

## Comments Left by Wilderness Visitors

These are actual comments left in 1996 on U. S. Forest Service registration sheets and comment cards by backpackers completing wilderness camping trips:

- “A small deer came into my camp and stole my bag of pickles. Is there a way I can get reimbursed? Please call.”
- “Escalators would help on steep uphill sections.”
- “Instead of a permit system or regulations, the Forest Service needs to reduce worldwide population growth to limit the number of visitors to wilderness.”
- “Trails need to be wider so people can walk while holding hands.”
- “Ban walking sticks in wilderness. Hikers that use walking sticks are more likely to chase animals.”
- “All the mile markers are missing this year.”
- “Found a smoldering cigarette left by a horse.”
- “Trails need to be reconstructed. Please avoid building trails that go uphill.”
- “Too many bugs and leeches and spiders and spider webs. Please spray the wilderness to rid the area of these pests.”
- “Please pave the trails so they can be plowed of snow in the winter.”
- “Chair lifts need to be in some places so that we can get to wonderful views without having to hike to them.”
- “The coyotes made too much noise last night and kept me awake. Please eradicate these annoying animals.”
- “Reflectors need to be placed on trees every 50 feet so people can hike at night with flashlights.”
- “Need more signs to keep area pristine.”
- “A McDonald’s would be nice at the trail head.”
- “The places where trails do not exist are not well marked.”
- “Too many rocks in the mountains.”

Additional comments left by park visitors:

- What time do they let the animals out in the park? – Denali National Park
- Why did the Indians only build ruins? – Mesa Verde National Park
- What is your best parking area? – Zion National Park
- Where’s the road to the summit? – Mount Rainier National Park
- Don’t you think the polluted sky makes a much prettier sunset? – Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

Grand Canyon National Park:

- Was this man-made?
- Do you light it up at night?
- I bought tickets for the elevator to the bottom—where is it?
- Is the mule train air-conditioned?
- So where are the faces of the presidents?

Everglades National Park:

- Are the alligators real?
- Are the baby alligators for sale?
- Where are all the rides?
- What time does the two o'clock bus leave?

Mesa Verde National Park:

- Did people build this, or did Indians?
- Why did they build the ruins so close to the road?
- Do you know of any undiscovered ruins?
- What did they worship in the kivas—their own made-up religion?
- Why did the Indians decide to live in Colorado?

Carlsbad Caverns National Park:

- How much of the cave is underground?
- So what's in the unexplored part of the cave?
- Does it ever rain in here?
- How many Ping-Pong balls would it take to fill this up?
- So what is this—just a hole in the ground?

Yosemite National Park:

- Where are the cages for the animals?
- What time of year do you turn on Yosemite Falls?
- What happened to the other half of Half Dome?
- Can I get my picture taken with the carving of President Clinton?

Denali National Park:

- What time do you feed the bears?
- What's so wonderful about Wonder Lake?
- Can you show me where yeti lives?
- How often do you mow the tundra?
- How much does Mount McKinley weigh?

Yellowstone National Park:

- Does Old Faithful erupt at night?
- How do you turn it on?
- When does the guy who turns it on get to sleep?
- We had no trouble finding the park entrances, but where are the exits?