Making Research Count: Applying Research to Support Community Tourism Development

Richard Porges Research Services, Tourism British Columbia October 6th, 2005

Tonight's Agenda

- Tourism and the BC Economy
 - Value of Tourism
 - Measuring Tourism The Research Challenge
- Tourism BC Overview
 - Mandate, New Programs
 - Research at Tourism BC
- Community Tourism Foundations
 - How will it work?
 - Research needs & the research plan
 - Community research projects at Tourism BC
 - Visitor Info Centre Surveys Prince George
 - Industry tracking surveys
 - Northern Rockies Alaska Hwy Visitor Survey



Tourism and BC Economy



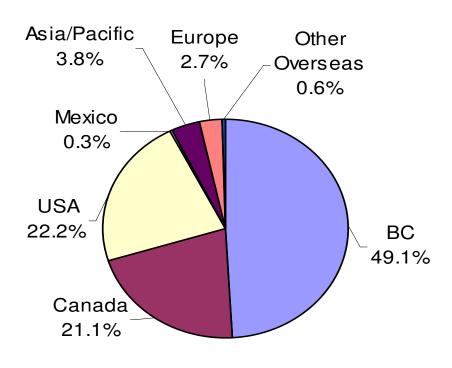
Defining Tourism

- ➤ Tourism is not defined as a product it is defined by the distance the customer is from home!
- > Tourism BC:
 - A tourist (or traveler) or is someone who travels 80 kilometres or more one way from home for an overnight stay.
 - Must stay < 1 year, not be paid at destination, etc.
 - In BC business travel (10% 15%)
- > Different organizations/jurisdictions use different definitions ...
 - Same day visitors?, Ontario 40 kilometres, etc.

Measuring Tourism – Research Challenge

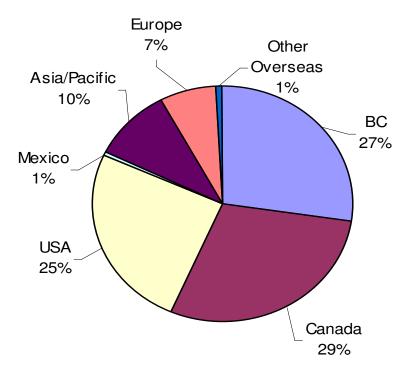
- > Tourism is not a defined, measurable, set of products
- Tourism cuts across many traditional sectors
- Measuring Tourism
 - Business surveys?
 - Purchasers' status?
 - Consumer surveys?
 - Sampling how do you find travelers?
 - Recall?
- > Limited information especially at sub-provincial level
 - Communities & businesses must do it themselves

Overnight Visitor Volume & Revenue (2004)

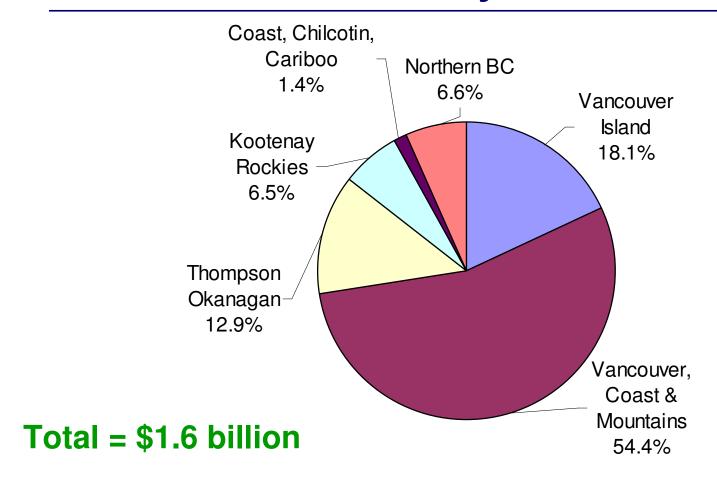


Visitor Volume = 22.5 million

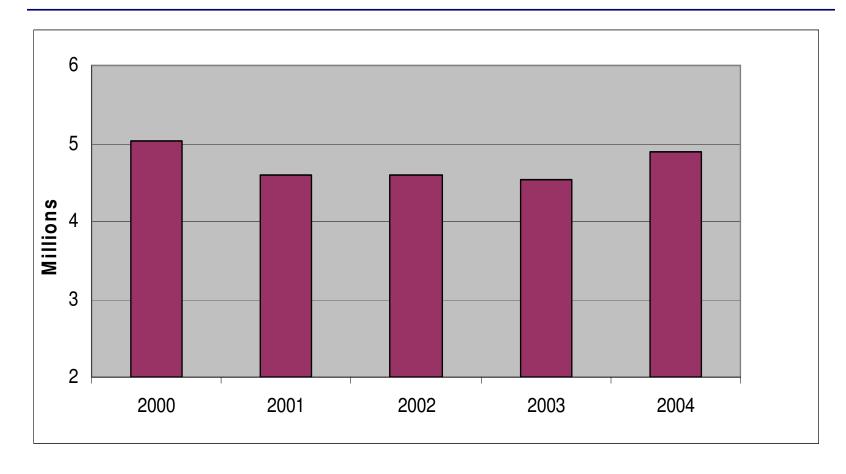
Visitor Revenue = \$ 9.5 billion



2004 Room Revenue by Tourism Region



Room Revenue – Williams Lake



Other Indicators: VIC parties, Airport, ?

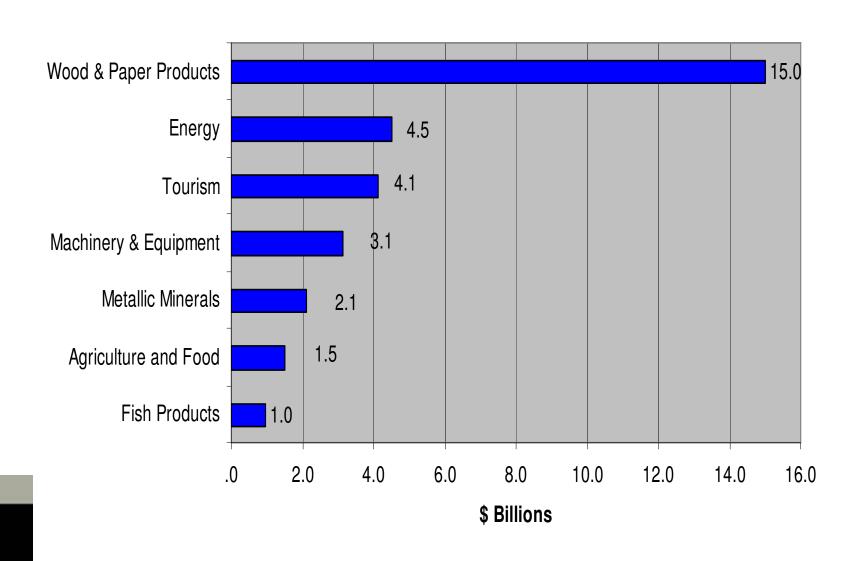
Jan. - June 2005 + 15.4%



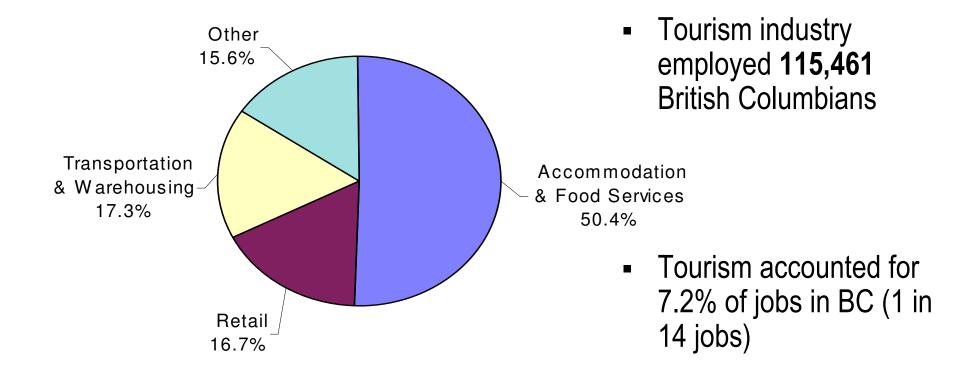
Value of Tourism

- ➤ GDP -
 - \$5.0 Billion 4.4% of provincial GDP
- ➤ Industry reliance on tourism (Source: BC Stats):
 - Accommodation 90%
 - Food & Beverage 24%
 - Golf Courses 13.4%
 - Professional Sports 5%
 - Museums 60%
 - Retail (non-durables) 10%
 - Amusement Parks 10%, etc.

Value of Tourism - BC Exports (2004)



Tourism Employment (2003)

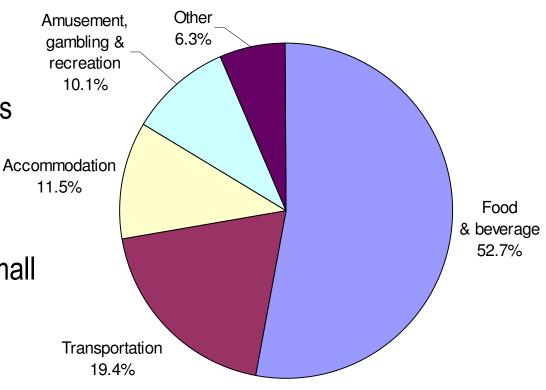


Tourism-Related Business Establishments

 17,996 tourism-related business establishments in BC (2002)

 More than 11.0% (1 in 9) of BC's business establishments were involved in the tourism industry

 Tourism-related business establishments are mostly small or medium-sized firms when measured by the number of employees





2005 Performance YTD



2005 YTD Tourism Indicators (vs.2004) 1/2

Int. Overnight Customs Entries	-0.6%	(Jul)
USA	-2.8%	(Jul)
Asia/Pacific	2.5%	(Jul)
Europe	8.3%	(Jul)
Provincial Room Revenue	4.1%	(Jun)
Provincial Occupancy	3.5%	(Jul)
Provincial Average Daily Room Rate	-1.5%	(Jul)

2005 YTD Tourism Indicators (vs.2004) 2/2

Vancouver Int. Airport	5.5%	(Jul)
Regional Airports	Most up	(Aug)
BC Ferries	-0.3%	(Aug)
Commercial Restaurant Receipts	10.7%	(Jun)
Visitor Info Centres	3.3%	(Aug)
Coquihalla	2.7%	(Aug)
Cruise (Vancouver)	-0.3%	(Aug)
Conference Centre (Vancouver)	-6.4%	(Aug)
Conference Centre (Victoria)	-19.9%	(Aug)

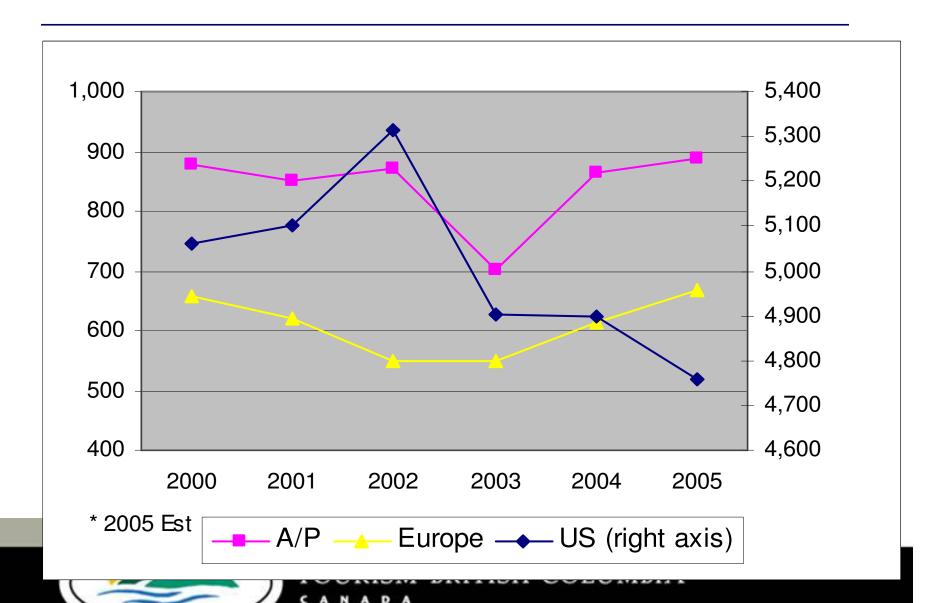


2005 Performance YTD - Summary

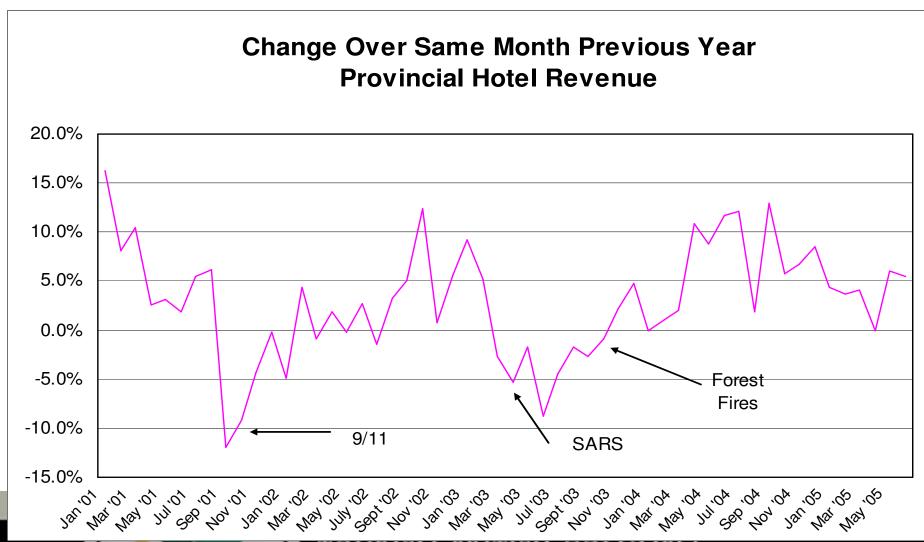
- ▶ Up 3% 4% Provincially (Fixed Roof)
 - Occupancy/Room Revenue data
 - Other indicators mostly positive
 - US dependent areas down (Whistler), other areas up (to July)
- Customs Entries
 - Growth from UK, Australia, Mexico, China, S. Korea
 - US, Taiwan down
 - Germany, Japan?
- Domestic Markets
 - BC, Alberta up
 - Regional performance is more closely tied to travel by BC Residents and Albertans than VC&M

Tourism Indicators 2000 – 2005

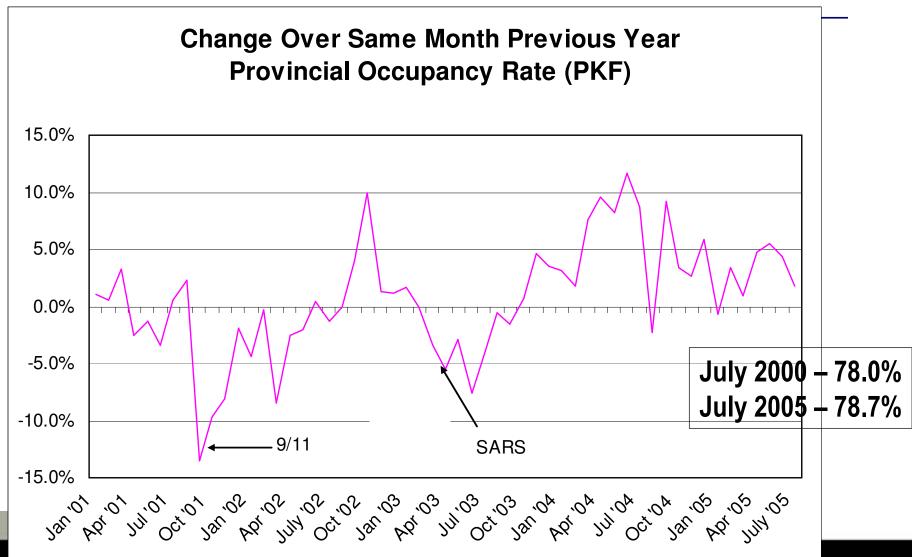
International Visitors 2000 – 2005*



Hotel Room Revenue 2001 - 2005

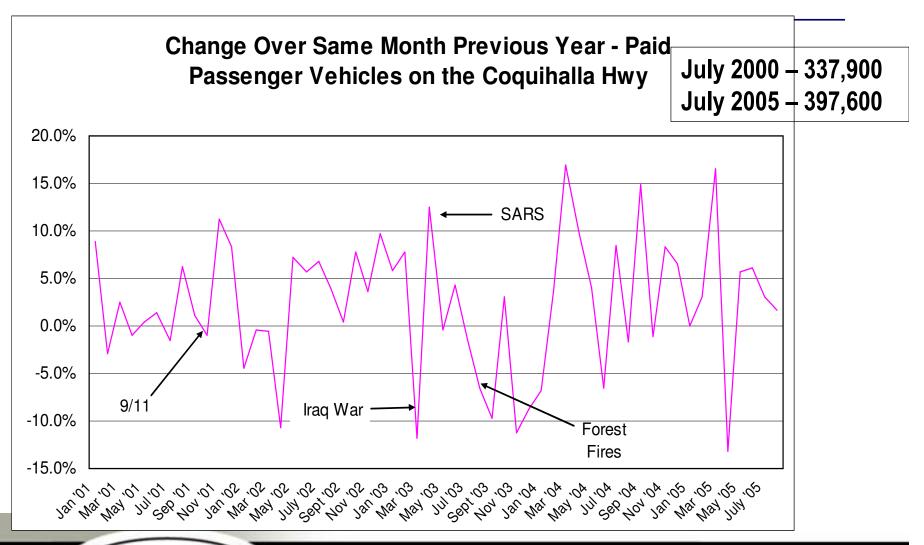


Provincial Occupancy 2001 - 2005





Coquihalla Traffic 2001 - 2005



About Tourism British Columbia



Tourism British Columbia

- An independent Crown Corporation (1997)
- Board of Directors

President/CEO



Staff

- Dedicated funding from hotel tax (1.65% of 8% tax)
- Approximately \$24 million
- Additional voted appropriation \$25 million

Tourism British Columbia

Purpose = To promote the growth and development of the tourism industry through innovative marketing programs and industry development initiatives

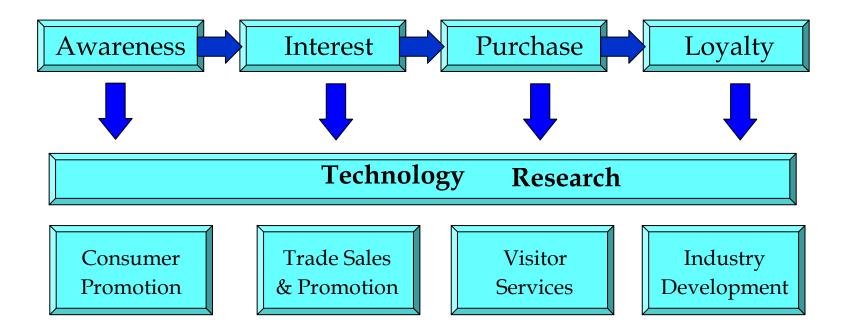
Vision = To be recognized as a world leader in destination management

Mission = To exceed customer's expectations by providing leadership and programs that ensure the success of the BC tourism industry, resulting in a quality visitor experience

Corporate Values = Integrity, Enthusiasm, Teamwork, Progressive

Tourism BC - Mandate

Consumer Purchase Cycle



How? - Core Business Functions

Marketing and Sales Division

 Develops and implements marketing programs that are based on consumer research

Visitor Services Division

 Works visitors and industry directly to improve the quality of the tourism product and enhance the visitor experience

Industry Development Division

Assisting new and emerging tourism product businesses,
 communities and sectors to achieve market readiness

Corporate Services and HRD Divisions

Provide internal support for the corporation's activities

How?

- ~130 employees (f/t & p/t)
- 2 main offices, international offices & warehouse
- SNBC (1-800-HelloBC & HelloBC.com)
- Visitor Info Centre Network (110 centres)
- Partner with 6 tourism regions and other destination management organizations
- Partner with other organizations (i.e. CTC)

Marketing . . .

Germany – Ski Co-op:

- Canada's West ski initiative
 - Includes Travel Alberta, CTC, Air Canada, Fairmont Hotels and numerous German tour operators
 - 1M guides produced as an insert for various magazines & direct mail
 - Cost \$233,000
 - TBC cost \$50,000

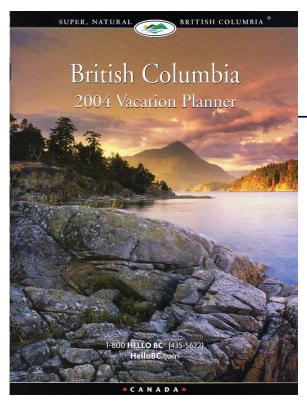


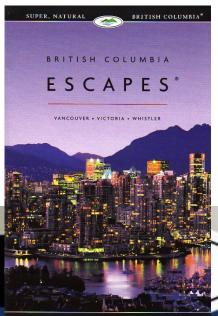


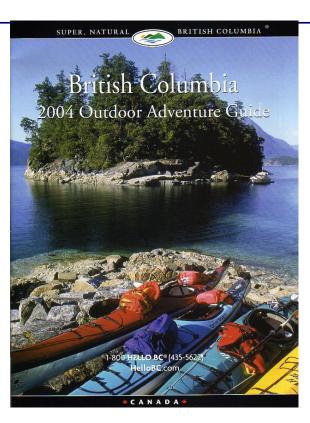
UK - Ski Co-op

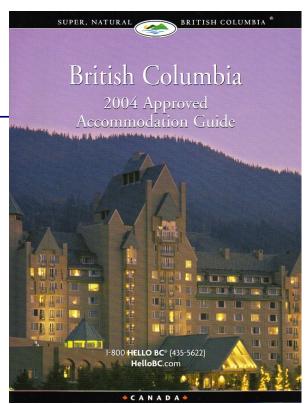


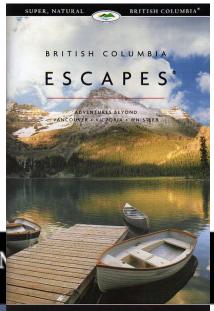










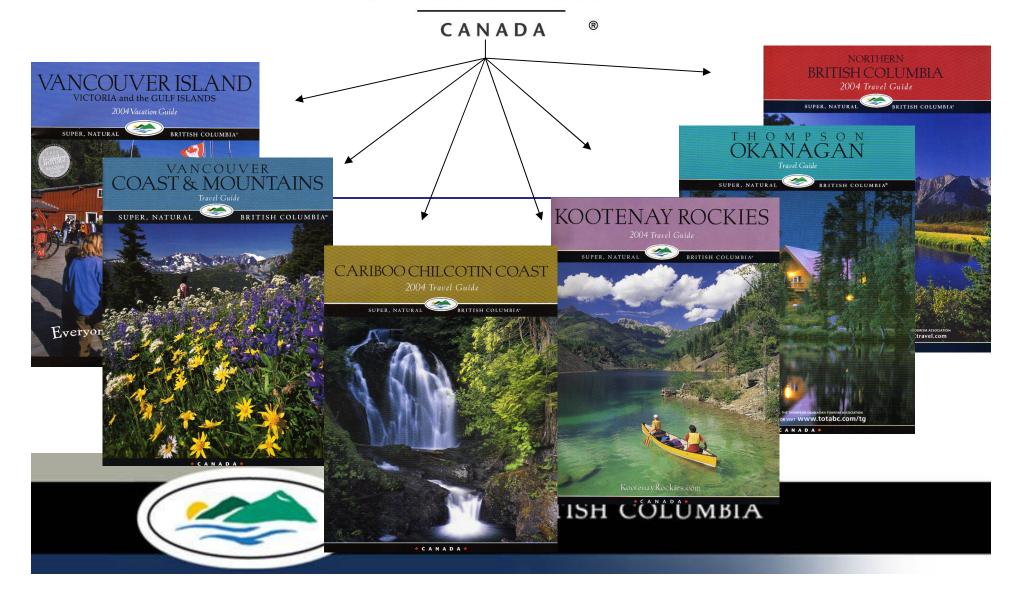


TOURISM BRITISH COLUM

ANADA



SUPER, NATURAL BRITISH COLUMBIA



Research Services - Mandate

> Internal

- Support information based management at Tourism BC
 - respond to needs of internal business units

> External

 "The corporation is responsible for. . . . collecting, evaluating and disseminating information on tourism markets, trends, employment, programs and activities."

Tourism BC Act (1997)

Research Services – Our Team



Angela Xu, Krista Morten, Richard Porges, & Carol Jenkins (missing: Valerie Sheppard)

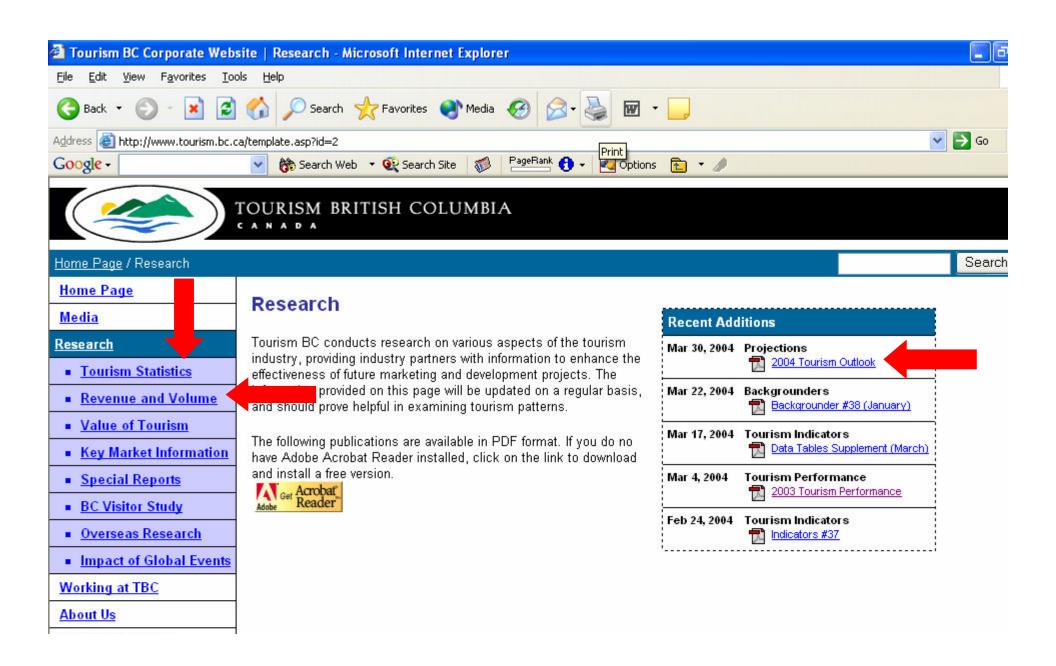
Key Activities

- Dissemination of information through research publications
- Performance Tracking
 - On-going tracking surveys
- Major partnership projects
- Information request fulfillment
 - Web, email, phone
- Research support for internal clients
 - Market intelligence, program evaluation or strategic intelligence
- Provincial and national research committees
 - BC DMO Tourism Research Group, CTC Research Committee

Key Publications

- Tourism Indicators customs entries, room revenue, restaurant receipts, occupancy rates, ADR & stats from VICs, airports, ferries & conference centres
- Value of Tourism tourism GDP, tourism exports, tourism employment, business establishments, accommodation room revenue & provincial gov't revenue
- Tourism Performance & Outlook estimates of total visitor volume and revenue by market for British Columbia





www.tourismbc.com/research

Partnership Projects

BC Aboriginal Tourism Strategy

Objective: to develop a research-driven strategic plan for aboriginal cultural tourism in British Columbia

Okanagan Cultural Corridor Project (OCCP)

Objective: to evaluate the OCCP marketing initiative and to develop understanding about visitors' interest in cultural activities

Commercial Nature-based Tourism

Objective: to measure the economic impact of commercial wilderness tourism operations and to build a system to track ongoing sector performance

Partnership Projects

Tourism Partners Evaluation Program

Objective: To integrate the inquiry/fulfillment databases from the regions and use this information for coordinated media conversion studies and program evaluation

Value of the Visitor Info Centre Project

Objective: To measure the economic impact of Visitor Info Centres throughout the province

Northern Rockies Alaska Highway Visitor Research

Objective: To provide data on the profiles and volume of visitors along the highway and to provide the research needed to support marketing plan design and product development in north eastern British Columbia

Visitor Info Centre Research



Value of the Visitor Info Centre (VIC)

- > 110 VICs in BC
- 1.66 M visitor parties in 2004
- VICs must meet standard operating criteria established by Tourism BC
- Most VICs operated by local chamber of commerce or tourism association
- 4 operated by Tourism BC as provincial centres (key border crossing and important highway intersections)



Value of the VIC - Background

- Provide communities with an opportunity to influence the activities and satisfaction of travelers
 - Increasing length of stay and return trip visits
- Declines in funding have created a need for VICs to demonstrate their economic value

Value of the VIC - Purpose

- To gain information about:
 - Travelers at a community level
 - Users of the VIC
 - VIC impacts on travel patterns (economic impact)
- To apply a consistent method of collecting data and calculating economic impact at VICs across the province
- To provide an affordable way for VICs to collect detailed information about travelers in their communities

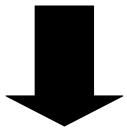
Value of the VIC-Study Design

- Survey Objectives:
 - To profile travelers who use the VIC in terms of trip and traveler characteristics
 - To measure the influence the VIC has on the decision making process of travelers in BC in terms of length of stay, expenditures, selection of alternate activities, attractions or destinations
- Visitor survey methodology used:
 - Two phases and two locations

Value of the VIC-Study Design

Each survey has two phases:

1. Intercept Interviews

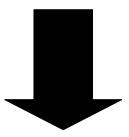


2. Mailback Surveys

Value of the VIC-Methods (Analysis)

Mailback Survey – responses could vary due to 3 factors

1. Intercept Interviews



2. Mailback Surveys

- 1. Respondents that agree to participate in the mailback survey could differ from those who don't agree to participate (AGREE)
- 2. Respondents that return the mailback survey could differ from those who don't return the mailback survey (RESPOND)
- 3. Actual responses could differ between similar questions asked in the interview vs. the mailback survey (RESPONSE)

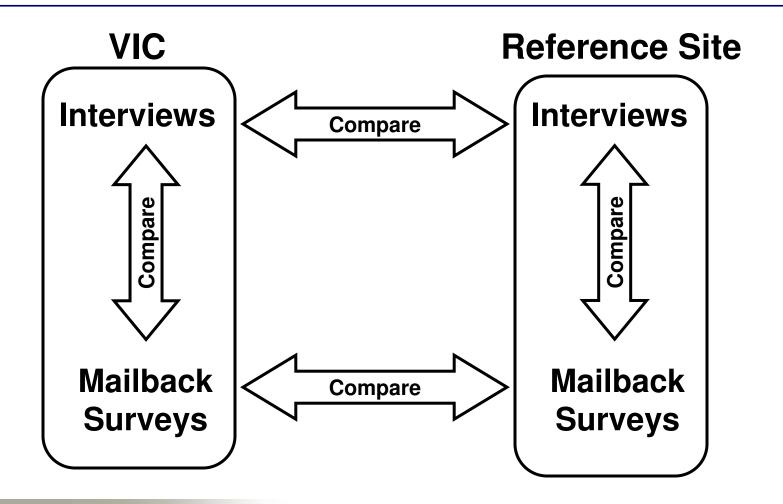
Value of the VIC-Study Design

Each survey has two locations:

1. Visitor Info Centre

2. Reference Site

VIC Research - Study Design



Value of the VIC-Methods (Data Collection)

Intercept Interviews

- Systematic random selection of sample days; peak season
- Collect data during their trip
 - Trip and traveler characteristics
 - Flexibility in activities and time in study area and BC
 - Perception of VIC impact on their trip (only at VIC)
- Use of Palm Pilots provides:
 - Survey logic controls
 - Automatic recording of refusals/incomplete interviews
 - Daily data download, no data entry

Value of the VIC-Methods (Data Collection)

Mailback Survey

- Interview respondents are asked to participate in mailback survey
- Collect perceptions after their trip
 - Trip and traveler characteristics
 - Flexibility in activities, time in study area and BC
 - VIC impacts on traveler behavior
 - Unique characteristics and positive and negative images of study area
- Survey package includes survey booklet and free copy of British
 Columbia magazine and a business reply envelope (completed surveys entered in draw for digital camera)

Value of the VIC-Response Rates

	VIC (n)	RS (n)	Resp. Rate (VIC)	Resp. Rate (RS)
Coquihalla	330	564*	66%	66%
Норе	206	164	65%	72%
QCI	148	869	68%	73%
Kelowna	326	414	52%	59%
Penticton	287	281	55%	53%
Grand Forks	160	-	64%	-
Mt. Robson	275	194	57%	54%
Prince George	283	-	71%	-
Salt Spring Island	106	160	-	-

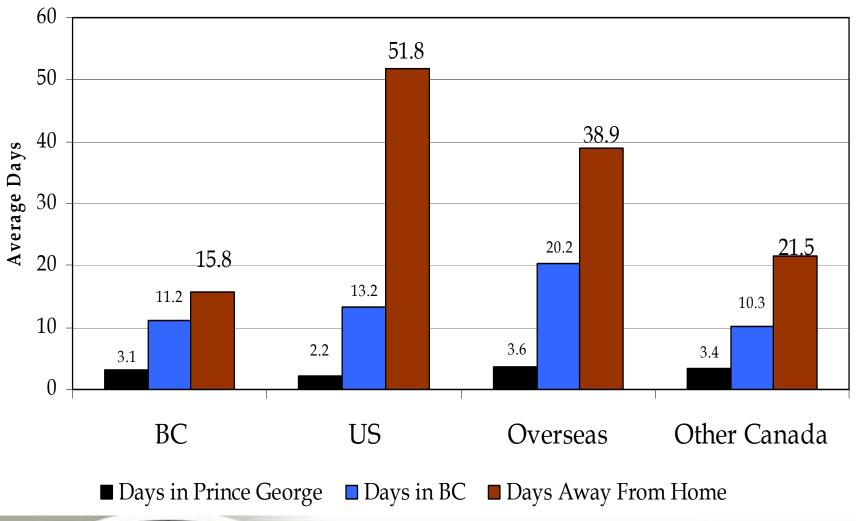
Key Findings - Traveler Characteristics

- High variability in traveler origin between studies
- Traveler origin varied between the reference site and the VIC for 6 of 9 studies
 - In most cases there were more BC residents at the reference site than at the VIC
- In two studies, age and education varied between the reference site and the VIC
- Income did not vary between the reference site and the VIC in any of the studies

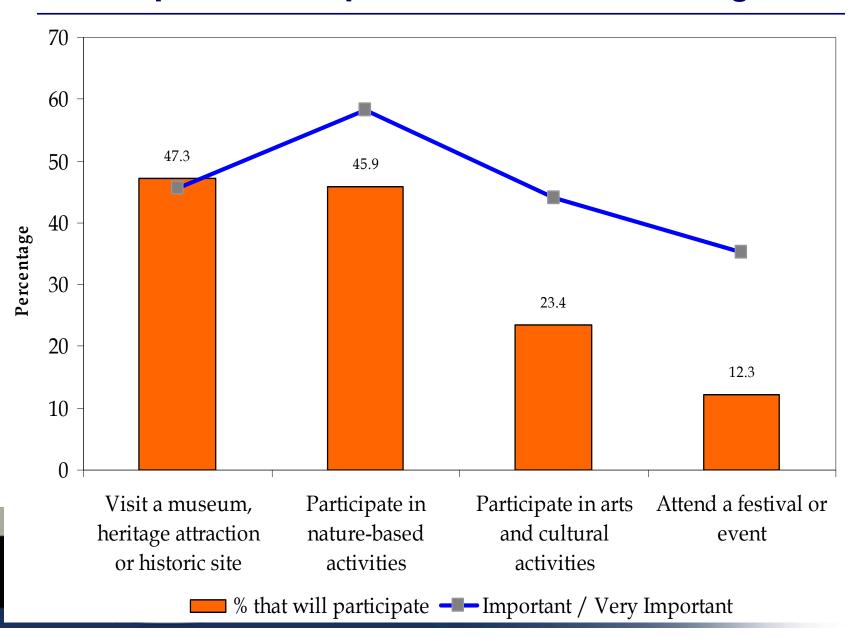
Key Findings - Trip Characteristics

- Average daily expenditures ranged between \$93 to \$192 per party
- The Internet was the top trip planning information source for all 10 studies
- Travelers in most studies were more flexible in terms of activities than in time (both in the region & in BC)
- In almost all studies, the majority of travelers spoke with a travel counsellor
- Between 91% and 100% of travelers replied the VIC met or exceeded their expectations

Trip Length – Prince George VIC

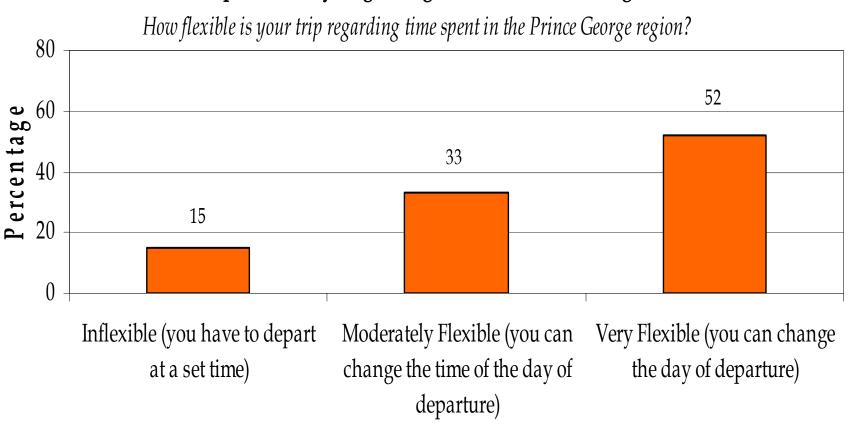


Participation & Importance – Prince George



Trip Flexibility – Prince George

Trip Flexibility Regarding Time in Prince George

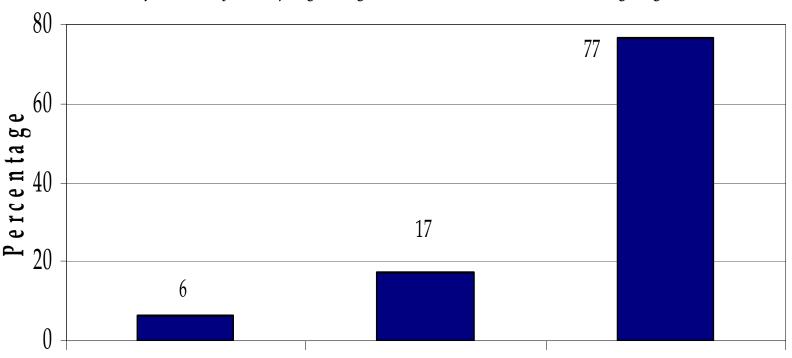




Trip Flexibility – Prince George

Trip Flexibility Regarding Activities in Prince George

How flexible is your trip regarding activities while in the Prince George region?

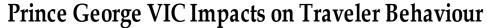


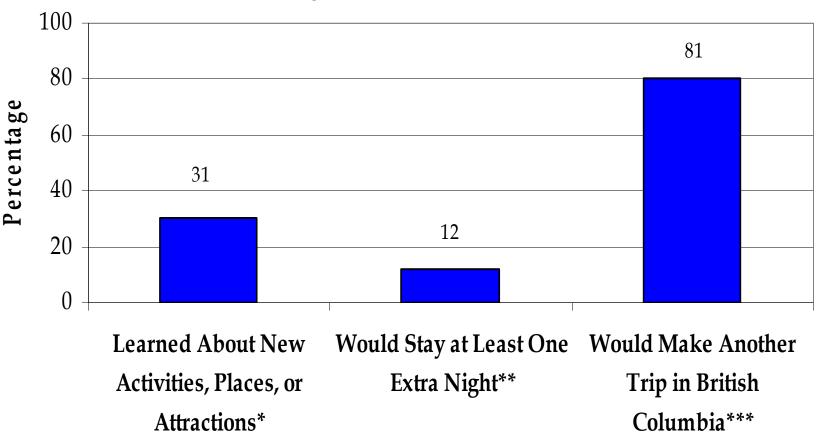
Inflexible (all activities are planned)

Moderately Flexible (about half of activities are planned)

Very Flexible (less than half of activities are planned)

Influence of VIC – Prince George

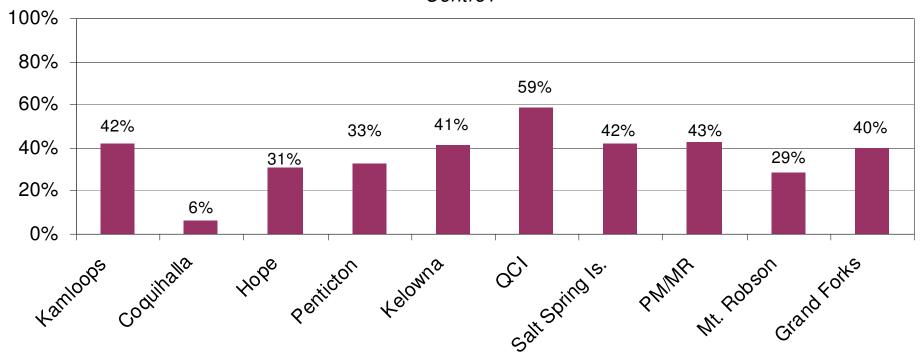




Key Findings - Influence of the VIC

Learn About Additional Activities

On this trip did you learn about any new activities, attractions, events or destinations as a result of the information you received at the Visitor Info Centre?



Key Limitations

- Only representative of peak season
- Only representative of non-resident use of the VIC
- Small sample sizes at VICs with lower use (parties per hour is small)
- Cannot apply results from one VIC to another due to the variability
- We do not know how many people actually make another trip of those that say they will make another trip

Applications

- The profile of travelers can be applied in different ways:
 - To ensure that the current information provided to VIC users reflects the interests and needs of travelers using the VIC
 - To design a marketing plan to attract travelers who do not currently use the VIC
 - To assist new and existing tourism businesses in their business planning and management
- The economic impact of the VIC can be used to:
 - Enhance VIC funding applications
 - Raise the profile of the VIC in the community
 - Examine return on investment (TBC and the community)

New Programs at Tourism BC



Strategic Framework

OBJECTIVES

- Maximize the long-term benefits of the 2010 Winter Games throughout British Columbia.
- Achieve \$19.6 billion in visitor revenue by 2015, an average annual growth rate of 7.2%, achieving aggressive growth rates that are above the worldwide tourism growth rates, resulting in an increase in worldwide market share.

STRATEGIES

DEMAND

- More visitors
- Longer stay
- Higher yield

SUPPLY

- Increase utilization
- Add new capacity and products
- Higher yield

TACTICS AND PROGRAMS

MARKET DEVELOPMENT

Discover BC MARKETING Target 2010 RESEARCH **OLYMPICS**

2010 OLYMPICS INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT POLICY **DESTINATION DEVELOPMENT**

WorldHost HUMAN RESOURCES INITIATIVE

Community Foundations DEVELOPMENT

SPORT TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

BC Experiences
PRODUCT
SECTOR

DEVELOPMENT

Circles of
Opportunity
ABORIGINAL
TOURISM
DEVELOPMENT



TOURISM BRITISH COLUMBIA

CANADA

Strategic Priorities

- Attract more volume from BC resident and other close-in markets (markets that generate more trips per person)
- Increase business from high yield markets (markets that generate more dollars per trip)
- Enhance the visitor experience
- Improve tourism business market readiness

Demand-side Strategies: Marketing

- Continue to build the Super, Natural British Columbia brand
- Increase interest in different <u>seasons</u> and for different <u>regions</u> of BC with appropriate markets
- Increase marketing efforts in key <u>current</u> leisure markets
- Initiate marketing efforts in <u>new</u> leisure markets

Programs:

- Community Foundations Marketing
- Tourism Partners, Partners Plus
- City Stays, Meetings BC
- Experiences BC Marketing

Supply-side Strategies: Development

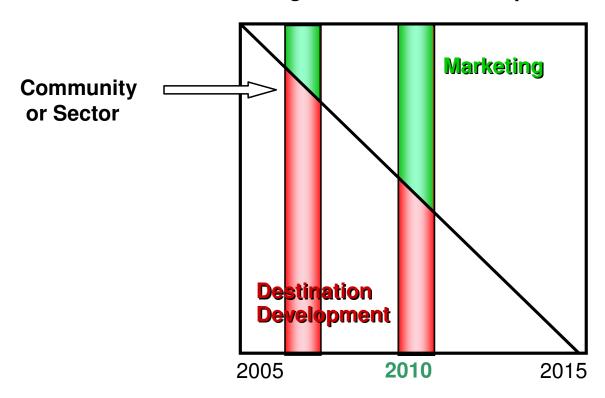
- Develop more market-ready tourism experiences throughout BC
- Assist new and emerging tourism product sectors to develop market-ready tourism products and experiences
- Assist communities in creating long-term tourism marketing and development plans

Programs:

- Community Foundations planning and development to help communities become market ready
- Experiences BC tourism sector development to help sectors become market ready
- Community Business Essentials expand program

Stages of Product Development

Stages of Product Development



BC Experiences

- Assists provincial product sectors in creating an overall sector development and marketing plan
 - Cost shared funding
 - Assist new and emerging tourism product sectors
 - Product sector development and marketing plan that is province wide in scope
- Achieve increased integration within product sectors that operate across the province so businesses can grow at a faster rate

BC Experiences - Research Needs

Demand

- Macro demand for products, projections, customer profiles, target markets
- Micro role of product in trip planning, product quality requirements, etc.

Supply:

- Inventory, product quality
- Capability, etc.

Product – Market Match Approach

BC Experiences – TBC Research

Current or completed research projects:

- Commercial Nature-Based Businesses in BC (WTA, LWBC)
- Economic Impacts of Diving (Dive Association)
- Recreational Fishing Survey (DFO, MoE)
- Spa (CTC, Other Provinces)
- Okanagan Cultural Corridor project (CTC, Local Govt.)
- Travel Activities and Motivations Survey (TAMS)
- Performance tracking:
 - Nature based tourism businesses
 - Attractions

US – Enthusiasts Who Take Leisure Trips to Canada (TAMS)

	2000	2025	Growth
Total U.S.A. Adult Population	200.4	254.3	27%
Soft Outdoor Adventure	7.1	8.8	25%
Alpine Skiing	4.6	5.7	25%
Hard Outdoor Adventure	3.2	3.8	20%
Heritage Enthusiasts	8.3	12.3	47%
Performing Arts Enthusiasts	3.8	5.1	35%
Wine/Culinary Enthusiasts	5.5	7.5	35%

Community Tourism Foundations



Community Tourism Foundations

- Assists communities in creating a community tourism development plan
 - Cost-shared funding
 - Consistent planning model
- Enable communities to participate in the business of tourism in an efficient and sustainable manner
- Provide opportunities for communities to take full advantage of the increased interest in BC over the longer term
- Program Criteria Includes the ability and willingness of the community to participate in community and provincial research programs

Community Tourism Foundations - Program

Planning/development to help communities become market ready

Process:

- 1. Initial Community Assessment
 - Determine scope of services required for community tourism development, etc.
- 2. Community Tourism Planning
 - SWOT, Research, enhance community and organizational capacity
- 3. Implementation
 - Partnership development, designing visitor service programs,
 SuperHost training, performance tracking, etc.
- 4. Evaluation

Graduate to Community Foundations Marketing



CTF – Research Approach

Community Tourism Foundations program uses a consumer driven approach - product market match

What research might a community need to successfully realize its tourism potential?

- Who are the community's customers and potential customers?
- What are their needs?
- How can they be attracted?
- What products could the community potentially supply?
- Etc.

CTF – Research Approach

Menu of potential research needs:

- 1. Inventories
- 2. Opportunity assessments
- 3. Visitor surveys
- 4. Product market match analysis
- 5. Community tourism performance tracking
- 6. Evaluation tools
- 7. Resident attitude surveys
- 8. Macro demand analysis & projections
- 9. Micro demand analysis
- 10. ??

CTF – Research Approach

- Research Services will develop a set of research tools a standard methodology for type of research need
- Assessment will determine which research products the community needs – prioritize research needs
- Local consultants (college/university students/faculty?) will be engaged to conduct required research, using standardized methodologies
- TBC will conduct quality assurance checks
- Communities (i.e. tourism industry members) will need to participate by sharing data, recruiting survey participants, etc.

Community Research Tools:

- 1. Community Visitor Surveys
 - Prince George VIC
- 2. Performance Tracking
 - Provincial Accommodation Survey
 - DMO Accommodation Survey
- 3. Regional Partnership Projects
 - Northern Rockies Alaska Hwy Visitor Survey

Provincial Accommodation Survey

Provincial Accommodation Survey - Method

- 1. Every month participating accommodation properties receive a survey asking for:
 - occupancy and ADR for the past month,
 - forecasts of occupancy and ADR for the next three months
 - Occ. and ADR for the same months of the previous year.
- 2. Completed surveys are returned to Research Services
- 3. Data is entered and aggregated results are reported to participating properties and DMOs
- 4. Results are reported for the province, tourism regions and communities with sufficient levels of participation

Similar survey with GVRD Attractions – others coming

How can communities & DMOS use this information?



Provincial Accom. Survey

Tourism Dogion	Reported/Forecast Change in Room Revenue						
Tourism Region	July	August	September	October			
Richmond	4.2%	9.0%	11.1%	7.0%			
VC&M	0.7%	6.4%	5.5%	5.4%			
Nanaimo	5.6%	4.3%	-6.8%	9.9%			
Oceanside	10.5%	7.7%	12.5%	-8.5%			
Victoria	-0.1%	-0.6%	2.8%	-0.7%			
Van. Island	3.4%	2.3%	4.2%	1.4%			
Kamloops	-5.9%	6.4%	5.7%	7.0%			
Kelowna	-3.9%	4.2%	1.1%	2.9%			
TOTA	3.9%	5.8%	2.8%	5.5%			
BC Rockies	-7.1%	7.6%	2.7%	-4.8%			
Northern BC	7.2%	9.1%	6.5%	4.5%			
CCC	8.6%	8.3%	5.0%	-1.9%			
BC Total*	1.7%	5.6%	4.8%	3.9%			



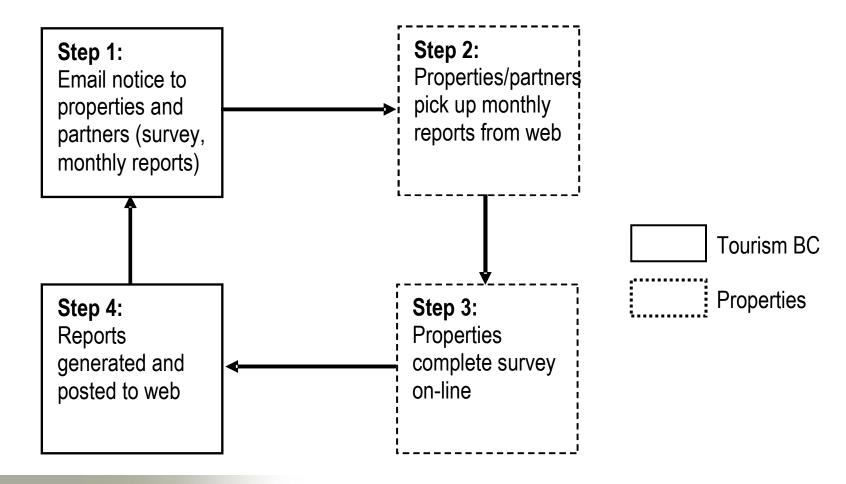
DMO Accommodation Survey

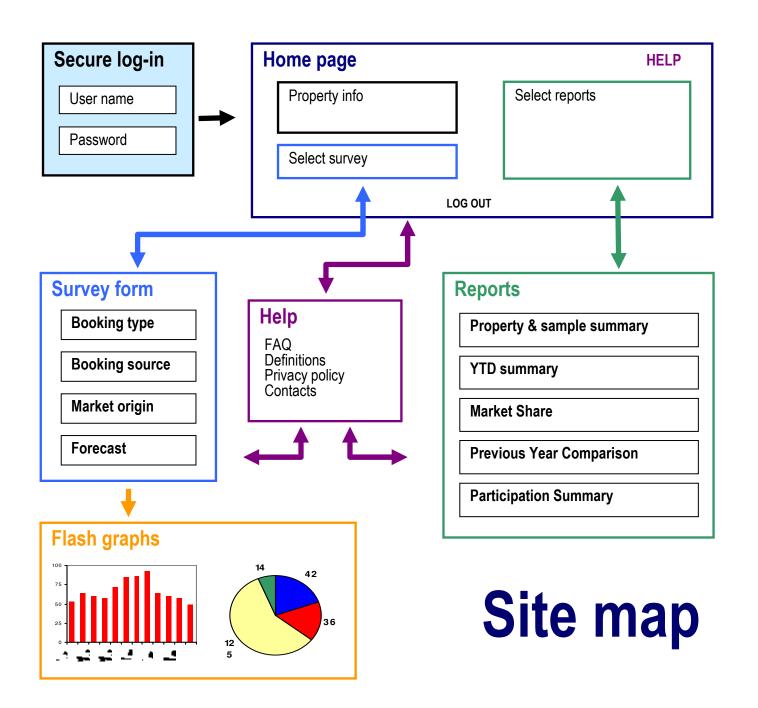
DMO Accommodation Survey - Background

Objectives:

- To establish an efficient monthly system for collecting, analyzing and reporting relevant and timely data for properties, City/Regional DMOs and Tourism BC
 - Data to be used to develop and benchmark marketing programs and to identify new and emerging markets
- Pilot Project Victoria
- Initial partners included CTC, TBC, Tourism Victoria and properties
- Consultative process used to establish original survey and reports and to develop on-line survey

Accommodation Survey – On-Line Model





Accommodation Survey - Property Home Page



VICTORIA COMMERCIAL ACCOMMODATION

ONLINE SURVEY







Demonstration Hotel

The contact person at your property is Jane Smith (Marcie.Dumais@tourism.bc.ca)
Your property is part of **Sample X**.

Your survey for March 2004 is due the 15th of April.

March 2004

~

Go to Survey

Victoria is one of few destinations in North America that collects data at this level of detail in partnership with industry. Thank you for your participation--consistent reporting is integral to the success of the survey.

For information about how survey data is protected, see privacy policy.

If you require assistance, please contact the survey administrator.

Reports	
Reports are currently February 2004. Adobe Reader	based on historic data from March 2000 to
Property & Sample Summary	Room information, booking type, source, and market origin for selected month and year to date
Year-to-date Summary	Room information, booking type, source, and market origin for all months of the year
Market Share	Property's share of room nights by booking type, source and market origin
Previous Year Comparison	Percentage change versus same month in previous year
Monthly Participation Summary	Summary of participating properties for a selected month

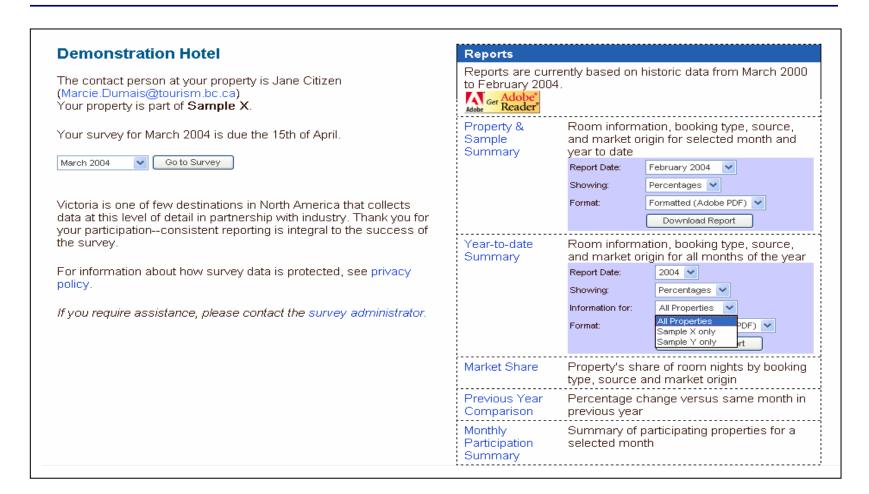


Special Reports

Accommodation Survey - Survey Form

<u></u>					.,	Privacy Policy
VICTORIA COMMERCIAL ACCOM	IMODATION SURVEY		HELP	HOME	SAVE	SUBMIT
Demonstration Hotel					Ma	rch 2004
ROOM INFORMATION						
Total room nights available	2	Average room rate			0 \$	
Total room nights occupied	@	Average length of stay			0	
Occupancy rate		% Total number of guests			0	
Room Nights by BOOKING TYPE		Room Nights by MARI	KETOR	IGIN		
Independent travelers (IT)		British Columbia				
Leisure	②	0 Vancouver Island				0
Long stay	②	0 Lower Mainland			②	0
Corporate	②	0 Other BC			②	0
Government	②	0 Unallocated BC			②	0
Tour & travel	②	0				0
Group travelers		Rest of Canada				
Association	@	0 Alberta				0
Corporate	②	0 Sask & Manitoba				0
Government	②	0 Ontario				0
Incentive	②	0 Other Canada			②	0
Snorts teams		Unallocated Canada			•	0

Accommodation Survey - Report Selection



Accommodation Survey - Future Directions

- Survey launched (successfully) April 8th, 2004
- Use on-line accommodation survey as a pilot for other city destinations interested in accommodation sector data collection and analysis
- Expand to other city or regional destinations based on interest and need
- Expand to other sectors (ski, golf?)
- What does it take for a community to participate?

Short Term Outlook - Victoria Pace



Northern Rockies – Alaska Highway Visitor Survey

Northern Rockies – Alaska Highway Visitor Survey





Alaska Hwy Visitor Survey

Objectives:

- Provide information to support marketing and product development in the Northern Rockies-Alaska Highway region
- > Learn about visitors:
 - demographics and trip characteristics
 - Pre-trip and during trip planning info sources
 - Activities and interests
 - Destination images and experiences
- > Ratings for highway infrastructure

Alaska Hwy Visitor Survey - Partners

- Alberta Economic Development
- Alberta North TourismDestination Region
- Canadian Tourism Commission
- Doig River First Nation
- Fort Nelson First Nation
- Northern Rockies AlaskaHighway Tourism Association

- Northern Rockies Regional District
- Public Works & GovernmentServices Canada
- Sci-Tech North
- Tourism Dawson Creek
- Tourism British Columbia

★With support from the Dawson Creek and Fort Nelson VICs, BC Parks, BC Hydro, and tourism business operators

Alaska Hwy Visitor Survey - Methods

- We focused on people who were:
 - Away from home one or more nights
 - Traveling for leisure, to visit friends and family, or on business
 - Traveling independently (not with a tour group)
 - Traveling to and through Northeast BC

Alaska Hwy Visitor Survey - Methods

Phase 1
On-site interviews
& traffic counts

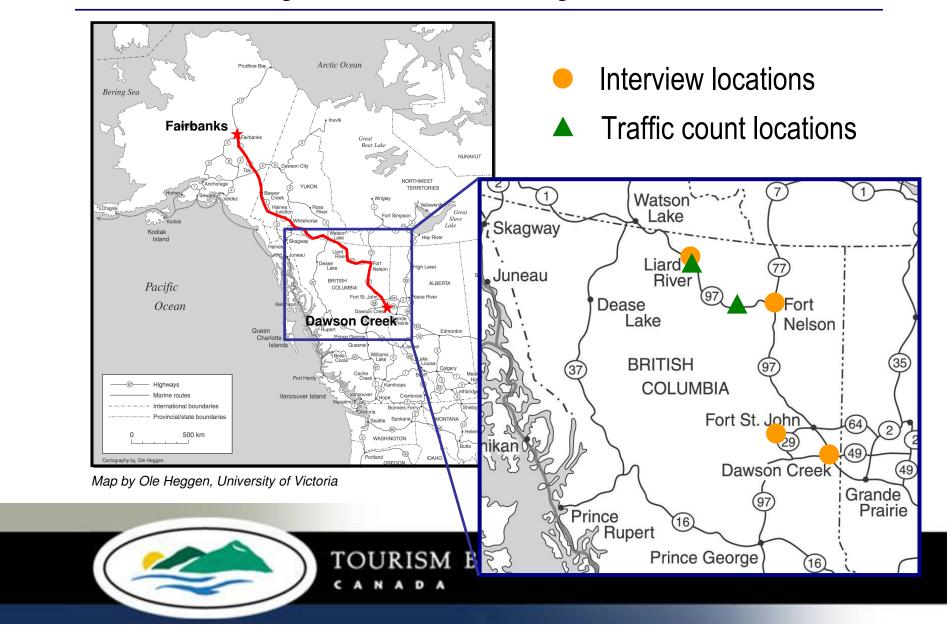
Crews in Dawson Creek and Fort Nelson using palm pilot technology

Recorded vehicle type & origin to estimate visitor volume

Phase 2
Mail-back survey

Detailed questions about activities, destination images, travel route, planning while traveling.

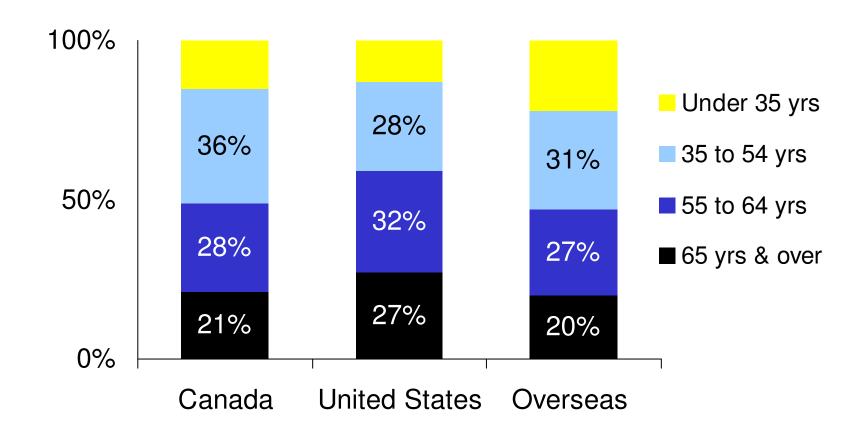
Alaska Hwy Visitor Survey – Field Locations

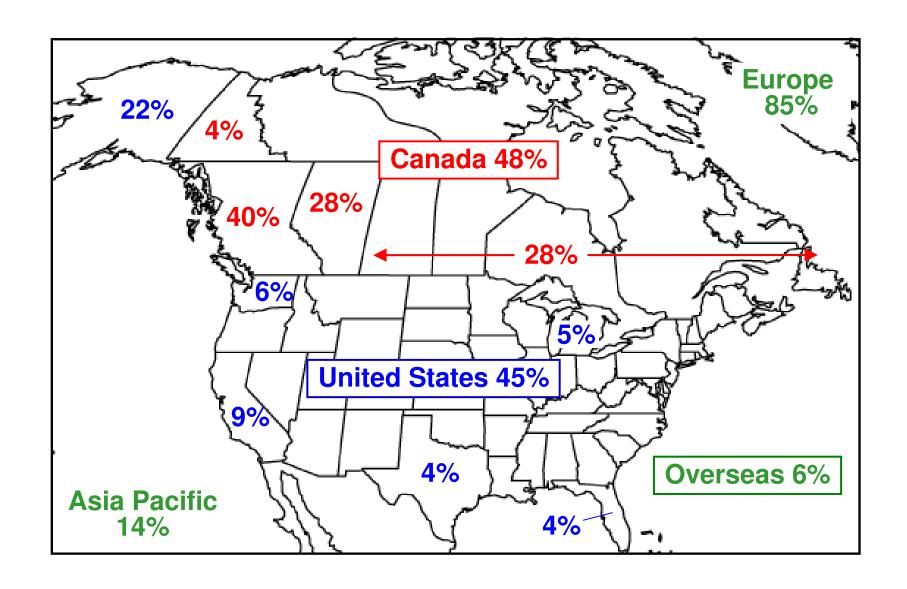


Alaska Hwy Visitor Survey - Response Rates

Contacted	4,182	•
Interviewed	3,276	78%
In target population	2,817	•
Permission for mail survey	1,988	71%
Returned survey	1,175	59%

Alaska Hwy Visitor Survey - Age profile







Alaska Hwy Visitor Survey - Main destination

Origin	Alaska	NE BC	Yukon	Circle
Canada	20%	27%	24%	17%
BC, AB, YT	14%	32%	24%	18%
Long haul	37%	12%	24%	15%
United States	76%	2%	1%	6%
Alaska	31%	2%	0%	11%
Lower 48 states	88%	2%	2%	5%
Overseas	40%	8%	11%	31%

Alaska Hwy Visitor Survey - Trip length

- Average trip: 39 nights
- Regional travelers
 - BC, Alberta, Yukon, Alaska: 20 nights
- Long-haul travelers
 - Canadians: 43 nights
 - Lower 48 states: 53 nights
 - Overseas: 62 nights

Alaska Hwy Visitor Survey - Flexibility

- Two-thirds had flexible travel schedules
- 80% had few or no activities planned

- One-in-10 travelers extended their trip
 - Stayed an additional 7 nights
- But 6-in-10 wanted to extend their trip
 - Constrained by work or prior commitments

Alaska Hwy Visitor Survey - Travel motivations

Importance in decision to take the trip	Very important + important
See wildlife and wild landscapes	92%
Visit places we'd never seen before	87%
A journey we heard about and always wanted to make	76%
Enjoy outdoor activities	71%
Travel in places where we feel safe	69%
Learn about the history of the Alaska Highway	54%
Learn about the local way of life by meeting local people	54%
Better understand First Nations or aboriginal culture	34%

Alaska Hwy Visitor Survey - Trip planning

- Regional travelers
 - BC, Alberta, Yukon, Alaska
 - Short planning horizons
 - -65% plan within 3 months
- Long haul travelers
 - Eastern Canada, Lower 48 states
 - Long horizons
 - -60% plan for more than 4 months
 - -40% plan for more than a year

Alaska Hwy Visitor Survey - Info for planning

All sources	Canada	United States	Overseas	Overall
Internet	35%	46%	60%	42%
Word of mouth	34%	34%	33%	34%
The Milepost	12%	55%	9%	31%
Past experience	36%	28%	16%	31%
Visitor Info Centres	28%	22%	28%	25%
Agents	20%	18%	22%	19%
Books	14%	21%	41%	19%
Brochures	17%	18%	13%	17%

Alaska Hwy Visitor Survey - Info while traveling

All sources	Canada	United States	Overseas	Overall
VIC counselors	72 %	68%	86%	71%
The Milepost	47%	89%	32%	64%
Brochures	61%	64%	78%	63%
Past experience	63%	57%	49%	59%
Advice from locals	52%	61%	56%	56%
Advice from travelers	50%	59%	43%	53%
Internet	40%	41%	54%	42%
Books	30%	41%	72%	38%

Alaska Hwy Visitor Survey - Most useful info

	Canada	United States	Overseas	Overall
The Milepost	26%	71%	22%	45%
VIC counselors	23%	4%	19%	14%
Past experience	17%	9%	12%	14%
AAA guides	7%	4%	0%	5%
Advice from travelers	6%	4%	3%	5%
Other sources	5%	2%	11%	4%
Internet	5%	1%	4%	3%
Books	2%	2%	16%	3%
Advice from locals	4%	2%	2%	3%

Thank You!! - For more information



Richard Porges

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Website = www.tourismbc.com/research



Commercial Nature Based Tourism

CNBT - Objectives

Primary

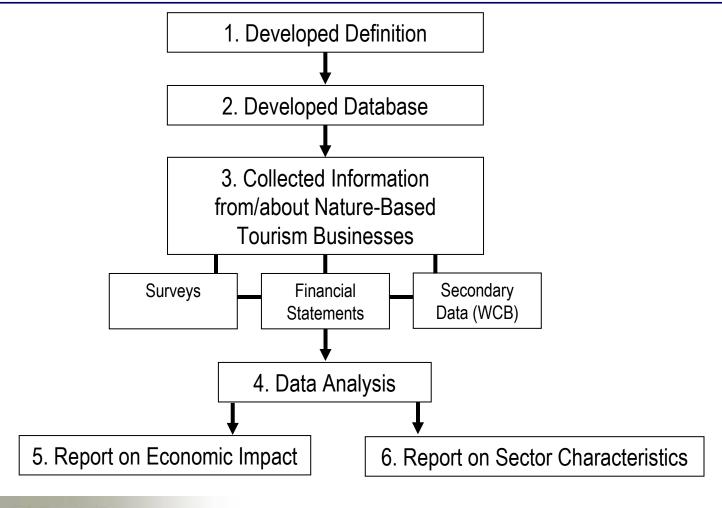
Measure the economic impact of commercial nature-based tourism in BC

Secondary

- Initiate on-going tracking on nature-based tourism industry
- Framework for greater regional/sector detail
- Understand constraints to growth
- Collect data for marketing purposes

Partners: Wilderness Tourism Association, MSRM

CNBT - Methods



CNBT - Definition

- In conjunction with WTA workshop with businesses in February 2002
- Tourism experiences that are directly or indirectly dependent on the natural environment and require a land or water base
 - largely activities in the mid and backcountry zones (no golf/downhill skiing)
 - business actively markets
 - primary revenue source is guests/clients i.e. not retail sales
 - can estimate percentage of revenues from tourists
 - list of 33 activities

CNBT – Findings: Economic Impacts

In 2001

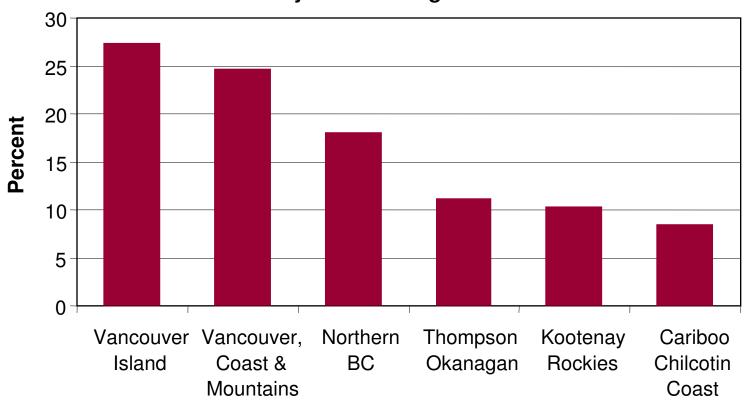
- 2,250 businesses
- 966,000 clients
- 2.5 million client days
- Spent \$908.9 million at nature-based tourism businesses
- Overall, 22.4 million tourists spent \$9.2 billion in BC
- Nature-based businesses generate ~10% of industry revenue

CNBT - Findings: Sector Characteristics

Saltwater Based	38%	Land Based (Lodge)	18%
Boat Charters (most SW)	14%	Guide Outfitters	11%
SW Fishing Lodges	6%	Destination Lodges	4%
SW (Ocean) Kayaking	6%	Guest Ranches	3%
Sail Cruising	4%		
SW Fishing (No Lodge)	3%		
Scuba Diving	2%		
Marine Wildlife Viewing	2%		
Pocket Cruising	<1%		
Land Based (Winter & Summer)	27%	Freshwater Based	17%
Land-Based Summer	19%	FW Fishing Lodges	7%
Land-Based Winter	5%	FW Fishing (No Lodge)	5%
Mountain Biking	2%	River Rafting	4%
Heli-Skiing	1%	FW Kayaking/Canoeing	2%

CNBT - Findings: Sector Characteristics

Percent of Commercial Nature-Based Tourism Businesses by Tourism Region



CNBT – Findings: Business Characteristics

- Most businesses were small
 - 55% < 3 full time staff members</p>
 - 25% between 3 and 10 full time staff members
- Average of 88% of revenue came from tourists
- Expenditures were:
 - 22% labour
 - 15% transportation and fuel
 - 11% on maintenance
 - 9% on advertising/promotion
 - 9% new facilities/equipment

- 8% food and beverage
- 6% liability insurance
- 5% mortgage and rent

CNBT – Findings: Business Characteristics

Booking Sources

- 40% repeat guests
- 30% marketing
- 23% word of mouth
- 6% drive by/walk in

Marketing

- Use ~ 3 marketing methods
- Brochures/posters, website, direct mail, consumer trade shows and another website were top five methods
- ~50% participated in co-operative marketing programs

CNBT - Findings: Client Characteristics

- Market of Origin
 - 29% from BC, 17% other Canada
 - 17% Northwest USA, 18% other USA
 - 14% Europe, 2% Asia, 3% Other
- 62% male
- 50% between 35 and 54
- 45% couples or family

CNBT Findings: Constraints to Growth

- 22 different constraints to growth (transportation, business development, government regulation, land-use issues and human resources)
 - 58% Too much industry regulation
 - 51% Lack of long term guarantee of tenuring to the land base
 - 51% Competition for natural resources among multiple industries
 - 48% High marketing costs
 - 44% Lack of security regarding long term integrity of viewscapes

CNBT - Implications

Businesses

- Focus on tourism is important for success
- Guided activities generate most revenue
- Partnerships are important (accommodation, co-op marketing)
- Excellent service is essential as the majority of clients are repeat visitors or come from word of mouth
- Successful businesses use a variety of marketing methods
- Focus on male, middle-aged clients from BC, Canadian and NW US markets

CNBT - Limitations

- Provides a benchmark number of businesses always changing
- Does not measure:
 - frontcountry nature-based experiences like downhill skiing or golfing
 - self-guided nature-based experiences
 - tourist expenditures before and after visiting the naturebased tourism business
 - non-tourists (locals) using the nature-based tourism business

CNBT - Next Steps

- Build on work already completed
 - 1. Update sector characteristics/impacts
 - 2. Increase sector and regional detail
 - 3. Client survey
 - Offsite expenditures
 - Demographics
 - Motivations/perceptions
 - Marketing insights