

**MEAGER CREEK AND KEYHOLE HOT SPRINGS
VISITOR USE MANAGEMENT PROJECT**

PUBLIC ONLINE SURVEY

What We Heard

MAY 2020





CAPRICORN LANDSLIDE (ABOVE PHOTO)

MEAGER CREEK AND KEYHOLE HOT SPRINGS
VISITOR USE MANAGEMENT PROJECT
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WHAT WE HEARD
MAY 2020

FRONT AND BACK COVER IMAGE:
THE UPPER LILLOOET RIVER

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HOT SPRINGS PLATEAU ABOVE MEAGER CREEK (ABOVE PHOTO)

Meager Creek and Keyhole Hot Springs Public Online Survey Results

ABOUT THE MEAGER CREEK AND KEYHOLE HOT SPRINGS VISITOR USE MANAGEMENT PROJECT

The Province is partnering with Lílwat Nation to address visitor use management at Meager Creek and Keyhole Hot Springs. Meager Creek and Keyhole Hot Springs are both natural hot springs in the remote Upper Lillooet River Valley, located about 60 kilometers northwest of the Village of Pemberton, within the territory of Lílwat Nation. These hot springs have high cultural and spiritual values, wildlife and ecological values, as well as recreational values. However, both hot springs have seen negative impacts from overuse in the past.

Meager Creek Hot Springs was once a popular recreation site, but has been closed since the Capricorn landslide, the largest recorded landslide in Canada, destroyed road access in 2010. Road access has been re-established via a different route, but Meager Creek Hot Springs remains closed due to public safety concerns. Keyhole Hot Springs (also known as Pebble Creek Hot Springs) has been closed seasonally since 2017 due to wildlife conflicts caused by recreational users. In light of changes to access and recent increases in public visitation during site closures, the Province and Lílwat Nation are taking this opportunity to enter into a planning process to reassess management of both hot springs. This process is guided by the [Visitor Use Management Framework](#).¹

The Fraser Basin Council, as an impartial facilitator, is assisting with collaboration and engagement with local government, stakeholders and the public. For more information please visit our [project website](#).²

ABOUT THE SURVEY

The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is partnering with Lílwat Nation, and working with local government, stakeholder groups, and the public to understand the diversity of values, interests, and concerns at both hot springs. The Fraser Basin Council assisted with this survey.

Input from this survey will inform the planning process and be considered by project partners to identify objectives for the future management of Meager Creek & Keyhole Hot Springs. Additional public engagement opportunities will be available at a later date once proposed management actions have been identified. Opportunities and information will be posted on our [project website](#).³

ENGAGEMENT TIMEFRAME

January 12 – March 16, 2020

RESPONSE RATE

773 responses were received

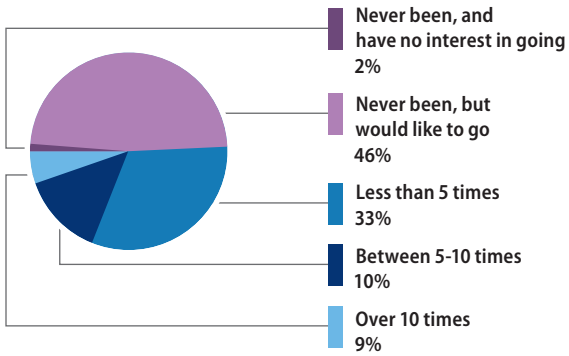


PROJECT AREA: SEA TO SKY NATURAL RESOURCE DISTRICT AND THE MEAGER CREEK AND KEY HOLE HOT SPRINGS VISITOR USE MANAGEMENT PROJECT AREA. (ABOVE MAP)

Section 1: Meager Creek Hot Springs

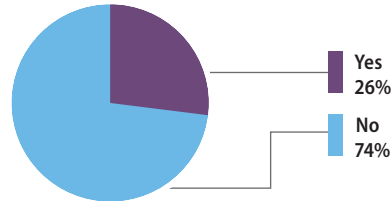
QUESTION #1:

How many times have you been to Meager Creek Hot Springs?



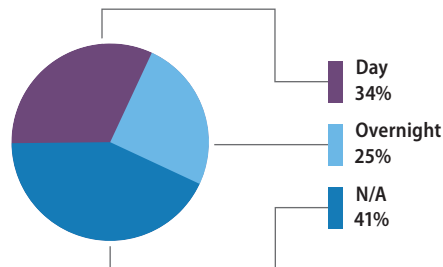
QUESTION #2:

Have you visited Meager Creek Hot Springs since the 2010 landslide?



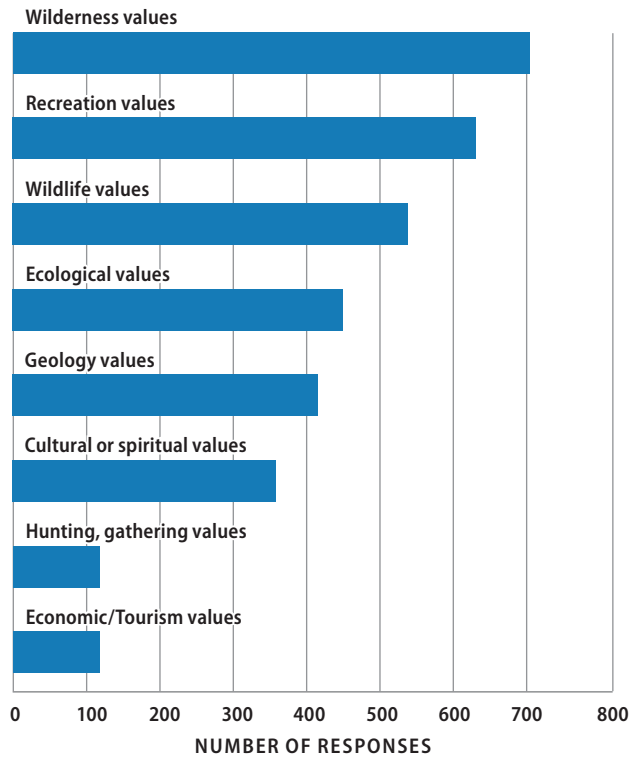
QUESTION #3:

Do you typically visit Meager Hot Springs for day use or overnight use?



QUESTION #4:

What do you think is special, meaningful or unique about Meager Creek Hot Springs and the surrounding area? (check all that apply)



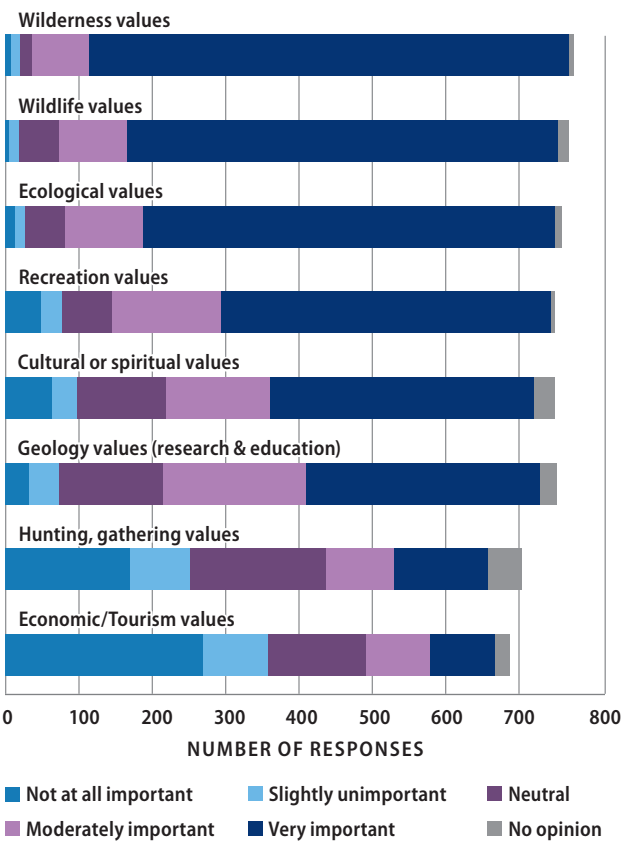
MEAGER CREEK NEAR MEAGER HOT SPRINGS (ABOVE PHOTO)



OLD SIGNAGE AT MEAGER CREEK HOTSPRINGS (ABOVE PHOTO)

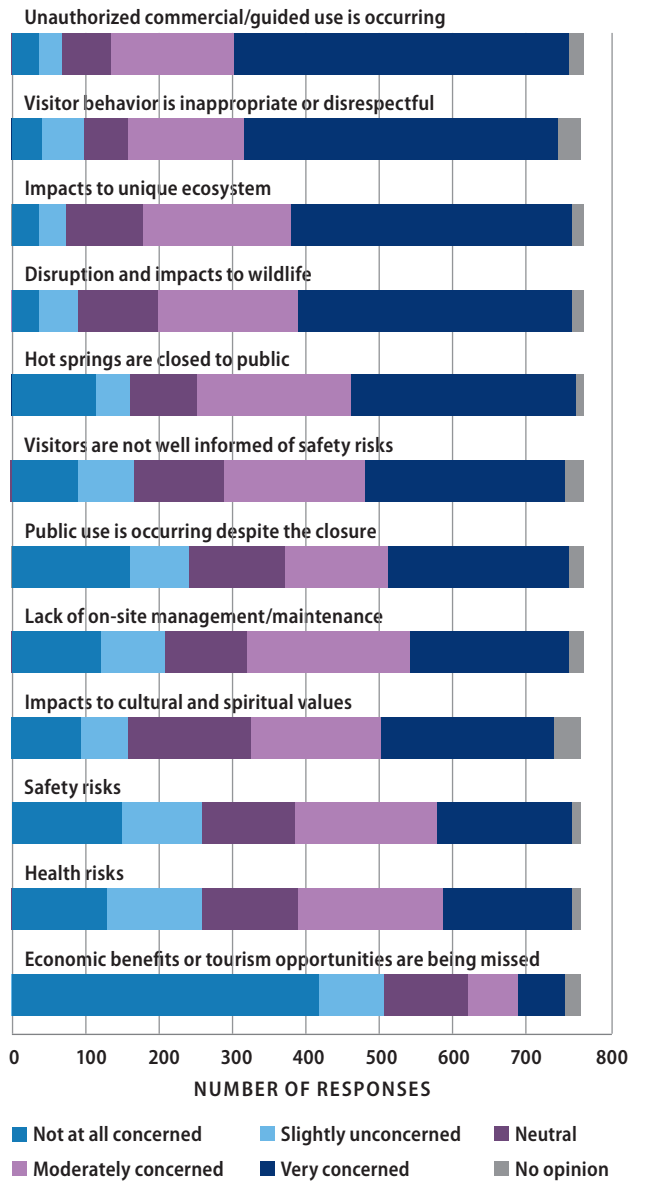
QUESTION #5:

How important to you is it that the following values are protected at Meager Creek Hot Springs?



QUESTION #6:

What concerns do you have with the current situation and activities at Meager Creek Hot Springs?
(Please indicate how concerned you are with the following:)



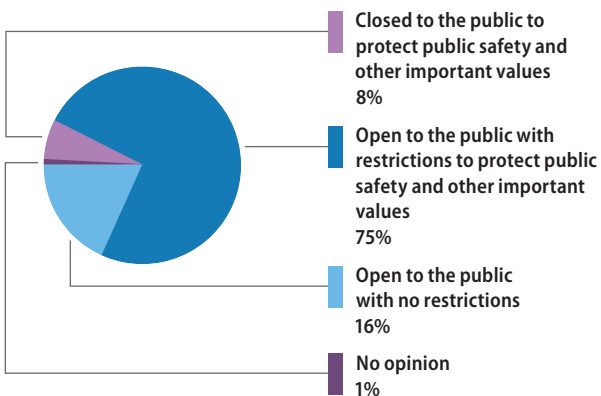
QUESTION #7:

What is most important to you for the future management and use of Meager Creek Hot Springs? (check all that apply)



QUESTION #8:

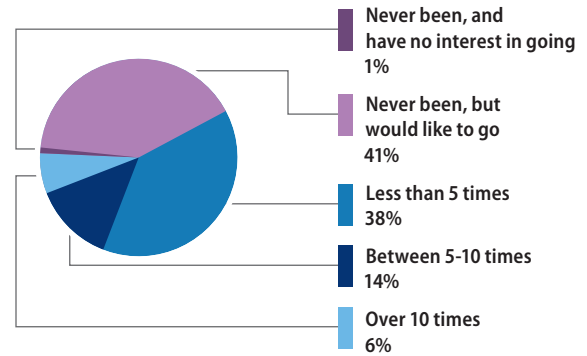
In your opinion, what would be the best option for future visitor use management at Meager Creek Hot Springs? (please check one)



Section 2: Keyhole Hot Springs

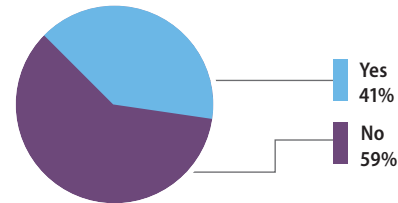
QUESTION #9:

How many times have you been to Keyhole Hot Springs?



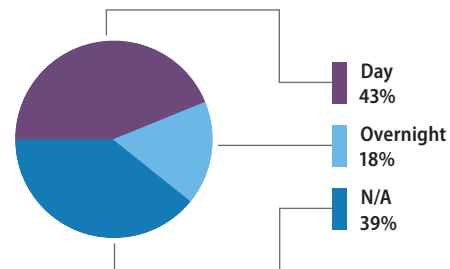
QUESTION #10:

Have you visited Keyhole Hot Springs since the new Lil'watátkwa7 trail was built in 2014?



QUESTION #11:

Do you typically visit Keyhole Hot Springs for day use or overnight use?

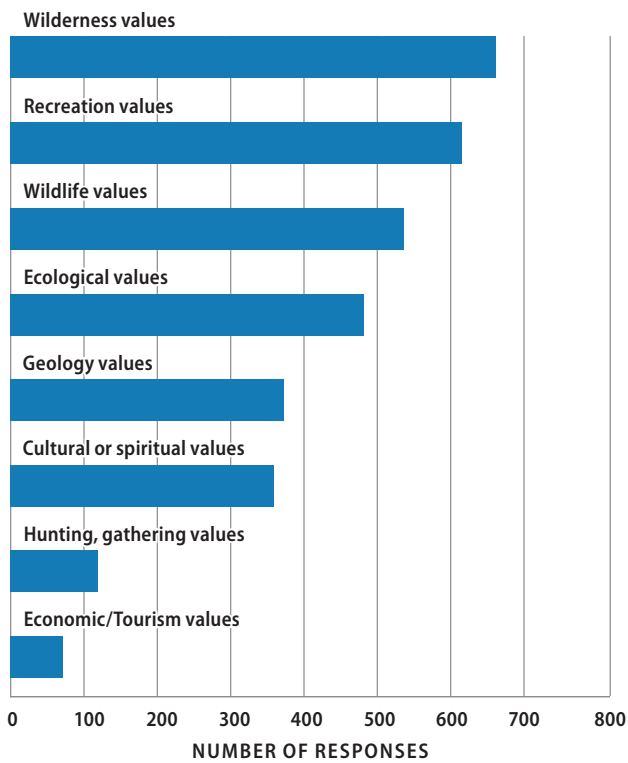




KEYHOLE HOT SPRINGS (ABOVE PHOTO)

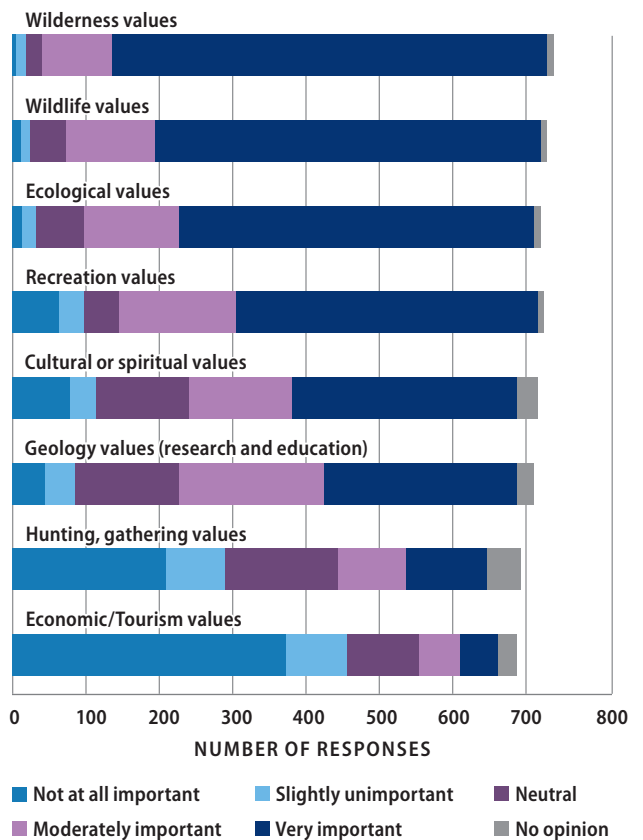
QUESTION #12:

What do you think is special, meaningful or unique about Keyhole Hot Springs and the surrounding area? (check all that apply)



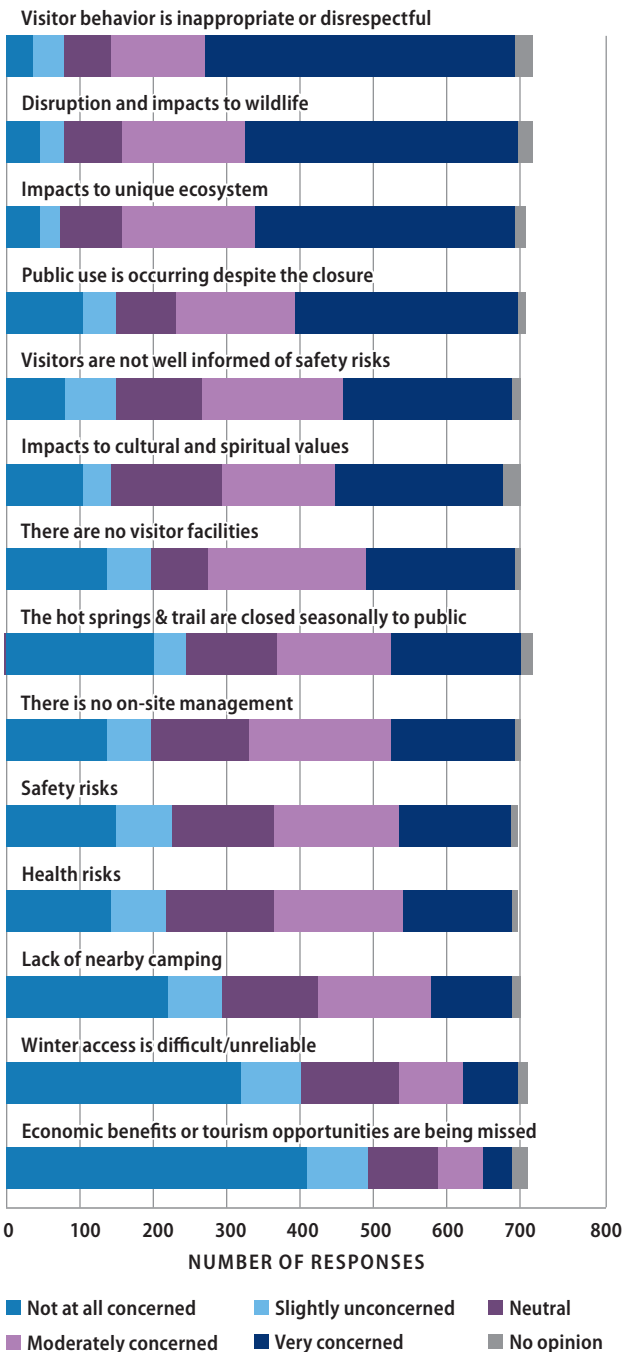
QUESTION #13:

How important to you is it that the following are protected at Keyhole Hot Springs and the Lil'watátkwa7 trail?



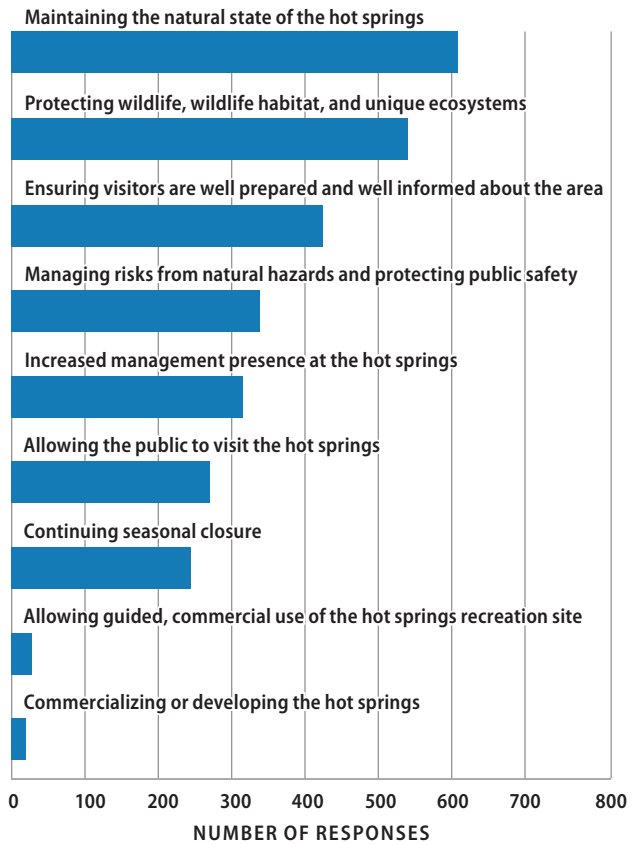
QUESTION #14:

What concerns do you have with the current situation and activities at Keyhole Hot Springs & the Lil'watátkwa7 trail? (Please indicate how concerned you are with the following:)



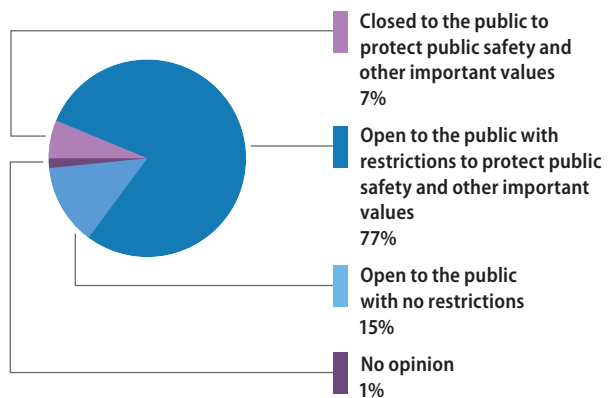
QUESTION #15:

What is most important to you about the future management and use of Keyhole Hot Springs & the Lil'watátkwa7 trail? (check all that apply)



QUESTION #16:

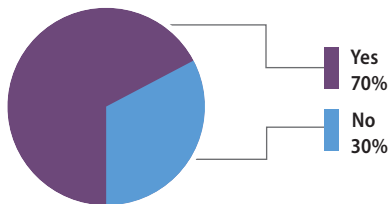
In your opinion, what would be the best option for future visitor use management at Keyhole Hot Springs? (please check one)



Section 3: General

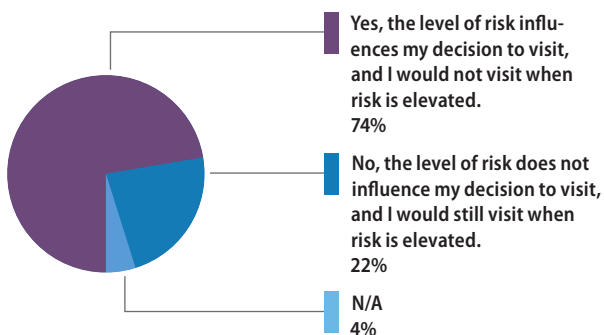
QUESTION #17:

Do you feel you have adequate knowledge about the risks to public safety from landslides in the Upper Lillooet River Valley?



QUESTION #18:

Does your knowledge of the level of risk to public safety from landslides influence your decision to visit this area?



QUESTION #19:

Is there anything else you would like to share about Meager & Keyhole Hot Springs?

(This was an open-ended question; responses have been grouped into themes and listed below in order of frequency.)

- » Do not commercialize or develop the hot springs; do not allow guided tours.
- » Allow public access to the backcountry; it is unacceptable to close public access to backcountry.
- » These natural hot springs are beautiful, unique, special places.
- » Manage for recreational use, allow for some public use; do not turn a blind eye to the demand.
- » Make it difficult to access Meager Hot Springs, this will deter disrespectful visitors and effectively limit visitation.
- » Keep it natural & wild; maintain the feel of wilderness.
- » More education & information is needed.
 - Inform visitors of risks from natural hazards, how to behave respectfully, and the principals of Leave No Trace.
- » Limit the numbers of visitors.
 - Consider charging fees to support maintenance & management; require permits.
- » Protect the hot springs from impacts due to uneducated, ill-prepared, and/or disrespectful visitors.
- » Prevent overuse.
- » Provide basic facilities to minimize impacts from use (i.e. toilets, bear caches).
- » On-site management is needed (i.e. full-time caretaker).
- » It is hypocritical to allow industrial use but restrict public access to the backcountry on account of wildlife and environmental protection. Impacts from industry are much greater and the risks from hazards are the same. This is why people don't respect the closures.
- » Prioritize protecting wildlife & the environment over public use.
- » Risks can be managed, let people make their own informed decisions around hazard & risk.
- » More enforcement of rules & fines for those who break them.
- » Prohibit helicopter access at either site; non-motorized access only.
- » Site closures do not deter disrespectful use.
- » First Nations should be actively involved in management.
- » Do not advertise these hot springs.
- » Social media has contributed to issues with overuse; discourage the use of social media at these sites through signage.



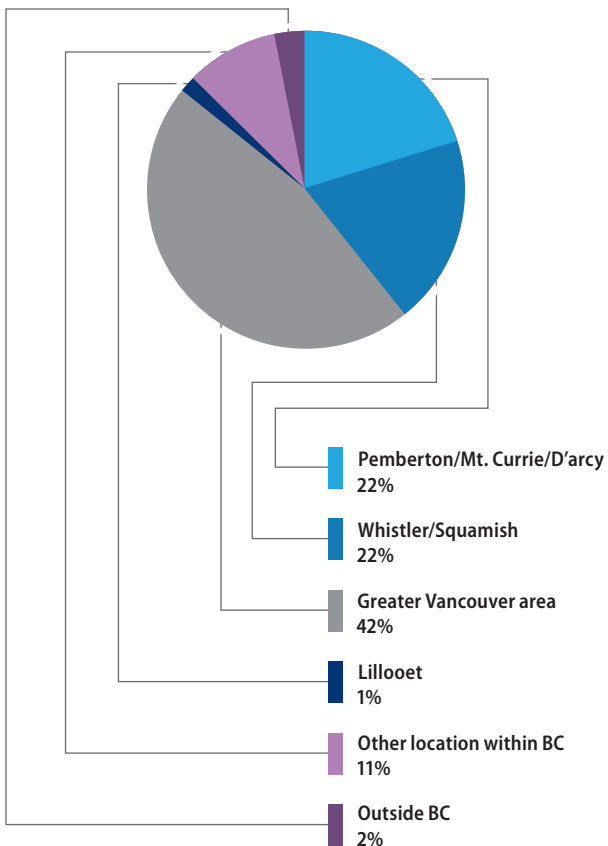
MOUNT PLINTH, PART OF THE MOUNT MEAGER VOLCANIC COMPLEX (ABOVE PHOTO)



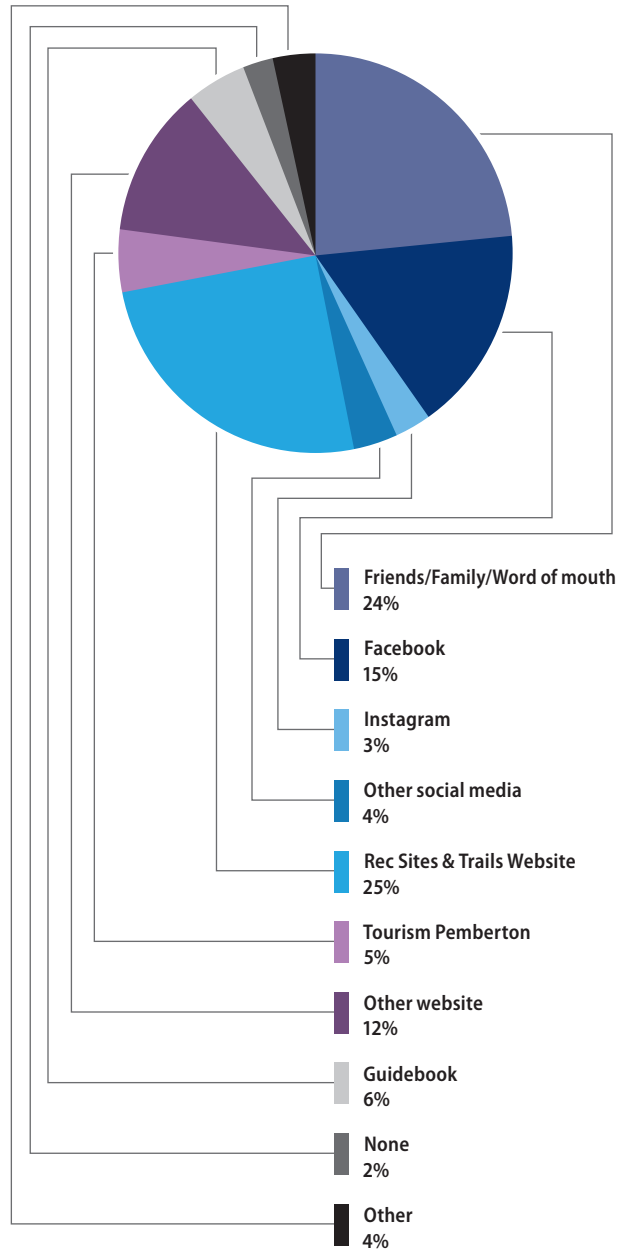
YELLOW MONKEY FLOWER AT KEYHOLE HOTSPRINGS (ABOVE PHOTO)

Section 4: About You

QUESTION #20:
Where are you from?



QUESTION #21:
Where do you go for information on Meager and Keyhole Hot Springs? (check all that apply)



* Other: 4wd Association of BC; Google; and Province's road conditions page.

Footnotes

¹ <https://tinyurl.com/r6p3on2>

² <https://tinyurl.com/ybwotuhh>

³ <https://tinyurl.com/ybltqp88>

