

North Dakota Parks & Recreation Department

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **State park visitation improves in July**

Visitation picked up in July as 199,477 people passed through the gates of North Dakota's state parks bringing the total to 547,100 in 2008.

State Parks experienced a 17 percent increase from the previous month. Overall in 2008, visitation to the state parks is down 4.6 percent in comparison to the same time period in 2007 (573,625).

Camping numbers continue to improve. Through Aug. 10, there were 37,224 campers, down 4.5 percent, but significantly better than those numbers a month earlier which were 10 percent behind the similar time period of 2007.

In July 2,807 people that took advantage of the cabins available in the state parks.

"Peak summer visitation has picked up," said Gordon Weixel, Public Information Officer for the state's parks and recreation department. "However, the early season slump due to cold weather and fire bans has not been erased."