

NSRE UPDATE

NATIONAL SURVEY ON RECREATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

December 9, 2003

Ken Cordell, Mark Fly, Becky Stephens, and myself would like to wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year, may it prove to be a healthy, productive, and prosperous one for us all. On a more work-orientated note, to date versions one to fifteen of the **NSRE** have been completed. Version XV of the **NSRE** began in late April, 2003 and was completed in October, 2003. Version XV contained questions pertaining to people's recreation participation (with particular regard to specific resource-based activities, agricultural and farm related activities), recreational settings, people's attitudes and opinions towards wilderness, African-American's bird watchers, fees for federal land use, and demographics. A total of 6,001 interviews were collected.

Version XVIa of the **NSRE** was started in late October, 2003 and is expected to be completed by the end of March, 2004. Version XVIa contains questions pertaining to people's recreation participation, their values, beliefs and attitudes towards the management and recreational use of Forest Service lands, controlled burns and wildfires, and demographics.

Version XVIb of the **NSRE** was started in early November, 2003 and is expected to be completed in early February, 2004. Version XVIa contains questions pertaining to people's recreation participation, national forest values, public land management, rural land ownership, environmental opinions and attitudes, and demographics. All of version XVIb's questions are site specific to the Ozarks and Quachita National Forests.

Since September 1999, when the first completed interviews for the **NSRE** were collected and analyzed, over 130 presentations, one book (and another on its way), several manuscripts, reports and summaries have been completed. Some of the topics presented covered issues such as outdoor recreation participation trends, wilderness values, environmental concerns and opinions, public land management and practices, agricultural and farm related activities, and people's lifestyles. The book summarizing the **NSRE**'s findings called "Outdoor Recreation for 21st Century America" will be published in Spring 2004. A second book called "The Multiple Values of Wilderness" is expected to be finished in March 2004 and to published later that summer.

NSRE is being administered through the Human Dimensions Research Laboratory at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. To date, over 230,000 hours of interviewing have been spent on data collection alone, resulting in over 85,000 completed interviews.

A major part of the success of the **NSRE** has been the continued support we have received from you, our partners and sponsors over the years. We hope you will continue to support and collaborate with us on the next **NSRE** (2004-2006), which we are finalizing now. However, if we are to continue to serve your research needs, we need to hear from you in the very near future.

For further information regarding the content, progress and results of the **NSRE** survey, contact Gary T. Green on (706)-559-4269 or gtgreen/srs_atthens@fs.fed.us. Information may also be obtained at <http://www.srs.fs.fed.us/trends/>