



INDIAN CREEK CLIMBER SURVEY

2021

SUMMARY REPORT



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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ABOUT ACCESS FUND

Access Fund is the national advocacy organization that works to protect America's outdoor climbing areas. Founded in 1991, Access Fund is a nonprofit organization that supports and represents millions of climbers nationwide in all forms of climbing: rock climbing, ice climbing, mountaineering, and bouldering. Six core programs support the mission on national and local levels: climbing management policy, stewardship and conservation, local support and mobilization, land acquisition and protection, risk management and landowner support, and education.

WE ARE CLIMBING ADVOCATES

We are a community of climbing advocates who love our climbing landscapes and the experiences they offer—and we are committed to fighting for them. Not just for access, but for the integrity of these amazing places.

Today, 1 in 5 climbing areas in the United States is threatened—whether it's private land lost to development, threats to public lands, or climber impacts degrading the environment, the list of threats is long and constantly evolving. But they can be managed. At Access Fund, we are on a mission to lead and inspire the climbing community toward sustainable access and conservation of

the climbing environment.

OUR CAUSES

- Protect public lands
- Buy threatened climbing
- Restore climbing areas
- Inspire climbing advocacy
- Replace aging bolts
- Encourage responsible climbing
- Access private lands

For more information on Access Fund and to get involved, visit accessfund.org.



James O Martin, Bears Ears National Monument Ute (Nuu-agha-tuvu-pu) and Pueblo Territories

ABOUT THE SURVEY

This survey was a collaboration between Access Fund and Dr. David P. Carter, assistant professor of public policy at the University of Utah. It was conducted online from May 17 to June 4, 2021. Requests for participation were distributed via Access Fund's email contact list and social media channels. A total of 2,534 responses were received, 370 of which were from climbers who have not recreated in Indian Creek. This report details findings from the 1,847 completed surveys received from respondents who reported climbing in Indian Creek.

The survey objectives were to document practices, perceptions, and management preferences of Indian Creek climbers. The overarching goal of the project is to better understand and represent climbers' interests as we strive for a shared vision for the future of Indian Creek climbing and recreation. Access Fund is excited to announce that it will put two Climber Stewards on the ground at Indian Creek in the fall of 2021 to help provide visiting climbers with information and resources to help them minimize their impacts at this increasingly popular and sensitive area.



James Q Martin, Bears Ears National Monument, Ute (Nuu-agma-tuvu-pu) and Pueblo Territories

INDIAN CREEK CLIMBING PRACTICES

Figure 01. Indian Creek climbing tenures

The number of years respondents have climbed in Indian Creek (n=1,842).

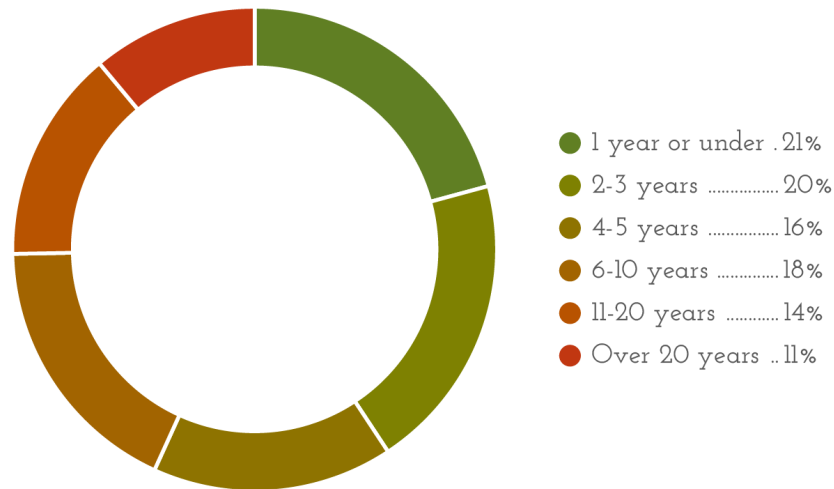


Figure 02. Visitation frequencies

The number of times a year respondents typically visit Indian Creek in a calendar year (n=1,822).

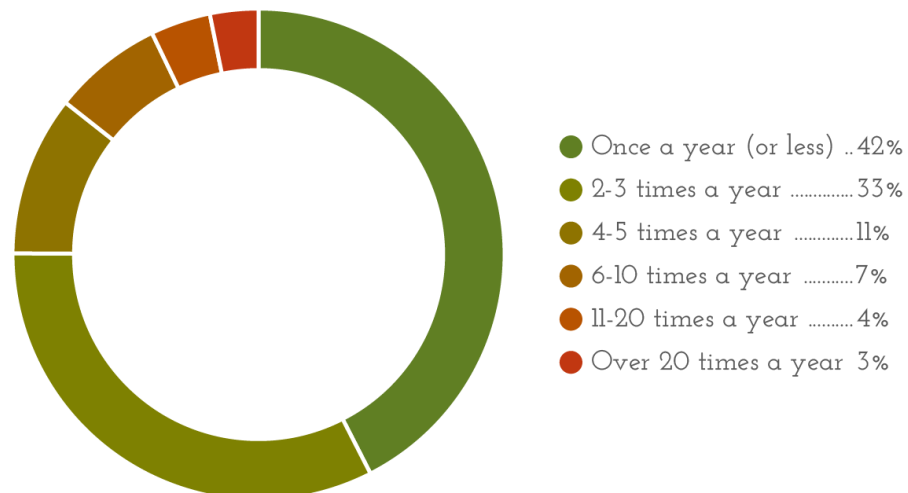


Figure 03. Visitation months

The months respondents typically visit Indian Creek (n=1,847).

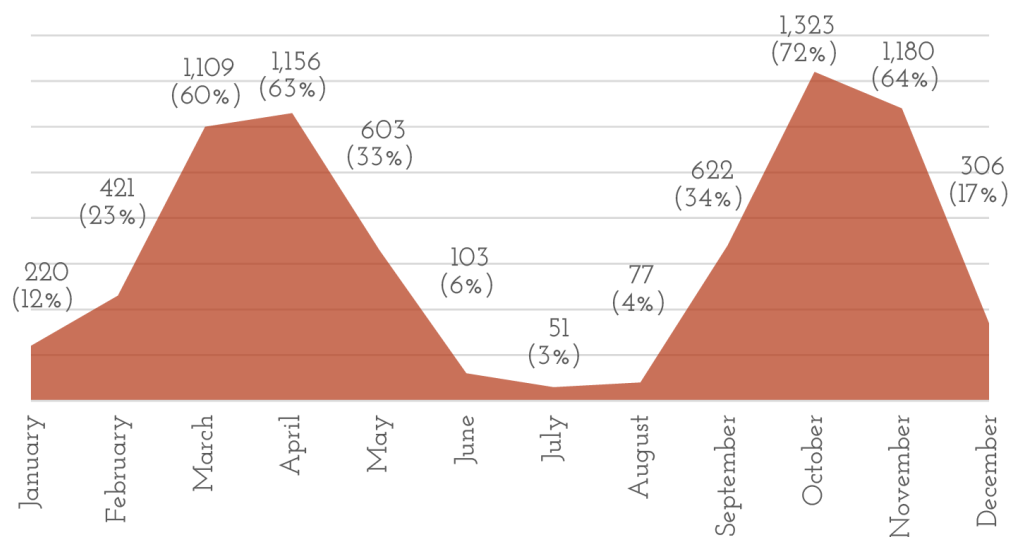


Figure 04. Visitation lengths

The number of days for which respondents typically visit Indian Creek (n=1,837).

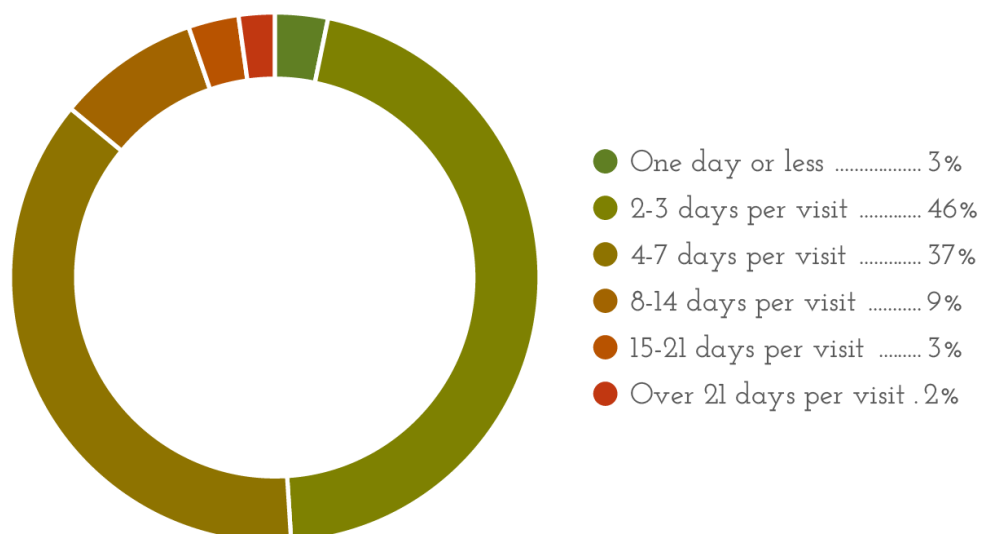


Figure O5. Lodging and camping locations

Where respondents typically stay when visiting Indian Creek (multiple selections allowed; n=1,847).

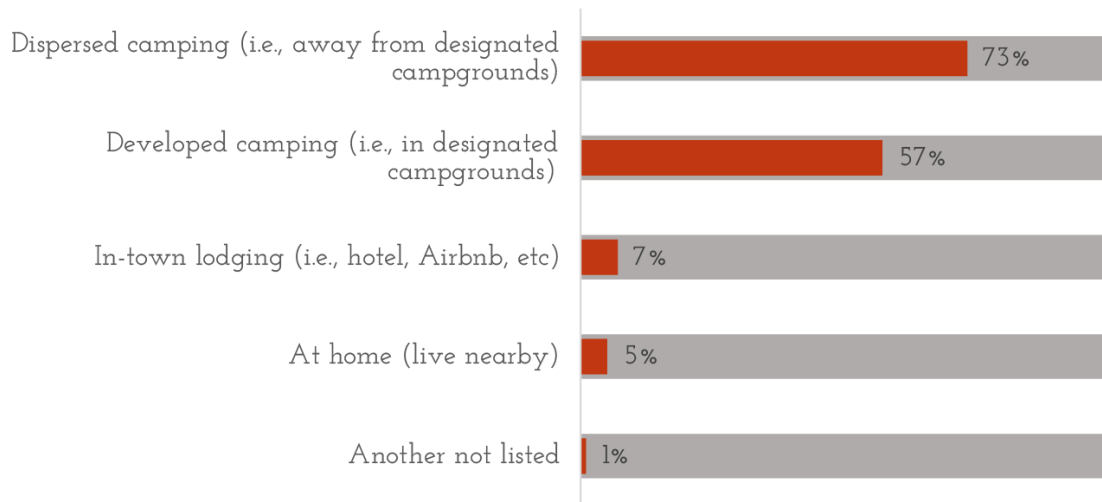


Figure O6. Camping arrangements

The camping arrangements respondents typically use when visiting Indian Creek (multiple selections allowed; n=1,807).

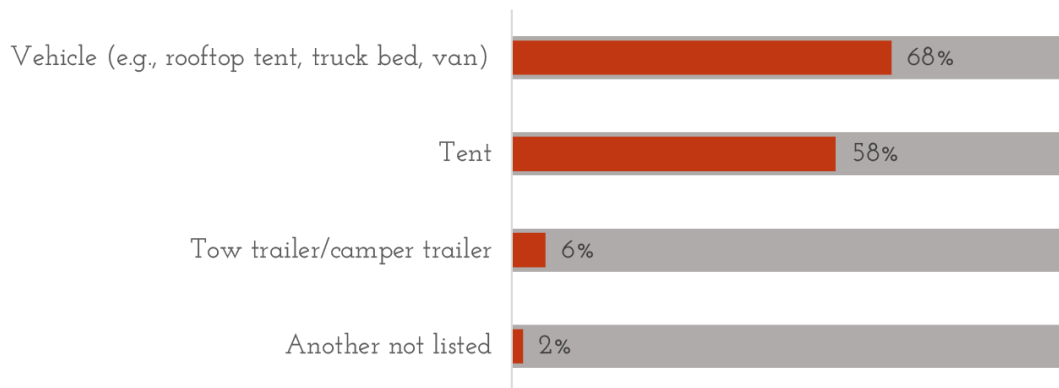


Figure 07. Camping and climbing party sizes

The number of people respondents report as typically making up their camping (n=1,808) and climbing (n=1,840) parties when visiting Indian Creek.

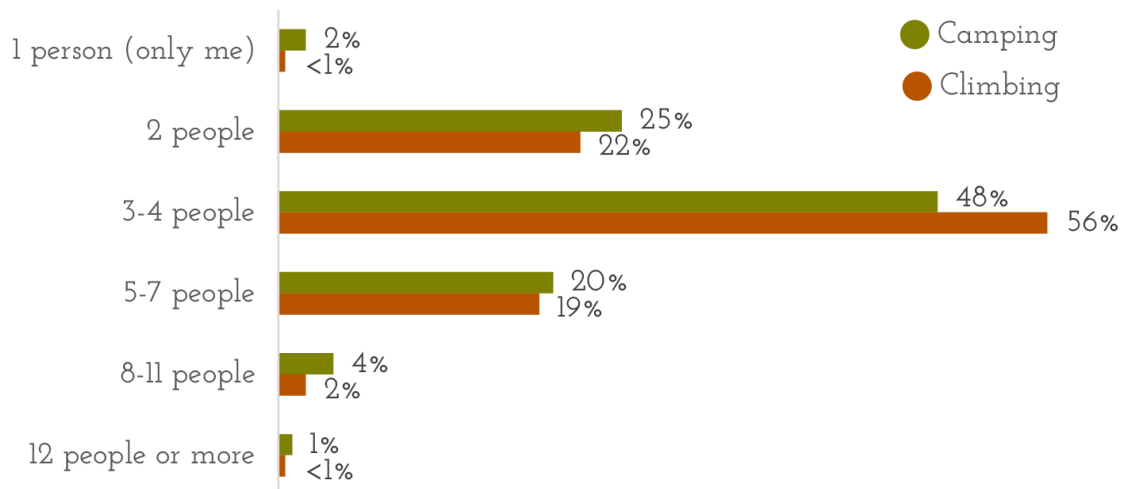


Figure 08. Carpooling to the crag

How often respondents carpool to the crag with climbing partners when climbing in Indian Creek (n=1,841)

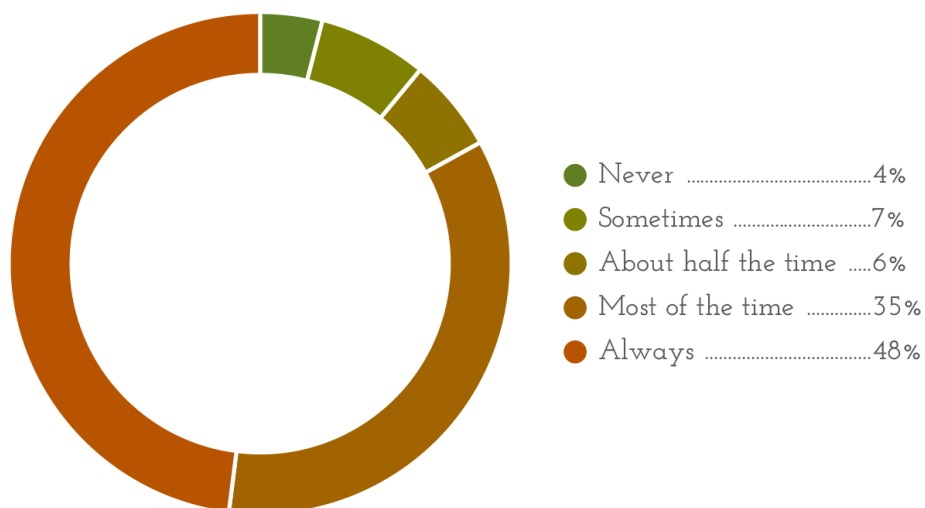


Figure 09. Dogs at the Creek

How often respondents bring dogs to Indian Creek (n=1,842)

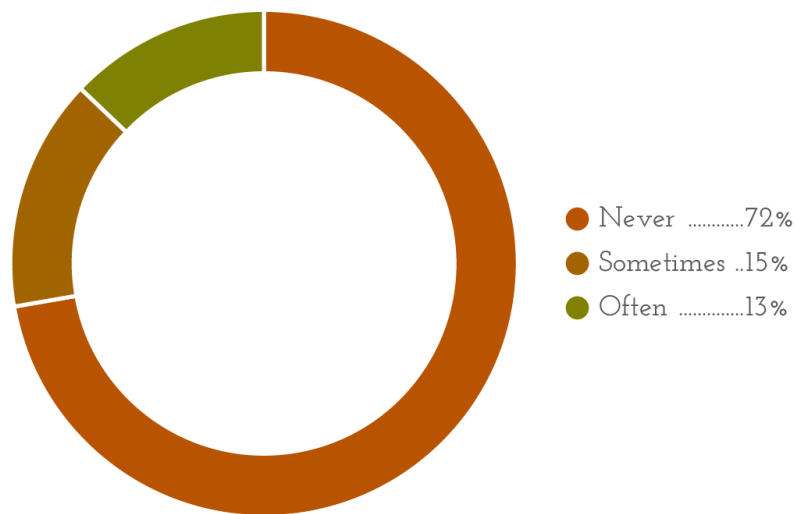


Figure 10. Other activities

The other (non-climbing) activities respondents participate in while visiting Indian Creek (multiple selections allowed; n=1,847)

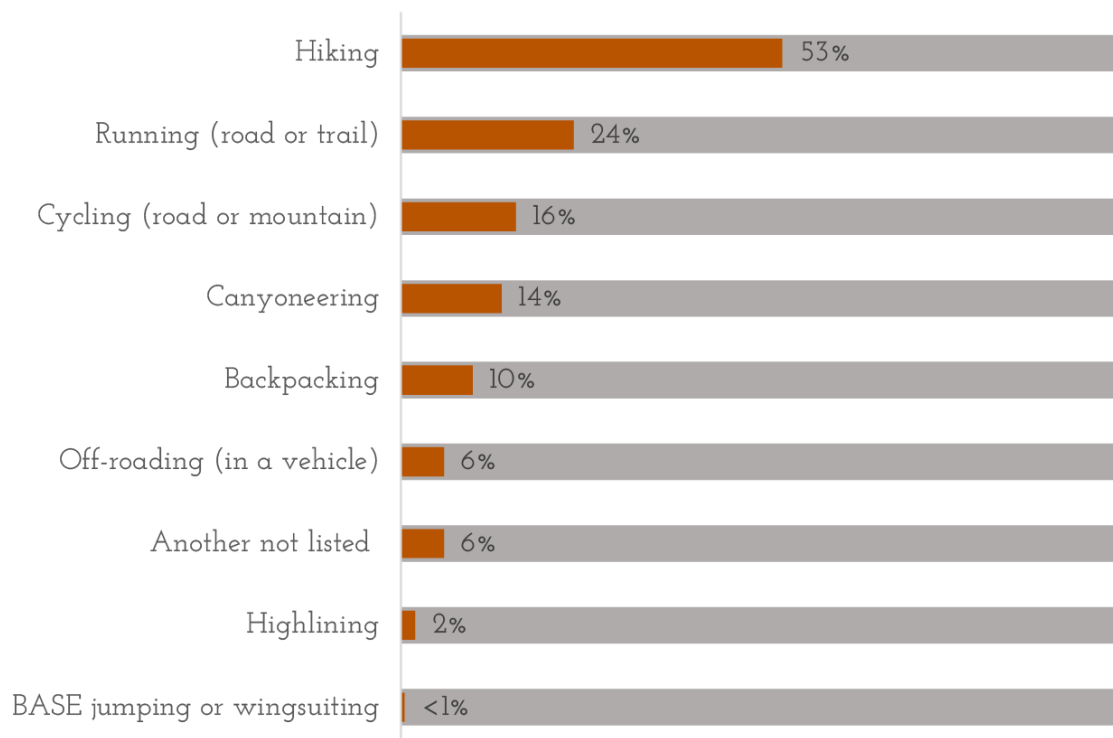


Figure 11. Indian Creek information sources

Where respondents find information for planning Indian Creek visits (multiple selections allowed; n=1,807).

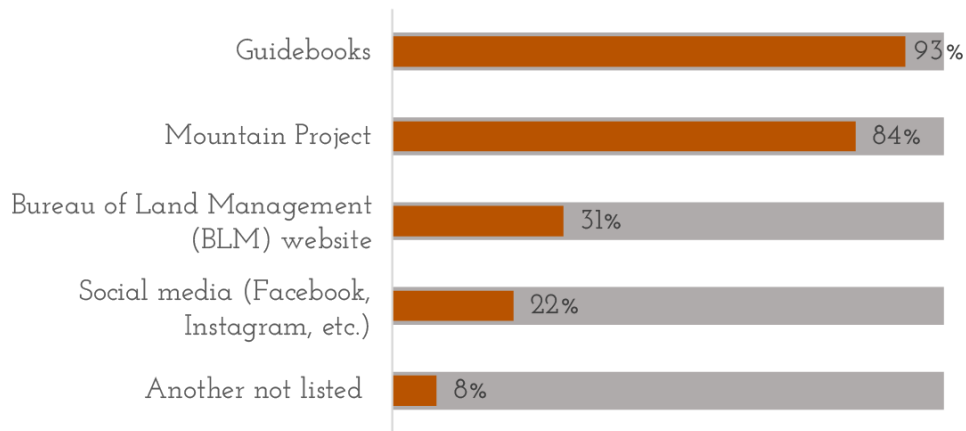
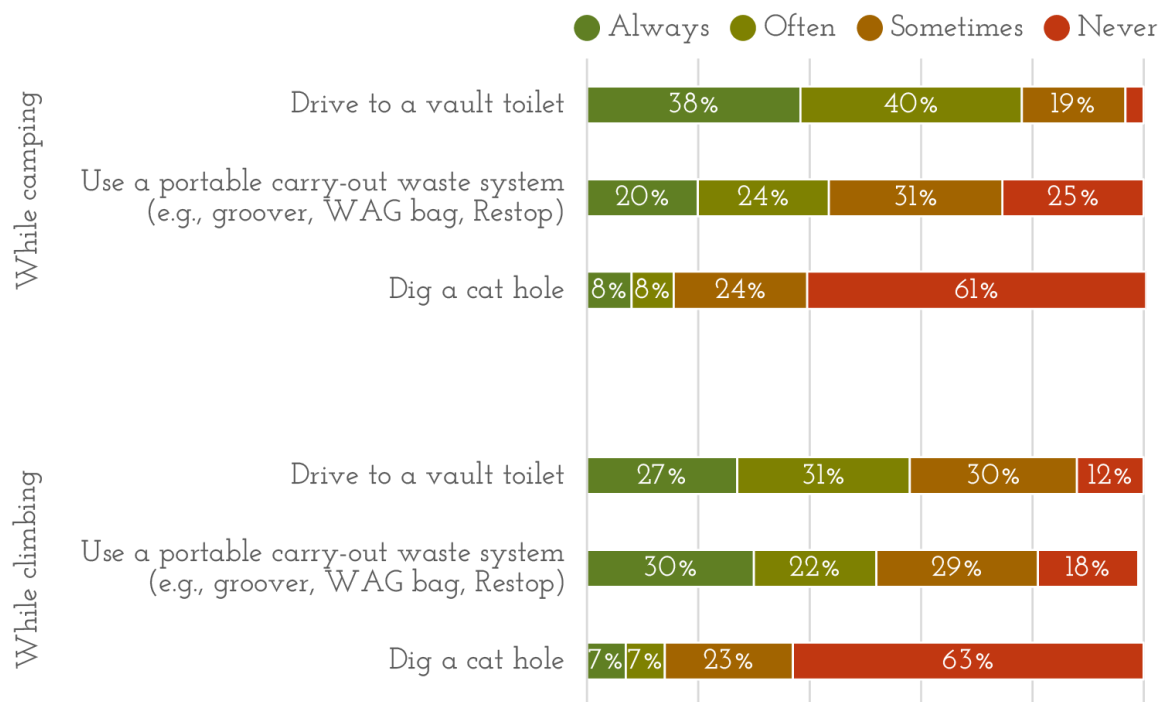


Figure 12. Human waste disposal while climbing and camping

How respondents manage human waste while camping (top panel) and climbing (bottom) in Indian Creek (n=1,530–1,795).



PERCEPTIONS RELATED TO INDIAN CREEK CREEK CLIMBING

Figure 13. Environmental conditions, infrastructure, and climbers' behaviors

Respondents' agreement/disagreement with provided statements related to Indian Creek environmental conditions, infrastructure, and climbers' behaviors (n=1,837–1,840).

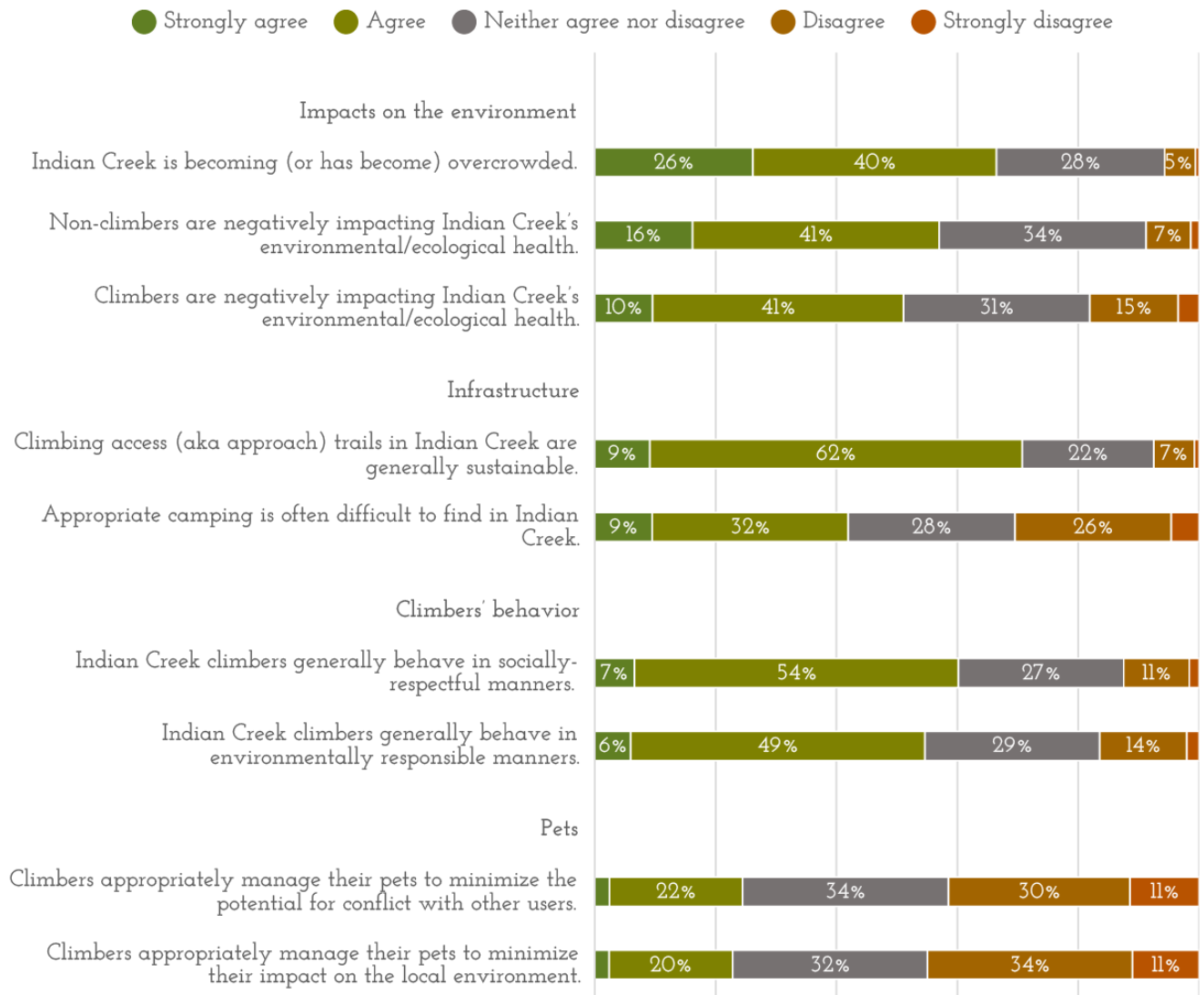


Figure 14. Respondents' self-reported familiarities with relevant info

How informed respondents feel regarding different aspects of Indian Creek recreation and management (n=1,821–1,840).

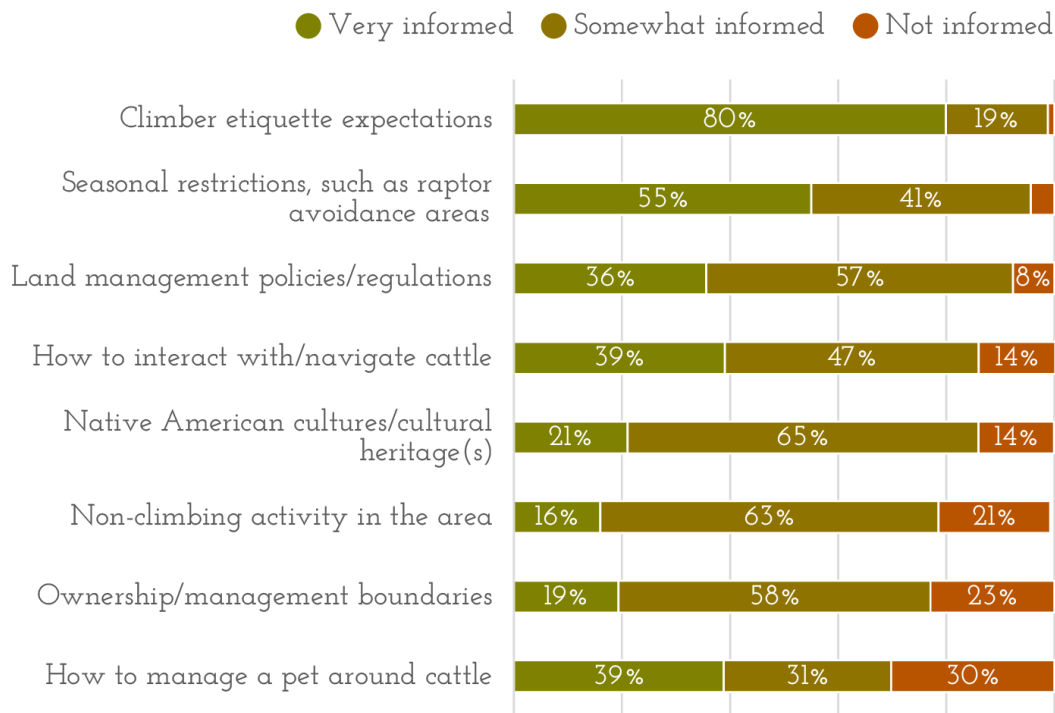
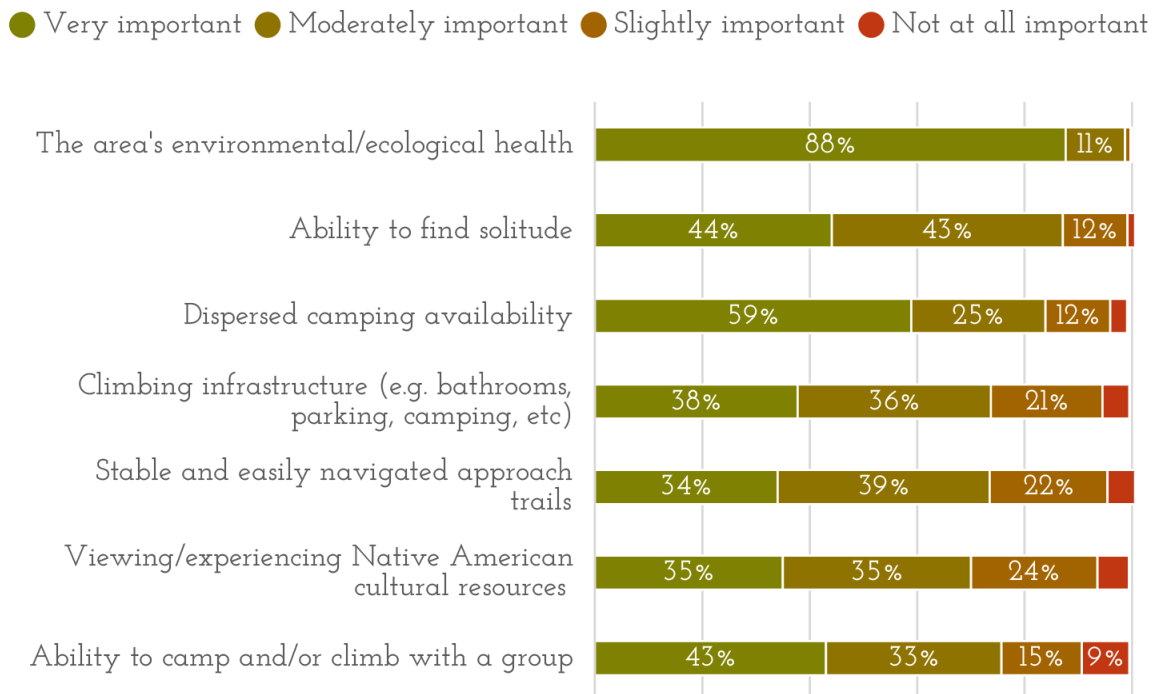


Figure 15. Valued elements and aspects

The importance that respondents ascribed to provided factors in their enjoyment of Indian Creek (n=1,833–1,840).



PREFERENCES REGARDING INDIAN CREEK CREEK MANAGEMENT

Figure 16. Support and opposition for management options
 Respondents' support/opposition for various Indian Creek management policies or actions
 (n=1,837–1,840).

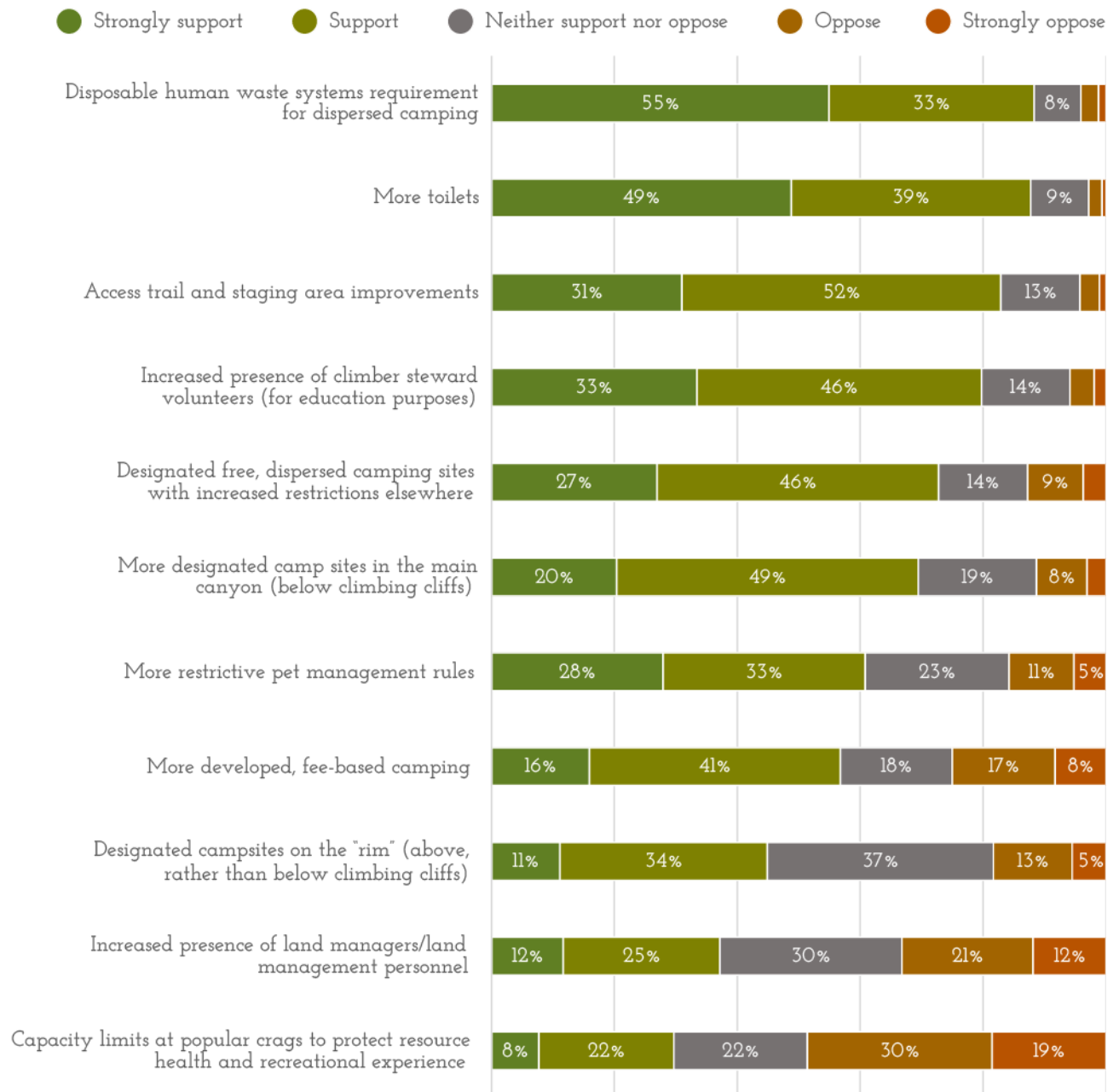


Figure 17. Amenities at Indian Creek

Whether respondents prefer more, the same, or fewer amenities (e.g., water, food, cell service, etc.) than historically available in Indian Creek (n=1,827).

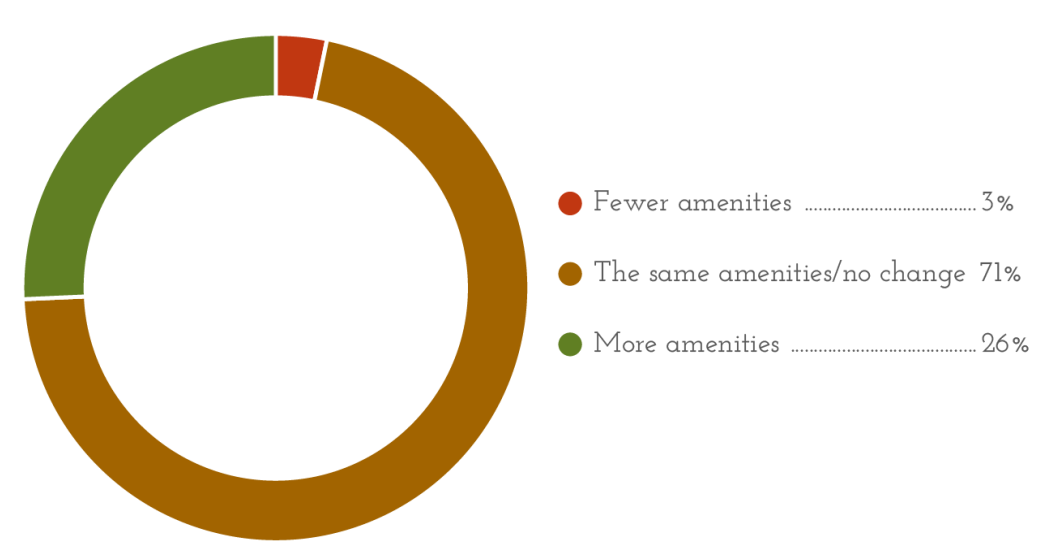


Table 1. Additional desired amenities

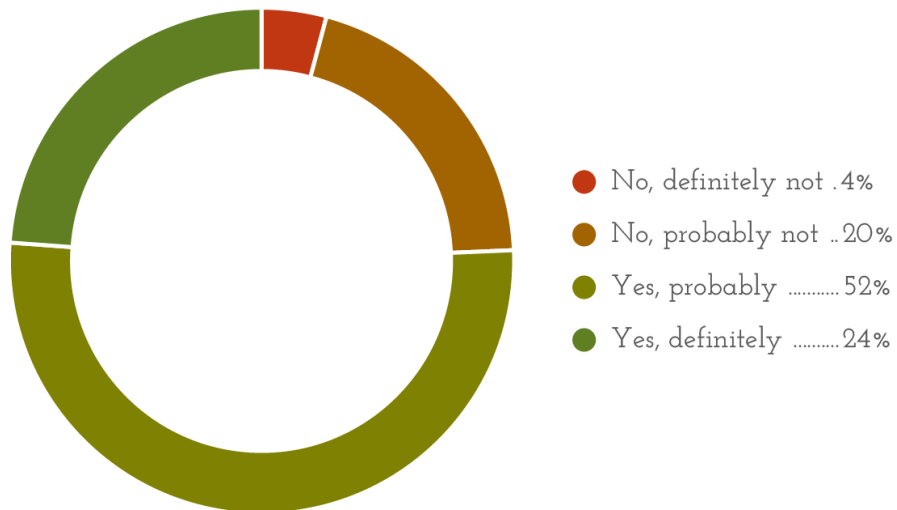
The frequency with which the listed amenity categories were offered by respondents in response to a query of what amenities they would add.

Amenity	Freq. (%)	Indicators
Toilets	262 (55%)	toilet(s), pit toilet(s), vault toilet(s), compost toilet(s), bathroom(s), restroom(s)
Water	209 (44%)	water
Cell service	110 (23%)	cell (service)
Camping	24 (5%)	unspecified (11), developed (9), dispersed (4)
Trash disposal	20 (4%)	trash, garbage, recycling
Store	20 (4%)	gas station, convenience store, grocery, food
Human waste disposal	8 (<2%)	wag bag, human waste disposal
Parking	7 (>1%)	(improved) parking, place to park

NOTE: Amenity categories were identified through an iterative coding refinement process facilitated by NVivo’s® word frequency function. Only those categories appearing in at least 1% (>4) of the 475 received responses are listed. Respondents could list multiple amenities.

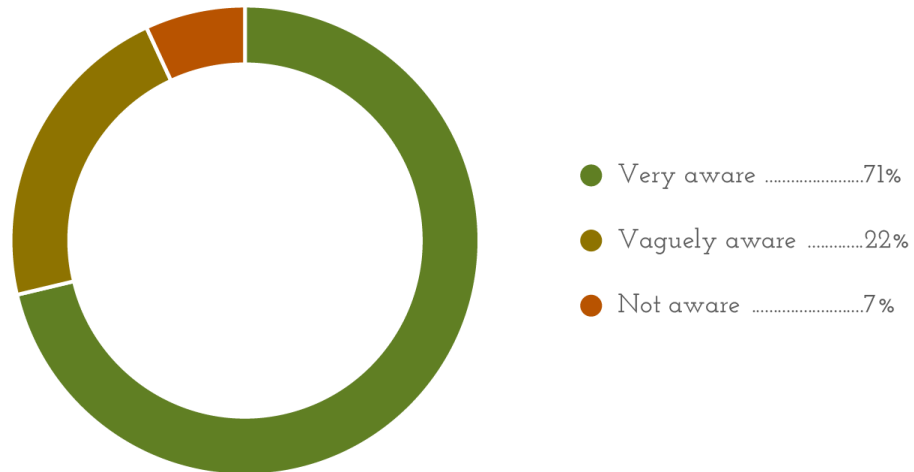
Figure 18. Desire for a climber-owned campground

Whether respondents would use a climber-owned campground if there were one located in or near the Indian Creek corridor (n=1,839).



BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT

Figure 19. Awareness of Indian Creek/Bears Ears National Monument overlap
 Respondents' self-reported levels of awareness that nearly all Indian Creek climbing falls within the boundaries of the Bears Ears National Monument, both when the monument was established by President Barack Obama in December 2016 and after it was reduced in size by President Donald Trump in 2017 (n=1,842).



Bears Ears National Monument boundaries maps

The figure below accompanied the following survey question regarding preferences for Bears Ears National Monument boundaries (Figure 20, next page). The maps show the 2016 monument boundaries (left panel) and the 2017 reduction, comprising the Indian Creek and Shash Jaa parcels (right). The Indian Creek corridor's location is indicated by a white star in both panels.

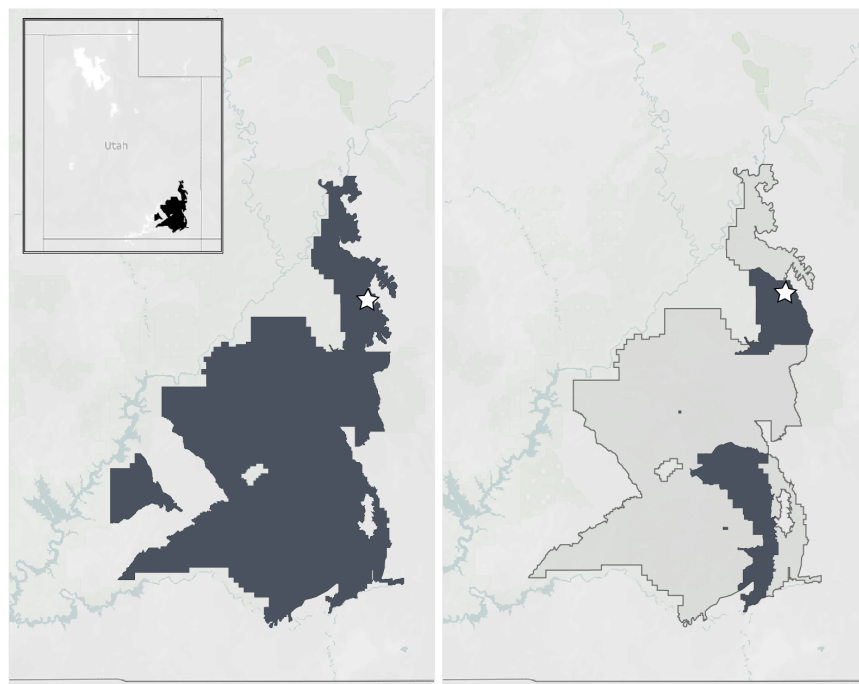
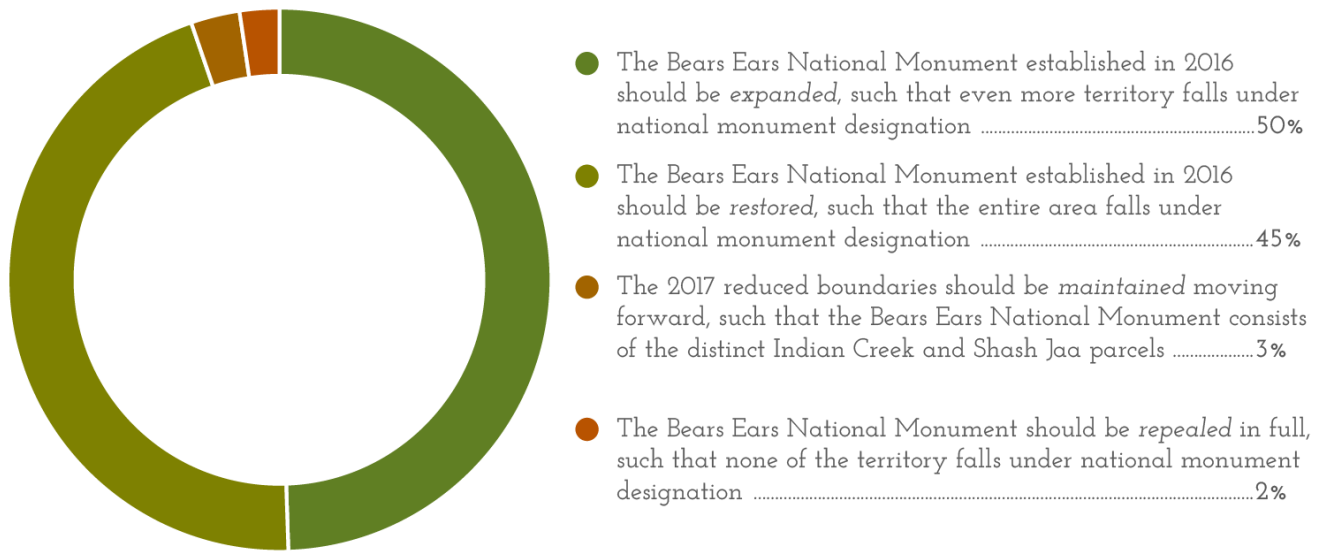


Figure 20. Bears Ears National Monument designation/boundaries preferences

Respondents' preferred national monument designations/boundaries for the Bears Ears area from among the four indicated options (n=1,795); Question accompanied with the "Bears Ears National Monument boundaries maps" (preceding page).



RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

Figure 21. Climbing tenures
How long respondents have climbed (n=1,841).

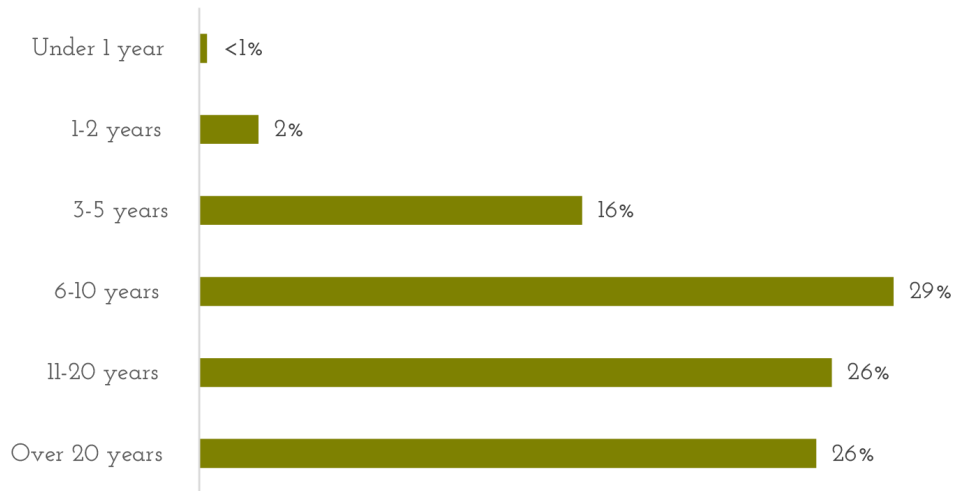


Figure 22. Respondent ages
Respondent age categories (n=1,833).

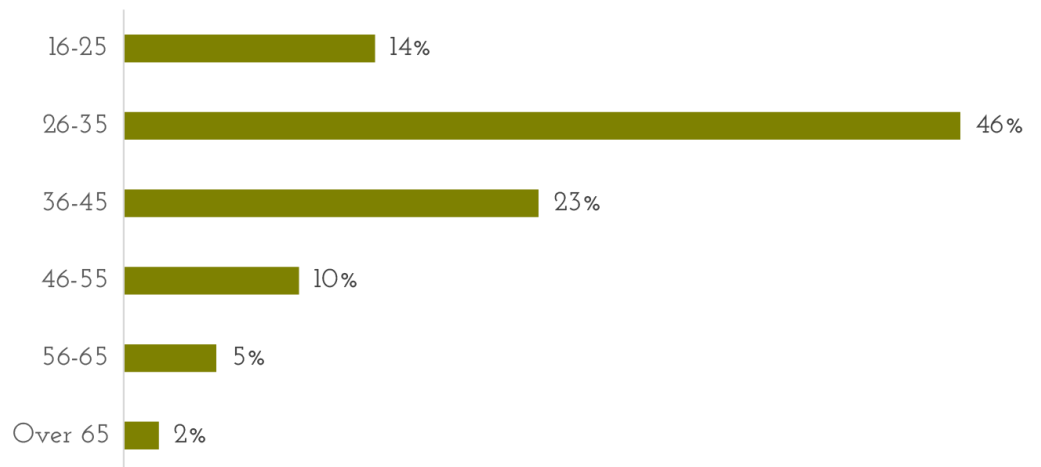


Figure 23. Respondent education levels
Respondents' highest completed level of education (n=1,832)

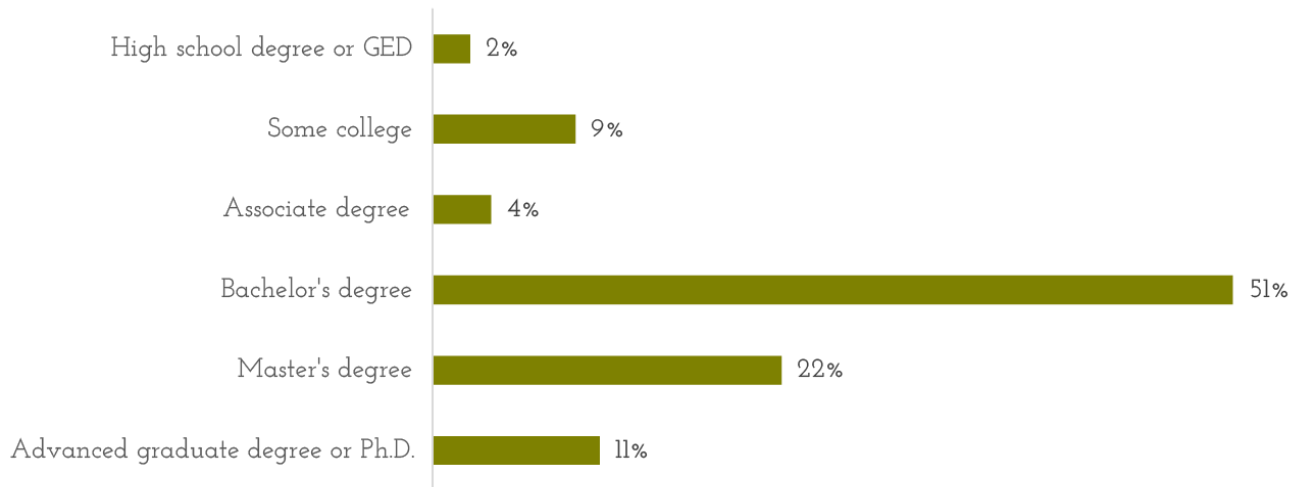


Figure 24. Respondent household incomes
Respondents' annual household income categories (n=1,841)



Figure 25. Respondent genders

The gender with which respondents most identify (n=1,820)

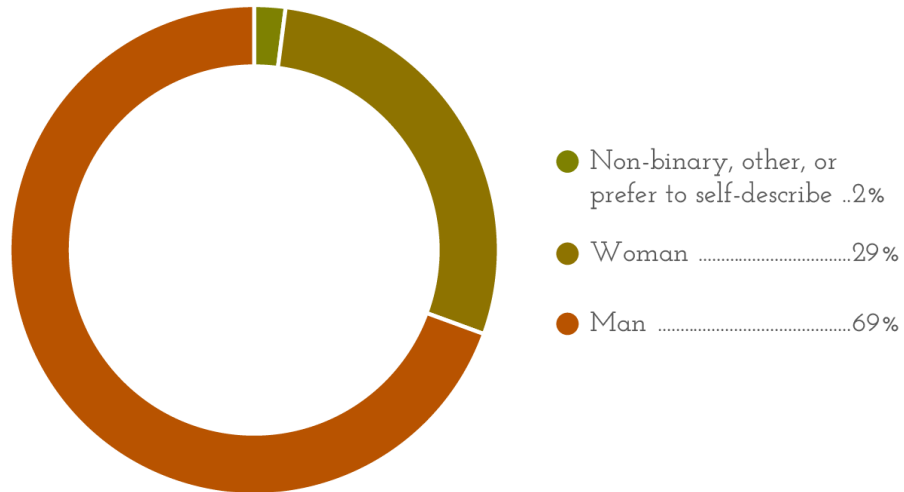


Figure 26. Respondent sexual orientations

Respondents' sexual orientations (n=1,780)

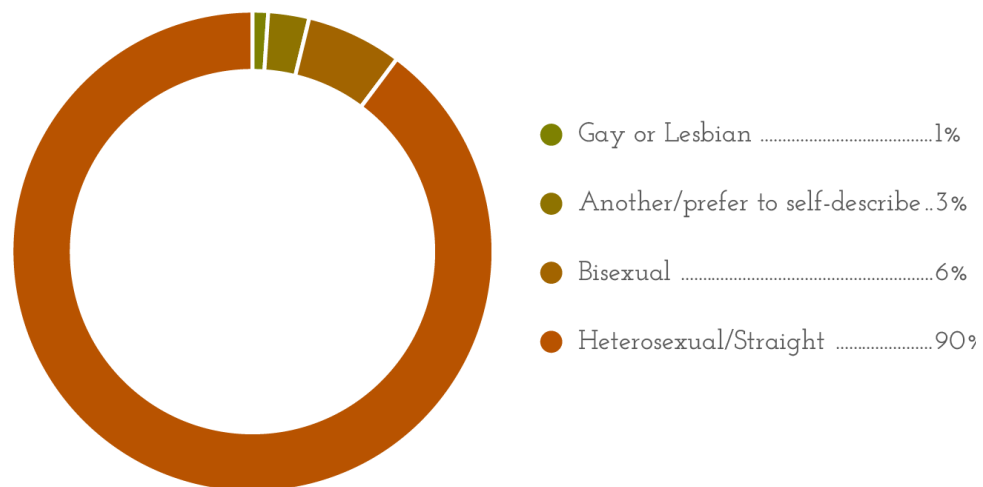


Figure 27. Respondent races/ethnicities

Respondent races/ethnicities (multiple selections allowed; n=1,800)

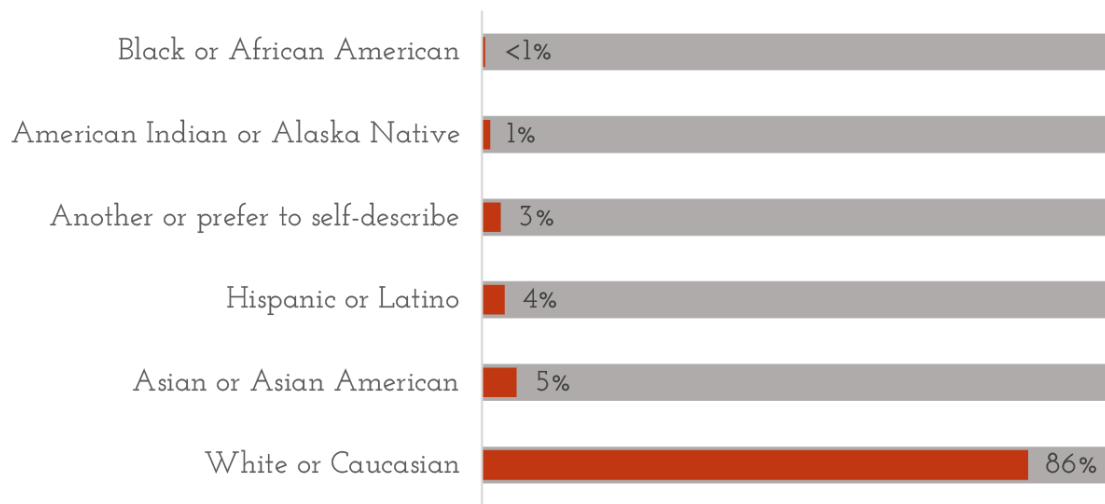


Figure 28. Respondent political affiliations

Respondents' political affiliations (n=1,783)

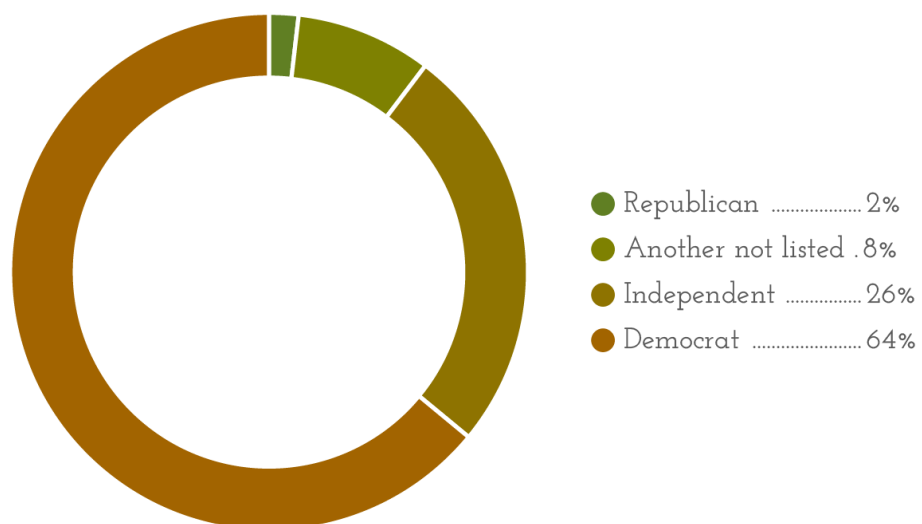
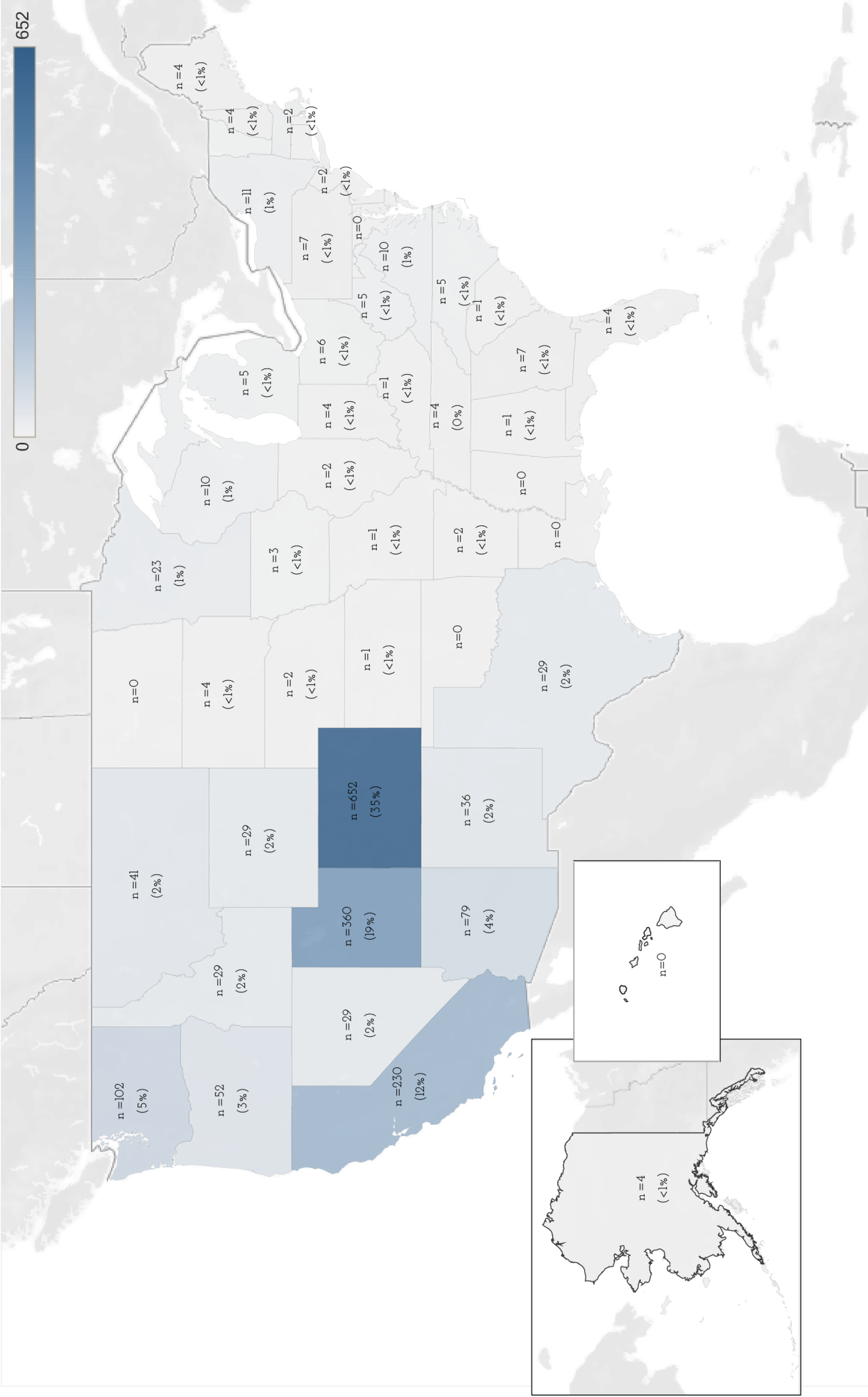


Figure 29. Respondent states

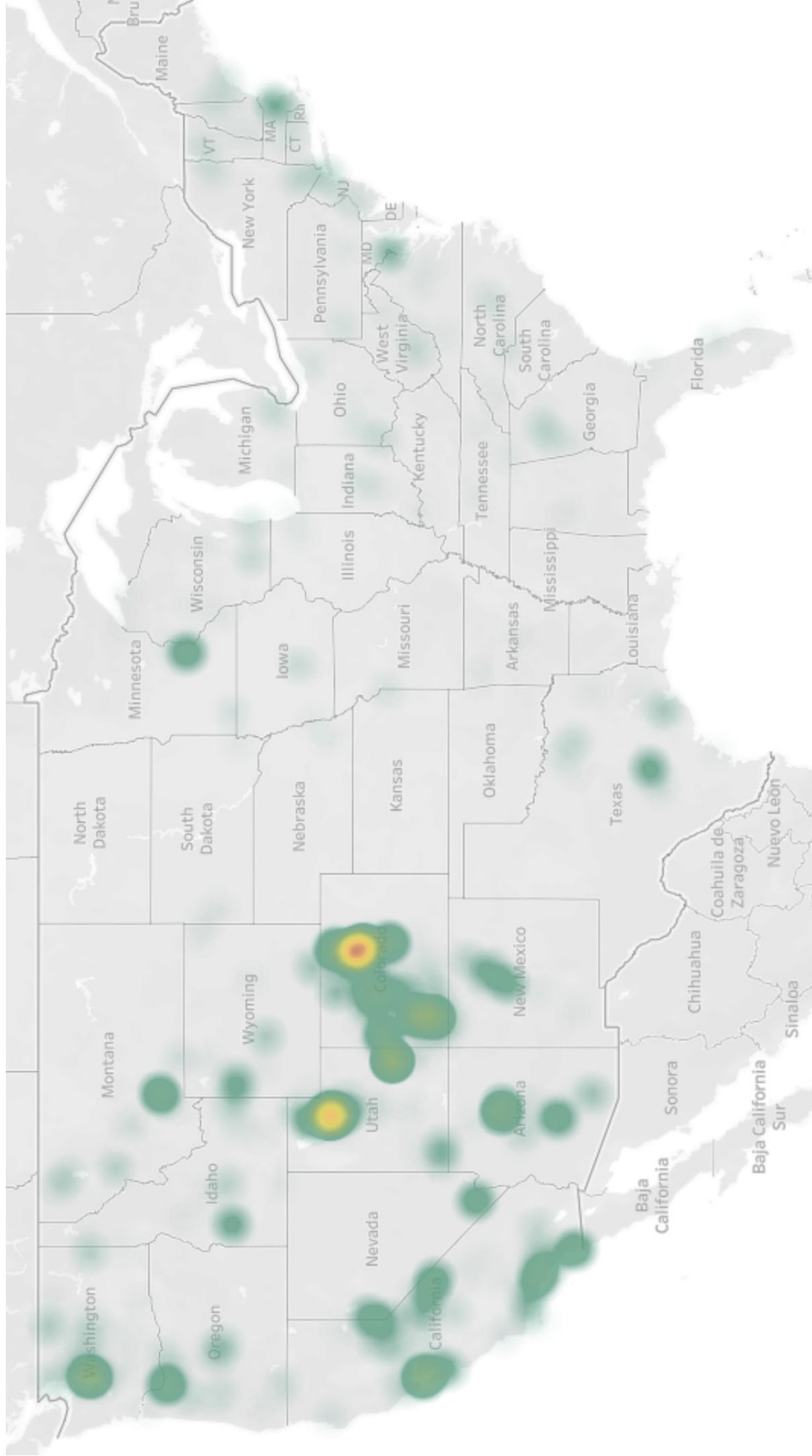
The states of respondents' primary residences (n=1,791); 37 (2%) international respondents not depicted.



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Figure 30. Respondent zip code heat map

Survey response density by zip code, where red indicates zip codes with higher response rates and green indicates zip codes with lower response rates ($n=1,780$); 37 (2%) international and 4 (<1%) Alaska respondents not depicted.



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Thank you to all the climbers who took the time to respond to our survey.

For more information, visit
accessfund.org