



2005-2009 Territorial Park Permits Report

Industry, Tourism and Investment
Government of the Northwest Territories



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Introduction

Through the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI), the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) operates 33 territorial parks throughout five regions of the Northwest Territories (NWT):

- Seventeen are Recreation Parks that encourage an appreciation for the natural environment and provide space to enjoy recreational activities;
- Twelve¹ are Wayside Parks that provide a convenient place for travellers to stop for a break;
- Three are Natural Environment Parks that preserve and protect unique, representative or aesthetically significant natural areas; and,
- One is a Heritage Park that preserves and protects a significant historical mission building in Fort Smith.

Two new conservation area categories were added to the *Territorial Parks Act* in 2003 and ITI is sponsoring the establishment of the first Cultural Conservation Area park near Jean Marie River through the Northwest Territories Protected Areas Strategy.

Parks are generally open from mid-May to mid-September. Seventeen parks contain campgrounds, day use areas, and kitchen shelter areas for public use. This report is a summary of information obtained from the park permits issued to users of these 17 parks for those specific uses.

In 2004, a new digital permitting system was introduced, replacing the paper permit previously being used. The new digital system significantly enhanced the collection and storage of the valuable information from each park permit. After the close of the season, the databases that contain permit information from each region are combined to form a comprehensive record of all park permits sold in the NWT. This report includes historical data from 2005 to 2009.

¹ Three of these parks are not in operation.

Definitions

AVERAGE PARTY SIZE

The average number of people noted as visitors on a permit.

CAMPING ACCOMMODATION

The type of equipment used when spending a night at a campsite.

CAMPING PERMITS

These permits are required for every party that overnights at a campsite.

CAMPING NIGHT

One campsite occupied for one night, regardless of how many visitors stay at the campsite.

DAY USE PERMITS

These permits allow vehicle access to a territorial park for one day, without an overnight stay at a campground. These are also referred to as Vehicle Entry Permits.

ELECTRICAL CAMPSITES

Campsites that provide a power supply.

KITCHEN SHELTER PERMITS

These permits are issued to parties for the use of kitchen shelter facilities.

LENGTH OF STAY

The number of consecutive nights a party spent at a campsite.

NON-ELECTRICAL CAMPSITES

Campsites that do not provide any type of power supply.

PARK PERMITS

The collective term for camping, day use or kitchen shelter permits.

PARK VISITS

The total number of visits to NWT campgrounds. It is calculated by adding together the party sizes recorded on each permit.

PARTIES

Group of visitors who purchase a camping, day use or kitchen shelter permit.

SEASONAL CAMPING PERMITS

These permits are only available at Reid Lake Territorial Park and Prelude Lake Territorial Park. There are only 20 seasonal permits available at each park and they allow a party to use the campsite for the entire operating season. These permits are excluded from most sections of this report.

TENT CAMPSITES

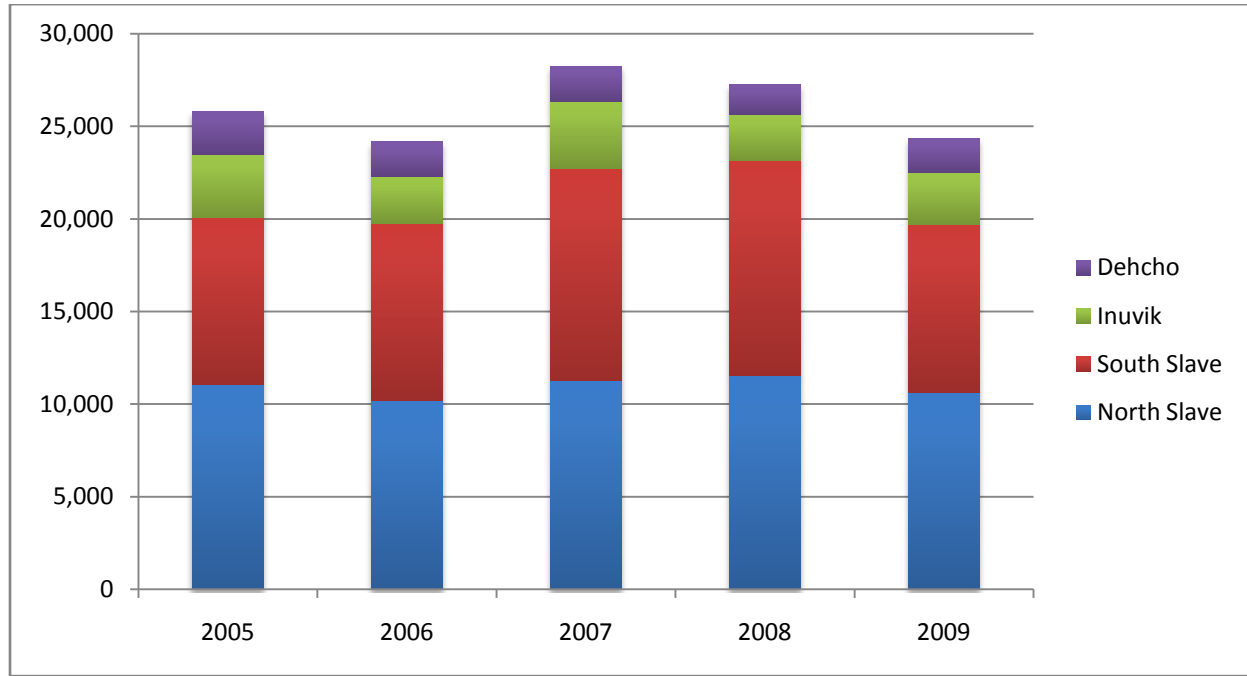
Smaller campsites with tent pads and no power supply or designated parking spot.

2009 Highlights

- There were 24,323 camping visits to NWT campgrounds in 2009, a 10.8% decrease from 2008.
- 34% of all park permits were issued to parties from the NWT, compared to 38% in 2008.
- 79% of all park permits were issued to parties from Canada (including the NWT), 8% were issued to parties from the United States and 8% were issued to parties from other countries.
- Excluding permits issued to NWT residents, 58% of park permits issued to Canadian parties were to parties from Alberta, 22% were to parties from British Columbia and 8% were to parties from Ontario.
- 688 park permits were issued to parties from the United States (8%). The largest portion of those permits were issued to parties from Alaska, California, and Washington.
- 261 park permits were issued to parties from Germany (2.8%) and 192 were issued to parties from Switzerland (2.1%).
- The average camping party size was 2.92 people.
- Towed accommodations were the most popular type of camping accommodation in 2009. Of those people who brought camping accommodations, 40% used a camper-trailer, fifth wheel or tent-trailer. Self-propelled accommodations were also popular; 34% of people used a motorhome, truck-trailer or van. In 2008, the most popular accommodation type was a tent but in 2009, tents only accounted for 21% of camping accommodations.
- The number of camping nights for both electrical and non-electrical campsites decreased 24% from 2008 to 2009.

Camping Visits

Chart 1: Total Camping Visits by Region



There were 24,323 camping visits to NWT parks in 2009, a decrease of 10.8% when compared to the previous year. While the South Slave and North Slave Regions experienced a decline in visitation in 2009, the Inuvik and Dehcho Regions saw increases of 10.8% and 11.8%, respectively, from 2008.

Table 1: Total Camping Visits by Region

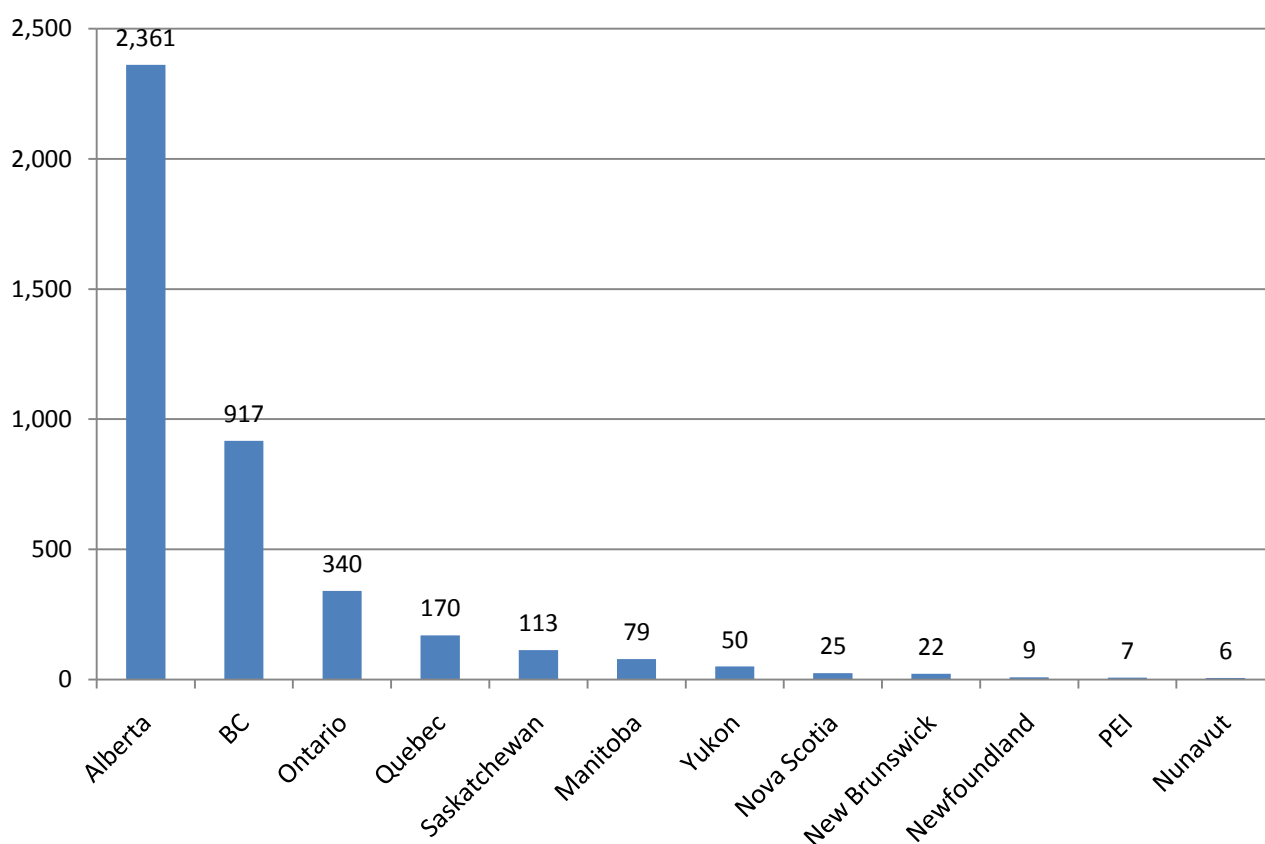
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
North Slave	11,068	10,179	11,265	11,524	10,610
South Slave	8,993	9,559	11,476	11,616	9,113
Inuvik	3,406	2,538	3,610	2,496	2,765
Dehcho	2,330	1,881	1,905	1,641	1,835
Total	25,797	24,157	28,256	27,277	24,323

Origin

The majority of park permits² in 2009 were issued to Canadian travellers: 34% of permits were issued to residents of the NWT, and 45% were issued to travellers from other parts of Canada.

Park permits issued to overseas travellers and travellers from the United States each accounted for 8% of all park permits issued in 2009.

Chart 2: Park Permits Issued by Party Origin - Canada, Excluding NWT (all regions 2009)

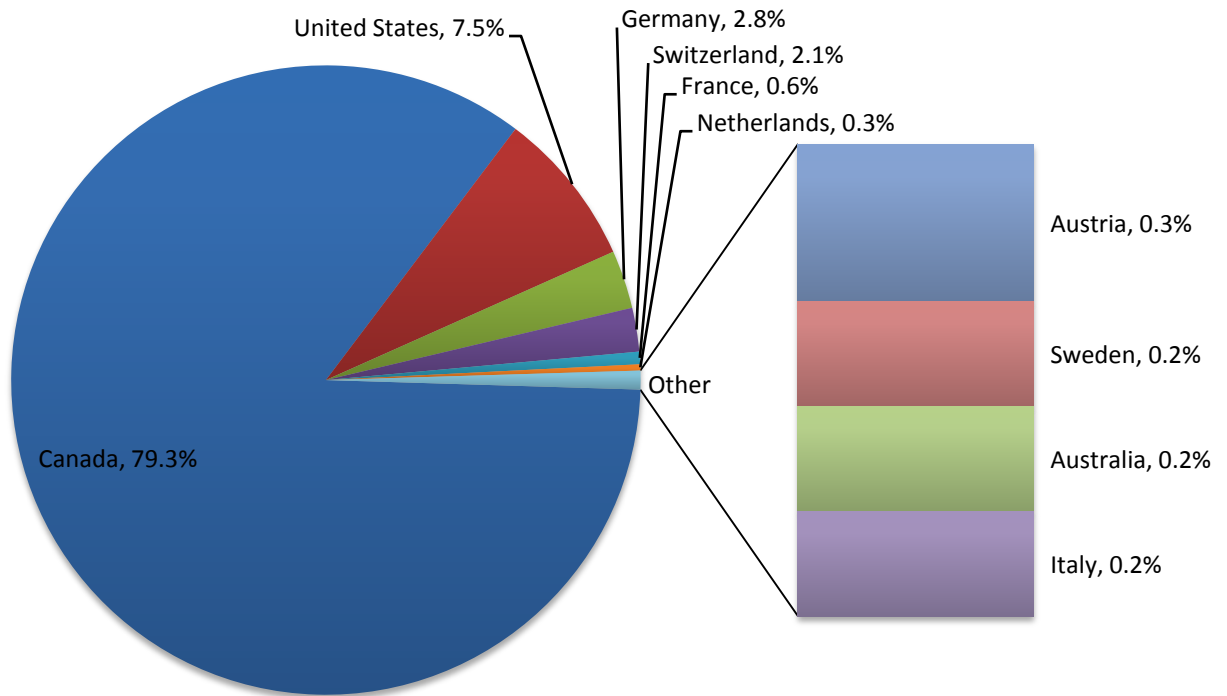


In 2009, 7,262 park permits were issued to parties from Canada. NWT residents accounted for 34% of all permits issued to Canadian parties.

Most Canadian campers that were not residents of the NWT were from Alberta (58%), British Columbia (22%), and Ontario (8%). Combined, the remaining provinces and territories accounted for 12% of all permits issued to Canadian parties that were not residents of the NWT.

² Includes camping permits, day use permits and kitchen shelter permits.

Chart 3: Park Permits Issued by Party Origin - Top Ten Countries (all regions 2009)

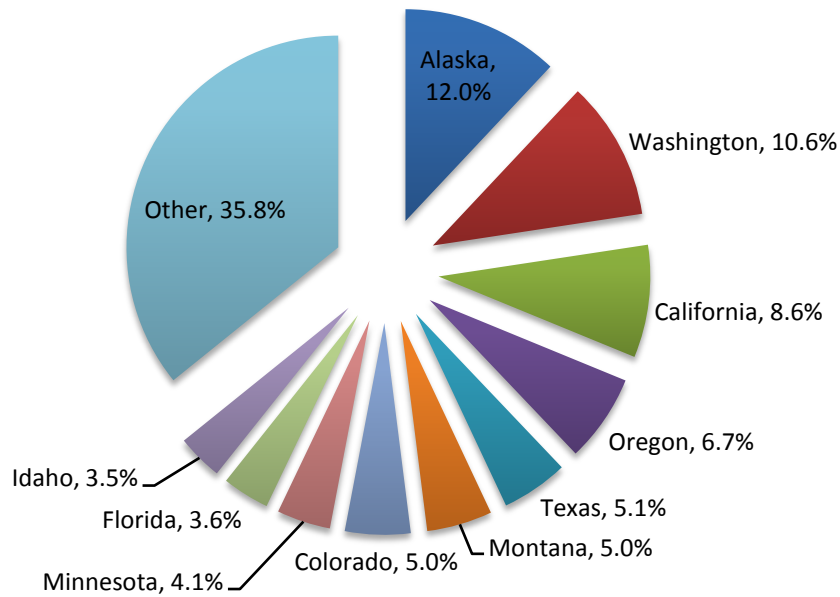


Combined, park permits issued to parties from Canada and the United States represent almost 87% of all permits issued. The remainder were issued to parties from other countries, with visitors from Germany and Switzerland accounting for the largest portion – 453 permits (4.9%) in 2009.

Table 2: Permits Issued by Party Origin – Top Ten Countries (2009)

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
1. Canada	9,863	9,825	9,620	7,756	7,262
2. United States	867	639	769	733	688
3. Germany	353	301	336	356	261
4. Switzerland	214	133	191	191	192
5. France	16	50	27	24	52
6. Netherlands	15	11	59	22	31
7. Austria	18	25	24	57	23
8. Sweden					21
9. Australia	33	17	3	23	18
10. Italy	27	14	10		14

Chart 4: Park Permits Issued by Party Origin – Top Ten States (all regions 2009)



In 2009, 7.5% of all park permits were issued to parties from the United States. The largest number of these permits were sold to parties from Alaska (12.0%), Washington (10.6%) and California (8.6%). Approximately 56% of American campsite users were from the Western geographical region of the United States and 36% were from the Western Pacific region of the United States (Alaska, California, Oregon and Washington).

Table 3: Park Permits Issued by Party Origin – Top Ten States (2009)

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
1. Alaska	108	49	52	45	82
2. Washington	82	122	81	42	73
3. California	108	57	100	99	59
4. Oregon	45	33	40	-	46
5. Texas	36	25	33	33	35
6. Colorado	46	27	41	27	34
7. Minnesota	-	-	-	35	28
8. Florida	51	35	37	59	25
9. Idaho	28	28	17	27	24
10. Michigan	-	-	-	28	22

Party Size

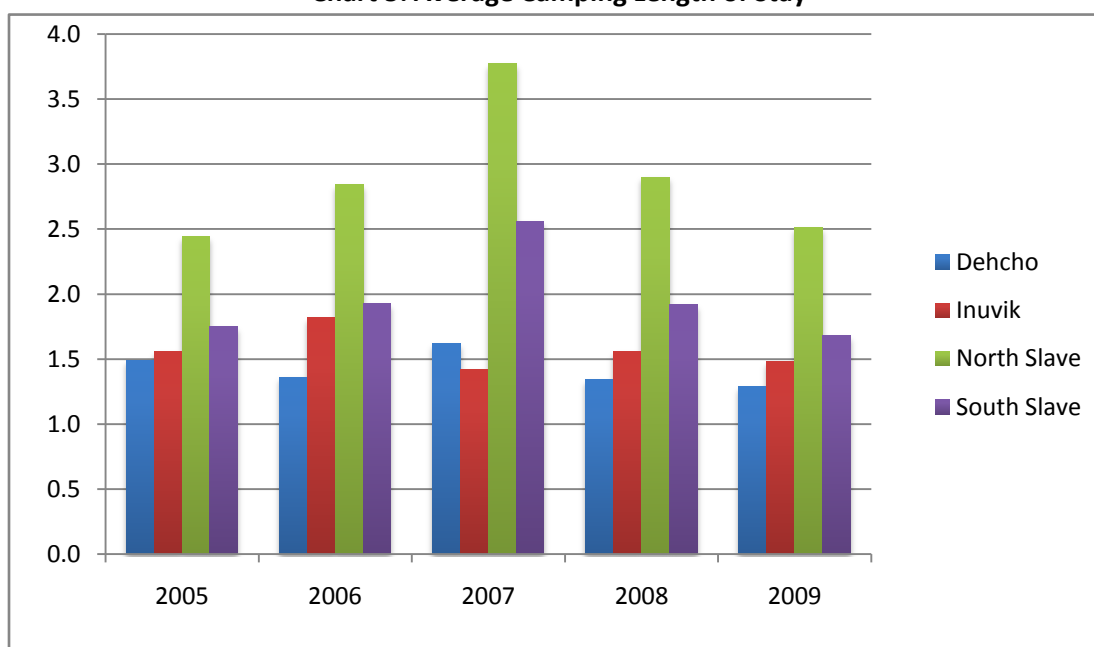
In 2009, the average party size for camping permits was 2.92 people, a 3% increase from 2008.

Table 4: Average Party Size by Region

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Camping					
Dehcho	2.57	2.43	2.45	2.54	2.40
Inuvik	2.63	2.59	2.47	2.4	2.39
North Slave	2.92	3.19	3.04	3.43	3.28
South Slave	2.76	3.01	3.19	2.97	2.88
Overall	2.72	2.81	2.79	2.84	2.92

Camping Length of Stay

Chart 5: Average Camping Length of Stay



The average length of stay for camping parties in 2009 was 1.94 nights, a 1% increase in nights over 2008. Most campers stayed one or two nights.

In the Dehcho, Inuvik, and South Slave Regions, campers tended to stay between one and two nights (averages of 1.29, 1.48 and 1.68, respectively). However, people in the North Slave Region generally stayed longer during the 2009 camping season, with an average of 2.51 nights.

NWT residents camped longer than non-residents, except in the Inuvik Region.

Table 5: Average Camping Length of Stay (Nights)

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Dehcho					
Resident	1.80	1.49	1.84	1.50	1.86
Non-resident	1.18	1.23	1.40	1.18	1.16
Overall	1.49	1.36	1.62	1.34	1.29
Inuvik					
Resident	1.63	1.85	1.54	1.47	1.26
Non-resident	1.48	1.78	1.29	1.65	1.50
Overall	1.56	1.82	1.42	1.56	1.48
North Slave					
Resident	2.50	3.02	5.06	3.40	2.59
Non-resident	2.37	2.66	2.47	2.39	2.36
Overall	2.44	2.84	3.77	2.90	2.51
South Slave					
Resident	1.58	1.84	1.66	1.95	2.03
Non-resident	1.43	1.53	1.60	1.64	1.59
Overall	1.51	1.69	1.93	1.80	1.68
All Regions					
Resident	1.87	2.05	2.52	2.08	2.40
Non-resident	1.75	1.93	2.56	1.92	1.68
Overall	1.75	1.93	2.56	1.92	1.94

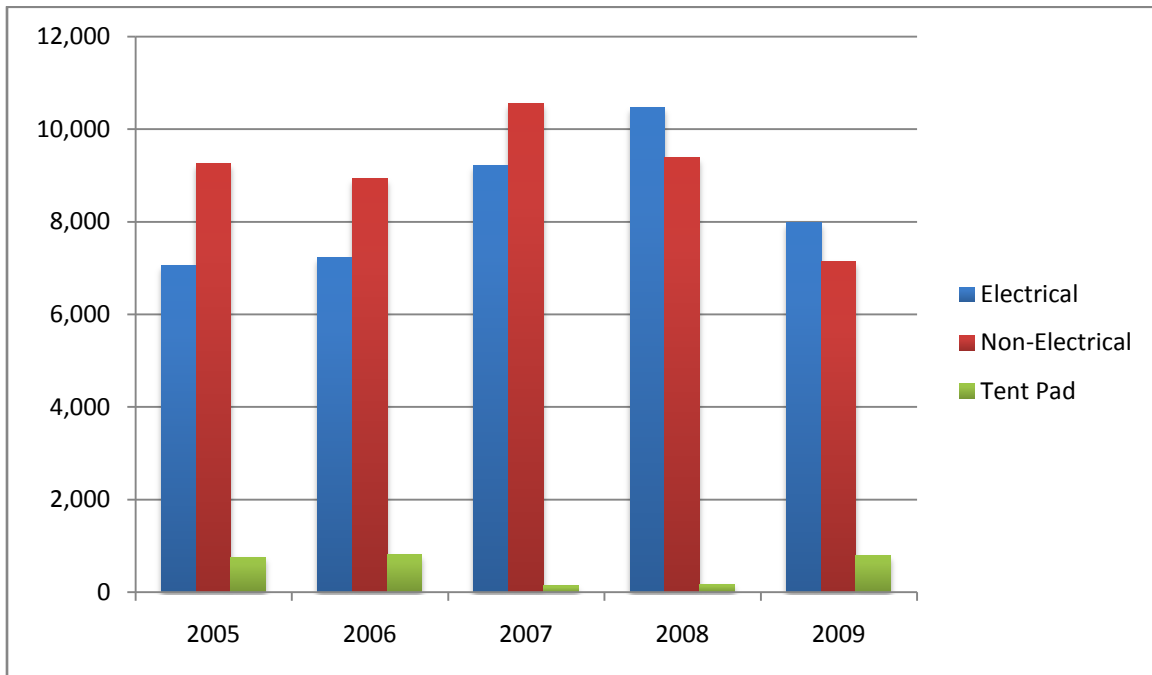
Resident= NWT resident

Non-Resident= All other park visitors

Seasonal Camping Permits are not included

Campsite Type

Chart 6: Number of Camping Nights by Campsite Type (all regions)



The use of electrical campsites dropped 24% from 10,465 camping nights in 2008 to 7,972 in 2009. However, approximately half of all camping nights in 2009 were with electrical campsite permits.

Since 2008, the number of electrical camping nights has been higher than non-electrical camping nights. The change may be attributed to the conversion of non-electrical sites to electrical sites in campgrounds in South Slave (Lady Evelyn, Twin Falls – loop B and C) in 2007.

**Seasonal Camping Permits, day use and kitchen shelter use are not included.*

Table 6: Camping Nights by Campsite Type (all regions)

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Electrical	7,044	7,220	9,207	10,465	7,972
Non-Electrical	9,258	8,931	10,560	9,380	7,143
Tent Pad	758	804	135	174	793

Camping Accommodations

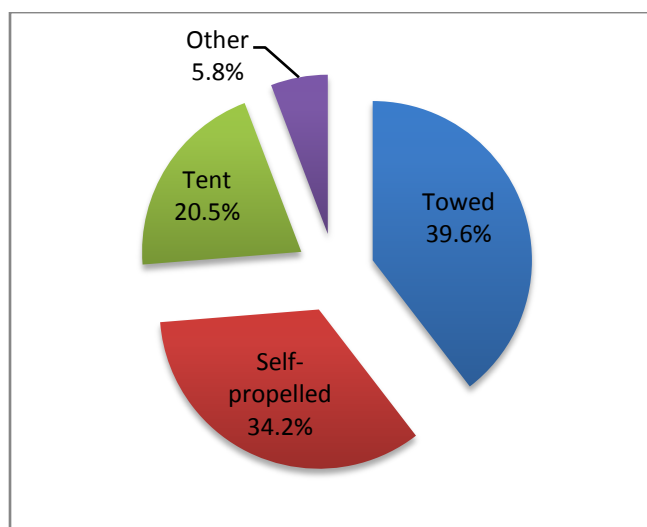
In 2009, towed accommodation was the most common type of camping accommodation being used in NWT parks (40%). This was followed by self-propelled accommodation (34%) and tents (21%). Towed accommodation includes camper-trailers, fifth-wheels, and tent-trailers.

Self-propelled accommodation includes motor homes, truck-campers, and vans.

Table 7: Camping Accommodation Type (all regions)

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Tent	2,963	2,521	1,246	1,193	829
Towed	3,151	3,181	1,480	1,277	1,602
Camper-trailer	1,847	2,092	830	793	916
Fifth-wheel	942	711	507	305	579
Tent-Trailer	362	378	143	179	107
Self-propelled	2,639	2,251	1,603	1,559	1,383
Motor home	1,177	1,005	846	707	756
Truck camper	937	771	560	563	440
Van	525	475	197	289	187
Other	499	170	103	100	223
Total	9,252	8,123	4,432	4,129	4,037

Chart 7: Type of Camping Accommodation



Appendix 1: 2009 Camping Visits Overview

Number of Sites Available



	<u>Area (hectares)</u>	<u>Electrical</u>	<u>Non- Electrical</u>	<u>Tent Pad</u>	<u>Park Visits</u>	<u>Average Party Size</u>	<u>Camping Nights</u>	<u>Average Length of Stay</u>
Dehcho	1,094	21	59		1,835	2.40	990	1.29
Blackstone	720		25		647	2.74	245	1.04
Fort Simpson	17	21	12		732	2.31	447	1.41
Sambaa Deh	357		22		455	2.15	299	1.41
Inuvik	8,952	28	85	16	2,765	2.39	1,720	1.48
Gwich'in	8,800		23	10				
Happy Valley	3	19	10	6	1,650	2.21	1,209	1.62
Ja'k	49	9	28		732	3.01	328	1.35
Nitainlaih	100		24		381	2.27	185	1.10
North Slave	666	54	96	36	10,610	3.28	8,270	2.51
Fred Henne	500	54	38	12	7,857	3.29	6,182	2.59
Prelude Lake	99		31	12	1,710	3.38	1,336	2.64
Reid Lake	67		27	12	1,043	3.07	758	2.23
South Slave	786	42	107	8	9,113	2.88	5,313	1.68
60th Parallel	16		13		434	2.37	225	1.23
Fort Providence	10		36		2,059	3.07	1,126	1.68
Hay River	11	33	1		2,513	2.69	1,838	1.97
Lady Evelyn Falls	6		14		931	2.57	510	1.41
Little Buffalo River	33		13		455	3.37	370	2.74
Queen Elizabeth	38		17		486	2.53	301	1.57
Twin Falls	673	9	13	8	1,950	2.86	936	1.37
Escarpment Creek					285	40.71	14	2.00
NWT Overall	11,498	147	364	60	24,323	2.92	16,293	1.94

Appendix 2: NWT Map – Territorial Parks



NWT Map – Territorial Parks (Continued)

