From Short Shorts & Long Hair to Long Shorts & Short Hair: Two Generations of Backcountry Conditions at Grand Canyon
Objectives:

1. Compare number and distribution of sites between 1985 and 2005
2. Compare campsite characteristics throughout time
3. Determine if site to site comparison is possible
The Studies:

1. pre-1984: General Campsite Recording
2. 1984-1993: Rapid Site Assessment (RSA Cole)
3. 2004-2005: Rapid Site Inventory (RSI N.A.U. Foti)
Annual Backcountry Use (non-corridor)

- 1977: 5-year average 32,184
- 1980: 37,303
- 1986: 65,858
- 2001: 37,303
- 2004: 37,303

Visitor Nights
RSA and RSI Inventory Methodology

- 1988 RSA monitoring tied to standards in 1988 BMP
- RSA measured size of barren cores; RSI records number of cores
- RSA 2-3 cores is a site; RSI 1-20 is a site
- Both studies attempted to inventory 95% of all sites
Number of Backcountry Sites by Use Area
1987 and 2004
Number of Sites by Use Area 1992 and 2004
## Total Campsite Comparison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>1992</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Horseshoe Mesa</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tapeats</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cottonwood</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clear Creek</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Canyon</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palisades</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nankoweap</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Canyon</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clear Creek</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tapeats</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surprise Valley</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cremation</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Slate</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruby</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total (use)</strong></td>
<td><strong>251 (44,060)</strong></td>
<td><strong>347 (37,303)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Barren Core Comparison 1983 & 2006
Campfire Occurrence in Tanner Use Area
1992 and 2005

1985: 64%
1991: 81%
2004: 81%
1988 BMP Management Objectives

- Campsite Condition Classes
- Total Barren Core Areas:
  Maximum of 2000 sq. ft. in at-large camping areas.*
- Number of Campsites per Square Mile
  Maximum of 20 in use areas with at-large camping.*

* Does not apply to use areas with designated sites- excess sites illegal.

In 1992 GCNP failed to meet objectives for:

- 7/8 Condition Class
- 7/8 Total Core Area
- 5/8 Campsite Density
Site-to-site Comparisons

Relocation

Tanner: 6/12 (50%) (From TH to Top of Redwall)

North Bass: 11/15 (73%)

Tapeats: 6/18 (33%)
Conclusions

- 40% increase in the number of sites (15 use areas)
- Analysis of spatial distribution shows more sites in desert areas than in riparian areas
- Campsite density does not necessarily correlate with increasing/decreasing use
- 1988 BMP Management Objectives are not being met in many of the primitive and threshold use areas