



**REGIONAL RECREATION MANAGEMENT IN THE ZION REGION**

# **Crafting a Community-Led Vision**

**Utah Outdoor Recreation Summit @ Kanab**

**October 28, 2021**

Los Angeles Times

BUSINESS

Too many tourists: Crowding is parks and theme parks

By HUC

The New York Times

2017 | 3:00 AM

National Parks Struggle With a Mounting Crisis: Too Many Visitors

By Julie Turkewitz Photographs by Ruth Fremson  
Sept. 27, 2017

Deseret News Utah

This Utah national park beat out Yellowstone and Yosemite as one of the most popular parks in the nation

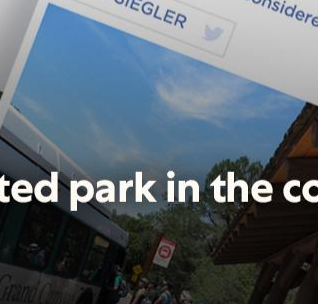
By Sydney Chapman  
Published November 25, 2014 2:27 pm



Long Lines, Packed Campsites And Busy Trails: Our Crowded National Parks

March 7, 2016 · 4:27 PM ET  
Heard on All Things Considered

KIRK SIEGLER



Zion is the third most visited park in the country.

CONDÉ NAST  
Traveler

Zion National Park Sets Visitation Record — But This May Be Bad News for You

tripadvisor

Zion National Park

Travel feed: Zion National Park Hotels Things to do Restaurants Flights

United States > Utah (UT) > Zion National Park > Zion National Park Travel Forum

Is Zion getting too crowded to be enjoyable?



Is Zion getting too crowded to be enjoyable?

Jan 5, 2017, 1:55 PM

pipermolly  
Salt Lake City, ...

1 post

We are planning a trip to Zion in October 2017. No hearing horror stories of 2-4 hour waits to get on the shuttle buses, huge waits to drive into the park, overcrowded trails etc. It's been a few years since been there-has it gotten so crowded that we should change plans?

Any tips on beating the lines?

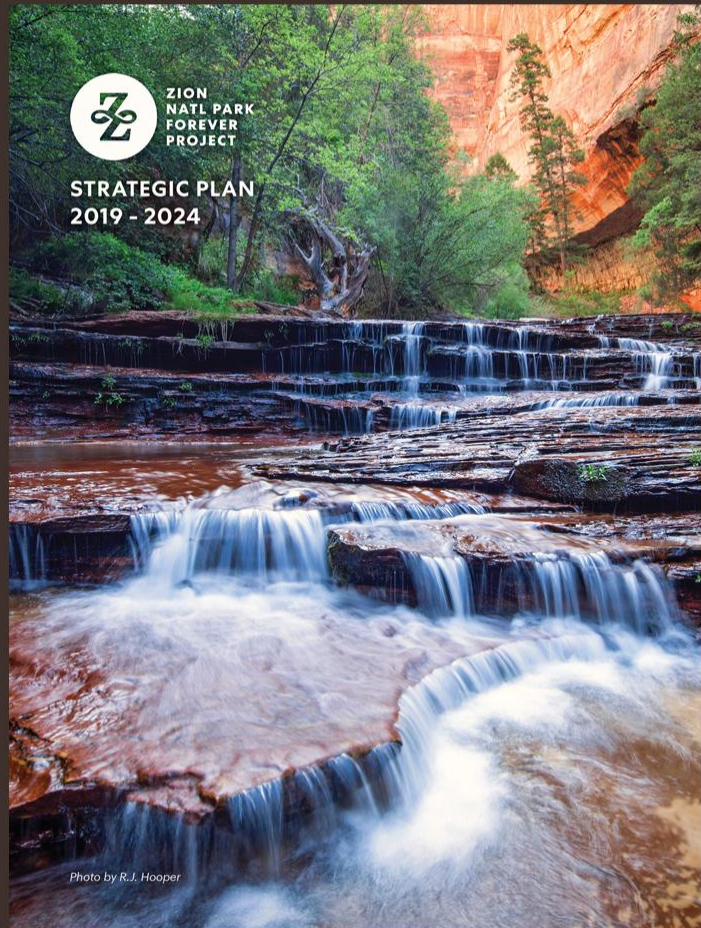
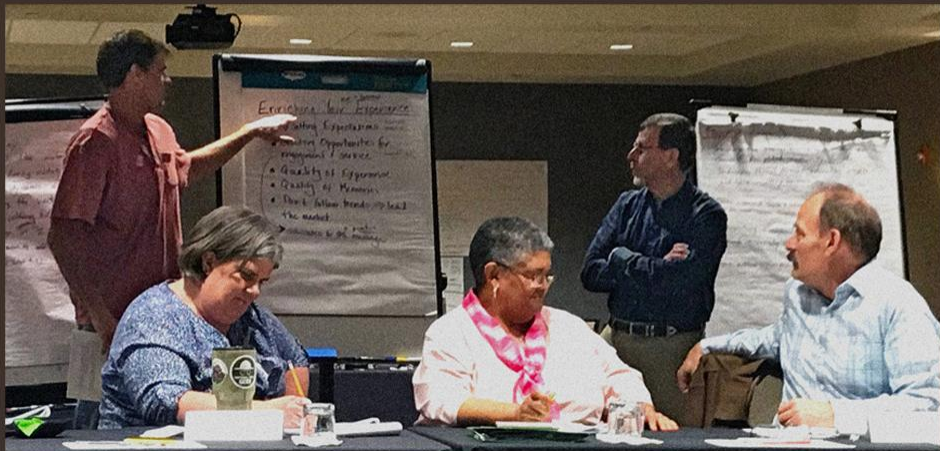




Traffic in the park causes long delays



... and many trails are overwhelmed with visitors.



The background of the image is a majestic mountain range. The peaks are rugged and covered in patches of snow, set against a sky that transitions from a deep blue to a hazy grey. The overall mood is serene and powerful.

## **OUR VISION**

**The Zion Forever Project engages in collaborative efforts to create connections to the Greater Zion Landscape that will lead to lifelong stewardship. By encouraging collaborative innovation and funding tangible projects, the Zion Forever Project is building the next generation of leaders and stewards.**



ZION  
NATL PARK  
FOREVER  
PROJECT

A book of solutions for the  
Greater Zion Landscape



FIELD  
GUIDE

2021

IMPROVING TODAY • INFORMING TOMORROW • PROTECTING FOREVER







— THE —  
CONSERVATION FUND



## WHAT WE DO

**At the Fund, we make conservation work for America. By creating solutions that make environmental and economic sense, we are redefining conservation to demonstrate its essential role in our future prosperity.**

**Top-ranked for efficiency and effectiveness, we have worked in all 50 states to protect over 8.5 million acres of land since 1985.**

**Working with partners we protect America's legacy of land and water resources through land acquisition, sustainable community and economic development, and leadership training, emphasizing the integration of economic and environmental goals.**

A person wearing a purple long-sleeved shirt, black leggings, a grey beanie, and a purple backpack is hiking through a slot canyon. The canyon walls are made of layered, reddish-brown sandstone with distinct horizontal striations. The person is walking away from the camera, down a narrow path. The lighting is dramatic, with strong shadows and highlights on the rock surfaces.

## **BALANCING NATURE & COMMERCE**

### **Our Core Competencies:**

**We frame the questions to shape the program  
that serves you**

**We bring people together to find common ground**

**We help you create your vision and develop  
action plans for implementation**

# PROJECT PROCESS & STRUCTURE

[zionregionalrec.org](http://zionregionalrec.org)

The screenshot shows the website for The Conservation Fund. The header is blue with the organization's name and navigation links: 'What We Do', 'Where We Work', 'Experts', 'Impact', and a yellow 'Donate' button. There are also links for 'GREEN BONDS', 'NEWS', and a search icon. The main content area is white and features a breadcrumb trail 'Projects / Zion Regional Recreation Management Plan'. The title 'Zion Regional Recreation Management Plan' is in large blue font, with social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn to its right. Below the title is a paragraph describing the plan's purpose. A horizontal line separates this from a 'WHAT?' section, which contains a detailed description of the plan as both a process and a product. To the right of the 'WHAT?' section is a 'PROJECT EXPERTS' section featuring a photo of Susan Elks and her title: 'Program Manager, Balancing Nature and Commerce'. A photo of a desert landscape is also present, with a credit to 'The Conservation Fund'.

THE CONSERVATION FUND

GREEN BONDS NEWS

What We Do Where We Work Experts Impact [Donate](#)

Projects / Zion Regional Recreation Management Plan

## Zion Regional Recreation Management Plan

[f](#) [t](#) [in](#)

The Plan will foster coordination and collaboration for recreation-related projects and initiatives advanced by communities, agencies and organizations.

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### WHAT?

Zion Regional Recreation Management Plan is a process and a product. The process is crossing administrative boundaries and geographic constraints, while the end product will identify regional goals and implementation actions around recreation and the related areas of tourism, resource stewardship, transportation and economic opportunity, establishing a long-term coordinating framework and plan.

**PROJECT EXPERTS**


 **Susan Elks**  
Program Manager,  
Balancing Nature  
and Commerce

Photo credit: The Conservation Fund

A wide-angle photograph of a desert canyon. The foreground shows layered, reddish-brown rock formations with some sparse green vegetation. In the middle ground, a valley opens up, showing more rock formations and scattered trees. In the background, a large, prominent rock formation with a distinct vertical crack or shadow runs down its face, topped with a line of trees. The sky is a clear, bright blue.

**Develop a shared, community-led vision for the Zion region that crafts regional solutions to enhance visitor experience and manage recreational demands in a manner that stewards resources effectively.**



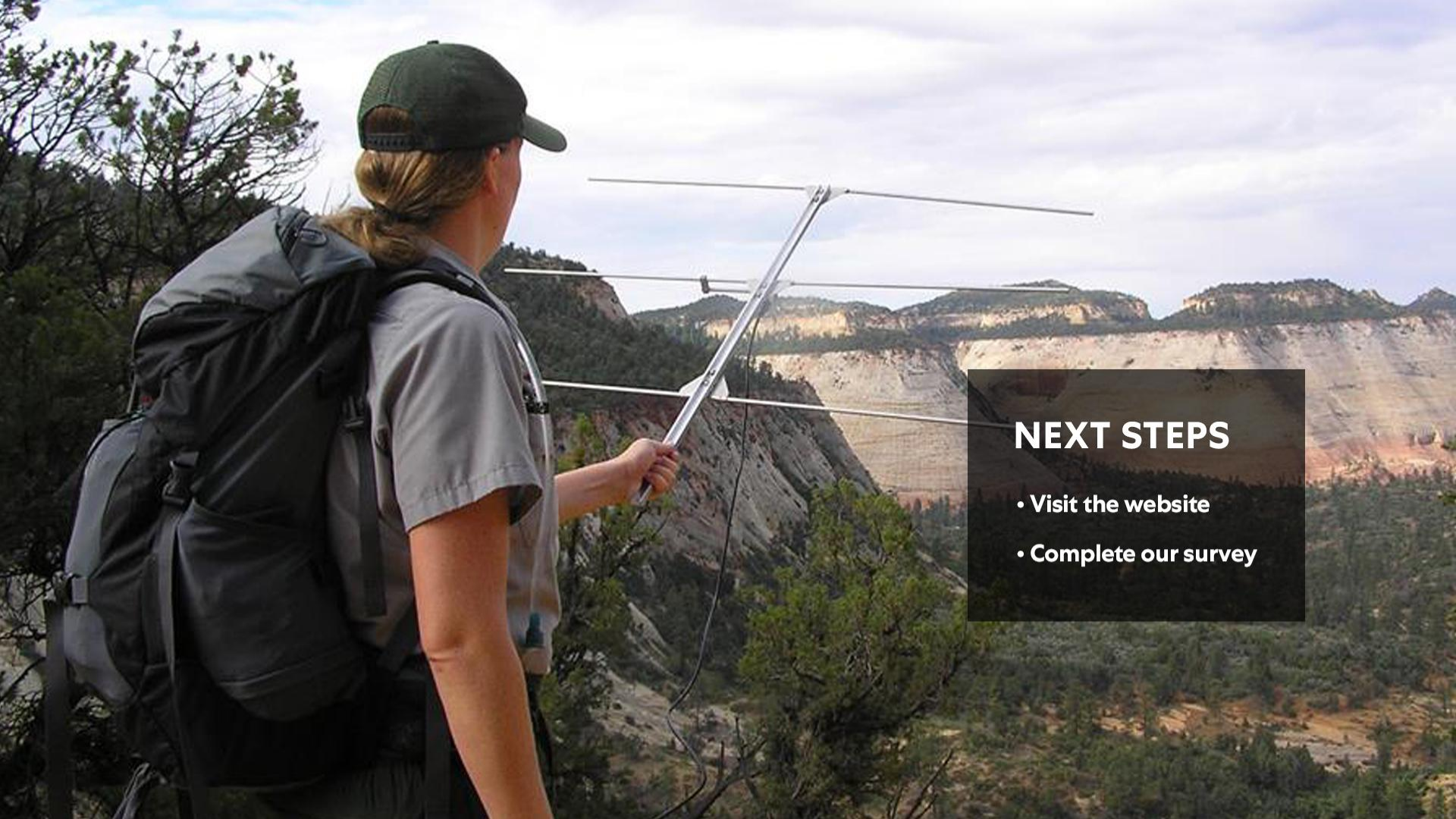
## **WORKING GROUPS**

- **Trip Planning**
- **Visitor Experience**
- **Dispersal**
- **Economic Opportunity**
- **Mobility**



## **THEMES ACROSS INPUT**

- **Consistent messaging, advance and on-site**
- **Stewardship content**
- **Dispersal across time and place, with management**
- **Reduce barriers for economic opportunity: housing costs, transportation network**
- **Create proactive, collaborative systems to address recreation +**
- **Infrastructure can't afford to lag behind**
- **Quality recreation experiences requires care of resources & assets**



## **NEXT STEPS**

- **Visit the website**
- **Complete our survey**

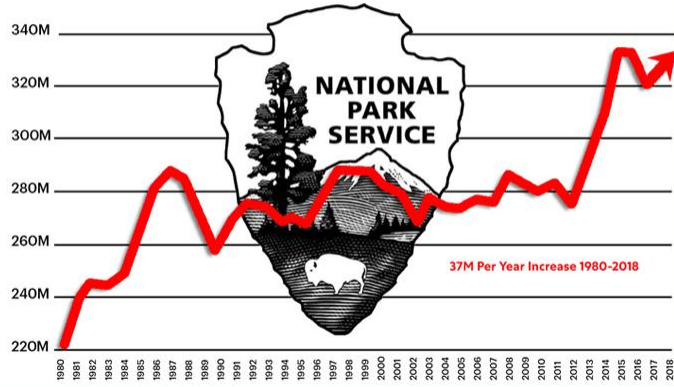




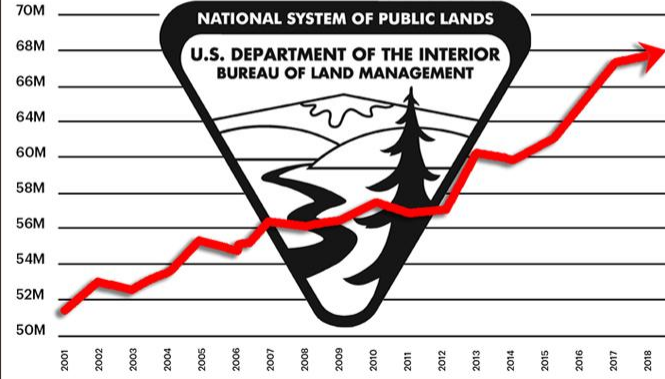
**KANAB, UTAH**



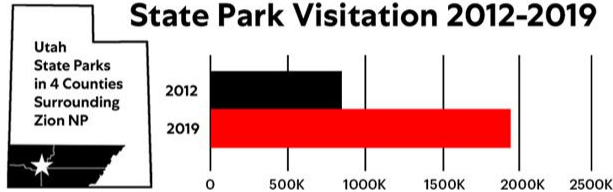
## National NPS Visitation 1980-2018



## BLM Recreational Visitation 2001-2018



## State Park Visitation 2012-2019

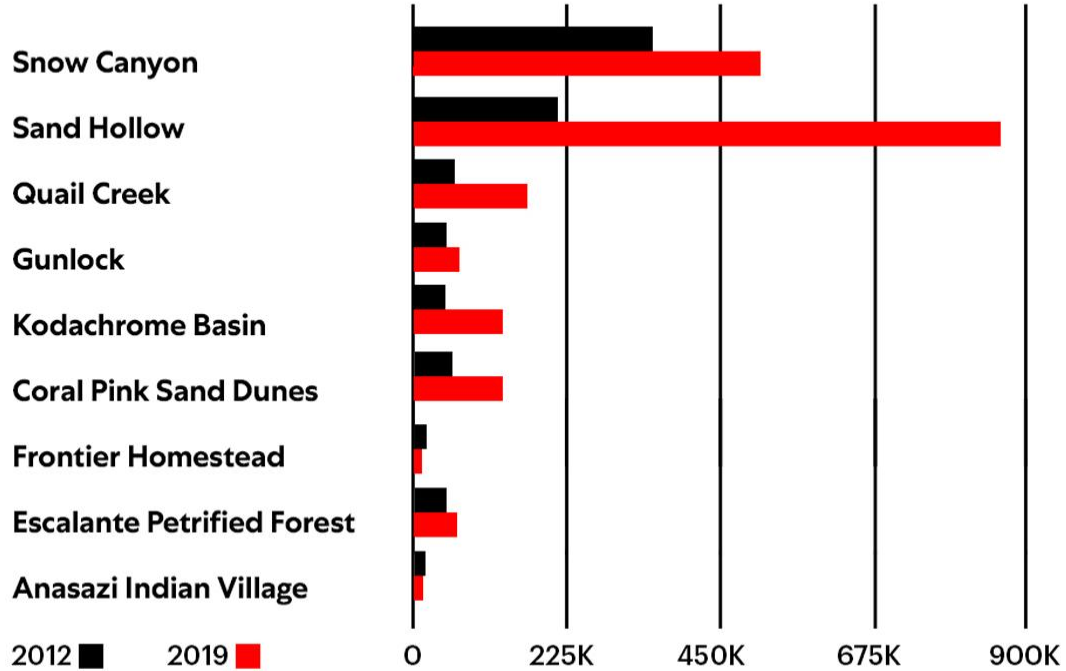


## Intermountain USFS Visitation 2009-2018

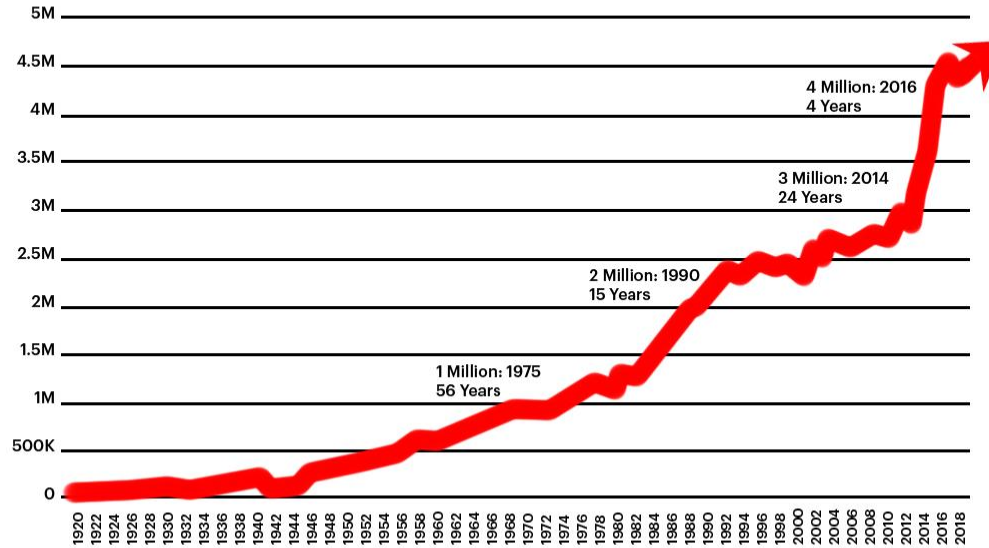




# State Park Visitation 2012-2019



# Zion NP Visitation 1920-2018



# DISPERSING VISITORS – FACTORS

## Physical Aspects

- Spatial Distribution
- Temporal Distribution
- Connectivity
- Capacity
- Infrastructure

## Human Aspects

- Types of Visitors
- Marketing
- Messaging
- Social Media
- Incentives



**QUESTIONS?**