

Upper Chattooga River Visitor Capacity Analysis Data Collection Reports

The Forest Service is conducting a Visitor Capacity Analysis and is employing a modified “Limits of Acceptable Change” (LAC) planning framework for evaluating visitor use and potential impacts on the environment. Several types of information and analyses were needed as part of this analysis, as described in *Upper Chattooga River Visitor Capacity Analysis Implementation Plan for Data Collection Methods* (USFS, 2006). This document describes one element of those efforts, the ***Limited Use Monitoring Summary*** - a report that includes tables, graphs, and notes from data collected between September 2006 – February 2007 from an on-going program expected to be completed in August 2007.

A summary and integration of key findings from these collective efforts is provided in *Assessing Capacity and Conflict on the Upper Chattooga River* (CRC, 2007). Information from these efforts will be incorporated into the LAC effort to assess visitor capacity decisions on the Upper Chattooga. At the conclusion of the LAC effort, the Forest Service plans to develop a proposed action and alternatives for review through a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process prior to implementation.

This document is one of several describing methods and findings from the data collection efforts. It serves as one of several “supporting reports” to the *Capacity and Conflict Report*. The complete list of reports includes:

- ***Chattooga River History Project, Literature Review and Interview Summary*** (*Tetra Tech, 2006*) – a history of Chattooga recreation decision-making that documents the basis for the 1976 boating ban and similar issues in order to help frame issues in the current analysis.
- ***Capacities on other Wild and Scenic Rivers: seven case studies*** (*Diedrich, 2007*) - a review of capacity issues on seven W&S with similarities to issues on the Upper Chattooga. This report provides examples of how other planners have interpreted laws and mandates, conducted analyses, or arrived at capacity decisions on other rivers.
- ***Use Estimation Workshop Summary*** (*Berger and CRC, 2007*)– summary of workshop conducted with resource agency personnel to help consolidate and summarize use information by capitalizing on extensive agency knowledge as well as some existing user surveys and creel surveys.
- ***Limited Use Monitoring Summary*** (*Berger, 2007*) – summary of data collected through the use monitoring conducted by the public, Forest Service and contractor of vehicle counts within selected access locations along the Chattooga River Corridor.

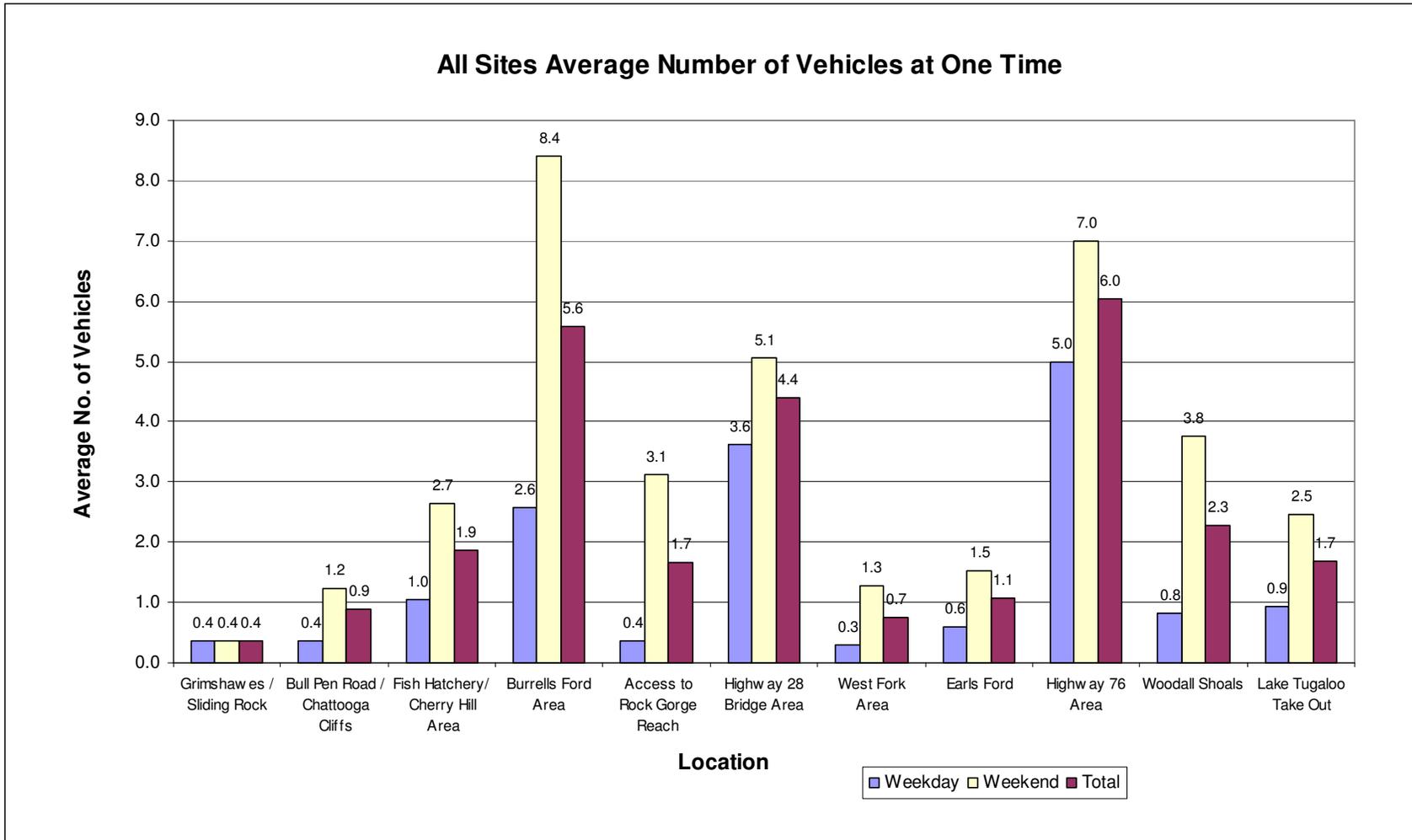
- ***Literature Review Report*** (Louis Berger, 2007) – Literature review and summary of information from existing studies on the Chattooga or studies /planning from other similar settings; includes the following components:
 - ***Recreation-Related Social Impacts and Standards*** - information related to the relationships between use and impacts and the “evaluative side” of the social impacts issue, including which impacts are most important, tolerances for those impacts, and which management actions tend to be used and supported to address them.
 - ***Recreation Related Trail/Site Impacts*** - information about relationships between use and biophysical impacts, potential standards for those impacts, and the acceptability of management actions to address them.
 - ***Recreation-Related Wildlife Impacts*** - information about relationships between recreation use and wildlife impacts, potential standards for those impacts, and the acceptability of management actions to address them.
 - ***Recreation Related Flow Preferences*** - information about opportunities and flow preferences, particularly related to other rivers similar to the Chattooga.
- ***Proxy River Information*** (USFS 2007) – summary of management and flow related information for “similar-type” rivers to the Chattooga River as identified through public input.
- ***Biophysical Monitoring Information on the Chattooga River*** (USFS 2007) - information about current conditions in the corridor, including maps of existing trails, and a summary of other biophysical-related information that is relevant to Chattooga River capacity issues.
- ***Hydrology Issues on the Upper Chattooga River*** (USFS 2007) - This report summarizes recreation-relevant hydrology information for the upper river, including (1) rating curves and basin areas for staff gages at all bridges; (2) relationships between the Burrells Ford gage and the USGS Highway 76 gage; (3) summary hydrology for the period of record at the Highway 76 gage; and (4) extensions to the Burrells Ford gage.
- ***Expert Panel Field Assessment Report*** (Louis Berger, 2007) – report for the expert panel field assessment conducted to gather information about boating and angling opportunities on the upper Chattooga River, with particular attention to boater and angler flow preferences for these flow-dependent activities.

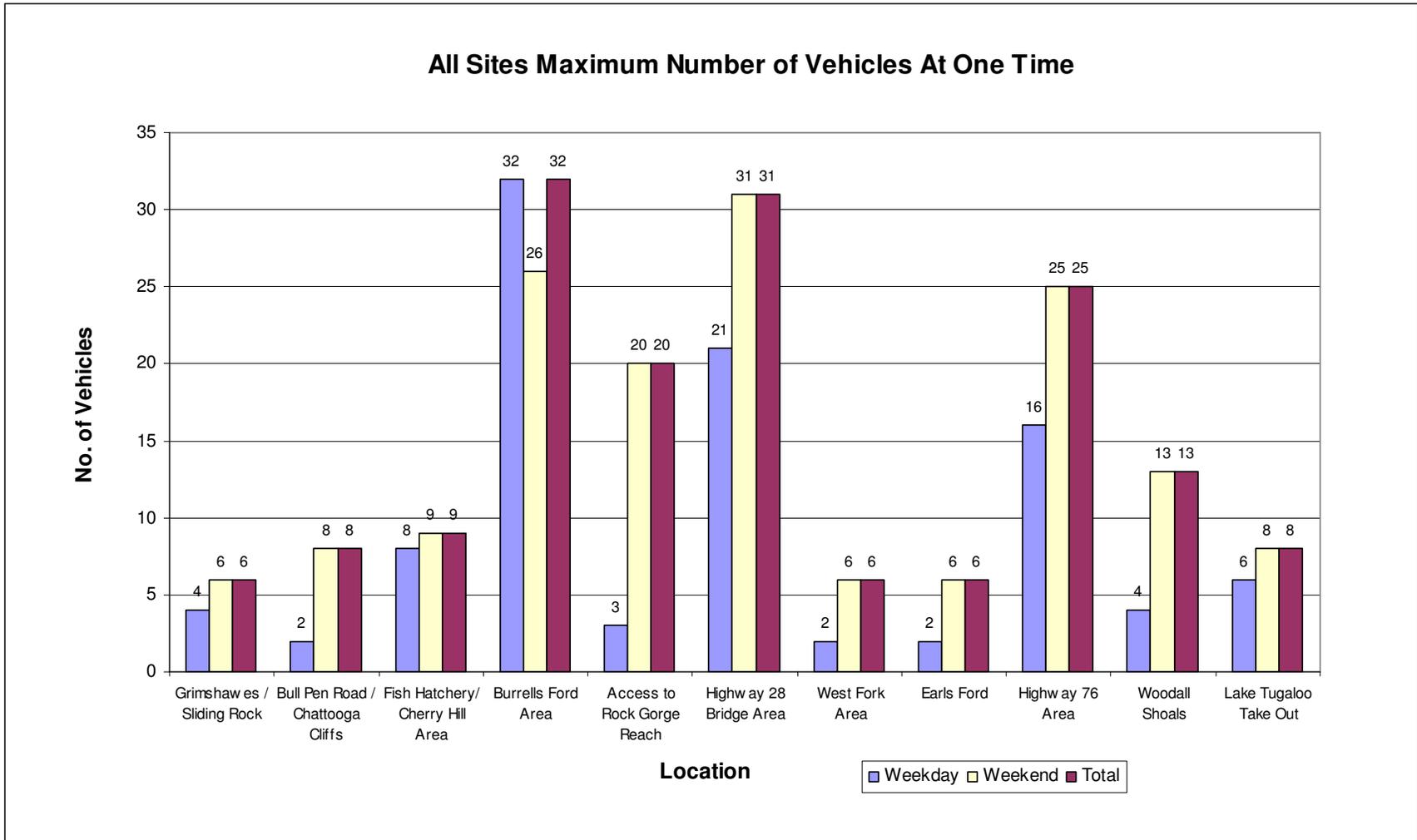
COUNT DATA SUMMARY

(From 8-12-06 through 1/25/07)

Summary Totals for All Sites

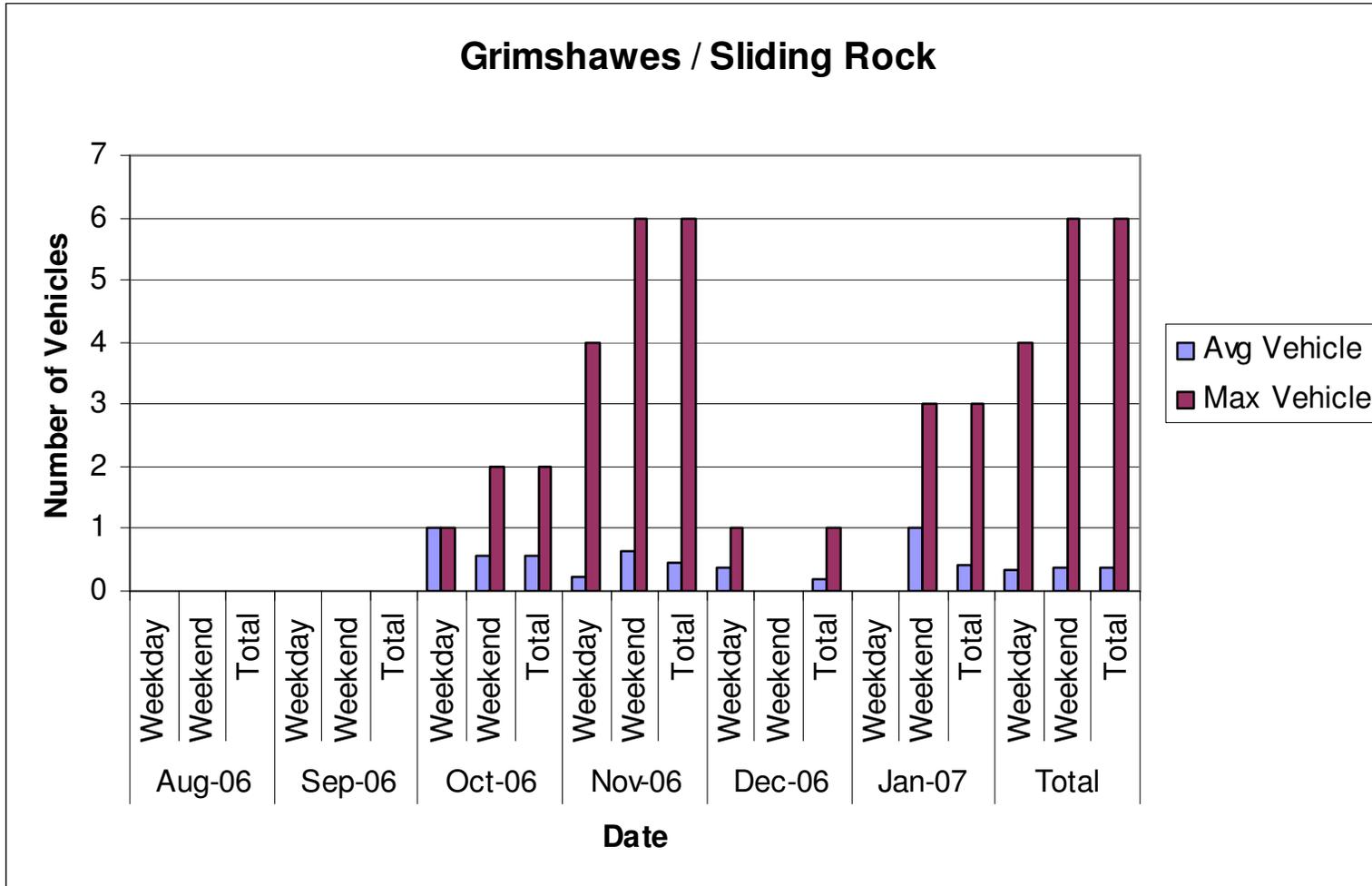
Month	Weekday			Weekend			Total		
	Avg Vehicle	Max	Count	Avg Vehicle	Max	Count	Avg Vehicle	Max	Count
Grimshawes / Sliding Rock	0.4	4	45	0.4	6	65	0.4	6	110
Bull Pen Road/Chattooga Cliffs	0.4	2	33	1.2	8	50	0.9	8	83
Fish Hatchery/Cherry Hill Area	1.0	8	42	2.7	9	43	1.9	9	85
Burrells Ford Area	2.6	32	49	8.4	26	52	5.6	32	101
Access to Rock Gorge Reach	0.4	3	28	3.1	20	25	1.7	20	53
Highway 28 Bridge Area	3.6	21	83	5.1	31	93	4.4	31	176
West Fork Area	0.3	2	80	1.3	6	68	0.7	6	148
Earls Ford	0.6	2	15	1.5	6	15	1.1	6	30
Highway 76 Area	5.0	16	15	7.0	25	16	6.0	25	31
Woodall Shoals	0.8	4	16	3.8	13	16	2.3	13	32
Lake Tugaloo Take Out	0.9	6	13	2.5	8	13	1.7	8	26
Total All Sites	1.4	32	419	3.4	31	456	2.4	32	875





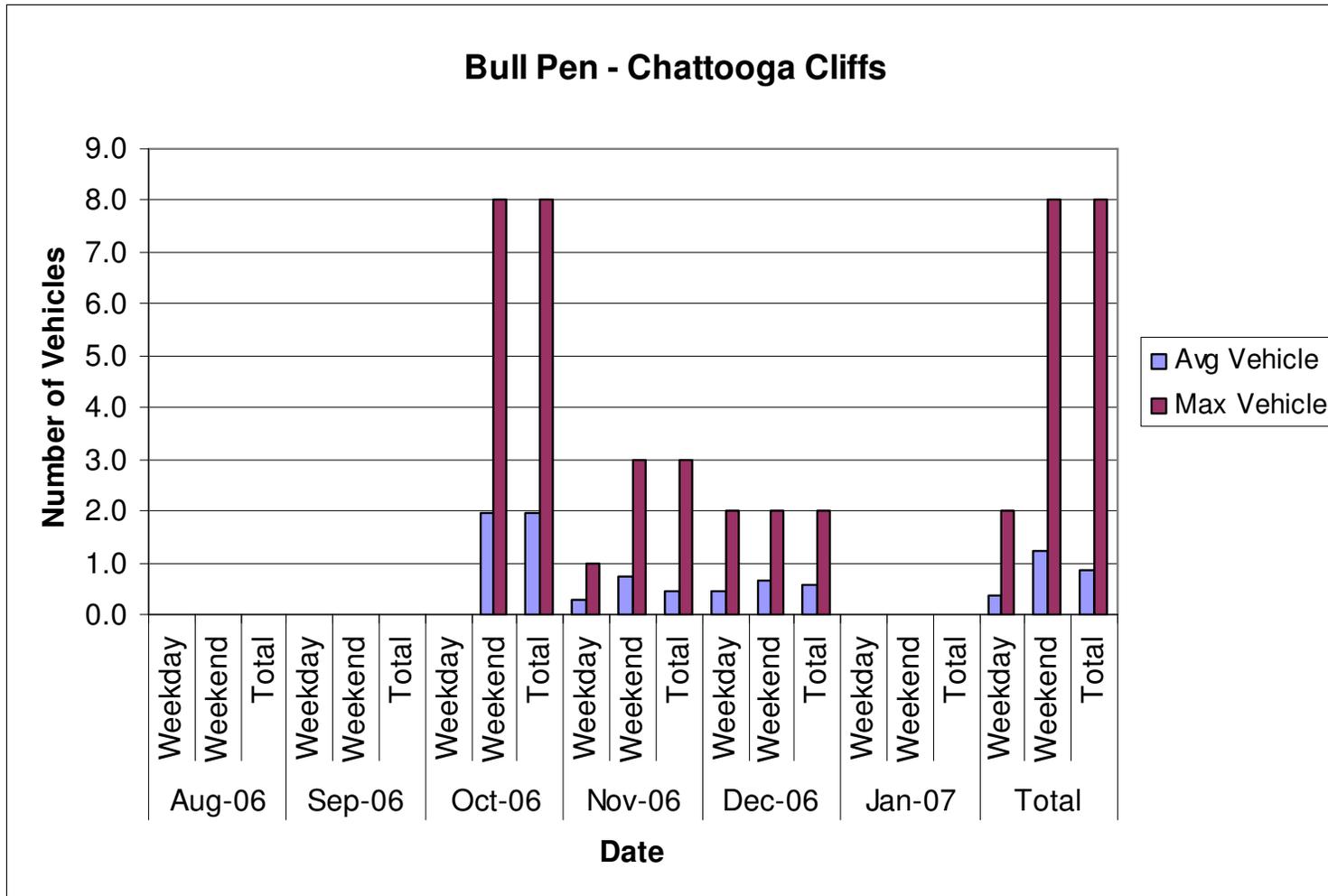
Grimshawes / Sliding Rock

Month	Time of Week	Total Count	Total Vehicles	Avg Vehicle	Max Vehicle
Aug-06	Weekday	0	0	0	0
	Weekend	0	0	0	0
	Total	0	0	0	0
Sep-06	Weekday	0	0	0	0
	Weekend	0	0	0	0
	Total	0	0	0	0
Oct-06	Weekday	1	1	1.0	1
	Weekend	20	11	0.6	2
	Total	21	12	0.6	2
Nov-06	Weekday	18	4	0.2	4
	Weekend	20	13	0.7	6
	Total	38	17	0.4	6
Dec-06	Weekday	22	8	0.4	1
	Weekend	22	0	0.0	0
	Total	44	8	0.2	1
Jan-07	Weekday	4	3	0.0	0
	Weekend	3	0	1.0	3
	Total	7	3	0.4	3
Total	Weekday	45	16	0.4	4
	Weekend	65	24	0.4	6
	Total	110	40	0.4	6



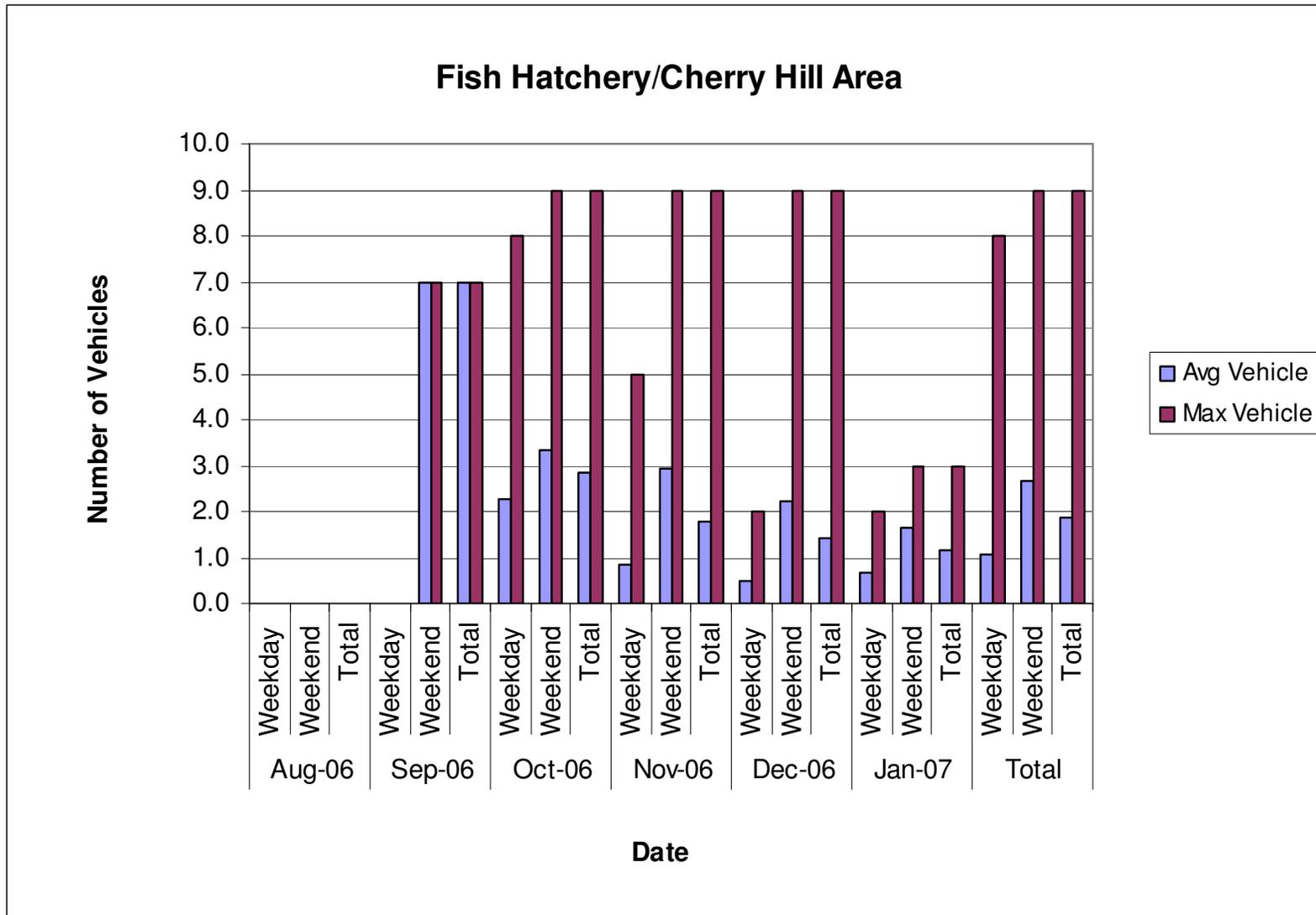
Bull Pen Road - Chattooga Cliffs

Month	Time of Week	Total Count	Total Vehicles	Avg Vehicle	Max Vehicle
Aug-06	Weekday	0	0	0	0
	Weekend	0	0	0	0
	Total	0	0	0	0
Sep-06	Weekday	0	0	0.0	0
	Weekend	2	0	0.0	0
	Total	2	0	0.0	0
Oct-06	Weekday	0	0	0.0	0
	Weekend	22	43	2.0	8
	Total	22	43	2.0	8
Nov-06	Weekday	15	4	0.3	1
	Weekend	8	6	0.8	3
	Total	23	10	0.4	3
Dec-06	Weekday	18	8	0.4	2
	Weekend	18	12	0.7	2
	Total	36	20	0.6	2
Jan-07	Weekday	0	0	0	0
	Weekend	0	0	0	0
	Total	0	0	0	0
Total	Weekday	33	12	0.4	2
	Weekend	50	61	1.2	8
	Total	83	73	0.9	8



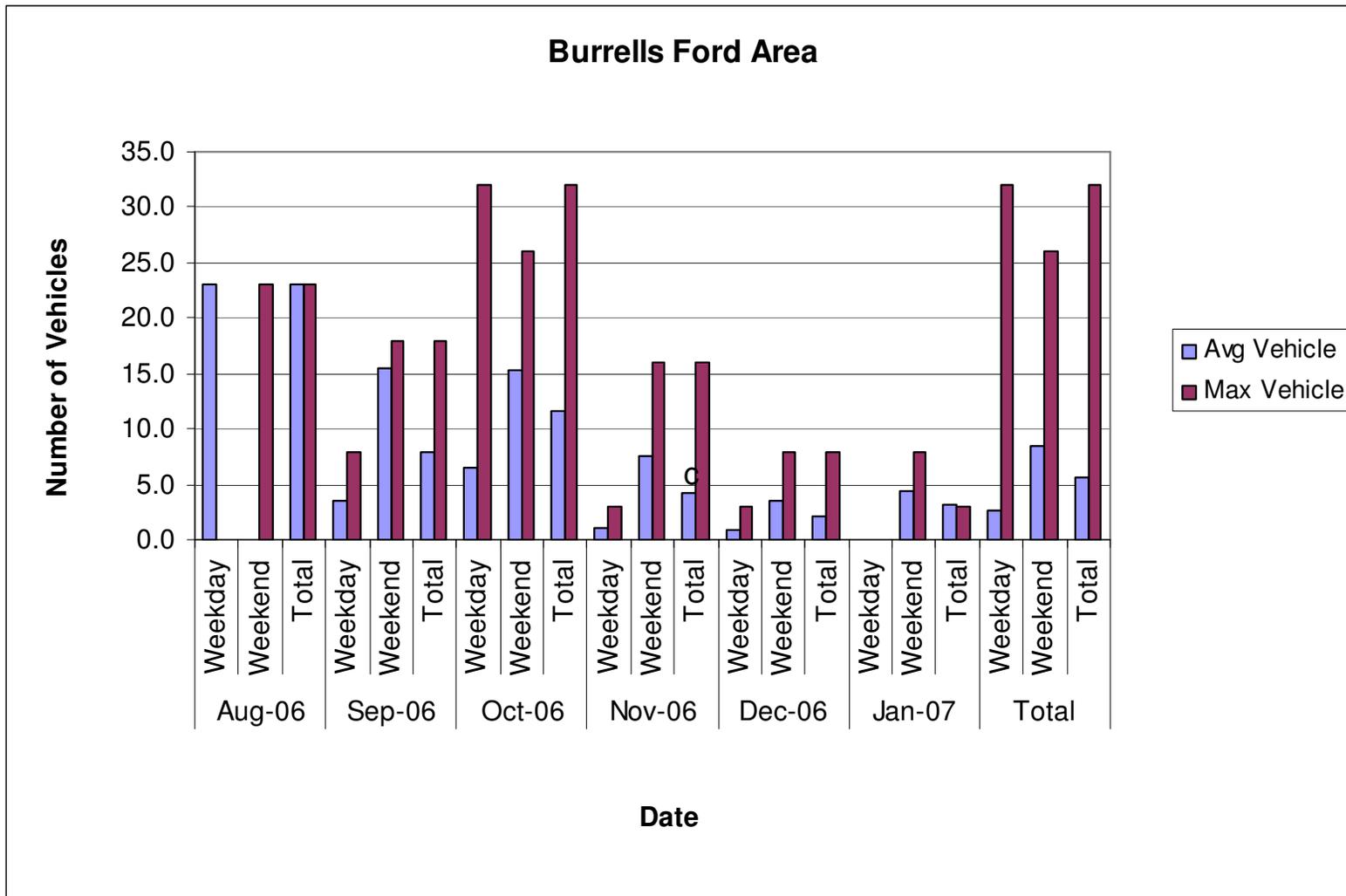
Fish Hatchery/Cherry Hill Area

Month	Time of Week	Total Count	Total Vehicles	Avg Vehicle	Max Vehicle
Aug-06	Weekday	0	0	0	0
	Weekend	0	0	0	0
	Total	0	0	0	0
Sep-06	Weekday	0	0	0.0	0
	Weekend	1	7	7.0	7
	Total	1	7	7.0	7
Oct-06	Weekday	8	18	2.3	8
	Weekend	9	30	3.3	9
	Total	17	48	2.8	9
Nov-06	Weekday	15	13	0.9	5
	Weekend	12	35	2.9	9
	Total	27	48	1.8	9
Dec-06	Weekday	16	8	0.5	2
	Weekend	18	40	2.2	9
	Total	34	48	1.4	9
Jan-07	Weekday	3	5	0.7	2
	Weekend	3	2	1.7	3
	Total	6	7	1.2	3
Total	Weekday	42	44	1.0	8
	Weekend	43	114	2.7	9
	Total	85	158	1.9	9



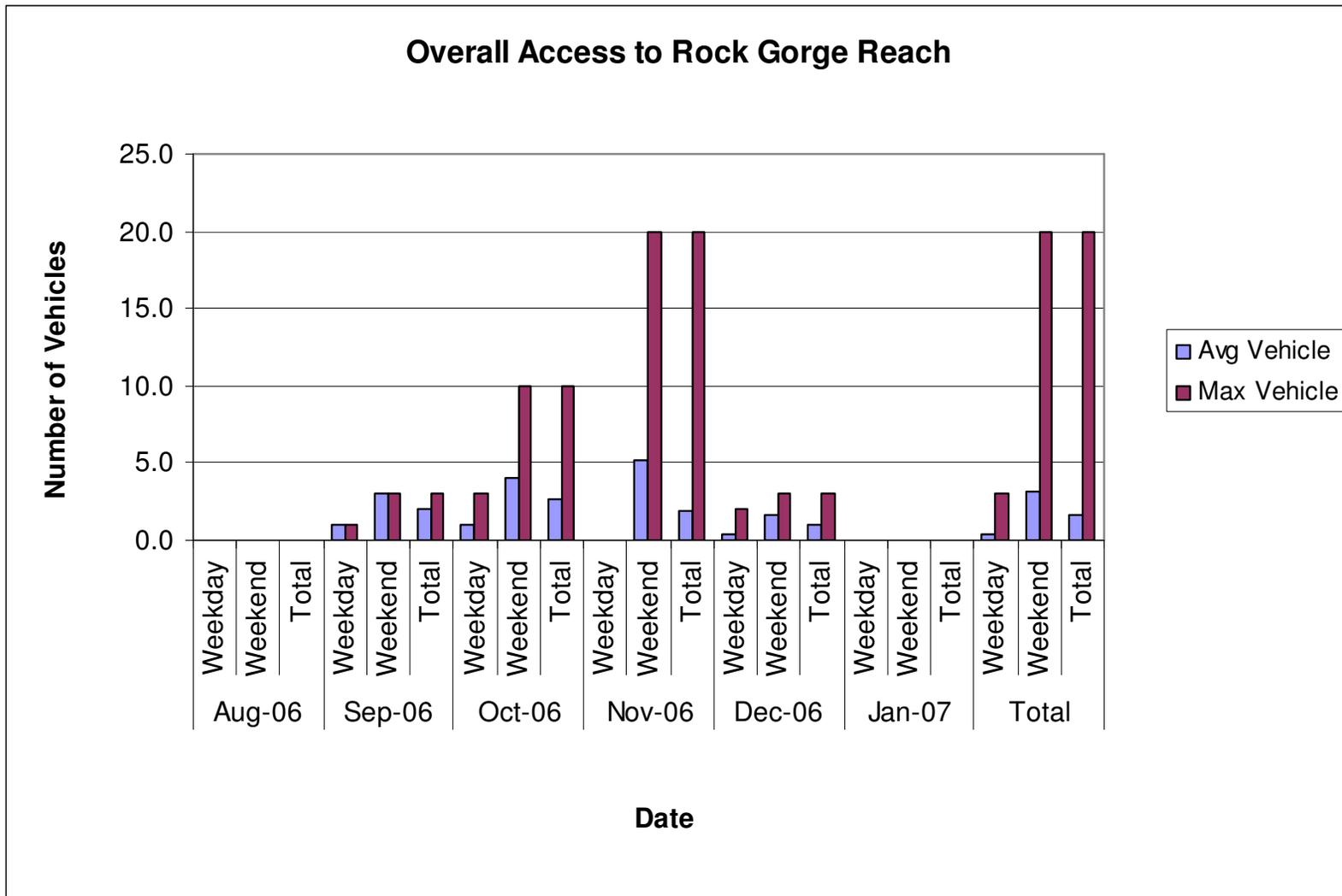
**Burrells Ford
Area**

Month	Time of Week	Total Count	Total Vehicles	Avg Vehicle	Max Vehicle
Aug-06	Weekday	0	0	0	0
	Weekend	1	23	23	23
	Total	1	23	23	23
Sep-06	Weekday	7	25	3.6	8
	Weekend	4	62	15.5	18
	Total	11	87	7.9	18
Oct-06	Weekday	9	59	6.6	32
	Weekend	12	184	15.3	26
	Total	21	243	11.6	32
Nov-06	Weekday	15	15	1.0	3
	Weekend	14	106	7.6	16
	Total	29	121	4.2	16
Dec-06	Weekday	17	14	0.8	3
	Weekend	18	62	3.4	8
	Total	35	76	2.2	8
Jan-07	Weekday	1	13	0.0	0
	Weekend	3	0	4.3	8
	Total	4	13	3.3	3
Total	Weekday	49	126	2.6	32
	Weekend	52	437	8.4	26
	Total	101	563	5.6	32



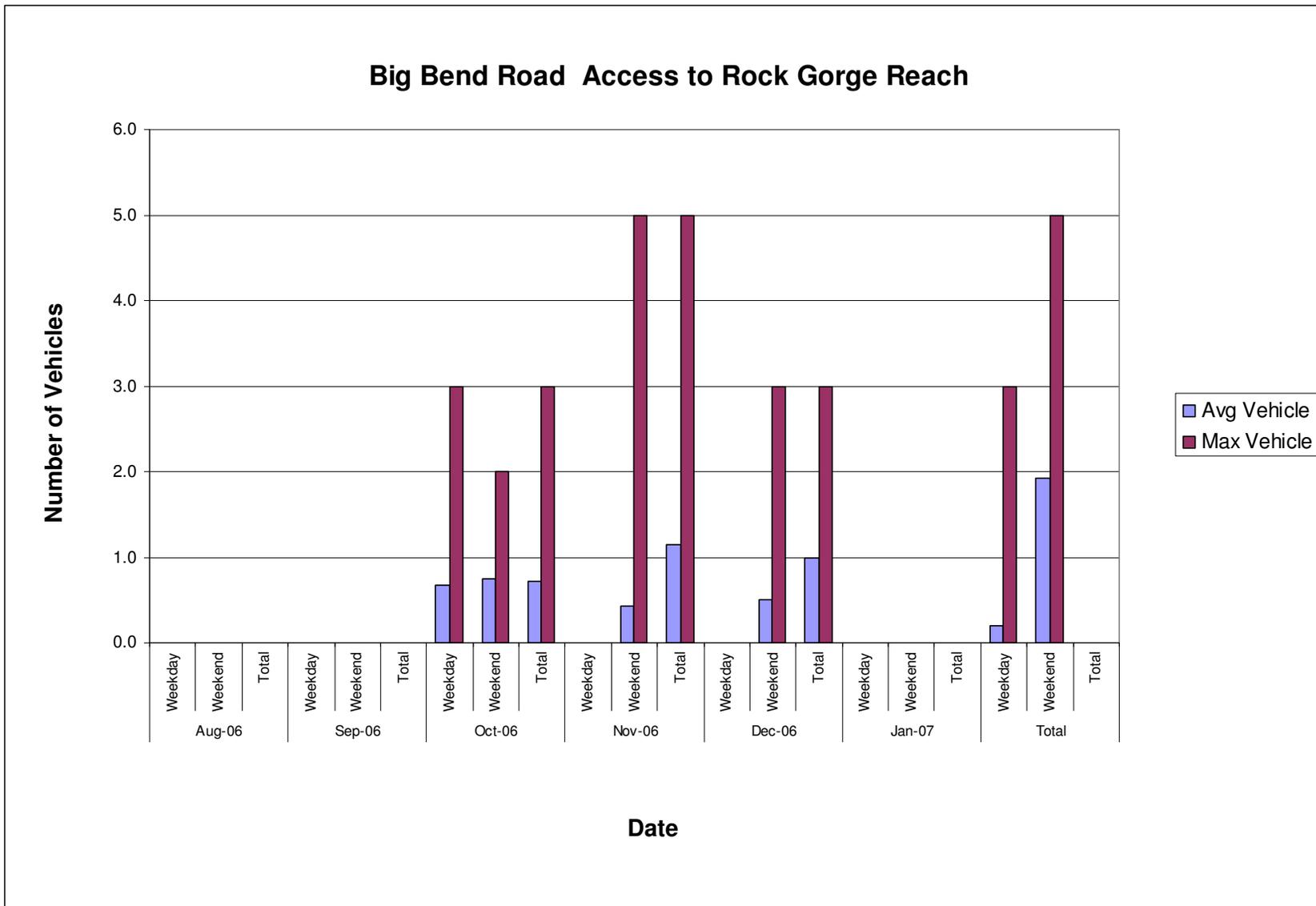
Combined Access to Rock Gorge Reach

Month	Time of Week	Total Count	Total Vehicles	Avg Vehicle	Max Vehicle
Aug-06	Weekday	0	0	0	0
	Weekend	0	0	0	0
	Total	0	0	0	0
Sep-06	Weekday	1	1	1.0	1
	Weekend	1	3	3.0	3
	Total	2	4	2.0	3
Oct-06	Weekday	5	5	1.0	3
	Weekend	6	24	4.0	10
	Total	11	29	2.6	10
Nov-06	Weekday	10	0	0.0	0
	Weekend	6	31	5.2	20
	Total	16	31	1.9	20
Dec-06	Weekday	12	4	0.3	2
	Weekend	12	20	1.7	3
	Total	24	24	1.0	3
Jan-07	Weekday	0	0	0	0
	Weekend	0	0	0	0
	Total	0	0	0	0
Total	Weekday	28	10	0.4	3
	Weekend	25	78	3.1	20
	Total	53	88	1.7	20



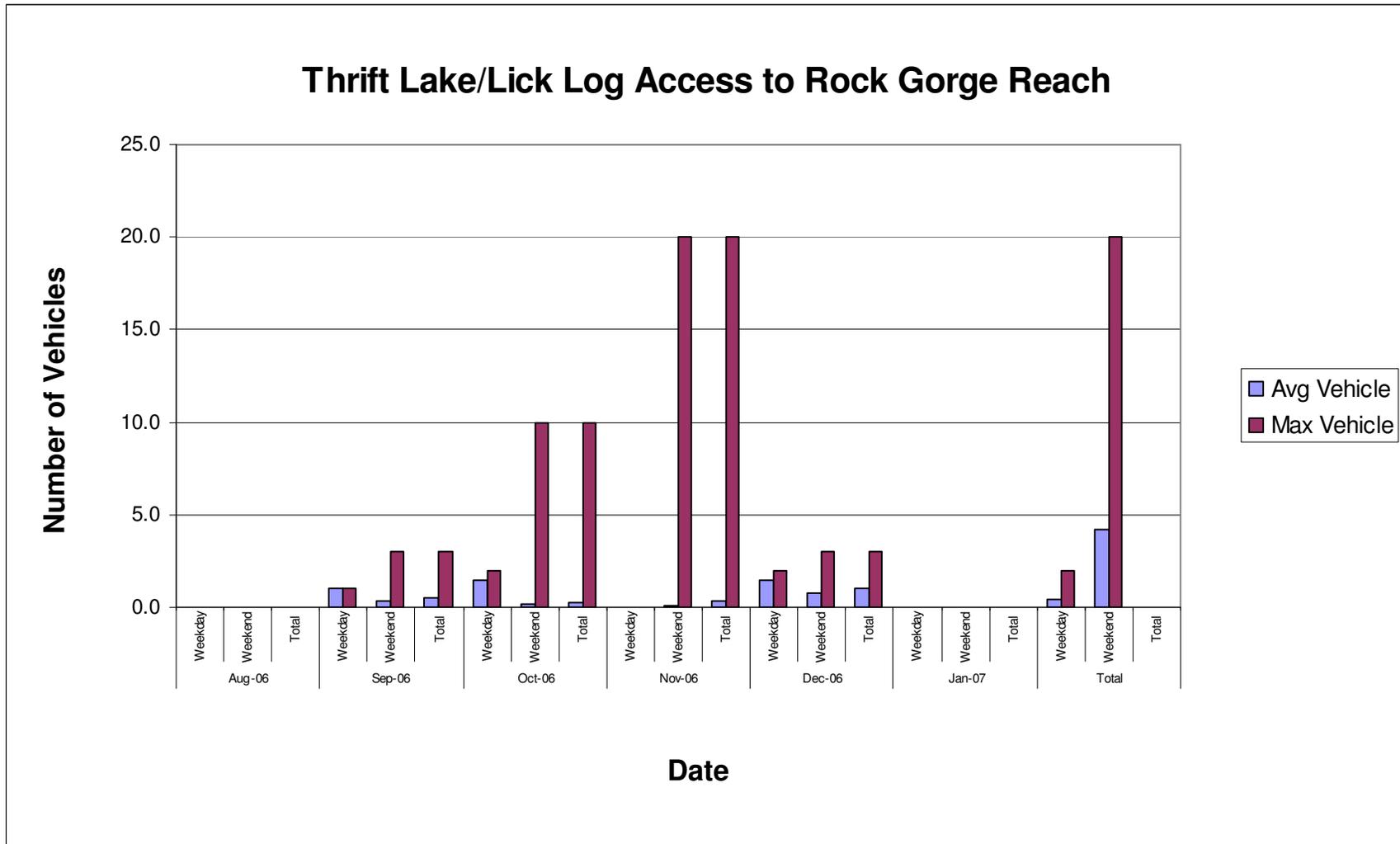
Site Breakout Vehicles parked at or near end of Big Ben Road

Month	Time of Week	Total Count	Total Vehicles	Avg Vehicle	Max Vehicle
Aug-06	Weekday				
	Weekend				
	Total				
Sep-06	Weekday	0	0	0.0	0
	Weekend	0	0	0.0	0
	Total	0	0	0.0	0
Oct-06	Weekday	2	3	0.7	3
	Weekend	3	4	0.8	2
	Total	5	7	0.7	3
Nov-06	Weekday	5	0	0.0	0
	Weekend	3	7	0.4	5
	Total	8	7	1.1	5
Dec-06	Weekday	6	0	0.0	0
	Weekend	6	12	0.5	3
	Total	12	12	1.0	3
Jan-07	Weekday				
	Weekend				
	Total				
Total	Weekday		3	0.2	3
	Weekend	12	23	1.9	5
	Total	0	88	0.0	0



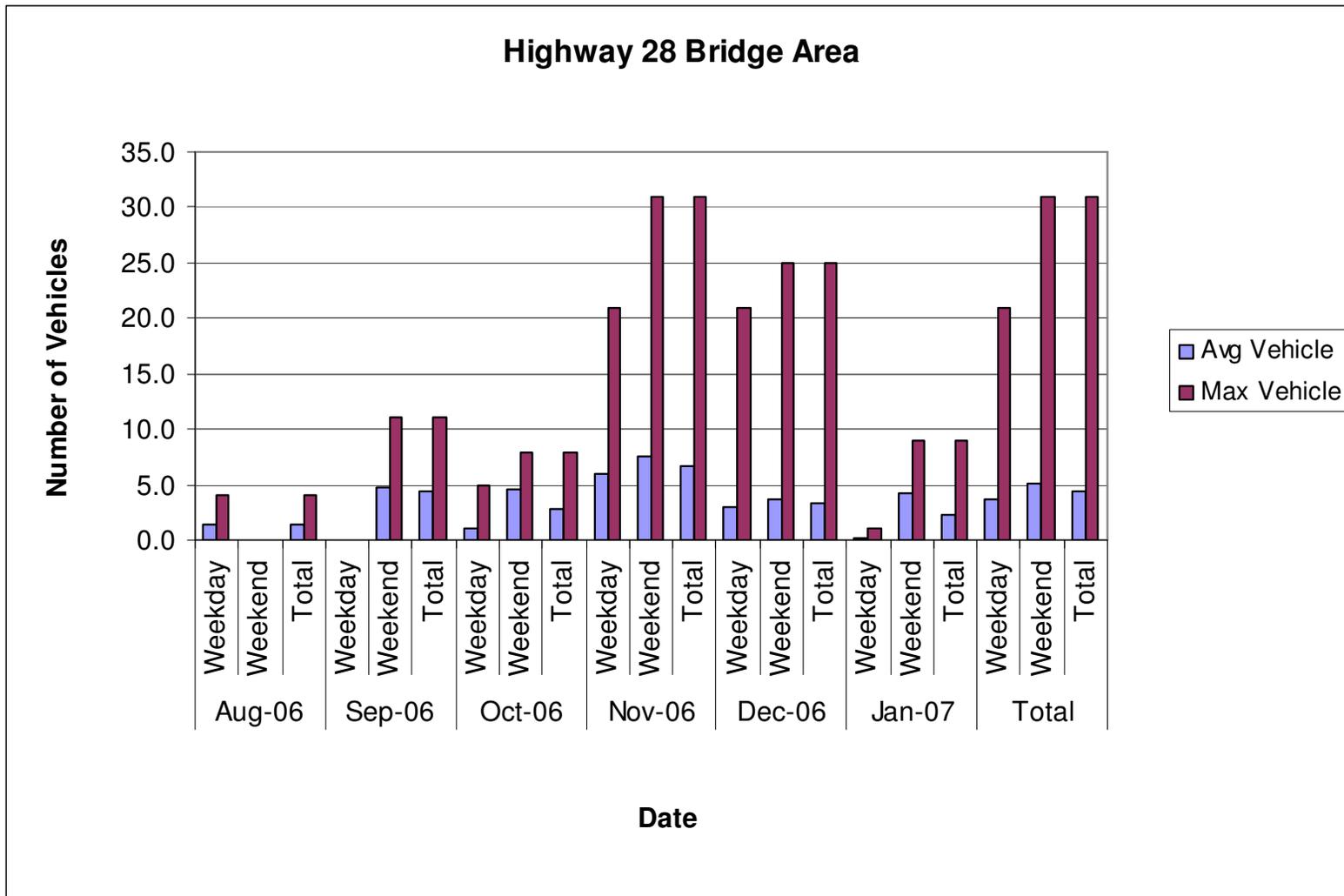
Site Breakout Vehicles parked at Thrift Lake/ Lick Log Falls trailhead

Month	Time of Week	Total Count	Total Vehicles	Avg Vehicle	Max Vehicle
Aug-06	Weekday				
	Weekend				
	Total				
Sep-06	Weekday	1	1	1.0	1
	Weekend	1	3	0.3	3
	Total	2	4	0.5	3
Oct-06	Weekday	3	2	1.5	2
	Weekend	3	20	0.2	10
	Total	6	22	0.3	10
Nov-06	Weekday	5	0	0.0	0
	Weekend	3	24	0.1	20
	Total	8	24	0.3	20
Dec-06	Weekday	6	4	1.5	2
	Weekend	6	8	0.8	3
	Total	12	12	1.0	3
Jan-07	Weekday				
	Weekend				
	Total				
Total	Weekday	15	7	0.5	2
	Weekend	13	55	4.2	20
	Total	0	88	0.0	0



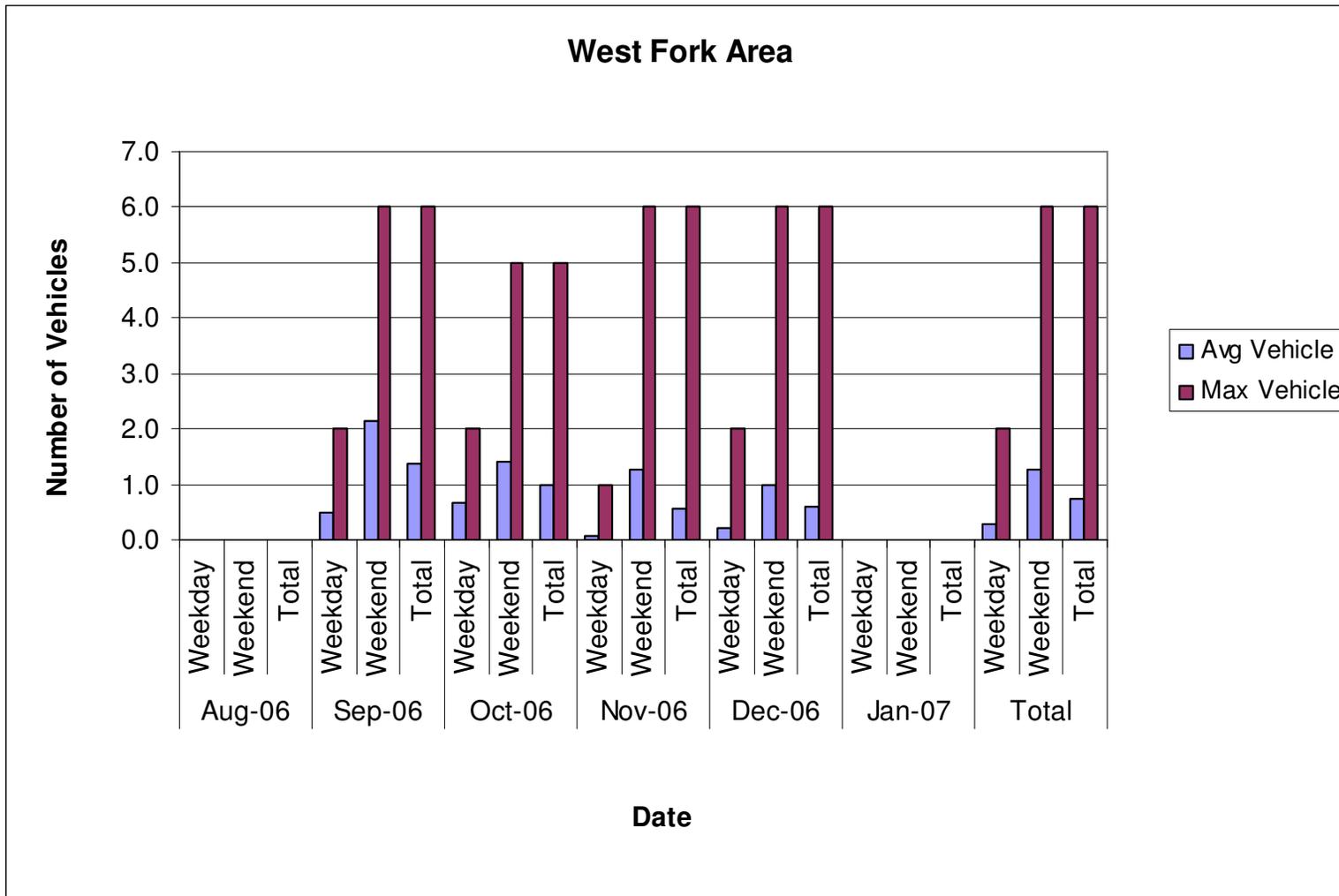
Highway 28 Bridge Area

Month	Time of Week	Total Count	Total Vehicles	Avg Vehicle	Max Vehicle
Aug-06	Weekday	3	4	1.3	4
	Weekend	0	0	0	0
	Total	3	4	1.3	4
Sep-06	Weekday	1	0	0.0	0
	Weekend	11	52	4.7	11
	Total	12	52	4.3	11
Oct-06	Weekday	19	21	1.1	5
	Weekend	20	90	4.5	8
	Total	39	111	2.8	8
Nov-06	Weekday	31	186	6.0	21
	Weekend	29	219	7.6	31
	Total	60	405	6.8	31
Dec-06	Weekday	25	73	2.9	21
	Weekend	29	109	3.8	25
	Total	54	182	3.4	25
Jan-07	Weekday	4	17	0.3	1
	Weekend	4	1	4.3	9
	Total	8	18	2.3	9
Total	Weekday	83	301	3.6	21
	Weekend	93	471	5.1	31
	Total	176	772	4.4	31



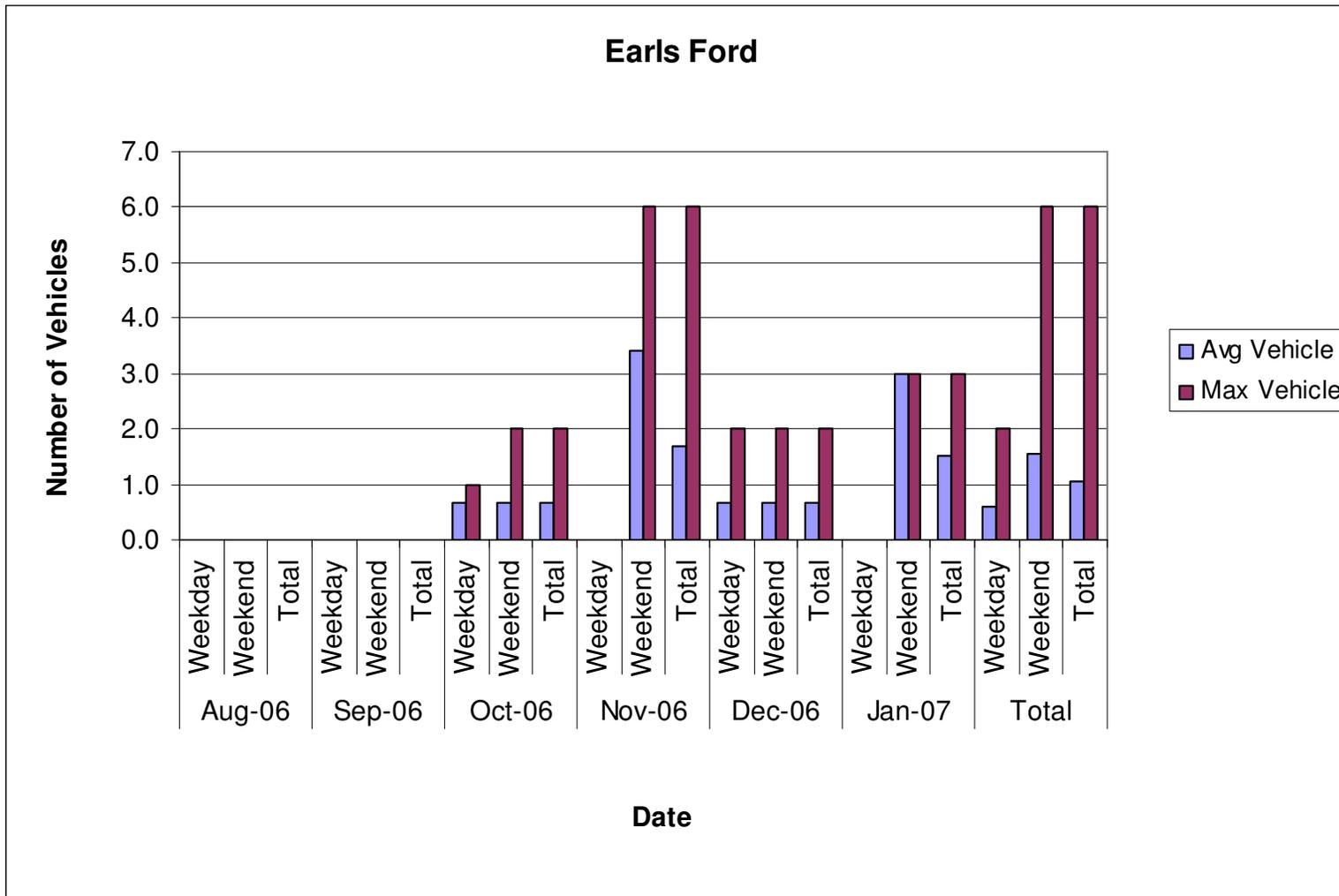
West Fork Area

Month	Time of Week	Total Count	Total Vehicles	Avg Vehicle	Max Vehicle
Aug-06	Weekday	0	0	0	0
	Weekend	0	0	0	0
	Total	0	0	0	0
Sep-06	Weekday	6	3	0.5	2
	Weekend	7	15	2.1	6
	Total	13	18	1.4	6
Oct-06	Weekday	18	12	0.7	2
	Weekend	15	21	1.4	5
	Total	33	33	1.0	5
Nov-06	Weekday	26	2	0.1	1
	Weekend	18	23	1.3	6
	Total	44	25	0.6	6
Dec-06	Weekday	30	6	0.2	2
	Weekend	28	28	1.0	6
	Total	58	34	0.6	6
Jan-07	Weekday	0	0	0	0
	Weekend	0	0	0	0
	Total	0	0	0	0
Total	Weekday	80	23	0.3	2
	Weekend	68	87	1.3	6
	Total	148	110	0.7	6



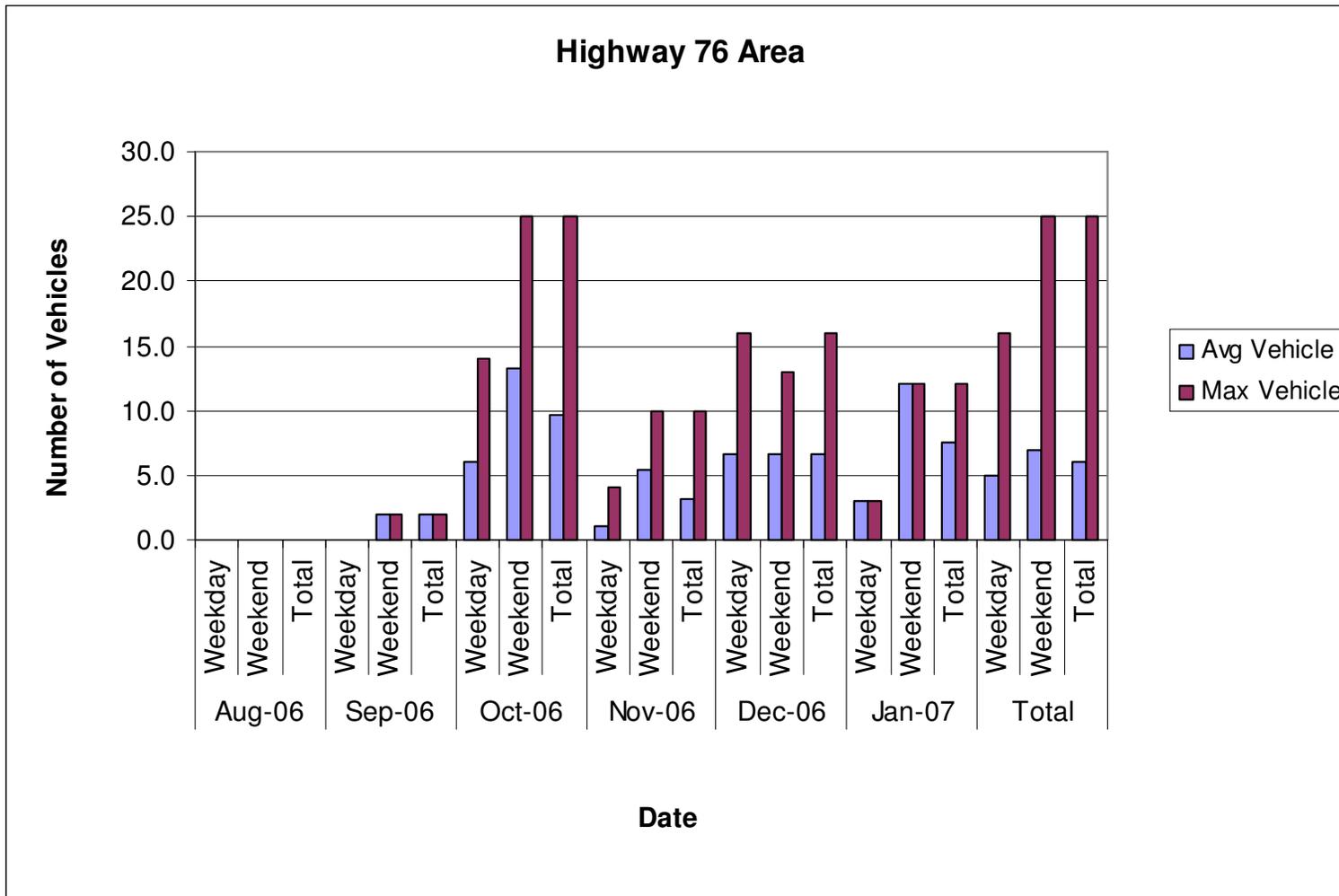
Earls Ford

Month	Time of Week	Total Count	Total Vehicles	Avg Vehicle	Max Vehicle
Aug-06	Weekday	0	0	0	0
	Weekend	0	0	0	0
	Total	0	0	0	0
Sep-06	Weekday	0	0	0	0
	Weekend	0	0	0	0
	Total	0	0	0	0
Oct-06	Weekday	3	2	0.7	1
	Weekend	3	2	0.7	2
	Total	6	4	0.7	2
Nov-06	Weekday	5	0	0.0	0
	Weekend	5	17	3.4	6
	Total	10	17	1.7	6
Dec-06	Weekday	6	4	0.7	2
	Weekend	6	4	0.7	2
	Total	12	8	0.7	2
Jan-07	Weekday	1	3	0.0	0
	Weekend	1	0	3.0	3
	Total	2	3	1.5	3
Total	Weekday	15	9	0.6	2
	Weekend	15	23	1.5	6
	Total	30	32	1.1	6



Highway 76 Area

Month	Time of Week	Total Count	Total Vehicles	Avg Vehicle	Max Vehicle
Aug-06	Weekday	0	0	0	0
	Weekend	0	0	0	0
	Total	0	0	0	0
Sep-06	Weekday	0	0	0	0
	Weekend	1	2	2.0	2
	Total	1	2	2.0	2
Oct-06	Weekday	3	18	6.0	14
	Weekend	3	40	13.3	25
	Total	6	58	9.7	25
Nov-06	Weekday	5	5	1.0	4
	Weekend	5	27	5.4	10
	Total	10	32	3.2	10
Dec-06	Weekday	6	40	6.7	16
	Weekend	6	40	6.7	13
	Total	12	80	6.7	16
Jan-07	Weekday	1	12	3.0	3
	Weekend	1	3	12.0	12
	Total	2	15	7.5	12
Total	Weekday	15	75	5.0	16
	Weekend	16	112	7.0	25
	Total	31	187	6.0	25



Woodall Shoals

Month	Time of Week	Total Count	Total Vehicles	Avg Vehicle	Max Vehicle
Aug-06	Weekday	0	0	0	0
	Weekend	0	0	0	0
	Total	0	0	0	0
Sep-06	Weekday	0	0	0	0
	Weekend	1	3	3.0	3
	Total	1	3	3.0	3
Oct-06	Weekday	3	7	2.3	4
	Weekend	3	20	6.7	13
	Total	6	27	4.5	13
Nov-06	Weekday	6	3	0.5	1
	Weekend	5	13	2.6	5
	Total	11	16	1.5	5
Dec-06	Weekday	6	2	0.3	1
	Weekend	6	24	4.0	6
	Total	12	26	2.2	6
Jan-07	Weekday	1	1	0.0	0
	Weekend	1	0	1.0	1
	Total	2	1	0.5	1
Total	Weekday	16	13	0.8	4
	Weekend	16	60	3.8	13
	Total	32	73	2.3	13



Lake Tugaloo Take Out

Month	Time of Week	Total Count	Total Vehicles	Avg Vehicle	Max Vehicle
Aug-06	Weekday	0	0	0	0
	Weekend	0	0	0	0
	Total	0	0	0	0
Sep-06	Weekday	0	0	0	0
	Weekend	0	0	0	0
	Total	0	0	0	0
Oct-06	Weekday	2	10	5.0	6
	Weekend	2	15	7.5	8
	Total	4	25	6.3	8
Nov-06	Weekday	5	2	0.4	2
	Weekend	5	13	2.6	5
	Total	10	15	1.5	5
Dec-06	Weekday	6	0	0.0	0
	Weekend	6	4	0.7	2
	Total	12	4	0.3	2
Jan-07	Weekday	0	0	0	0
	Weekend	0	0	0	0
	Total	0	0	0	0
Total	Weekday	13	12	0.9	6
	Weekend	13	32	2.5	8
	Total	26	44	1.7	8

