

Williston Recreation Use Study

Evaluation of recreational boat launch use

The Peace Water Use Plan Committee recommended a study to determine if the use of boat launches increases in response to improved access opportunities in the Williston Reservoir. Williston Recreation Use is a ten-year study that began monitoring boat launches in 2009.



Questions We Wanted to Answer

1. Does the recreational use of the Williston Reservoir boat launches increase after boat access has been improved?
2. What is the frequency of use of newly constructed boat launches?



Study Update

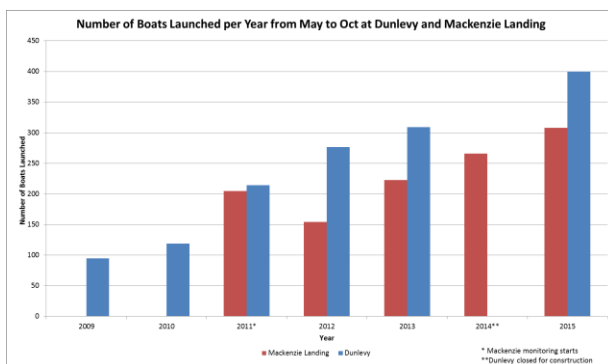
- This ten-year study began monitoring use of Williston Reservoir boat launches in 2009.
- Vehicle counters monitor boat launch use through the recreation season from mid-May until the end of October.
- The study has undergone improvements including:
 - A method to calibrate vehicle counter data; and
 - Improved analysis to control for contributing factors such as weather.

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Lessons Learned

- Further monitoring and analysis is required to confirm if an increase in use is due to improved access or other factors such as weather or local boating trends.



Key Findings and Next Steps

- In the 2015 recreation season, the number of boats launched at Mackenzie and Dunlevy were 308 and 400, respectively.
- Use of the Mackenzie boat launch has been increasing since 2012 and has continued following completion of construction in May 2014.
- Use of the Dunlevy boat launch has been increasing since 2009. Usage increased in 2015, following completion of construction in May 2015.
- A comprehensive analysis will be completed in 2017.