

North Dakota Parks & Recreation Department

NEWS RELEASE

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For more information, contact Gordon Weixel, 701-328-5358

State Park July visitation up considerably

North Dakota State Parks saw a remarkable increase in July visitation numbers, compared to last year, as 259,572 people travelled through state park gates, up 27.7 percent from July 2008.

The number of campers is also up through the first seven months of the year as 40,241 campers have stayed in the parks, up 7.5 percent from 2008.

The reasons for the strong increase in visitation numbers are hard to pinpoint, according to Doug Prchal, director of the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department. He added that, from Jan. 1 to Aug. 17, 2009, campsite reservations are up 12 percent while camping nights/days is up 14 percent.

“It’s not just one factor that can be credited for the large numbers of people visiting the state’s parks,” Prchal admits. “Gas prices, the economy, weather, Lake Sakakawea’s rise and the wonderful outdoor opportunities the parks provide, all make trips to North Dakota’s State Parks a fantastic value.”

Through July 31 of this year 625,570 people have visited state parks, up 11 percent from 2008. This is following the trend at National Parks which saw an increase of 4.5 million visits over the first six months of last year, according to National Park Service reports.