

Snake River through Jackson Hole

Conceptual Alternatives Workshop with Teton County Commissioners

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Confluence Research and Consulting**

Workshop objectives

- Review issues
- Decisions in a river management plan
- **Sideboards for alternatives – 53 decisions**
- Next steps and schedule



Plan Area

Two segments:

- Moose – Wilson
- Wilson – South Park

River and public land
“between the levees”

Three BLM parcels

- Wilson
- Parcel 23
- South Park

Recreation – not fish/wildlife



Issue review

- Launch crowding, congestion, and development
- On-river social impacts
- Types of use conflicts
- Signs of use impacts
- Capacities and commercial use management
- Revenue for management



Plan decisions

- Types of use and opportunities
- Facilities and allowable development
- Acceptable impacts and capacities
- Allocation system and commercial use management
- Fees or other revenue options
- Patrol, maintenance, and education programs

Developing alternatives

General themes

We'll suggest some options – you can revise

Sideboards by 53 topics...

Some decisions: yes or no – your call

Other decisions: we'll suggest a range – you can revise

Goal: Complete worksheet → we'll use it to outline 3-4 alternatives

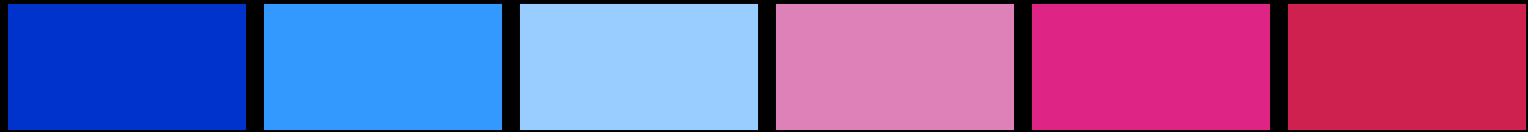
Details to be developed in Draft Plan



Alternative themes



The recreation opportunity spectrum



Primitive

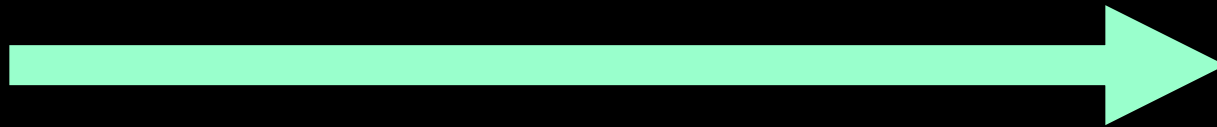
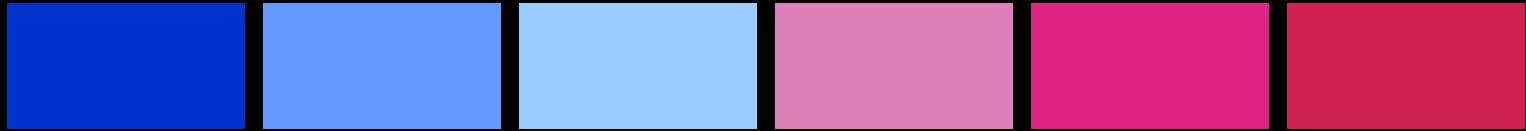
Wilderness

Paved

Disneyland

**Biophysical
Facility
Social
Management**

Incremental change



Trend...

Protect the “rare and endangered” opportunities?

Headwaters low use



Existing diversity of opportunities on Snake River

Alpine Canyon high use



A scenic landscape featuring a wide river in the foreground with a small group of people in a red inflatable raft. The river flows towards a dense green forest that lines the banks. In the background, a range of mountains with patches of snow is visible under a clear blue sky.

What opportunities on your segments?

**Think about your “existing situation”
Consider higher and lower use / development
Evenly-spaced alternatives through range**

Four alternative themes

	Reduce	Stabilize low	Stabilize high	Growth
Development	Lowest	Improve to handle average use	Improve to handle typical peaks	Improve & expand a lot
Group sizes	Small- medium	Diversity, few large	Diversity, some large	Diversity, many large
Social conditions	Low impact, solitude	Low impact, some solitude	Some impact, rare solitude	Higher impacts
Commercial use	Much lower	Existing average	Existing top of typical range	Existing peaks
Management	Light touch, education-focused		Education / regulation mix	Heavier touch

Sideboards by topic

**Allowable uses
and development**

Allowable uses


1. Agree with WYGF
motorized use?

Consider other motor
regs (e.g. trolling)?



2. Consider other craft regulations?



A scenic river landscape under a clear blue sky. On the left, a dense forest of tall green trees lines the bank. A wooden fence runs along the shore, and a green canopy tent is visible among the trees. In the foreground, a person in a blue shirt is in a red kayak on the left, and another person is in a yellow kayak further down the river. The water is calm with some ripples. In the distance, a range of snow-capped mountains is visible across the river. The text "3. Commercial camps or picnic sites on private land?" is overlaid in the center in a bold, light green font with a dark outline.

3. Commercial camps or picnic sites on private land?

Eliminate – “grandfather” – allow more – encourage more

A scenic landscape featuring a river in the foreground, a gravel bar, a line of trees, and snow-capped mountains in the background. The text "4. Commercial launches on private land?" is overlaid in the center.

4. Commercial launches on private land?

Eliminate – “grandfather” – allow more – encourage more

Parcel 23

5. Camping?

- None – boat-based only – road-based too
- Number of sites: 0 to ?

6. Boat launch?

- Remove existing – carry-in – gravel – paved

7. Other facilities?

- Vault toilet – trash cans – kiosk

A black and white photograph of a river flowing through a forested valley. The river is in the foreground, with ripples on its surface. A dense line of trees, including evergreens and deciduous trees, runs along the banks. In the background, a range of mountains is visible under a sky filled with clouds. The overall scene is a natural landscape.

Sideboards by topic

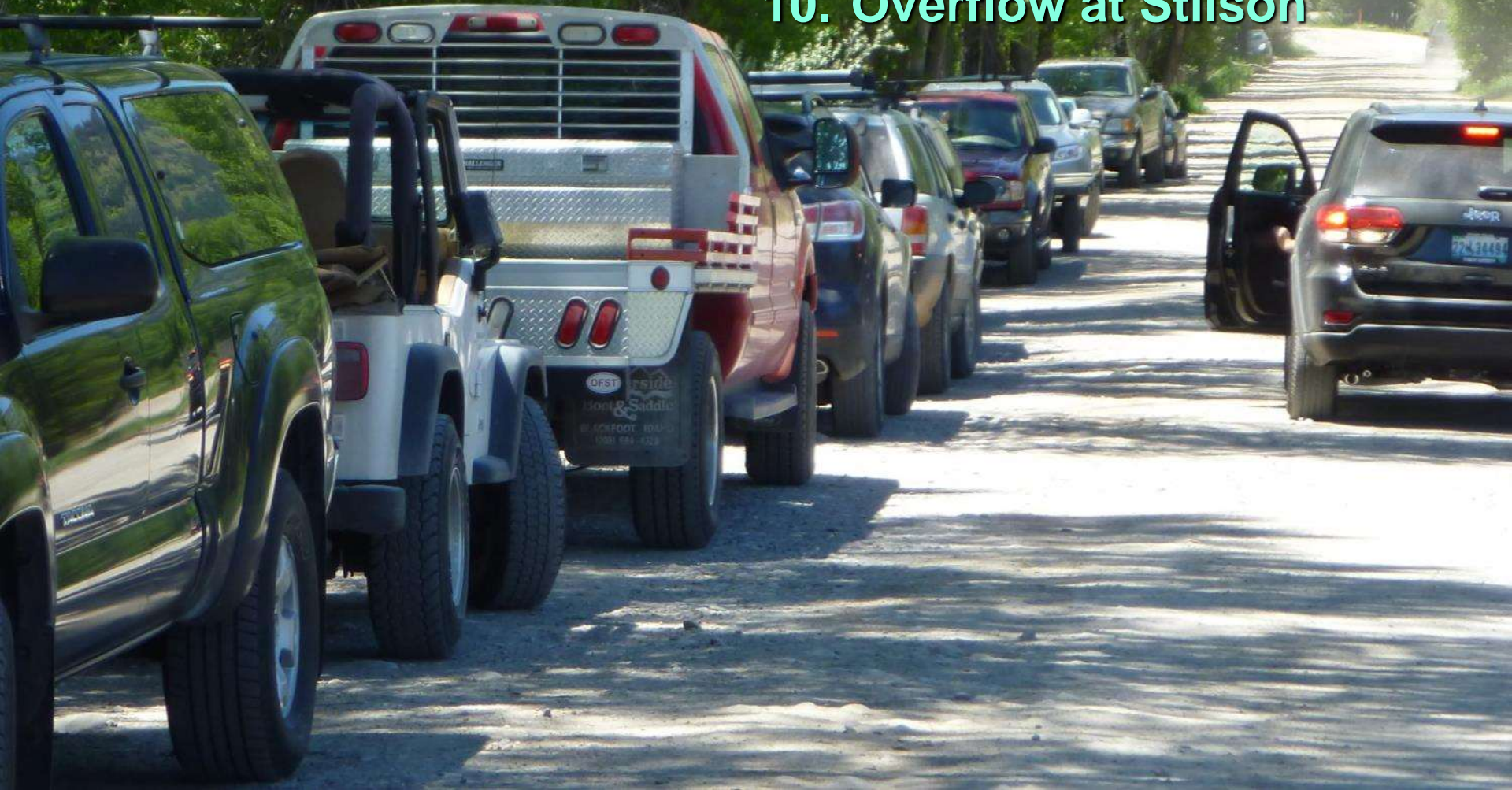
Wilson and South Park development

Wilson Site Plan



Wilson parking

- 8. Vehicle parking
- 9. Trailer parking
- 10. Overflow at Stilson

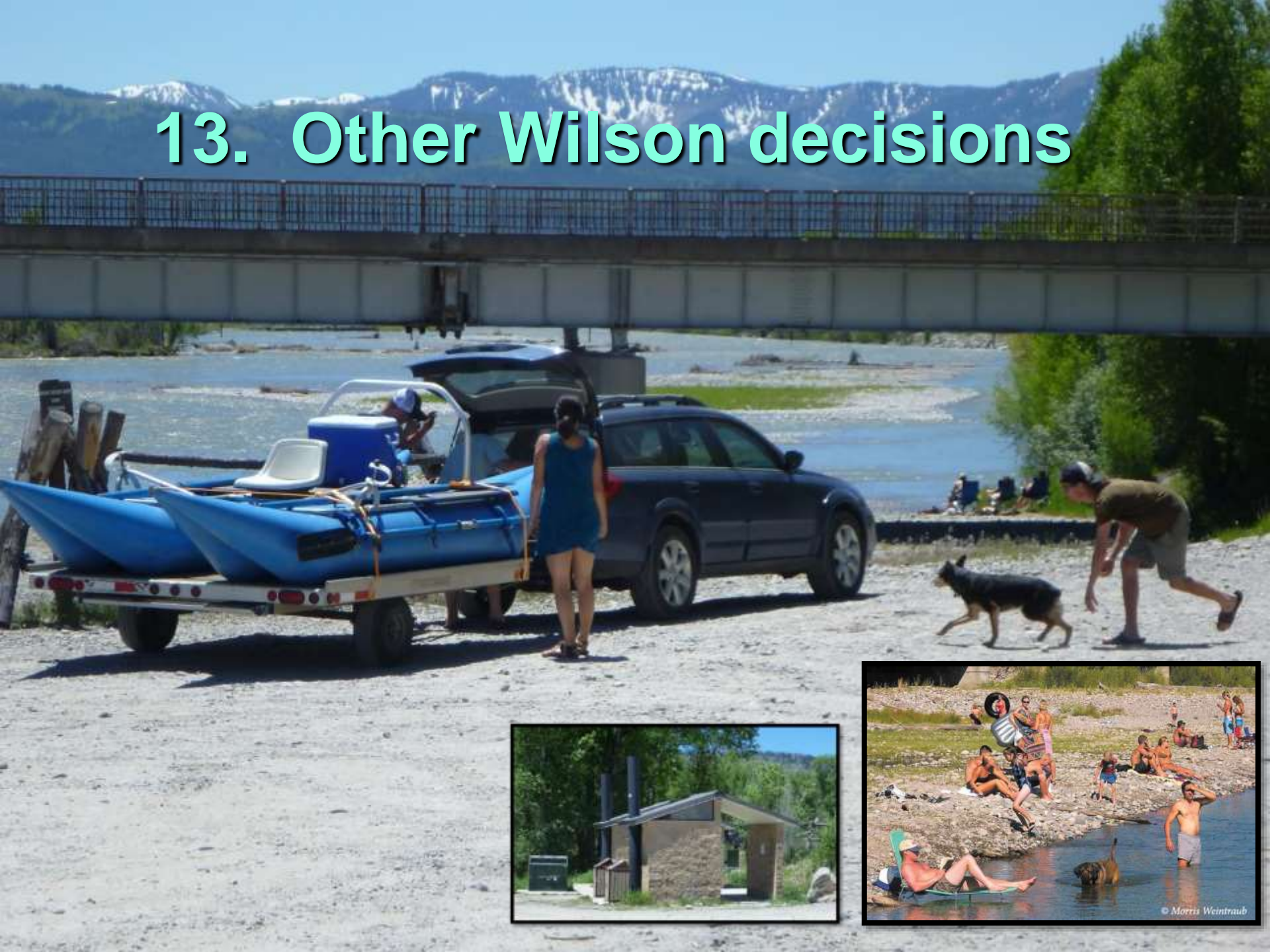


Wilson Bridge launch

- 11. “Efficient” paved ramp
- 12. Separate gravel ramp



13. Other Wilson decisions



South Park Site Plan



South Park parking



14. Phase I vehicle parking

15. Phase I trailer parking

16. Phase I gravel parking at swim beach

South Park launches



17. “Efficient” paved ramp

18. Separate small boat gravel ramp

19 & 20. Phase II vehicle and trailer parking

21. Other South Park decisions



Portable vs. vault toilets
Beach use separation
Trails

Sideboards by topic

Use analysis findings

Sources and limitations

- NPS, USFS, BLM (2001), County (2012-13) & SRF (2010-2013)
- SRF ramp counts provide best information
- Analysis focus: Wilson, applied multipliers, etc.



- Limitations
 - Best for relative use
 - Starting point for capacities
 - Options for greater certainty in future

Likely increasing demand

- Stable Teton NP use (2.6m annual visits; 600k in July)
- Much lower boating use in Teton NP (25k in July – 4%)
- Steady pop growth in Teton County since 1970s
- Wilson – South Park is last unregulated reach



Recent USFS commercial whitewater use (Canyon)



Stable for last decade...



83,000 people & 9,000 rafts per year
Daily peaks about 170 commercial rafts
8.4 people per raft average in 2013

Segment differences

Moose to Wilson << Wilson to South Park

- 20-80% split 2001 data
- 23-77% split 2013 data

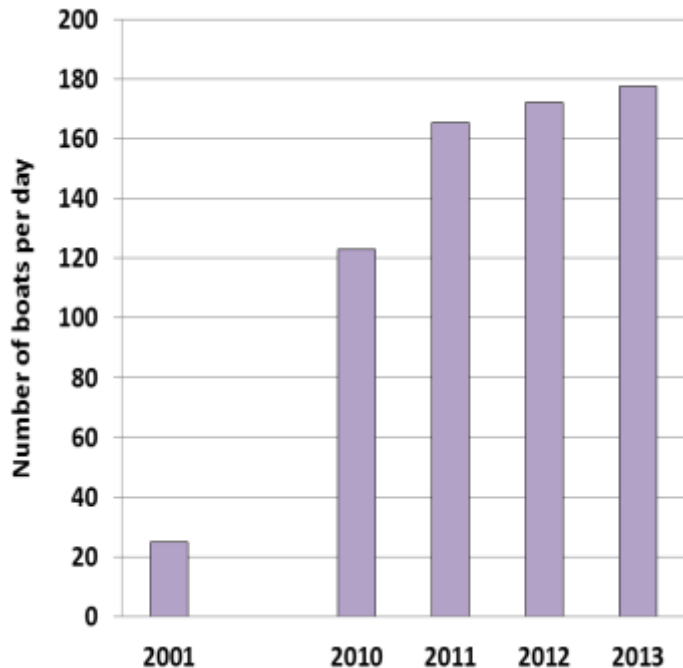
NPS limits commercial use from Moose

- 4 launches commercial fish / day
- 3 launches commercial scenic / day
- Averages are lower
- Total commercial < 15 boats most days

Private use is also low – shuttle + fees

Wilson to South Park possibly 10 X higher

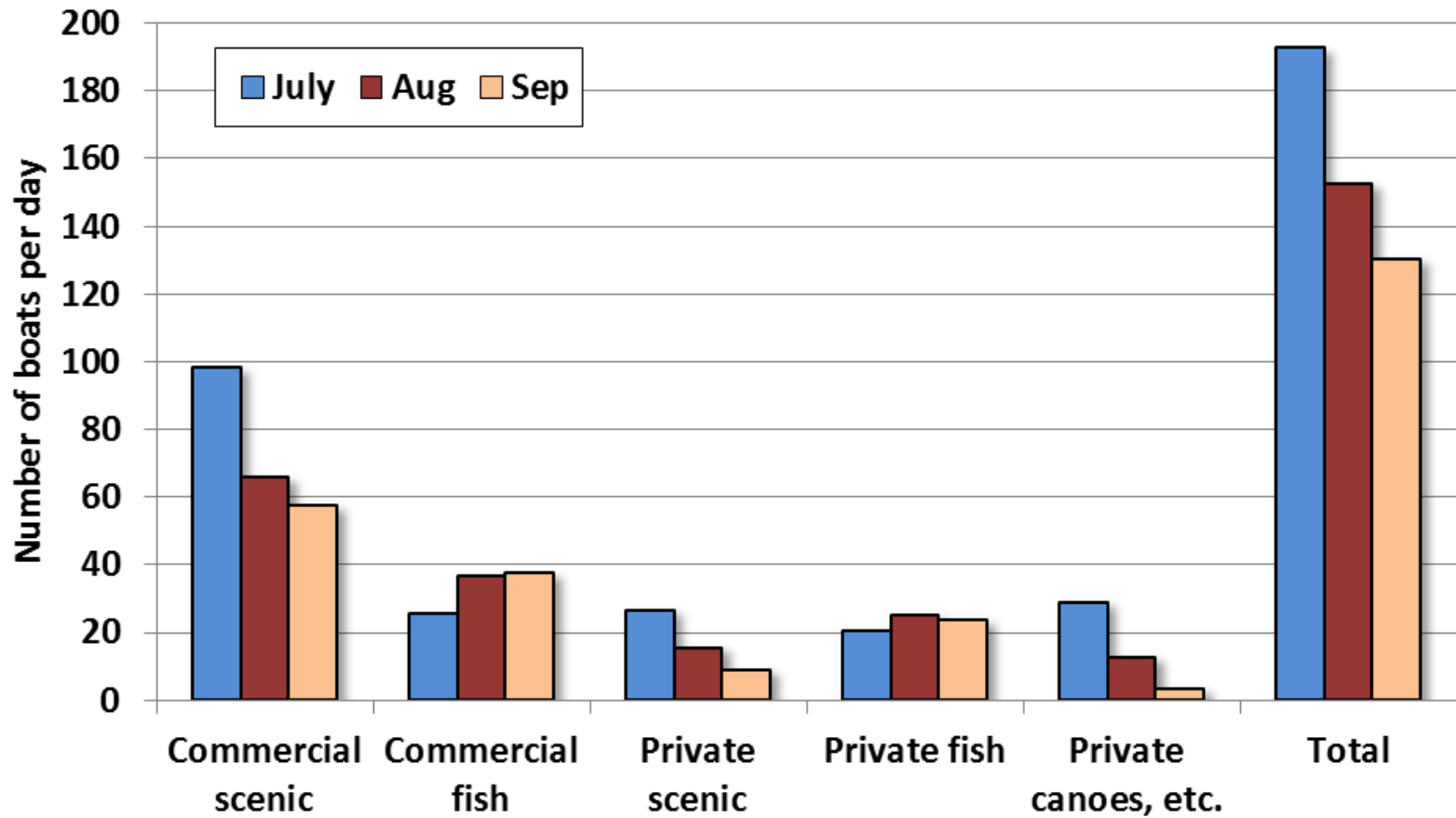
Use trends – Wilson to South Park



- 2001 average 25 boats per day
- By 2013, average > 150 per day
- Peaks > 200 boats per day

Seasonal variation

Average boats per day by month



Day of week variation

Weekdays > weekends
Due to commercial use



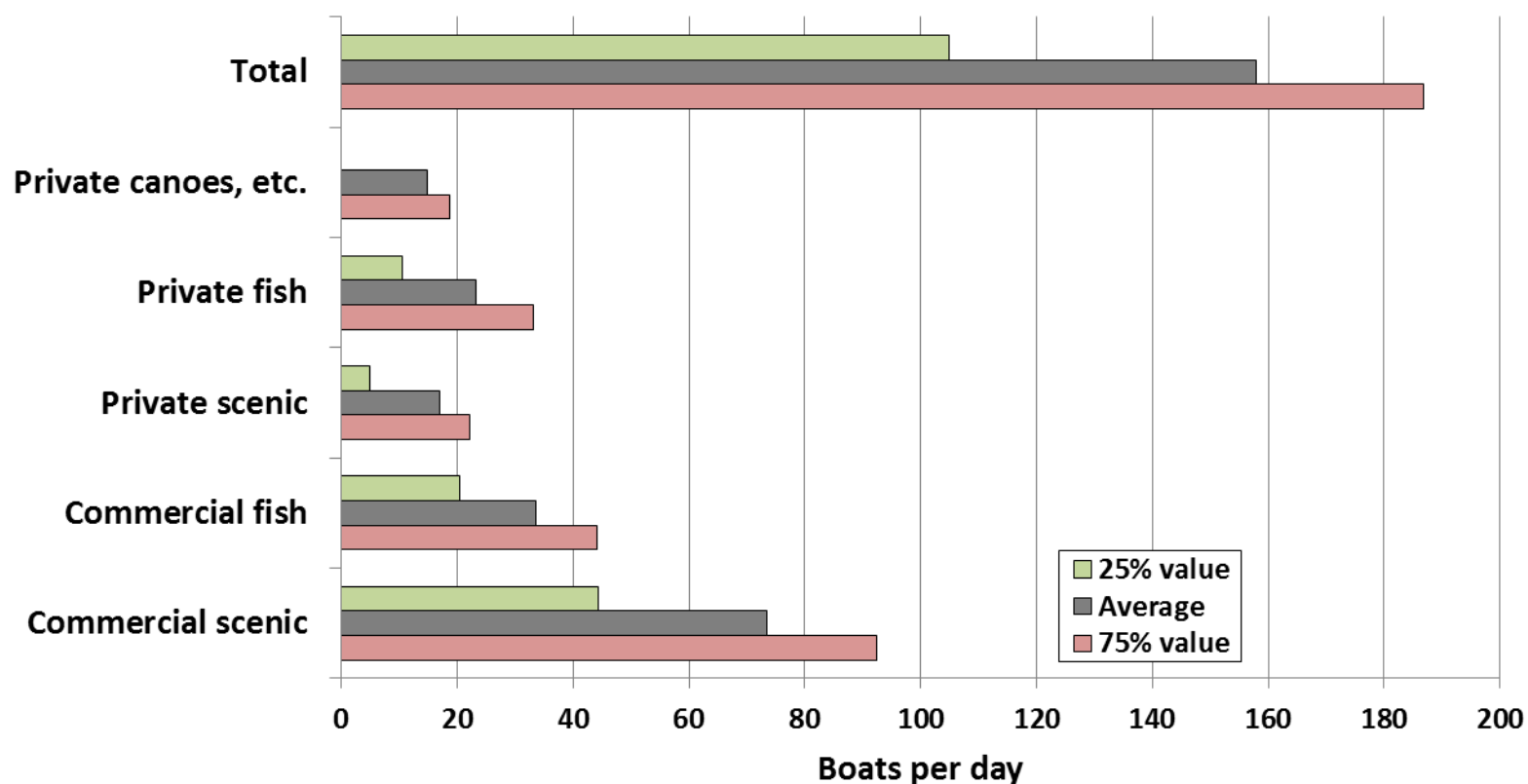
Time of day variation

- Wilson: commercial peak in morning (60-80% < noon)
- More small group trips in afternoon
- Use may occur even outside “eight hour peak”
- South Park: Peak in afternoon (put-ins + take-outs)



Average and typical range by sector

Wilson to South Park boats per day



Percent commercial



- Overall ramp counts
70% of boats, 80% of people, 65% by number of trips
- Proportion increases in Aug & Sep – commercial fishing effect

Percent scenic vs. fishing

- Jul-Sep, 60% are on scenic trips (commercial + private)
- But proportion fishing increases through summer:
 - <10% in June
 - 25% in July
 - 48% in Sep



Non-boating use

- Steady non-boating use at both locations
- Wilson: 5 to 15 AOT
- South Park: 5 to 10 AOT

Activities:

- | | | |
|-------------|------------|-------------|
| • Relaxing: | Wilson 40% | So Park 75% |
| • Swimming: | Wilson 36% | So Park 57% |
| • Dogs: | Wilson 28% | So Park 18% |
| • Fishing | Wilson 2% | |



Sideboards by topic

Capacities

Total use capacities

Boats per day

	Lower?	Suggested range		Higher?
22. Moose to Wilson		20 boats	50 boats	
23. Wilson to So Park		100 boats	250 boats	
24. Commercial use capacities	A. Set preliminary capacities but develop registration system for future... B. Set and enforce limits now...			
25. Private use capacities	A. No capacities B. Set caps and enforce in future if use grows C. Set preliminary caps but develop registration system for future... D. Set and enforce limits now			

Commercial scenic / instructional sector

Boats per day



	Lower?	Suggested range		Higher?
26. Moose to Wilson		5	20	
27. Wilson to So Park		50	150	
28. Standard trips (1-3 boats)		30	70	
29. Large group trips (4-5 boats)		0	8 x 5=40	
30. Instructional trips (up to 20 boats)		1 x 20=20	2 x 20=40	

Commercial fishing sector

Boats per day

	Lower?	Suggested range		Higher?
31. Moose to Wilson				
32. Wilson to So Park		20	50	
33. Half-days vs. full days?		No	Yes	
34. Different capacities by month?				



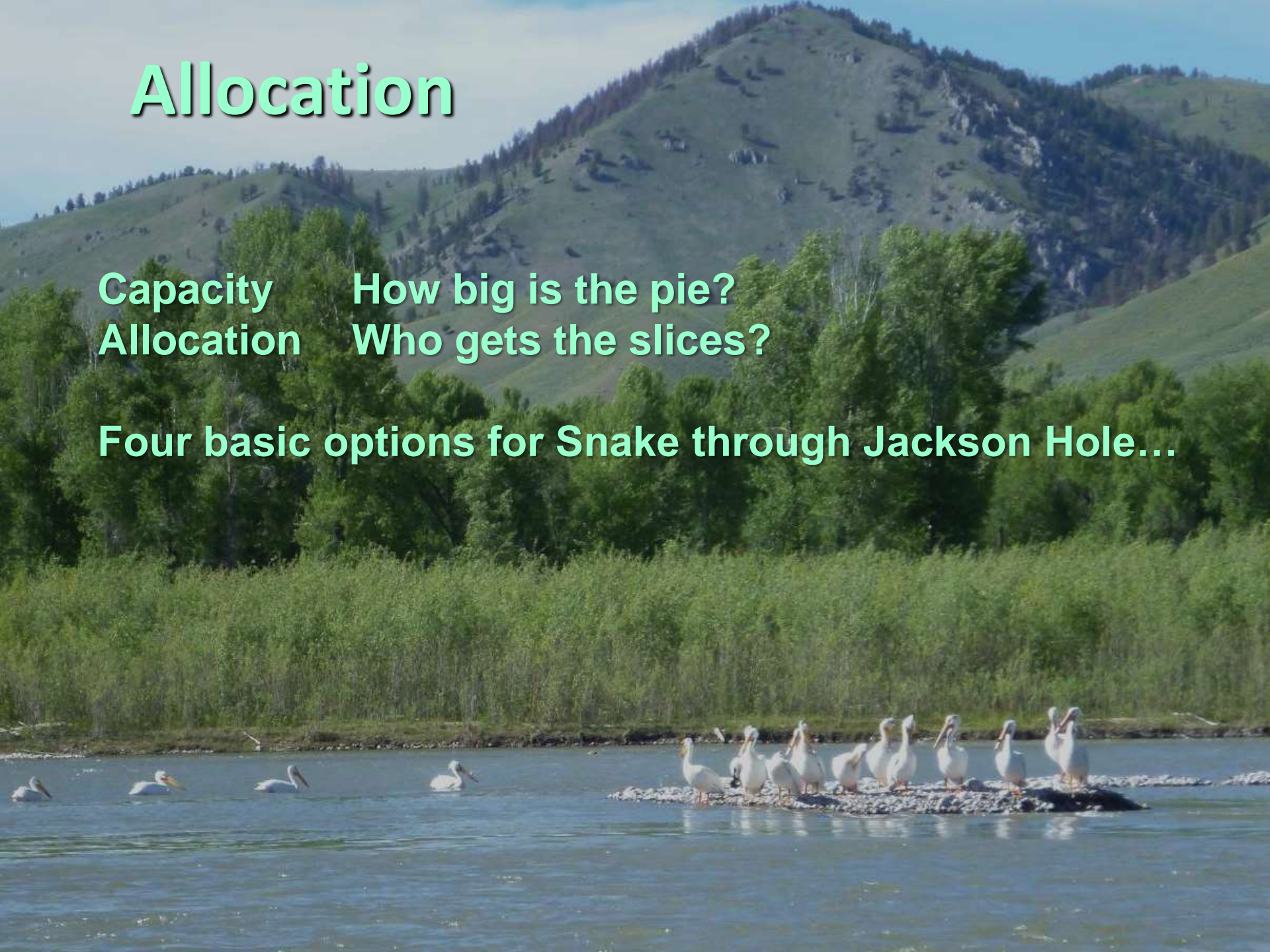
Sideboards by topic

Allocating use

Allocation

Capacity **How big is the pie?**
Allocation **Who gets the slices?**


Four basic options for Snake through Jackson Hole...



Traditional commercial allocation

Most common method – since Grand Canyon
Typical initial distribution – historical use
Initial distribution option – “equal shares”
Outfitters control their allocation
Transfers = sales

Commercial pool allocation



No initial distribution of permits
Outfitters reserve launch when clients book trips
Variation on Deschutes River (OR) system
Best if: many small outfitters, charter-based trips, varying schedules
Outfitters don't "own/sell" allocation

Traditional + pool allocation



Mix of two allocation concepts
50% traditional / 50% commercial pool

“Bid-prospectus” allocation

Often associated with NPS concession regulations

Examples: Old Faithful Inn, Glacier Bay cruises, Moose-Wilson allocation

Competitive bid based on criteria -- many ways to evaluate

Could be different from allocation by historical use / equal shares





Allocation summary

Chinese menu – OK to mix options

We have some ideas on mixing:

Traditional better for “tour trips”

Pool better for fish / charter trips

Draft plan will describe pros / cons

Sideboards by topic

Fees and revenue



User Fees

Complex topic

Potential objectives:

User “stake” in management

Revenue for management

Influence use patterns

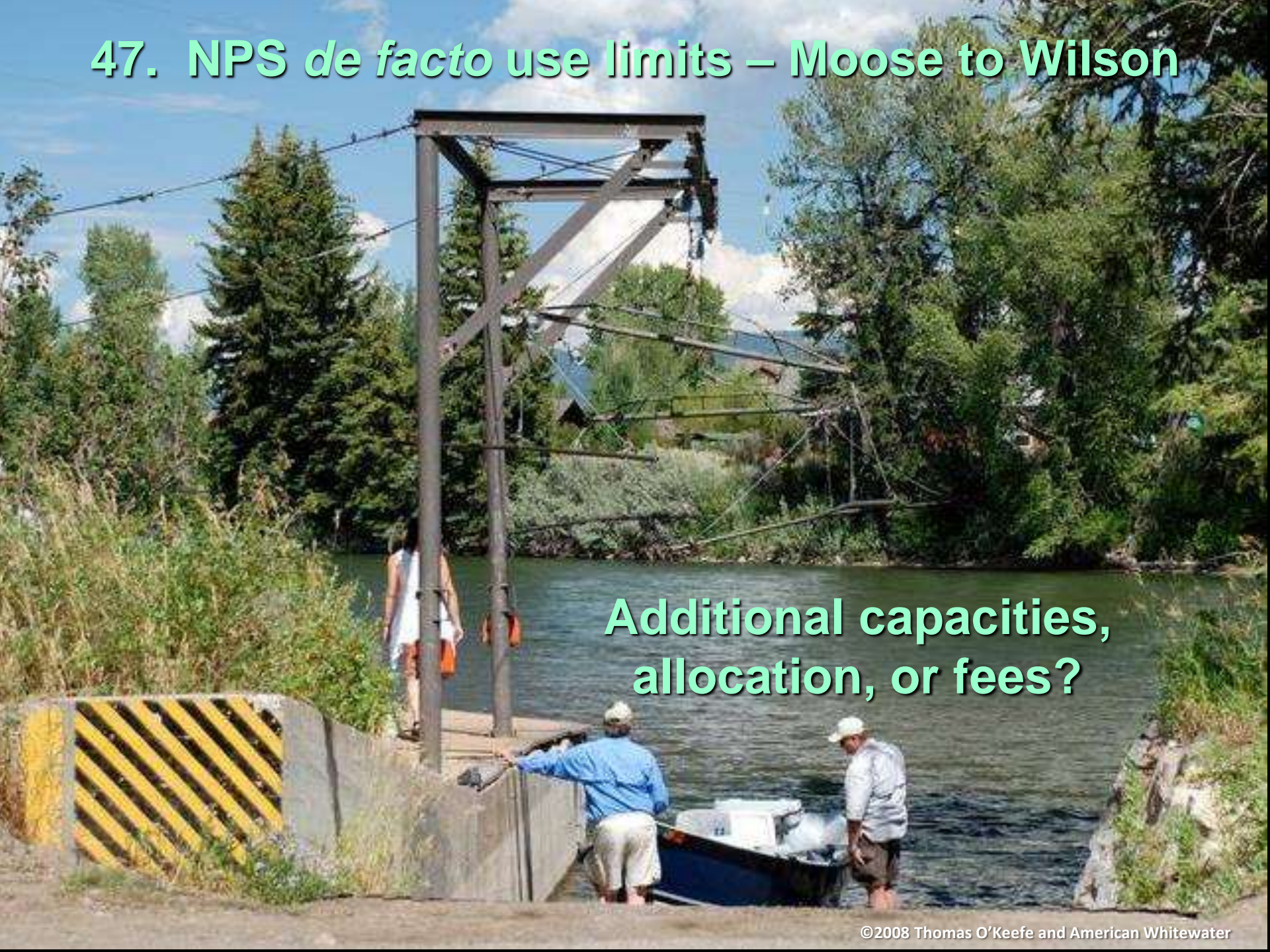
Three fee options

	39. Percent	40. Simple	41. Complex
Concept	% of gross	\$ per boat or \$ per person	\$ per boat \$ per person \$ per vehicle
Range of fees	1 to 4%	0 to 15 per boat 0 to 3 per person	0 to 15 per boat 0 to 3 per person 0 to 10 per vehicle

Other revenue options

	Potential amounts		
42. Fees for reservations	Nominal	Part of regular fee	Higher
43. Fees for no shows / cancellations	Nominal	Cover costs	Higher
44. Fees for large groups	Nominal	Higher	
45. Fees for peak time periods	Nominal	Higher	
46. Fees for private users	Nominal	Per boat, person, trip, etc.	

47. NPS *de facto* use limits – Moose to Wilson



Additional capacities,
allocation, or fees?

48. USFS *de facto* limits – So Park down Additional capacities, allocation, or fees?



Sideboards by topic

Other decisions

49. Outfitter / guide certification



50. Ramp ambassador program



2012.AP Photo. In Jackson Hole News&Guide, Price Chambers.



51. Etiquette, LNT, and safety education

ATTENTION RIVER USERS

NOXIOUS WEEDS ALONG THE SNAKE RIVER

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?
These "invasive" plants are quickly spreading Snake County. They spread very quickly, taking in the absence of natural predators. They crowd out native plants like trout, water, nutrients, and sunlight!



PERENNIAL PEPPERWEED



OXEYE Daisy



SALTCEDAR



HOUNDSTONGUE

HOW YOU CAN HELP

1. Report noxious weeds to Snake County Weed & Fuel 367 775 6478
2. Destroy them through related related weed
3. Check your clothing, equipment and pet for seeds and bark
4. Wash mud off of your boots, coat, and other equipment before entering or leaving public lands

STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

Don't risk it, and you might be giving them a ride!

WHAT ARE THEY?
Non-native organisms that spread the ecosystem balance by predation, competition or affecting the benthic environment



DIDYMO aka "Rock snot"
a fresh water alga



NEW ZEALAND MUSSEL
a tiny snail



WHIRLING DISEASE
parasitic disease of young trout

WHY SHOULD I CARE?
Invasive can cause economic, life, population, and regulatory effect that are not visible, hidden. Transport is most commonly human caused

RED PREVENTION PRACTICES

1. Clean all gear and clothing of mud and debris, remove all water before leaving your storage
2. Insure transport free for or for animals from drainage to drainage
3. At HOME: Clean gear in 2% chlorine bleach or 5% salt solution - 10 minute minimum
4. Shower with clean water
5. Allow to dry thoroughly before storing

PRACTICING PROPER CATCH & RELEASE TECHNIQUES



NO TAGGING YOUR FISH A GOOD CATCH & RELEASE

THE CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN WILL LOVE AND

Project administered by:
Snake River Fund
PO Box 7633
Jackson, WY 83302
367 774 6773
www.snakeriverfund.org

* Additional funding and support from:

Welcome to the Snake River





the length of this stretch of river is 13 miles with the first available take out at the South Park Bridge.

Wildlife along this stretch includes moose, deer, bear, otters, beaver, elk, eagle, trumpeter swan, ducks and geese, plenty of fish.

Prepared! Have fun! enjoy this river!

this area maintained by Snake River Fund



Ramp Etiquette

- Use ramp only for loading and unloading boats into/out of water
- Stage boats away from ramp
- Allow others to go before you if they are ready to launch
- Park in designated areas only-please do not block traffic
- Never leave vehicle unattended on ramp
- Please pack out your trash

Handwritten water level log:

Fri. 5/24 water 42° DAM 30°
Sat. 5/25 water temp. 44°
DAM Release 4000 cfs
Sun. 5/26 water 41° DAM 3920 cfs
Mon. 5/27 water 42° DAM 4020 cfs
Tue. 5/28 water 48° DAM 4000 cfs
Wed. 5/29 water 49° DAM 3700 cfs
Thu. 5/30 water 48° DAM 3400 cfs
Fri. 5/31 water 46° DAM 2500 cfs

When enjoying the South Park Ramp

PLEASE park without blocking the flow of traffic. Use this area responsibly to maintain access for future generations.

ANGERS SPECIAL REGULATION AREA

Angers Creek is a special regulation area. It is a headwater stream of the Snake River. It is a very important part of the Snake River ecosystem. It is a very important part of the Snake River ecosystem. It is a very important part of the Snake River ecosystem.

NO CAMPFIRES CHARCOAL OR FIREWORKS

High Fire Danger

Watercraft **MUST** have a Wyoming Aquatic Invasive Species Decal for launch

52. River patrols and clean-up



53. Wildlife impact education / regulation



Questions and comments

