



Great Basin Consortium Conference

*Climate programs, water limitations, and
geospaces in the Great Basin*

**Conference Program
February 17-19, 2015**

Boise State University
Student Union
Boise, Idaho, USA

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AS PERCEIVED BY DIFFERENT RECREATION GROUPS

Hannah Brown¹, Robert Spaul¹, Monica Hubbard¹, Kathryn Demps¹, and Julie A. Heath²

¹Department of Anthropology, ²Department of Biological Sciences, Boise State University, Boise ID
julieheath@boisestate.edu

The use of off-highway-vehicles (OHV) and other forms of recreation on public lands has increased greatly, especially in areas near cities and towns with rapid population growth. Outdoor recreation is the second leading cause for the decline of federally threatened and endangered species on public lands and natural resource managers are increasingly concerned about impacts of recreation on wildlife. The purpose of this study was to understand how recreationists perceive the environmental impact of motorized and non-motorized recreation, and whether perceptions depended on group membership. We hypothesized that recreationists would not consider their own activities as harmful, but may recognize activities of other groups as causing harm. We asked recreationists using a series of eleven trail heads along the Owyhee Front to complete a survey on the type of recreation that they participate in and their opinion about how recreation impacts various aspects of the area. The results of this study showed the perception of each groups regarding their own impact on the environment as well as the impact of others along with the preferred management practices of recreation groups.