

University of Montana

## ScholarWorks at University of Montana

---

Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research  
Publications

Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research

---

8-1-2013

### Visitor Comments About Montana: 2012 Nonresident Survey

Norma Nickerson

*The University of Montana-Missoula*

Ashley Napier

*The University of Montana-Missoula*

Doris Cooley

*The University of Montana-Missoula*

Follow this and additional works at: [https://scholarworks.umt.edu/itrr\\_pubs](https://scholarworks.umt.edu/itrr_pubs)



Part of the [Leisure Studies Commons](#), [Recreation, Parks and Tourism Administration Commons](#), and the [Tourism and Travel Commons](#)

**Let us know how access to this document benefits you.**

---

#### Recommended Citation

Nickerson, Norma; Napier, Ashley; and Cooley, Doris, "Visitor Comments About Montana: 2012 Nonresident Survey" (2013). *Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research Publications*. 108.  
[https://scholarworks.umt.edu/itrr\\_pubs/108](https://scholarworks.umt.edu/itrr_pubs/108)

This Report is brought to you for free and open access by the Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research Publications by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact [scholarworks@mso.umt.edu](mailto:scholarworks@mso.umt.edu).



College of Forestry  
and Conservation  
32 Campus Dr. #1234  
The University of Montana  
Missoula, MT 59812

Phone (406) 243-5686  
Fax (406) 243-4845  
[www.itrr.umt.edu](http://www.itrr.umt.edu)

---

## **Visitor Comments about Montana: 2012 Nonresident Survey**

Prepared by

Norma Nickerson, Ph.D.

Ashley Napier

Doris Cooley

Institute for Tourism & Recreation Research  
College of Forestry and Conservation  
The University of Montana  
Missoula, MT 59812  
[www.itrr.umt.edu](http://www.itrr.umt.edu)

Research Report 2013-11

August 2013

This report was funded by the Montana Lodging Facility Use Tax

Copyright© 2013 Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research. All rights reserved.

## Executive Summary

This report provides an analysis of comments written by nonresident visitors to Montana in 2012. Of the 11,521 visitors who were surveyed, 2,776 (24%) completed the mail-back survey and 1,108 (40%) of those visitors expressed handwritten comments in the mail-back survey.

Content analysis of the data was conducted to assess common themes within the data set. Visitors expressed 2,792 assorted comments which were classified into 71 different categories and then placed into eight general themes: (1) general positive comments, (2) travel issues, (3) general negative comments, (4) activities - urban and outdoor, (5) public and private land use management, (6) lodging/ hospitality, (7) specific purpose, and (8) comments about living in Montana.

In summary, nonresident visitors generally love Montana. Their experiences were positive, they enjoyed the scenery, open space, the friendly people, and they want to return. As in all travels, things don't always go perfectly so numerous visitors felt compelled to reveal where Montana could improve – mostly in signage, recycling, and specific issues with accommodations and rest areas.

- The largest comment category was “General positive comments” representing 44% of all comments. Most of these comments were generic phrases like “love MT” or “can’t wait to return” or “would love to stay longer.”
- Comments about “Travel issues” represented 16% of the total comments. These comments related to road conditions (good and bad), signage (usually frustrated with signs), rest areas (good and bad), the good promotional information or that they wanted more information, and weather comments.
- Eleven percent of comments were “General negative comments” where visitors outright complained or made suggestions on what needed to be improved.
- “Public and Private Land Use Management” represented 9% of the total comments and included environmental stewardship, land access, national park issues, and Montana’s management of public land.
- Visitors would describe activities they did while in Montana. This “Activities” segment represented 8% of the total comments, and was further categorized into “Outdoor activities (64%)” and “urban activities” (36%).
- Many visitors commented about being former residents of MT or wanted to move to Montana in the future. “Comments about living in Montana” represented 5% of the total comments.
- “Specific Purpose” represented 4% of the total comments regarding trips to Montana for business, Visiting friends or relatives, college visits, medical or volunteering.
- “Lodging & Attractions represented 3% of the total comments and were comments (good and bad) about their specific accommodation or attraction visited.

# Contents

Introduction .....	1
Purpose .....	1
Methods.....	1
Results.....	2
Traveler Characteristics and Residence .....	2
Emerging Theme Summaries .....	3
Theme 1: General Positive Comments.....	5
Theme 2: Travel Issues in Montana .....	5
Theme 3: General Negative Comments.....	6
Theme 4: Public and Private Land Management .....	7
Theme 5: Activities.....	7
Theme 6: Comments about Living in Montana.....	8
Theme 7: Specific Purpose.....	9
Theme 8: Lodging & Attractions .....	10
Themes and sub-themes by quarter.....	10
General Positive .....	10
Nondescript Positive Statements.....	10
Friendly People .....	12
Site specific .....	13
Recurring Visit .....	15
Will Return .....	17
Character of Montana.....	18
West Yellowstone is very welcoming and friendly but there's an awful lot of tshirt shops.....	19
Activities.....	19
Outdoor.....	19
Worked as a hunting guide/cook for 2 weeks on a private ranch.....	22
Urban .....	24
Shopping .....	26
Public and Private Land Use and Management .....	27
Glacier .....	27
Yellowstone.....	28
Public Land Access .....	29
Environmental Stewardship.....	30
Wildlife.....	31
Private Land Stewardship .....	32
General Negative .....	33
Recycling .....	33
Too Expensive .....	34
Suggestive comments .....	35
Other General Negative Comments.....	37
Living in Montana .....	38
Retirement.....	38
Real Estate/Second Home.....	39
Prior Residents .....	41
Travel Issues.....	43

Information/Information Needed.....	43
Signage .....	44
Road conditions/construction/traffic issues.....	45
Passing through.....	47
Rest Areas .....	49
Weather .....	51
Specific Purpose .....	52
Business trip.....	52
Visiting Friends and Relatives (VFR).....	53
Lodging and Attractions.....	54
Appendix A – Visitor Comments by Quarter.....	57
2012 Quarter 1 Visitor Comments.....	57
2012 Quarter 2 Visitor Comments.....	61
2012 Quarter 3 Visitor Comments.....	74
2012 Quarter 4 Visitor Comments.....	96

## Tables and Figures

Table 1: Number of Respondents who Commented by Quarter.....	1
Table 2: Purpose of Trip .....	2
Table 3: First Time or Repeat Visitor.....	3
Table 4: Residence .....	3
Table 5: Eight Emerging Themes.....	3
Figure 1: Themes and Sub-themes.....	4

## Introduction

The Montana Nonresident Visitor Survey is an on-going study which produces quantitative results about visitor characteristics, demographics, trip planning and satisfaction. Results of this on-going project are available at: <http://www.tourismresearchmt.org/>. The data begins with Quarter 3 of 2009 and is updated regularly. Visitors to the website can run their own data analysis on numerous variables. Written comments by visitors are not available on the website, hence the need for this report.

Written comments provide insight into what the visitor is thinking at the time of completing the survey. In the survey, visitors were asked their level of satisfaction on a variety of questions mostly related to Geotourism characteristics of Montana. The visitor was then asked: **Please provide any comments about your level of satisfaction regarding the above items.**

## Purpose

The purpose of this report was to analyze nonresident visitor comments about their level of satisfaction with aspects of Montana in order to provide future planning, policy, and marketing ideas for the travel and tourism industry.

## Methods

Data for this report were obtained from the 2012 (Quarters 1-4) Nonresident Visitor Survey. The complete methodology and survey instrument is available at <http://www.itrr.umt.edu/nonresNNQNR.htm#QNR>. In 2012, 11,521 visitor groups participated in the Nonresident Travel Survey. From this sample 2,776 (24%) nonresident visitors completed the mail-back survey.

At the end of the survey, nonresidents were given the opportunity to provide comments about their level of satisfaction. Forty percent (1,108) made comments regarding their travel experience (Table 1).

**Table 1: Number of Respondents who Commented by Quarter**

2012 Nonresident Respondents by Quarter				
Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Total
101 (9%)	219 (20%)	581 (52%)	207(19%)	1,108

Nonresident visitor responses were coded by two research assistants in two separate documents. These researchers created 71 categories based on 2,792 various comments in the open-ended responses. A visitor's response could be coded in multiple categories.

The two documents were then merged together to analyze the differences in coding. A final decision was made to keep or discard a response in a specific category by a third researcher.

The final document represents input and decision making by three researchers providing a valid and reliable analysis of visitor comments.

While respondents were asked to comment on their level of satisfaction in regards to the Geotourism characteristics of Montana, many wrote about their satisfaction (or lack of) in general. Therefore, the resulting themes that emerged do not always follow a Geotourism premise.

## Results

Analysis of open-ended comments included coding all the different topics within each comment box. Each respondent could have mentioned only one topic or a variety of topics and therefore the 1,108 visitors with comments actually wrote in 2,792 comments (2.5 different comments on average per visitor).

Results in this report are provided in three categories: 1) Traveler characteristics & residence; 2) Emerging theme summaries; 3) Themes and sub-themes by quarter. Appendix A incorporates all comments provided in each quarter.

### *Traveler Characteristics and Residence*

The 1,108 respondents who replied with comments in the survey also indicated their primary purpose for visiting Montana; whether they were a first-time visitor or a repeat visitor, and their place of residency. In this section, the results of these indicators are described.

Forty-six percent of respondents indicated that a vacation was their primary purpose for visiting Montana (Table 2) while 21 percent were either passing through or visiting friends/relatives. Business respondents represented nine percent of people who commented.

**Table 2: Purpose of Trip**

<b>Purpose of Trip</b>	<b># of Respondents</b>	<b>% of Respondents</b>
Vacation	461	46%
VFR	210	21%
Passing Through	210	21%
Business	86	9%
Shopping	15	2%
Other	17	2%

During 2012, 885 (88%) of respondents who were traveling in Montana were repeat visitors to the state. Respondents who were visiting Montana for the first time represented 12 percent of respondents (Table 3).

**Table 3: First Time or Repeat Visitor**

Type of Visitor	# of Respondents	% of Respondents
First-time visitor to Montana	126	12%
Repeat visitor to Montana	885	88%

Forty-seven US states and twelve countries were represented by the respondents who commented on their trip to Montana. Washington State represented the highest percentage of respondents with 11 percent (Table 4). This breakdown by place of residence compares similarly to all 2012 visitors (not just those who commented). All visitor representation is 10% WA; 10% ID; 8% WY; 8% Alberta; 6% ND; 5% CA; 4% UT, CO, and MN.

([http://www.tourismresearchmt.org/component/option,com\\_nonresidentreports/Itemid,19/](http://www.tourismresearchmt.org/component/option,com_nonresidentreports/Itemid,19/))

**Table 4: Residence**

State/Province/Country	# of Respondents	% of Respondents
Washington	110	11%
Idaho	76	7.5%
California	63	6.2%
Minnesota	55	5.4%
Alberta, Canada	52	5.1%
Utah	48	4.7%

### ***Emerging Theme Summaries***

Content analysis was conducted to reduce the overall number of comments into a workable group of common themes. Eight major themes emerged from the data (Table 5) with 1 to 7 subthemes within each major theme (Figure 1).

**Table 5: Eight Emerging Themes**

Theme	% of Comments
1. General Positive	44%
2. Travel Issues in MT	16%
3. General Negative	11%
4. Public and Private Land Use and Management	9%
5. Activities	8%
6. Living in Montana	5%
7. Specific Purpose Trips	4%
8. Lodging & Attractions	3%



**Figure 1: Themes and Sub-themes**



## ***Theme 1: General Positive Comments***

The “General Positive Comments” category consists of seven sub-categories including: nondescript statements, friendly people, site specific, reoccurring visit, return visit, character of Montana and relaxing/getaway/slow-paced. 1,196 comments were placed into this category, or 44% of all comments.

- Nonresident visitors were more likely to say good things about Montana than any negative concerns.
- Friendly people, site specific comments, and reoccurring visits were almost always mentioned as positive comments.
- Example comment: “We had an amazing vacation. Montana is a great state to visit and very different to our home country Australia.”
- Example comment: “Thoroughly enjoyed our visit.”
- Example comment: “Of all of the states I have been to or lived in, MT is one of the most beautiful.”

**Thoughts:** Positive remarks were the largest percentage of comments from respondents. These unsolicited remarks from visitors provide reassurance to the tourism industry that what MT provides, offers, and presents to nonresidents is well received. Visitors are more than satisfied, they love Montana! In summer quarter alone the word LOVE was used 146 times: “I love the people I have met; love Montana; loved the vast amount of open lands; we loved our motorcycle trip to Glacier; we love visiting Montana; we love traveling in Montana, it’s a beautiful state; we love shopping in Montana; we love Montana and plan to retire here; we love Montana and its environment; we love Montana and cannot stay away! Although many of the general positive comments are not very specific, they can be used as evidence in marketing campaigns for the state or as a way to market the “feeling” people have towards Montana.

## ***Theme 2: Travel Issues in Montana***

The “Travel Issues” category consists of seven sub-categories which include: information/information needed, signage, road conditions/construction/traffic issues, passing through, rest areas/gas stations, airports/automotive, and weather & wildfires. This category contains 432 total comments, or 16% of all comments.

- Some visitors thought the roads were in great condition, others thought some roads were terrible. The Interstates usually received favorable reviews while city roads were described as full of pot holes.
- Better signage on Montana roads was mentioned many times including a need for signs to attractions.

- Rest areas were mentioned numerous times with many saying Montana needed more. There was a mixed review on the cleanliness of rest areas in MT: some clean, some not.
- Example comment: “We were just driving through--but loved the look of Montana and our son thinks he wants to live there someday.”
- Example comment: “I always enjoy MT and my time spent. As a tourist and retired truck driver I can appreciate the appropriate amount of both road signs and advertising signs without having the landscape cluttered i.e. driving the billboard alley.”
- Example comment: “There were some rough road conditions from St Mary around to East Glacier, otherwise, the road conditions were very good. We enjoyed our stay and are already planning our next trip!”

**Thoughts:** Many visitors are simply driving through Montana on their way to another destination and would mention the beauty of the state and/or the good and bad conditions of various highways. In addition, many are previous residents of the state coming back to visit friends or family. These folks always lament their desire to move back to Montana. Perhaps from an economic development perspective, the MT Department of Commerce could create some sort of program that alerts previous residents of job or entrepreneurial opportunities to encourage returning home.

### ***Theme 3: General Negative Comments***

The “General Negative” category consists of sub-categories that depict negative nonresident comments. These sub-categories include recycling, site specific, suggestive comments, and expensive. This category contains 284 comments, or 11% of all comments.

- Nonresident visitors wish Montana would have better recycling avenues for travelers (at accommodations, rest areas, and gas stations).
- General negative comments primarily consisted of specific complaints regarding roads, junk-laden private lands, and the lack of signage.
- Example comment: “We were disappointed over the lack of recycling containers at the condos while staying at Meadow Lake Condos and golf resort in Columbia Falls.”
- Example comment: “While I love your state with its lovely mountains, hills, lakes, and wildlife, I do not appreciate the anti-wolf sentiment which is pervasive and will probably preclude future visits.”
- Example comment: “So many land owners need to clean up their property! It looks like a continuous junk yard along the highway.”
- Example comment: “Most motels/hotels are overpriced compared to their quality.”

**Thoughts:** The Montana tourism industry has been focusing on geotourism and geotravelers, yet many complaints still resonate about the lack of local foods, recycling, local products, and a concern about environmental issues (especially among those who have previously visited the state). The challenge continues to be getting all the various tourism businesses together on the message. The Montana Office of Tourism and the Tourism Advisory Council should continue

with the geotourism theme since nonresidents are asking for that type of experience in Montana.

#### ***Theme 4: Public and Private Land Management***

The “Public and Private Land Use and Management” category consists of six sub-categories which are Glacier and Yellowstone National Parks, Public Land Access, Environmental Stewardship, Wildlife, and Private and Public Land Stewardship. This category contains 235 comments, or nine percent of all comments.

- Comments from visitors about Glacier and Yellowstone usually revolve around how much they love the parks or that the parks are crowded and have changed overtime.
- Private and public land stewardship is of concern to nonresident visitors. Visitors expect and believe that Montanans will continue to take care of their land.
- Example comment: “We love how beautiful and clean the state of Montana is.”
- Example comment: “Though I moved from Montana 15 years ago, I love coming back not only to visit my friends and family, but for an amazing vacation of open space, clean water and beautiful environment.
- Example comment: “The most beautiful/ scenic- well cared for state I have travelled through.”
- Example comment: “State policies about development and exploitation of natural resources are shameful and short-sighted. Montana’s natural beauty is amazing but the signs of “civilization” are stunningly ugly. It really is possible to build beautiful buildings, but ugly buildings predominate. It really is possible to develop in wise and sustainable ways.”

**Thoughts:** It is evident that the saying, ‘It’s all in the eyes of the beholder’ fits when it comes to visitor’s perception of Montana’s land management. Some think it is trashy, others find it pristine. Of course, it also depends on what areas they were thinking about when they wrote their comments. Suffice it to say, that while Montana appears to be doing a good job, there is room for improvement. Encouraging local residents and nonresident visitors to have a strong stewardship of Montana’s lands is vital in preserving the condition of the landscape, the views, and wildlife. This type of land stewardship will help perpetuate the reason people live in the state and why travelers will come back to visit.

#### ***Theme 5: Activities***

The “Activity” category contains 224 comments or 8% of all comments. Two sub-categories (urban and outdoor) emerged. The “Urban” sub-category contains 89 comments and includes activities such as dining, gambling, shopping, and local events. The “Outdoor” sub-category contains 135 comments and consists hiking, mountain biking, rafting, kayaking, lake boating, camping, fishing, ATVing, skiing/snowboarding, road biking, golfing and horseback riding.

- Nonresident visitors enjoyed the shopping, lodging and dining in Montana on their trip.
- Nonresident visitors want to support the local products and community events when on their trip to Montana and would like to see more local products (not products made in China that look like Montana).
- Nonresidents believe that casinos take away the beauty of the local communities and there are too many casinos throughout the state.
- Nonresident visitors took part in a wide variety of outdoor activities but interestingly, many of their comments were suggestions for improving the activities such as: provide directions on getting to streams for fishing, have recycling at campgrounds, reduce nonresident hunting fees, and wishing MT had long hiking trails like Colorado.
- Example comment: “We come to Montana several times a year for shopping and medical appointments. We plan on hiking in Glacier in July.”
- Example comment: “Dislike all the casinos. They detract from the ‘character’ of Montana. They make the towns look ‘trashy’.”
- Example comment: “I travel in Montana 4-6 times per year--fly fishing, photography, friends. Love to visit.”
- Example comment: “We were backpacking through the Continental Divide Trail through Montana and unless hitching a ride, we were strictly on foot, off roads for the entire visit to your state. We loved it! We also have a distant cousin in Missoula who supported us. She is very proud of "her" state.”

**Thoughts:** Numerous visitors commented on the desire for restaurants and retailers to carry more local food and products at their business. Montana needs to keep integrating the use of local products and promoting local events. As one visitor wrote, “We would have purchased more items to remember our trip by but it seemed like everything was made in China.” Shopping is an important urban activity for many visitors and providing them the ability to support local businesses is vital. Comments concerning casinos were generally negative. Many visitors described casinos as an “eye sore” or that it ruined the integrity of the local communities. While this is a long shot, perhaps the casinos could change the appearance of their front so it fits the perception of what gambling places looked like in the early years...a western motif. Outdoor activities are a part of most nonresident’s visit to Montana. Listening to their suggestions on how to make their experience better would help future visitors and residents as well.

### ***Theme 6: Comments about Living in Montana***

The “Living in Montana” comment category contains five sub-categories that include retirement, real estate/second home, relocating to Montana, prior residents, and MT made products. Five percent or 147 comments were in this category.

- A number of nonresident visitors expressed the desire to relocate/retire/or own a second home in Montana.
- Previous Montana residents still love Montana. Many would like to move back.

- Example comment: “My husband was born and raised in MT. He would love to move back if there were more jobs & cost of living wasn’t so high (Flathead area).”
- Example comment: “I hope to someday retire in Montana.”
- Example comment: “We have been through Montana many times in the past and will continue to visit. We are currently considering moving to the Bitterroot Valley but are attempting to secure employment before we make the move.”
- Example comment: “Bought a condo in Bigfork to use as a vacation home.”

**Thoughts:** Many nonresident visitors would love to live in Montana but can’t because of lack of jobs in the state. Many other nonresidents make Montana their second place of residence and become return visitors who spend a lot of time in the state. Very little is known about these 2<sup>nd</sup> home owners. Perhaps a research project looking at 2<sup>nd</sup> home owners would provide insight into the economic impact they provide to the state. It would also indicate the extent to which 2<sup>nd</sup> homes are owned by Montana residents versus nonresidents of the state.

### ***Theme 7: Specific Purpose***

The “Specific Purpose” category consists of six sub-categories of business trips, visiting friends or relatives, volunteering/work, visiting Montana colleges, education and medical. This category contains 109 of the total comments, or three percent of all comments.

- Visiting friends and relatives and business trips were the most frequent specific purpose trips taken by nonresident visitors.
- Nonresident visitors were able to enjoy Montana as a vacation destination during their specific purpose trip.
- Numerous visitors, both previous residents and nonresidents said they would live here if there was a job in Montana for them.
- Example comment: “Friends from my hometown (Orrville, Ohio) have a cabin outside of Montana and I have been visiting them (to fish) for eleven years. We always go to a Griz game, or Montana Tech of Anaconda when scheduling permits. I love it out here and have made many Montana friends over the years. Thanks for being a wonderful state to visit!!!”
- Example comment: “My trip was strictly for business this time- flew in, stayed at hotel, had meeting & flew out.”
- Example comment: “I am a native of Montana. I love the state but had to move to find a job. My parents and grandparents are natives – I love MT with all my heart. I am deeply thankful that MT manages its streams and forests for wildlife.

**Thoughts:** Many visitors in Montana for specific purposes especially VFR and business trips also tend to enjoy Montana as a vacation trip The “Get Lost in Montana” campaign should continue as a tool to show off areas, attractions and things to do for both residents (who have

visitors) and nonresidents who come here often and desire new things to do. It's an excellent "word-of-mouth" way to recommend what Montanan's love about their state.

### ***Theme 8: Lodging & Attractions***

The "Lodging and Attractions" category is comprised of visitor comments about numerous lodging and accommodation choices in Montana and their thoughts on various attractions. This category contains 83 of the total comments, or 3% of all comments.

- Lodging comments usually indicated satisfaction with the staff or that the lodging was too expensive compared to other states for what they got for the price.
- Nonresidents simply like to state that they visited this attraction or that park, or various sites along the way. Many did not cite specifics...simply that they visited.
- Example comment: "Stayed at Spanish Creek forestry cabin. So wonderful. Should be referred to as "Serengeti"- viewed elk, deer, moose, Grizzly bear and buffalo. Just very exciting."
- Example comment: "I visit a lot of museums and the Museum of the Rockies is one of the most well executed museums that I've been in. We love Montana. We'll be back!"

**Thoughts:** Where nonresident visitors stay while in the state and the attractions they visit are an integral part of the overall Montana experience. How they perceive Montana accommodations and attractions is usually expressed to others they know and can build a good or bad reputation for the individual businesses. While this is not new, employers and managers in tourism related businesses should instill the importance of a friendly welcome in their staff.

## **Themes and sub-themes by quarter**

Comments detailed by quarter are provided in this section with added example comments within each sub-theme. The examples given here reflect the sub-theme.

### ***General Positive***

The "General Positive" comments consists of seven sub-categories which are nondescript, friendly people, site specific, reoccurring visit, return visit, character of Montana, and relaxing/get away/slow paced.

### **Nondescript Positive Statements**

This category consists of statements ranging from how non-resident visitors "Love the scenery in Montana" to "thanks for the great trip." In this category, 565 of the 1,196 (47%) general positive comments were placed into a nondescript category.

<b><u>Nondescript Positive Comments</u></b>				
	<b>Quarter 1</b>	<b>Quarter 2</b>	<b>Quarter 3</b>	<b>Quarter 4</b>
<b>Number of comments/quarter</b>	46	116	304	99

**Quarter 1**

“I come here whenever I can! Best state in the union!”

“I’m from MT and I thoroughly enjoy coming back and visiting about once a year. It’s the most gorgeous place I’ve ever been to!”

Love the Big Sky Country. Fly me there any time! We usually travel through Montana to vacation in Nevada and Arizona and always find Montana a very pleasant drive, a beautiful state. Thank you!

**Quarter 2**

A great trip for us. Beautiful country.

Best state in the country! I come every year.

I travel through Montana frequently on my way to Southern Idaho from my home in Coeur d’Alene Idaho and always enjoy and appreciate Montana’s beauty and hospitality. I lived there as a child and love its open spaces and good people.

Montana has an abundance of natural beauty and selection of attractions. So in the future we will spend more time in the state to more enjoy local attractions.

**Quarter 3**

Everything was great! I had no trouble finding anything I was looking for and enjoyed my stay very much. This was my third visit to MT, and although I miss the business of New York, I like the wide-open emptiness of MT. And especially, I love your NP’s.

Enjoy Montana and that is why we return to the State.

Have been coming to MT to ride motorcycles for 10 years, it’s always a joy. Look forward to next time thank you (you have a beautiful state).



#### **Quarter 4**

Have travelled many times in MT, enjoyed the variety of attractions.

Had a great time! My second time hunting in Montana. If I could I would move there in a heartbeat!!

I am very fond of Montana, have vacationed here several times, and dream of a vacation cabin someday.

Montana is a different world and very relaxing. I always enjoy myself in Montana.

#### **Friendly People**

The category “Friendly people” embraces the non-resident attitude towards Montanans. There were 104 comments out of the 1,196 positive comments about friendly people.

<b><u>Friendly People Comments</u></b>				
	<b>Quarter 1</b>	<b>Quarter 2</b>	<b>Quarter 3</b>	<b>Quarter 4</b>
<b>Number of comments/quarter</b>	11	20	53	20

#### **Quarter 1**

The rivers are getting crowded, would like more access to smaller streams. People are too friendly, bring in more New Yorkers. Keep Montana, Montana. Montana is a big state with a small town feel, keep it that way!

I was just in town one night, but I found the people here very friendly

I have always found MT to be a great place to visit, vacation, and do business in. Great people, environment and diversity.

#### **Quarter 2**

Very clean and people were very friendly. Those are the two things that impressed us.

Great trip, great, friendly people, beautiful, well-managed lands with great access

Great people and history in Montana. We are always impressed with the feeling of welcome when we return to Montana.

### **Quarter 3**

Beautiful state! I was impressed by the outdoors, the local people, & the amount of local microbreweries.

Found MT to be very welcoming. Where we stopped for meals, gas always friendly.

I can't wait to come back. The people were extremely nice and ranger stations were very informative with great ideas to spend the day. I did very little research before coming and had no problem finding great places.

I loved Montana- liked it better than Wyoming in many respects. Bozeman was very nice- nice people, very helpful.

### **Quarter 4**

We love traveling anywhere in MT. It is a very beautiful state. People are very friendly and welcoming.

Vendors are very helpful. Friendly demeanor of most people came in contact with.

Rest stops that we visited were clean and very nice. The people in Montana are very friendly and welcoming! All of the restaurant staff, hotel staff, and retail staff were friendly and helpful.

Just passing through. Had a good trip with most people we met being very friendly and accommodating. Look forward to seeing Montana again.

### **Site specific**

Specific places, highways, national parks, restaurants, hotels, and historic stops are in this category. There were 236 comments of the 1,196 positive comments that fit this category.

<b><u>Site Specific Comments</u></b>				
	<b>Quarter 1</b>	<b>Quarter 2</b>	<b>Quarter 3</b>	<b>Quarter 4</b>
<b>Number of comments/quarter</b>	22	30	126	58

### **Quarter 1**

You have the best roads. Well painted lines. I love the well preserved old wild west character of the towns (e.g. Dillon) We have been driving through here for years, always look forward to the trip. I love to shop for stuff along the way and p.s. no tax

We were just passing through this trip but I have been visiting Montana from Alberta for over 40 years. Mostly the Flathead Lake/ Whitefish region for sailing and skiing and the last couple of years to run in the Missoula marathon.

### **Quarter 2**

We are USFS volunteers caring for the historic Savenac Nursery at Haugan, MT. We are here from May 15 to Sept 15, 2012. This is our tenth summer here. We love it!

This is the first time we have driven through the western states to visit Oregon and we have decided to do this again soon. I was especially impressed with the town of Gardiner, Montana.

We especially loved Missoula and the locally owned businesses. The trip to Billings was not so pretty (industrial area)

### **Quarter 3**

Montana is beautiful and magical! I visited for the 13 Indigenous Grandmothers Council on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation.

It would be nice to have more RV dump stations available. (West Yellowstone would be a good location) Fantastic experience, the time we spent was breathtaking and the fireworks display in Bozeman for the 4th of July was one of the best we have seen. The countryside was pristine and the public lands were well maintained. Thanks for a grand adventure!

Our trip was a quick trip to Whitehall to visit family. Still the town was nice & took care of our needs for the stay. Thank You!

### **Quarter 4**

Been fishing in MT for 40 years. Family and I come every year. Love it here. We like to stay at the Mariah in Sheraton with the RV full hookups in Alder at the KOA. The KOA is the nicest and friendliest we've seen. The rest stop in Lima is excellent. We always stop there. People are nice and friendly.

I come to Montana frequently. Bozeman is a possible retirement choice. Livingston has a lot of history.

Loved "Nancy's Pastie Shop" in Butte. Love Butte's variety of food and character. Darby is a very quaint town but needs more advertising- great antiques. I would and have recommended Montana to friends and acquaintances in Oklahoma. It's beautiful! Appreciate no taxes.

Montana is as beautiful as everyone describes it. Only Missoula seemed a bit congested. We have made three previous visits and we have enjoyed each one immensely.

### **Recurring Visit**

The "recurring visit" category includes statements from travel groups that indicated they return to Montana often for travel, business, vacation, or just passing through. There were 147 of the 1,196 positive comments that fit this category.

<b><u>Recurring Visit Comments</u></b>				
	<b>Quarter 1</b>	<b>Quarter 2</b>	<b>Quarter 3</b>	<b>Quarter 4</b>
<b>Number of comments/quarter</b>	15	27	70	35

#### **Quarter 1**

Had a great trip, my family and I always come to Billings in Feb for the Mate Show. Mostly for business but always throw a little pleasure in too!

Have been through parts of Montana 2 or 3 times a year for 42 years. Most times just passing through but sometimes stopping a day or two to enjoy different things. Have a good feeling about Montana.

I spend a lot of time in Montana on business and have always enjoyed it.

I was born and raised in Montana, but currently live in Gillette, Wyoming. We were in Billings just for 1 night to visit my grandpa at Advanced cardiac. I do visit Billings and Miles City regularly and even though I know I'm biased. I love Montana.

#### **Quarter 2**

We've been traveling to Montana since 1992 and love it! Bought a second home here in 1995.

We travel frequently to Montana. Support parks service and local establishment as much as possible. We never are disappointed with what MT has to offer, our daughter graduated from UM. Not only Big Sky, but big opportunities to travel and live.

We have driven through Montana many times and been very impressed with its beauty and cleanliness

We come every summer for work. Last year we had time to bike tour up to Glacier NP and stay for 8 days- loved it.

### **Quarter 3**

Beautiful state. Third trip here. Will return regularly for the rest of my life.

Friends from my hometown (Orrville, Ohio) have a cabin outside of Montana and I have been visiting them (to fish) for eleven years. We always go to a Griz game, or Montana Tech of Anaconda when scheduling permits. I love it out here and have made many Montana friends over the years. Thanks for being a wonderful state to visit!!!

Greater than 20 years coming to MT. Have fished more than 20 rivers Family ski trips for 18+ years Family guest ranch vacations.

### **Quarter 4**

Come 5-6 times per year to go shopping and relax.

e visit western Montana (Flathead Lake) 2-3 times each year. We stay at our families cabin most of the times. We enjoy local ski resorts like Black tail in Lakeside MT and like to go to local brewpubs. We spend several days visiting Kalispell or Polson areas.

I travel to Montana at least once every two months. We are 60 miles north of the border. I love shopping in Montana.

On this trip, as on previous trips, I have been passing through to visit family in Seattle; I live in Ohio. On previous trips I have visited Glacier, Little Bighorn Battlefield, and various Lewis and Clark sites and exhibits; also Fort Peck Dam. I have always enjoyed my visits (though just passing through), for Montana is a beautiful state.

Purpose of trip was to visit friends and ski so we stayed in one area only (Red Lodge). This was our third trip to Montana (1998) (2011) (2012). We will move to Red Lodge hopefully in one year from Texas.

## **Will Return**

This category includes statements that indicated visitors were making a return visit or would like to return to Montana. There were 119 comments of the 1,196 (10%) positive comments that fit this category

<b><u>Will Return Comments</u></b>				
	<b>Quarter 1</b>	<b>Quarter 2</b>	<b>Quarter 3</b>	<b>Quarter 4</b>
<b>Number of comments/quarter</b>	3	20	78	18

### **Quarter 1**

Beautiful state. Will be back for sure!

Because I was working during the days, I didn't get an opportunity to visit any of the recreational areas or do a lot of scenic driving. Would love to come back and see more!

We love Montana--but because of the long trip to from Yuma we do not do anything but drive through Montana. We do hope to spend some more time in the future exploring some of the historical and scenic spots.

Love your state. Will return in summer when have more money.

### **Quarter 2**

We enjoyed our stay in Montana! We got spectacular impressions of the landscape, wildlife and historical sites. We will come back!

We enjoy the few days we were there, since we didn't have much time, this time we'll be back soon.

MT is very far away from Denmark, but we come again if/ when we afford it :)

### **Quarter 3**

Excellent trip visiting family and showing my children the places I grew up. I love and miss MT and hope to return some day. No other place is as friendly with so many great things to see and do. The state parks and recreation opportunities are endless.

Enjoyed the entire trip. Disappointed that part of Glacier was closed, but realize it was unavoidable. All-around awesome visit. Would love to visit again!!

C U next summer!

A beautiful state. Will visit again soon.

#### **Quarter 4**

Overall our experience was very good and we all enjoyed our stay. We hope to return someday and visit more of the museums.

We love Montana and hope to return soon.

We had a lovely time and can't wait to plan another trip during the winter season. Fell in love with Whitefish!!!!

#### **Character of Montana**

This category contained many comments about the cultural heritage of Montana as well as the feel of the small towns and includes 23 of the 1,196 (2%) positive comments.

<b><u>Character of Montana Comments</u></b>				
	<b>Quarter 1</b>	<b>Quarter 2</b>	<b>Quarter 3</b>	<b>Quarter 4</b>
<b>Number of comment/quarter</b>	3	4	12	4

#### **Quarter 1**

Everything and everyone was very nice. The scenery was amazing and the charm of the small town of Livingston was too. We will most definitely keep Montana in mind when we plan our next trip.

Exceeding expectations in feeling of authenticity and nature beauty

#### **Quarter 2**

Had a great trip- lots to see and do. Very friendly small town atmosphere. I did not have enough time to see everything I wanted to see but will come back on vacation again. Scenery great. Wildlife in Yellowstone was fantastic! Wow!

I have always enjoyed the Montana atmosphere however this time we are just passing through to see family.

### **Quarter 3**

As far as 'character'- I was surprised to see the refining industries in Laurel & Billings. I was not aware of this industry but happy to see it being close to Canada's oil region adding employment to the area.

Character- too many gambling halls. Scenic opportunities endless & priceless.

Dislike all the casinos. They detract from the "character" of Montana. They make the towns look "trashy".

I've always loved MT for its western character & Big Sky!

### **Quarter 4**

MT has an abundance of scroungy looking houses and yards along the highway. Old farm and ranch yards, even abandoned, have some charm and character. Crappy trailer houses and obvious 'home-built's' detract from the pristine expectation of MT.

West Yellowstone is very welcoming and friendly but there's an awful lot of tshirt shops.

### ***Activities***

The "Activity" category is separated into two categories: outdoor and urban. Within these two sub-categories are types of activities non-resident visitors participated in while they were in Montana or made statements about the specific activity.

#### **Outdoor**

The outdoor category consists of comments related to camping, fishing, hunting, motorcycling, hiking boating, skiing/snowboarding, horseback riding, biking, golfing, and ATVing. It contains 135 of the 217 activity comments (62%). Only the activities that have more than 10 comments about that same activity have been included in this additional breakdown of comments

<b><u>Camping Comments</u></b>				
	<b>Quarter 1</b>	<b>Quarter 2</b>	<b>Quarter 3</b>	<b>Quarter 4</b>
<b>Number of comment/quarter</b>	0	4	22	4



**Quarter 2**

Enjoyed our stay, nice state! (campgrounds don't have recycling. Because of the time of year, we couldn't access all of the public lands we wanted to - the roads were closed.)

No signs for which forest camping was closed (due to fire damage) drove many miles to find one open.

**Quarter 3**

Your State Parks charge too much for NO electricity, shower facility or water hook ups. At Big Fork the charge was \$23 and an additional \$5 for out of state- a mile down the road an RV campground charged \$15 for full service.

We love MT and spend as much time camping and fishing usually in the East Glacier area (Two Medicine Lake) as we can.

Some of the towns in Eastern MT had facilities below expectations. Restaurants and campgrounds were disappointing. Even the guides we hired in west Glacier were commented that eastern MT is missing an opportunity as a gateway to the more popular attractions.

**Quarter 4**

We were just driving thru, but looked beautiful! Would love to come back and do some shopping and camping and see Yellowstone Park!

We have visited MT multiple times, both passing through and camping in summer and have always enjoyed it. This trip was just passing through, and it was very cold outside so we didn't stay very long.

<b><u>Fishing Comments</u></b>				
	<b>Quarter 1</b>	<b>Quarter 2</b>	<b>Quarter 3</b>	<b>Quarter 4</b>
<b>Number of comment/quarter</b>	1	1	20	4

**Quarter 1**

I lived in Montana for 6 years and now reside in Buffalo, Wyoming. The best part of Montana is the stream access laws and Allegiant Air Flights to Vegas!

Had a wonderful time skiing in the mountains for the first time. Great resort.

**Quarter 2**

We love the uncrowded ski areas.

I travel in Montana 4-6 times per year--fly fishing, photography, friends. Love to visit.

**Quarter 3**

My wife was attending CPA classes. I went for fishing. Too many people. Very crowded on Gallatin in Big Sky area. Trout are small. Too many white fish. Too many fishermen. Floated the Madison twice and walked once. Did best with guide and floating.

Out of state (non-resident) fishing licenses are too expensive! I.e. in Newfoundland in Canada non-resident fishing licenses are free... it works to draw travelers to their province to fish! Look into it.

We come for 3-4 months yearly in our 5th wheel and park on the banks of Yellowstone for fishing, YNP visits and tourist activities. Montana is a great place (esp. in Western half). Don't change it!

Our main mission is floating & fishing plus golf and relatives in the Butte area.

**Quarter 4**

We love Montana. We visit often to see relatives in Missoula and Kalispell and to visit Glacier Park. My husband buys a Montana fishing license each year along with his regular Idaho one.

<b><u>Hunting Comments</u></b>				
	<b>Quarter 1</b>	<b>Quarter 2</b>	<b>Quarter 3</b>	<b>Quarter 4</b>
<b>Number of comments/quarter</b>	0	2	4	11

**Quarter 2**

The hunting has got worse all the roads are closed off and not much new clear cutting forest so everything is over grown and can't see any wildlife.

Beautiful state! I plan on returning for more recreation and hunting.

**Quarter 3**

We are from MT and displaced to WA because of jobs in the 1990's. So this survey is incomplete because we are from MT (6th generation). A suggestion for fishing & hunting licenses: If the non- resident is a military veteran, a senior citizen and entered the military while a MT state resident, or was drafted into the military while a state resident, then state residency should apply for fishing and hunting licenses (instead of having to pay for non- residents license fees).

Since I was born and raised in Great Falls I'm aware of change in various parts of the state. My son and I hunt in the state every 2 yrs. I have art represented in the C.M. Russell museum and the MT justice Bldg. So as a Montanan who lives in Delaware I try to interact with my home state.

Fewer billboard signs needed. -More public land access needed. -Easier hunting/ fishing regulation

**Quarter 4**

Worked as a hunting guide/cook for 2 weeks on a private ranch.

Wolves have had a very bad effect on deer/elk populations. Large areas of private land concentrate animals there and not on public lands. I will not hunt here again.

Montana remains my preferred state for deer hunting, despite last year's sizeable increase in license fee. The state welcomes and respects deer hunters and the hunting heritage. The block management program is an excellent way of creating public access to private lands. The size of the state and the incredible variety of fishing and hunting opportunities makes Montana a good deal still from out- of state hunters and fishers.

<b><u>Motorcycling Comments</u></b>				
	<b>Quarter 1</b>	<b>Quarter 2</b>	<b>Quarter 3</b>	<b>Quarter 4</b>
<b>Number of comments/ quarter</b>	1	2	13	0

**Quarter 1**

This trip was a 3 day motorcycle trip from Mitchell, South Dakota to Little Big Horn-back. +/- 500 miles in MT. 1200 miles overall, stays were in Deadwood on the way out, spearfish on the way back.

**Quarter 2**

Not enough gas stations or signs letting you know how far to next gas station. I ride a Motorcycle and went on reserve 3 times while in Montana and was very uncomfortable. Thought I'd run out before next station very stressful not knowing when next station is. Don't think I'll be coming back any time soon because of this. Most states have signs telling you next gas 65 miles whatever.

**Quarter 3**

Wildlife, Tetons, Glacier, are fantastic. Yellowstone is somewhat loud and crowded (i.e. motorcycles and Old Faithful area respectively).

Welcoming and beautiful. I felt the accommodations and public areas didn't promote recycling consistently. We were on motorcycles - roads were in terrific condition overall.

We loved our motorcycle trip to Glacier NP- what a spectacular place. Beautiful, and the people we met were gems. We had a fantastic time- your scenic byways were great. The local people we talked to were friendly and very helpful. We can't wait to come back. Would love to explore the dimensions in Bynum. Thank you, you have a beautiful state.

<b><u>Hiking Comments</u></b>				
	<b>Quarter 1</b>	<b>Quarter 2</b>	<b>Quarter 3</b>	<b>Quarter 4</b>
<b>Number of comments/ quarter</b>	0	1	9	2

**Quarter 2**

We come to Montana several times a year for shopping and medical appointments. We plan on hiking in Glacier in July.

**Quarter 3**

We have been on many trips to MT- shopped, hiked, horseback, rafted, camped, hunted, live theatre, Lewis and Clark caverns, college soccer match, college @ MSU.

Very Satisfied:- Availability of regular free transport within Glacier NP in environmentally friendly vehicles - Local produce in West Glacier -Maintenance of 'Going to the Sun Road' enabling visitor access to many hiking trails. Disappointed- We came to see Grizzly bears & wolves in their natural habitat. However we are concerned the State of MT does not support the protection of these animals outside of National Park boundaries on private land. - Preponderance of development & recreational power boating within NP's.

<b><u>Boating Comments</u></b>				
	<b>Quarter 1</b>	<b>Quarter 2</b>	<b>Quarter 3</b>	<b>Quarter 4</b>
<b>Number of comments/ quarter</b>	2	0	8	2

### **Quarter 3**

We like Flathead Valley so much we have purchased a boat for Montana use only while we are here.

I have previously gone to Montana for vacation. We went boating and fishing etc. This trip however, was just for passing through on the way to Calgary AB, Canada.

Have always enjoyed time in MT. Have canoed Yellowstone and Missouri rivers in past. Did a float for 25 ann. some yrs. ago.

### **Quarter 4**

Would love to stay longer and enjoy more of Missoula and the other beautiful attractions (eg white water rafting, hiking etc).

### **Urban**

The urban category contains 89 of the 224 (40%) activity comments and included activities such as restaurants, gambling, and shopping.

<b><u>Restaurant/dining Comments</u></b>				
	<b>Quarter 1</b>	<b>Quarter 2</b>	<b>Quarter 3</b>	<b>Quarter 4</b>
<b>Number of comments/ quarter</b>	3	11	17	7

### **Quarter 1**

Road signs are hard to find, particularly at night! Lodging and restaurants are limited. Customer service was either very good or non-existent.

Business trip so only dining out for dinner and lunch with a little walking near hotel.

### **Quarter 2**

We were antiquing using business I-90 loop. We like the Wheat Mt Bakery!

This was our first time here. Most places were closed. So it was hard to find a place for dinner. But we worked around it. We came for beauty and fresh air and we found it. Thank you.

There were no vegan restaurants.

Like to have a good choice of independent restaurants (not chains) Selection of good wines in many restaurants.

### **Quarter 3**

We need to eat gluten-free and there weren't a lot of opportunities to do so that we were aware of (except a nice meal at Chico Hot Springs that was very accommodating! Thank you!).

We felt safe while we were in Montana. We visit MT once or twice a year mainly for shopping. We had no idea that there are so many nice places to see now we know. The one thing that we felt negative about MT is (Great Falls) is the lack of nice restaurants. We drove around and cannot find one except for burger joints, and bars. That was disappointing. Although we're only passing through, we really admire the beauty of Montana. Lakes, rivers, mountains, open space.

Judy's in Havre had great food, helpful staff and friendly locals who told us about Havre.

Two things really stand out to me as far as local food goes: Hardly any restaurants sell bison meat, and secondly I hate that places will not cook your burger to your liking (i.e. rare!) Other than that, I love Montana. I am thinking about possibly purchasing a second home out here at some point in the future, so that I can get to all these amazing places to photograph.

**Quarter 4**

Restaurants- my wife has several food problems and only one place had a food variety available to her- I do not mean small cafes- but I was disappointed with the chains- the chains in larger cities do.

**Shopping**

<b><u>Shopping Comments</u></b>				
	<b>Quarter 1</b>	<b>Quarter 2</b>	<b>Quarter 3</b>	<b>Quarter 4</b>
<b>Number of comments/quarter</b>	3	7	11	9

**Quarter 1**

City of Helena has very poor shopping opportunities. Spent entire day looking for specific item and could not find it. This is the capital.

**Quarter 2**

We would have purchased more items to remember our trip by but it seemed like everything was made in China.

We come to Montana several times a year for shopping and medical appointments. We plan on hiking in Glacier in July.

Need more stores in the small town.

**Quarter 3**

We love shopping in MT due to no tax but wish there was shopping in NE of state as Billings is quite a drive. (I.e. Culbertson or Miles City although these are probably too small).

We have been coming to Great Falls once a year for the last 5 years and enjoy the people, shopping etc.

Very few rest stops. We found very few western stores, bun stores and authentic stores. We can shop at Wal-Mart, Target etc. back home.

This time we were just passing through but we come to MT an average of twice a year for shopping.

More fresh food provided at rest stops. Less fried chicken gizzards- more salads. The grocery stores too had poor choices. The people of MT deserve fresh food options. More hilarious billboards would amuse tourists. There are a lot of brothels. My kids asked too many questions. Overall a beautiful state!

**Quarter 4**

Relaxing drive with great views, great lodging and shopping.

Please note: we wanted a few hours to get out of my home in Coutts, Alberta, on this trip & drove to Shelby and back. Wandered in one store in Shelby and spent \$4.00 and then had a late lunch in sunburst, MT, for \$20.00. P.S. I go into MT a lot, and find the tourism MT website very useful, it's a very good website for me.

I travel to Montana at least once every two months. We are 60 miles north of the border. I love shopping in Montana.

***Public and Private Land Use and Management***

This category consists of six sub-categories which are Glacier and Yellowstone National Park, Public Land Access, Environmental Stewardship, Wildlife, and Private and Public Land Stewardship.

**Glacier**

The “Glacier” category contains 57 of the 235 (24%) public and private land use and management comments which represent experiences and feelings towards Glacier National Park.

<b><u>Glacier National Park Comments</u></b>				
	<b>Quarter 1</b>	<b>Quarter 2</b>	<b>Quarter 3</b>	<b>Quarter 4</b>
<b>Number of comments/quarter</b>	2	7	43	5

**Quarter 2**

We come every summer for work. Last year we had time to bike tour up to Glacier NP and stay for 8 days- loved it.



Overall, Montana was fine. Our main reason for coming to MT was Glacier Park and the going to the sun road which happened to be closed due to a mud slide. We did enjoy the road around the end of the park which we hadn't planned on driving.

I am a Montana native. I really miss it and wish I could make a living in Montana. I usually go to Glacier National Park and usually visit the Bison Range. I love the back-roads but the road between Flathead and Plains was really pathetic and possibly dangerous.

### **Quarter 3**

We were sorry we did not get to see Glacier because of the smoke. We will be back on a clearer day.

Took train from Minot ND to Whitefish Mt. and rented car to travel in/around Glacier Park.

So much construction!! Rest areas and gas stations are few & far between. Glacier NP was by far the highlight of the trip!

Really liked the road signage for trailheads. Glacier NP was way too crowded to enjoy for me. Family liked it though.

### **Quarter 4**

We were disappointed that Glacier Park was closed from Logan Pass to Lake McDonald. And everything in St Mary was closed for the season. It was still very beautiful drive. And did find hotels open in West Glacier.

## **Yellowstone**

The "Yellowstone" category contains 39 of the 235 (17%) public and private land use and management comments relating to experiences and feelings towards Yellowstone National Park.

<b><u>Yellowstone National Park Comments</u></b>				
	<b>Quarter 1</b>	<b>Quarter 2</b>	<b>Quarter 3</b>	<b>Quarter 4</b>
<b>Number of comment/quarter</b>	1	8	27	3

### **Quarter 2**

I had a great trip. Lots to see and do. Very friendly small town atmosphere. I did not have enough time to see everything I wanted to see but will come back on vacation again. Scenery is great. Wildlife in Yellowstone was fantastic! Wow!

**Quarter 3**

Yellowstone N.P. blew me away! I will always remember the easy access to view some of the most scenic natural vistas I have ever viewed. Thanks.

Wildlife, Tetons, Glacier, are all fantastic. Yellowstone is somewhat loud and crowded (i.e. motorcycles and Old Faithful areas respectively).

Thanks for keeping your state so well maintained. Good roads and no trash on the wayside. Yellowstone has a special beauty its own, entire nothing to compare to it. I just wish I could have stayed longer than a drive through. I'll be back for a longer stay. Keep up the good work!

**Quarter 4**

The main point of our visit was to spend Christmas in Yellowstone wolf watching. We were both upset by the news which greeted us on arrival, about a number of collared wolves who had been shot by hunters! I know it is (allegedly) done legally etc. but don't you see what a unique world- wide opportunity you have (had?!). We have been to Yellowstone N.P. 10 times in 18 years- will think seriously (before) about returning. Please use some/ any influence you have to prevent this happening.

**Public Land Access**

Of the 235 public and private land use and management comments, 15 (6%) were about public land access.

<b><u>Public Land Access Comments</u></b>				
	<b>Quarter 1</b>	<b>Quarter 2</b>	<b>Quarter 3</b>	<b>Quarter 4</b>
<b>Number of comments/quarter</b>	2	3	8	2

**Quarter 1**

The rivers are getting crowded, would like more access to smaller streams. People are too friendly, bring in more New Yorkers. Keep Montana, Montana. Montana is a big state with a small town feel, keep it that way!

**Quarter 2**

Enjoyed our stay, nice state! (Campgrounds don't have recycling. Because of the time of year, we couldn't access all of the public lands we wanted to - the roads were closed.)

**Quarter 3**

Fewer billboard signs needed. -More public land access needed. -Easier hunting/ fishing regulation

**Quarter 4**

Montana is the most beautiful region of our country. Also, stop letting ranchers use public land. They're not wildlife.

**Environmental Stewardship**

Environmental Stewardship includes comments about nonresidents' feelings toward Montana's environmental stewardship. There were 36 of the 235 public and private land use and management comments were in this stewardship category.

<b><u>Environmental Stewardship Comments</u></b>				
	<b>Quarter 1</b>	<b>Quarter 2</b>	<b>Quarter 3</b>	<b>Quarter 4</b>
<b>Number of comments/quarter</b>	1	4	19	12

**Quarter 2**

Montana does a great overall job of taking care of the environment.

Since we are from a very environmentally conscious state, we are most appreciative of Montana's ecological consciousness.

**Quarter 3**

I am concerned about the forests beetle infestations. It seems like more trees are infested every time I make a trip. Hope I trust something is being/ can be done to stop it.

Hope natural environment continues to be treasured as well as preserved. Gorgeous mountains, rivers and streams. Nice villages especially.

Love the natural aspect of MT. The air and water are pure. It seems the state tries hard to preserve the wonderful natural resources!

Recycling in Montana has a long journey in making up time to represent environmental responsibility? I continue to be shocked by the University town of Missoula lacking interest in recycling. And there is no bottle bill? Your landfills must be abominable.

**Quarter 4**

Thank you for a welcoming state. Your great asset is you nature wildlife and natives. Thank you for preserving them :)

Please keep MT pristine and environmentally clean. Thank You.

Overall it is always a pleasure to visit Montana! However, the trout streams are damaged by cattle.

I lived in MT from 1975- 2007. I will always cherish the time I spent there. Please remember that the environment must remain wild and beautiful for future generations.

## **Wildlife**

The “Wildlife” category contains 45 of the 235 (19%) public and private land use and management comments.

<b><u>Wildlife Comments</u></b>				
	<b>Quarter 1</b>	<b>Quarter 2</b>	<b>Quarter 3</b>	<b>Quarter 4</b>
<b>Number of comments/quarter</b>	2	8	22	13

### **Quarter 1**

Wonderful wildlife.

Unfortunately, on this trip I was only passing through to my home in Alberta. However I have made several trips to Montana in the past where my responses would have been more useful. Montana is a beautiful state, full of scenery, plants, animals which have caused me to marvel over the past several years.

### **Quarter 2**

We enjoyed our stay in Montana! We got spectacular impressions of the landscape, wildlife and historical sites. We will come back!

Love Montana love to see the wildlife

We attended a funeral. As a 4th generation Montanan, the wildlife and landscape were uplifting.

I'm no stranger to beauty, nature and wildlife, but everything and everywhere I went in Montana was exceptional. I will return.

### **Quarter 3**

While I love your state with its lovely mountains hills lakes and wildlife, I do not appreciate the anti- wolf sentiment which is pervasive and will probably preclude future visits.

The land is beautiful. The animals have a wonderful place to roam and be free. Please continue to make recycling bins accessible- thank you.

I love your state! I came to see wildlife & beautiful scenery and was very satisfied.

#### **Quarter 4**

We were here from May 1 to Sept 30 at the Metcalf wildlife refuge as on site volunteers.

I wish it was easy to get a deer or elk tag for Montana hunting without using a guide. We would hunt here in Montana.

Absolutely beautiful country. The mountains and wildlife are breath taking. I'll be back!

### **Private Land Stewardship**

This category illustrates nonresident attitudes towards private land stewardship in Montana. There were 43 of the 235 public and private land use and management comments in this category.

<b><u>Land Stewardship Comments</u></b>				
	<b>Quarter 1</b>	<b>Quarter 2</b>	<b>Quarter 3</b>	<b>Quarter 4</b>
<b>Number of comments/quarter</b>	2	8	21	12

#### **Quarter 1**

The items where I indicated any marking below "satisfied" pertaining to the open space and land use issues stem directly from the number of refineries I passed from my drive from Billings to Red Lodge and back. Montana is such a beautiful state, but these are really eye sores on the landscape, and are also bad for air quality.

#### **Quarter 2**

This state is beautiful and you have done a wonderful job at preserving the landscape and heritage here.

So many land owners need to clean up their property! It looks like a continuous junk yard along the highway.

Great trip, great, friendly people, beautiful, well-managed lands with great access

### **Quarter 3**

Why don't you recycle glass? It's not that difficult. Ranchers want wolves killed when they attack cattle, but the cattle are left to graze unprotected in open range. We saw cattle alone or in isolated groups in remote woods or valleys. It doesn't make any sense for ranchers to assume they don't have to protect their cattle.

We can see evidence of forest service cuts but still feel lucky to have these public lands!  
Beautiful state- we'll be back.

The reservations were unkempt.

Campgrounds do not offer recycling. I always try to recycle where I can. In Yellowstone I felt that they could clean up some of the fallen trees so fire danger could be lessened. We like MT it is a beautiful state.

The most beautiful/ scenic- well cared for state I have travelled thru

### ***General Negative***

This category consists of four sub-categories that depict negative nonresident comments. These categories include business/housing development, suggestive comments, recycling and comments about things that were too expensive.

### **Recycling**

The "Recycling" category contains comments regarding recycling in Montana. There were 50 of the 284 general negative comments related to recycling (18%).

<b><u>Recycling Comments</u></b>				
	<b>Quarter 1</b>	<b>Quarter 2</b>	<b>Quarter 3</b>	<b>Quarter 4</b>
<b>Number of comments/quarter</b>	1	7	33	9

### **Quarter 1**

Love Montana -- need a recycling program!

### **Quarter 2**

City of Great Falls has no residential recycling program. This should be remedied for a city of this size.

Better recycling program needs to go into effect. More strict cattle grazing restrictions on Forest land.

My only (slightly) negative comment above relates to the availability of recycling bins. I was pleased to see that lodging in Big Sky provided recycling containers in every unit. However, further progress could be made by providing recycling containers in public places, especially bars and restaurants, where large quantities of glass and metal usually end up in the trash. Sadly, Montana is not alone in neglecting to urge public facilities to recycle; my concern is mostly that Montana is not leading the way! :) My ratings above probably provide a clear view that Montana is a favorite place to visit and will continue to be for many years to come.

### **Quarter 3**

After leaving Oregon, we had a difficult time recycling (except for time spent in NP's). This isn't unique to MT. Idaho, Wyoming, Washington and S.D. could all improve. However, your state is beautiful and our overall experience was very positive. Keep up the good work!!

Campgrounds do not offer recycling. I always try to recycle where I can. In Yellowstone I felt that they could clean up some of the fallen trees so fire danger could be lessened. We like MT it is a beautiful state.

Cities and towns need to develop curbside recycling programs.

In the Canadian province that I live in (Saskatchewan) we have been recycling for many years, Montana is starting to do a good job of this but in some places it is still hard to find places to recycle bottles/cans etc.

### **Quarter 4**

I don't think I've seen a single recycling bin.

I would like to see recycling bins, especially in home areas.

Rather few recycling bins along some routes.

## **Too Expensive**

The "Site specific" category contains 14 of the 284 (5%) general negative comments.

<b><u>Expensive Comments</u></b>				
	<b>Quarter 1</b>	<b>Quarter 2</b>	<b>Quarter 3</b>	<b>Quarter 4</b>
<b>Number of comments/quarter</b>	1	1	10	2

**Quarter 1**

Based on my travel experience around the U.S. the car rental rates in Helena are very high-- about 3 times more expensive. I do not rent a car due to the high costs.

**Quarter 2**

The State Parks were too expensive for having no garbage- no water- no electricity.

**Quarter 3**

The hotels/ motels are extremely expensive. \$225 for Great Western? Come on! Babb \$100 for a dire place. We got lucky at Lakeside with a very friendly host. Most places said they had to hike prices in the summer to offset slow winters. I call it price gouging.

Poor signage for road construction. Very poor signage at Great Falls when trying to get from Hwy 87 -Hwy 15 using the Hwy 87 by- pass. Travelled in 8 western states, MT was the most expensive motels.

Over-priced lodging in Eastern Montana

Many places gouged tourists. \$2.50 for a cup of coffee- motels in Hardin charged double what room was worth because of pow- wow.

**Quarter 4**

Accommodation was very expensive in Great Falls, Helena and Butte in relation to other places in Idaho and Utah.

Hunting licenses are too expensive. We don't see very many out of stat hunters. As a result we see the decline of small towns.

**Suggestive comments**

The "Suggestive comments" category had a total of 96 of the 284 general negative comments. The category included various suggestive remarks ranging from raising speed limits to availability of recycling in Montana.

<b><u>Suggestive Comments</u></b>				
	<b>Quarter 1</b>	<b>Quarter 2</b>	<b>Quarter 3</b>	<b>Quarter 4</b>
<b>Number of comments/quarter</b>	9	13	53	21



### **Quarter 1**

Need to figure out how to allow access to all public land and not allow a land owner to lock the public out because of the need to cross private land to get to the public land.

Please fix pot holes on I-90 -I-94. Some good planning areas on rivers open to the public. Raise travel speed limit to 75 on interstates (not split speed).

Plowing roads would be great!

We really love Montana, but have to do a lot of passing through. Perhaps if there were periodic roadside stops or signs with a summary of local history and recreation opportunities, we could spend a little time here and there.

### **Quarter 2**

We first came to Montana in 1976 mainly for skiing. We have come once a year since then with few exceptions because we like the "feel" of Montana. Only suggestion would be we would like a few more rest areas.

The speed limit in Yellowstone Park needs to be raised to 65 mph.

Sorry, we were just passing through. Could have more tourist information and education information inside airport. Also enjoyed artwork in airport- could you have more?

Lovely trip. Some of the roadside trash (rusted car bodies, junk, should be removed, especially from the interstates. This would make scenic driving much more enjoyable. Love the mountains, open spaces, friendliness of the residents.

### **Quarter 3**

We are from MT and displaced to WA because of jobs in the 1990's. So this survey is incomplete because we are from MT (6th generation). A suggestion for fishing & hunting licenses: If the non- resident is a military veteran, a senior citizen and entered the military while a MT state resident, or was drafted into the military while a state resident, then state residency should apply for fishing and hunting licenses (instead of having to pay for non- residents license fees).

Very dissatisfied with the treatment of Natives and Native culture. The Cheyenne have zero cell service on the Reservation and there is very little cell service in other areas of Montana. The treatment of Native Americans in Montana needs much improvement!

### **Quarter 4**

You really need more passing lanes on your highways.

Would like to see more local crafts & US made products than products made in China!

## Other General Negative Comments

The “other” category is a mix of comments that were either negative or a suggestion because of being disappointed. There were 124 of the 284 general negative comments placed in the ‘other’ category.

<u>Other General Negative Comments</u>				
	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
<b>Number of comments/quarter</b>	8	15	79	22

### Quarter 1

The rest areas on I-94 are disgusting and always have been all my life.

Road conditions not to good, rough pavement.

### Quarter 2

We would have purchase more items to remember our trip by but it seemed like everything was made in China.

There were no vegan restaurants.

So many land owners need to clean up their property! It looks like a continuous junk yard along the highway.

### Quarter 3

Your state had the worst rest areas we have ever encountered. We were very surprised because of the number of visitors your state has. Look at Iowa’s rest areas!

We stayed at a KOA campground in Miles City. . . very sad to see the litter throughout the town . . .a feeling that the people there did not care.

We encountered TERRIBLE signage in Livingstone where the entrance ramp to the I-90 was closed. There were no detour signs to follow & no info about how to get to I-90 westbound. VERY FRUSTRATING.

### Quarter 4

Would have liked shower room and bathroom facility to be open at KOA. Water was very brown that came out of tap.

The people in the town of Browning are very rude, we traveled with a car that had an Idaho plate and were flipped off a couple of times. We stopped at the gas station and were given dirty looks, probably because we were in shirts and ties because we were on a business trip. We will never stop in this town again.

***Living in Montana***

This category contains five sub-categories of comments about living in Montana that include retirement, real estate/ second home, relocating to Montana, prior residents and Montana made products.

**Retirement**

This section contains comments that ranged from statements about how nonresidents would like to retire here to nonresidents purchasing homes either for a 2<sup>nd</sup> home or for retirement in the future. There were 10 remarks about retirement out of the 147 comments about living in Montana.

<u>Retirement Comments</u>				
	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
<b>Number of comments/quarter</b>	0	4	4	2

**Quarter 2**

We intend to relocate in NW Montana upon retirement (4 years away). We have visited and appreciated your state for 7 years now.

I love Montana & hope to retire there in 2 years. I visit often & was there this time for my son's wedding.

I am a native of Montana. Graduate from Columbia Falls; still have family in the Flathead Valley. I will be making 2 more trips this year. When I retire in 2 years I am coming home.

**Quarter 3**

We love MT and plan to retire here!

I hope to someday retire in Montana.

At this time we were just passing through, although we do come to vacation quite often. We continue to dream of retiring in your state. Thanks.

**Quarter 4**

Love MT. Would love to retire here Flathead/ Columbia Falls.

I come to Montana frequently. Bozeman is a possible retirement choice. Livingston has a lot of history.

**Real Estate/Second Home**

The “real estate/second home” category contains 17 of the 147 (12%) ‘Living in Montana’ comments. These folks wrote about having a second home in Montana or looking at buying a second home in Montana.

<b><u>Real Estate/Second Home Comments</u></b>				
	<b>Quarter 1</b>	<b>Quarter 2</b>	<b>Quarter 3</b>	<b>Quarter 4</b>
<b>Number of comments/quarter</b>	1	3	10	3

**Quarter 1**

We vacation every year in Montana. Own a vacation home in Whitefish area. This was a business trip for me. If it had been a vacation trip (such as our trip in December 2011) answers may be different, certainly a lot more money spent.

**Quarter 2**

We were looking for a home to buy. Very satisfied with all the assistance we received.

We've been traveling to Montana since 1992 and love it! We bought a second home here in 1995

**Quarter 3**

I've been coming to MT since 1955 and have always been very satisfied. The purpose of this trip was to see a property I own in Judith Gap, so I did no sight-seeing this time round. Over the years I have seen all MT has to offer. I love MT (my dad is from Great Falls).

We own property- for business purposes- in Montana that include 2 work sites, an office/home. We have a four bedroom condo rental in Billings for business and family use. We love Montana :)

We love MT and its environment. We have been visiting MT for 8- 10 years and love the state so much our son relocated here 4 1/2 years ago and we purchased a second home here April 2012.

#### **Quarter 4**

We visit western Montana (Flathead Lake) 2-3 times each year. We stay at our families cabin most of the times. We enjoy local ski resorts like Black Tail in Lakeside MT and like to go to local brewpubs. We spend several days visiting Kalispell or Polson areas.

A Montana visitor for 40 years and a homeowner for 30 years! Love Montana!

### **Relocating to Montana**

Relocating to Montana contains statements nonresidents made about relocating to Montana or wanting to relocate to the region. This category had 33 of the 147 'living in Montana' comments (22%).

<b><u>Relocating to Montana Comments</u></b>				
	<b>Quarter 1</b>	<b>Quarter 2</b>	<b>Quarter 3</b>	<b>Quarter 4</b>
<b>Number of comments/quarter</b>	4	9	11	9

#### **Quarter 1**

Thank you! Awesome state might be moving there!

I was born in MT and a long-time resident. I hope a job opportunity will allow for my husband and me to return to our native state soon. I miss MT very much.

#### **Quarter 2**

WE intend to relocate in NW Montana upon retirement (4 years away). We have visited and appreciated your state for 7 years now.

WE are a young couple currently living in Utah. We love MT so much we are considering moving there in the near future- thanks!

Want to relocate to Seeley Lake, MT within 2 years.

Beautiful state! I plan on returning for more recreation and hunting.

**Quarter 3**

Thinking about moving here part-time. Very lovely.

My husband was born and raised in MT. He would love to move back if there were more jobs & cost of living wasn't so high (flathead area).

Montana- a great place. Plan on moving here permanently in the next 2 years. Great spring (much better than Colorado!!!) Good golfing opportunities.

Loved it and would like to move to Billings within 2 years.

**Quarter 4**

Had a great time! My second time hunting in Montana. If I could I would move there in a heartbeat!!

I lived in Montana for 41 years and I would move back in a heartbeat maybe in a couple of years it is the greatest state in the U.S.

If it were possible- we would be living in Mont. fulltime

**Prior Residents**

Nonresidents who at one time lived in Montana made statements about their former place of residence. There were 68 of the 147 'living in Montana' comments placed in this category.

<b><u>Prior Resident Comments</u></b>				
	<b>Quarter 1</b>	<b>Quarter 2</b>	<b>Quarter 3</b>	<b>Quarter 4</b>
<b>Number of comments/quarter</b>	5	14	36	13

**Quarter 1**

I'm from Mt and I thoroughly enjoy coming back and visiting about once a year. It's the most gorgeous place I've ever been to!

I was born in MT and am a long-time resident. I hope a job opportunity will allow for my husband and me to return to our native state soon. I miss MT very much.

### **Quarter 2**

My return was less leisure-oriented, as I was attending a memorial service. I resided in Montana for 47 years, so I am an a typical visitor

I lived in Libby, MT, from 1995 to 1997. Love Montana! Love Chico Hot Springs- swimming pool and cabins :)

I was born and raised in Montana. While I don't live there now, anytime I am in Montana I feel I am "home".

I travel through Montana frequently on my way to Southern Idaho from my home in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, and always enjoy and appreciate Montana's beauty and hospitality. I lived there as a child and love its open spaces and good people.

### **Quarter 3**

Anaconda and the surrounding area is where I grew up and like to return as often as possible. I love home even though I moved in 1961.

Born and raised in Miles City MT. God's country.

Having been born in MT- I always feel at home here. Love the people, love the country.

I lived in Glasgow from 1950-1955-1957-1958. Married a girl from Glasgow after service-1957-moved 1958. Now live in Oregon last 44 years. Always enjoy visiting MT.

### **Quarter 4**

I am from MT but haven't been home in 2 years. I am amazed at how little has changed, but thankful for it at the same time. I miss the hospitality MT has to offer.

I lived in MT from 1975- 2007. I will always cherish the time I spent there. Please remember that the environment must remain wild and beautiful for future generations.

I love Montana. I would like to move back in the future.

I used to live in Montana (six years ago), and I was glad to see that, if anything, the state has gotten better since I was last here. There are more restaurants, more bars, more nightlife and, furthermore, a higher quality of each. Meanwhile, Montana has kept its rugged charm. I'll always be excited to visit (and maybe live in) Montana again.

## ***Travel Issues***

This category contains seven subthemes related to travel: information, signage, road conditions, passing through, rest areas, air & auto, and weather & wild-fires.

### **Information/Information Needed**

This category includes statements from travel groups remarking they needed more information while traveling in Montana or utilized information from residents, highway information signs, billboards, and brochures. This category had 46 remarks out of the 432 travel issue comments.

<b><u>Information/Information Needed Comments</u></b>				
	<b>Quarter 1</b>	<b>Quarter 2</b>	<b>Quarter 3</b>	<b>Quarter 4</b>
<b>Number of comments/quarter</b>	1	6	31	8

#### **Quarter 2**

Sorry, we were just passing through. Could have more tourist info and education info inside the airport. Also enjoyed artwork in airport- could you have more?

The visitor Information Center staff in Great Falls were very friendly, helpful & provided us with all the information we were looking for. That was a very nice visitor center.

When stopping at a rest stop we did not find a state map or point of interest brochure.

Found folks friendly. Little information about needing to take our own food from Mammoth to 'Old Faithful'. Motel served all meals on paper plates and plastic cutlery.

#### **Quarter 3**

Found folks friendly. Little information about needing to take own food from Mammoth to 'Old Faithful'. Motel served all meals on paper plates and plastic cutlery.

Downtown Billings left a lot to be desired. Not much to do & not much helpful info to direct us.

I came to see friends, fish, and to see a rodeo again. Not much info available about weekly local rodeos that I couldn't easily locate.

I can't wait to come back. The people were extremely nice and ranger stations were very informative with great ideas to spend the day. I did very little research before coming and had no problem finding great places.



#### **Quarter 4**

Stopped at every roadside information sign, added great depth and understanding to the drive.

The state of Montana (D.O.T.) highway road condition map on internet needs improvement. Would be nice if it was same quality as state of Idaho. I enter and exit Montana for travel many times/ year.

#### **Signage**

Many comments were made by nonresidents regarding signage in Montana. This category had 53 remarks out of the 432 travel issue comments. Many remarks were how there is a lack of signage or how helpful roads signs were while traveling.

<b><u>Signage Comments</u></b>				
	<b>Quarter 1</b>	<b>Quarter 2</b>	<b>Quarter 3</b>	<b>Quarter 4</b>
<b>Number of comment/quarter</b>	6	8	32	7

#### **Quarter 1**

Road signs are hard to find, particularly at night! Lodging and restaurants are limited. Customer service was either very good or non-existent.

Signs could let us know how far till the next rest stop. Need to know before you are beside the turn out.

The road and signage from Havre to The Canadian border needs to be straightened out. It is Dangerous especially at night with no curve signs.

We really love Montana, but have to do a lot of passing through. Perhaps if there were periodic roadside stops or signs with a summary of local history and recreation opportunities, we could spend a little time here and there.

We were just driving through and would like to see rest areas open or signage stating they are closed a few miles earlier.

#### **Quarter 2**

Too many billboards! No better way to ruin your beautiful landscape. Not nearly as bad as Utah though. Love Montana!

Not enough gas stations or signs letting you know how far to next gas station. I ride a Motorcycle and went on reserve 3 times while in Montana and was very uncomfortable. Thought I'd run out before next station very stressful not knowing when next station is. Don't think I'll be coming back any time soon because of this. Most states have signs telling you next gas 65 miles whatever.

**Quarter 3**

Directional highway signage on some roads near Glacier Park entrances seemed to be non-existent or out of easy view from the vehicle.

I always enjoy MT and my time spent. As a tourist and retired truck driver I can appreciate the appropriate amount of both road signs and advertisement signs without having the landscape cluttered i.e. driving the billboard alley.

I was surprised by the collection of farm implements and vehicles that many farmsteads had. I love the old signs that hang on many store fronts down main streets. Montana is so beautiful. As Dorothy in Wizard of Oz says "this isn't Kansas" and it definitely isn't Illinois!!

Really liked the road signage for trailheads. Glacier NP was way too crowded to enjoy for me. Family liked it though.

**Quarter 4**

Miss the 'Welcome to Big Sky' entrance sign!

Absence of airport signs in Billings.

**Road conditions/construction/traffic issues**

This category contained various comments about nonresident travelers' experiences (good and bad) about highways and roads while driving through Montana. It represents 123 remarks out of the 432 travel issue comments.

<b><u>Road Conditions/ Construction/Traffic Issues Comments</u></b>				
	<b>Quarter 1</b>	<b>Quarter 2</b>	<b>Quarter 3</b>	<b>Quarter 4</b>
<b>Number of comment/quarter</b>	11	21	72	19

### **Quarter 1**

You have the best roads. Well painted lines. I love the well preserved old wild west character of the towns (e.g. Dillon) We have been driving through here for years, always look forward to the trip. I love to shop for stuff along the way and p.s. no tax

Traveled in Jan-Roads were kept in good shape for winter weather. Thank you

Roads good but had been snow. People drive over speed limit. Not impressed with speed people passing as throwing stones at our windshield. Only complaint.

Please fix pot holes on I-90 -I-94. Some good planning areas on rivers open to the public. Raise travel speed limit to 75 on interstates (not split speed).

### **Quarter 2**

We were very impressed with the highways that we drove as far as their well-maintained condition.

The road construction in this state is horrible. It takes forever, they tear up the entire road so you drive on dirt and after the years when it's done it's not even nice. Plus they tear up enough land to make four ways but never actually accomplish.

Some places the interstate entrance were very vague Love the frontage road. Helena to Great Falls.

Beautiful driving! Great roads. Had no idea I90 could be so nice! Would love to come back and stay and play longer, but headed to WY for work this time.

### **Quarter 3**

We were just traveling through Montana and very much enjoyed the scenery and trip and road conditions

We encountered road construction near Red Lodge, and we intended to exit the interstate there, but due to a lack of proper signage in the construction zone, we thought the exit was closed even though it was actually open. We encountered road construction on I-90 in Butte, and we have noticed that construction has been present there in past trips in past years. Does the construction ever end there?

We always get a cracked windshield when we travel here.

Very nice driving conditions thru Montana towards Helena!

Traveling by motorcycle, I REALLY appreciate the good roads.

### **Quarter 4**

Highway 49 from East Glacier to Mary Lake- no guardrails or shoulders, rumble strips on the center line instead of right shoulder. No recycling at our resort (Glacier Wilderness Resort on Hwy #2) Hwy #2 is wonderful. I appreciate the turnouts.

I am very satisfied with the road conditions and speed limit on the interstate through Montana. I was driving from North Idaho to Southeastern Idaho, and driving through Montana is the easiest way to go for me.

Resurfacing of Highway 90 (Lookout Pass area) is very much appreciated!!

You really need more passing lanes on your highways.

### **Passing through**

Many nonresidents wanted to let us know they were just passing through Montana to get to another destination but some wanted to add where they do visit when they aren't passing through! This category had 78 remarks out of the 432 travel issue comments

<b><u>Passing through Comments</u></b>				
	<b>Quarter 1</b>	<b>Quarter 2</b>	<b>Quarter 3</b>	<b>Quarter 4</b>
<b>Number of comments/quarter</b>	12	16	29	21

### **Quarter 1**

We were just passing through this trip but I have been visiting Montana from Alberta for over 40 years. Mostly the Flathead Lake/ Whitefish region for sailing and skiing and the last couple of years to run in the Missoula marathon.

We usually travel through Montana to vacation in Nevada and Arizona and always find Montana a very pleasant drive, a beautiful state. Thank you!

Some of these questions did not apply to us as we were just passing through.

For this trip, we were just passing through; we were on our way home from California. We have been to the Glacier National Park, many times. We have been to Yellowstone a couple of times. We have stayed at Great Falls a few times. But the best scenery was in the Kalispell area. We like Montana and its friendly people.

Delivered a Winnebago from Iowa to Alberta. Spent little time in Montana.

## **Quarter 2**

I have always enjoyed the Montana atmosphere however this time we are just passing through to see family.

I was just traveling through from Alberta to Utah. I only stopped for gas and bathroom.

I would like to spend more time one day. This time I was on a mission to get to Florida in 3 days.

Just passed through to drop daughter at Portland State University, so didn't have much time. Beautiful country! We will be back with extra time to see the sites.

## **Quarter 3**

This time we were just passing through but we come to MT an average of twice a year for shopping.

Sorry we were just passing through but love your state- beautiful country.

Just driving through, but appreciated the scenery. We stopped at Little Bighorn because it was close to 90W.

I was only passing through, but after what I saw, I'll be back.

## **Quarter 4**

We were just passing through Montana on our way to visit relatives in Seattle area. I have vacationed in Montana a number of times in the past and always enjoy even just passing through your beautiful state.

We were just driving thru, but looked beautiful! Would love to come back and do some shopping and camping and see Yellowstone Park!

We visit Montana many times during the year. This time we were just passing through on our way to Lewiston, Idaho- we visited to gas stations and one restaurant- we enjoyed our brief stay (visit).

Just passing through. Had a good trip with most people we met being very friendly and accommodating. Look forward to seeing Montana again.

## Rest Areas

Highway rest areas contains comments regarding nonresident opinions and experiences with highway rest areas and gas stations in Montana. This category had 43 remarks out of the 432 travel issue comments

<b><u>Rest Area Comments</u></b>				
	<b>Quarter 1</b>	<b>Quarter 2</b>	<b>Quarter 3</b>	<b>Quarter 4</b>
<b>Number of comments/quarter</b>	5	8	19	11

### **Quarter 1**

Need to have rest areas open.

Roads are very well maintained. Some concerns about rest areas being closed during winter time.

### **Quarter 2**

We first came to Montana in 1976 mainly for skiing. We have come once a year since then with few exceptions because we like the "feel" of Montana. Only suggestion would be we would like a few more rest areas.

We traveled through Montana to attend a funeral in Texas. Wished we would have had more time to stay in Montana. We plan to return for vacations in the future! The rest stops were very nice!

Not enough rest areas on state highways.

### **Quarter 3**

1st rest area on I90 east of Idaho line was awful- trash barrels overflowing. Bathrooms smelled BAD. Other rest areas were acceptable.

Excellent rest areas- very clean, well laid-out.

Highway travel was excellent even with construction- rest stations excellent Beautiful state!

I am always impressed by the cleanliness and availability of out-houses in state parks, at fishing access and the like. In all my visits to MT I only recall one with no toilet paper. It is so refreshing to know that these facilities will be available and usable.

### **Quarter 4**

Best of all are the rest areas and information centers 'full' of east to use literature. Thank you.

Dissatisfied explanations: Highway rest area seem unsafe for a lone female traveler- I never use them. Recycle bins readily available in Bozeman, less so in other small towns- Livingston, Red Lodge, ect.

## **Airport/Flights**

The "Airport/Flights" category had 22 remarks out of the 432 travel issue comments which concern availability of direct flights to Montana as well as service non-residents had received at the airports.

<b><u>Airport/Flight Comments</u></b>				
	<b>Quarter 1</b>	<b>Quarter 2</b>	<b>Quarter 3</b>	<b>Quarter 4</b>
<b>Number of comments/quarter</b>	5	5	8	4

### **Quarter 1**

Our trip was to Las Vegas to have fun so there was no exploration of Montana, travelled to Great Falls to fly because of the flight pricing.

### **Quarter 2**

I come to Missoula often for shopping. Also MSO is the closest airport to Salmon, ID.

Sorry, we were just passing through. Could have more tourist info, education info inside airport. Also enjoyed artwork in airport- could you have more?

### **Quarter 3**

I was pleased to see little if any debris alongside highways. Bozeman airport- easy in, easy out.

Need more information of interest to us- museums and art exhibits. Lack of fine art displays. Passed 'emigrant' sign but did not know its significance. Very beautiful airport, great introduction to ambience of west. Needs more art.

### **Quarter 4**

This trip to Montana was only to catch a flight from Great Falls.

I appreciate the convenience of direct flight to Minneapolis :) Beautiful views!

Absence of airport signs in Billings.

## **Weather**

Some nonresidents like to mention the weather conditions in their comments. These comments ranged from how icy roads were to how visitors love the four seasons of Montana. This category had 22 remarks out of the 432 travel issue comments.

<b><u>Weather Comments</u></b>				
	<b>Quarter 1</b>	<b>Quarter 2</b>	<b>Quarter 3</b>	<b>Quarter 4</b>
<b>Number of comment/quarter</b>	2	5	4	11

### **Quarter 1**

Pretty bad snowstorm, so scenery got kind of lost. We were also here on business and did not have an opportunity to do anything touristy.

First day of spring, high winds, snow, rain, typical winter. We have vacationed in MT in the past and loved it- in the summer! I was just heading home alone to Coeur d'Alene, ID-miserable weather-But we love Montana!

### **Quarter 2**

Thanks keep up the good work. Try to turn down the winds.

Beautiful state (unfortunately the weather did not cooperate-rain)

Absolutely beautiful scenery! & weather!

### **Quarter 3**

I was travelling to an academic conference in Calgary and had planned to camp in Glacier National Park along the way, but on the way up and back it was rainy/ bad weather. Had there been better weather I likely would have spent more time in (and enjoying) Montana.

### **Quarter 4**

Had a fantastic time within MT. Just wish we had come when there was better weather! Definitely planning a return visit.

My family and I had a very enjoyable time in Montana- even with the short duration and winter weather.



Residents of Montana are friendly, eager to answer questions, give advice on road conditions and weather.

### ***Specific Purpose***

#### **Business trip**

The “Business trip” category includes comments about travel groups coming into or through Montana for the purpose of a business trip. There were 19 of the 109 comments in this category.

<b>Business Trip Comments</b>				
	<b>Quarter 1</b>	<b>Quarter 2</b>	<b>Quarter 3</b>	<b>Quarter 4</b>
<b>Number of comments/quarter</b>	7	2	4	6

#### **Quarter 1**

Business trip so only dining out for dinner and lunch with a little walking near hotel

I enjoyed what I saw, and the people were nice. Really need more time to explore the local attractions and get a true feel for Missoula, Also I was there mostly for business. Looking forward to coming back!

#### **Quarter 2**

I love Montana, a Colorado native and my son senior geology major at MSO. 30 year business career dealing with Montana owners of retail clothing throughout state. My second love. Montana and traveling Montana is great

Just a quick trip for KOA business

#### **Quarter 3**

This was primarily a business trip and no time to do and see the things I really wanted. I arrived by airline and picked up a vehicle and drove back. While there in Bozeman however I was able to spend some time with friends and dinner. I make several trips into Montana per year on business.

My trip was strictly business this time- flew in, stayed at hotel, had meeting & flew out.

We have travelled in Montana many times and for different purposes. We have visited most of the sites in Q15 on previous trips. Our purpose on this trip was to sell our books at museums,

stores and deliver some to friends so they could sell them. We also did research at MHS and at Deer Lodge Prison for a future book we are writing.

#### **Quarter 4**

The people in the town of Browning are very rude, we traveled with a car that had an Idaho plate and were flipped off a couple of times. We stopped at the gas station and were given dirty looks, probably because we were in shirts and ties because we were on a business trip. We will never stop in this town again.

I work for a group of hotels in Idaho on 2 in Montana. This was my first trip down 15. I loved it. This is what I think of when I think of Montana. Will be back for vacation!

I was in Great Falls for one day on a business trip and did not travel out of towns.

#### **Visiting Friends and Relatives (VFR)**

This category includes comments from groups who were specifically visiting Montana to see family and friends. There were 54 of the 109 comments in this category.

<b><u>VFR Comments</u></b>				
	<b>Quarter 1</b>	<b>Quarter 2</b>	<b>Quarter 3</b>	<b>Quarter 4</b>
<b>Number of comment/quarter</b>	4	8	27	15

#### **Quarter 1**

I traveled to Libby to visit family, I grew up there. I never participate in any local activities. I will have family moving to Butte very soon, so will be in interested in learning more about that area.

I was born and raised in Montana, but currently live in Gillette, Wyoming. We were in Billings just for 1 night to visit my grandpa at Advanced cardiac. I do visit Billings and Miles City regularly and even though I know I'm biased. I love Montana.

#### **Quarter 2**

Came this trip for a family wedding!

I am a former resident of Montana and make yearly trips back to visit friends and the beauty that Montana has.

I have traveled and toured extensively in the state. However, this trip was mainly to visit and bring cheer to a friend while quilting together

I use to live in MT so I went to see my parents and sisters in Florence. I also went to Great Falls for the birth of my god daughter so I didn't do much other than visiting while in MT.

### **Quarter 3**

We were here visiting family. I lived in MT for 45 years and have been away for 10 yrs. I miss it! Farmers market was wonderful.

We travel to MT frequently because we have family there. This was our 2nd trip this summer. Our first trip was to Glacier Park and Kalispell area. We plan on taking first time visitors next summer to Glacier.

We have travelled in MT for several years- from Denver area to Helena. We love Helena and the western portion of MT. This year we visited friends in Missoula- never been there and that was awesome! We love Montana!!

We go to Montana every summer to visit my family & I was born and raised in MT.

### **Quarter 4**

We love Montana. We visit often to see relatives in Missoula and Kalispell and to visit Glacier Park. My husband buys a Montana fishing license each year along with his regular Idaho one.

We had a wonderful drive through Montana on our way to Boise to visit our kids. We make this trip often and enjoy all the beauty and history of Montana. In summertime, visit the parks and do more activities.

## **Lodging and Attractions**

Lodging and attraction comments ranged from specific comments about lodging to attractions visited while visiting Montana. There were 85 comments in this category.

<b>2012 Nonresident Visitor Comments-Visiting Friends and Relatives</b>				
	<b>Quarter 1</b>	<b>Quarter 2</b>	<b>Quarter 3</b>	<b>Quarter 4</b>
<b>Number of comment/quarter</b>	3	13	53	16

### **Quarter 1**

Road signs are hard to find, particularly at night! Lodging and restaurants are limited. Customer service was either very good or non-existent.

### **Quarter 2**

Montana was great and beautiful. The people at the Best Western in Gardiner were very helpful and friendly.

Resort ( Fairmont Hot Springs) needs recycling and composting capability.

Not enough lodging on highway 212. Slept in car! Not satisfied!

I am a Montana native. I really miss it and wish I could make a living in Montana. I usually go to Glacier National Park and usually visit the Bison Range. I love the backroads but the road between Flathead and Plains was really pathetic and possibly dangerous.

### **Quarter 3**

The only disappointment was Yellowstone. We had been there before, a long time ago. The park was in its natural setting. One lodge, and a few cabins which we stayed in one of the little cabins. It was just breathtaking at that time. Going back was sad! Concrete everywhere; What happened to nature? Too many hotels, fast food and just too touristy if that is a word. On the other hand, I was so glad Glacier was not like that. We stayed in all 4 lodges. Many Glacier was our favorite. The scenic view was God's country! The trails were still trails but maintain for safety. We were impressed how clean your state.

Searched internet for lodging but not many choices popped up.

Travelled in 8 western, MT was the most expensive motels.

Love Montana - just don't like that there is no recycling at rest stops or hotels

We had a lovely vacation, our 2 grandsons were thrilled at the grand vistas and new experiences. The grizzly and wolf center in West Yellowstone was a major highlight, we keep going back.

### **Quarter 4**

We were disappointed to have to overnight in parking areas rather than rest area but otherwise we enjoyed Montana very much!

We love MT. We stayed for a month this year as we are considering a move to MT. We are a little disappointed with places to eat & stay close to Glacier park after mid- September.

Been fishing in MT for 40 years. Family and I come every year. Love it here. Like to stay at the Mariah in Sheraton with the RV full hookups in Alder at the KOA. The KOA is the nicest and friendliest we've seen. The rest stop in Lima is excellent. We always stop there. People are nice and friendly.

## Appendix A – Visitor Comments by Quarter

### 2012 Quarter 1 Visitor Comments

You need more flights in/out of Great Falls
You have the best roads. Well painted lines. I love the well preserved old wild west character of the towns (e.g. Dillon) We have been driving through here for years, always look forward to the trip. I love to shop for stuff along the way and p.s. no tax
Wonderful wildlife.
When we take vacations, accessibility is very important as my daughter is in a wheelchair.
We were travelling through Montana from Texas to British Columbia, Canada. Therefore on this trip it was not our purpose to explore Montana. Interstate Hwy 90 was a pleasure to drive. Highway 93 south from Missoula to the Canadian border was not in real good condition. The width of the highway and the lack of real shoulders did not weren't save driving at 70 mph.
We were just passing through this trip but I have been visiting Montana from Alberta for over 40 years. Mostly the Flathead Lake/Whitefish region for sailing and skiing and the last couple of years to run in the Missoula marathon.
We were just driving through and would like to see rest areas open or signage stating they are closed a few miles earlier.
We usually travel through Montana to vacation in Nevada and Arizona and always find Montana a very pleasant drive, a beautiful state. Thank you!
We really love Montana, but have to do a lot of passing through. Perhaps if there were periodic roadside stops or signs with a summary of local history and recreation opportunities, we could spend a little time here and there.
We love Montana.
We love Montana--but because of the long trip to from Yuma we do not do anything but drive through Montana. We do hope to spend some more time in the future exploring some of the historical and scenic spots.
We just drove to Great Falls from Lethbridge, Alberta to catch a flight to Nevada. We have travelled into various areas of Montana in the past and have stayed in Great Falls on several occasions. Our usual trips to Montana are for shopping in Great Falls and Helena or for trips into Glacier Park or the Whitefish area. We love the State and our visits. We often take our flights on Allegiant Airlines out of Great Falls to other destinations in the USA, including AZ NV and WA.
We enjoyed warm hospitality at the Jackson Hot Springs and throughout our trip there from Missoula.
We come to Great Falls on a regular basis and always find the hospitality of the residents here wonderful hats off to the residents of Great Falls for being so helpful and polite!
We are fortunate to own RLI time share so enjoy gold crown resort at meadow lake in Columbia falls
Very interesting questions/survey. Hope this helps.
Vacation every year in Montana. Own a vacation home in Whitefish area. This was a business trip for me. If it had been a vacation trip (such as out trip in December 2011). Answers may be different, certainly a lot more money spent.
Usually everyone in West Yellowstone is friendly + welcoming. We took 8 people with us (their 1st trip)-motel hosts and 1 local restaurant (one horse motel and the gusher were very friendly. One clerk at the chevron was

friendly. Everyone else acted like we were just an annoyance. The city asked us to double park so they could do their snow removal-the city police made 3 drive by then wrote parking tickets after we left-didn't say anything while we were standing there. Fairly certain the other 8 people will not return. Not even sure we will and we've been going for 20 years. a resulting loss to your state approximately
Unfortunately, on this trip I was only passing through to my home in Alberta. However I have made several trips to Montana in the past where my responses would have been more useful. Montana is a beautiful state, full of scenery, plants and animals which have caused me to marvel over the past several years.
Two rest areas were closed we would have used at least one of them
Traveled in Jan-Roads were kept in good shape for winter weather. Thank you
Travel through Montana many times
This trip was a 3 day motorcycle trip from Mitchell, South Dakota to Little Big Horn-back. +/- 500 miles in MT. 1200 miles overall, stays were in Deadwood on the way out, spearfish on the way back.
The things we partook of, we were very satisfied with.
The road and signage from Havre to The Canadian border needs to be straightened out. It is Dangerous especially at night with no curve signs.
The rivers are getting crowded, would like more access to smaller streams. People are too friendly, bring in more New Yorkers. Keep Montana, Montana. Montana is a big state with a small town feel, keep it that way!
The rest areas on I-94 are disgusting and always have been all my life.
The items where I indicated any marking below "satisfied" pertaining to the open space and land use issues stem directly from the number of refineries I passed from my drive from Billings to Red Lodge and back. Montana is such a beautiful state, but these are really eye sores on the landscape, and are also bad for air quality.
The exit going into the city center of Butte always catches me off guard (E- 1-90). I've landed myself in the town unintentionally thinking I was still on 1-90
Thanks so much for the tickets
Thank you! Awesome State might be moving there!
Some of these questions did not apply to us as we were just passing through.
Since we were on our way to Warmer Clinic many of the above items did not pertain to our travel experience in Montana. We only stopped for servicing at gas stations. Everyone we met seemed very pleasant and eager to help, of course at this time of writing, gasoline is cheaper in the state than in Canada.
Signs could let us know how far till the next rest stop. Need to know before you are beside the turn out.
Short and sweet!
Roads good but had been snow. People drive over speed limit. Not impressed with speed people passing as throwing stones at our windshield. Only complaint.
Roads are very well maintained. Some concerns about rest areas being closed during winter time.
Road signs are hard to find, particularly at night! Lodging and restaurants are limited. Customer service was either very good or non-existent.
Road conditions not to good, rough pavement.
Rest area are called parking place-confused if there was a restroom available
Pretty bad snowstorm, so scenery got kind of lost. We were also here on business and did not have an opportunity to do anything touristy.

Plowing roads would be great!
Please fix pot holes on I-90 -I-94. Some good planning areas on rivers open to the public. Raise travel speed limit to 75 on interstates ( not split speed)
Places in Montana did not update their websites frequently so we would drive somewhere just to find out it would be closed.
Our trip was to Las Vegas to have fun so there was no explanation of Montana, travelled to Great Falls to fly because of the flight pricing.
Oppose Rehberg's proposal to open up road-less areas in Montana. City of Helena roads are in very poor condition. City of Helena has very poor shopping opportunities. Spent entire day looking for specific item and could not find it. This is the capital.
Not everyone can be born in Montana. Some of us do have to move there.
Need to have rest areas open.
Need to figure out how to allow access to all public land and no allow a land owner to lock the public out because of the need to cross private land to get to the public land.
Mother nature blessed Montana. So far man hasn't messed it up too much.
Montana is very pretty and maintains a rustic feeling but still has ample accommodations.
Montana is naturally beautiful.
Missoula native who returns every two weeks for 5-6 days but does not claim residence
Loved the Big Sky Film Festival. Also the hospitality of the town.
Love your state. Will return in summer when have more money.
Love the winter in the mountains around West Yellowstone
LOVE the state of Montana! Anyone living there is BLESSED! =-)
Love the Big Sky Country. Fly me there any-time!
Love Montana! So does my son and family who live there!
Love Montana -- need a recycling program!
Love it here!
Keep up the good work!
It's beautiful in Montana even in January! Will be planning a summer trip this year to Montana and Yellowstone.
It is a very nice state. We enjoyed our stay in Dillon here.
If I were 40 years old instead of 50 I would move to Montana. Would love to take my wife someday.
I'm from Mt and I thoroughly enjoy coming back and visiting about once a year. It's the most gorgeous place I've ever been to!
I was very satisfied.
I was only driving through Montana to visit my parents in North Dakota
I was just in town one night., but I found the people here very friendly
I was born in MT and a long-time resident. I hope a job opportunity will allow for my husband and me to return to our native state soon. I miss MT very much.
I was born and raised in Montana, but currently live in Gillette, Wyoming. We were in Billings just for 1 night to visit my grandpa at Advanced cardiac. I do visit Billings and Miles City regularly and even though I know I'm biased. I love Montana.
I tried to use your site, would not accept any entry. We've been to Montana many times and always find our visits delightful whether skiing, visiting family or sight-seeing.



I traveled to Libby to visit family, I grew up there. I never participate in any local activities. I will have family moving to Butte very soon, so will be interested in learning more about that area.
I spend a lot of time in Montana on business and have always enjoyed it.
I lived in Montana for 6 years and now reside in Buffalo, Wyoming. The best part of Montana is the stream access laws and Allegiant Air Flights to Vegas!
I have only visited Billings, Montana to get on the airplane to attend my place of work. I also will stop at places of business when I comeback.
I have always found MT to be a great place to visit, vacation, and do business in. Great people, environment, and diversity.
I enjoyed what I saw, and the people were nice. Really need more time to explore the local attractions and get a true feel for Missoula, Also I was there mostly for business. Looking forward to coming back!
I enjoy coming to the U.S. especially Montana. Far too often only very brief 1 to 3 day trips, so have not had the time to enjoy the historical and beauty of the state
I did not travel any surface roads.
I come here whenever I can! Best state in the union!
Have made 3 day trips to Libby this month. Our trip from Williston ND to Clark Fork. One trip from Yellowstone and Williston. One trip from Clark through Yellowstone.
Have been through parts of Montana 2-3 times a year for 42 years. Most times just passing through but sometimes stopping a day or two to enjoy different things. Have a good feeling about Montana.
Had a wonderful time skiing in the mountains for the first time. Great resort.
Had a great trip, my family and I always come to Billings in Feb for the Mate Show. Mostly for business but always throw a little pleasure in too!
Great experience, very friendly, will be returning in July with our children.
Friendly people, beautiful lands,
For this trip, we were just passing through; we were on our way home from California. We have been to the Glacier National Park, many times. We have been to Yellowstone a couple of times. We have stayed at Great Falls a few times. But the best scenery was in the Kalispell area. We like Montana and it's friendly people.
First day of Spring, high winds, snow, rain, typical winter. We have vacationed in MT in the past and loved it- in the summer! I was just heading home alone to Coeur d'Alene, ID-miserable weather-But we love Montana!
Exceeding expectations in feeling of authenticity and nature beauty.
Everything and everyone was very nice. The scenery was amazing and the charm of the small town of Livingston was too. We will most definitely keep Montana in mind when we plan our next trip.
Drove from Colorado to Billings, MT, to attend a gathering of friends and family. No other travel objectives - except to rapidly get to our destination and return without incident and to enjoy the beautiful scenery and interesting wildlife along Interstate 25 and Interstate 90. Don't care at all about most of the above items which I marked them as "very satisfied". Didn't want or look for "local arts and crafts". You need a questionnaire response of "Don't care". Also, how is one to even know if restaurant food was locally grown / produced or "authentic"? Perhaps a category of "Don't know" would also be appropriate.
Didn't really use MT as a vacation. It's my main route back to my home state of North Dakota.
Delivered a Winnebago from Iowa to Alberta. Spent little time in Montana.
Business trip so only dining out for dinner and lunch with a little walking near hotel
Because I was working during the days, I didn't get an opportunity to visit any of the recreational areas or do a lot of scenic driving. Would love to come back and see more!

Beautiful State. Will be back for sure!
Beautiful state, left welcomed everywhere we went.
Based on my travel experience around the U.S. the car rental rates in Helena are very high--about 3 times more expensive. I do not rent a car due to the high costs.
A nice state, beautiful scenery, friendly folks, good roads. we travel MY frequently and always find it enjoyable
A beautiful state I would visit again to spend more time in.

## 2012 Quarter 2 Visitor Comments

Your surveyor encouraged me to complete the survey so that I could get into the draw for a flight from anywhere in continental USA to Montana. I live in Alberta and assume that I will be disqualified from the draw.
You did not mark if/ when we are coming back.
Wish I could have spent more time - just passing through on this trip, but will be back.
When stopping at a rest stop we did not find a state map or point of interest brochure
We've been traveling to Montana since 1992 and love it! and bought a second home here in 1995
We'll be back!
We would have purchase more items to remember our trip by but it seemed like everything was made in China.
We will come back again!
We will be back
We were very impressed with the highways that we drove as far as their well-maintained condition.
We were only in Kalispell for a few nights. We spent some time in Whitefish as well where there seemed to be a better selection of local shops and restaurants. Montana is a beautiful place and we hope to come back and explore more of it in the future.
We were only "passing through" Montana on this trip and stayed first one night a couple years ago we spent a week in Montana and stayed in the major cities. Butte, Helena, Billings, Great Falls, Bozeman etc. We really enjoyed it! A great state!
WE were just passing through on this trip. Other trips to and through we enjoyed very much.
We were just driving through--but loved the look of Montana and our son thinks he wants to live there someday

We were in Montana for less than one hour.
WE were here because our school requires geology field camp to graduate. The geology here is great!
We were antiquing using business I-90 loop. We like the Wheat Mt Bakery!
We traveled to Great Falls to fly out Vegas/Arizona to visit friends and enjoy the Arizona sunshine. We have used the Great Falls airport before and find the staff and the service outstanding.
We travel frequently to Montana. Support parks service and local establishment as much as possible. We never are disappointed with what MT has to offer, our daughter graduated from UM. Not only Big Sky, but big opportunities to travel and live.
WE spend several weeks in Montana in July and August. We love Montana. I answered these questions regarding our current visit.
we really enjoyed our time in great falls.
We love the uncrowded ski areas.
We love MT!
WE love it here!!! Looking so forward to the next time!! Praying we can fly in and drive back in a rental- so much more free time!!!
We keep returning! This is our 10th. visit to Montana. Started as a visit with friends and the typical 2 week holiday trip. We have now returned for the entire summer season for the last 5 years. 3 of these as volunteers for MT FWP and this season as volunteers at a private campground. Emphasis has been on in depth exploring a particular section of the state; this year the north west.
WE intend to relocate in NW Montana upon retirement (4 yr away). We have visited and appreciated your state for 7 years now.
We have visited MT many times.
We have spent time vacationing at Flathead Lake, Kalispell, skied at Big Mountain. Came from Mpls years ago into the station at Whitefish—great spot! Also stayed at a resort in Seeley Lake. We have made countless trips across your beautiful state! The drive from Billings on I94 to Fargo is also beautiful. We have friends w cabins on Flathead Lake and in Polebridge and near Polson. We love Montana!
We have driven through Montana many times and been very impressed with its beauty and cleanliness
We had an amazing vacation. Montana is a great state to visit and very different to our home country Australia.
We had a great trip. Everything went very well.

We first came to Montana in 1976 mainly for skiing. We have come once a year since then with few exceptions because we like the "feel" of Montana. Only suggestion would be we would like a few more rest areas.
We especially loved Missoula and the locally owned businesses. The trip to Billings was not so pretty (industrial area)
We enjoyed our stay in Montana! We got spectacular impressions of the landscape, wildlife and historical sites. We will come back!
We enjoy the few days we were there, since we didn't have much time, this time we'll be back soon.
We drove into West Yellowstone, bought some gas, bought lunch, drove into the park, ate lunch, and then drove back to Idaho. Total time MT, 2 hours.
We do enjoy the nice highway and of course always enjoy the scenery in beautiful Montana
We come to Montana several times a year for shopping and medical appointments. We plan on hiking in Glacier in July.
We come every summer for work. Last year we had time to bike tour up to Glacier NP and stay for 8 days-loved it.
We came from Phoenix to attend my wife's 50th graduation ceremony at Carroll College (May 5th)--went to Hardin to visit our daughter and her family then stayed in Helena at sisters place until the end of May when we will be going north to Alaska in our 5th wheel camper--staying in Helena until the weather warms up more. A 10,000 mile trip for 3-4 months--on the Arctic circle June 21st--we are very familiar with Montana.
We are USFS volunteers caring for the historic Savana Nursery at Haugan, MT. We are here from May 15 to Sept 15, 2012. This is our tenth summer here. We love it!
we are always impressed with the feeling of welcome when we return to Montana.
WE are a young couple currently living in Utah. We love MT so much we are considering moving there in the near future- thanks!
Was looking for a home to buy. Very satisfied with all the assistance we received.
Want to relocate to Seeley Lake, MT within 2 years.
Visitor Information Center staff in Great Falls were very friendly, helpful & provided us with all the information we were looking for. That was a very nice visitor center.
Very satisfied on our trip to Montana.
Very good No outstanding problems. Thanks
Very clean and people were very friendly. Those are the two things that impressed us.

Very Beautiful and scenic state. Will visit again.
Traveled through Montana to attend a funeral in Texas. Wished we would have had more time to stay in Montana. We plan to return for vacations in the future! The rest stops were very nice!
Trash on roadside
Too many billboards! No better way to ruin your beautiful landscape. Not nearly as bad as Utah though. Love Montana!
Tired from Golden Sunlight mine in Whitehall, so anyway. We live in Idaho, but Montana is a great place as well.
Thoroughly enjoyed our visit
This was our first time here. Most places were closed. So it was hard to find a place for dinner. But we worked around it. We came for beauty and fresh air and we found it. Thank you.
This was not our first trip to Montana. We have always enjoyed our visits.
This trip we were passing through from a 6 week stay in Arizona. However we like the countryside here and will likely return next year and spend time hiking, golfing, and sightseeing.
This state is beautiful and you have done a wonderful job at preserving the landscape and heritage here.
This is the first time we have driven through the western states to visit Oregon and we have decided to do this again soon. I was especially impressed with the town of Gardiner, Montana
There's so much beautiful green scenes while driving through Montana.
There were no vegan restaurants.
The woman that gave me this survey was very nice to talk to. I was on my motorcycle and came through West Yellowstone. I would like to talk to her more sometime.
The State Parks were too expensive for having no garbage- no water- no electricity.
The speed limit in Yellowstone park needs to be raised to 65 mph.
The scenery and views are great!
The roads seemed in a little better condition this year, than in past years. I make this 'REUNION' trip each year, in early June, for many years now.
The road construction in this state is horrible. It takes forever, they tear up the entire road so you drive on dirt and after the years when it's done it's not even nice. Plus they tear up enough land to make four ways but never actually accomplish.
The road construction at points was horrible! Not a lot of warning prior to construction.

The people we met were wonderful - friendly, helpful, fun, down-to-Earth, a good number of which were not native Montanans! Presumably the place has an effect on people or only attracts people of that nature. We noted a lack of black American and Hispanic peoples (but no hint of racism) in comparison to the rest of our travels the USA (NYC,DC,AZ,CA), but presume this is essentially geographical. Whilst our travels in Montana were limited, the cattle farming observed was not "open range", perhaps due to the narrow valley from Bozeman to Gardiner, and early season (this comment goes to "stewardship" where I'm not familiar with the local circumstances). Our short trip was focused on Yellowstone and thus we didn't have time to sample the rest of Montana - just a walk into Bozeman. However, of all the areas in the USA, I can see myself coming back to this neck of the woods to enjoy the various parks, towns, attractions and people.

The hunting has got worse all the roads are closed off and not much new clear cutting forest so everything is over grown and can't see any wildlife.

Thanks keep up the good work. Try to turn down the winds.

Thank you for a very nice state!

Staff at motel and restaurant very helpful and friendly.

Sorry, we were just passing through. Could have more tourist info, education info inside airport. Also enjoyed artwork in airport- could you have more?

Some places the interstate entrance were very vague Love the frontage road. Helena to Great Falls.

So many land owners need to clean up their property! It looks like a continuous junk yard along the highway.

Since we are from a very environmentally conscious state, we are most appreciative of Montana's ecological consciousness.

Since I am a Montana native (born in Shelby)I am very familiar with the state. I come back to Montana 4 to 5 times a year and enjoy my visits and am looking forward to moving back to my home state very shortly.

Sign under the overpass on I 90 points the wrong direction for highway 93

Satisfactory in most all categories.

Resort ( Fairmont Hot Springs) needs recycling and composting capability.

People were extremely friendly.

Overall, Montana was fine. Our main reason for coming to MT was Glacier Park and the going to the sun road which happened to be closed due to a mud slide. We did enjoy the road around the end of the park which we hadn't planned on driving.

Our trip was very short but enjoyable. I plan to spend more time here on my next trip.

<p>Only complaint is that our GPS routed us on US 212, which took us over an area with almost nowhere to stop and get gas or to stop for the evening. It is beautiful country, but it is easy for a tourist, such as we were, to end up out in the middle of nowhere.</p>
<p>Of all of the states I have been to or lived in, Mt is one of the most beautiful.</p>
<p>Not enough rest areas on state highways.</p>
<p>Not enough lodging on highway 212. Slept in car! Not satisfied!</p>
<p>Not enough gas stations or signs letting you know how far to next gas station. I ride a Motorcycle and went on reserve 3 times while in Montana and was very uncomfortable. Thought I'd run out before next station very stressful not knowing when next station is. Don't think I'll be coming back any time soon because of this. Most states have signs telling you next gas 65 miles whatever.</p>
<p>No signs for which forest camping was closed (due to fire damage) drove many miles to find one open.</p>
<p>no complaints</p>
<p>Nice airport</p>
<p>Need more stores in the small town.</p>
<p>Need more rest areas on highways. Never even saw sign saying welcome to Montana.</p>
<p>My son and I were just passing thru MT. We had flown out to WA state to see our daughter/sister before she deployed to Afghanistan. We drove her vehicle back home to MI where I now live. Your state is very beautiful and would love to actually go back for a vacation to explore all your state has to offer. Thank you.</p>
<p>My return was less leisure-oriented, as I was attending a memorial service. I resided in Montana for 47 years, so I am an a typical visitor</p>
<p>My only (slightly) negative comment above relates to the availability of recycling bins. I was pleased to see that lodging in Big Sky provided recycling containers in every unit. However, further progress could be made by providing recycling containers in public places, especially bars and restaurants, where large quantities of glass and metal usually end up in the trash. Sadly, Montana is not alone in neglecting to urge public facilities to recycle; my concern is mostly that Montana is not leading the way! :) My ratings above probably provide a clear view that Montana is a favorite place to visit and will continue to be for many years to come.</p>
<p>My multiple trips to Montana every year are always very satisfying.</p>
<p>MT is very far away from Denmark, but we come again if/ when we afford it :)</p>
<p>Montana was great and beautiful. The people at the Best Western in Gardiner were very helpful and friendly.</p>
<p>Montana tourism is fantastic. You can have a meaningful, fun, safe, educational authentic vacation. Thank you.</p>
<p>Montana rocks! How could you not love the last best place?</p>

Montana is a beautiful scenic state. People are helpful. I appreciate the fact that there is no tax on personal items.

Montana is a beautiful place and I cannot wait until the next time I am get to come back!

Montana has an abundance of natural beauty and selection of attractions. So the future we will spend more time in the state to more enjoy local attractions.

Montana gave us a warm feeling in our souls.

Montana does a great overall job of taking care of the environment.

Lovely trip. Some of the roadside trash (rusted car bodies, junk, should be removed, especially from the interstates. Would make scenic driving much more enjoyable. Love the mountains, open spaces, friendliness of the residents.

Lovely state we'll be back

Loved Montana. Would love to visit Glacier National Park.

Loved every aspect

Love the wildness of the state, however the general public seems to be quite ignorant of conscious practices such as recycling, water conservation, eating organic, GMO's. THE OUTRIGHT RACISM I'VE BEEN EXPOSED TO IS GROSS. I would never bring a non-white, non-Christian, non-meat eater to Montana out of fear of embarrassment.

Love Montana love to see the wildlife

Love Montana

Love it. Can't wait to return!

Lots of road construction, but expected during good weather.

Local road signs were poor in some cities. The size of the signs at intersection made it difficult to see the name before you were right at the intersection making it difficult or unsafe to change lanes if needed.

Lived in Libby, MT 1995-1997. Love Montana! Love Chico Hot Springs. Swimming pool and cabins :)

Like to have a good choice of independent restaurants ( not chains) Selection of good wines in many restaurants.

Just travelling through your state on our way to Illinois and Indiana to visit family who are ill. Montana is a beautiful state and we enjoy travelling through.

Just passing thru.



Just passed through to drop daughter at Portland State Univ., so didn't have much time. Beautiful country! Will be back with extra time to see the sites.
Just from our short visit to the state of Montana, we are planning a permanent move. We are trying to sell our house in Moorehead as fast as we can. We love what we saw in the state. The scenery was just wonderful. I cannot wait to move to Montana. We will need jobs and housing. WE have already applied to MT job service, two job agencies and a hospital in Kalispell.
Just a quick trip for KOA business
It was snowing.
It is difficult to assess much of this because we are not really visiting MT, but rather passing through.
Indian public facilities @ Crow Agency always so "dirty" Restaurant- restrooms.
If I could relocate without a doubt it would be to Montana. I look forward to going to Montana and feel sad when it's time to head back home.
I90 needs some work in western part of the state
I'm not sure my answers to your survey are very helpful. I was born in Miles City, now live in Wyoming and have family in North Dakota. Montana has been with me all of my life!
I'm no stranger to beauty, nature and wildlife, but everything and everywhere I went in Montana was exceptional. I will return.
I would question the men's room layout at the Dearborn exit off 1-15. Why, when there is a standard toilet in the men's room was a urinal added also. Poor use of tax dollars.
I would like to spend more time one day. This time I was on a mission to get to Florida in 3 days.
I would enjoy returning and staying longer.
I was there for work and did not have time for anything else
I was just traveling through from Alberta to Utah. I only stopped for gas and bathroom.
I was born and raised in Montana. While I don't live there now, anytime I am in Montana I feel I am "home"
I use to live in MT so I went to see my parents and sisters in Florence. I also went to Great Falls for the birth of my god daughter so I didn't do much other than visiting while in MT.
I understand the reason to conduct this survey is to promote tourism and industry/manufacturing. I am a native born Montanan and unfortunately had to leave the state to find employment
I travel through Montana frequently on my way to Southern Idaho from my home in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho and always enjoy and appreciate Montana's beauty and hospitality. I lived there as a child and love its open spaces

and good people.
I travel in Montana quite often, and it seems pretty well understood that there is a large disconnect between the east and west portions of the state. I find the eastern side to be a bit more friendly when they find out that you are from out of state regardless of the plates on your vehicle. With that being said, I have found great hospitality in the more rural areas of SW and Western Montana, but the more structured areas that are prime tourism hubs always seem to have a small contingent of very vocal individuals that don't like out of state/external influences. I spend about 1/3 of my year in Montana, which is basically all of my free time away from work. I know my above statements are heard quite often, but as someone who visits and spends a decent amount of money in your state I will absolutely say that I have met phenomenal people as well as horribly jaded individuals on every trip I make. The good heavily outweighs the bad, and I will continue to make my pilgrimages out of NoDak every two weeks.
I travel in Montana 4-6 times per year--fly fishing, photography, friends. Love to visit.
I think Montana is a beautiful state that I would love to come just to visit and hope to have time to do just that same day.
I think god must love Montana.
I really loved the wide open spaces. The mountains so majestic, so varied! Chico in Pray, MT- what a way to experience the hot springs. Only amazing or troubling sights- the people along I90 that were hitch- hiking or begging for help. Strange to see and left me feeling sad.
I love visiting MT and plan to continue doing so.
I love MT- have come here every summer since 1988 to Glacier N.P.; began coming in the fall 3 years ago and love it more for wildlife viewing, quiet, lack of crazy tourism & lovely people.
I love Montana. Was born and raised there. Moved for employment reasons.
I love Montana! Please choose me for the flight back!
I love Montana, but I consider western Montana an extension of Eastern Washington and North Idaho. I think we need to do much better in driving people toward the abundance of wonderful natural resources in our area and in taking care of the environment. It is also important that the EWU Eagles continue to beat the U of M Grizzlies.
I love Montana, a Colorado native and my son senior geology major at MSO. 30 year business career dealing with Montana owners of retail clothing throughout state. My second love. Montana and traveling Montana is great
I love Montana and would live there in a heartbeat. The people are so friendly and the state has a good balance of modern day amenities and traditional/historical things of interest. We tend to spend time in Billings

and Bozeman each year and thoroughly enjoy ourselves. Montana is a very 'homely' place to be.
I love Montana & hope to retire there in 2 years. I visit often & was there this time for my son's wedding.
I love Montana
I have traveled and toured extensively in the state. However, this trip was mainly to visit and bring cheer to a friend while quilting together
I have been touring MT for the last 40 years and have visited most of the sites listed in question 15 except the wolf and grizzly center. I live in Northern Idaho and do not appreciate the wolves and grizzlies forced on us that mainly originated in Montana!
I have always enjoyed the Montana atmosphere however this time we are just passing through to see family.
I grew up in Montana and miss it very much. I try to go back four times a year & every time I go back I can see many improvements to the interstate and highway conditions. It is always nice to go home to MT and be welcomed by people I know and don't know.
I expected Libby to have more historic structures.
I enjoy coming to Montana 3-4 times a year.
I come to Missoula often for shopping. Also MSO is the closest airport to Salmon, ID.
I cannot answer regarding items I was not paying attention to.
I am from Cody WY, but always love the chance to see Montana.
I am a native of Montana. Grad. from Columbia Falls, still have family in the Flathead Valley. I will be making 2 more trips this year. When I retire in 2 years I am coming home.
I am a Montana native. I really miss it and wish I could make a living in Montana. I usually go to Glacier National Park and usually visit the Bison Range. I love the back roads but the road between Flathead and Plains was really pathetic and possibly dangerous.
I am a Montana native, 3rd generation. I love Montana!
I am a former resident of Montana and make yearly trips back to visit friends and the beauty that Montana has.
Hey, It's a grooving place.
Having a cabin 60 years.
Have always loved the openness of Montana. Never enough time to see everything. Still have a lot of Montana

to explore.
Hate seeing bug infested forests
Had a great trip- lots to see and do. Very friendly small town atmosphere. I did not have enough time to see everything I wanted to see but will come back on vacation again. Scenery great. Wildlife in Yellowstone was fantastic! Wow!
Greatest place on earth
Great trip, great, friendly people, beautiful, well-managed lands with great access
Great time
Great state, always enjoy it. Would like to see more.
Great people and history in Montana
Gorgeous state!!!
Good trip
good paved roads
Found folks friendly. Little information about needing to take own food from Mammoth to 'Old Faithful'. Motel served all meals on paper plates and plastic cutlery.
For the trip to Great Falls, we experienced five separate road delays, with the longest one being in the town of Great Falls. The delays on the freeway were easy to maneuver and caused little delay, except they tell you to merge miles and miles before the actual construction site. The one across Highway 287 had signs posted but there was no construction going on. We lost time on that route. There were no warning signs upon entering Great Falls and we had a 20 minute delay as traffic became backed up.
First time we visited the USA, but we will come back again to visit Montana!
Everything was open and beautiful. Great sporting opportunities.
everything was nice it was very pleasant trip
Europeans still have issues with Native Americans.
Enjoyed our trip. Will probably come back to ski. Some of the Republican campaign posters are whacky! But it is election year, so I suppose its local color!
Enjoyed our stay, nice state! (campgrounds don't have recycling. Because of the time of year, we couldn't access all of the public lands we wanted to - the roads were closed.)

Do not like reading and hearing about groups like the Nature Conservancy and Sierra Club buying land and then closing it to public access.

Definitely there is a lot of open space but could not find a place to buy some souvenirs from the American Indians. The interstate highways are terrific however, in cities the roads are terrible and need more attention. There are a lot of pot holes and a lot of house have a lot of junk around their yards.

Cleanliness and up keep of towns is an issue.

City of Great falls has no residential recycling program. This should be remedied for a city of this size.

Came this trip for a family wedding!

Better recycling program needs to go into effect. more stricter cattle grazing restrictions on Forest land.

Best state in the country! I come every year.

Being from Wyoming, I have been to parts of MT before- but never to western MT & Yellowstone! Unbelievable. I was planning on just passing through but had no choice but to spend the night as it was so beautiful!!!

Beer, wine, pop bottles need a deposit so litter is kept to a minimum. Any container even milk cartons. Smokers should stay 50-100 ft. away from hotel restaurant entrances. DUI folks should loose driving privileges the 2st time and increase the fines substantially. Bars should limit alcohol consumption unless person is not driving

Beauty is awesome!

Beautiful. Great little towns. Friendly people.

Beautiful state. Clean and well maintained roads. Lots of open space.

Beautiful state! I plan on returning for more recreation and hunting.

Beautiful state!

Beautiful state and we always enjoy ourselves.

Beautiful state (unfortunately the weather did not cooperate-rain)

Beautiful driving! Great roads. Had no idea I90 could be so nice! Would love to come back and stay and play longer, but headed to WY for work this time.

Beautiful country. Enjoyed travel within company

Beautiful country

Beautiful awesome state!

Average rest rooms- usually no soap to wash hands. This is compared to Washington, Oregon, North Dakota, Minnesota.

Attended a funeral. As a 4th generation Montanan, the wildlife and landscape were uplifting.

Always love to go to Bozeman and Yellowstone National Park. Good luck!

Always a great place to visit. This was about my 50th trip to Montana since 1988. Always have fun.

All around, pleasant

Absolutely beautiful scenery! & weather!

A very nice trip through Montana to the Yellowstone NP.

A reminder of how beautiful Montana has always been-We've promised ourselves we will see Glacier again. Mountains, barns, rivers, forests are wonderful to see! Walker's Bistro in Billings was excellent.

A great trip for us. Beautiful country.

## 2012 Quarter 3 Visitor Comments

Your state needs bottle deposits return so people won't litter. I love the people I have met in this state. It is your greatest natural resource.
Your state had the worst rest areas we have ever encountered. We were very surprised because of the number of visitors your state has. Look at Iowa's rest areas!
Your hospice and staff and everyone in the social services and medical system are outstanding!!! I've never seen better. I might be sad but I'm also not worried about my dear friend in hospice. Thank you for that! Well visit again... and again.
Your beautiful landscape is too often marred by billboards and sprawling new development including phony tacky western/ frontier construction to anonymous, standardized construction. Followed the signs to the visitors center in Butte and found it was closed on Labor Day- seem like a historical city like Butte is more deserving of a first rate visitor/ interpretation center then a converted trash bank.
You should include flying as a mode of transportation. We appreciate the role of Montana family (Helena) who provided all the info on hotel and sights.
You need to make it easier to recycle glass. Great state!
You have an awesome state. If it wasn't for my family ties in San Antonio TX, I might move to Montana! WE also really enjoyed the signs on the fences identifying the crops being grown in the fields!
You have a great state with lots of fun vistas to see. Being from Michigan I always thought that our state was a great state to visit, but after visiting Mt, I've concluded that you beat us hands down.
You have a friendly state. We enjoyed the Glacier National Park. Would like to be able to have more contact with what is happening in the world. TV or cell-phone capability.
You have a beautiful state. Please keep it as clean and beautiful and we will return- people are very friendly and seem to be happy.
Yellowstone N.P. blew me away! I will always remember the easy access to view some of the most scenic natural vistas I have ever viewed. Thanks.
Would like to see more on fishing. Directions on getting to more remote parts of streams and rivers. Public materials and pamphlets.
Would like to see local arts and crafts in Anaconda. If it's true there are 9000 people in town, I would think there would be lots of local artists. However, coming from a town half that size, it really is a struggle to coordinate/ organize/ find a place to show their products- and staff with volunteers/ workers. I really enjoy seeing local products (artistic- functional- fun- whatever) and try to support such efforts when I see them.
Wonderful trip.
Wonderful trip, look forward to returning when my children got a little older.
Wonderful state- sense of openness.
Wonderful experience; wish KOA recycled.
Wish we could own our own piece of heaven, maybe a couple of thousand acres or so- of course for family, could come with us and live here too.
Wish I had seen sign for national Bison Range. Great first trip. Will be back.
Wish I could visit more & spend much more time traveling in MT. Great wildlife everywhere you drive- beautiful views & wonderful scenery. Too bad more small communities around the country aren't more friendly & helpful. The people in White Sulphur Springs & surrounding areas are just great and everyone supports everyone else- and such the whole state are mostly the same, just down- home caring folks.

Wildlife, Tetons, Glacier, is fantastic. Yellowstone is somewhat loud and crowded (i.e. motorcycles and Old Faithful are respectively).
Wildlife in Yellowstone was disappointing :(
Why don't you recycle glass? It's not that difficult. Ranchers want wolves killed when they attack cattle, but the cattle are left to graze unprotected in open range. We saw cattle alone or in isolated groups in remote woods or valleys. It doesn't make any sense for ranchers to assume they don't have to protect their cattle.
Whitefish had one of the best 4th of July fireworks displays! Thank you Whitefish.
While recycling of aluminum cans is generally available, there aren't enough places that recycle glass and plastics.
While I love your state with its lovely mountains hills lakes and wildlife, I do not appreciate the anti- wolf sentiment which is pervasive and will probably preclude future visits.
When road work was being done e.g. 287 Helena to Townsend when both sides are a mess. By the time we got to Bozeman we had to buy two new trailer tires. Perhaps work on one side at a time or not such a long stretch at a time. Are bottles and cans not returned here? We took pop cans to a container that said cans only to see a staff person then put them in the garbage.
What an honor to be able to spend an entire summer in such a wonderful state! I only wish that I could be here in winter to get some turns in! Keep up the good work! Cheers, Sean.
What a beautiful state. "there's no place like Montana"
Well my wife and I grew up in Missoula, so we may be prejudiced!
Welcoming and beautiful. I felt the accommodations and public areas didn't promote recycling consistently. We were on motorcycles - roads were in terrific condition overall.
We wish that developments bordering public lands left easements throughout for all properties to have access to public lands for walking or horseback. We grew up in Montana, but left for job opportunities. Trying to locate summer horse property in Montana. Love Montana!
We will be back again!
We were very satisfied with our trip to MT and there is much left to see on other trips in the future.
We were sorry we did not get to see Glacier because of the smoke. We will be back on a clearer day.
We were sorry that our time in MT was so short. We really enjoyed seeing from our car your state. We will be back to enjoy your state more fully. Thank you.
We were overall very satisfied with our trip in Montana. We are already planning next year's trip.
We were only travelling through MT to visit friends so didn't have time to explore. Will return next year for our third trip and see more of your beautiful state. Pleased with so many rest stops- appreciated them.
We were just traveling through Montana and very much enjoyed the scenery and trip and road conditions
We were just driving thru Montana going to Idaho and back. We enjoy all the scenery. It was smoky thru Lolo pass area (HWY 12)
We were just driving through from Michigan to home in Oregon.
We were in MT and drove Beartooth Pass in Sept. 2011. I love your state. Hoping to do a long weekend in Red Lodge at some point. Beautiful state.
We were here visiting family. I lived in MT for 45 years and have been away for 10 yrs. I miss it! Farmers market was wonderful.
We were disappointed to see the amount of damage done by the forest fires especially in the eastern part of the state. We also were disappointed in the amount of smoke in the mountain valleys making it difficult to see the mountain scenery and enjoy the fresh air when we walked. We realize that this cannot be controlled.



We were disappointed over the lack of recycling containers at the condos while staying at Meadow Lake Condos and golf resort in Columbia Falls.
We were backpacking through the Continental Divide Trail through Montana and unless hitching a ride, we were strictly on foot, off roads for the entire visit to your state. We loved it! We also have a distant cousin in Missoula who supported us. She is very proud of "her" state.
We were 4 generations in our group of 9. The home we stayed in had an outdoor heated swimming pool and hot tub plus a playhouse with a sandbox for the 2 & 4 year olds. Why would we spend better money when all we needed was there at our vacation home? (VRBO: Vacation rentals by owner)! So we didn't travel around much. We made our meals in that home. Just bought groceries in Kalispell (about a 10-15 min drive!
We visit MT every spring & fall. We truly love this area!
We visit Montana every summer to fly fish - catch and release. This year we only visited the old State Capitol Building in Helena (on a Sunday and the Museums were not open), but in previous visits we have toured and enjoyed many historic sites including the Great Falls area and museums and Big Horn Battlefield. Most years we try to schedule a visit to St. Timothy's Church/Chapel on Georgetown Lake for the Muir String Quartet and did so this year.
We use Glacier NP Reservation service- will not do that again. We paid top dollar for sparse accommodations. Ex: 1 lamp- no light bulb in an alleged resort- we never got the light bulb. We were led to believe it would be difficult to find lodgings without reservations- there were vacancy signs everywhere. Also, we drove to Great Falls to see CM Russell's home- it was closed! Not a smart decision during tourist season. We drove to Bozeman for a nationally advertised exhibit of Clyde Aspervigs work- it was cancelled and the arts center personnel apparently was the cause. Lots of travelers upset; staff mum on reason.
We typically make a fall as well as a summer MT trip totaling 5-6 wks. The highlighted route is a composite of a 3 week July Aug trip & 2 week Sept/ Oct Trip. Our main mission is floating & fishing plus golf and relatives in the Butte area.
We travel to MT frequently because we have family there. This was our 2nd trip this summer. Our first trip was to Glacier park and Kalispell area. We plan on taking first time visitors next summer to Glacier.
We travel to a variety of sites in MT about once a year. We really enjoyed the Big Hole area as well as several other sites over the years including three Forks, Nevada City the Nez Perce trail, Yellowstone & Glacier. Some of your markers and other signs are showing their age. Your State Parks charge too much for NO electricity, shower facility or water hook ups. At Big Fork the charge was \$23 and an additional \$5 for out of state- a mile down the road an RV campground charged \$15 for full service.
We stopped in Butte, got motel & went to dinner- 10pm. Only open restaurants had a casino so our 17 year old couldn't go in- Wendy. Lunch at Billings- we thought we could find a real steak but settled for Perkins. MT is beautiful!
We stayed at a KOA campground in Miles City. . . very sad to see the litter throughout the town. . . a feeling that the people there did not care.
We saw no recycling bins. There could at least be some for glass.
We really were just passing through on the way to a conference in Canada. Sadly there was a lot of smoke so we couldn't see the mountains.
We really just drove straight through with one stop for dinner and sleep. We saw lots of antelope.
WE really enjoyed our time in Northern Montana- view, people and food. We hope to return.
We passed through in 1 day without much stopping. We needed to get back home to Idaho. We have visited many places in Montana previously and have always enjoyed our time spent in MT.
We own property- for business purposes- in Montana that include 2 work sites, an office/home (Melstone). We have a four bedroom condo rental in Billings for business and family use. We love Montana :)
We only travelled to Great Falls for 2 days this trip but after travel to Kalispell, Columbia Falls MT for a week at a time.

We need to eat gluten-free and there weren't a lot of opportunities to do so that we were aware of (except a nice meal at Chico Hot Springs that was very accommodating! Thank you!).
We motorcycled. No place on survey to list motorcycle!
We loved the vast amount of open lands, the beautiful sights and we have never seen such clean highways, interstates and rds. You are #1 at keeping American roads clean & beautiful. How do you do it? We don't know but we did appreciate the beauty.
We loved our motorcycle trip to Glacier NP- what a spectacular place. Beautiful and the people we met were gems. We had a fantastic time- your scenic by-ways were great. The local people we talked to were friendly and very helpful. We can't wait to come back. Would love to explore the dimensions in Bynum. Thank you, you have a beautiful state.
We loved Montana! It is open and clean and very refreshing. The people are very friendly as well.
We love visiting Montana. Feel bad that we were basically just passing through this time.
We love traveling in Montana, it's a beautiful state. The only gripe I have is with the guy that drew the state lines, he should have gone straight north to the Canadian border from Yellowstone Park, I would like that part of Montana to be Idaho!!!
We love the Glacier Park/Kalispell/Whitefish area, especially the Going to the Sun road. The roadway leaves something to be desired, but understand how difficult/expensive it must be to maintain this road. We try to plan out trips for August when huckleberries are in season. Found lots of Montana state info online, but also track events, restaurant reviews and so on during the planning process. Friendliness of the locals in your stores, businesses adds to the enjoyment of our trips.
We love shopping in MT due to no tax but wish there was shopping in NE of state as Billings is quite a drive. (I.e. Culbertson or Miles City although these are probably too small).
We love MT! So sorry to see all the fire damage though. We have relatives living here and will be back!!
We love MT; would live there if we could find work... the kind one can make an actual living on and raise a family.
We love MT- used to live in Lewistown. Just pass through now.
We love MT and spend as much time camping and fishing usually in the East Glacier area (Two Medicine Lake) as we can. Going to the Sun Road is another favorite. We don't see much wildlife. Today was just a day trip. Thank You.
We love MT and plan to retire here!
We love MT and its environment. We have been visiting MT for 8- 10 years and love the state so much our son relocated here 4 1/2 years ago and we purchased a second home here April 2012
WE love MT
We LOVE Montana. It is our favorite destination! Montana is a charming, warm and welcoming state. Over the past five to six years, we have travelled much of the state and every area has its own 'flavor'. If ever given the chance, we would not hesitate to move here. The people are welcoming, the towns have a 'cozy' feel and there are gorgeous vistas everywhere, whether they are mountain, prairie or lake.
We love Montana! Friendly people, lovely scenery, lots to see and do.
We love Montana! Although we didn't spend as much time in the state this trip, we will be back!!
WE love Montana!
We love Montana!
We love Montana!
We love Montana, will be back next year.
We love Montana and the Missoula farmer's market. The people are amazing!
WE love Montana and cannot stay away!

WE love how beautiful and clean the state of Montana is.
We love Big Sky!
We like Flathead Valley so much we have purchased a boat for Montana use only while we are here.
We just passed through on our way to ND without time for any tourist activities. We hope to come back sometime to go to the Little Bighorn battlefield. We only stopped for gas in Miles City and lunch at McDonalds in Sidney.
We just needed more time to see other things. Was very satisfied.
We have visited Yellowstone and Glacier 4 times over the last 35 years and we think the folks we meet are very welcoming. When we visited Hardin our hotel clerk guided us to the best real local food. MT would be better off with fewer chain fast food places and more real restaurants.
We have travelled in MT for several years- from Denver area to Helena. We love Helena and the western portion of MT. This year we visited friends in Missoula- never been there and that was awesome! We love Montana!!
We have travelled in Montana many times and for different purposes. We have visited most of the sites in Q15 on previous trips. Our purpose on this trip was to sell our books at museums, stores and deliver some to friends so they could sell them. We also did research at MHS and at Deer Lodge Prison for a future book we are writing.
We have enjoyed your state 3 times, we love going there!
We have been planning this trip for five years and it certainly lived up to expectations.
We have been on many trips to MT- shopped, hiked, horseback, rafted, camped, hunted, live theatre, Lewis and Clark caverns, college soccer match, college @ MSU.
We have been coming to Montana since 1979. We always enjoyed seeing wildlife, especially elk. This trip we saw no elk except at Yellowstone in the hot springs residential area. We experienced the same in Wyoming and saw no elk or moose. Locals tell us the wolves are doing away with wildlife. I don't know, something has happened to the wildlife.
We have been coming to Great Falls once a year for the last 5 years and enjoy the people, shopping etc.
We had fun driving in MT, looking for wildlife and the mountains
We had a wonderful trip to MT! Loved the state.
We had a wonderful trip and we will definitely be back.
We had a wonderful time. We'll be back.
We had a lovely vacation; our 2 grandsons were thrilled at the grand vistas and new experiences. The grizzly and wolf center in West Yellowstone was a major highlight, we keep going back.
We had a great trip and found everything we needed along the way.
We had a great time we want to come back, Thank you.
We go to Montana every summer to visit my family & was born and raised in MT.
We found the people of Montana to be gracious and welcoming. The scenic beauty is amazing and relatively unspoiled.
We felt safe while we were in Montana. We visit MT once or twice a year mainly for shopping. We had no idea that there are so many nice places to see. Now we know. The one thing that we felt negative about MT is (Great Falls) is the lack of nice restaurants. We drove around and cannot find one except for burger joints, Denny's and bars. That was disappointing. Although we're only passing through, we really admire the beauty of Montana. Lakes, rivers, mountains, open space.
We feel and have always felt that we belong in MT because of the amount of wildlife and purposely go to places where they can be enjoyed and appreciated. Thank you!
We enjoyed the time in Montana, the hot- springs were wonderful and Deer Lodge is a nice town.

We enjoy the trip each year. Love the people and the state. We stay mostly in Columbia and travel to Livingston. Great trip!
We encountered TERRIBLE signage in Livingstone where the entrance ramp to the I-90 was closed. There were no detour signs to follow & no info about how to get to I-90 westbound. VERY FRUSTRATING.
We encountered road construction near Red Lodge, and we intended to exit the interstate there, but due to a lack of proper signage in the construction zone, we thought the exit was closed even though it was actually open. We encountered road construction on I-90 in Butte, and we have noticed that construction has been present there in past trips in past years. Does the construction ever end there
We didn't see any recycling bins at any of the rest stops. Just like in any state, we met some unfriendly or not helpful people, but they were very few. Most people were friendly and very helpful. Montana is beautiful. We will be back.
We crossed the border at Del Bonita. There was a Y in the road that was not marked so we made a guess that one direction would take us to Browning, the other to Cutback (we guessed right). Montana is beautiful we plan to return@ the end of July and spend a week near Big Fork and Echo Lake.
We come for 3-4 months yearly in our 5th wheel and park on the banks of Yellowstone for fishing, YNP visits and tourist activities. Montana is a great place (esp. in Western half)- don't change it!
We come for 2 weeks every year to Hebgen to a family owned cabin, and drive into Bozeman for groceries and grass-fed beef, cannot get grass-fed beef in W Yellowstone. Your map on the previous page would not load on my iPhone.
We can't wait to come back.
We can see evidence of forest service cuts but still feel lucky to have these public lands! Beautiful state- we'll be back.
We came with our daughter & son in-law. Had a wonderful time..... We will be back!
We came to visit GNP. We enjoyed that visit very much. During this visit everyone we dealt with was both helpful and friendly. This was true both inside and outside the park, even in the airport. We have visited Montana several times previously beginning in about 1980. Also very nice trips.
We arrived in Montana by air, rented a car and then drove on to Wyoming. Unfortunately, there were wild fires in the area which caused the air to be hazy; we also arrived at dusk and due to much road repair work and a couple detours driving was not as easy as we had hoped.
We are satisfied with our time travelling through MT. We always travel through MT when we are heading to Minnesota to visit relatives/ family.
WE are MT natives so we have little need for tourist type help. Just visiting home.
We are in Montana for 6 months and we love it here!
We are here twice a year to square dance. Although we stay at an RV campground in Island Park we are over the border to Lionshead every day and into West Yellowstone 3 or 4 times a week and into the park several times. We love the area and don't even mind snow in June.
WE are from MT and displaced to WA because of jobs in the 1990's. So this survey is incomplete because we are from MT (6th generation). A suggestion for fishing & hunting licenses: If the non- resident is a military veteran, a senior citizen and entered the military while a MT state resident, or was drafted into the military while a state resident, then state residency should apply for fishing and hunting licenses (instead of having to pay for non-residents license fees).
We are from Montana and miss it dearly :) travel back for Griz games all fall.
We are coming back for sure. We love MT.
We always get a cracked windshield when we travel here.
Was great to return. My heart is in Montana! Go Cats!
Was a good trip and plan to travel and stay in MT many more times in the future.

Waiting for the Berkeley Pit (Butte) to fill with acid mine drained before treating the water which is a bit odd. The Butte Montana Visitor's Guide referring it as "a lake like no other" as well as giving "researchers a unique challenge" put a positive spin on the Superfund site!
Very Satisfied:- Availability of regular free transport within Glacier NP in environmentally friendly vehicles - Local produce in West Glacier -Maintenance of 'Going to the Sun Road' enabling visitor access to many hiking trails. Disappointed- We came to see Grizzly bears & wolves in their natural habitat. However we are concerned the State of MT does not support the protection of these animals outside of National Park boundaries on private land. - Preponderance of development & recreational power-boating within NP's.
Very satisfied and liked the info received from calling Forest Service in various MT areas.
Very nice driving conditions thru Montana towards Helena!
Very much enjoyed first trip to MT! Will be back- and will look for a 2nd home here!
Very impressed and plan on returning at some point.
Very good overall though more recycling could be done.
Very few rest stops. We found very few western stores, bun stores and authentic stores. We can shop at Wal-Mart, Target etc. back home.
Very enjoyable trip.
Very dissatisfied with treatment of Natives and Native culture. The Cheyenne have zero cell service on the Reservation and there is very little cell service in other areas of Montana. The treatment of Native Americans in Montana needs much improvement!
Very dissatisfied with food- one restaurant in park ran out of everything. Cabins were very chilly.
Very beautiful state and wonderful people.
Unpaved roads to our cabin above Livingston were rough and our rental car was hardly suited. Perhaps rental agencies should advise drivers to get vehicles that are appropriate for their destinations. We loved the rough roads, not sure our car did.
Two things really stand out to me as far as local food goes: Hardly any restaurants sell bison meat, and secondly I hate that places will not cook your burger to your liking (i.e. rare!) Other than that, I love Montana. I am thinking about possibly purchasing a second home out here at some point in the future, so that I can get to all these amazing places to photograph.
Trip to Bannack to perform music for "Best of Bannack Days" 150th anniversary Aug 11th. Excellent trip, great reads, very nice park at Bannack.
Traveling by motorcycle, I REALLY appreciate the good roads.
Tours, guides and facilities were excellent
Took train from Minot ND to Whitefish Mt. and rented car to travel in/around Glacier Park.
Too much smoke from fires will try another time of year.
Though I moved from Montana fifteen years ago, I love coming back not only to visit my friends and family but for an amazing vacation of open space, clean water and beautiful environment.
This was primarily a business trip and no time to do and see the things I really wanted. I arrived by airline and picked up a vehicle and drove back. While there in Bozeman however I was able to spend some time with friends and dinner. I make several trips into Montana per year on business.
This was my second trip to MT & can't say enough about how welcoming and helpful the residents were. Very, very welcoming.
This was my first time in MT and I can't wait to come back. It's a great place, beautiful, and I cannot believe how awesome MT is! Thank you for your great state.
This was a very fast trip for a funeral and I was unable to travel. My family tries to visit MT once per year where we see more of the state and stay much longer so this visit is not typical of us.

This was a quick trip- only a few hours in Whitefish at the beginning and end. So I can only speak of the camping and hiking which was excellent.
This time we were just passing through but we come to MT an average of twice a year for shopping.
This is a big and beautiful state. I would love to have a vacation here in MT!
Thinking about moving here part time. Very Lovely
There were some rough road conditions from St Mary around to East Glacier; otherwise, the road conditions were very good. We enjoyed our stay and are already planning our next trip!
There is still a considerable amount of "exploring Montana" for us to do- we simply get very involved with "catching up" with friends there. We have on other visits seen more (Lewis & Clark, Yellowstone, Custer's, Missouri River tour, D.T. Helena historic tour) just not trip this summer. Next summer, Glacier N.P. is on our "to do" list.
There could have been more rest stops. It would be nice to see more places to get rid of scrap metal. I.e. junked cars.
The views of Montana state are wonderful
The town of Browning is a mess. Other towns I drove through were nice.
The smoke is a reflection of NOT managing the forests- the dead fall needs to be cleared, or fire barriers established or the place will become an environmental disaster.
The service people are very nice and helpful. The reference plates are sometimes too small. Search for more information about the natives/ Indians.
The scenery/ history only complimented by the helpful materials, gracious people.
The roads in mountains need guardrails to be safe and more indications for direction, miles and the highway need also guardrail in median line.
The road going S. on 287/12 from Helena was bad, we have never experienced both sides being torn up at the same time. Wildlife was not in abundance as we expected, but loved what we saw. Montana was very clean.
The road going into Butte has no markings of which was I-90 is and what the turn off is. That's the worst turn off I've ever seen in my life. You guys need more rest areas too.
The reservations were unkempt.
The overall experience was very good. We enjoyed the time we were able to spend in Montana, just wish we would have had more time to see more things.
The only disappointment was Yellowstone. We had been there before, a long time ago. The park was in its natural setting. One lodge and a few cabins which we stayed in one of the little cabins. It was just breathtaking at that time. Going back was sad! Concrete everywhere; What happened to nature? Too many hotels, fast food and just too touristy if that is a word. On the other hand, I was so glad Glacier was not like that. We stayed in all 4 lodges. Many-Glacier was our favorite. The scenic view was God's country! The trails were still trails but maintain for safety. We were impressed how clean your state
The one way streets in Billings were a nightmare! There were numerous places where signs would tell you what attractions was ahead but signs unclear @ point of entry.
The new rest areas are wonderful. I feel clean and safe.
The Native American lands look like dump sites (i.e. Hot Springs area). On the way to Lake Mary, Ronan- a local resident's property- full of junk. Crows are still wading in Lake Mary, Ronan, contributing to the poor water quality.
The most difficult part of our trip was trying to secure lodging- through guide expensive, was somewhat disappointing. However, we loved Montana
The most beautiful/ scenic- well cared for state I have travelled thru.

The land is beautiful. The animals have a wonderful place to roam and be free. Please continue to make recycling bins accessible- thank you.
The Jim Bridger hotel in Gardiner is really bad! KOA on WY - great.
The hotels/ motels are extremely expensive. \$225 for Great Western? Come on! Babb \$100 for a dire place. We got lucky at Lakeside with a very friendly host. Most places said they had to hike prices in the summer to offset slow winters. I call it price gouging.
The dirt road we travelled between White Sulphur Springs to the Smith River and on is always a mess. By "mess" I mean never or seldom graded. Lots of river traffic on that road and ranchers too. Upgrade in gravel and maintenance needs to be addressed. 80 miles of bad road! When it rains it is like a mud hole. 4x4 should not be needed!
The community members in Great Falls are super friendly and hospitable. Keep up the outstanding effort!
The "character" of MT is a bit too Republican for our liking.
The "character" of Montana includes friendly people.
Thanks for keeping your state so well maintained. Good roads and no trash on the wayside. Yellowstone has a special beauty its own, entire nothing to compare to it. I just wish I could have stayed longer than a drive through. I'll be back for a longer stay. Keep up the good work!
Thank you for a nice trip- see you in the winter sometime.
Superior, awesome, great.
Such beautiful country.
Stores with local products- dissatisfied- most items were made in China. Some said designed in MT made in China. It sounded like a real sell out! I'm a native of MT. I love the state but had to move to find a job. My parents and grandparents are natives- I love MT with all my heart. I am deeply thankful that MT manages its streams and forests for wildlife.
Still too many items made overseas and not in USA or Montana. Love your states clean air and water.
Still the last best place- Big Sky Country!
Stayed at Spanish Creek forestry cabin. So wonderful. Should be referred to as "Serengeti"- viewed elk, deer, moose, Grizzly bear, buffalo. Just very exciting.
State policies about development and exploitation of natural resources are shameful and short-sighted. Montana's natural beauty is amazing and the signs of "civilization" are stunningly ugly. It really is possible to build beautiful buildings, but ugly buildings predominate. It really is possible to develop in wise and sustainable ways. We are originally from Montana. I had to leave when I could no longer be at peace with the destruction of the natural beauty.
St. Regis had a travel plaza/ gas station that had made in China on many of the items that caught our eye- that was a memorable disappointment. Judy's in Havre had great food, helpful staff and friendly locals who told us about Havre. Few places recycle and Noone's is familiar with bringing your own bags to the grocery store.
Spectacular scenery, clean, uncluttered, graffiti- free, wholesome, rugged, serene, awe- inspiring state! Thank you for sharing the beauty of Montana.
Sorry we were just passing through but love your state- beautiful country.
Somewhat dissatisfied with road conditions from three forks to Townsend.
Sometimes camping spots are very hard to find. More roadside info would be welcome explaining about places open for campers. We travel through MT a lot- about 1 time a month for a day or two.
Some road construction on 287 Stopped at only 1 rest area between Helena and Great Falls northbound, to find it closed for repair.
Some of the towns in E MT had facilities below expectations. Restaurants and campgrounds were disappointing. Even the guides we hired in west Glacier were commented that e. MT is missing an opportunity as a gateway to the more popular attractions.

So much construction!! Rest areas/ gas stations few & far between. Glacier NP was by far the highlight of the trip!
Since I was just passing through on my extended journey of 6000 miles I did not have any time to take in any of MT's main attractions- maybe next time I visit it will be different.
Since I was born and raised in Great Falls I'm aware of change in various parts of the state. My son and I hunt in the state every 2 yrs. I have art represented in the C.M. Russell museum and the MT justice Bldg. So as a Montanan who lives in Delaware I try to interact with my home state.
Seasonal closure of NFS campsites despite unseasonal warm weather conditions. More flexibility appreciated.
Searched internet for lodging but not many choices popped up.
Roads in Glacier need attention. Some very bad bumps in St. Mary's area not marked.
Roads could use more lighting during night/ dark especially major highways/ rural routes.
Road signage is minimal- little or no signage until you get to where you need to turn.
Road construction/repairs were a bit of a problem but I understand a necessity.
Road construction VERY difficult!!!
Road construction provided very poor information. It was difficult to be sure I was even driving on the right road (night driving).
Road construction areas need more signs, especially in loose gravel areas and for how long to expect such conditions.
Road construction and dip sealing was not well advertised or well-marked. PLEASE set up an online map to highlight construction issues.
Road conditions were excellent. Yellowstone has become way too touristy. Please do not do the same to Glacier! Touristy- there's way too much buildings and building programs at Yellowstone!
Road conditions were bad because of massive amount of road construction all over the state.
Road conditions from Billings to Great Falls were very bad. No signs to detour road construction- loose gravel. Not good for travel trailers and motor home. The lane not gravel would be nice.
Rest area restrooms were not clean
Rest area ahead signs did not indicate "No services" only truck parking. Have loved Montana since our 1st visit driving to Alaska in 2000.
Recycling in Montana has a long journey in making up time to represent environmental responsibility? I continue to be shocked by the University town of Missoula lacking interest in recycling. And no bottle bill? Your landfills must be abominable.
Recycling availability-Poor! Glass, plastic, paper, cans- smaller towns especially.
Really liked the road signage for trailheads. Glacier NP was way too crowded to enjoy for me. Family liked it though.
Really enjoyed the trip.
Really enjoyed out trip- historic lodges and park were wonderful- we will come back in future.
Provide a bypass to get big trucks off main street in Bozeman.
Poor signage for road construction. Very poor signage at Great Falls when trying to get from Hwy 87 -Hwy 15 using the Hwy 87 by- pass. Travelled in 8 western states, MT was the most expensive motels.
Poor road construction on 3- no signs- extra times and miles following pilot car- could have been much shorter.
Please start statewide recycling for containers- bottles and cans.
Please raise interstate highway speed.
PEOPLE WERE VERY FRIENDLY WHEREEVER WE WERE GOING
People were extremely friendly and helpful.



People in Montana are very friendly. I had to have lab work at the hospital in Kalispell. It was a good experience- everyone was so helpful & friendly. We enjoyed Montana.
People awesome! Surprised gas is not cheaper with so many refineries.
People are so friendly, rest stops clean.
People are honest, friendly and professional here in Montana!
People are friendly and helpful
Overcrowded national park. Not enough parking at the national parks.
Overall, a very welcoming and authentic experience
Overall, a very enjoyable trip.
Overall we were satisfied with most aspects of this trip. I realize MT is very rural, BUT the lack of recycling implies that MT's landfills have unlimited capacity. I did notice plastic bottle and aluminum can recycling but a vast number of plastic containers filled the trash cans. A recycling campaign is needed.
Overall we had a warm welcoming feeling in the state. The only hard thing to view is all of the fire damage which of course is uncontrollable. Some of the rest areas along the route were in need of cleaning and re-stocking.
Overall satisfied, more eating and gift shops in St Mary would have been nice. Road to St Mary was difficult when driving a motorhome and towing a vehicle.
Overall satisfied with the state of Montana. Enjoyed our stay very much.
Overall excellent- just a lack of recycling bins in road sides, rest areas & at camping facilities.
Overall a very enjoyable vacation. Very happy with the parks and wildlife. Townspeople very welcoming. Great State!
Over-priced lodging in Eastern Montana
Out of state (non-resident) fishing licenses are too expensive! I.e. in Newfoundland in Canada non-resident fishing licenses are free... it works draws travelers to their province to fish! Look into it.
Our trip was a quick trip to Whitehall to visit family. Still the town was nice & took care of our needs for the stay. Thank You!
Our route to and from Great Falls takes us through Glendive, Circle, Jordan and Lewistown, none of which are particularly attractive or welcoming destinations.
Our resort, Meadow Lake in Columbia Falls is outstanding in most all aspects, but does not recycle aluminum, glass, plastic, cardboard or paper. I've mentioned this to their mgmt. team.
Our reason for leaving Yellowstone was to travel the Beartooth highway and on to Bozeman to pick up our daughter flying in from Phoenix for the second week of our vacation. Our cabin is in Island Park, Idaho.
Our family appreciates the proximity of Great Falls (close to Southern Alberta) the tax-free shopping, the choice of restaurants, the chance to spend time together enjoyably. Having Canada relax the amount of goods we can bring back also make a MT shopping attractive.
Our dissatisfaction of the natural environment conditions was strictly due to the smoke from wildfires.
Only one more suggestion. Mow your ditches - it would look a lot cleaner.
One place that we visited and were happily surprised by was the Ghant Kohrs Ranch National Historical site. We thought it was quite informative and worth the time, yet it was not well promoted at all. We think that children especially wouldn't want to miss it.
On this trip, we were just passing through on our way to Alberta (and then again on our way to Utah). But we've taken 2 other trips to Montana (Big Sky and Yellowstone) and we've always had pleasant experiences. MT is very beautiful
Now we visit Montana only to stay while we visit Yellowstone NP. Probably will Montana be our new destination for a new trip.
Not sure what kind of Montana is authentic. Native Americans and buffalo or cattle ranchers?

Not really tourist, lived in Montana for first 30 years of life and only recently moved out of state.
Not enough time to make a good survey but enjoyed the cruise. Need to come back!
Not enough time at Glacier. We will be back.
No catches, fishing sucked, so left.
Nice vacation, too short as always. We love MT.
Nephew is Park Ranger.
Need more information of interest to us- museums and art exhibits. Lack of fine art displays. Passed 'emigrant' sign but did not know its significance. Very beautiful airport great introduction to ambience of west. Needs more art.
Need more dog friendly hotels/motels. It makes it hard traveling with our small Scottie dog. Put dog friendly motels on your website.
N/A means we don't know enough about it to rate it. Wish there was more lodging in the Calvert Hotel in Lewistown. Our biggest frustration was with availability of lodging- in Shelby we got the very last hotel room & only due to a cancellation. On drive home, we could not get a room in Glendive 24 hours in advance, so had to change our travel plans. Crazy!
My wife was attending CPA classes. I went for fishing. Too many people. Very crowded on Gallatin in Big Sky area. Trout are small. Too many white fish. Too many fishermen. Floated the Madison twice and walked once. Did best with guide and floating.
My wife and I found Montana for the first time in our lives in our travel trailer We had a marvelous time. May be my favorite state.
My trip was strictly business this time- flew in, stayed at hotel, had meeting & flew out.
My only problem is I want to keep MT my secret, while bragging about how great it is.
My mom and I live in Basin and go to doctors in Billings. We grocery shop and sometimes go to thrift stores. We love to shop at the farmers market "The Barn" in a Laurel, MT. We stay at the Cherry Tree Motel when we have to stay overnight. It's usually due to medical.
My husband went fly fishing on the Crow Agency for 1 week prior to my arrival with 2 other men. The total cost was \$3500 for him alone.
My husband was seriously injured in a freak accident at the Lodge- the staff was awesome helping me with my husband and his condition. I'm thankful for all the staff in the ambulance and at North Valley hospital too but the accident pretty much ruined the vacation so it's hard to fill this out. But I want to say thank you MT.
My husband was born and raised in MT. He would love to move back if there were more jobs & cost of living wasn't so high (flathead area).
My husband and I love everything about MT- the beauty, American history, dinosaurs, great food with many local products (huckleberries, flathead cherries, wild flower honey) but most of all, the genuinely nice Montanans. It's also a genuine pleasure driving in the wide open spaces with little traffic. Last year we went to Little Bighorn, Ennis, Virginia City & Nevada City, Kalispell, Whitefish, & Glacier National Park as well as Yellowstone NP, Helena and the Polson Flathead lake area. There is so much to see and do.
My husband and I had a fantastic time in MT. For our 50th anniversary our daughters asked us where we would like to travel to in the USA. They thought we would say Hawaii. But I always wanted to go to Glacier NP MT. We have been to MT twice but never to Glacier. There were fires or snow and the road was closed. This time we made it. We flew into Columbia Falls and rented a car and stayed at Meadow Lake Lodge- my son in law has a time share. The weather was wonderful, the food delicious, and the activities fun. We went on a boat ride, a helicopter ride, Kayaking, went to the National Wildlife refuge and saw elks fighting
My grandfather homesteaded in Barber. I spent my first summer in MT in 1937. Our extended family return every 4 years for a family reunion. There were about 100 of us this year.
My boyfriend and I came on a vacation for a week to MT to go to Glacier NP and do outdoor activities. We loved everything about the trip. Everyone was friendly, the park and all businesses were kept up very well and there was plenty to do. MT is beautiful and the people are great. We will be back again.

MT remains just about as I remember it, with some added sophistication and convenience. Even though population has doubled since I started coming (1960s) it is still "wild". Keep it up.
MT needs to wake up regarding environmental stewardship. There is no recycling effort regarding cans bottles or paper!!! The world cannot afford to feed its resources into MT just for the convenience of Montanans. Mt may be big but soon its landfills will fill with trash. Why does everyone but MT have to pay attention to the impact they have on the world. What makes MT so special? The roadside historical info. is old. Update your info- make your signs readable.
MT is like home. Big Sky Country. Beautiful scenery. Speed limit could be raised to 80mph on interstate.
MT is beautiful- loved Glacier, Kalispell & Flathead Lake Thoroughly enjoyed the area.
MT is a beautiful state and I cannot wait to return!
MT has it all!! My favorite state to visit of the 50 choices of states to visit.
MT 49 should be repaired or closed!!!
Most motels/ hotels are overpriced compared to their quality.
Most everyone that we ran into (residents, shop-owners, etc.) were very friendly and welcoming
More recycling. There was a moderate enough in Glacier, but not elsewhere. Beautiful! We'll be back to Glacier & probably Lewis and Clark sites, & more!
More info about what is going on locally would be nice and knowledge of a MT website about history and sites and what to do when travelling.
More fresh food provided at rest stops. Less fried chicken gizzards- more salads. The grocery stores too had poor choices. The people of MT deserve fresh food options. More hilarious billboards would amuse tourists. There are a lot of brothels and my kids asked too many questions. Overall a beautiful state!
More campgrounds
Montana is a beautiful state. The people and towns are friendly and authentic. The mountains are awesome and Yellowstone is something very special. The stewardship of the lands and cleanliness of state is amazing. Cost is reasonable. Also, we now have a new understanding of the cost and suffering of forest fires. My wife and I will return.
Montanans are friendly, down to earth, helpful, fair, honest, and will go out of their way to help you. We absolutely love MT! On other trips we have visited Yellowstone, Glacier & most of the museums & major attractions. Next summer we're going to Fort Peck and Fort Benton for sightseeing. I think MT should practice better forest management with the Pine Beetle trees. They could be harvesting this natural resource. Use the wood for poles, pulp, lumber pellets etc. Sell the wood to other countries or stockpile it for further use. The Millions of dead trees are unsightly and a huge fire risk.
Montana- a great place. Plan on moving here permanently in the next 2 years. Great spring-(much better than Colorado!!!) Good golfing opportunities.
Montana was a beautiful "green" state taking care of its natural resources.
Montana is our first choice of western states to visit.
Montana is one of the most beautiful places we've ever visited. Our kids want us to buy a condo as a second residence!
Montana is my single favorite place on this planet (I would live there if I could), hopefully it stays as is.
Montana is just a great place to visit and relax on vacation. I had the misfortune of being there during the recent fires which took away from some of the sights so I hope to be back at some point.
Montana is beautiful and magical! I visited for the 13 Indigenous Grandmothers Council on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation.
Montana is an excellent state and those folks living there are special people. It truly is a gem of a state. We will return to enjoy the way of life Montana offers.
Montana is a wonderful state of our union. However, this time we just touched the edge of your state. My next trip to Montana will definitely be longer. Can't wait to plan for our next visit the Beartooth MTN. Pass was

awesome. The cities of Red Lodge and Cook City great!
Montana is a varied, intriguing and friendly state with a variety of cultures.
Montana is a one of a kind place in this world! Wonderful & beautiful!
Montana is a great state. Keep up the great work.
Montana is a great place! Hope to visit again someday!
Montana is a gorgeous state! We want to return for more sightseeing.
Montana is a beautiful state. I would love to spend more time there.
Montana is a beautiful state! We have come here for two years in a row & are already making plans for next year.
Montana is a beautiful state! So glad for the opportunity to see and enjoy it!
Montana Highway 49 to/from Glacier NP St. Mary's is TERRIBLE, a disgrace to the state and a hazard to travelers.
Montana has been an enjoyable place for us to travel.
Montana "A little slice of heaven"
Missoula is beautiful. Will visit again. Great roads to and from.
Mine was all too brief a trip (for a family wedding), and I hope to return to spend a more leisurely time and to see much more of Montana towns and wilderness.
Many places gouged tourists. \$2.50 for a cup of coffee- motels in Hardin charged double what room was worth because of pow- wow.
Lovely state
Loved your state.
Loved the whole state, everyone we met were friendly. It's been a childhood dream to visit Montana, so when we arranged our trip to Washington to see our son in the military, it pulled up Montana's tourist site online for information.
Loved our stay in Montana
Loved Montana!
Loved it, hope to return.
Loved it and would like to move to Billings within 2 years.
Loved Bigfork. People everywhere were very welcoming, friendly and helpful. Bought a condo in Bigfork to use as a vacation home. (Don't get the ten commandments signs everywhere).
Love the state- a beautiful place will come back to visit Montana.
Love the scenic views on Bear Tooth Pass!
Love the natural aspect of MT. The air and water are pure. It seems the state tries hard to preserve the wonderful natural resources!
Love MT! Moving there!
Love MT!
Love MT!
Love MT, always have.
Love Montana. Wish jobs paid more so I could move back.
Love Montana- make it less expensive to get here from the East coast.
Love Montana - just don't like that there is no recycling at rest stops or hotels
Love, love, loved it! Went to our first rodeo in Red Lodge. Super friendly people! Toured U of M and son loves it! Thank You!
Love it!
Lots of road construction! With delays! but it was handled as was as anywhere
Lots of "Made in China" (Big Sky Carvers).
Looking forward to coming back to MT someday- loved all of the trip- Thanks. We are both getting older- but

hope this is not our last trip.
Lolo Hot Springs RV Camp & Resort parking lot & camp ground full of pot holes (terrible).
Lodging choices: We travel with our dogs, which limits the availability of clean, affordable lodging.
Local first responders (Cooke City EMS J.G.), Yellowstone & NPS ambulance, Cody Ambulance were incredibly professional and caring for our 23 year old son during motorcycle accident on 7/29/12. It was 3 hours to hospital in Cody and all workers/ volunteers were wonderful. Thank goodness our son is ok due to putting his helmet on 10 minutes before hitting a car!
Lived here for 17 years; moved away years ago. Pleased to see much has remained as it was (including local restaurants and shops). But the sprawl, particularly around Bozeman and corresponding commercial development and traffic is having a negative impact on the character and quality of the valley.
liked the old travel information guide with activities & list of accommodations
Lack of hotel rooms available for "drop in" stays in Bozeman.
Keep up the great work!
Keep it up- if you can keep prices down, you will see more people like me "not high income". I always enjoy MT every time I am there.
Keep coming back!
Just want to get out of the airport next time.
Just travelled through. Need more bathrooms in rest area.
just passing through
Just driving through, but appreciated the scenery. We stopped at Little Bighorn because it was close to 90W.
Just driving through Montana. If we had more time would have visited some sites. Enjoyed the view from the truck very much.
I've worked in 37 states over a 44 year career. No place provides a sense of place and well- being like MT does. My spirit is calm when I'm in MT; my soul at rest.
I've been coming to MT since 1955 and have always been very satisfied. The purpose of this trip was to see a property I own in Judith Gap, so I did no sight-seeing this time round. Over the years I have seen all MT has to offer. I love MT (my dad is from Great Falls).
It's always a pleasure to visit MT. It lives up to all the positive aspects reflected in the term 'Big Sky Country'. Thanks for looking at ways to make MT even more attractive.
It's a long trip across Montana!
It's the last best place!!
It's all good
It would be nice to have more RV dump stations available. (West Yellowstone would be a good location)
It was wonderful to see most citizens of Montana drove carefully and obey speed limits. I live in a place where people drive very fast and it can be intimidating driving alongside them. I deeply appreciate the respect for wildlife and the opportunity to see so many beautiful creatures so often.
It was tough to see the distant landscapes due to the smoke- but that's this time of year. The roads going to Canyon Ferry 287 torn up for construction. Very bumpy but what can you do? Such is life. MT is still wonderful!
It was too short a trip for this MT native back to my roots.
It was real smoky this time- must be fires burning all over Montana and Idaho. Our daughter goes to U of M- we came up to visit, go to games and have a good time in Missoula.
It was our first time in Montana. We were very impressed with the incredible natural beauty of the Flathead. We would love to visit again and bring some friends.
It was nice to come home. I would still live here if there were jobs that paid in my degrees.

It was lots of fun! My wife and kids enjoyed the Montana experience! Made all of our family happy!
It was July so I shouldn't have been surprised by the amount of road construction projects encountered.
It was a wonderful experience!
It was a very cool and interesting.
It was a very busy weekend we went to Bannack. The hotels in Dillon were full- not a surprise. We tried to rent a spot in the campground. Was full. Next year, Ill plan better.
it was a nice trip
It was a great trip!
It is crazy that you are required to wear a seatbelt yet there is a no helmet law.
It feels like Montana- western, Indian, but touched by 21st century. Accessible for the older visitor.
Interstate under construction and very hazardous. State roads in good shape. Please encourage SW airlines to fly into Kalispell. We flew into Spokane WA and rented a car.
Increase recycling- Billings needs it. Too many casinos.
In the Canadian province that I live in (Saskatchewan) we have been recycling for many years, Montana is starting to do a good job of this but in some places it is still hard to find places to recycle bottles/cans etc.
In general I have found the people and culture very different from the big cities. Time did not permit me to visit all that I wanted. I will surly go back to this beautiful state for more vacations.
In Canada, we recycle, glass, metal, paper and plastics. The only recycling we saw was cans at Downstream campgrounds. Your unleaded gas is only 85.5 octane while most new vehicles take only a minimum of 87 octane. Very misleading to customers.
In 35 years of trips to MT we lost count of the # years ago. Love the state but no thanks in winter.
I'm an unusual visitor from West Texas. I leave in June and return in September, getting away from the heat. I first visited Hungry Horse in 1952 while doing geologic fieldwork & liked the area. For the last 8 or 9 years I have come back to camp at the Hungry Horse reservoir where I hang out enjoying the cool snowy conditions.
I'm a UM grad (class of 67) and find it impossible to stay away. Most summers find myself and my friends on a MT road trip ranging from rafting to 'Bones & Bars' (fossils and museums and small MT bars).
If and when we take a vacation we will probably choose Montana.
I've been coming to MT for more than 20 years, and as long as they don't mess it up too bad (think sprawl- Bozeman) I'll keep coming.
I've always loved MT for its western character & Big Sky!
I-90 construction was a problem for us. Many miles of construction with reduced speed and lane sizes/lanes add a lot of time and frustration, especially when following large vehicles. In MOST cases, there was NO ONE working on the roadway. We drove through Montana last year and we saw very little completion of work between 2011 and 2012. We drove through Idaho and Wyoming and while there was construction taking place, there were many people working on the roads and we could see improvements and changes and completion. We are going to Yellowstone Park next year for our vacation and are considering driving through Ida
I would have preferred there to have been more lanes on the highway. Also, locals were tailgating me because I had to go so slow. From NC to WY, tailgating wasn't an issue. My hotel was nice for the price, but many of the locals appeared to be 'sketchy'. I did not feel safe enough to go out and eat alone. The person conducting the surveys was FANTASTIC. Thank you for your kindness- Debbie.
I would add that the ability to make my own choice about when to wear my motorcycle helmet is also a draw to Montana.
I will be back. They could make a motorcycle map of scenic roads and favorite other stops.
I was with a dad in the navy so I've been to a lot of states and countries but MT just blew my mind so much to see and do- the culture and heritage. The feeling of warmth and being so welcome. Now all I can think of is how soon we will be able to come back. Money is tight for me but I would gladly spend every penny I have to come

back to MT and shop until I drop. What a beautiful place there is no better state it has everything you want for a vacation. MT is where I will move to when I retire.
I was very pleased with our trip.
I was very pleased with my trip to MT. I would love to go back and do more hiking and horseback riding. I felt like I never left Idaho.
I was travelling to an academic conference in Calgary and had planned to camp in Glacier National Park along the way but on the way up and back it was rainy/ bad weather. Had there been better weather I likely would have spent more time in (and enjoying) Montana.
I was surprised by the collection of farm implements and vehicles that many farmsteads had. i love the old signs that hang on many store fronts down main streets. Montana is so beautiful. As Dorothy in Wizard of Oz says "this isn't Kansas" and it definitely isn't Illinois!!
I was somewhat shocked to find the number of fellow tourists was much higher than we experienced during a previous trip seven years ago. We found crowds wherever we went; no evidence that a poor economy and high gas prices can keep people away from MT.
I was raised in MT so still consider that home even though I've been gone from there over 40 yrs. My husband and I hope to move back some time in the next few yrs. If we pass away before that we have cemetery plots in the towns cemetery. There is nothing like the wide open country of MT. We come back almost every yr.
I was pleased to see little if any debris alongside highways. Bozeman airport- easy in, easy out.
I was only passing through, but after what I saw, I'll be back.
I was on a motorcycle and road construction was a problem.
I was in Montana as one of the states I had never been too. So it was part of my states to go to on my bucket list. Wish I could have done more as far as places of interest, but I had to keep moving.
I was expecting a more mountainous and forested terrain. I was surprised by all the mining/ oil refineries which gave many of the towns I saw a more industrial than charming feel.
I was disappointed with products made in the style of the various Indian tribes, but labeled "made in China". I admire the art of local people and would like to support them.
I was born outside of Ennis on Grand Parents farm, raised in Whitehall, Great Falls, Kalispell & Ennis. Educated in Great Falls, MSU (Bozeman), will always be a Montanan, Love the state!
I was born in Billings in 1950- both parents went to school in MT although we moved to ND my parents remained true to MT and we always vacation here. My parents died in MT and were buried under the MT sky- my grandmother was on the first women's basketball championship team Emma San Sauer- a monument in her name is played in Fort Shaw!
I was born and raised around Billings- Huntley- Ballantine. My mother and other relatives live in Montana. I visit frequently. This visit was short- cousin down with cancer.
I visit a lot of museums and the museum of the Rockies is one of the most well executed museums that I've been in. We love Montana. We'll be back!
I travel to Montana every year for Doctors appointments & MT Hope Project. I was born& raised in Hamilton, moved to AK in 2002 for a job promotion & started my yearly trips in 2003. My house is in Hamilton. I have participated with MT Hope for 22 years. I help with the check-in for the Missoula Hope 500 motorcycle ride. I also travel to the end town where I help with check in, collecting pledge sheets and monies from the riders.
I travel quite frequently into MT from Alberta
I plan to bring my family back on vacation in 2013
I loved Montana- liked it better than Wyoming in many respects. Bozeman was very nice- nice people, very helpful.
I loved Montana & will definitely be coming back. We went to the Old Montana Prison Museums (I didn't see it on the list).
I love your state! I came to see wildlife & beautiful scenery and was very satisfied.

I love MT would love to come back. Now in Powell WY.
I love MT. I am from Idaho. I plan on buying a house in Montana with a min. of 50 acres. Everyone while I was traveling was very friendly and welcoming. Everything was very clean with exception of Billings.
I love MT. Have visited on several occasions love Glacier. Hope to make it back again.
I love MT for the wide open spaces! But I have never camped & stayed there so I don't know a lot about your state.
I love Montana. I am a native son.
I love Montana. Literally, my only "gripe" if you will, was the lack of service at numerous locations. I felt like half the places I went they seemed to have a "I don't give care, I'll get to you when I feel like it" attitude. Almost like because we were there on vacation... we would spend our money and have to be there regardless. With the exception of the people at Chico Hot Springs, I rarely felt like anyone was overly hospitable. We even had a check engine light come on and there wasn't a single dealer in Bozeman that would even take a look at it. Even after explaining to them I was driving across the country.
I love Montana!!!
I love Montana! This last trip was a quick visit. In April I toured everything. Someday I hope to live in Billings.
I love Montana! My son lives in South Dakota and I live in Oregon and I travel at least once a year to see him- usually on my Harley. Love the wide open spaces. Most roads are good- Hwy 212 needs some help.
I LOVE MONTANA!
I love Montana, it's beautiful and I grew up there!
I love Montana with the open and un-crowded feel. Having no sales tax was great! It gave me a feeling of not being over dictated so in other words a great feeling of freedom. I think if we ever moved, it would be to Montana.
I love driving thru Montana. Enjoy your state and staying here when I'm not working.
I love coming home.
I love Bozeman, I visit often (twin sons- both have their own businesses in Bozeman). I love everything about it and the airport is amazing!!
I lived in Glasgow from 1950-1955-1957-1958. Married a girl from Glasgow after service-1957- moved 1958. Now live in Oregon last 44 years. Always enjoy visiting MT.
I live in Wyoming and it is a real pleasure to see the beauty of Montana! The people are very friendly and helpful!
I liked visiting Montana. It is a beautiful state and I hope to visit again.
I hope to someday retire in Montana.
I have travelled throughout MT for 30 years. Love your state! We do an annual fishing trip and love the many choices your state offers.
I have traveled through Montana many times and always enjoy the scenery and people. This time unfortunately, we were only passing through for the day.
I have previously gone to Montana for vacation. We went boating and fishing etc. This trip however, was just for passing through on the way to Calgary AB, Canada.
I have been to Montana for all sorts of reasons and this time I only got to pass through. I always love the drive. Beautiful! I have been over Lolo, over Lookout, gone from one corner to the other, Kalispell, Libby, Great Falls to Crow Agency. I have visited Custer Battle grounds, Russell museum, Old Penitentiary, been up the Yaak! I have been there for dog shows, vacations, visiting relatives, camping, sightseeing at various places, purchased lots of local food and produce, enjoyed restaurants and parks, learned to fly fish, rode the carousel...love Montana!
I felt signage could be better. We ended up on a highway that turned to dirt with no warning. Also Hwy 2 in W MT is narrow and needs widening between Libby and Thompson Lakes. Super bad.
I enjoy traveling by car in Montana. Minimal traffic. Polite drivers overall.



I enjoy MT- my trips have a lasting memory in my mind.
I could walk into the State Capitol building without having to pass a metal detector or even a security guard.
I can't wait to come back. The people were extremely nice and ranger stations were very informative with great ideas to spend the day. I did very little research before coming and had no problem finding great places.
I came to visit family. I did not travel.
I came to see friends, fish, and to see a rodeo again. Not much info available about weekly local rodeos that I couldn't easily locate.
I am travelling with my dad and he is very enamored with Dillon! Great idea- surveying tourists!
I am from WY and it is a more down home feeling! Would love to see N MT visit and see if they carry more local foods and art work.
I am always impressed by the cleanliness and availability of out-houses in state parks, at fishing access and the like. In all my visits to MT I only recall one with no toilet paper. It is so refreshing to know that these facilities will be available and usable.
I am a native Montanan, so I have a history of either living in the state or visiting it frequently. I always love coming home.
I am a native Montanan and was just coming home for a visit with my parents.
I am a fly fisherman. It is what I do and have done for 32 years.
I am a cyclist and rode the length of the state. Montanans don't talk to strangers much. Other out of state tourists talked to me- the guy on the bike.
I always stop in Butte to get fuel and subway. The employees at subway are never very pleasant, but I still stop there. Other than that, I love Montana's beauty.
I always enjoy MT.
I always enjoy MT and my time spent. As a tourist and retired truck driver I can appreciate the appropriate amount of both road-signs and advertisement signs without having the landscape cluttered i.e. driving the billboard alley.
Hwy 2 muddy construction Hwy 191 muddy and delays.
Hotels were expensive!! \$150 a night and some were barely 1 star.
Hope to return this fall.
Hope natural environment continues to be treasured as well as preserved. Gorgeous mountains, rivers, streams. Nice villages esp.
Honestly we love everything about Montana!
Highway travel was excellent even with construction- rest stations excellent Beautiful state!
Having been born in MT- I always feel at home here. Love the people, love the country.
Having a "Casino" every 100 meters along the main street screams trashy/tacky. At a glance Great Falls has no character or soul about it. Sure the drive to and from is kind of nice and the river is nice to look at until you realize that there is industry spoiling the view. Also the Great Falls Visitor Information Center is a bit of a pain in the ass to get to, but it has a nice view.
Have visited MT several times. It has always been enjoyable. Some of the most beautiful scenery you could see anywhere.
Have been to Havre and Great Falls. This is a beautiful state. Love it!
Have been coming to MT to ride motorcycles for 10 yrs. Always a joy. Look forward to next time thank you (you have a beautiful state).
Have always enjoyed time in MT. Have canoed Yellowstone and Missouri rivers in past. Did a float for 25 ann. some yrs. ago.
Hardly any left turn outs. Speed in and near townships is too fast.
Had a lot of construction on the mountain roads- chip sealing made roads somewhat difficult on motorcycles.

Had a great time. Lovely state. Hated to leave.
Greater than 20 years coming to MT. Have fished more than 20 rivers Family ski trips for 18+ years Family guest ranch vacations.
Great!
Great trip.
Great trip! Friendly people! Enjoyed it.
Great trip! 18 family members, 11 kids.
Great trip!
Great trip. Can't wait to go back.
Great time- will return.
Great time in Montana this season. May 17- Oct 5.
Great State. Wonderful mountain country.
Great State. Great people.
Great state to travel in and around!
Great Place.
Great night markings on roads. Wish you had a long trail, like Colorado. I would come back for a real hiking experience like that- the disconnected network of trails just isn't very interesting.
Glass and weeds grown up along most highway edges making deer hard to see! Lots of dead trees (beetles?) fallen in Glacier NP.
Glacier Park seemed to be a very expensive place to vacation - meals were pricey
Glacier park has no glass recycling.
Glacier NP was awesome. Road to the sun is incredible and needs to remain accessible by private auto.
Glacier is beautiful. We camp there often.
Get your road fixed! While driving there and back no one was working on them. There is no need to consolidate the freeway to one lane if no one is working on them.
Friends from my hometown (Orrville, Ohio) have a cabin outside of Montana and I have been visiting them (to fish) for eleven years. We always go to a Griz game, or Montana Tech of Anaconda when scheduling permits. I love it out here and have made many Montana friends over the years. Thanks for being a wonderful state to visit!!!
friendly state
Found MT to be very welcoming. Where we stopped for meals, gas always friendly.
Forest Service road to Madison Arm Resort extremely rough and wash board like. The RV park itself was excellent but the extremely rough road over 5 miles back to it will deter us from staying there again. MT needs to do something to prevent the death of their forests due to insect infestations in the pine trees. We were alarmed at the bare hillsides filled with dead and dying trees. Not the MT I grew up in!
Fishing access sites were essential to us! Awesome!
First visit was too short. Plan to make second visit much longer.
Feeling of being welcomed. I go to see my girlfriend a lot and don't work in Montana I stay at her place. I own a company in Canada and I get grilled a lot at the border by the border patrol. I enjoy both our countries and respect and appreciate everything about the USA and Canada.
Fantastic experience. The time we spent was breathtaking and the fireworks display in Bozeman for the 4th of July was one of the best we have seen. The countryside was pristine and the public lands were well maintained. Thanks for a grand adventure!
Excessive # of miles of reduced speed construction areas where NOTHING was going on.
Exceptional access to public lands and well-marked
Excellent trip visiting family and showing my children the places I grew up. I love and miss MT and hope to return some day. No other place is as friendly with so many great things to see and do. The state parks and

recreation opportunities are endless.
Excellent rest areas- very clean, well laid out.
Excellent breakfast at the Nova cafe in Bozeman- all local products! Lodging choices- viewing resort locations in Seely Lake for same sex wedding next summer. Very welcoming and accommodating--100+ guests for 1 week staying 2013.
Everything was great! I had no trouble finding anything I was looking for and enjoyed my stay very much. This was my third visit to MT, and although I miss the business of New York, I like the wide- open emptiness of MT. And especially, I love your NP's.
Enjoyed Whitefish, Col. Falls & Kalispell, though all seemed to be showing signs of economic challenges.
Enjoyed the increased speed limits. Hotel staff very helpful (Quality Inn, Butte) Restaurant staff not very helpful (Perkins in Billings).
Enjoyed the entire trip. Disappointed that part of Glacier was closed but realize it was unavoidable. All around awesome visit. Would love to visit again!!
Enjoy Montana and that is why we return to the State.
Due to excessive smoke in the area from a lack of responsible public lands management and the USFS's let it burn policy I was unable to participate in any of my planned outdoor activities. Who wants to come to visit Montana and choke on smoke? Montana big smoke state.
Drove through for a work convention in Park City, Utah. Love MT (we live in Idaho) & we love Glacier & Yellowstone. We'll be back later this summer possibly to visit Glacier again. Road are great (except the roads into Two Medicine).
Downtown Billings left a lot to be desired. Not much to do & not much helpful info to direct us.
Distance on signs would be helpful. Our family comes back about every 3 years.
Dislike all the casinos. They detract from the "character" of Montana. They make the towns look "trashy".
Disappointed in the continuing road work on I-90 on the first 100 miles entering the state from Idaho over the past several years.
Directional highway signage on some roads near Glacier Park entrances seemed to be non-existent or out of easy view from the vehicle.
Didn't see recycle bins. Water fountains at rest areas need to be turned on. I love Montana!
Did the survey on paper
Crowded roads in Glacier N.P. Maybe consider requiring shuttle use. Or moving Logan Visitor center and using the lot for hiker parking. Have better camper info @ park entrance rather than having to drive to the other side of the park to a full campsite. Check in @ entrance would be nice.
Couple we are travelling with are pulling a 44ft 5th wheel and they are happy with road conditions. Thanks.
Could have more Indian crafts.
COULD HAVE BETTER SIGNS SINCE GPS DOES NOT WORK AT ALL THERE
Construction areas too long.
Concerned about the forests beetle infestations. Seems like more trees are infested every time I make a trip. Hope I trust something is being/ can be done to stop it.
Cities and towns need to develop curbside recycling programs.
Character- too many gambling halls. Scenic opportunities- endless & priceless.
Cellphone service on the east side of Glacier was terrible. Wanted to stay closer to Many Glacier but had limited lodging opportunities. HWY 200 is terrible- wore out our shocks.
Campgrounds do not offer recycling. I always try to recycle where I can. In Yellowstone i felt that they could clean up some of the fallen trees so fire danger could be lessened. We like MT it is a beautiful state.
Campground had no garbage or recycle bins.
Came specifically to visit Glacier NP. Also visited western Canada 1 day. Spent night in Lolo to break up travel.
C U next summer!

Born and raised in Miles City MT. God's country.
Big Blue Sky. Oh My!
Been to Montana on several other occasions. We come to the state about every 2-3 years.
Because we traveled to MT to attend our son's wedding we were not able to avail ourselves of everything our state has to offer as our time there was family structured. We were very satisfied with our visit and look towards returning. We are even considering returning to MT.
Because we are seniors with access passes, we feel we should give back in some way, so we shop and eat in the parks, stay in park hotels and campgrounds and join the Yellowstone association yearly. We travel through MT yearly, but also wish there were more camping options between Bozeman & ND along I90. We always enjoy our trips here. PS: KOA in Bozeman: No recycling that I could see. Yee Haw! Keep up the good work.
Beautiful State. Third trip here. Will return regularly for the rest of my life.
Beautiful state! We will continue to visit the state.
Beautiful state! I was impressed by the outdoors, the local people, & the amount of local microbreweries.
Beautiful state, nice people!
Beautiful state, great place to visit.
Beautiful MT! - information - viewing
Beautiful country! Thanks for sharing.
Bakery at Pole Bridge was real surprise- great breads and treats- didn't know about it. Calf A at Dell excellent food as always. Too much smoke from fires, is August a better month? Other years have done the Virginia City, Bozeman, Yellowstone Park loop.
Availability of pet parks (dogs) and doggy day care facilities- at info centers.
At this time we were just passing through, although we do come to vacation quite often. We continue to dream of retiring in your state. Thanks.
Aside from wilderness areas, public access to rivers and streams is very limited, unless you float them, and that is very expensive. I prefer to wade for fish. Because we have a home here, and because I enjoy hiking in the Beartooth's, I come back again and again, with a deep love for this place. But for fishing, my best experience was in Sun Valley, Idaho with a fishable, wadeable, accessible river within 15 minutes of Ketchum, Idaho.
As with many older people access to the back country by foot/horse has become impossible. I miss the number of open forest service roads of my youth. More national forest roads should be opened to vehicle traffic so the roads that are open are less crowded. Equal access for Older People!
As far as 'character'- I was surprised to see the refining industries in Laurel & Billings. I was not aware of this industry but happy to see it being close to Canada's oil region adding employment to the area.
As a group of older motorcyclists, we have blown through Montana on route to further destinations. The fall we did a "Montana" only trip. It was good.
As a former resident with relatives in area (flathead) spend summers in MT, not in Tucson. Enjoy going to points of interest, camping, scenic viewing- often bring great grandkids up for visits up close to wildlife and scenic sights- especially like 3 to 4 day mini tours to attractions.
Areas where road was being improved was being handled very efficiently, but one sign was somewhat rude. Hotel operators were very kind and helpful. State was very clean. We would have enjoyed more hiking Opportunities outside of Glacier NP.
Anaconda and the surrounding area is where I grew up and like to return as often as possible. I love home even though I moved in 1961.
Amazing land, spectacular views, very welcoming... so much to see & do, we will be back!!
Am spending 3 weeks in MT. Your survey only covers 8 days.
Always have loved travelling and being in Montana
Always enjoy our trips to Montana...a nice 'get-away' for us! We have a small motor home, and also travel in it to some of your parks, and enjoy Havre...the closest center to us, but in past years Kalispell / Whitefish area was our most frequented area...now enjoy Great Falls mostly for short get-away / flying out of.

Always enjoy MT.
Although we were only traveling through, next time I would like to make Montana our destination, more beautiful than I knew!
Although this trip we only drove through Montana, in the past 2 years we have visited your state and national parks and attractions and were very impressed. We will be returning in the near future because my daughter and son in law will be practicing in Montana. We love your state!
Although I don't stay long, I do love traveling through Montana.
All was great road conditions were great except when going through some of the passes.
All responses and expenses were for 1 couple only- there were 4 of us in the car.
All and all very nice.
After leaving Oregon, we had a difficult time recycling (except for time spent in NP's). This isn't unique to MT. Idaho, Wyoming, Washington and S.D. could all improve. However, your state is beautiful and our overall experience was very positive. Keep up the good work!!
Absolutely loved being in state!
Absolutely love MT. However were very concerned that towns on the map along route 200 did not exist and there was no indication that there would be limited services along the route.
About recycling- problem at our cabin. Also can recycle in the park. LOVE MT. Come back every year.
A very nice trip but picked up bedbugs in Deer Lodge at the Budget Motel.
A very clean state full of culture. We enjoy history and on a previous trip. Enjoyed Yellowstone and badlands and so much wildlife, museums and state parks.
A lot of the coniferous trees, Lodgepole pines do not look healthy. Maybe long term drought and warmer winter have made the forest more susceptible to the pine bark beetle and other infestations. This could lead to massive fires unfortunately in the future since more readily combustible fuel (dead stands) will be more prominent.
A lot of road construction going on; a lot of excess road (highway) closed off that construction was not happening on.
A great place- would enjoy driving from north to south- the whole state.
A beautiful state. Will visit again soon.
2nd trip to MT. 1st trip 15 years ago was Yellowstone to Glacier. I've enjoyed both!! I'm completing this survey on the campus of the U of M in Missoula- great feeling of peace, from someone who has divided his time between NYC and So. Cal. P.S. never did get a great meal in the state.
1st rest area on I90 east of Idaho line was awful- trash barrels overflowing. Bathrooms smelled BAD. Other rest areas were acceptable.
13 miles of 2 lane driving while no road work- on from St. Regis to state line= stupid.
Stewardship of the land do not know what this means!
:)
Fewer billboard signs needed. -More public land access needed. -Easier hunting/ fishing regulation

## 2012 Quarter 4 Visitor Comments

You really need more passing lanes on your highways.
Would have liked shower room and bathroom facility to be open at KOA. Water was very brown that came out of tap.
Would love to stay longer and enjoy more of Missoula and the other beautiful attractions (e.g. white water rafting, hiking etc.).
Would love to relocate to Montana. I wish we would have had more time to explore!
Would like to spend more time in Bozeman and Yellowstone areas.
Would like to see recycling bins especially in home areas.

Would like to see more local crafts & US made products than products made in China!
Worked as a hunting guide/cook for 2 weeks on a private ranch.
Wolves have had a very bad effect on deer/elk populations. Large areas of private land concentrate animals there and not on public lands. I will not hunt here again.
What happened to the elk? Didn't see any in the NF. 10 years ago, we always saw them.
What a great state. We love Montana. Go Bobcats!
West Yellowstone is very welcoming and friendly but there is an awful lot of t-shirt shops.
Were here from May 1 to Sept 30 at the Metcalf wildlife refuge as on site volunteers.
Went to Miles City to meet a fella to information and a book.
We would all like to thank the landowners who participate in the block management program.
We will come back!!!
We were traveling from Utah to North Dakota over Thanksgiving holiday
We were just passing through Montana on our way to visit relatives in Seattle area. I have vacationed in Montana a number of times in the past and always enjoy even just passing through your beautiful state.
We were just driving thru, but looked beautiful! Would love to come back and do some shopping and camping and see Yellowstone Park!
We were here for business!
We were disappointed to have to overnight in parking areas rather than test area but otherwise we enjoyed Montana very much!
We were disappointed that Glacier Park was closed from Logan Pass to Lake McDonald. And everything in St Mary was closed for the season. But was still very beautiful drive. And did find hotels open in West Glacier.
We visit western Montana (Flathead Lake) 2-3 times each year. We stay at our families cabin most of the times. We enjoy local ski resorts like Black tail in Lakeside MT and like to go to local brewpubs. We spend several days visiting Kalispell or Polson areas.
We visit this very special place about every 5 weeks. Different places at different seasons.
We visit Montana many times during the year. This time we were just passing through on our way to Lewiston, Idaho- we visited to gas stations and one restaurant- we enjoyed our brief stay (visit).
We thoroughly enjoy visiting your state and would love to return in warmer weather.
We noticed a serious lack of recycling opportunities and felt bad throwing all of our recyclables away. Had trouble finding info for Virginia City. Had to drive up there from Island Park, ID only to find most things closed. FYI, for clarification on our trip map, our trip was: Whitefish (4 nights) to Butte (1 night) to Billings (1) to Colstrip (1) to Butte (1) TO Missoula (2) to Island Park (3) to Bozeman (2)
We loved MT. We came from Minnesota. Probably would not travel west on #2 again- dumpy and boring until we got to Shelby, where lodging was better too.
We love traveling anywhere in MT it is a very beautiful state people are very friendly and welcoming
We love MT. We stayed for a month this year as we are considering a move to MT. We are a little disappointed with places to eat & stay close to Glacier park after mid-September.
We love Montana. We visit often to see relatives in Missoula and Kalispell and to visit Glacier Park. My husband buys a Montana fishing license each year along with his regular Idaho one.
We love Montana! Maybe a few more snow plows would be useful on I-15.
We love Montana and hope to return soon.
We live in Medicine Hat and come to Montana many time a year. Our yearly trip to California lets us only to pass thru. Mont is a beautiful stat and we have seen a lot of it over the last 20 years. I am a former U.S. marine
We have visited MT multiple times, both passing through and camping in summer and have always enjoyed it. This trip was just passing through, and it was very cold outside so we didn't stay very long.

We have travelled through many times & love it.
We have made this trip 16 of the last 18 yrs. We love it.
We have been traveling to MT for years and plan to continue. This trip was a quick one for a funeral.
We have been through Montana many times in the past and will continue to visit. We are currently considering moving to the Bitterroot Valley but are attempting to secure employment before we make the move.
We had a wonderful drive through Montana on our way to Boise to visit our kids. We make this trip often and enjoy all the beauty and history of Montana. In summertime, visit the parks and do more activities.
We had a lovely time and can't wait to plan another trip during the winter season. Fell in love with Whitefish!!!!
We found everything we needed in this state love going thru here.
We expect to do longer trips now retired- but weather scared us home to Utah
We drove through Montana during a bad snowstorm on our way to Arizona. The trip was stressful due to driving conditions which were no one's fault. We have spent time on other trips to enjoy some of your beautiful parks.
We always love coming to MT. We use to live in Montana for 8 years so we miss it!
We always enjoy visiting MT.
Was very impressed with MT! Look forward to returning in the near future!
Was a great state to visit! We loved it and plan our next trip in 2013.
Was a great place to travel through? Except... the night speed needs to be more clearly marked- got a speeding ticket & also get rid of all deer one totaled our suburban!
Very satisfied. Wonderful trip.
Very satisfied- I travel here once a month.
Very nice state to visit
Very nice roads
Vendors very helpful. Friendly demeanor of most people came in contact with.
Variety of lodging choices: I was disappointed, there were no hotels near the Montana State University campus
Traveling through on the way to BC Canada. Still enjoyed our stay in MT on our return trip home
To whom it may concern, I am a regular visitor to Montana. I have family in Big Timber and good friends on the Blackfeet Reservation. I average 3 trips a year to Montana, sometimes 4. My computer could not find your online survey. Best Regards, Ken Smith
This was a short trip for a grandson's 5th birthday! Husband and I visit 2-3 times a year. In summer longer and do lake and mountain activities. Have rented boats, horses, etc. for fun Montana opportunities! Love Montana
This trip was primarily to attend wedding and we had no time for recreation. However, most trips to Montana involve hiking and other outdoor activities.
This trip to Montana was only to catch a flight from Great Falls.
This trip I've only used gas stations.
This could be my second home. Excellent place to be.
There is so much trash along the roadside on the reservation.
The woman doing the survey in Butte was very welcoming and nice.
The times I have spent in Montana, over the last 60 years, have been very good.
The state of Montana (D.O.T.) highway road condition map on internet needs improvement. Would be nice if it was same quality as state of Idaho. I enter and exit Montana for travel many times/ year.
The purpose of our trip this time was to visit the Utah national parks, so we went through Montana quickly. We spent time in Helena to visit the museum and State building. On our return we overnighed in Great Falls. Found the 'Made in Montana' store to be wonderful- promote it! Found all of the 'casino' signs to be

overwhelming and an eyesore. Appreciate it if rest stop bathrooms have the hand sanitizer station (dispenser). Thanks!
The people in the town of Browning are very rude, we traveled with a car that had an Idaho plate and were flipped off a couple of times. We stopped at the gas station and were given dirty looks, probably because we were in shirts and ties because we were on a business trip. We will never stop in this town again.
The people in every establishment were so friendly and happy to help!
The one thing I noticed that hasn't changed since I've lived here from 92- 94- is that Montanans will always pull out in front of you from side roads onto the highways.
The most beautiful region of our country. Also, stop letting ranchers use public land. They're not wildlife.
The main point of our visit was to spend Christmas in Yellowstone wolf watching. We were both upset by the news which greeted us on arrival, about a number of collared wolves who had been shot by hunters! I know it is (allegedly) done legally etc., etc., but don't you realize what a unique world- wide opportunity you have (had?)! We have been to Yellowstone N.P. 10 times in 18 years- will think seriously (before) about returning. Please use some/ any influence you have to prevent this happening.
The condo we stayed in in Big Sky did not recycle and didn't know if the trash was sorted. We traveled 9/30 - 10/6 and were disappointed so many things were closed such as visitor center at earthquake lake. Some road signs could be placed further from turn to offer more time to turn.
The areas of growth due to the oil industry seem like they are being thrown together without much planning or thought of future aesthetics. It seems like a lot of people and industry looking to make a quick buck than will disappear after the boom and leave native Montanans to clean up the mess.
Thank you! 1. Love MT's Governor! 2. Keep keeping MT the last great place on earth! 3. Don't let what happened to Moab, UT happen to similar area of MT
Thank you for a welcoming state. Your great asset is you nature wildlife and natives. Thank you for preserving them :)
Stopped at every roadside information sign, added great depth and understanding to the drive.
Some roads closed for the season.
Road system is excellent. Great views, great food, too many street lights on 93.
Road signage few and far between Highway 287. No rest stops along 287- felt like road would never get us anywhere. Little or no shoulder on 287- very icy. Border crossing should have warned us of the icy roads.
Road conditions- Shelby to G. Falls- very icy. 4 day after blizzard- directional signs- hard to follow through Helena to Missoula.
Resurfacing of Highway 90 (Lookout Pass area) is very much appreciated!!
Restaurants- my wife has several food problems and only one place had a food variety available to her- I do not mean small cafes- but I was disappointed with the chains- the chains in most larger cities do.
Rest stops that we visited were clean and very nice. The people in Montana are very friendly and welcoming! All of the restaurant staff, hotel staff, and retail staff were friendly and helpful.
Residents of Montana are friendly, eager to answer questions, give advice on road conditions and weather.
Relaxing drive with great views, great lodging and shopping.
Rather few recycling bins along some routes.
Purpose of trip was to visit friends and ski so we stayed in one area only (Red Lodge). This was our third trip to Montana (1998) (2011) (2012). We will move to Red Lodge hopefully in one year from Texas.
Please note: we wanted a few hours to get out of my home in Coumts, Alberta, on this trip & drove to Shelby and back. Wandered in one store in Shelby and spent \$4.00 and then had a late lunch in sunburst, MT, for \$20.00. P.S. I go into MT a lot, and find the tourism MT website very useful, it's a very good website for me.
Please keep MT pristine and environmentally clean. Thank You.
Planning vacation to show my son Montana because of his schooling.
Pet areas at rest stops could be improved. Provide grassy areas and install mitts for picking up poop.
Overall we are very satisfied with MT and love coming here year after year.



Overall our experience was very good and we all enjoyed our stay. We hope to return someday and visit more of the museums.
Overall it is always a pleasure to visit Montana! However, the trout streams are damaged by cattle.
Our hunting guides/outfitter was conscientious about the environment. We were warned not to pollute and all trash was hauled out of forest. During 5 days of hunting/hiking, I never saw any trash in state forests. impressive
Only reason for road conditions was 212 very icy
On this trip, as on previous trips, I have been passing through to visit family in Seattle; I live in Ohio. On previous trips I have visited Glacier, Little Bighorn Battlefield, and various Lewis and Clark sites and exhibits; also Fort Peck Dam. I have always enjoyed my visits (though just passing through), for Montana is a beautiful state.
Oct- breast cancer awareness. Whole communities participating in various activities. Whole communities participating in various activities with businesses offering special deals/ sales including pink ATM cards!
Note: Both respondents are U of M grads. Canadian residents. This trip does not represent our usual trips to Montana.
Nice trip- My client went hunting. I stayed in Great falls and visited different things in and around town.
Need to have recycling of glass bottles please.
My wife and I lived in Montana. We are both Montana University system grads. We love being in Montana. In fact, nothing brings us more joy.
My family and I had a very enjoyable time in Montana- even with the short duration and winter weather.
MT is my favorite state.
MT is a beautiful state. I would love to spend more time viewing all it has to offer.
MT has an abundance of scroungy looking houses and yards along the highway. Old farm and ranch yards, even abandoned, have some charm and character. Crappy trailer houses and obvious 'home-builts' detract from the pristine expectation of MT.
Montana is a different world and very relaxing. I always enjoy myself in Montana.
Montana- The last best place!! Who wouldn't be satisfied!! thanks
Montana seems satisfied to allow home building to clutter its most scenic/environmentally important site. And the cities show little change in efforts to "zone" for environmental or efficient community building. It's still the "wild west" in this regard and shows no signs of long term planning.
Montana remains my preferred state for deer hunting, despite last year's sizeable increase in license fee. The state welcomes and respects deer hunters and the hunting heritage. The block management program is an excellent way of creating public access to private lands. The size of the state and the incredible variety of fishing and hunting opportunities makes Montana a good deal still from out- of state hunters and fishers.
Montana is truly "God's Country"
Montana is our favorite place on earth for the reasons listed here
Montana is our destination of choice for a weekend away. We love the people, scenery and the service is amazing. Love to make it further south to see Missoula and Helena in near future.
Montana is as beautiful as everyone describes it. Only Missoula seemed a bit congested. We have made three previous visits and we have enjoyed each one immensely.
Montana is a wonderful and gorgeous state; I always enjoy my time here.
Montana born and raised until 20 year old jobs-low pay-country is beautiful- miss being here- still love going there to see everything, good fishing, hunting, still go thru every few years- most everything is satisfactory. Res stop on pass by Butte- should have stayed as I've use to stop every time there. Only seen one hawk and five geese
Missoula, MT is one of the most pleasurable areas for my job.
Miss the 'Welcome to Big Sky' entrance sign!

Loved "Nancy's Pastie Shop" in Butte. Love Butte's variety of food and character. Darby is a very quaint town but needs more advertising- great antiques. I would and have recommend Montana to friends and acquaintances in Oklahoma. It's beautiful! Appreciate no taxes
Love your state. Need much more time to enjoy. Next visit Glacier National Park. Will see you next year.
Love the mountains and the 15 inches of snow in Madison Valley. Thanks MT! I will be back!
Love MT. Would love to retire here Flathead/ Columbia Falls.
Just passing through. Had a goof trip with most people we met being very friendly and accommodating. Look forward to seeing Montana again.
Just a snowbird passing through
In Great Falls we put money in a parking meter and before we got back the meter ran out. We paid an extra \$5 fine. I should not pay it out of state!
If it were possible- we would be living in Mont. fulltime
I'd like a brochure at rest areas of quilt stores & I'd like those stores to have fabrics that reflect MT- scenery, trees, rivers, mountains animals & birds etc. We like public radio- nice to have it available more along I-94/ Hwy 2 / Hwy 12. Love your state will be back.
I would live here
I work for a group of hotels in Idaho on 2 in Montana. This was my first trip down 15. I loved it. This is what I think of when I think of Montana. Will be back for vacation!
I wish it was easy to get a deer or elk tag for Montana hunting without using a guide. We would hunt here in Montana.
I was traveling through met a very nice lady doing a survey. Talked me into coming back. Next year we will stay longer.
I was only in Kalispell to babysit my grandchildren.
I was in Great Falls for one day on a business trip and did not travel out of towns.
I was basically just driving to Missoula for extensive dental work and then to Red Lodge to spend time at my daughter's home. No sightseeing etc.
I used to live in MT. Was born and raised in Anaconda. Go back every year to visit family and friends. Also go to Livingston & Billings & Kalispell. I love MT. Sometimes we stay a week. Use the Grizzly Den motel in Anaconda. Go on day trips from there.
I used to live in Montana (six years ago), and I was glad to see that, if anything, the state has gotten better since I was last here. There are more restaurants, more bars, more nightlife and, furthermore, a higher quality of each. Meanwhile, Montana has kept its rugged charm. I'll always be excited to visit (and maybe live in) Montana again.
I travel to Montana at least once every two months. We are 60 miles north of the border. I love shopping in Montana.
I really didn't get to explore any other places in Montana besides Missoula, die to the urgency of my trip. The people I encountered along the way were very friendly and hospitable.
I perceive a dislike by significant number of Montanans toward nonresidents coming here to hunt.
I moved to Montana a few years ago and was attracted by open space, mountains, history, arts, access to the arts and the culture. After moving home, I now travel back to MT every fall to see friends. My only complaint about MT (Helena especially) is access to clothing stores.
I love Virginia and Nevada Cities! My grandchildren and I volunteer for living history in Nevada City. During the off season it is very difficult to find a place to dine. We stay in a Heritage Commission building, or it would be difficult to find lodging. I think the boardwalks roll up after Labor Day!
I love the annual drive from Seattle. So much to see along the way. Keep up the good work.
I love Montana. I would like to move back in the future.
I love driving through Montana. It's beautiful. I would like to visit. This particular trip I was just on my way to Seattle for business.

I lived in MT from 1975- 2007. I will always cherish the time I spent there. Please remember that the environment must remain wild and beautiful for future generations.
I lived in Montana for 41 years and I would move back in a heartbeat maybe in a couple of years it is the greatest state in the U.S.
I like traveling to Montana. I use my money to pay the way up. And thank goodness my in-laws pay the way back or I wouldn't be able to afford to go to Eureka, MT. I would like to live there someday soon. There's always something to do like cleaning, chopping wood, mowing lawns, car care. Visiting relatives in nursing homes.
I like 4x4 and ATV access and opportunity. The opportunity in Missoula county is ZERO.
I have been in the state so many times, I'm not looking for a lot from the above things. Billings. The I-90 is one of the dirtiest I have ever seen. Just trash along it.
I have always wanted to visit MT, but we were just passing through.. Most likely any trip we have to MT we will be passing through to see family in Canada. We do have friends in MT we like to see and if we stop any time it will be to see them. We enjoyed our travel through the state and would have loved to stop at the National Parks had we the time.
I have a vacation home in Las Vegas and drive through MT 4 times a yr. We enjoy the state.
I grew up in Montana. I come back to visit, and they still have NO recycling bins that I saw on my trip. I saved recyclables until I got home and could use my own recycling bin. I only saw deer and antelope on the side of the road like normal. I have NO idea what you mean when you say "stewardship of the land." I saw no restaurants with local products, and no local arts or crafts. I went to the Made in Montana store in Great Falls to get a friend a gift. Montana has great resources, great land, but they don't do anything with them. Cheap Made in China products and Wal-Mart's dot the landscape instead.
I enjoy MT and the people I meet every time I come to the state. I usually visit twice a year.
I don't think I've seen a single recycling bin.
I commuted through Montana from 1-4-12 to 11-15-12 on a monthly basis and have greatly enjoyed driving through this beautiful state.
I come to Montana frequently. Bozeman as a possible retirement choice. Livingston has a lot of history.
I believe MT is a beautiful state and have traveled there a great deal. I do however believe that radical environmental issues have made it less friendly and enjoyable than it was years ago. I believe in taking care of the environment but the environmentalists are destroying it by too much effort to protect it!!
I appreciate the convenience of direct flight to Minneapolis :) Beautiful views!
I am from MT but haven't been home in 2 years. I am amazed at how little has changed, but thankful for it at the same time. I miss the hospitality MT has to offer.
I am very satisfied with the road conditions and speed limit on the interstate through Montana. I was driving from North Idaho to Southeastern Idaho, and driving through Montana is the easiest way to go for me.
I am very fond of Montana, have vacationed here several times, and dream of a vacation cabin someday.
HWY 93 between Lolo and Hamilton is beautiful. I used to make that drive years ago when it was a two lane and wow what a difference. My grandparents owned that old yellow house at Woodside (on the corner) and we lived there for many years when I was young so it was very strange to see the empty lot but the bike paths are great.
Hunting licenses are too expensive. We don't see very many out of state hunters. As a result we see the decline of small towns.
Highway 49 from East Glacier to Mary Lake- no guardrails or shoulders, rumble strips on the center line instead of right shoulder. No recycling at our resort (Glacier Wilderness Resort on Hwy #2) Hwy #2 is wonderful. I appreciate the turnouts.
Have travelled many times in MT, enjoyed the variety of attractions.
Hard to judge condition of natural environment when I'm traveling for an environmental cleanup project.

Had a medical appointment in Billings with Dr. Norledge. Spent 4 nights in Bozeman with daughter, her husband and family. Spent several hundred dollars while shopping with family!!!
Had a great trip- Montana needs more cell towers- long way between towns. No rest areas with personal attendants. Was hard. We had no time for stops as had to be in Boise ID for graduation. Had wonderful LaQuinta Inn @ Bozeman MT. Stopped at Custer Battlefield Trading Post Hwy 212. Lunch- great. Visit- great.
Had a great time! My second time hunting in Montana. If I could I would move there in a heartbeat!!
Had a good time. Be back again. Thanks
Had a fantastic time within MT. Just wish we had come when there was better weather! Definitely planning a return visit.
Great trip, wish I could spend more time there.
Great state, very beautiful
Great place to visit.
Gorgeous state but I was disappointed to see so many casinos. Very friendly people.
For 14 years we have been driving through Montana on our way to California- back again in the spring. Have always appreciated the highway and business we have patronized. Very friendly people.
Few ratings of last group reflect town of Baker
Everyone is knowledgeable about their business and very helpful.
Entering MT from Wyoming using I 90 we were very disappointed to see such an accumulation of junk and discarded items at every home site. This was true from the state line all the way to Billings. Also driving through Billings is not scenic at all.
Enjoyed visiting with son in Montana over Thanksgiving holiday.
Don't get to see much on business trips.
Don't get too giddy. I'm and Iowa farm boy and am easily satisfied (see above). However, I am genuinely having a wonderful time here, again. Be very proud. Thanks!
Do something about the wolf problem; they are devastating our wests deer and elk herds. All the locals around Condon and Bigfork aren't happy about it and neither am I.
Dissatisfied. Loss of hunting rights on property not in block management due to Bison Habitat program. Will not be back! South Dakota here we come
Dissatisfied explanations: Highway rest area seem unsafe for a lone female traveler- I never use them. Recycle bins readily available in Bozeman, less so in other small towns- Livingston, Red Lodge, etc.
Come 5-6 times per year to go shopping and relax.
Bozeman was great. Airport very good.
Big Sky country is great. Years ago I spent much time in Montana.
Best of all are the rest areas and information centers 'full' of east to use literature. Thank you.
Being we travelled in the off season some of the road sign info places were closed. We traveled 10-12 to 10-19.
Been fishing in MT for 40 years. Family and I come every year. Love it here. Like to stay at the Mariah in Sheraton with the RV full hookups in Alder at the KOA. The KOA is the nicest and friendliest we've seen. The rest stop in Lima is excellent. We always stop there. People are nice and friendly.
Because we are only passing through on our way to Arizona, our input in your survey is minimal. However we have been in Montana many times, and do love the state and the reception we receive here.
Beautiful, clean, pristine, great people!
Beautiful state. Seems to be a gradual decline in environmental condition. Urban sprawl is booming around the major cities and overgrazing.
Beautiful state! Can't wait to go back!
Beautiful place and wonderful people. Can't wait to come back for either work or pleasure.

Availability of travel brochures and maps located at rest areas were very helpful. Observed many others taking advantage of this as well.
Always love the drive in Montana. It is beautiful. We went to a University of Montana Football game. The people there are always friendly.
Always enjoy visiting Montana
Always enjoy Montana. Wife is from Billings.
Always beautiful, great place to visit
Accommodation very expensive in Great Falls, Helena and Butte in relations to other tours in Idaho, Utah
Absolutely beautiful country. The mountains and wildlife are breath taking. I'll be back!
Absence of airport signs in Billings
A Montana visitor for 40 years and a homeowner for 30 years! Love Montana!
A lot of litter on National Forests