visitation, Missouri-Madison Corridor, 2022-2024**



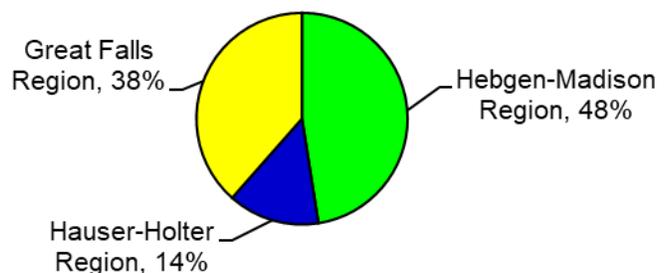
Weekend use throughout the season ranged from a two-day low of 15,823 group visits on May 25-26, to a high of 36,570 group visits on July 13-14. On average, recreation sites in the Corridor hosted a total of more than 25,267 group visits per two-day weekend (12,634 per day), for a total of 379,008 groups or 39 percent of total visitation. Weekday use throughout the season ranged from a low of 24,968 group visits on September 2-5 to a high of 56,501 group visits on July 1-5. On average, recreation sites in the Corridor hosted a total of more than 38,347 group visits per five-day week (7,669 per day) for a total of 581,180 group visits or 61 percent of total visitation (Figure 4).

**Figure 4: Weekend and Weekday Visitation to Missouri-Madison Corridor, 2024**



The Hebgen-Madison Region hosted the largest portion of all Corridor use (48%), while visitation to the Great Falls Region accounted for more than one-third (38%) of total use and the Hauser-Holter Region accounted for 14 percent of total Corridor visitation (Figure 5).

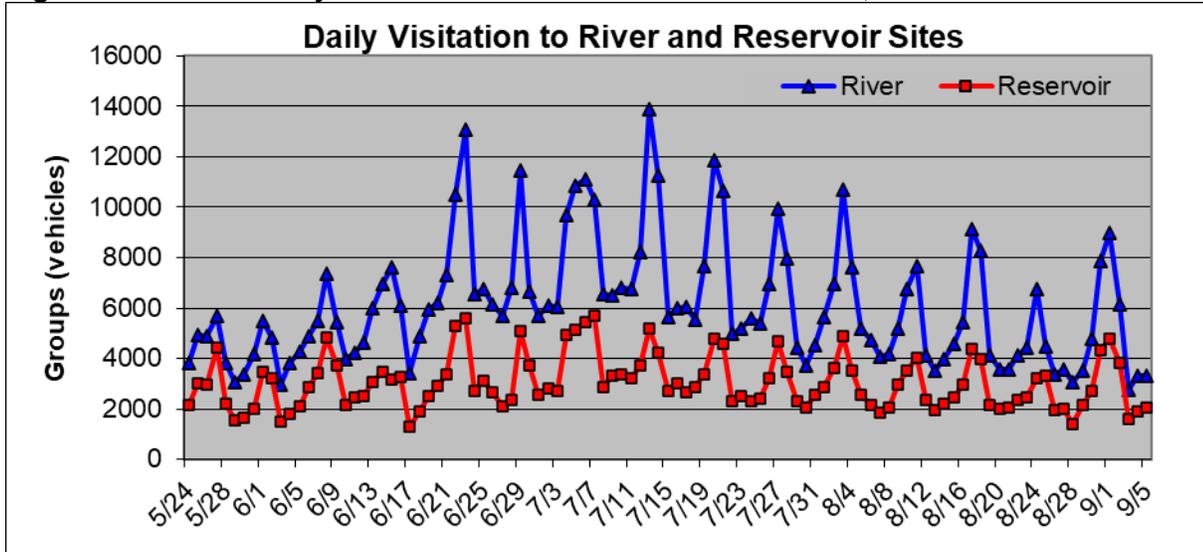
**Figure 5: Percent of Summer Visitation by Region**



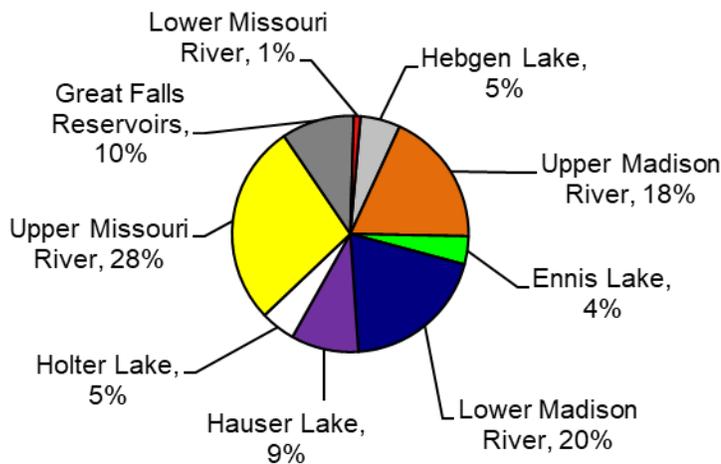
### 4.1 - River vs. Reservoir Sites

More than two-thirds (67%) of the estimated visitation for Inventoried Sites in the Corridor in 2024 was associated with recreation sites along river reaches and nearly one-third (33%) was associated with sites on Project reservoirs. Peak use of recreation sites occurred on July 13<sup>th</sup> when 13,865 group visits were recorded at river sites and 5,193 group visits were recorded at reservoir sites (Figure 6). The Madison River (upper and lower segments combined) accounted for 38 percent of visitation Corridor-wide, while the 9 Project reservoirs accounted for 33 percent and the Missouri River accounted for 29 percent (Figure 7).

**Figure 6: Summer Daily Visitation to River and Reservoir Sites, 2024**



**Figure 7: Percent of 2024 Summer Visitation by River/Reservoir Segment**

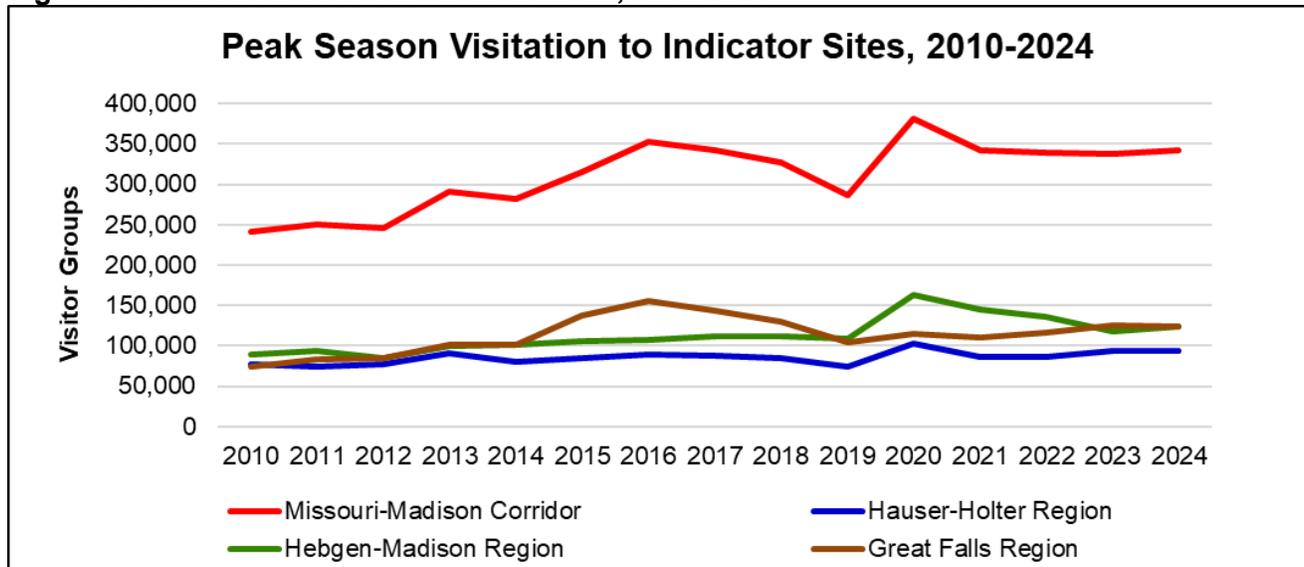


## 4.2 - Change in Use Over Time

A set of 40 indicator sites were established and are counted in each of the annual studies. Of these sites, 19 are in the Hebgen-Madison Region, 10 are in the Hauser-Holter Region, and 11 are in the Great Falls Region. Since the set of counted sites varies somewhat each year, it is more accurate to analyze use trends from the standpoint of a consistent subset of sites (Indicator Sites) than from Inventoried Sites that vary year to year.

Changes in use at Indicator Sites revealed that 2024 increased by five percent compared to 2023. In the Hebgen-Madison Region, a decrease of less than one percent was recorded. Hauser-Holter Region visitation increased by one percent. Great Falls visitation increased one percent overall (Figure 8, Table 1). Corridor-wide, 2024 visitation was 101 percent of 2022 visitation, 120 percent of 2019 visitation, and 142 percent of 2010 visitation.

**Figure 8: Annual Visitation to Indicator Sites, 2010-2024**



**Table 1: Percent change in peak season visitation compared to prior year.**

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Missouri-Madison Corridor	-12%	33%	-10%	-1%	<-1%	5%
Hebgen-Madison Region	-3%	50%	-11%	-6%	-13%	<1%
Hauser-Holter Region	-12%	38%	-16%	<-1%	9%	-1%
Great Falls Region	-21%	11%	-5%	6%	7%	1%

### **4.3 - Summary and Conclusions**

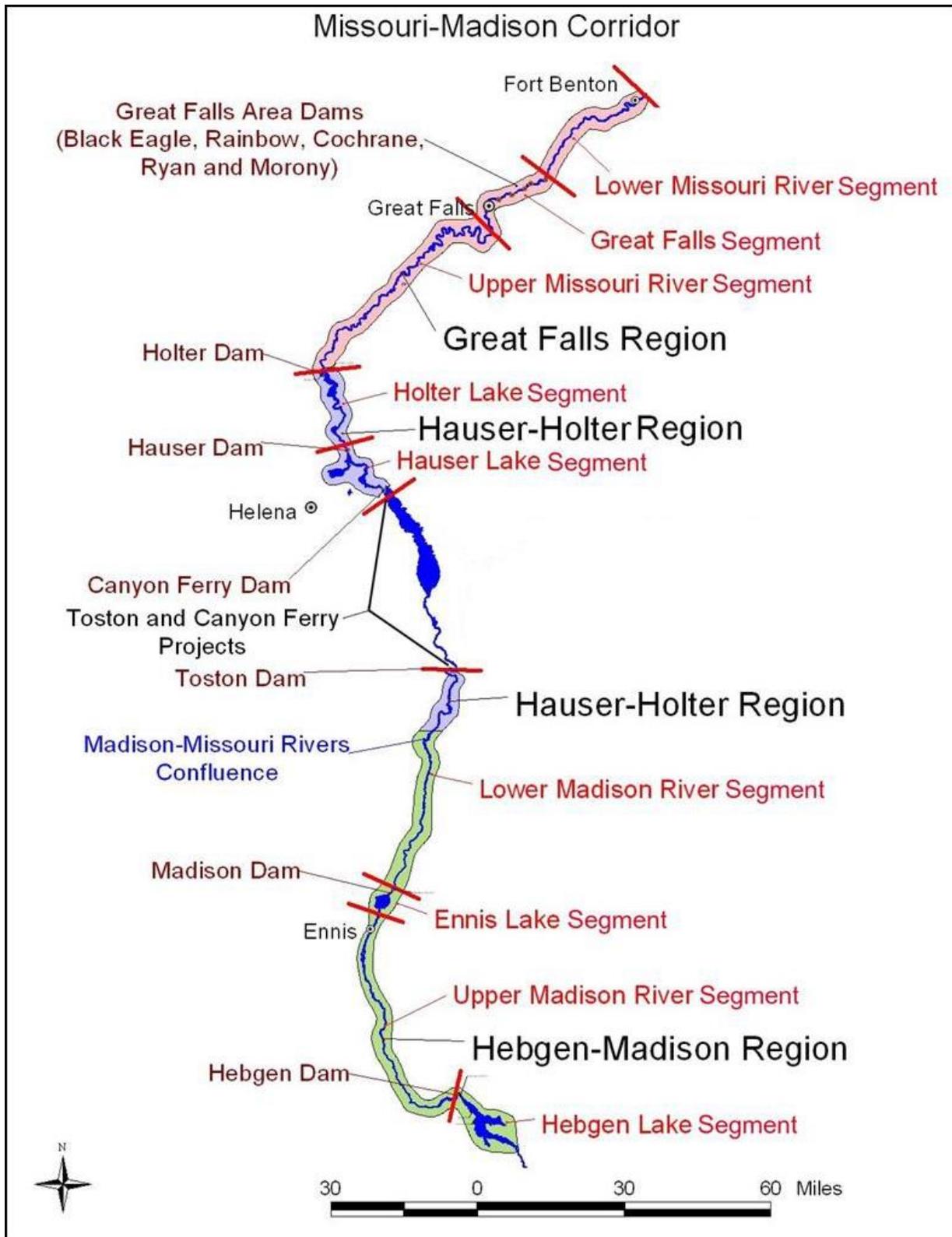
The Missouri-Madison Corridor hosted 960,188 recreation group visits at inventoried sites during the peak recreation season of May 24 – September 5, 2024. This visitation was on par with 2023 visitation levels and patterns and exhibited a total increase of five percent year over year.

Peak daily use occurred on July 13<sup>th</sup> with 19,058 group visits. Weekend days accounted for 39 percent of all peak season visits and just over 379,000 group visits. Weekdays accounted for 61 percent and roughly 581,000 group visits. Recreation sites on Missouri and Madison River reaches accounted for 67 percent of visitation while the nine project reservoirs accounted for 33 percent. The Madison River hosted 38 percent of all visits, followed by the nine reservoirs (33%) and the Missouri River (29%).

In general, 2024 visitation was slightly higher for all areas of the Hebgen-Madison Region than in 2023. This was also true for the Hauser-Holter Region, especially in June. In the Great Falls Region, visitation to sites on the Missouri River was slightly higher in 2024, though visitation to sites in the Great Falls City area was slightly lower than in 2023.

The following map depicts the three regions and nine segments of the Missouri-Madison Corridor for the purposes of the Visitor Use Counts Study (Figure 9).

**Figure 9: Missouri-Madison Corridor Map**



## **Appendix A: Hebgen-Madison Region Visitation**

**Table 2: Total Peak Season Recreation Visitation to Hebgen-Madison Region Sites**

*Note: Figures provided in this table represent counts collected with automatic counters unless denoted by (°), which are estimates based on relationships established by this monitoring effort. In addition, “n/a” notations indicate that data is not available.*

<b>Hebgen Lake Sites</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Spring Creek Campground	1974 °	4218	2656	2283	2281	2324
Cherry Creek Campground	3011 °	4832	4142	4018 °	3576 °	3145
Fisherman’s Point day use (individuals)	n/a	4778 °	1669	1791	1512 °	1542 °
Lonesomehurst Campground	10,912	17,040	18,679	18,176	14,331	18,320
Rainbow Point Campground	14,089	15,866	14,396	13,099	13,078	12,885
Horse Butte Day Use Area	2492 °	4709	7428	8245 °	6925 °	6779
Yellowstone Holiday Picnic Site	2089	2961	2246	2500	2092	2243
Kirkwood Picnic Site	2235 °	3729	4023	4466 °	3751 °	2625
The Lake That Tilted	3845	4822	5209	3867	2141	3147
Hebgen Dam Day Use Area	CLOSED	n/a	4242	n/a	n/a	n/a

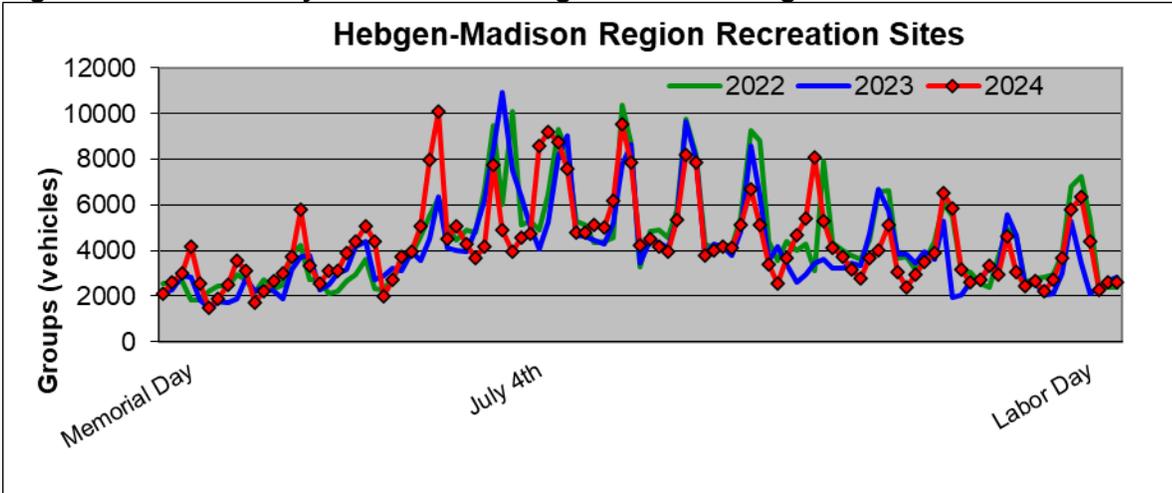
<b>Upper Madison River Sites</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Madison River Picnic Site	n/a	n/a	1745	n/a	n/a	2782
Cabin Creek Campground/Trlhd	n/a	n/a	6515	n/a	n/a	5869
Ghost Village	n/a	6602 °	8068	10,085°	10,589°	9797
Quake Lake Boat Launch	n/a	n/a	9601	n/a	n/a	4130
Raynolds’ Pass FAS	n/a	8150	6448	8301	8399	7737
Three Dollar Bridge FAS	n/a	10,063	7743	9679 °	10,141	9612 °
Kirby Area	n/a	8237	6641	5180 °	6101	5829
West Fork Campground	n/a	2175	2930	2461 °	1939	1818
Lyon’s Bridge FAS	12,947	20,825	21,436	18,004	16,610	17,765
Windy Point Boat Launch	n/a	8023	9091	7636 °	8041	9048
Palisades Recreation Area	7906	11,120	10,643	8258	7838	7904
Ruby Creek Campground	n/a	5800	3809	3923 °	3046	2886
Ruby Creek Boat Launch	n/a	5734	5565	5732 °	5421	5364
McAtee Bridge FAS	10,214	14,077	13,072	13,419	12,858	13,433
Storey Ditch Boat Launch	n/a	6984	7286	7505 °	6353	5903

<b>Upper Madison River (cont'd)</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Varney Bridge FAS	n/a	18,552	18,007	15,628	16,165	16,170
Eight Mile Ford FAS	n/a	12,785	12,992	13,120	13,443	12,622
Burnt Tree Hole FAS	n/a	7704	8521	7759	7757	10,976
Ennis FAS	16,179	17,002	17,066	16,794	16,007	16,261
Valley Garden FAS	9634	9908	13,322	11,597	12,114	11,354

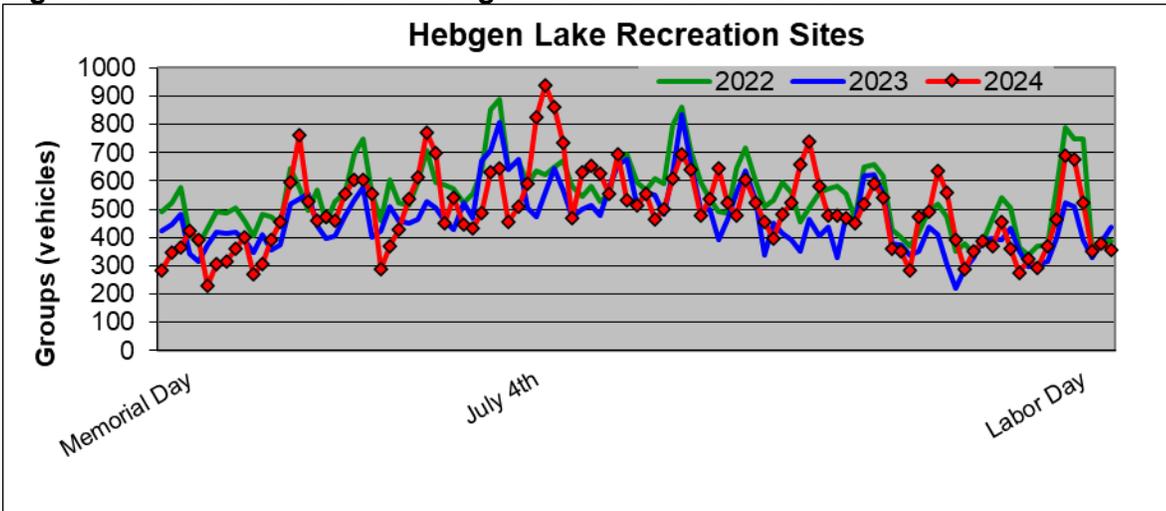
<b>Ennis Lake Sites</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Madison Powerhouse Canyon	8199	10,362	8638	8335	8028	8087
Kobayashi Beach	15,642	18,596	15,812	15,604	16,210	18,043
Meadow Lake FAS	5612	7661	6620	5988	5971	6177
Clute's Landing	6734 <sup>e</sup>	5589	4738	4264 <sup>e</sup>	4251 <sup>e</sup>	4656

<b>Lower Madison River Sites</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Warm Springs Creek Access	37,617	67,440	61,014	58,347 <sup>e</sup>	45,038	46,303
California Corner	7523 <sup>e</sup>	25,163	21,597	21,590	21,940	23,896
Canaday Boat Launch	8652 <sup>e</sup>	10,711	7630	8169 <sup>e</sup>	8884	8739
Red Mountain Campground	8027	17,050	9611	8500	8037	8252
Bear Trap Canyon Trailhd Parking	2257 <sup>e</sup>	3508	2408	2882 <sup>e</sup>	2399	2370
Bear Trap Road	4890 <sup>e</sup>	3458	2535	2917 <sup>e</sup>	1831	2398
Damselfly FAS	5165 <sup>e</sup>	11,124	12,348	11,612 <sup>e</sup>	13,339	12,923
Trapper Springs	3386 <sup>e</sup>	5767	4413	4668 <sup>e</sup>	4226	3677
Black's Ford FAS	38,818	72,813	61,887	60,778	53,164	56,219
Grey Cliff FAS	6149	9643	6938	7741	6752	6969
Cobblestone FAS	1414 <sup>e</sup>	2467	2223	1973	1940	2236
Milwaukee FAS	5823 <sup>e</sup>	11,786	12,201	17,888	10,611	12,052
Fairweather FAS	3105 <sup>e</sup>	4984	4951 <sup>e</sup>	4862 <sup>e</sup>	4253 <sup>e</sup>	3630

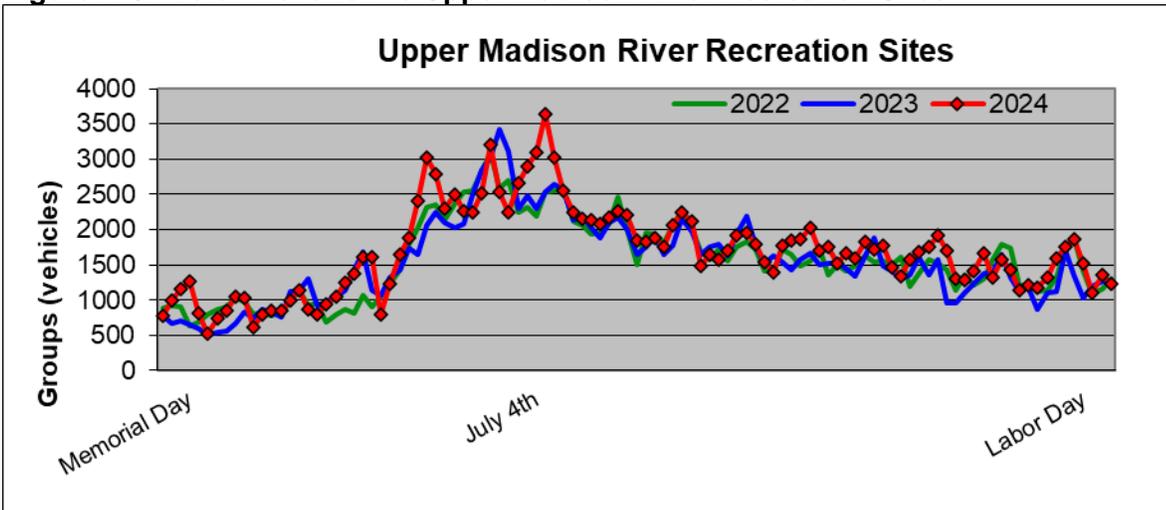
**Figure A-1: Total Daily Visitation to Hebgen-Madison Region Recreation Sites**



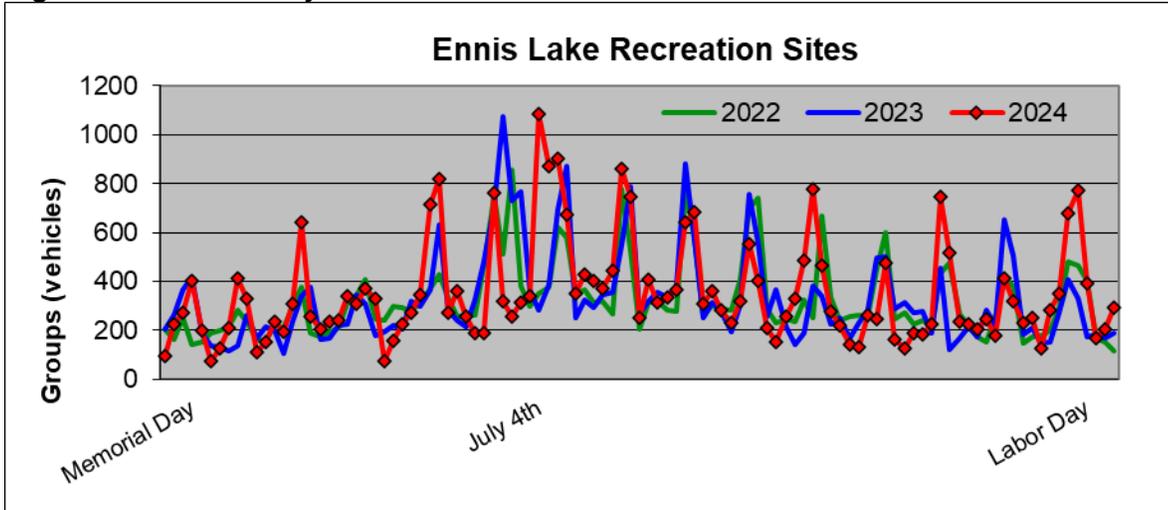
**Figure A-2: Total Visitation to Hebgen Lake Recreation Sites**



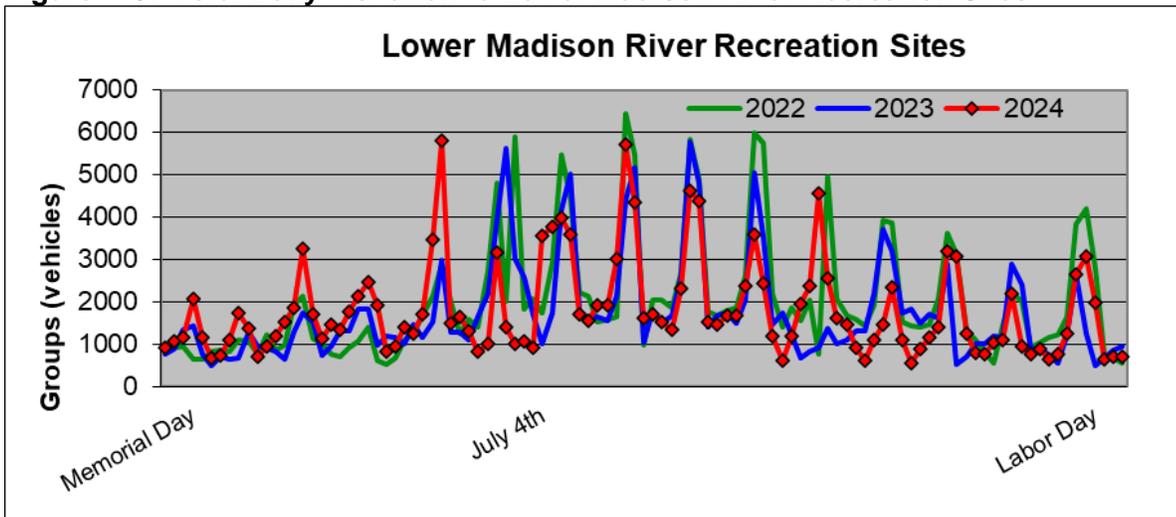
**Figure A-3: Total Visitation to Upper Madison River Recreation Sites**



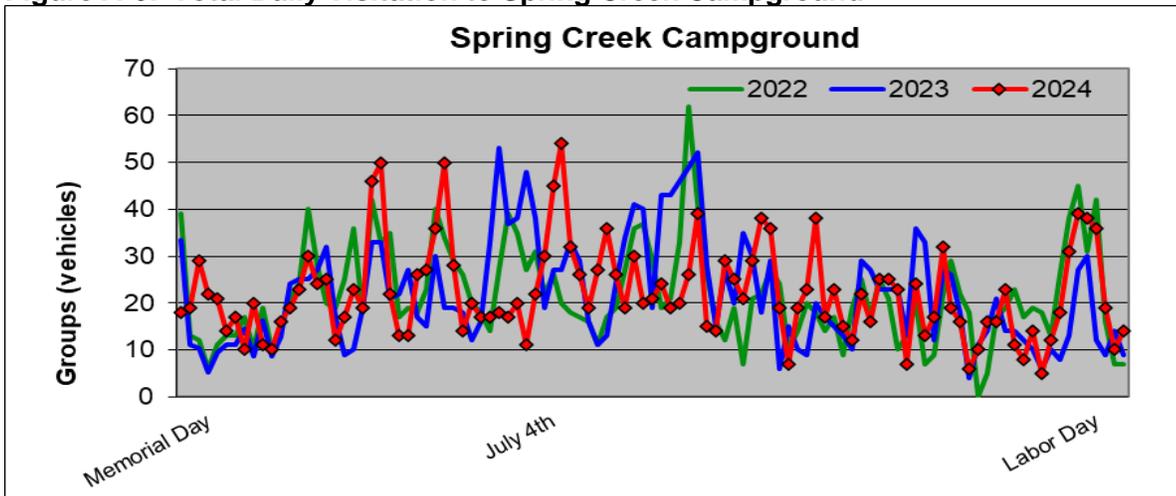
**Figure A-4: Total Daily Visitation to Ennis Lake Recreation Sites**



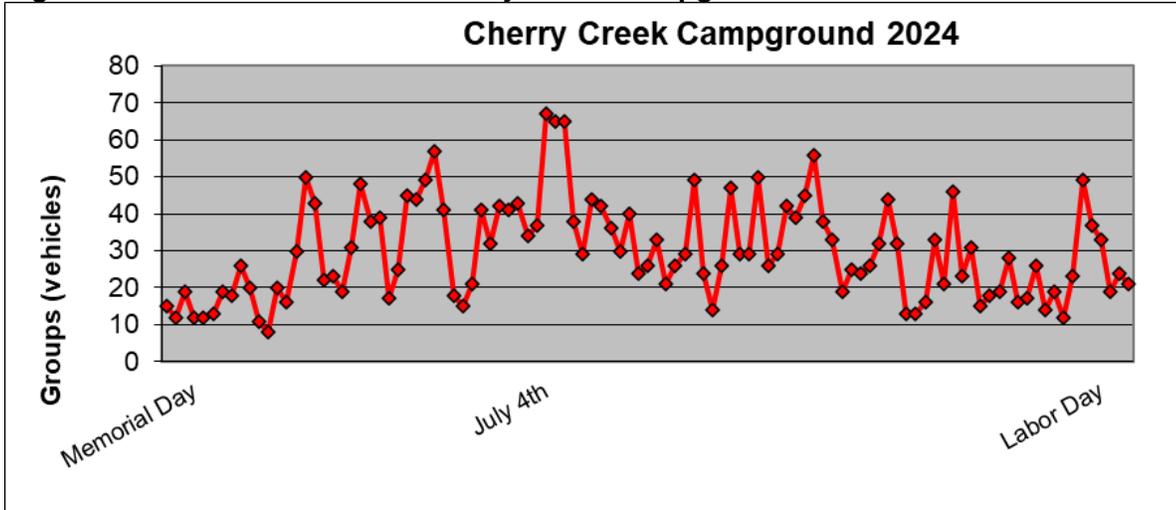
**Figure A-5: Total Daily Visitation to Lower Madison River Recreation Sites**



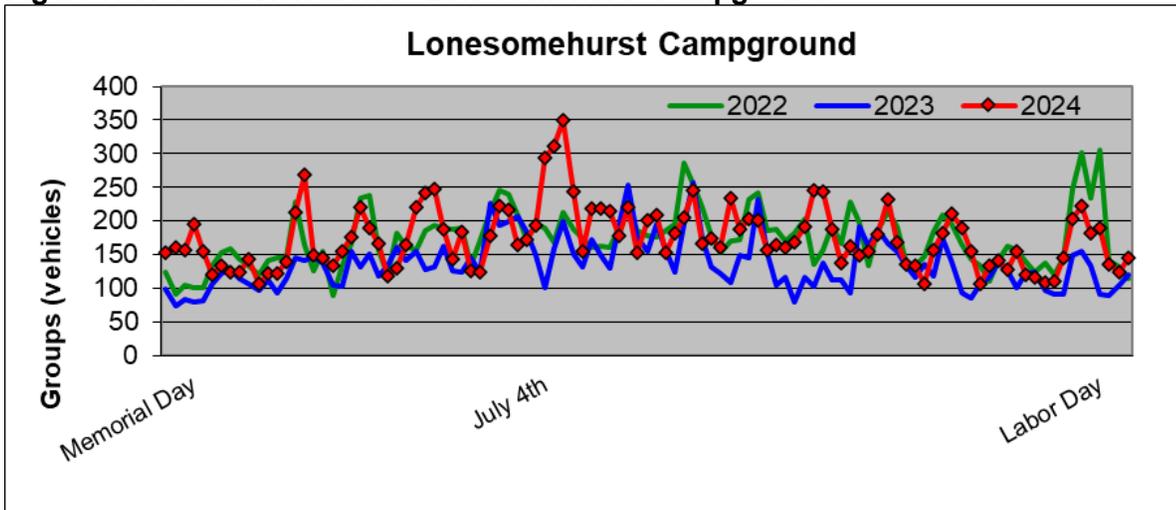
**Figure A-6: Total Daily Visitation to Spring Creek Campground**



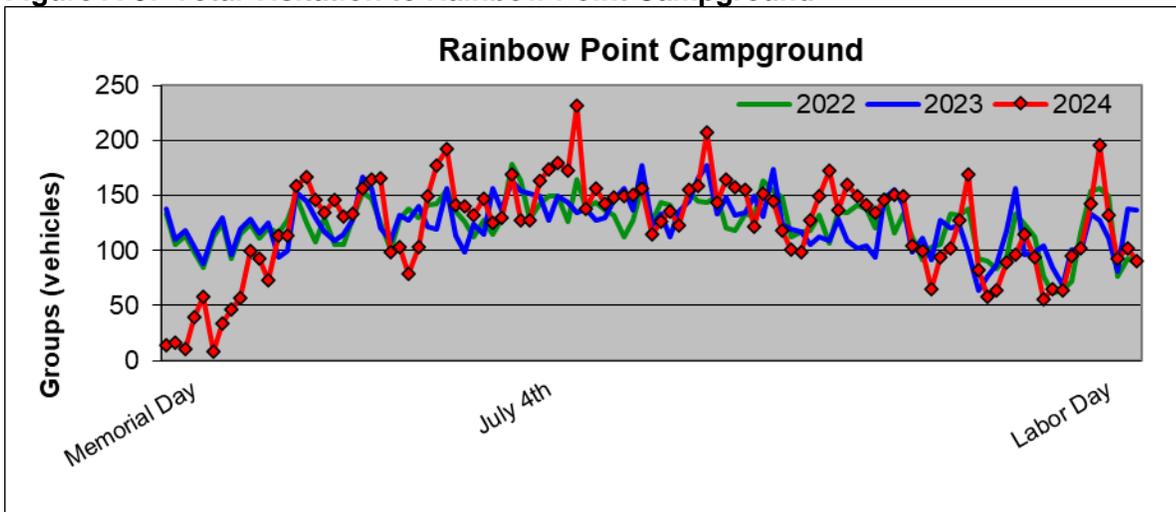
**Figure A-7: Total Visitation to Cherry Creek Campground**



**Figure A-8: Total Visitation to Lonesomehurst Campground**

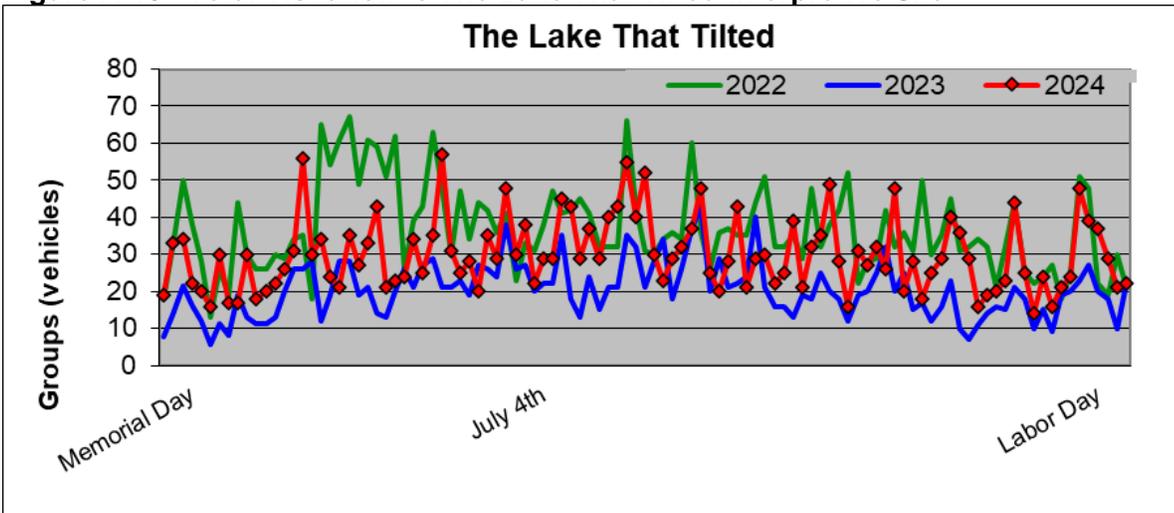


**Figure A-9: Total Visitation to Rainbow Point Campground**

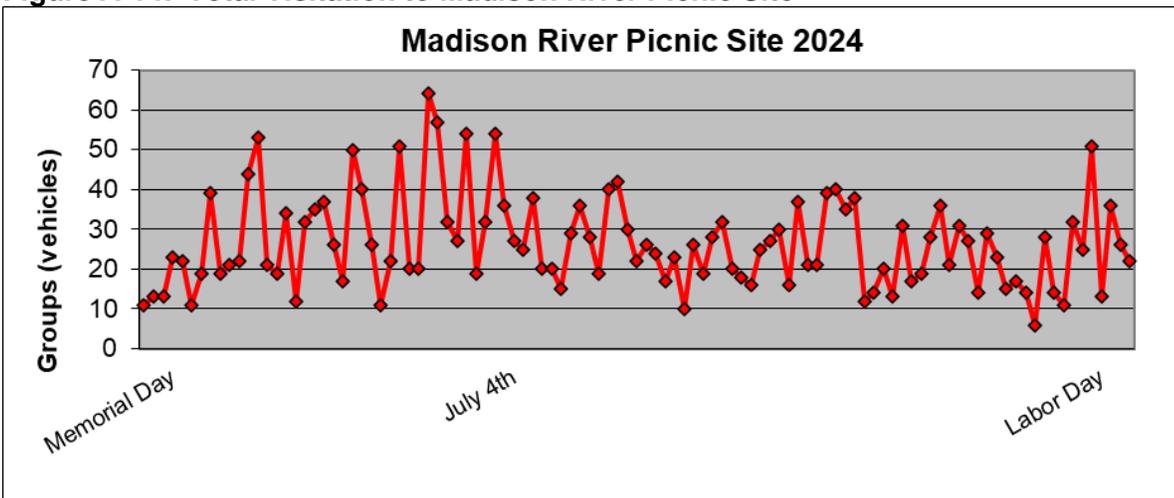




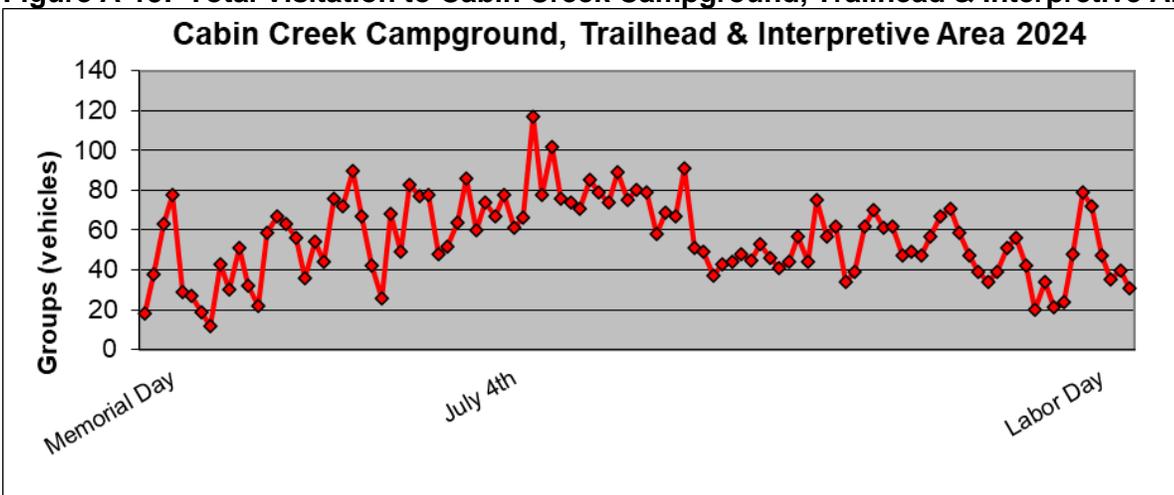
**Figure A-13: Total Visitation to The Lake That Tilted Interpretive Site**



**Figure A-14: Total Visitation to Madison River Picnic Site**

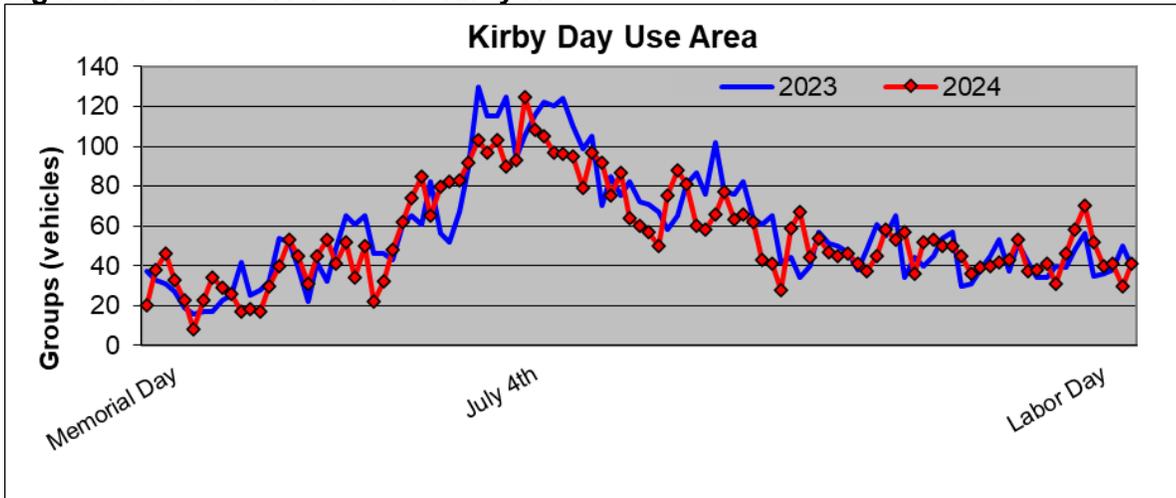


**Figure A-15: Total Visitation to Cabin Creek Campground, Trailhead & Interpretive Area**

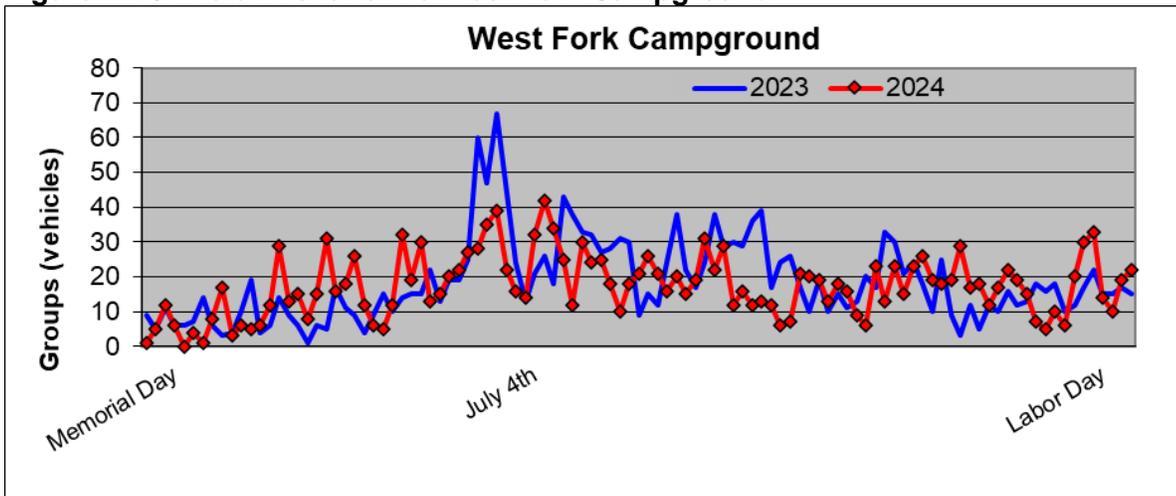




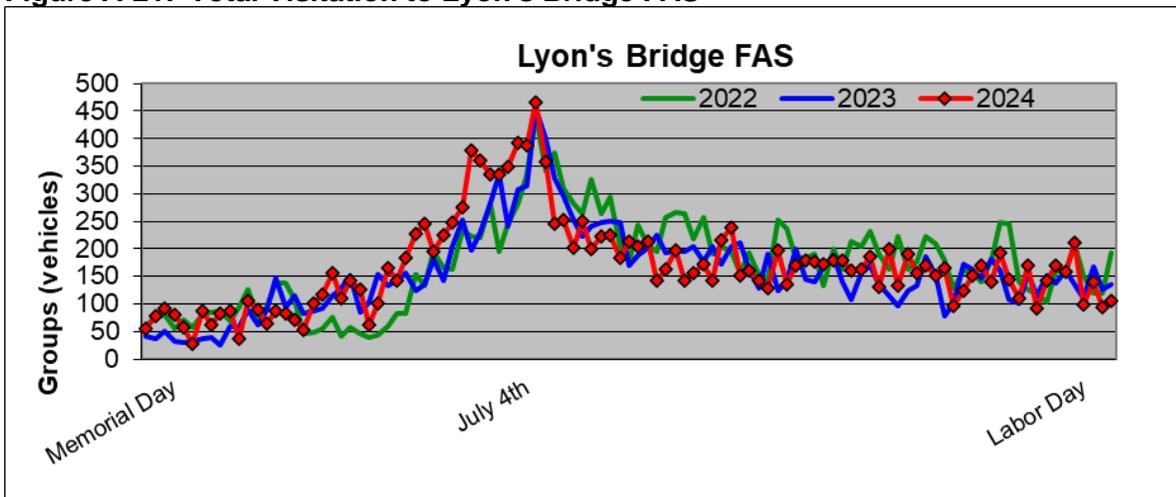
**Figure A-19: Total Visitation to Kirby Area**



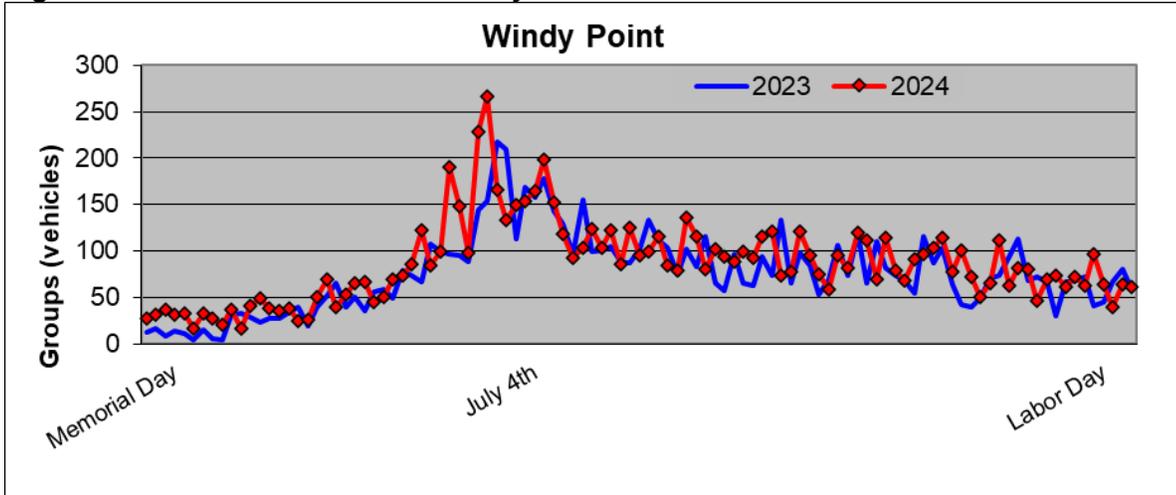
**Figure A-20: Total Visitation to West Fork Campground**



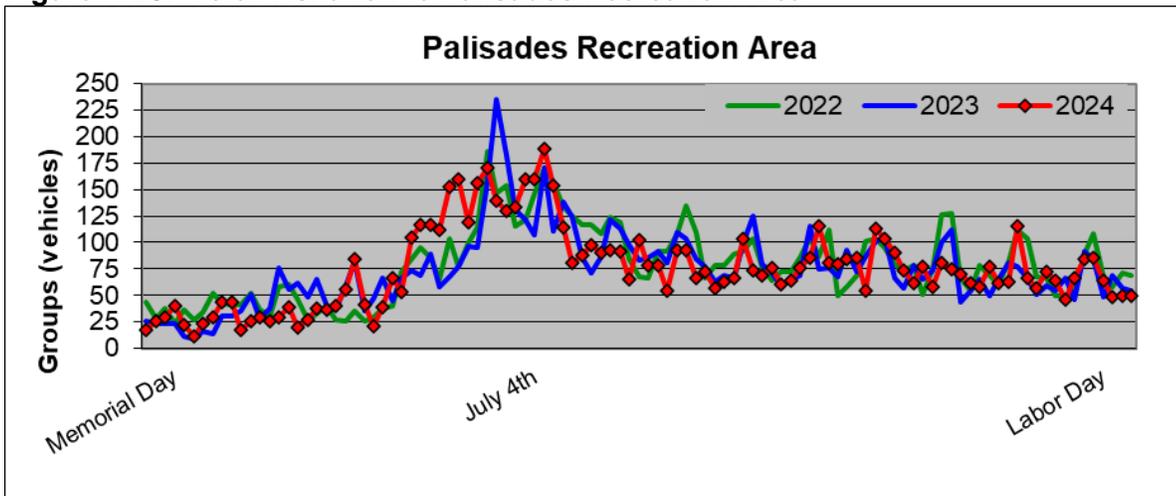
**Figure A-21: Total Visitation to Lyon's Bridge FAS**



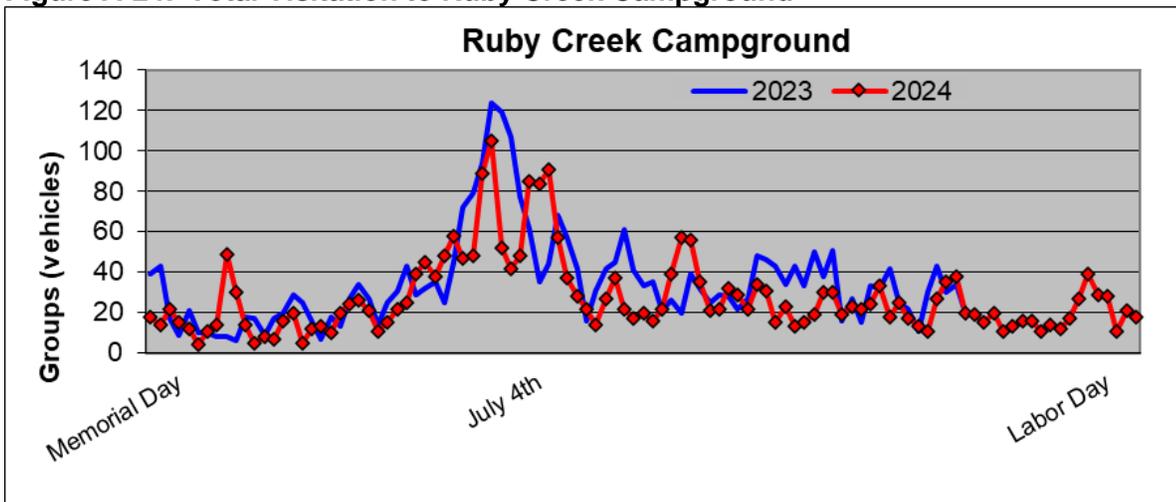
**Figure A-22: Total Visitation to Windy Point Boat Launch**



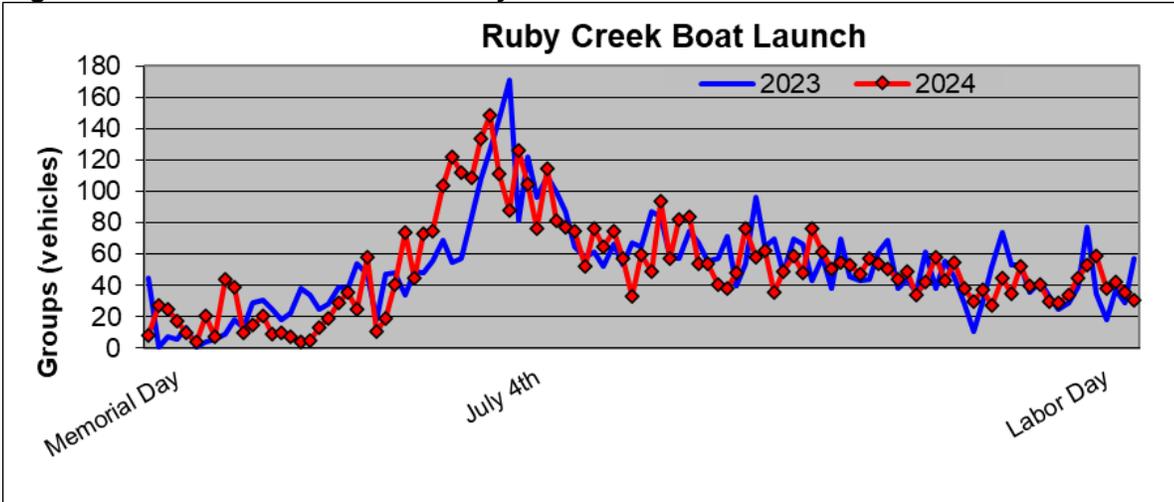
**Figure A-23: Total Visitation to Palisades Recreation Area**



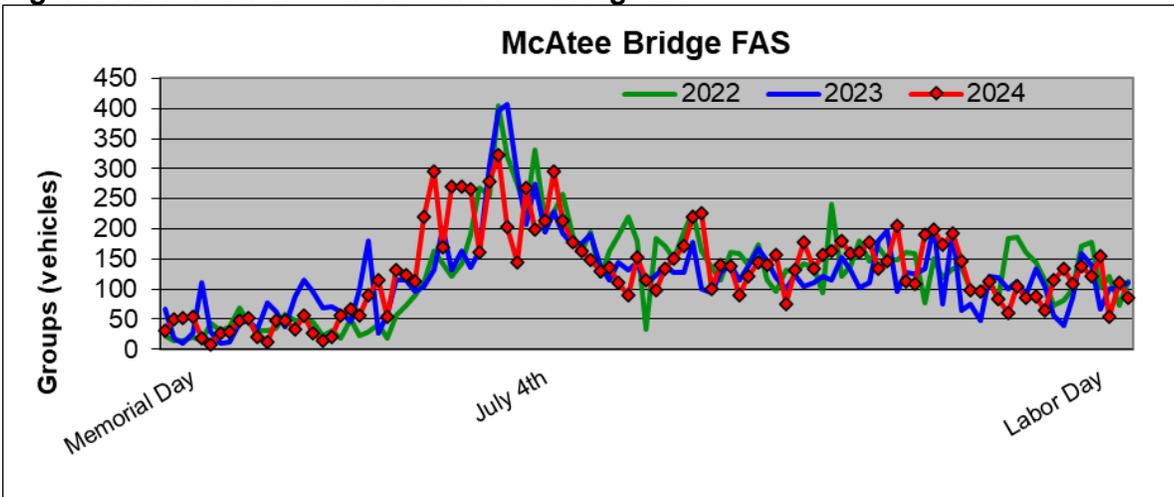
**Figure A-24: Total Visitation to Ruby Creek Campground**



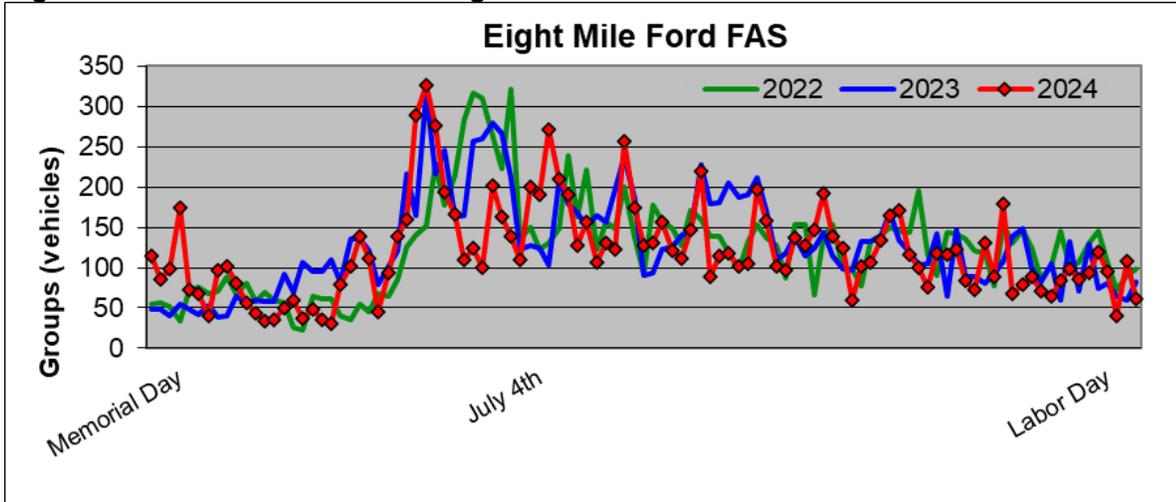
**Figure A-25: Total Visitation to Ruby Creek Boat Launch**



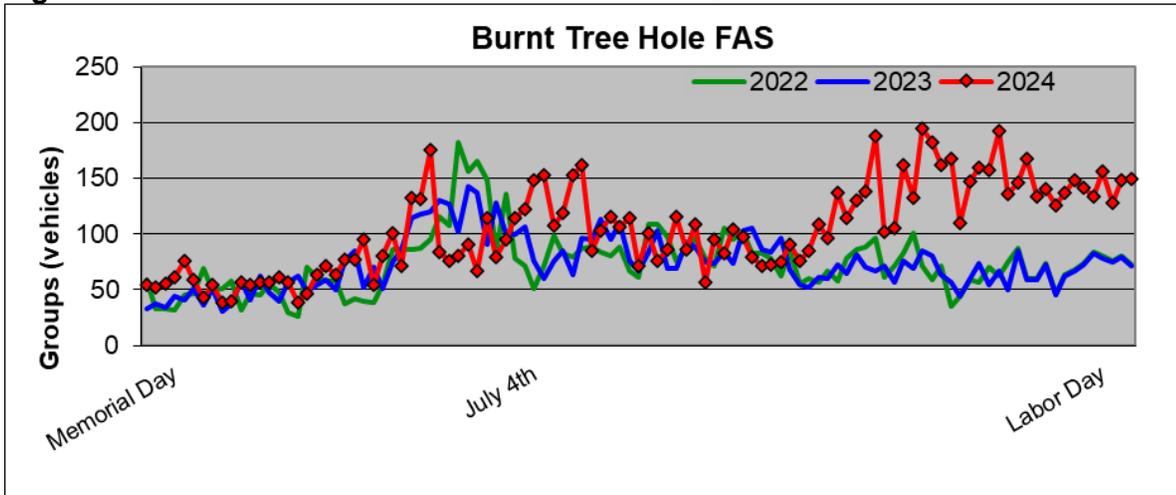
**Figure A-26: Total Visitation to McAtee Bridge FAS**



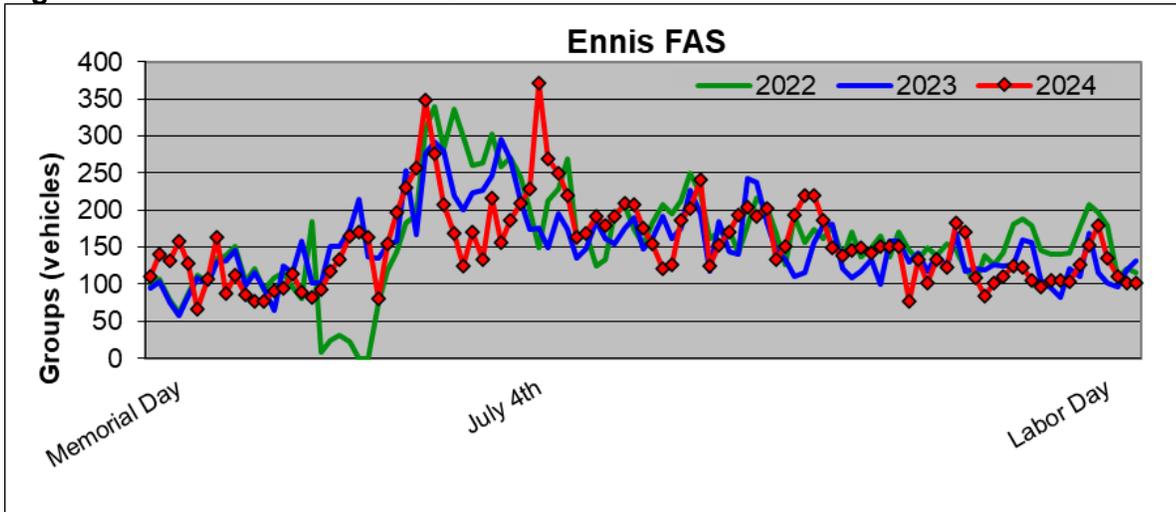
**Figure A-28: Total Visitation to Eight Mile Ford FAS**



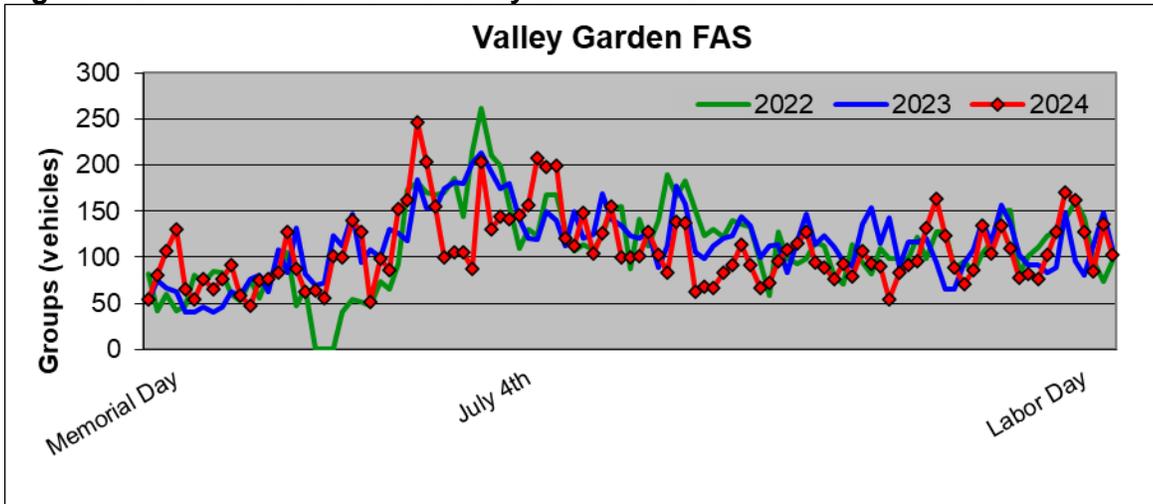
**Figure A-29: Total Visitation to Burnt Tree Hole FAS**



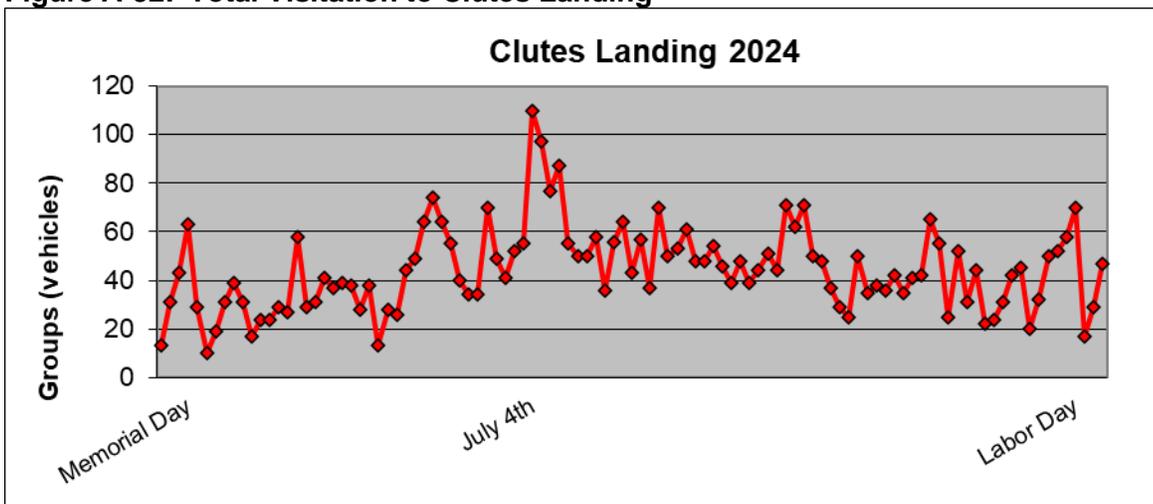
**Figure A-30: Total Visitation to Ennis FAS**



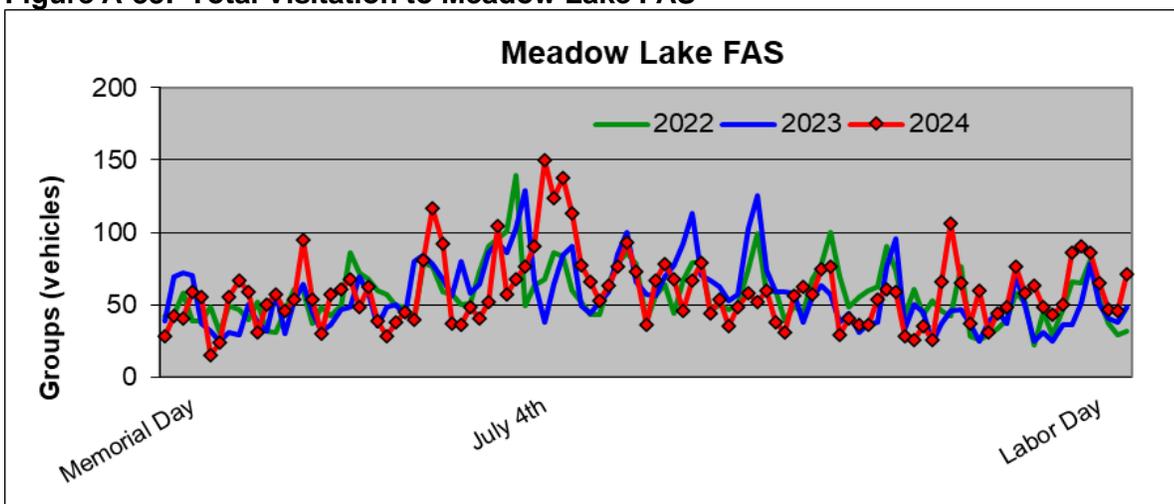
**Figure A-31: Total Visitation to Valley Garden FAS**



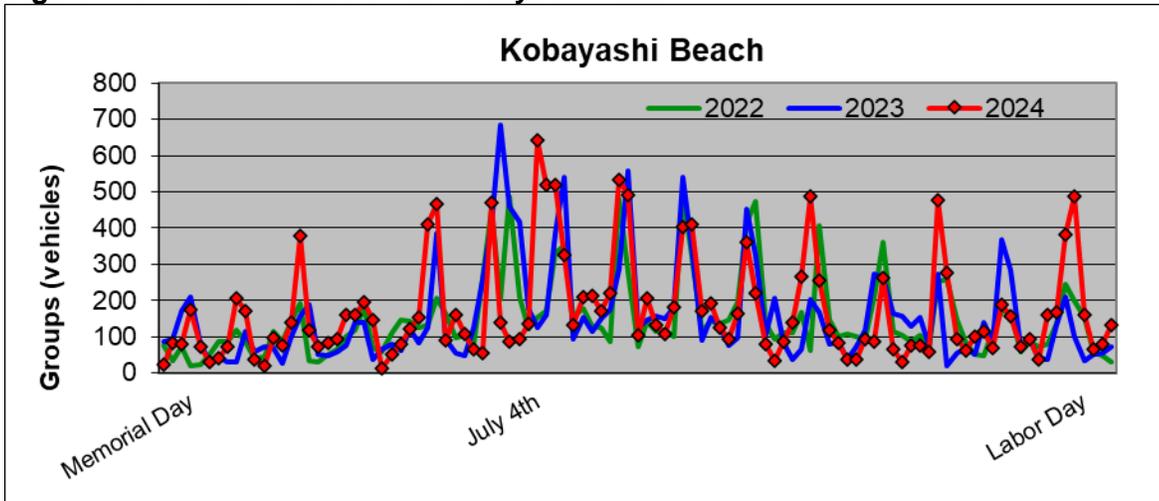
**Figure A-32: Total Visitation to Clutes Landing**



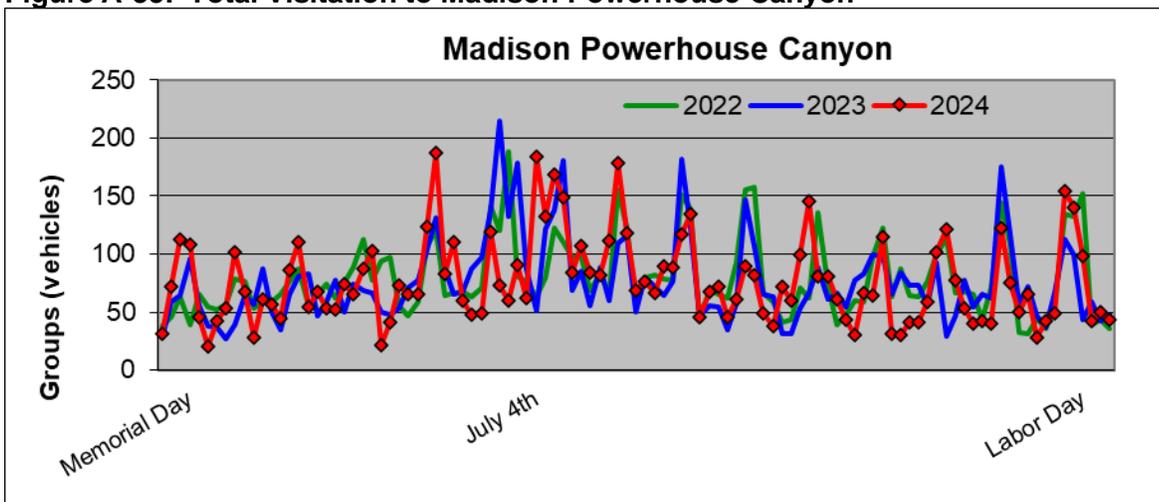
**Figure A-33: Total Visitation to Meadow Lake FAS**



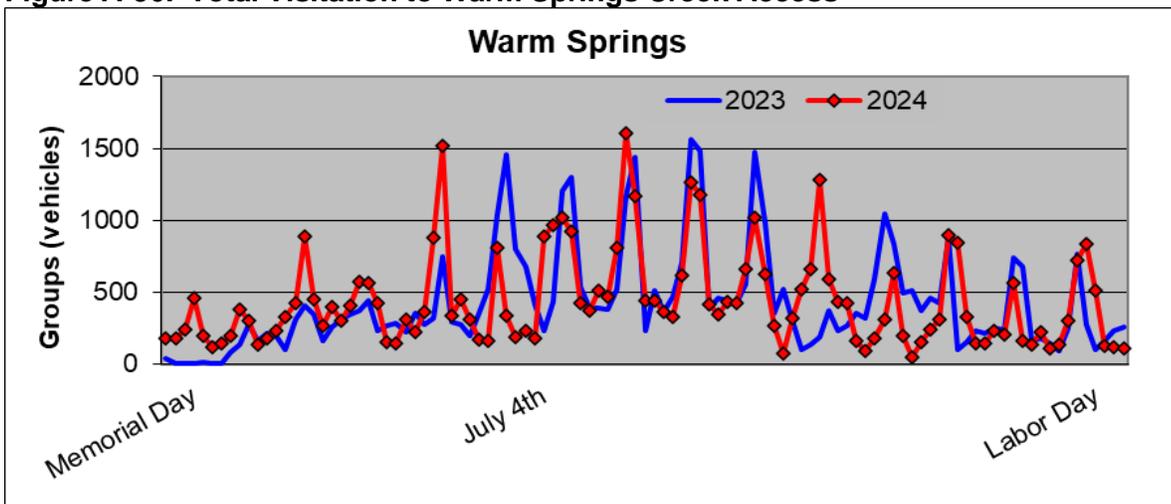
**Figure A-34: Total Visitation to Kobayashi Beach**



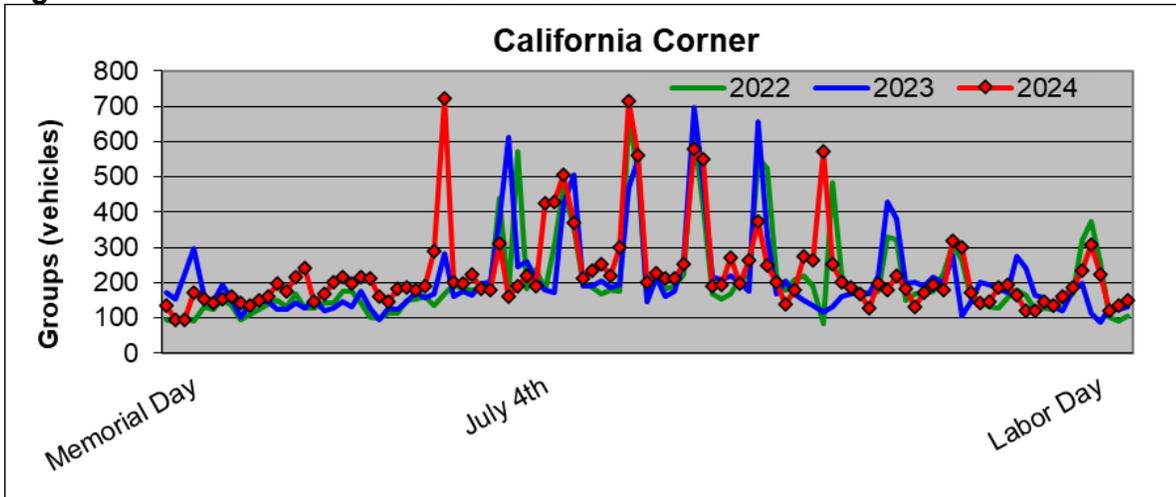
**Figure A-35: Total Visitation to Madison Powerhouse Canyon**



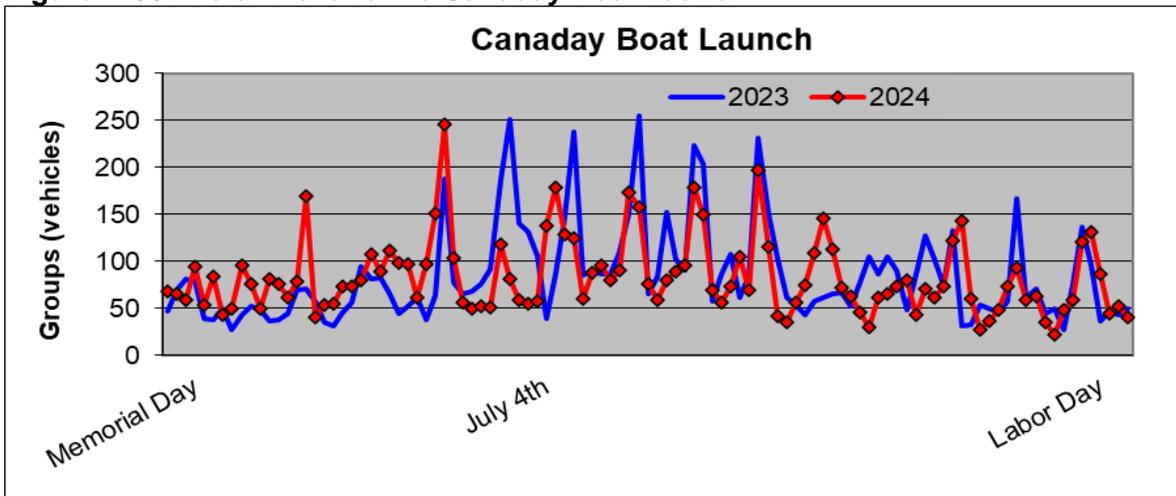
**Figure A-36: Total Visitation to Warm Springs Creek Access**



**Figure A-37: Total Visitation to California Corner**



**Figure A-38: Total Visitation to Canaday Boat Launch**



**Figure A-39: Total Visitation to Red Mountain Campground**

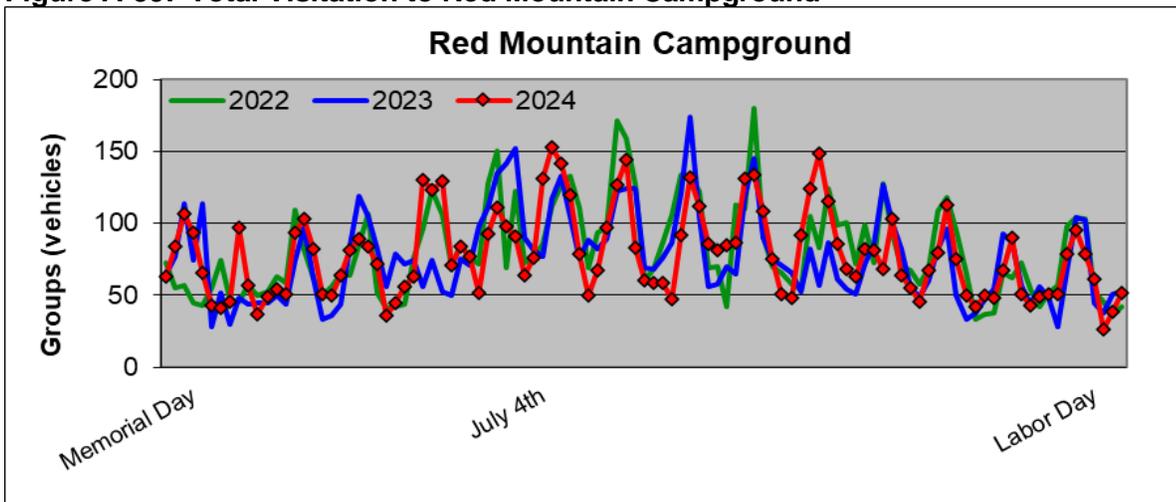


Figure A-40: Total Visitation to Bear Trap Canyon Trailhead

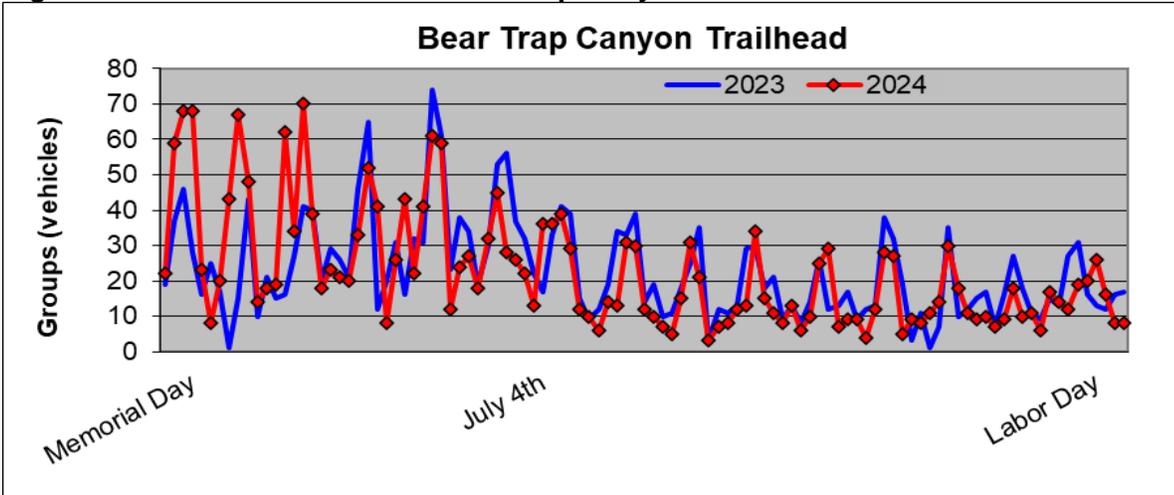


Figure A-41: Total Visitation to Bear Trap Canyon Road

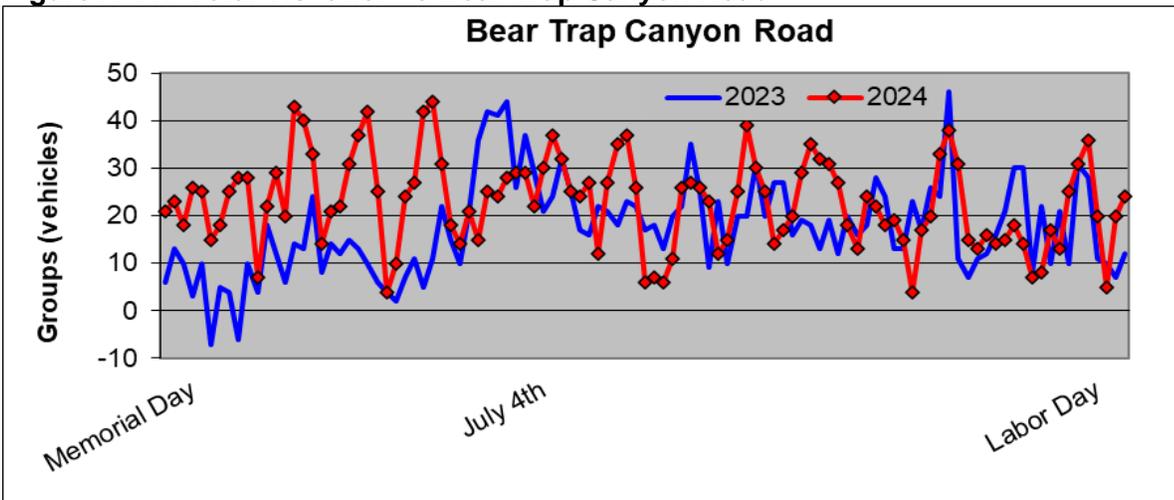
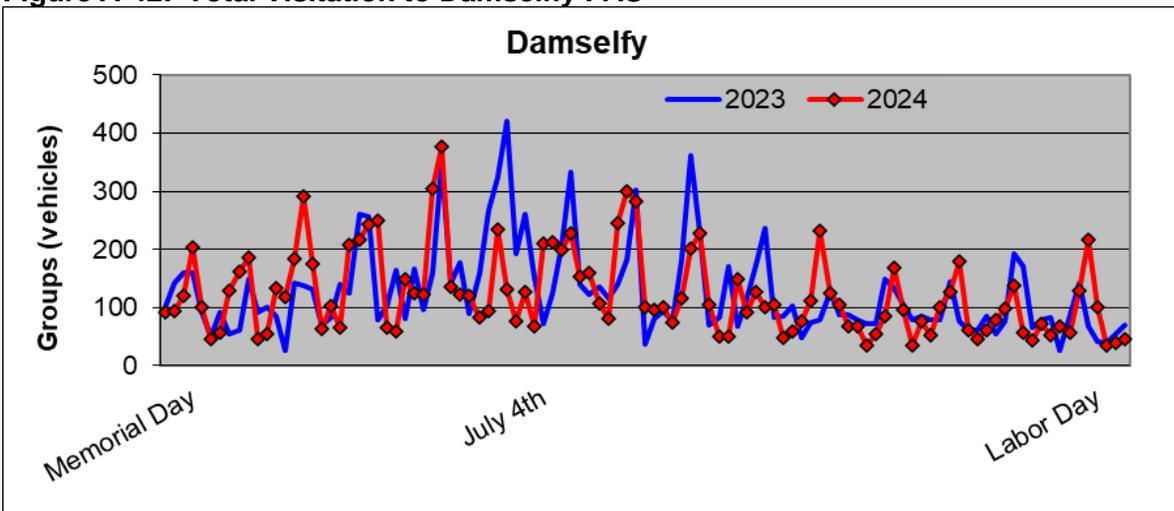
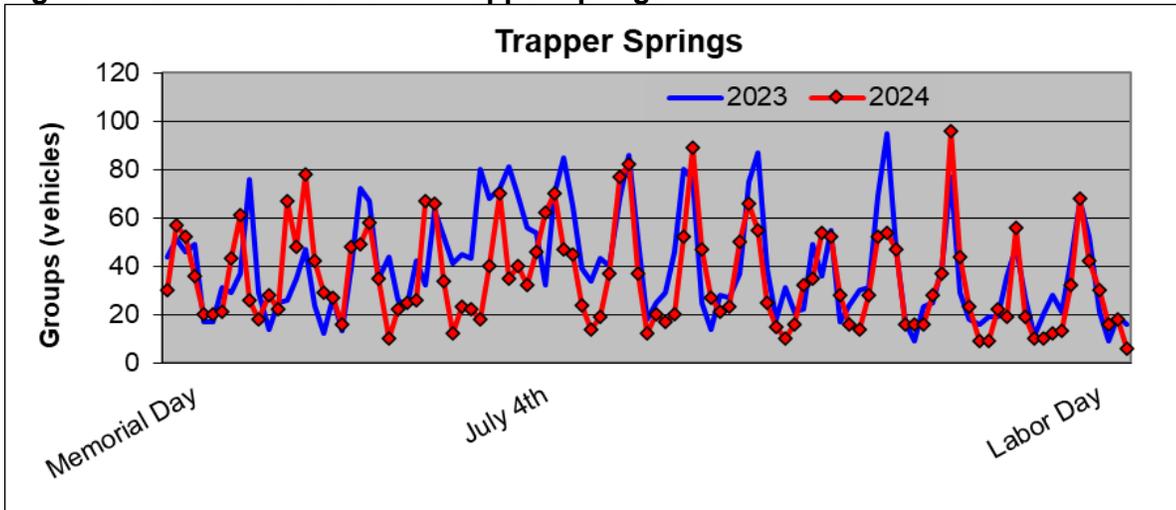


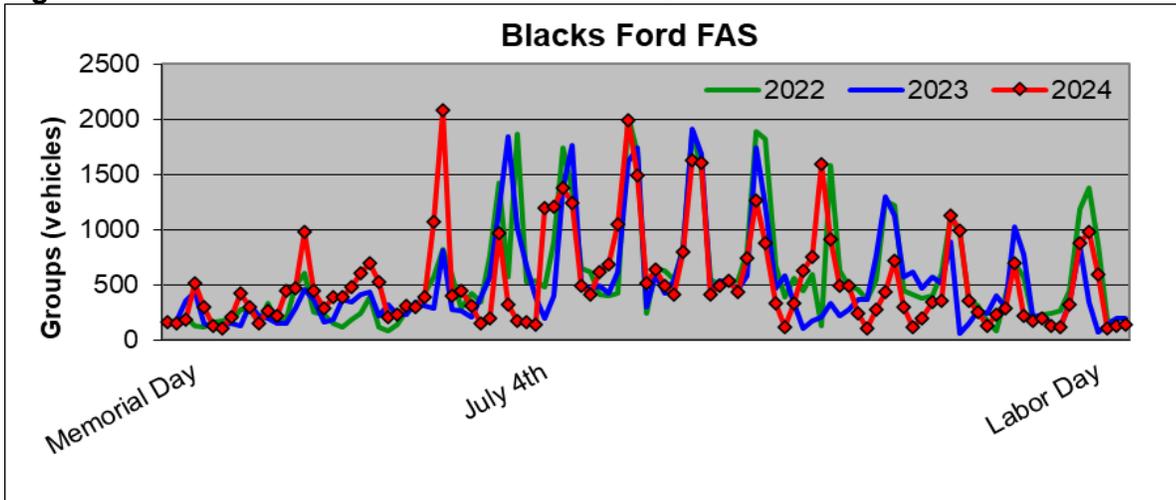
Figure A-42: Total Visitation to Damsely FAS



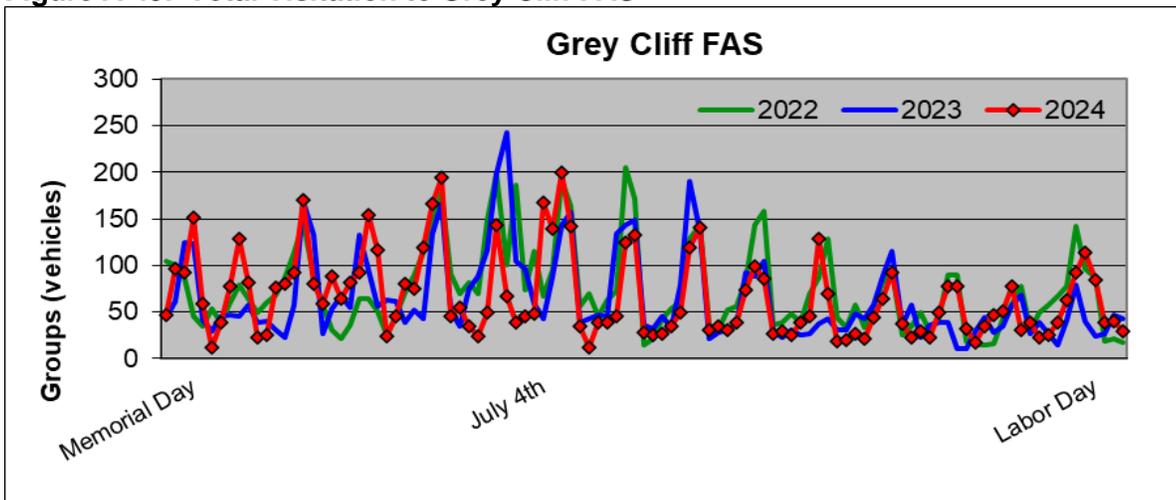
**Figure A-43: Total Visitation to Trapper Springs**



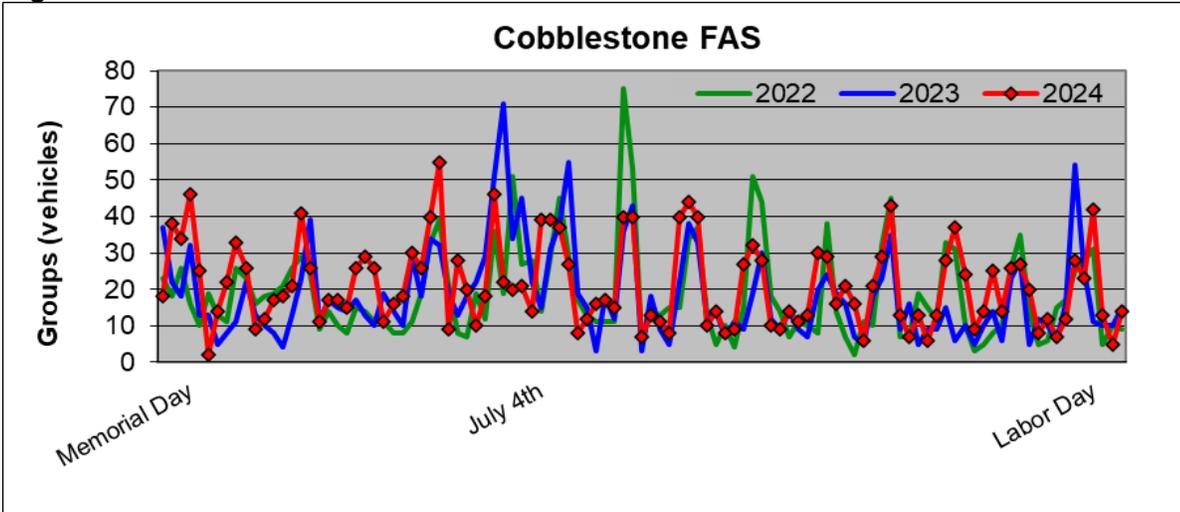
**Figure A-44: Total Visitation to Black's Ford FAS**



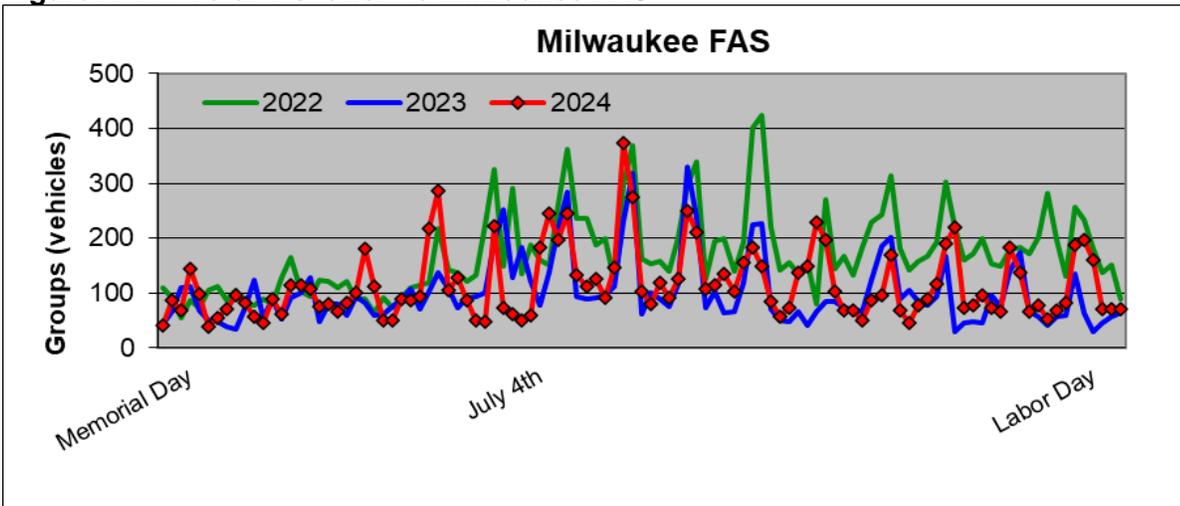
**Figure A-45: Total Visitation to Grey Cliff FAS**



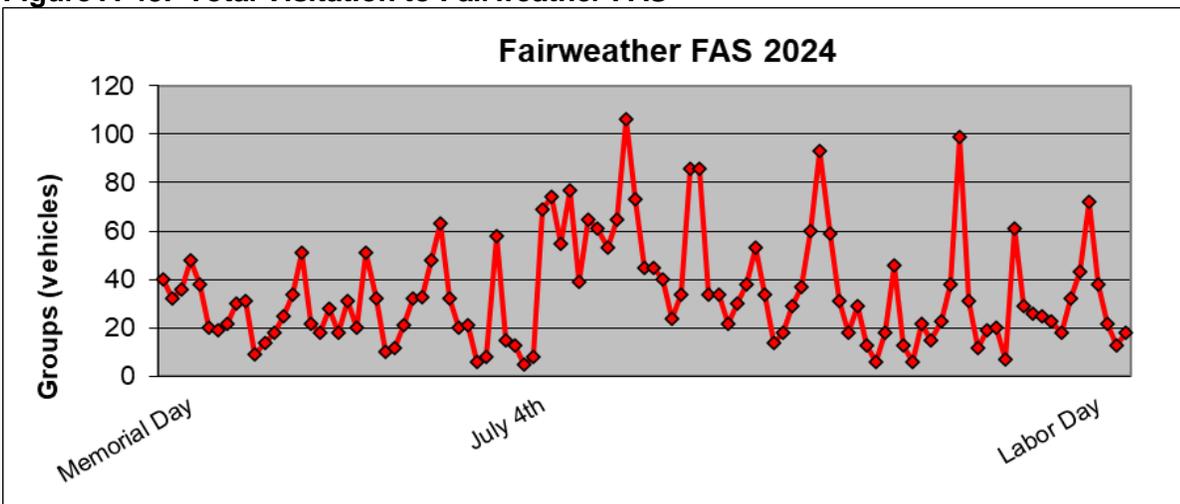
**Figure A-46: Total Visitation to Cobblestone FAS**



**Figure A-47: Total Visitation to Milwaukee FAS**



**Figure A-48: Total Visitation to Fairweather FAS**



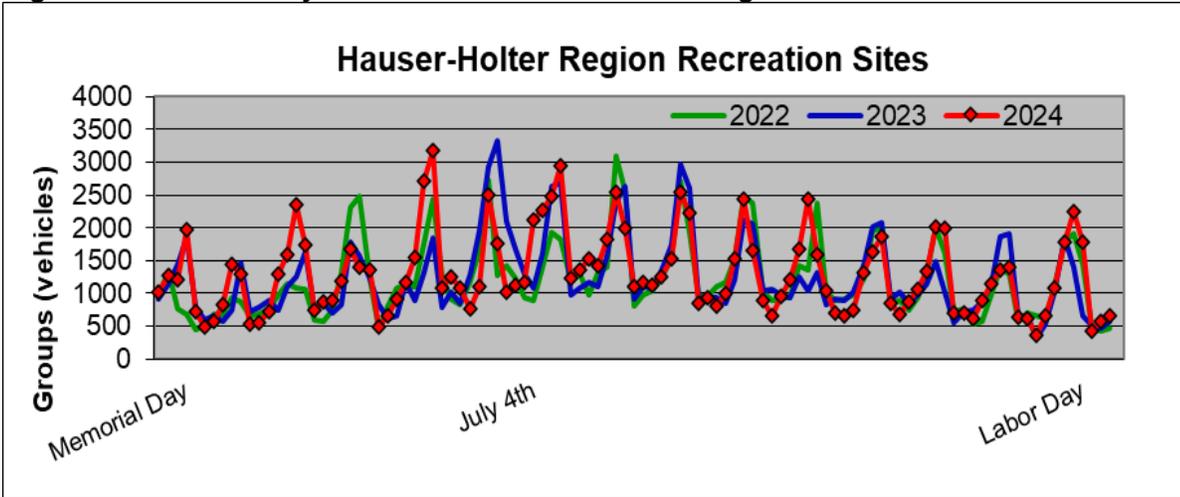
## **Appendix B: Hauser-Holter Region Visitation**

**Table 3: Total Peak Season Recreation Visitation to Hauser-Holter Region Sites**

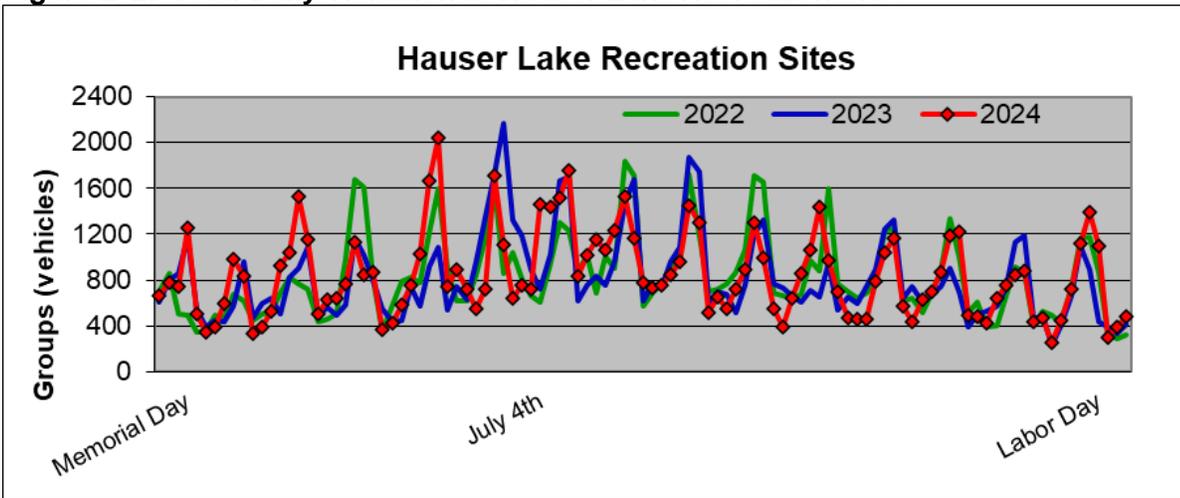
*Note: Figures provided in this table represent counts collected with automatic counters unless denoted by (°), which are estimates based relationships established by this monitoring effort. In addition, “n/a” notations indicate that data is not available.*

<b>Hauser Lake Sites</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Riverside Campground	10,306	13,892	12,302	13,434	15,103	13,615
Clarks Bay	6110	8419	8413	8284	8431	8655
Devil’s Elbow	9791	14,629	11,655	10,699	10,992	10,544
York Bridge FAS	7600 <sup>e</sup>	13,007	12,763	12,583	11,012	12,037
White Sandy Recreation Area	14,916	20,319	19,057	18,447	16,241	17,289
Black Sandy State Park	16,796	18,841	20,054	18,971	19,314	18,537
Hauser Dam Access Site	3948	5081	4367	4774	4781	4971
Lake Helena FAS	n/a	n/a	3367	n/a	n/a	3037
<b>Holter Lake Sites</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Beaver Creek Access Site	2143	2813	1935	2598	n/a	2720 <sup>e</sup>
Meriwether Picnic Site ( <i>individuals</i> )	22,776	3314	10,004 <sup>e</sup>	8729	16,111	12,420 <sup>e</sup>
Departure Point Day Use	2776	3450	2375	1794	2324	2213
Log Gulch Campground	8103	13,801	9443 <sup>e</sup>	7005	11,033	11,581
Holter Lake Campground	20,775	29,938	22,583	26,617	27,218	29,250
Holter Dam Portage ( <i>individuals</i> )	1452	2265	2015	523	2148	2161

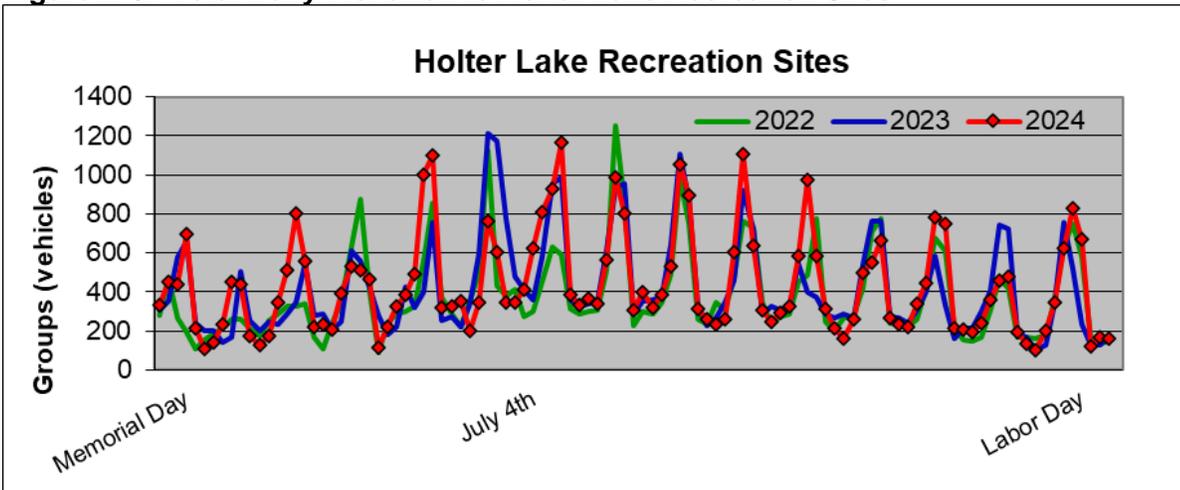
**Figure B-1: Total Daily Visitation to Hauser-Holter Region Recreation Sites**



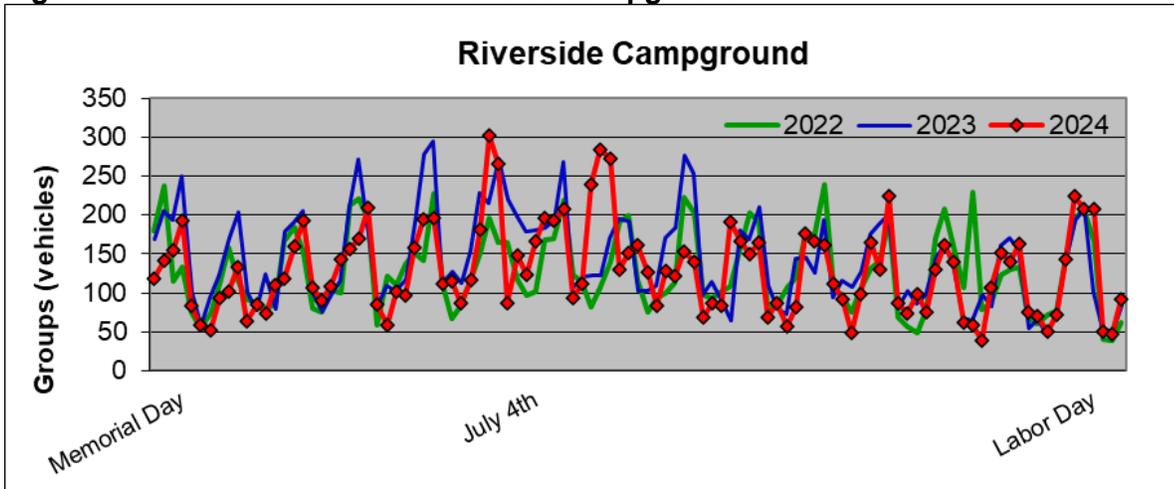
**Figure B-2: Total Daily Visitation to Hauser Lake Recreation Sites**



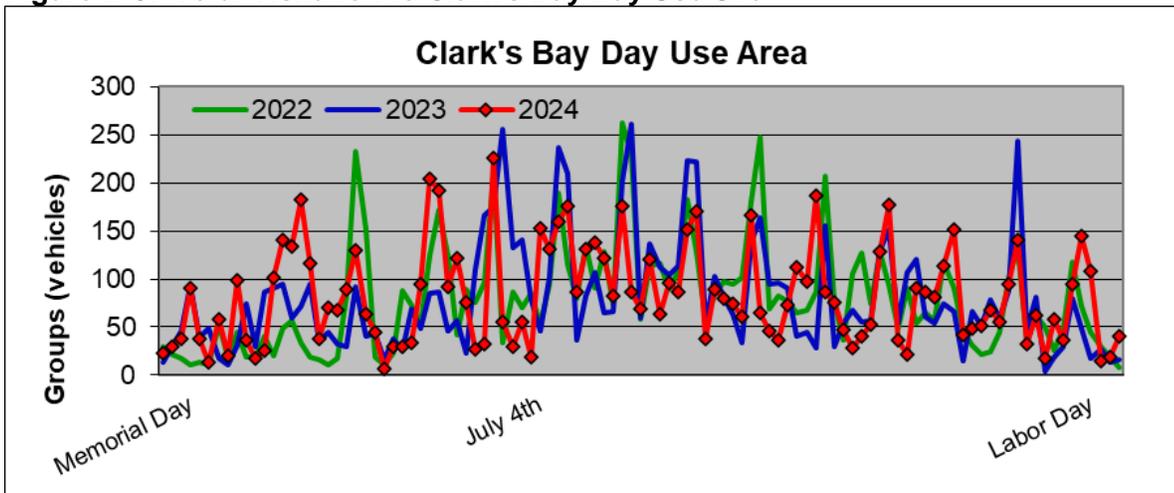
**Figure B-3: Total Daily Visitation to Holter Lake Recreation Sites**



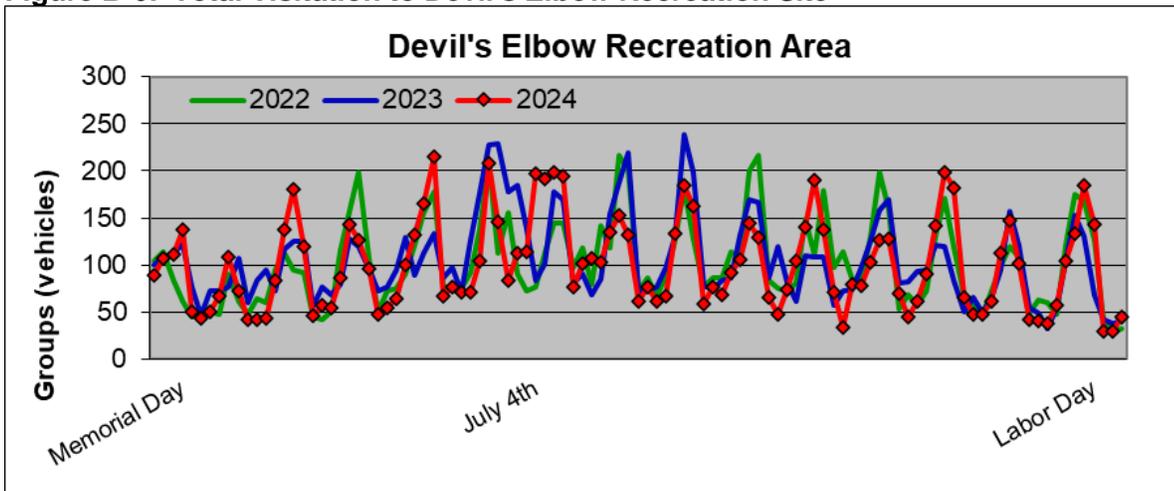
**Figure B-4: Total Visitation to Riverside Campground**



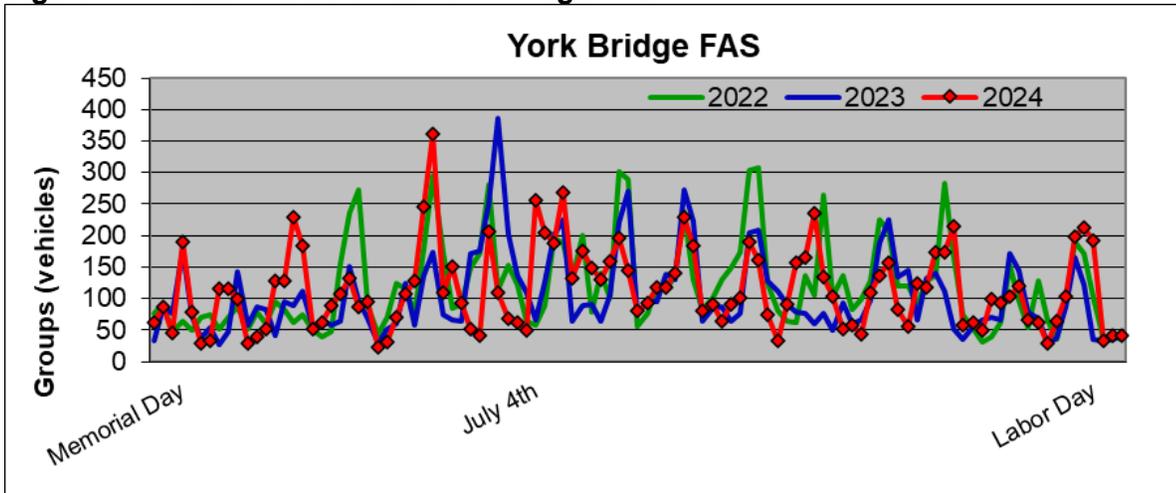
**Figure B-5: Total Visitation to Clark's Bay Day Use Site**



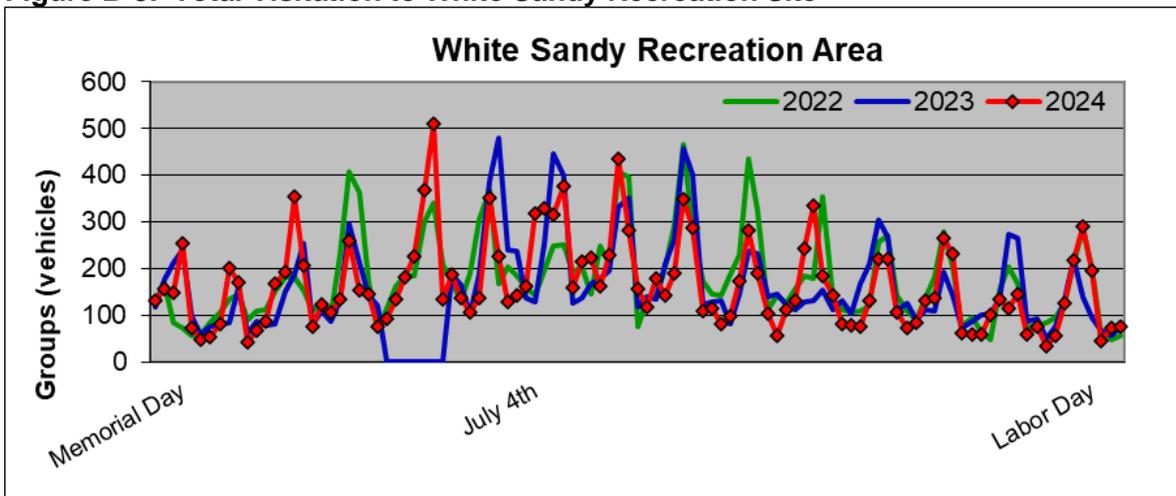
**Figure B-6: Total Visitation to Devil's Elbow Recreation Site**



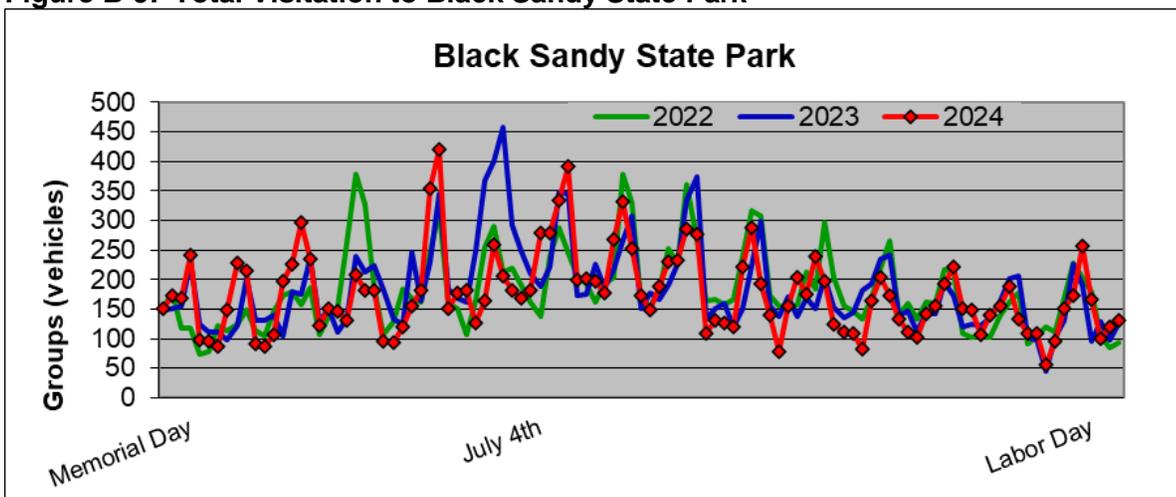
**Figure B-7: Total Visitation to York Bridge FAS**



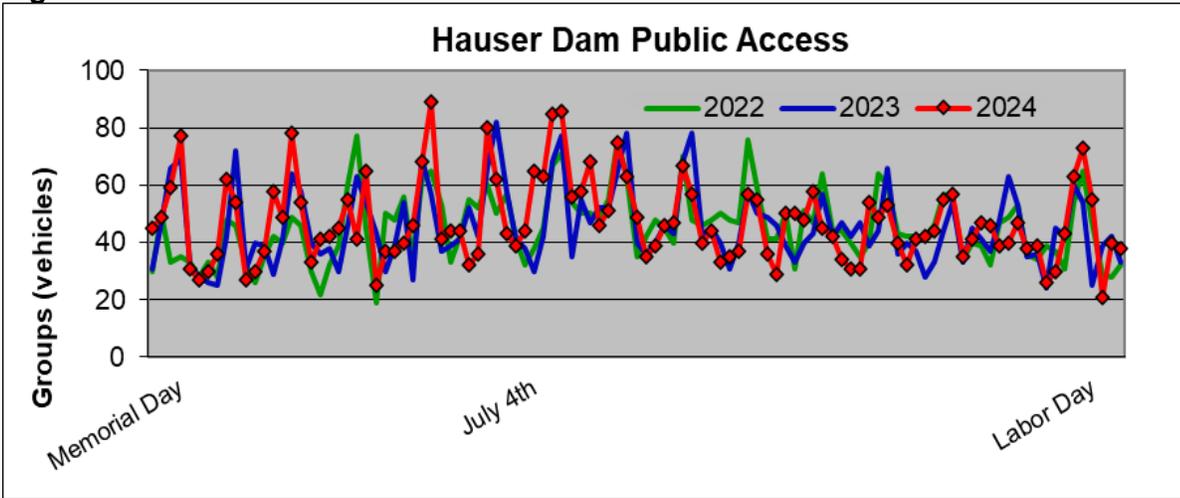
**Figure B-8: Total Visitation to White Sandy Recreation Site**



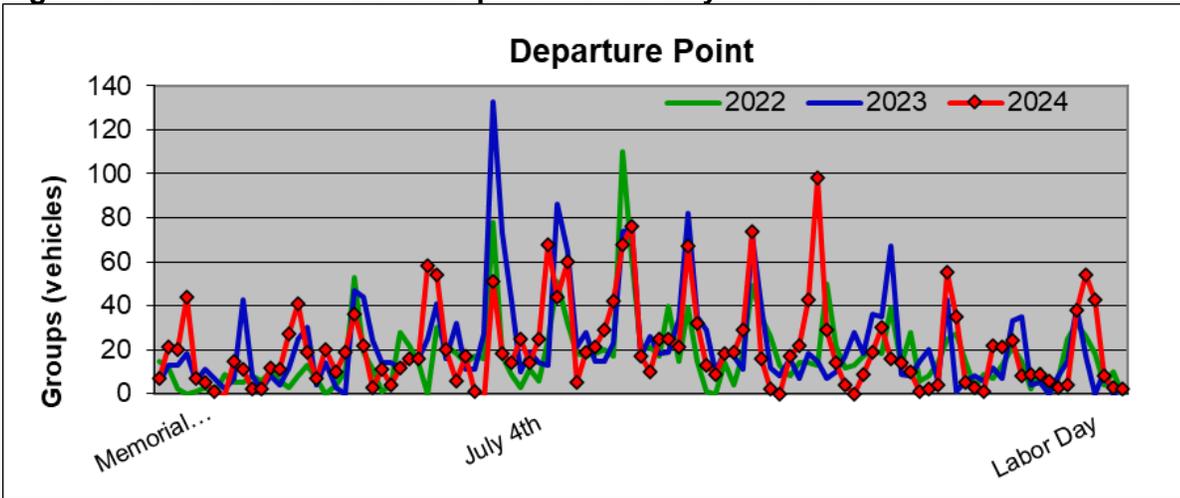
**Figure B-9: Total Visitation to Black Sandy State Park**



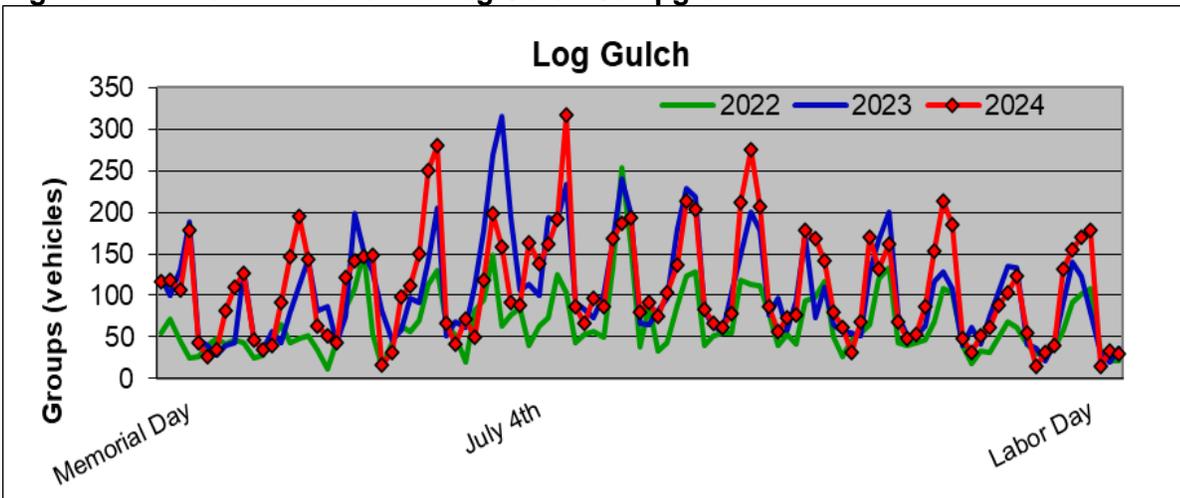
**Figure B-10: Total Visitation to Hauser Dam Access Site**



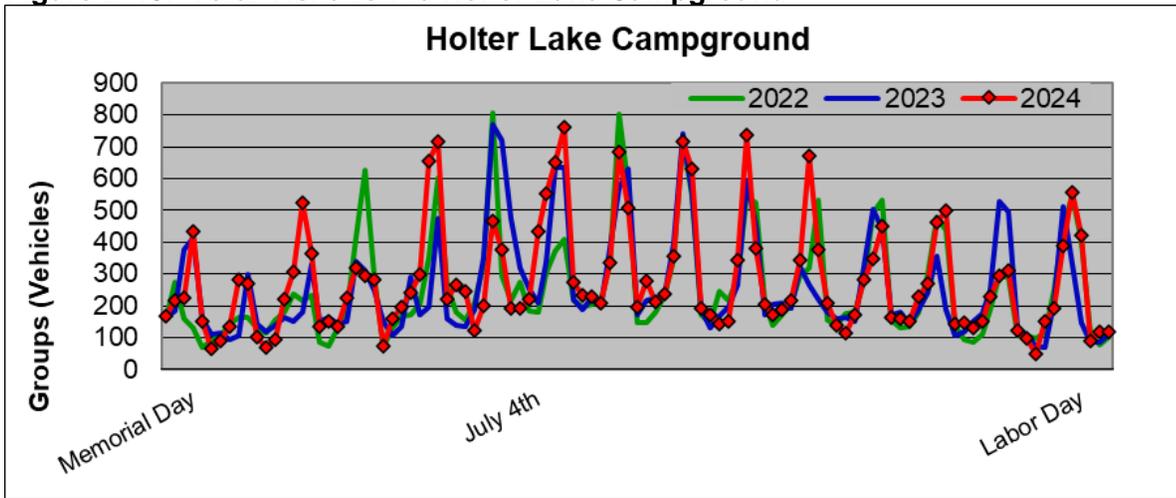
**Figure B-11: Total Visitation to Departure Point Day Use Site**



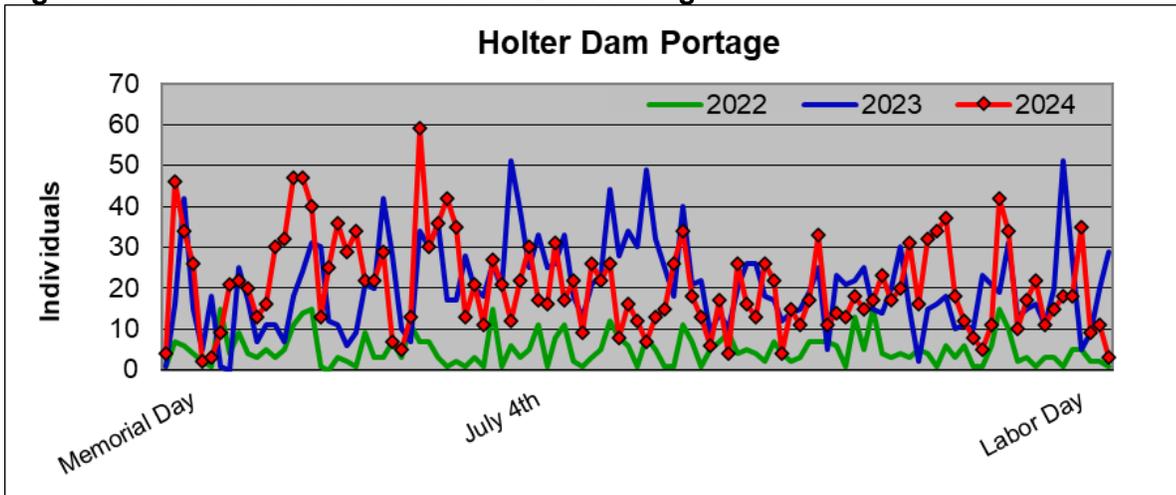
**Figure B-12: Total Visitation to Log Gulch Campground**



**Figure B-13: Total Visitation to Holter Lake Campground**



**Figure B-14: Total Visitation to Holter Dam Portage**



## **Appendix C: Great Falls Region Visitation**

**Table 4: Total Peak Season Recreation Visitation Great Falls Region Sites**

*Note: Figures provided in this table represent counts collected with automatic counters unless denoted by (°), which are estimates based on relationships established by this monitoring effort. In addition, “n/a” notations indicate that data is not available.*

<b>Upper Missouri River Sites</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Holter Dam Campground	19,002	16,423	14,684	21,090	18,350	20,832
Bull Pasture FAS	3321	4516 °	3842 °	3810	3315 °	3779 °
Wolf Creek Bridge FAS	53,627 °	37,626	35,901	44,371	50,022	52,590
Lone Tree FAS	17,083	23,199 °	19,765 °	17,934	15,603 °	17,787 °
Craig FAS	40,824	55,080 °	47,233 °	46,618	40,558 °	46,236 °
Stickney Creek FAS	11,276	15,735 °	12,635 °	11,846	10,661 °	12,580 °
Spite Hill FAS	6066	8512 °	6797 °	9949	8954 °	10,566 °
Dearborn Boat Launch	1654 °	2332 °	1854 °	1467	1320 °	1558 °
Dearborn FAS	3546	4434	3770	5179	4448	4681
MidCanon FAS	10,181	13,724	11,401	13,951	12,493	14,754
Devil’s Kitchen FAS	13,191	18,765 °	14,781 °	20,243	18,219 °	21,498 °
Prewett Creek FAS	11,722	16,189 °	13,135 °	17,723	15,951 °	18,822 °
Pelican Point FAS	10,044	13,978 °	11,254 °	11,966	10,769 °	12,708 °
North Park Access Site	11,271	11,244	11,324	12,141	13,737	9864
Little Muddy Creek FAS	2718	4331 °	3390 °	2614	2013 °	2375 °
Dunes FAS	1528	2390 °	1906 °	538	414 °	489 °
Ulm Bridge FAS	4005	6162	4970	7242	5577	6583
Cottonwood Grove FAS	2585	3469	2795	2791	2622	2822
Big Bend FAS	3292	5276 °	4106 °	5110	3935 °	4643 °
<b>Great Falls Area Sites</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
River’s Edge Trail (groups)	25,580	24,860	26,016	26,647	29,642	23,744
Crooked Falls Overlook Trail (groups)	8744°	10,737	10,929	3936	9154	5863
North Shore Natural Trail (groups)	3530	5875	3036	4870	1712	2523
Rainbow Overlook	14,263	18,132	14,739	13,878	20,134	21,431
Lewis & Clark Overlook	15,130	15,719	16,668	16,625	18,561	17,052
Black Eagle Memorial Island (vehicle access)	11,086	13,333	12,453	12,063	15,393	13,502

Great Falls Area Sites (cont'd)	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Rainbow Reservoir Boat Launch	1128	1,543 <sup>e</sup>	1056 <sup>e</sup>	2394	2175	2439
Morony Dam Public Access	4018	3883	4081	4008	3731	3193
Ryan Island Day Use Area (groups)	5271	2573	4124	4647	12,437	5591
Lower Missouri River	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Widow Coulee FAS	965 <sup>e</sup>	1428	1056 <sup>e</sup>	768	760 <sup>e</sup>	950 <sup>e</sup>
Carter Ferry FAS	1151 <sup>e</sup>	1369 <sup>e</sup>	1289 <sup>e</sup>	1364	1350 <sup>e</sup>	1688 <sup>e</sup>
Fort Benton Boat Launch	904	1274	3156	536	1306	1286
Fort Benton Canoe Camp	3639	5761	5979	4554	3737	4993

Figure C-1: Total Daily Visitation to Great Falls Region

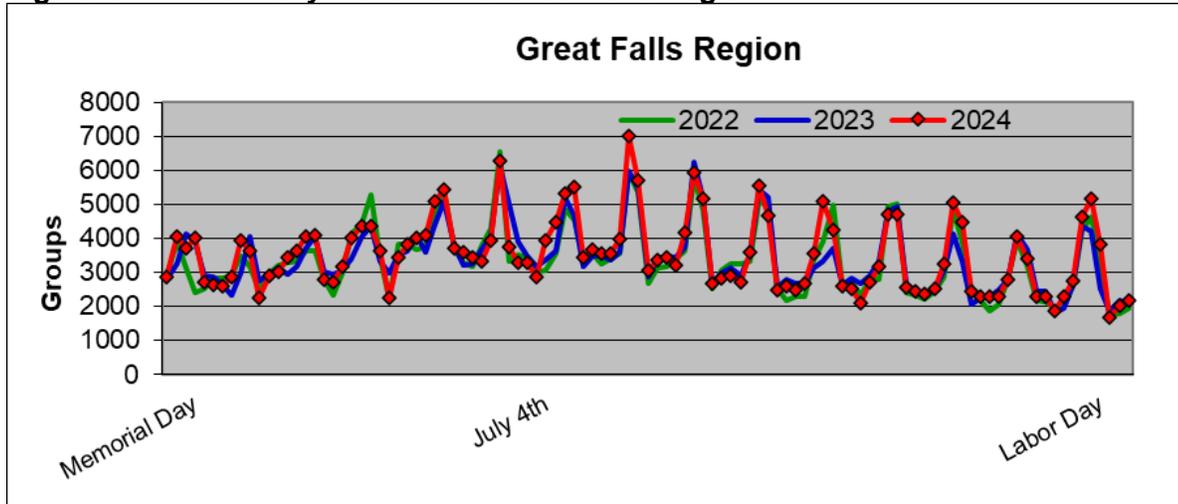
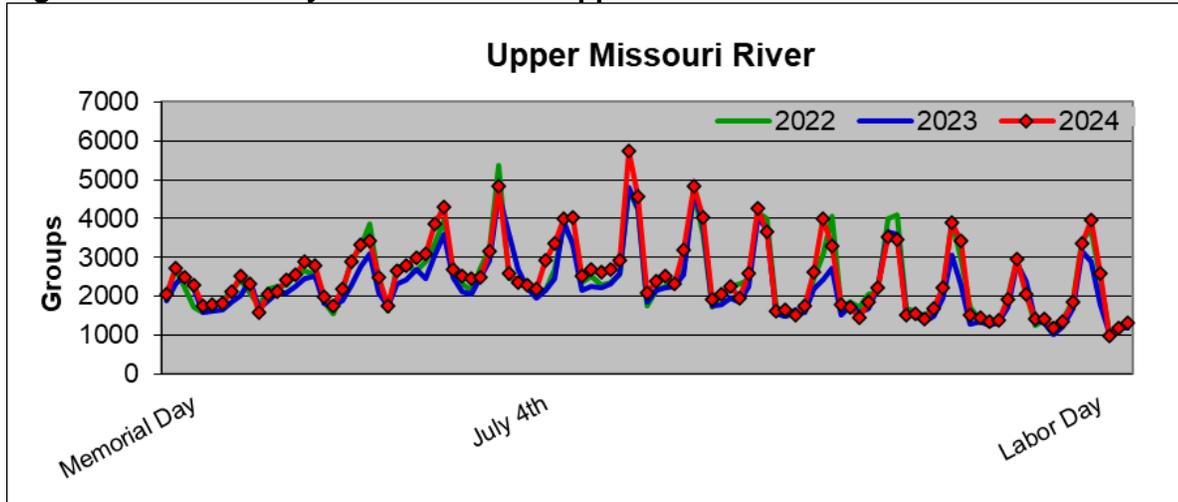
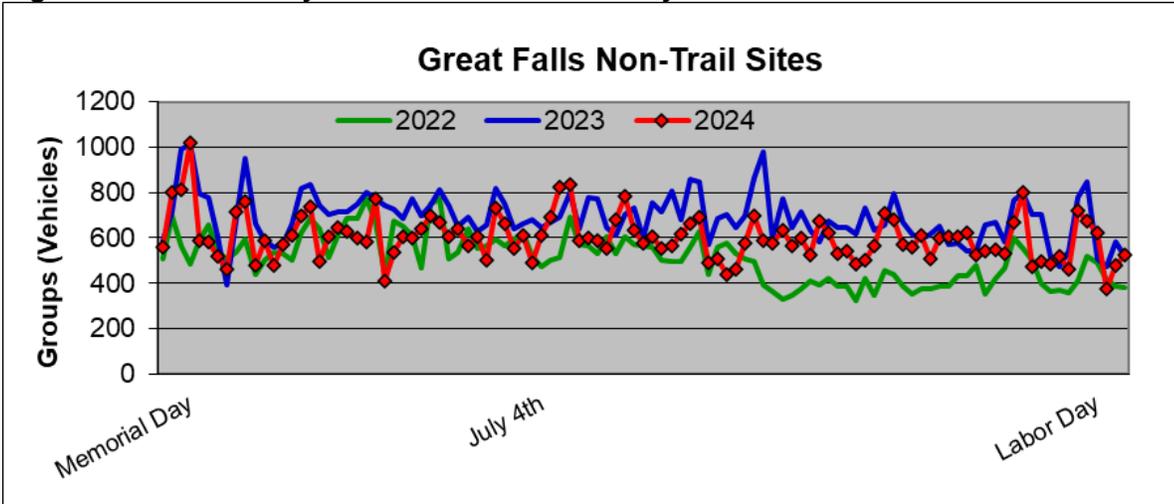


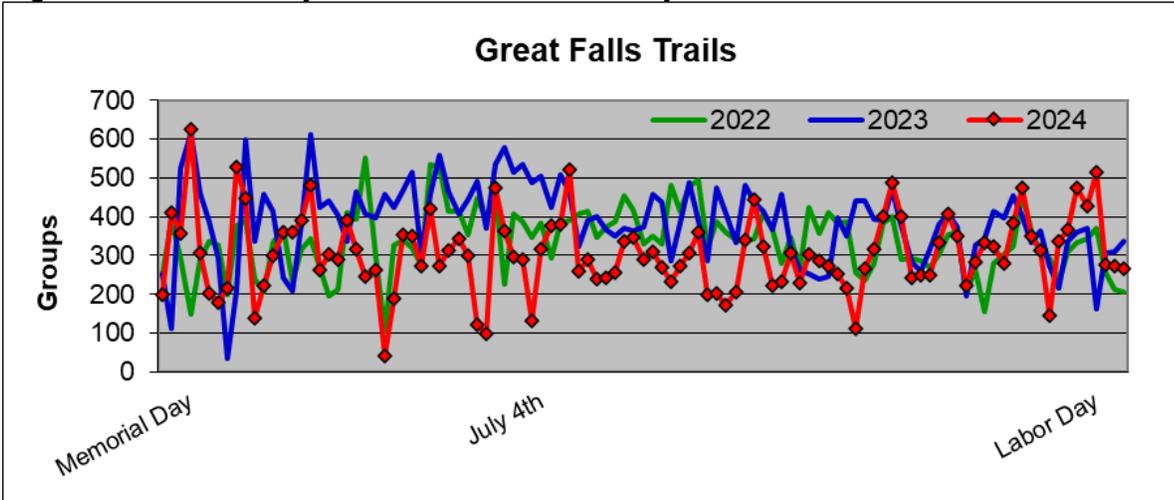
Figure C-2: Total Daily Visitation to the Upper Missouri River



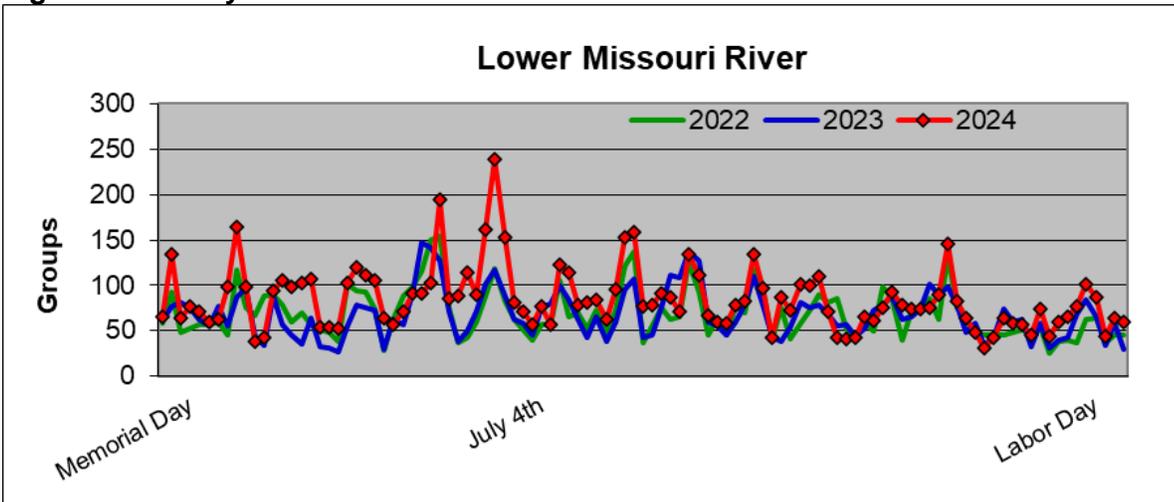
**Figure C-3: Total Daily Visitation Great Falls City Area Non-Trail Sites**



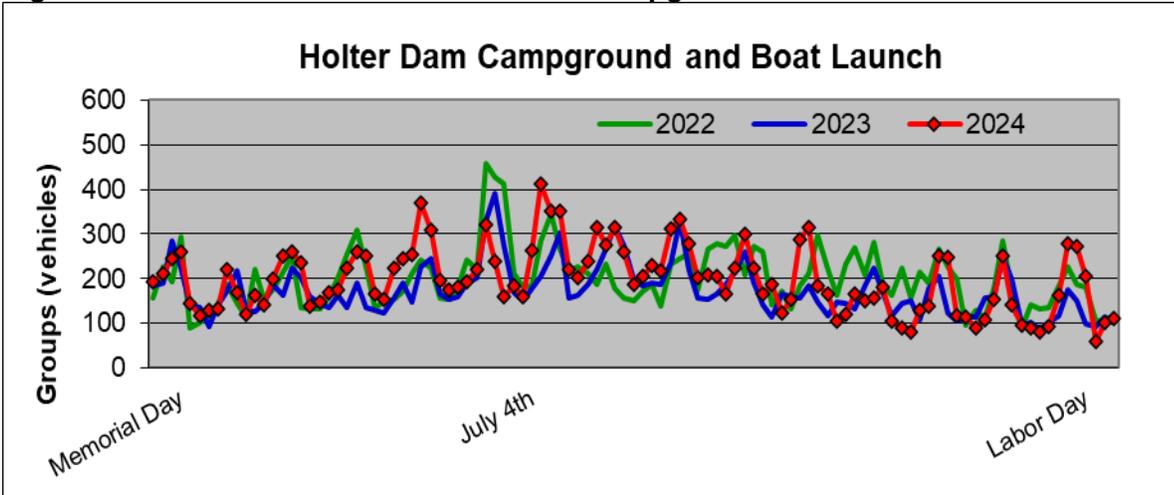
**Figure C-4: Total Daily Visitation Great Falls City Area Trails**



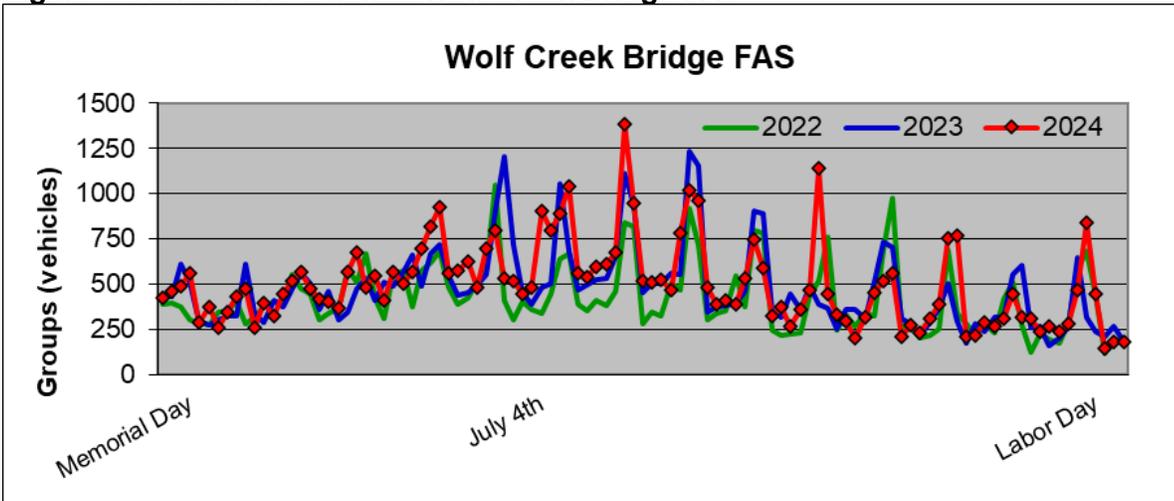
**Figure C-5: Daily Visitation to Lower Missouri River Recreation Sites**



**Figure C-6: Total Visitation to Holter Dam Campground and Boat Launch**



**Figure C-7: Total Visitation to Wolf Creek Bridge FAS**



**Figure C-8: Total Visitation to Dearborn FAS**

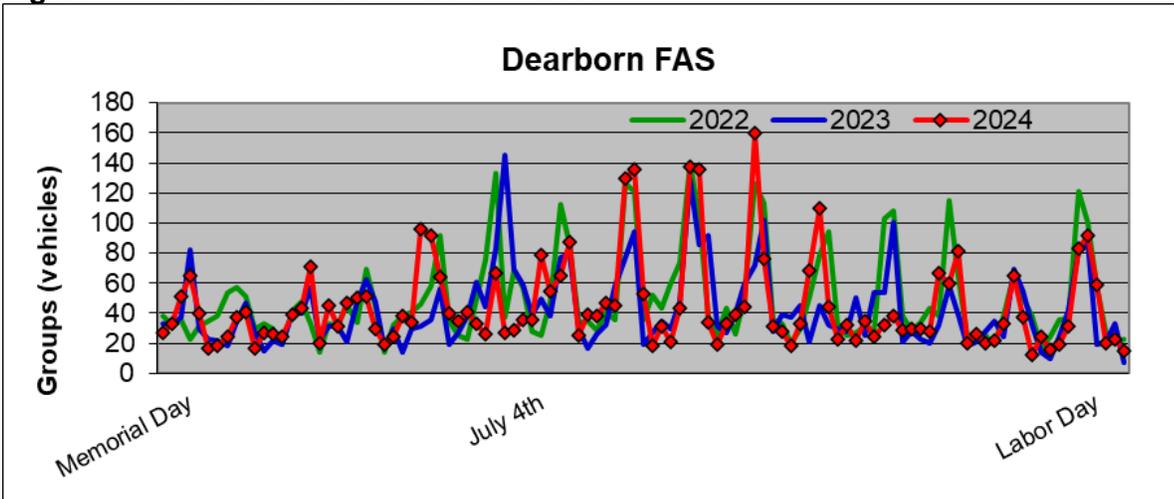


Figure C-9: Total Visitation to MidCanon FAS

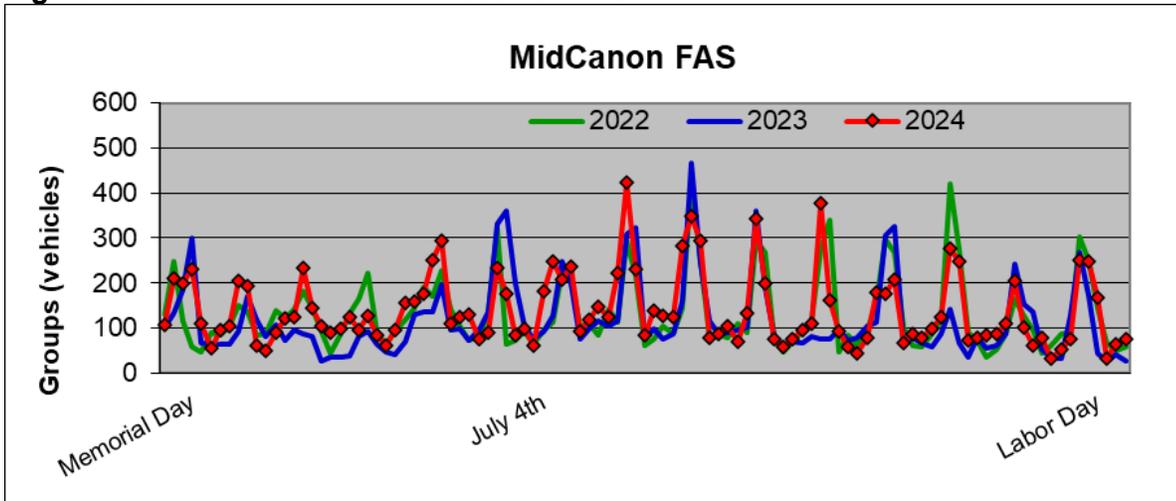


Figure C-10: Total Visitation to North Park Access Site

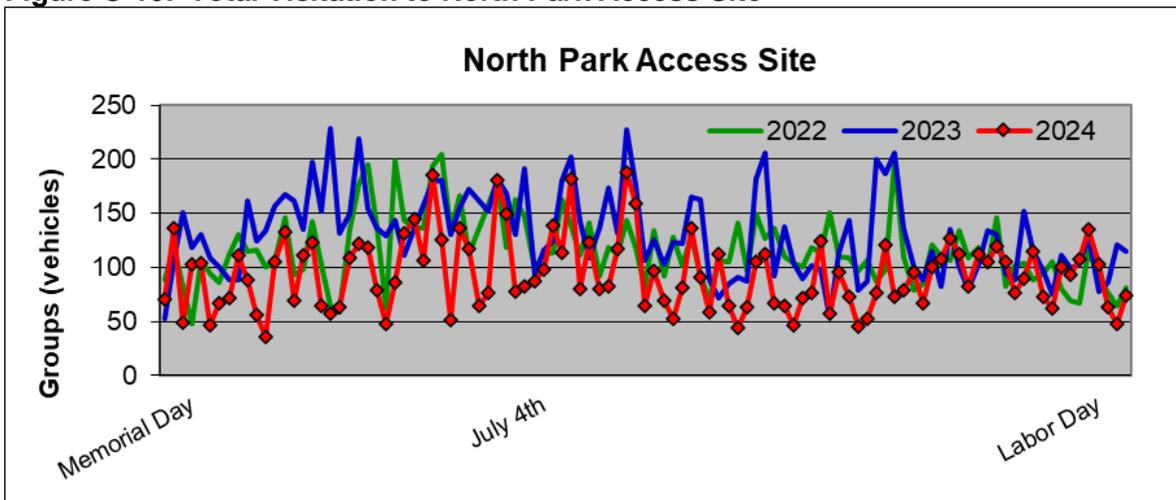
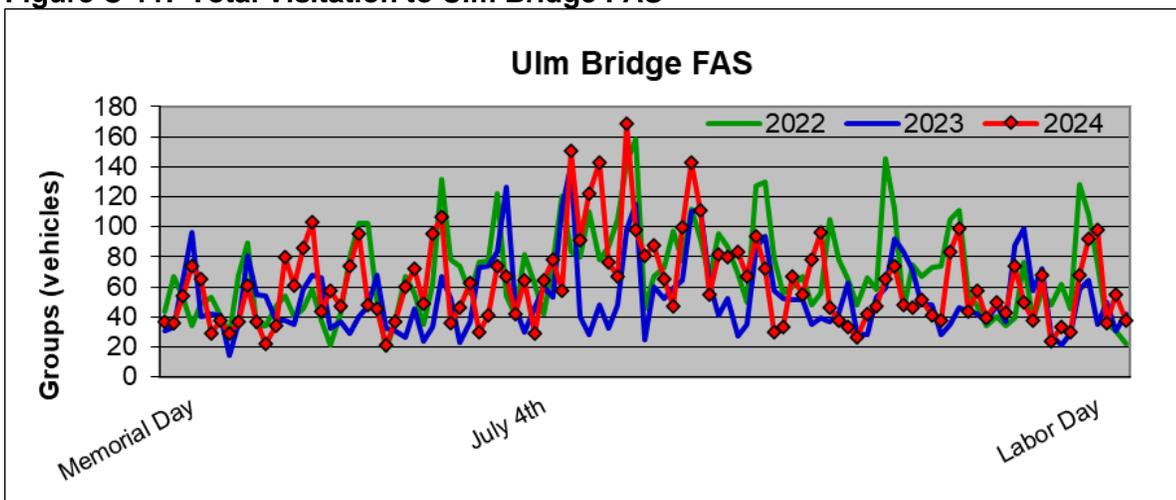
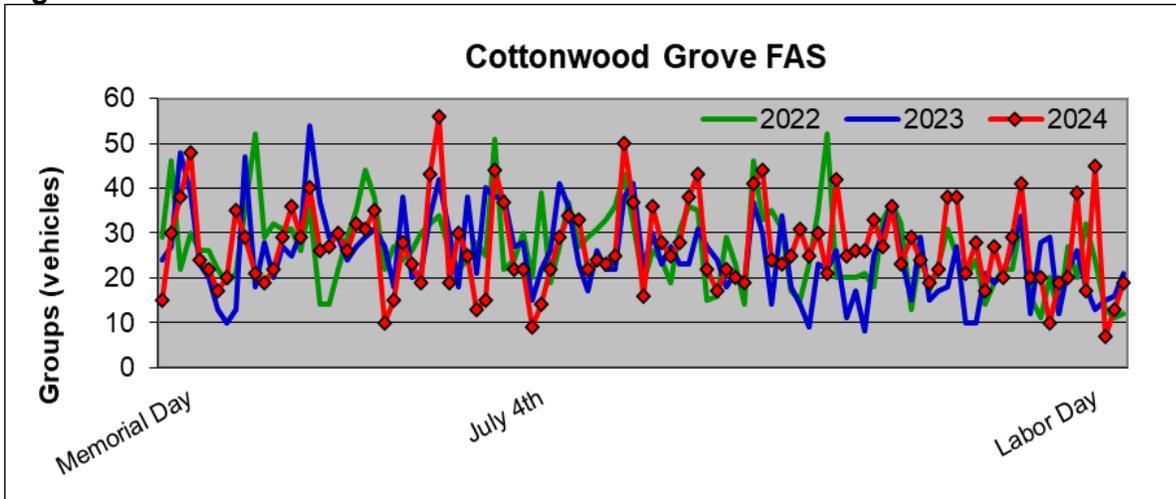


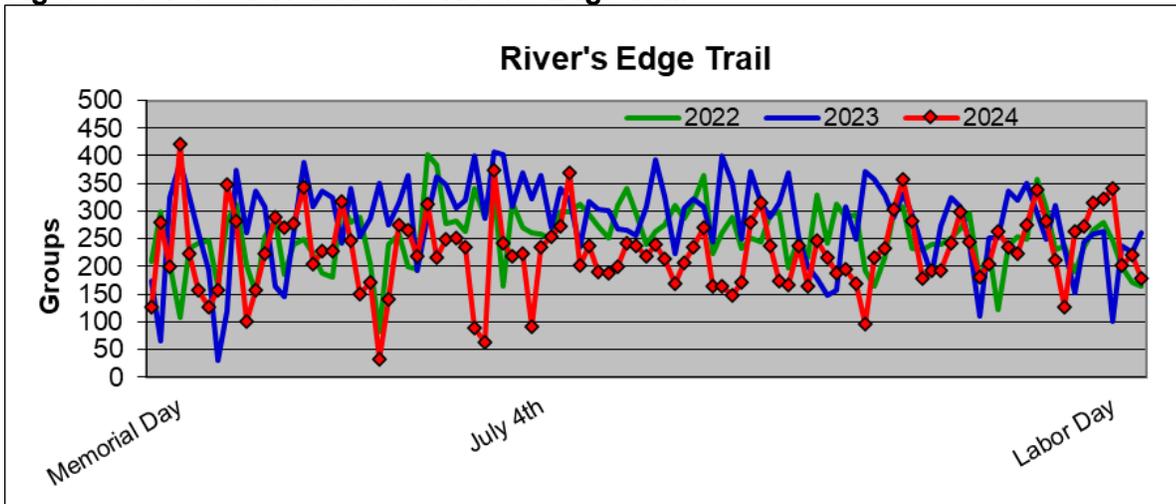
Figure C-11: Total Visitation to Ulm Bridge FAS



**Figure C-12: Total Visitation to Cottonwood Grove FAS**



**Figure C-13: Total Visitation to River's Edge Trail**



**Figure C-14: Total Visitation Crooked Falls Overlook Trail**

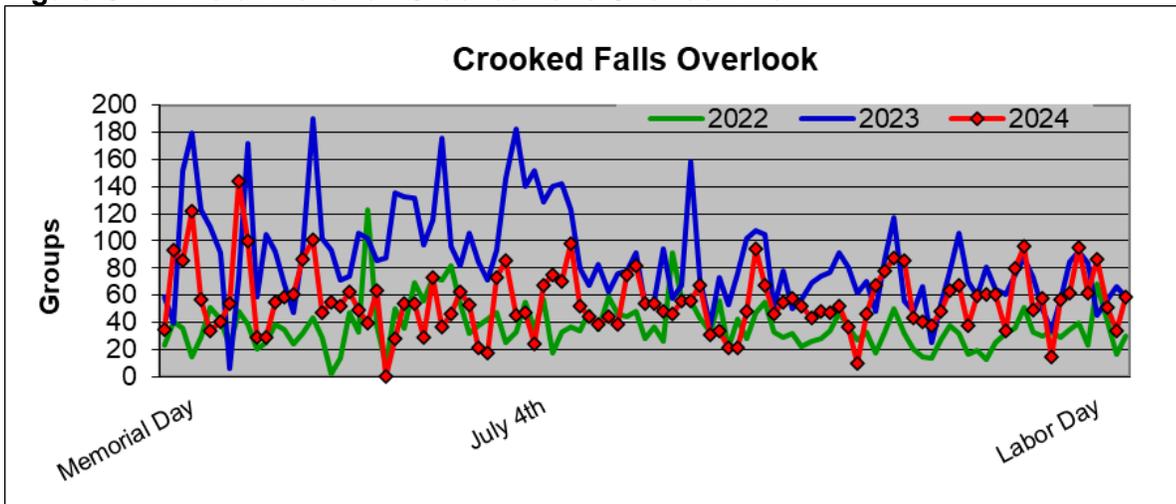


Figure C-15: Total Visitation to North Shore Natural Trail

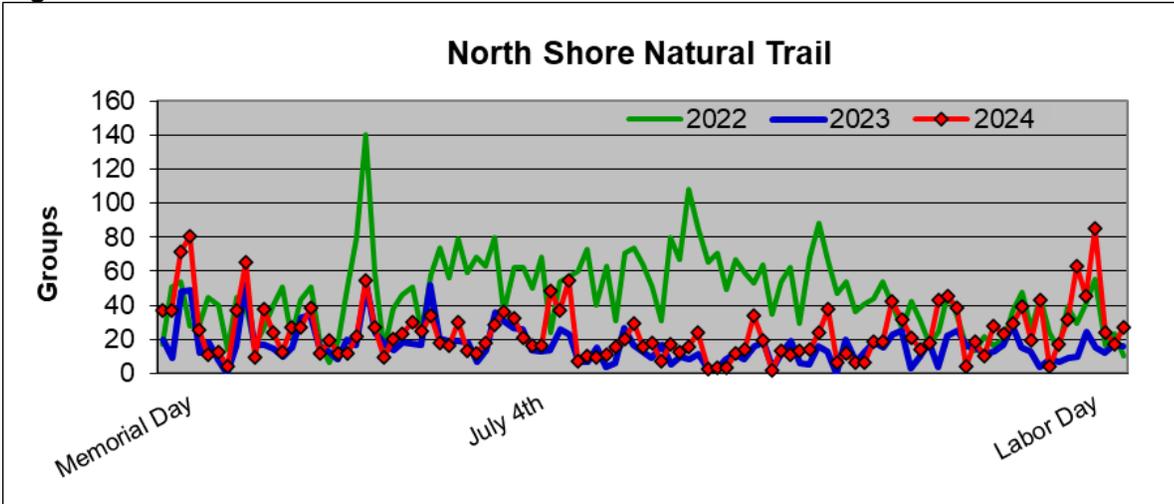


Figure C-16: Total Visitation to Rainbow Overlook

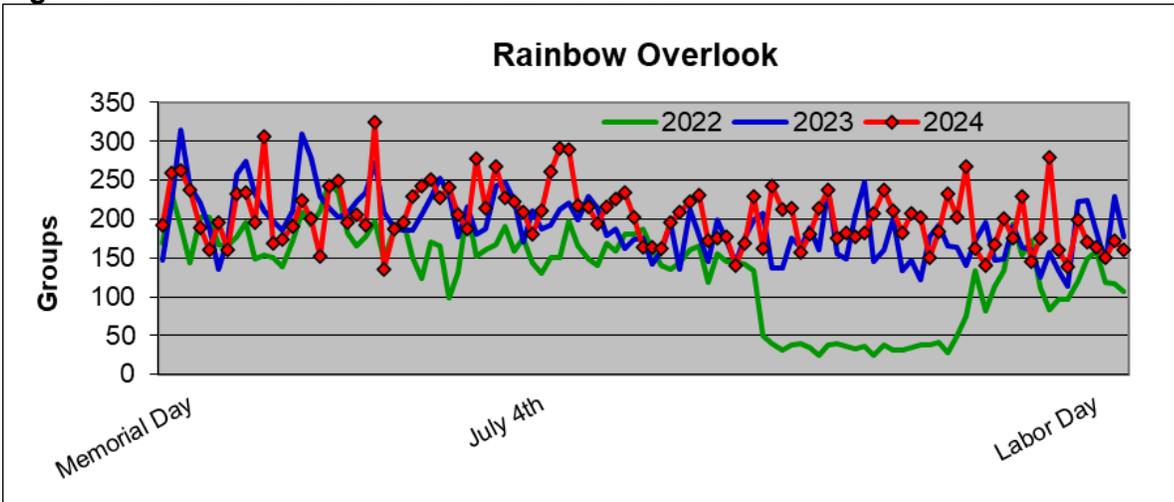
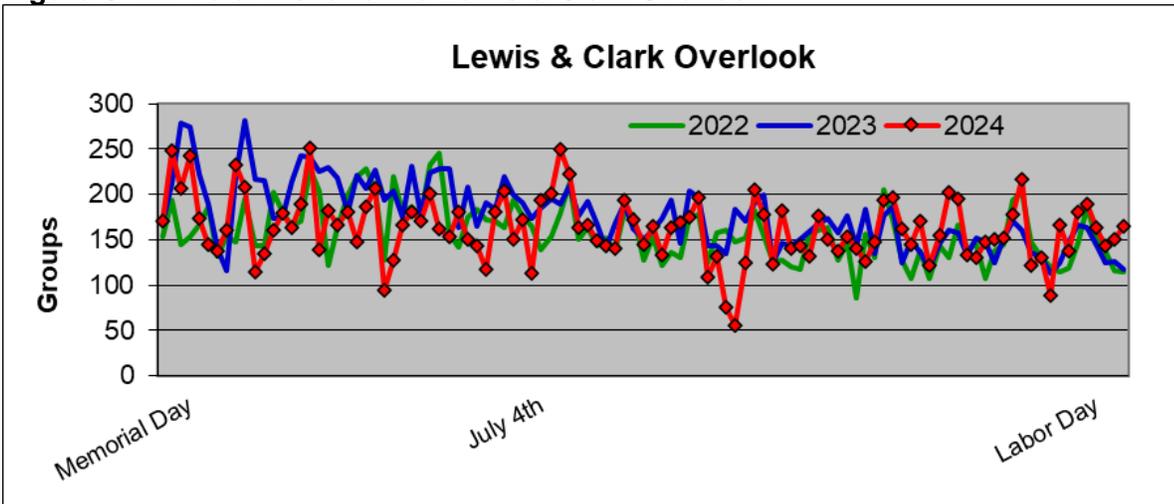
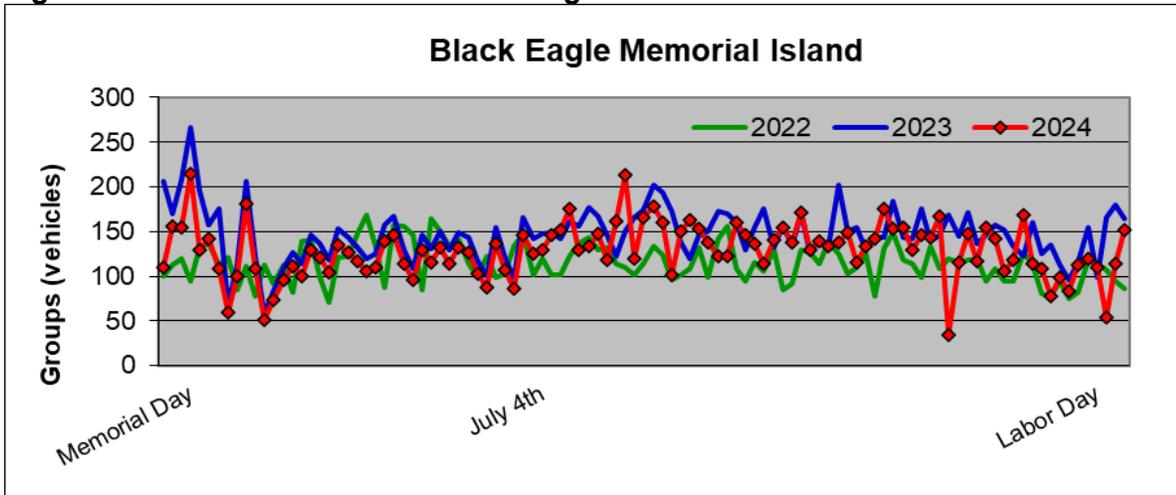


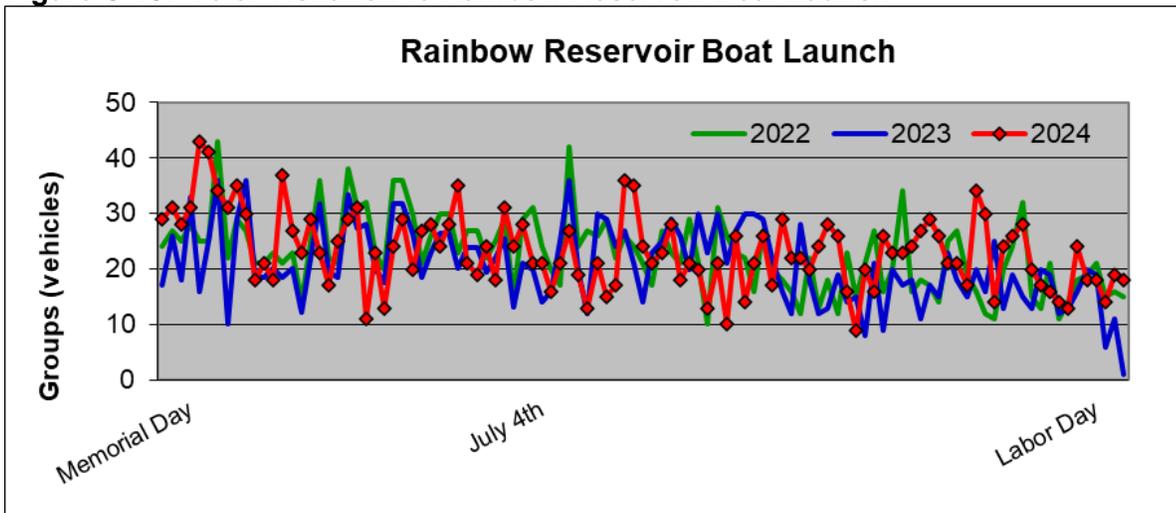
Figure C-17: Total Visitation to Lewis & Clark Overlook



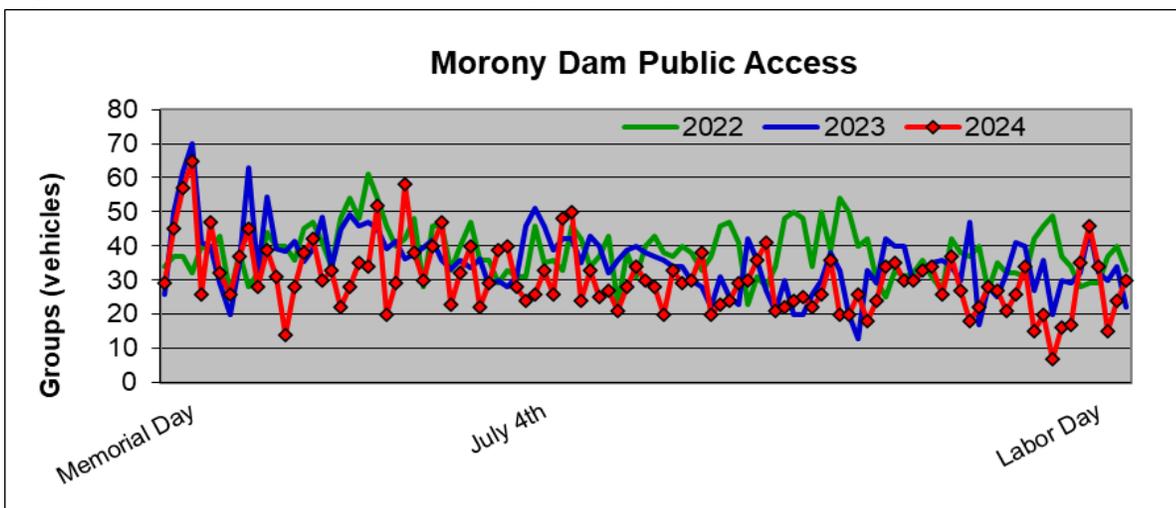
**Figure C-18: Total Visitation to Black Eagle Memorial Island**



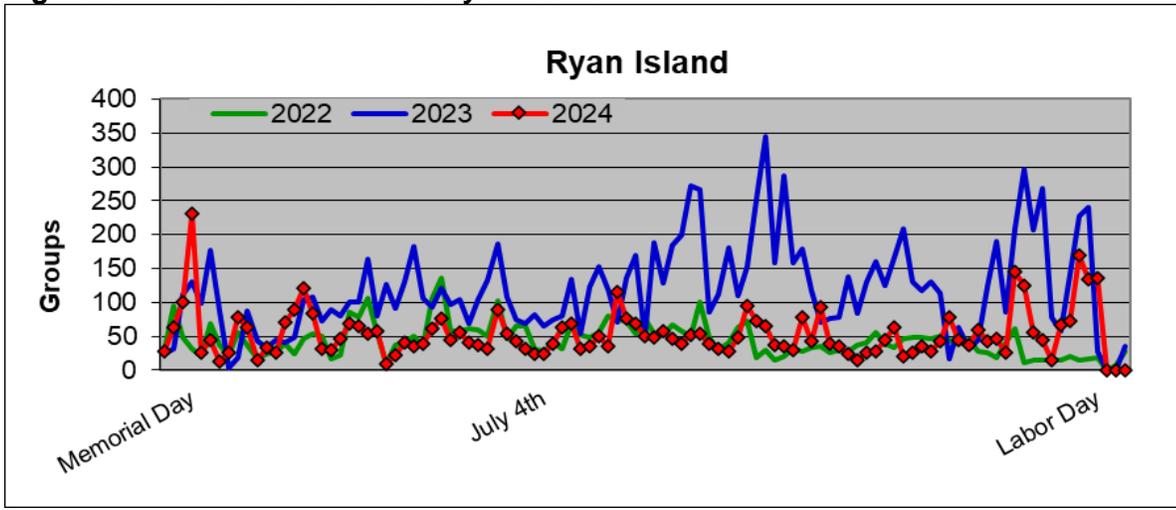
**Figure C-19: Total Visitation to Rainbow Reservoir Boat Launch**



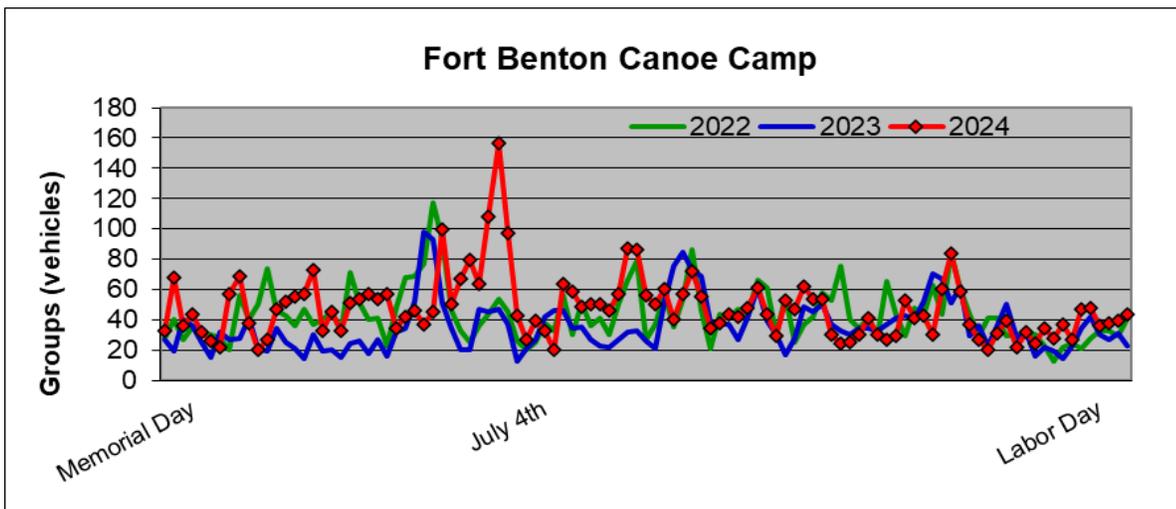
**Figure C-20: Total Visitation to Morony Dam Day Use**



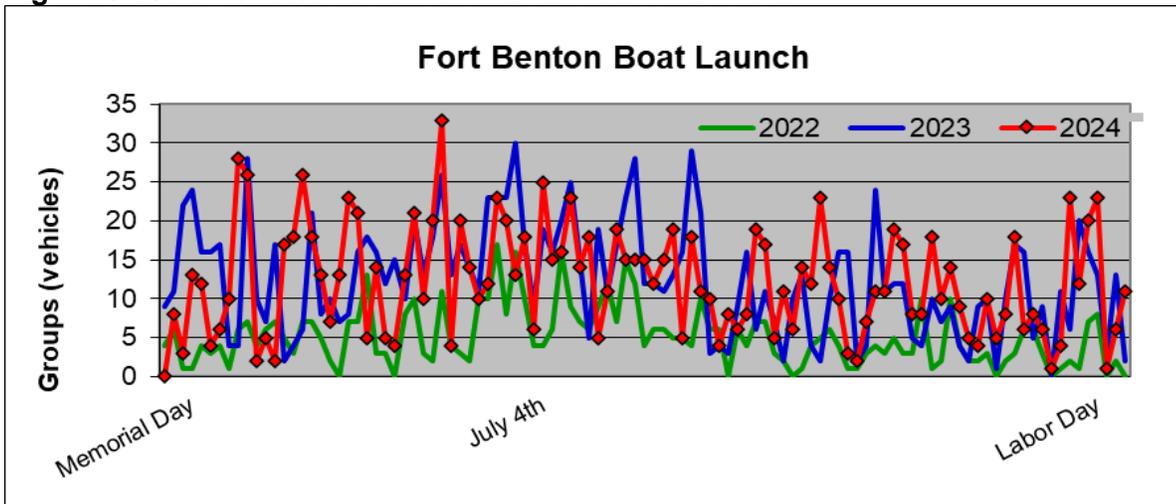
**Figure C-21: Total Visitation to Ryan Island**



**Figure C-22: Total Visitation to Fort Benton Canoe Camp**

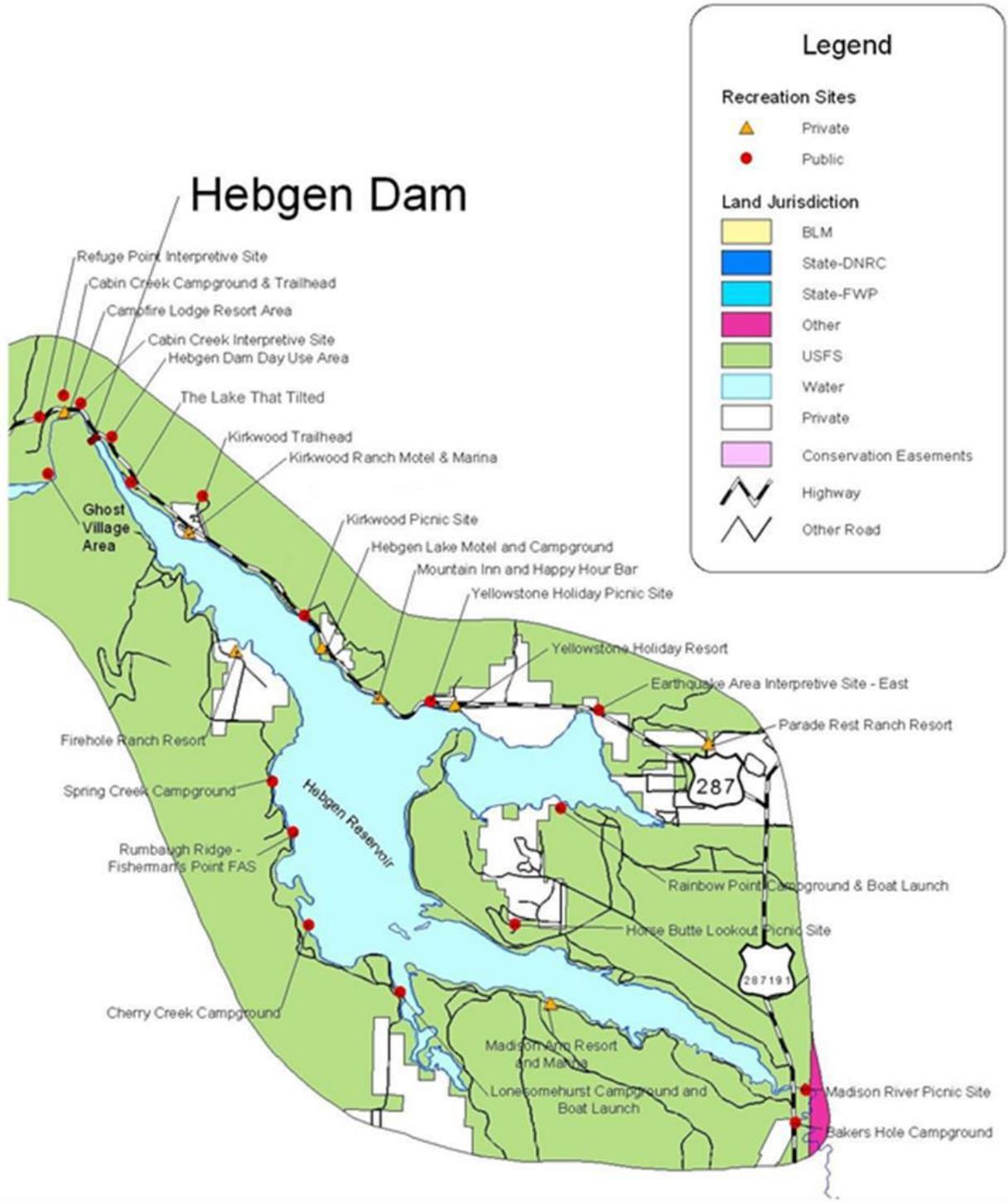


**Figure C-23: Total Visitation to Fort Benton Boat Launch**

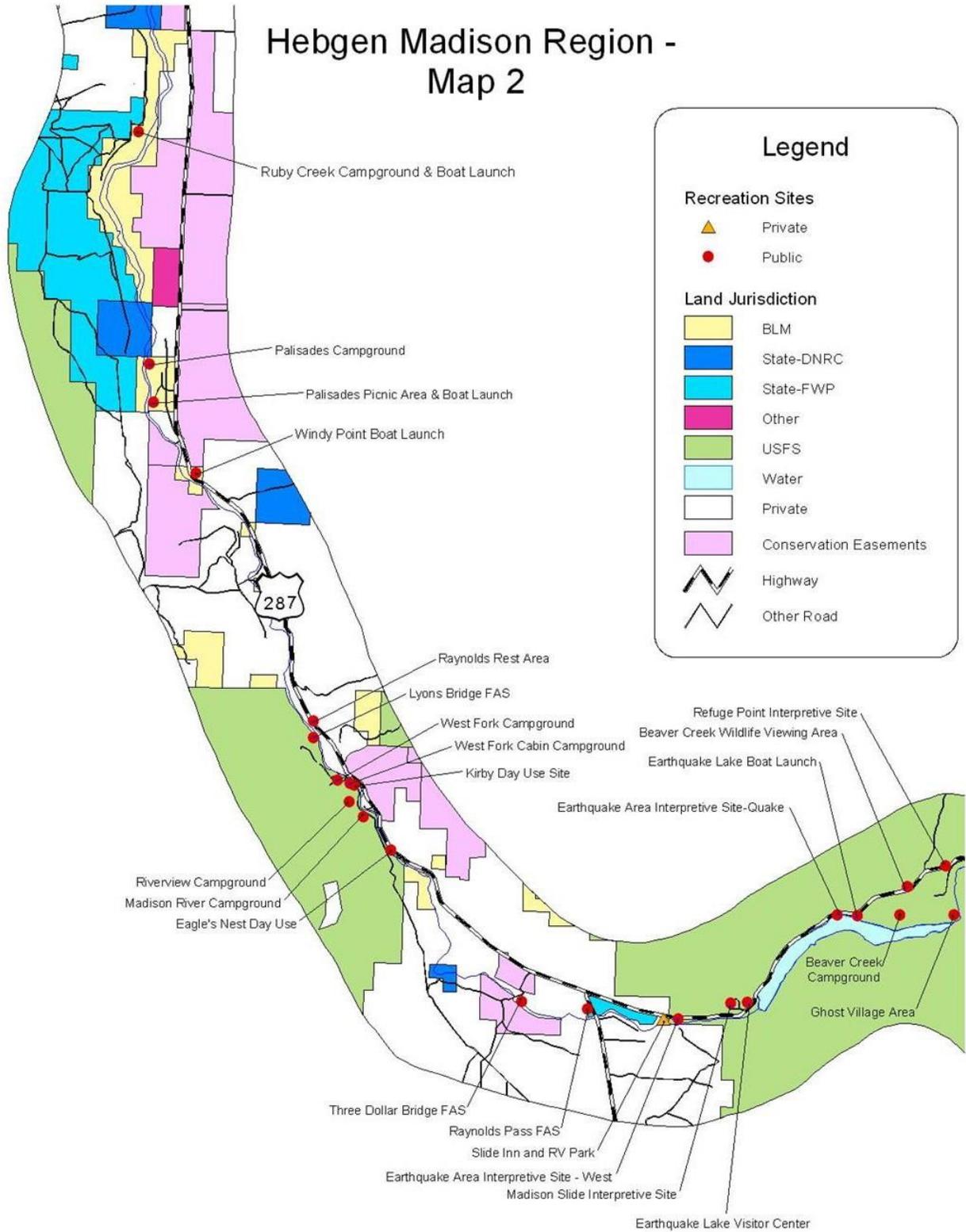


**Appendix D: Recreation Site Location Maps**

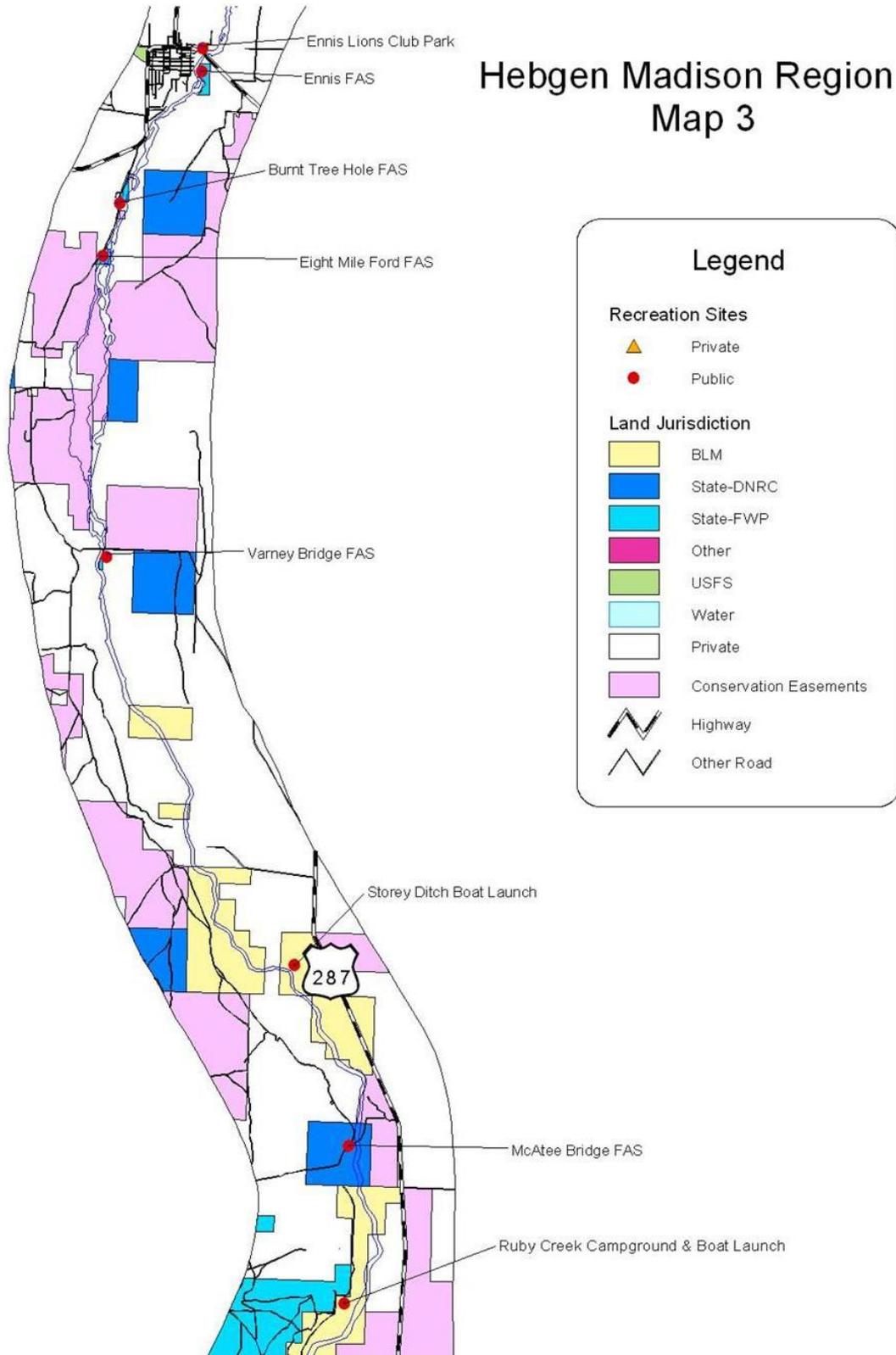
**Hebgen Madison Region - Map 1**



# Hebgen Madison Region - Map 2



# Hebgen Madison Region - Map 3



# Hebgen Madison Region - Map 4

### Legend

**Recreation Sites**

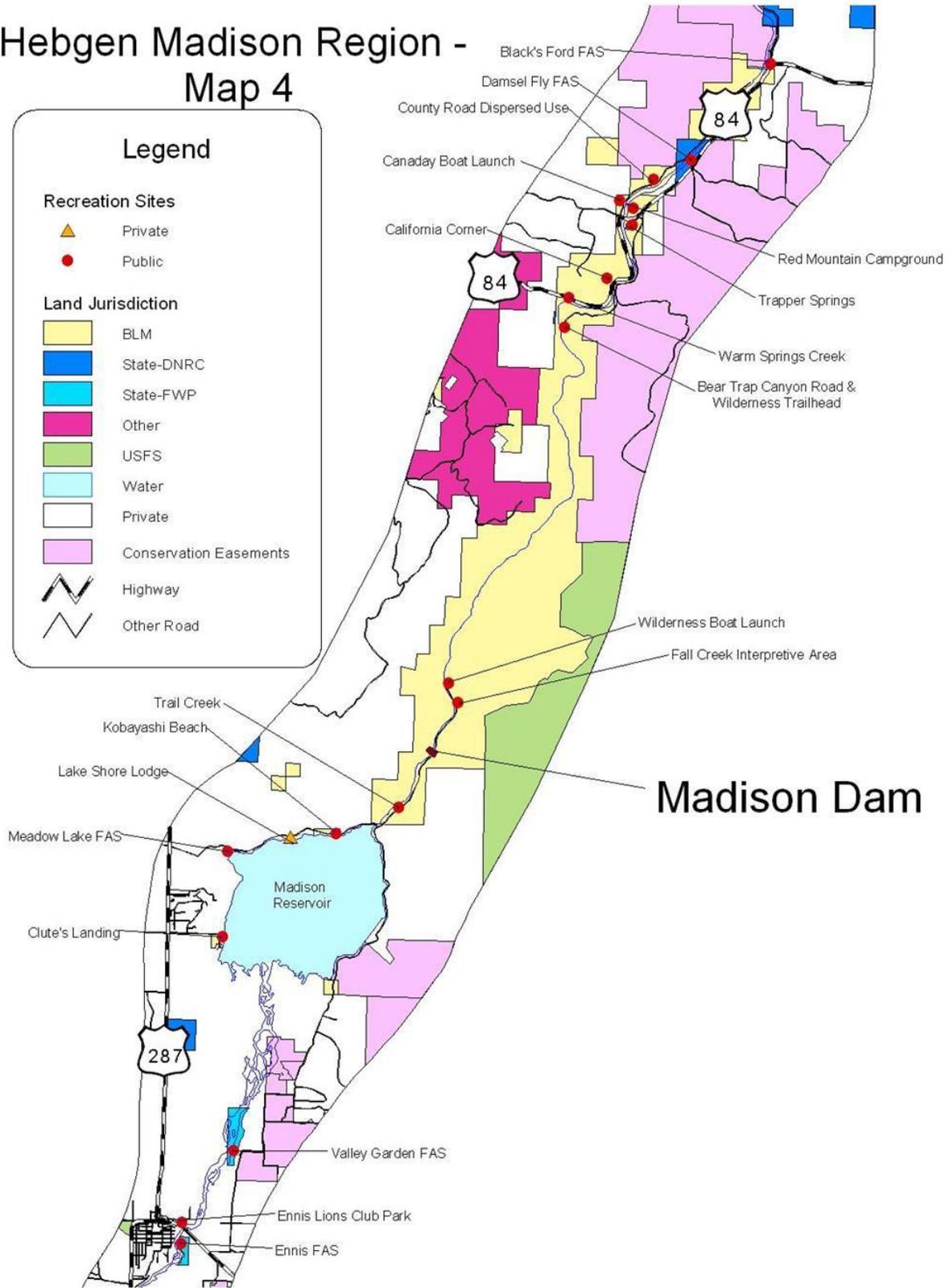
- ▲ Private
- Public

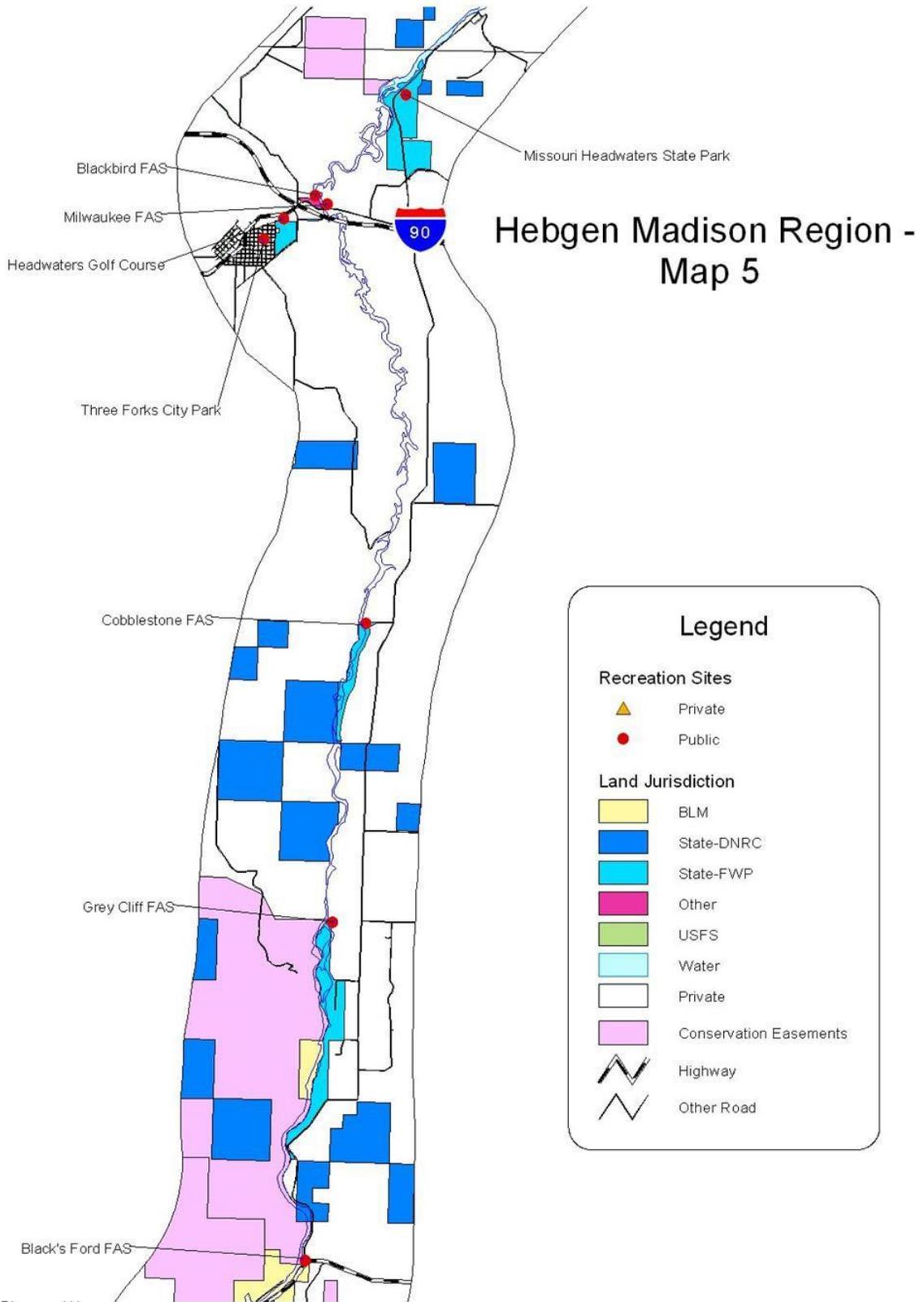
**Land Jurisdiction**

- BLM
- State-DNRC
- State-FWP
- Other
- USFS
- Water
- Private
- Conservation Easements

Highway

Other Road





# Hebgen Madison and Hauser Holter Regions - Map 6

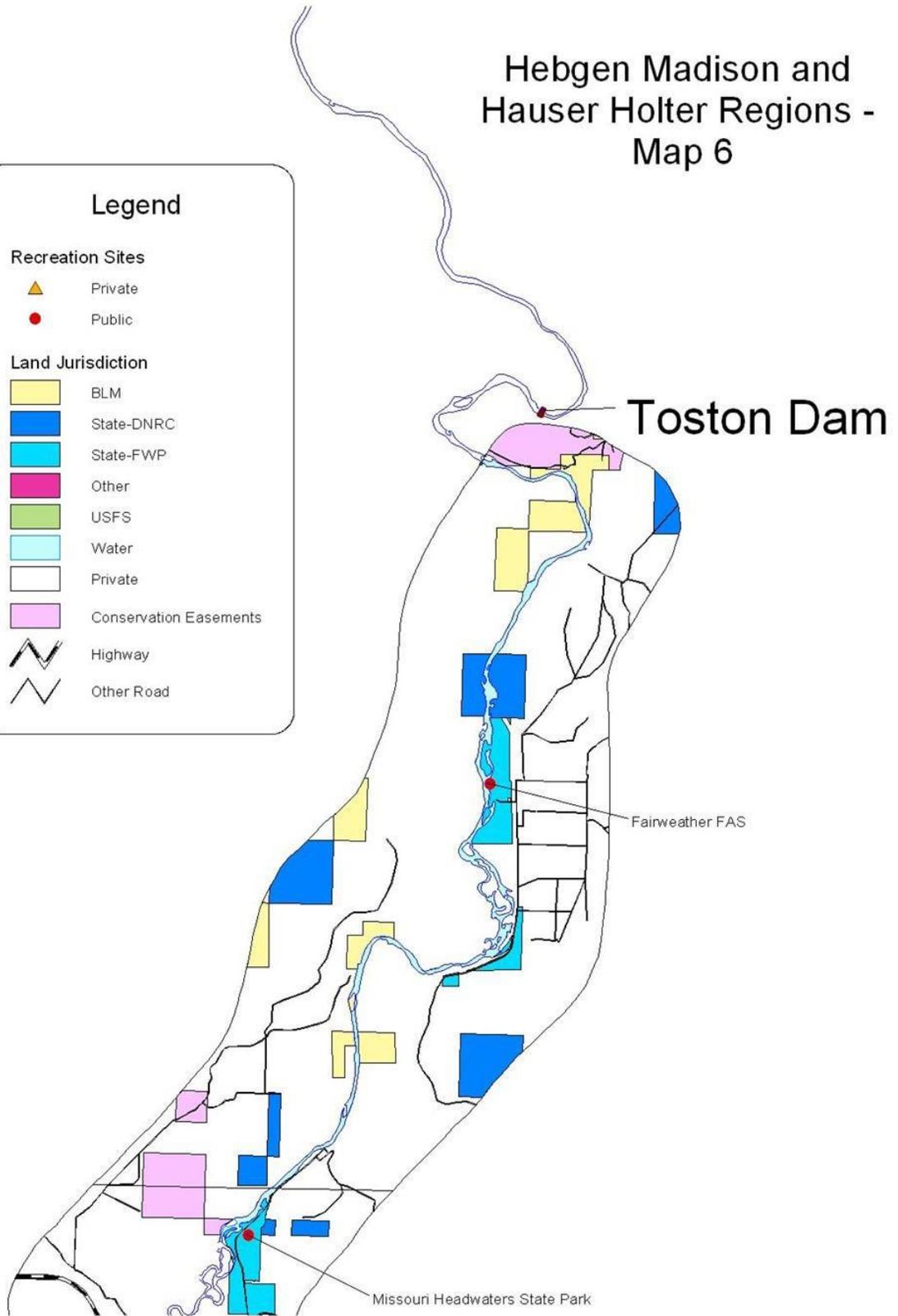
**Legend**

**Recreation Sites**

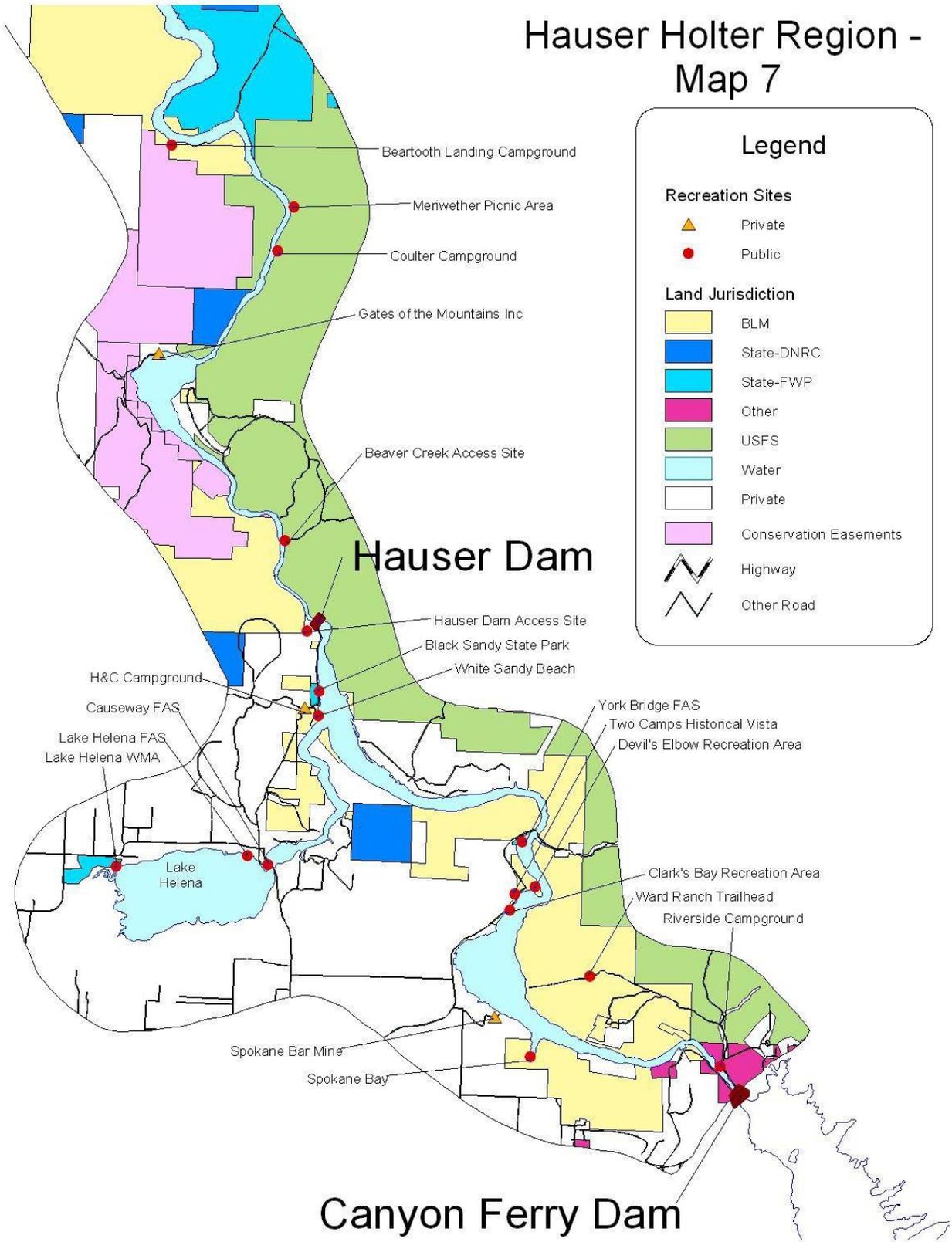
- ▲ Private
- Public

**Land Jurisdiction**

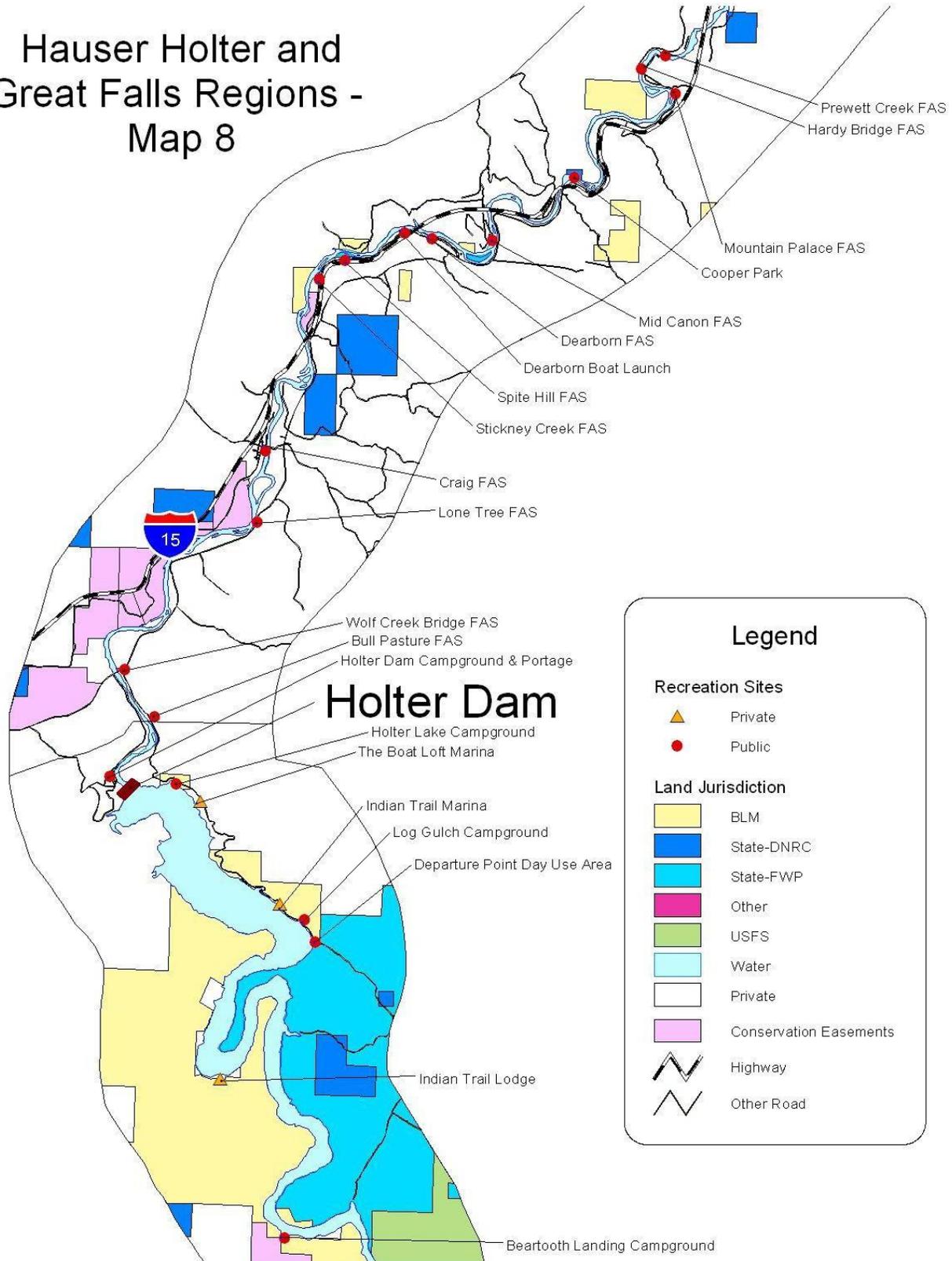
- BLM
- State-DNRC
- State-FWP
- Other
- USFS
- Water
- Private
- Conservation Easements
- Highway
- Other Road



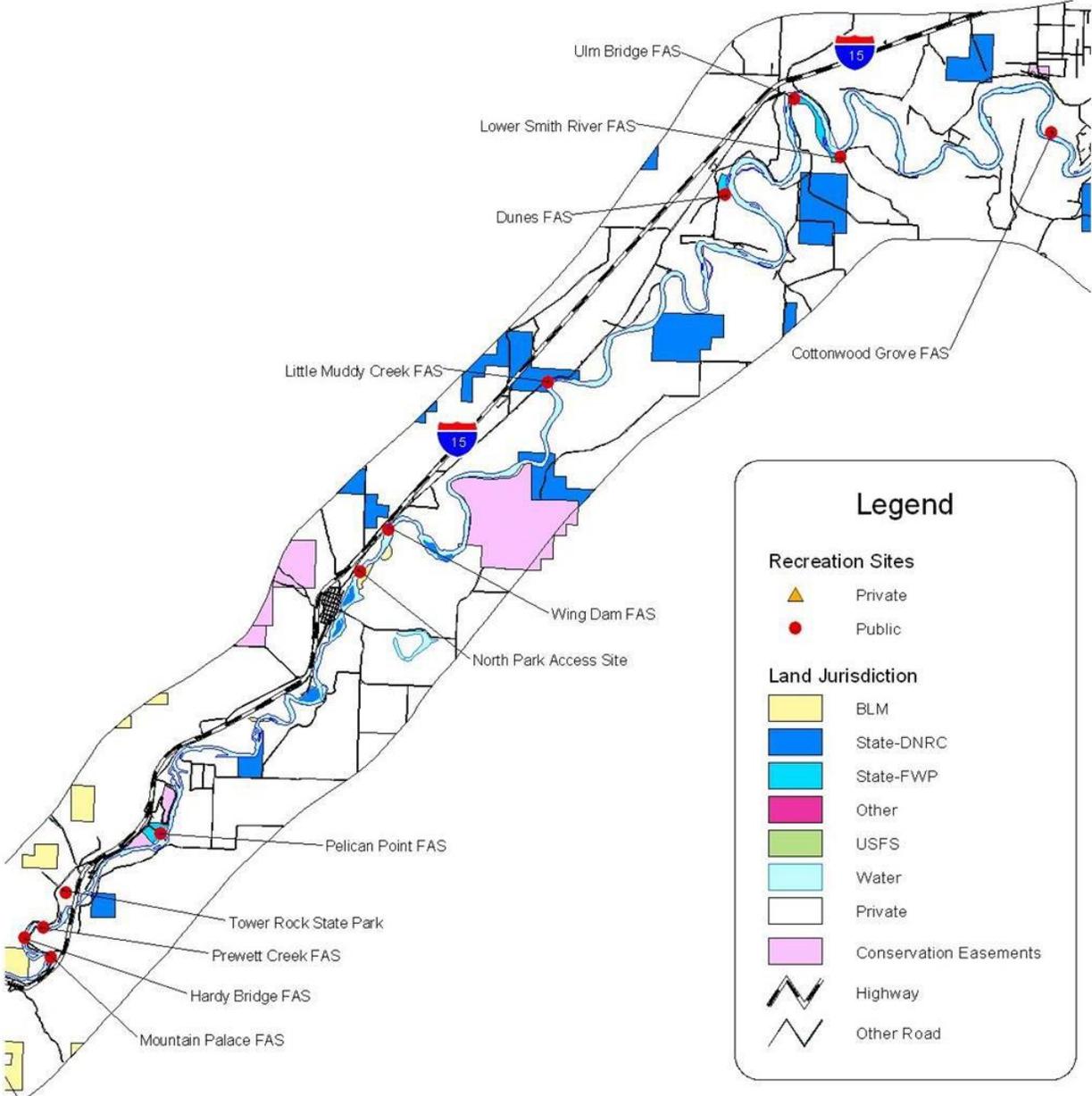
# Hauser Holter Region - Map 7



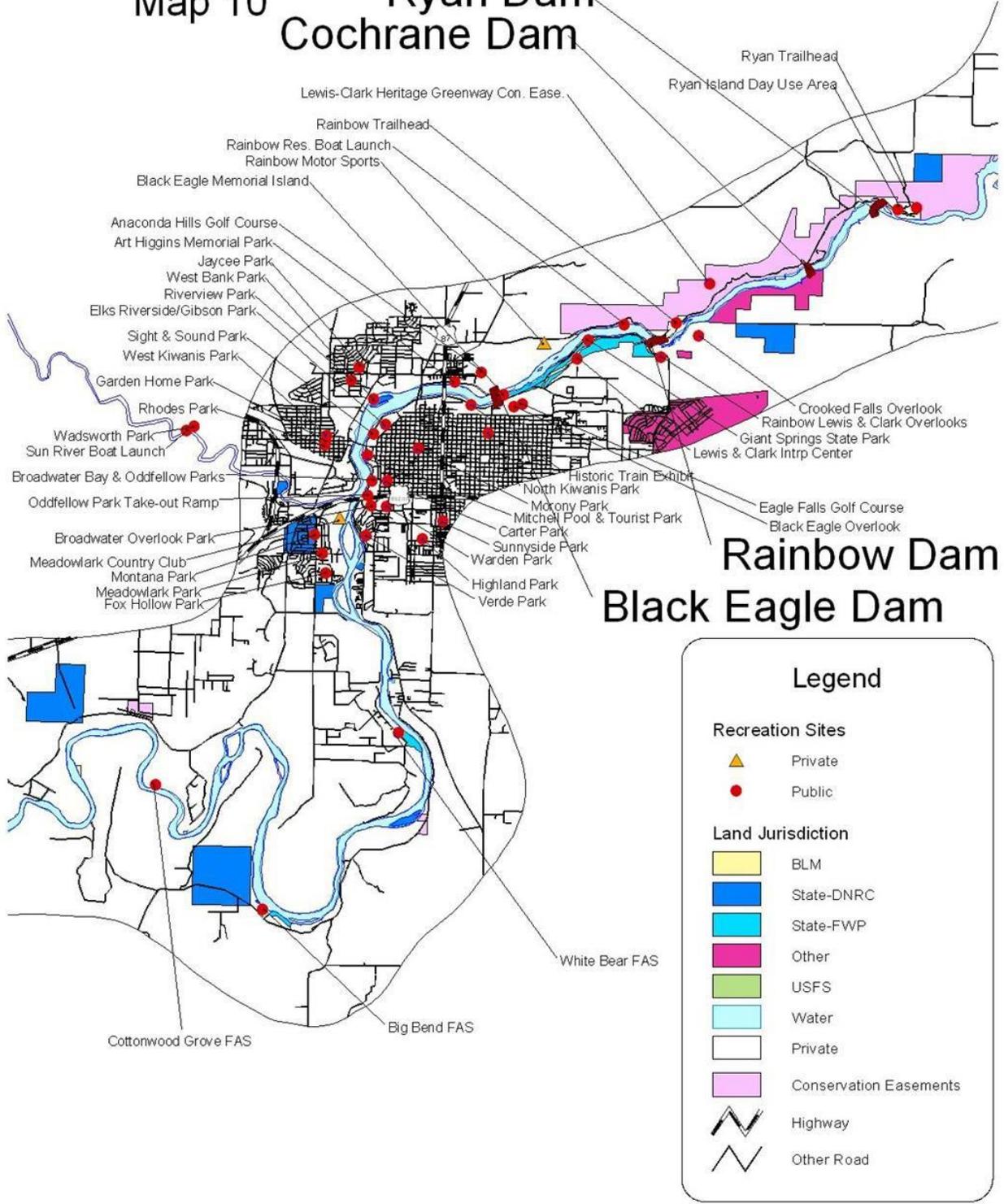
# Hauser Holter and Great Falls Regions - Map 8



# Great Falls Region - Map 9



# Great Falls Region - Map 10 Ryan Dam Cochrane Dam



### Legend

**Recreation Sites**

- ▲ Private
- Public

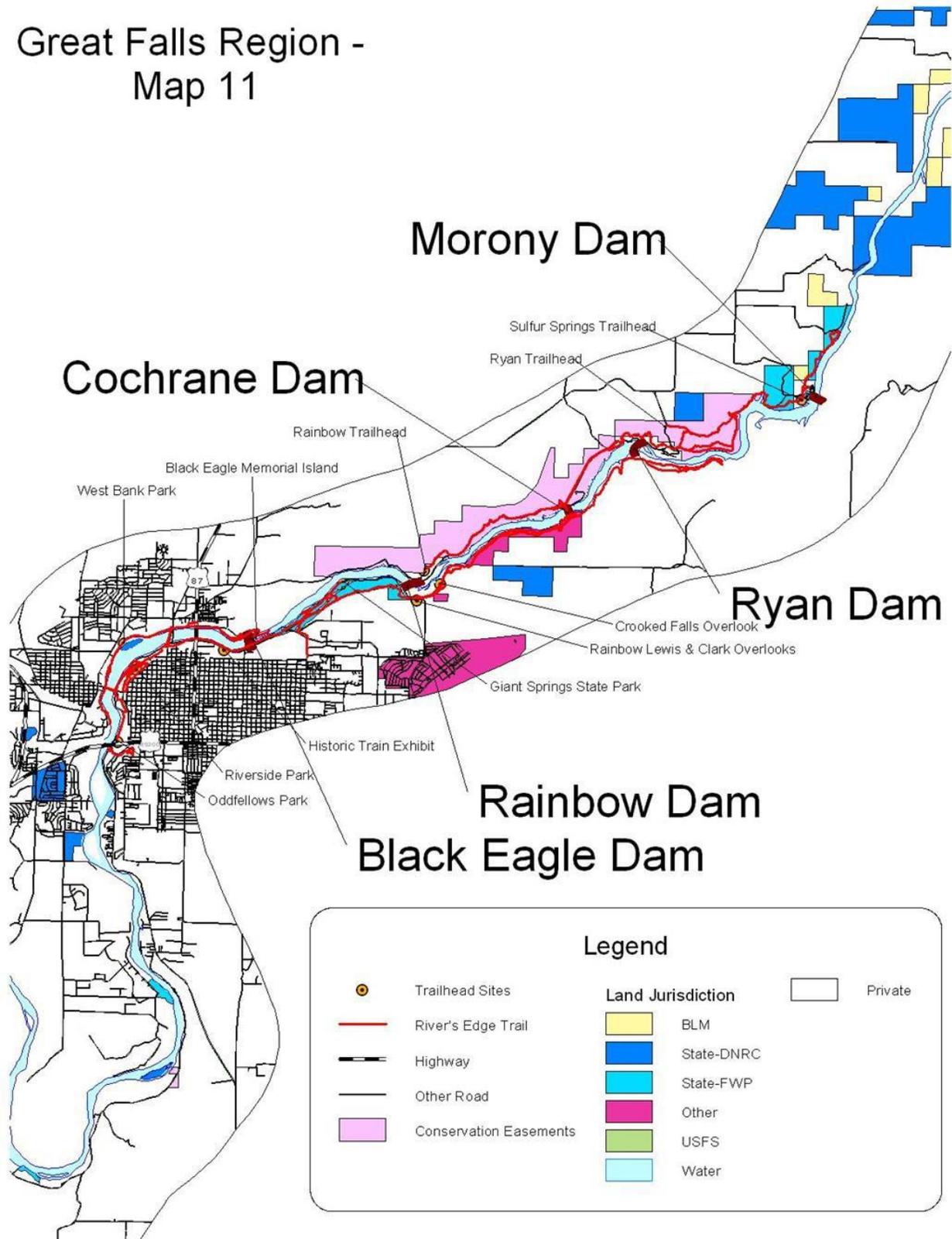
**Land Jurisdiction**

- BLM
- State-DNRC
- State-FWP
- Other
- USFS
- Water
- Private
- Conservation Easements

Highway

Other Road

# Great Falls Region - Map 11



# Great Falls Region - Map 12

