

APPENDIX C
VISITOR OBSERVATION FORMS

People At One Time (PAOT)/Behavior Observation Form

Total Daily Use/Length of Stay Observation Form

APPENDIX D
INFORMAL OBSERVATION TRANSCRIPTS

5/29/05

“3 other climbing groups south of observation area.”

“Hikers picnicking in forest zone (6 to 8 people).”

“Climbers (south) gear spread out through forest zone & hanging in trees.”

“Trees in forest zone slung with ropes/webbing for anchors using multiple rap method.”

5/30/05

“Low number of people (looks like rain).”

“Hikers in forest zone to take pictures of people on cliff-edge.”

6/10/05

“Family of three ate lunch in forest zone, presumably for the shade. They were there for 10 minutes.”

“Saw three thru-hikers, sat on rocks and rested for a bit.”

“Hikers go into north zone 1st, don’t know the rest of the cliffs exist, trample grass, etc.”

6/11/05

“Rock climbers did not know where climbs on cliffs were or where to anchor. Both seem new to the sport and have little experience. More information about climbing here would most likely help.”

“Tourists seem to enjoy watching/learning about rock climbing. Don’t mind stepping over webbing etc. Backpackers don’t seem to like it.”

“Six-member party of rock climbers (with one setting up two climbs by himself) took eighty minutes to set up climbs. It was mentioned that the leader climbed traditional; supposing he owned gear he still set up climbs w/static rope (by slinging trees) instead of placing gear.”

6/18/05

“Group of 4 rock climbers, very little experience. Unsafe!”

“Weird belay/anchor system – unsafe.”

“Ropes draped across trail (AT), hikers have to walk into forest to get around, rope coiled on trail, no regard for others.

- Although clearly the hikers are not pleased.
- Waist high rope across trail. Tied to tree & belayer waist.
- Camping in LSMC cliffs campsite (upper)”

“The hikers like to watch the climbers and ask questions.”

“For most it most likely adds to their experience. The thru-hikers don’t much like them.”

7/2/05

“Very slow for a Saturday, may be due to July 4th weekend. No rock climbers, very few backpackers (most thru-hikers should be past Shenandoah by now).”

7/4/05

“Family/friends (group of 6), loud, obnoxious mother told her son to come to middle of cliff to throw rocks. I informed them that there was a trail below and that there were a group of rock climbers on the cliff (despite the introduction of bias I did this in the interest of safety). She (mother) instructed the child to not throw rocks. On their way back down (they hiked towards Stony Man) one of the adults (20-25) asked me for a piece of paper so that he could make a paper airplane.”

9/10/05

Rock climber came up to set an anchor for climbers already on the route. The route he set an anchor for (the chimney) does not have any good placements (gear) on the top to use as an anchor. Therefore, he climbed down 10-15 ft. to find rock suitable for an anchor (typically three good placements close enough to equalize). The climber had a lot of gear, most likely indicating he has been climbing for a while (or he’s rich, or both), he was in his late 40’s; he rappelled the route.”