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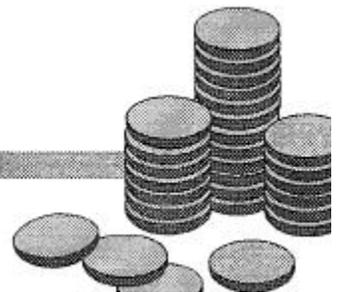
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Resident Outdoor Recreation for Fremont County, WY

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The University of Wyoming and the United States Department of Agriculture cooperating.
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INTRODUCTION

Outdoor recreation is an important part of the Fremont County way of life. The County's abundant natural resources provide a wide array of outdoor recreation opportunities for both residents and nonresidents. Participation in outdoor recreation has been increasing in recent years and projections indicate continued growth in the future. Access to outdoor recreation is one of the reasons why many current residents choose to live in Fremont County. It is also one of the attractions that draws visitors and future residents to Fremont County.

Outdoor recreation in Fremont County involves a wide array of resources that are provided by a variety of governmental and private entities. Federal agencies providing recreation opportunities include the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Bureau of Reclamation. Within State government, the Division of State Parks and Historical Sites, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, and the State Land Board are all involved to varying degrees in providing recreation opportunities. Locally, a variety of organizations including county government, school districts, joint powers board, local municipalities, and the private sector provide outdoor recreation opportunities. The Wind River Indian Reservation also provides recreation opportunities in the area.

PROCEDURES

This report discusses what residents in Fremont County do for outdoor recreation. It is based on an outdoor recreation survey for the 1990 Wyoming State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan prepared for the Wyoming Division of State Parks and

Historical Sites by the Department of Geography and Recreation at the University of Wyoming.

During the Spring of 1989, a stratified random sample of 2,500 Wyoming residents were surveyed to determine their participation in outdoor recreation activities. The sample was selected, proportional to each county's population, from Wyoming telephone directories. Ultimately, a total of 1,272 surveys were returned for a 50.9 percent response rate. This report summarizes the survey results for Fremont County in terms of outdoor recreation participation rates for residents, the average number of outdoor recreation trips per resident participant, and the resident per capita outdoor recreation trips for the county. To put these numbers in perspective, the county estimates were compared to the State averages. Although the data in this report is 10 years old it is the only know source of information on resident outdoor recreation for Fremont County. Also because the sample was based on the county's proportion of the total population in the state, the sample size for Fremont County was probably rather small.

RESULTS

This section summarizes the outdoor recreation information for Fremont County residents. . The data indicates that Fremont County residents take their outdoor recreation seriously making over 700,000 recreation trips annually. This represented an average of about 21 trips per person per year. Not all this recreation necessarily occurred within the boundaries of Fremont County. However the fact that the average one-way trip mileage for outdoor recreation trips was about 46 miles suggests that most of this recreation activity did occur in the area.

Outdoor Recreation Participation Rates

One way to measure the importance of individual recreation activities is to look at their participation rates. Participation rates represent the percentage of county residents that participate in a particular type of recreation activity. Figure 1 summarizes the outdoor recreation participation rates for Fremont County residents for selected recreation activities. More detailed information on resident participation rates are presented in Table 1. Information on Sailing/Wind Surfing was not available for Fremont County.

Key Points from Figure 1

- Fishing was by far the most popular outdoor recreation activity for Fremont County residents with a participation rate of over 70 percent.
- Other popular outdoor recreation activities for Fremont County residents were Deer Hunting – 40 percent, Visiting Historical Sites – 38 percent, Sightseeing – 36 percent, and Picnicking – 36 percent.
- Elk Hunting, Camping, Snowmobiling, and Horseback Riding all had participation rates above 20 percent.
- The five least popular outdoor recreation activities for Fremont County residents were 1) Climbing – 7 percent, 2) Downhill Skiing - 9 percent, 3) Ice Fishing – 10 percent, 4) Small Game Hunting – 10 percent, and 5) Rafting/Canoeing/Kayaking – 10 percent.

Figure 2 compares the outdoor recreation participation rate for Fremont County with the rates for the State on a percentage basis.

Key Points from Figure 2

- The participation rate for Four Wheeling/ORV and Snowmobiling for Fremont County residents was over 200 percent of the State rate. The participation rate for Visiting Historical Sites was over 180 percent of the State rate.
- Overall, the participation rate for Fremont County residents was higher than the State rate for 17 of the 21 recreation activities reported. This suggests that Fremont County residents are very involved in outdoor recreation.

- Only Downhill Skiing, Camping, Cross Country Skiing, and Rafting/Canoeing/Kayaking had participation rates below the State rate. Information on Sailing/Wind Surfing was not available for Fremont County so no comparison could be made.

Average Number of Trips Per Year Per Participant

While participation rates are a good indicator of the importance of individual recreation activities, they do not measure the participants' level of involvement in the activity. One measure of the level of involvement is the average number of recreation trips per year that a participant takes for a recreation activity. This measure considers the intensity of participation by participants in the activity. Figure 3 summarizes the average number of trips per year for Fremont County residents participating in selected outdoor recreation activities. More detailed information on average number of trips per year are presented in Table 2.

Key Point from Figure 3

- Not only was Fishing the most popular outdoor recreation activity for residents of Fremont County, but it also had the highest participation level with an average of over 8 trips per year per participant. Fishing was followed by Sightseeing (7.5 trips per participant) and Day Hiking (5.1 trips per participant).
- Horseback Riding, Small Game Hunting, Camping, and Snowmobiling all had four or more trips per year per participant.
- The five lowest average number of trips per year per participant for Fremont County residents were 1) Ice Fishing – 1.7 trips, 2) Rafting/Canoeing/Kayaking – 2.0 trips, 3) Downhill Skiing – 2.3 trips, 4) Antelope Hunting – 2.4 trips, 5) Cross Country Skiing – 2.6 trips (tied), and 5) Backpacking – 2.6 trips (tied).

Figure 4 compares average trips per year per participant for Fremont residents with the averages for the State.

Key Points from Figure 4

- Overall, average trips per year per participant for Fremont County residents were lower than the State average for all recreation activities, except for Antelope Hunting and Visiting Historical Sites. This may be due to the abundance of recreation

activities available in Fremont County, which allows residents to participate in many recreation activities throughout the year as opposed to concentrating on only a few.

- The average number of trips per year per participant for Elk Hunting, Sightseeing, and Small Game Hunting were all within 80 percent of the State average.
- The average number of trips per year per participant for Downhill Skiing, Rafting/Canoeing/Kayaking, Cross Country Skiing, Four Wheeling/ORV, and Horseback Riding, were all under 40 percent of the State average.

Trips Per Capita

By multiplying the county population by the participation rate and the participants' average number of trips per year it is possible to estimate the total number of outdoor recreation trips per year for Fremont County. Dividing total trips by the county population results in an estimate of outdoor recreation trips per capita. This measure has the advantage of considering both the participation rate and the level of participation. Figure 5 summarized the outdoor recreation trips per capita by Fremont County residents for selected recreation activities. More detailed information on total and per capita outdoor recreation trips are presented in Table 3.

Key Points from Figure 5

- Fishing had the highest trips per capita of all outdoor recreation activities in Fremont County with nearly 6 trips per resident. Following Fishing was Sightseeing with 2.7 trips per resident and Visiting Historical Sites with 1.4 trips per resident.
- Elk Hunting, Deer Hunting, Camping, and Picnicking all had per capita averages above 1.0 trips per resident.
- Ice Fishing, Downhill Skiing, Rafting/Canoeing/Kayaking, and Climbing all had per capita averages below 0.3 trips per resident.

Figure 6 compares per capita outdoor recreation trips for Fremont County with the per capita outdoor recreation trips for the State.

Key Points from Figure 6

- Trips per capita for Visiting Historical Sites in Fremont County were nearly 200 percent above the State average. Following Visiting Historical Sites was Antelope Hunting at 152 percent of the State average, Snowmobiling at 136 percent of the State average, and Elk Hunting at 127 percent above the State average.
- Trips per capita for Sightseeing and Deer Hunting were also above the State average.
- Fremont County trips per capita were below the State average for all other recreation activities. Downhill Skiing, Rafting/Canoeing/Kayaking, Cross Country Skiing, and Ice Fishing were all below 30 percent of the State average.

SUMMARY

Fremont County residents actively participate in outdoor recreation activities making over 700,000 recreation trips annually or about 21 trips per person. Most of this recreation activity occurred within Fremont County with the average one-way trip mileage being about 46 miles. Fishing was the most popular form of outdoor recreation for Fremont County residents with over 70 percent of residents participating in this recreation activity. Following Fishing were Deer Hunting, Visiting Historical Sites, Sightseeing, and Picnicking. Fremont County resident participation rates were higher than participation rates at the State level for 17 of 21 selected outdoor recreation activities.

Although Fremont County resident participation rates tended to be higher than the State rate, the average number of trips per year per participant was lower than the State average for all outdoor recreation activities except for Antelope Hunting and Visiting Historical Sites. This may be due to the abundance of outdoor recreation activities that are available in Fremont County, which may allow residents to participate in a number of recreation activities, rather than concentrate on only a few. The highest average number

of trips per year in Fremont County was for Fishing with nearly 8 trips per year per participant.

Based on outdoor recreation trips per capita, the leading outdoor recreation activity for Fremont County residents in terms of both participation rate and level of involvement was Fishing, followed by Sightseeing and Visiting Historical Sites. Compared to the State, outdoor recreation trips per capita for Fremont County residents was higher for Visiting Historical Sites, Antelope Hunting, Snowmobiling, Elk Hunting, Sightseeing, and Deer Hunting.

Figure 1.
Recreation Participations Rates for Fremont Residents

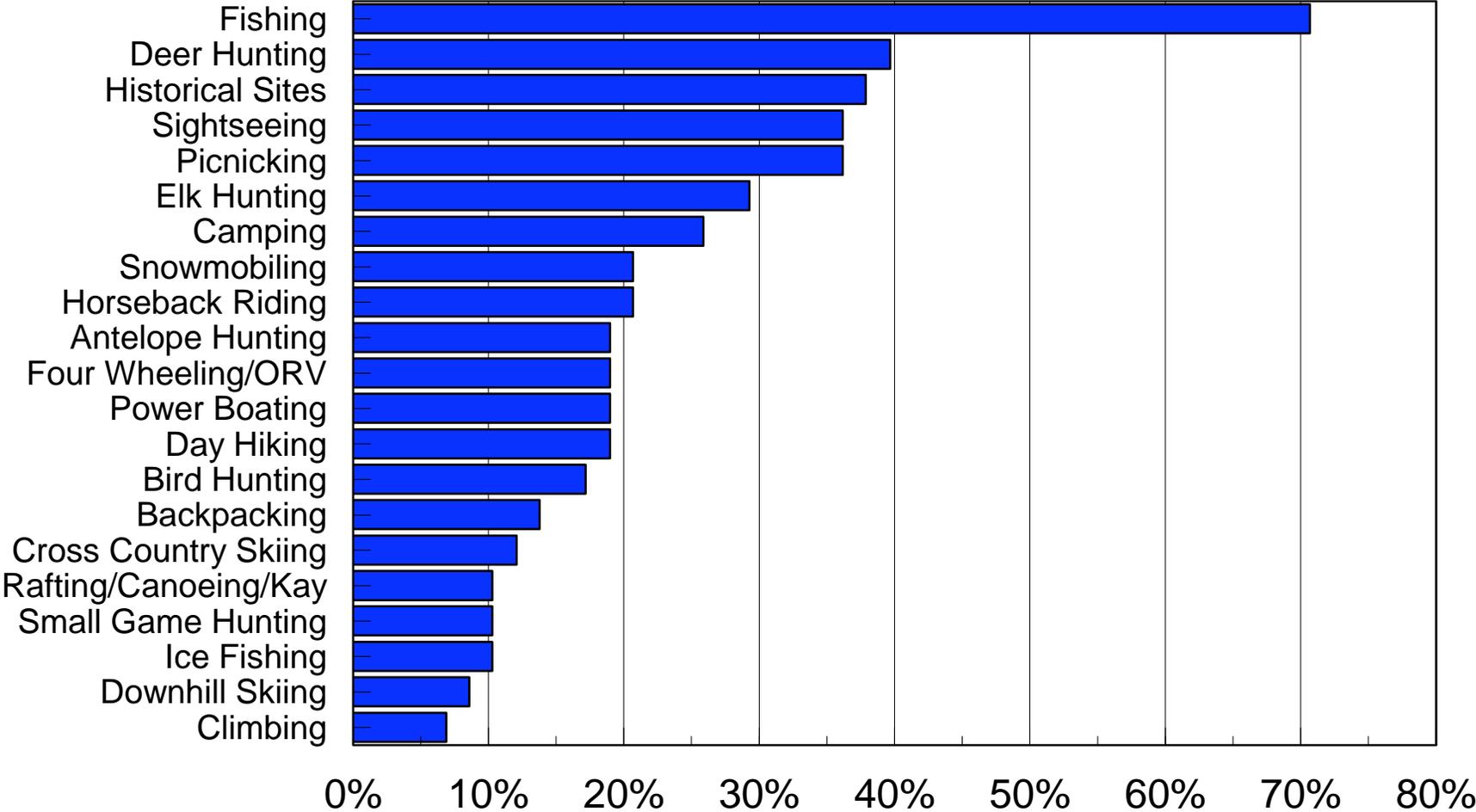


Figure 2.
Fremont Participation Rates Compared to Wyoming

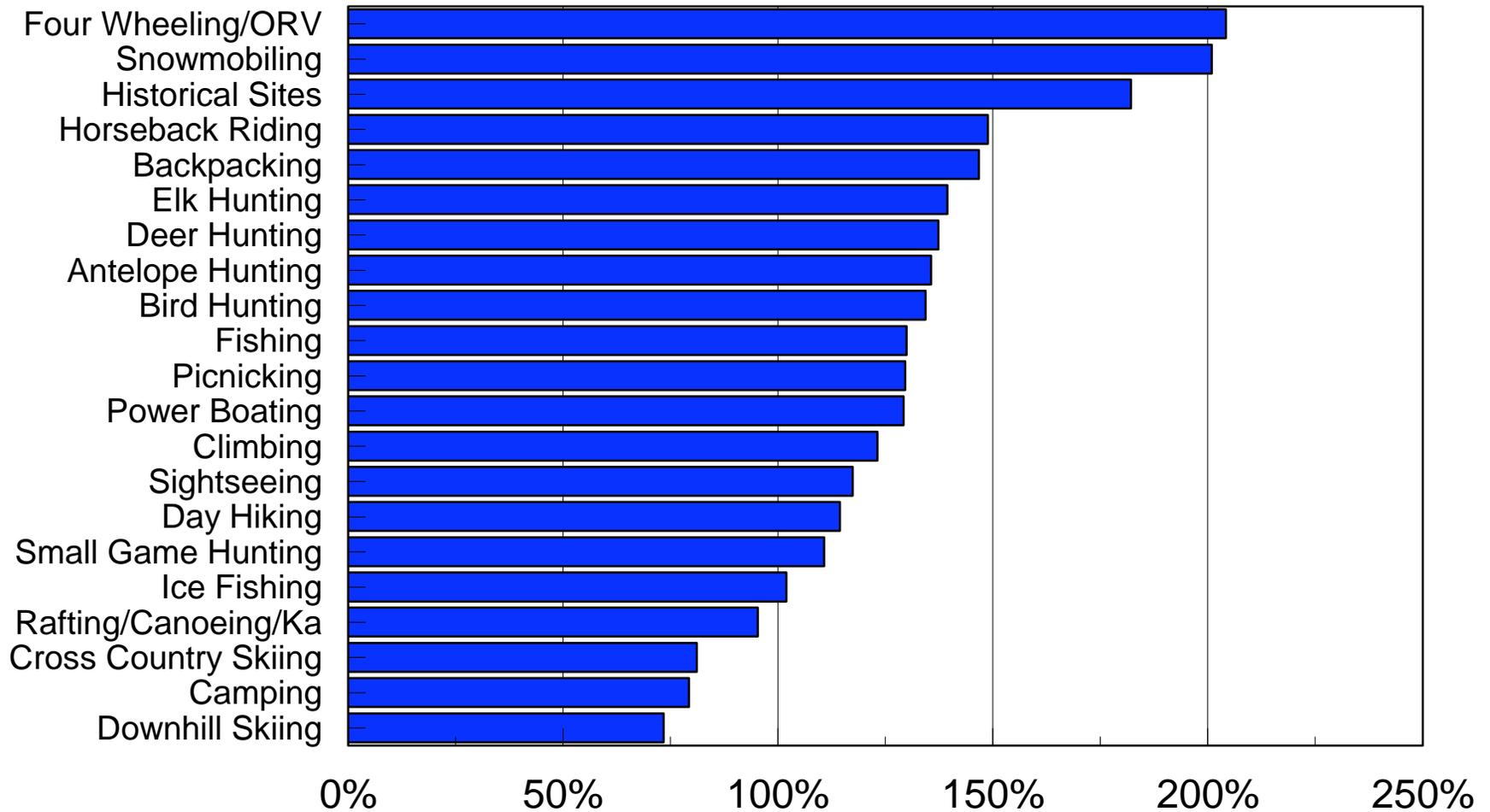


Figure 3.
Average Trips Per Year for Fremont Participants

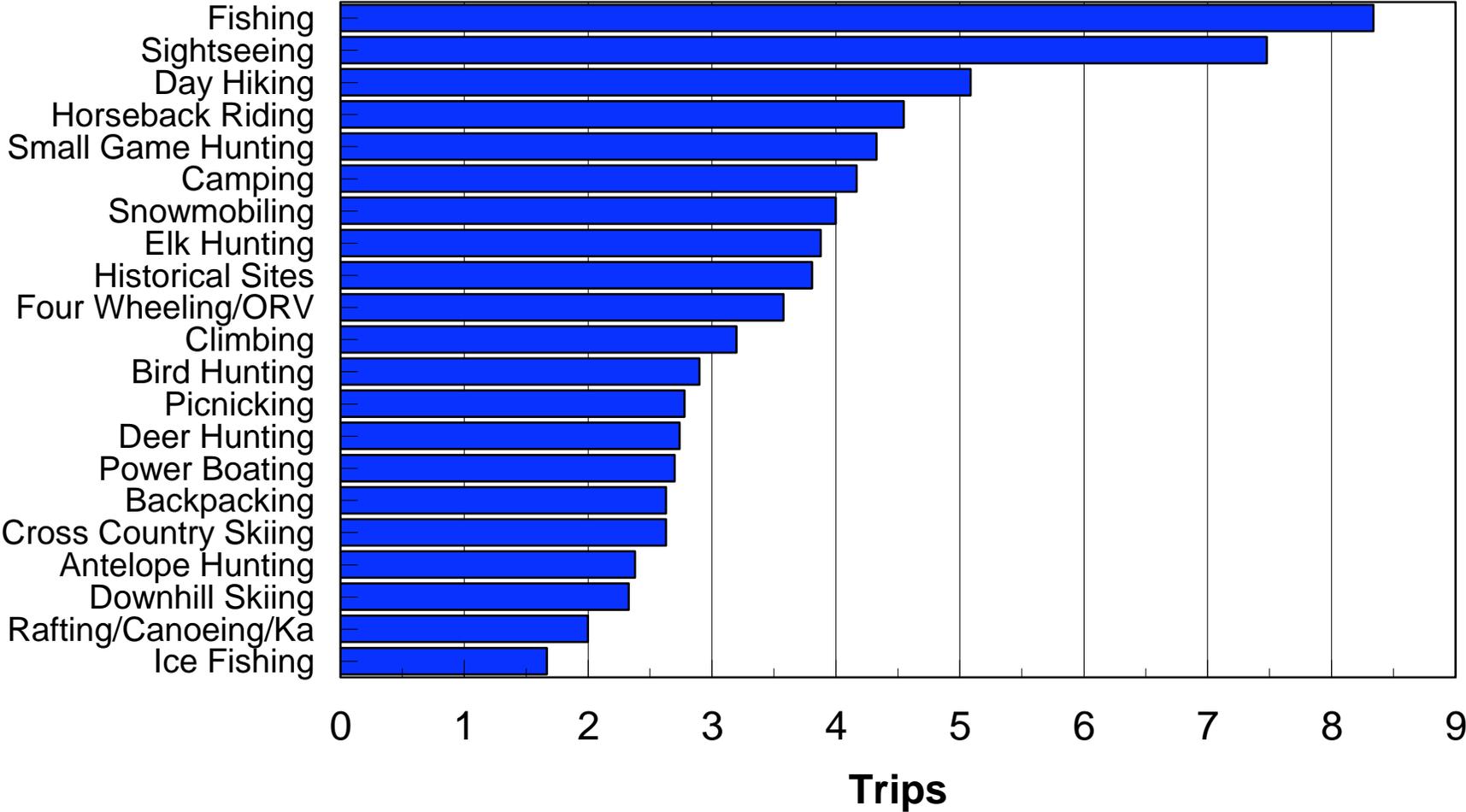


Figure 4.
Fremont Average Trips Compared to Wyoming

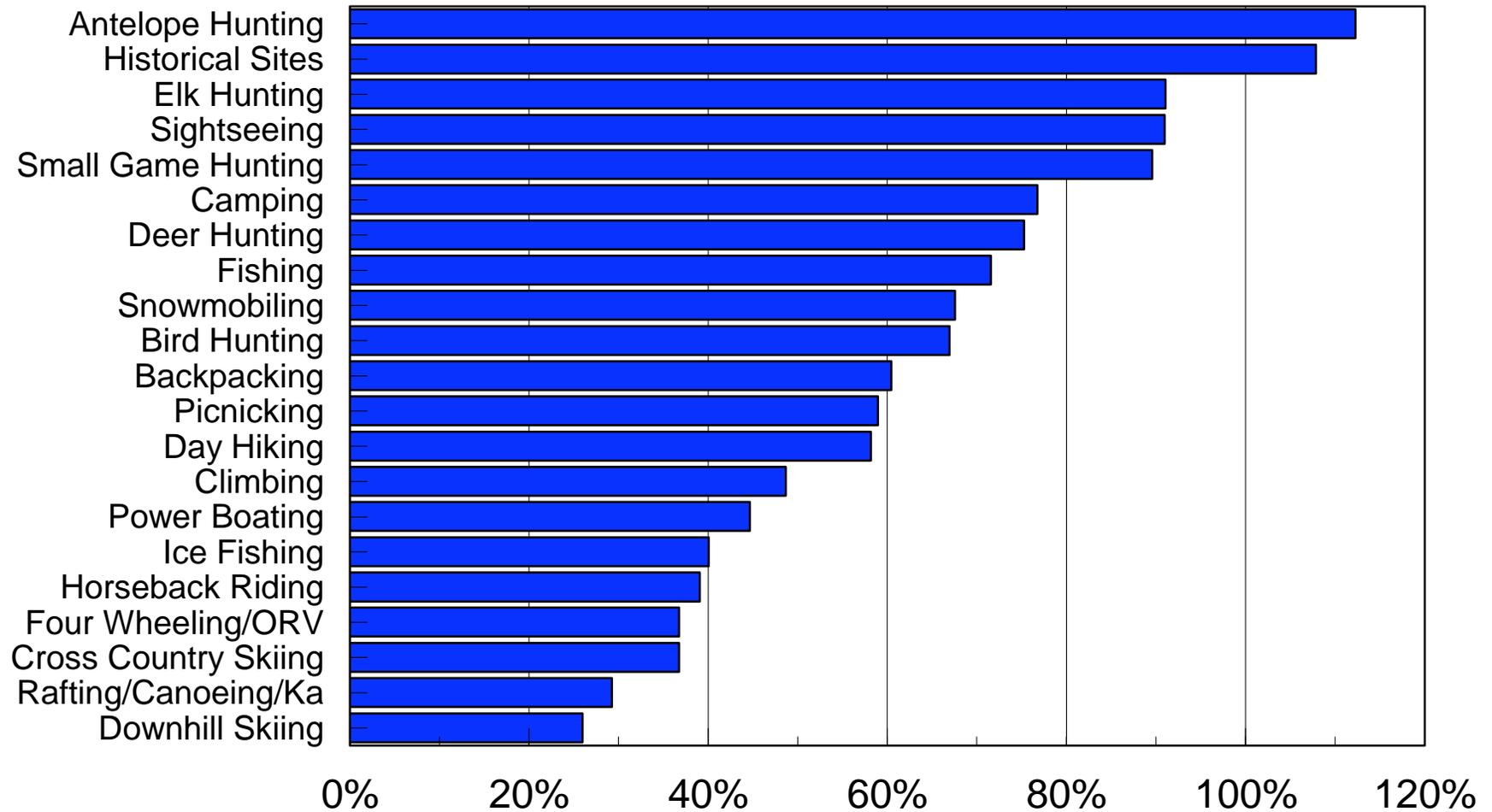


Figure 5.
Recreation Trips Per Capita for Fremont County

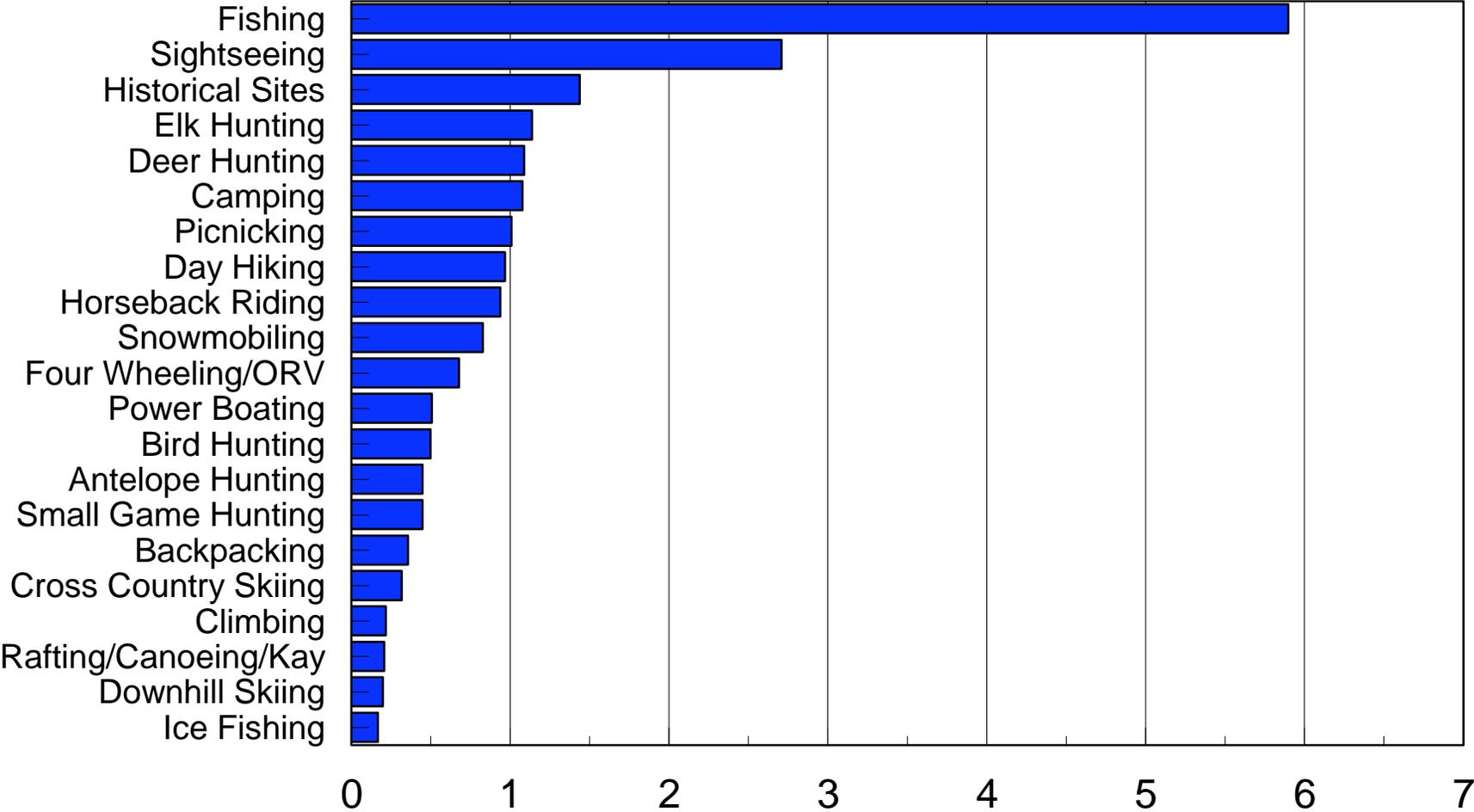


Figure 6.
Fremont Trips Per Capita Compared to Wyoming

