

Ancient Forest

Socio-economic Benefits of Non-timber Uses of BC's Inland Rainforest
Research Bulletin, December, 2019

Estimated Visits for 2019 Hiking Season

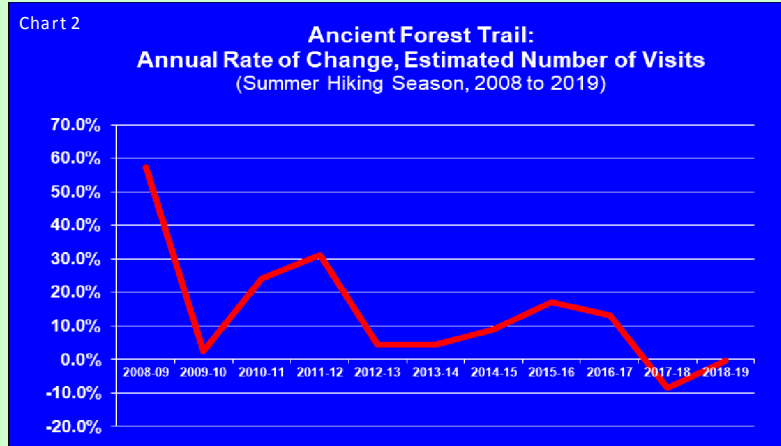
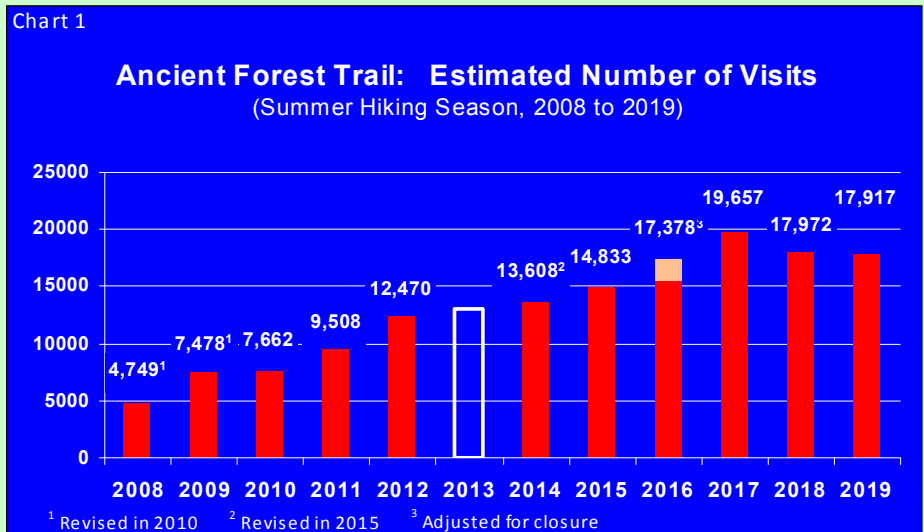
The estimated number of visits to the Ancient Forest/Chun T'oh Whudujut Provincial Park and Protected Area during the 2019 hiking season was 17,917. The total number of visits is about the same as 2018, which had 17,972 visits, as shown in Chart 1.

It is difficult to anticipate the number of visits over the next few years. The annual rates of change in visits since 2008 are mixed, although there is an overall trend of declining rates (Chart 2). For the first few years, the rate of change was high (over 20%, excluding 2010). Between 2012 and 2017, the rates of annual change increase. Then, as reported in the last two bulletins, the extensive wildfires affected tourism in the region, contributing to a negative rate of growth between 2017 and 2018, followed this year with no growth.

No visitor surveys were completed during the 2019 hiking season. Consequently, we are not able to analyse changes in the mix of visitors, i.e., tourists, day-trippers, and commuters. For reference, the statistics from the 2017 and 2018 surveys are shown in Table 1, which indicates that the estimated number of tourist visits increased between the two years, as did the proportion of tourists among all visitors.

Also, during the same period, significantly more area residents visit the park on weekends compared to weekdays. These estimates are based on data from surveys of trail users conducted throughout the two hiking seasons and data from on-trail counts of trail users (for details about these methods, see the 2015 issue of the bulletin).

The Ancient Forest/Chun T'oh Whudujut Park and Protected Area was enacted as a Class A park on May 19, 2016.



The purpose of this research bulletin is to communicate the results of on-going research on the socio-economic benefits of non-timber uses of the inland rainforest of the upper Fraser River valley in British Columbia. The information contained in this bulletin may be distributed freely with proper citation, as follows:

Connell, David J. 2019. *Socio-economic Benefits of Non-timber Uses of BC's Inland Rainforest: Research Bulletin, December 2019*. Prince George, BC: Ecosystem Science and Management, University of Northern British Columbia.

For more information about this study please contact Dr. David J. Connell (email: david.connell@unbc.ca; tel.: 250-960-5835).

Website: <https://www.unbc.ca/david-connell/research-projects>