

# Data Report: Source & Methodology for Pacific Northwest National Parks Infographic

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Data Source: National Park Dataset (Excel)

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## Objective

This report outlines the steps taken to gather, filter, and analyze data used in the creation of an infographic about National Parks in the Pacific Northwest (PNW), focusing on park counts, visitor numbers, and overnight accommodations in 2023.

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## Data Source

The data was obtained from the "**park\_visits**" table in the provided **National Parks Excel dataset**, which included details on recreational visits, overnight stays, and park locations across the U.S.

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## Geographic Focus

For this project, the Pacific Northwest was defined as including the U.S. states of:

- **Oregon**
- **Washington**

To isolate relevant data, the **State** column in the dataset was filtered to include only rows where the state was Oregon or Washington.

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## Steps Taken

### 1. **Filtered Parks by State:**

- Used the filter feature to include only rows with "Oregon" or "Washington" in the **State** column.
- **Result:** Identified **14 national parks** in the PNW.

### 2. **Identified Most Popular Parks:**

- With the filtered dataset, I sorted the **RecreationVisits** column from highest to lowest.
- **Top 3 Parks by Visitors:**
  - Olympic National Park
  - Mount Rainier National Park
  - Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area

### 3. **Calculated Total Annual Visitors:**

- Summed the **RecreationVisits** column for the filtered rows (Oregon and Washington only).
- **Total visitors in 2023: 9,314,349**

### 4. **Analyzed Overnight Stay Data:**

- Summed the following columns to calculate overnight use:
  - **TentOvernights:** 293,217
  - **RecreationVehicleOvernights:** 194,553
  - **BackcountryOvernights:** 249,956
- Total overnight stays: 737,726

- Percentage of overnight visitors: **7.92%** (calculated as total overnight stays ÷ total recreational visits)

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## **Tools Used**

- **Microsoft Excel:** For data filtering, sorting, and summation
  - **Basic formulas:** SUM, percentage calculations
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