

WHY WE HAVE FOREST RECREATION

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## INTRODUCTION

Recreational use is broadly defined as the use of the forest for play, relaxation, aesthetic enjoyment, and inspiration. For our purpose we shall include wildlife under the term "recreation". Let us look at the definition found in Webster's New International Dictionary: "Act of recreating, or state of being recreated; refreshment of the strength and spirits after toil; diversion. Recreation comes from the Latin recreare, to create anew, to refresh. To give fresh life to; to reanimate, relieve, cheer, divert, etc."

Recreation is a very important and rapidly growing land use. The ever-increasing tide of recreation seeking people is even turning to the less beautiful and less spectacular forest areas in their eagerness to be in the open air. It has become a regular factor in the American standard of living. It is a great aid to health and fullness of life as well as to the social and economic aspects.

Proper use of our leisure time is, at present, the most important factor outside of the absolute necessities of life. Dynamic power advances a nation to some extent, but a degree of equilibrium is needed in the moving forces. In my opinion outdoor recreation is the balance wheel in our lives. In the United States we need to properly use this resource now more than any other time. Although recreation is not new, it has recently pressed forward in no uncertain manner.

(6) Many people, especially those outside the Forest Service, have argued that recreation is incompatible with forestry practice, that it has no place in forest administration, and that the National Forests were created for the sole purpose of returning a net income to the government. These people have a misconception of the idea behind the creation of the Forests. In United States Department of Agriculture Miscellaneous Publication 99, entitled "Government Forest Work in Utah", it states: "National Forests were not established for the purpose of returning a profit, nor is the question of receipts a prime objective. They were created for the benefit of all the people." This fact that the whole public must be taken into consideration when determining the relative importance of the various forest uses is brought out in the National Forest Manual, page 7-L: "National Forest land will be devoted to the highest forms of use to which it is adapted. The determination of what constitutes the highest uses will be governed by the welfare of the community rather than by the interest of an individual applicant or the revenue to be derived."

Until recently, the recreational enjoyment of the forests has been chiefly of an incidental nature. Today it is an entirely different matter. People do not live in the forest as they did in primitive days and when they go there, they know the reason. Consequently, they have found that forest recreation is of definite value to their fullness of



living. They are willing to use time and money in the fulfillment of their desires and they plan accordingly.

When people visit the forest for recreation they have a great variety of purposes. While few go for all of them, each influences the lives of thousands of them. Perhaps they go for communion with nature or the desire to play. Maybe it is for scientific knowledge, desire to escape from civilization, or the ecstasy of adventure. Some may want the favorable surroundings for thought and contemplation. All these things, differing according to the person, have become a necessity in civilized life. As civilization grows, so grows the demand and until lately this has been nearly overlooked. Pressure has been slowly increasing in favor of more forest recreation. Management plans provide for the gradual development of camping grounds, for the leasing of summer home sites, and for other much needed facilities.

Recreation has advanced so far in its desire to become known and used that in nearly all types of forestry it is attaining major importance. It is rapidly becoming a major forest use. The only use ranking above forest recreation at present is growing of timber and even this gap is rapidly closing.

It is my intention to give a general idea of the history of recreation, why the immense growth has taken place, recreational use---past, present, and future---, and a bird's eye view of recreational problems.

## EARLY HISTORY OF RECREATION

By National Forest recreation we include all activity on the Forests which is for the purpose of recreating one's self. This includes the inspiration, education, and the value to human spirits. For some people this means merely driving through the area and enjoying the air and scenery. For others it means spending several days or even a whole summer in the "woods" where they can get away from the doings of everyday life and retrace their steps to the primitive. Hunting, fishing, and photography are all important parts of forest recreation.

There is no doubt that we could trace recreational history back to the days of primitive existence. (14) The use of the forests for recreation probably dates to the time when some wandering savage, returning to his caves through the depths of the primeval forest, may have noticed a beam of sunlight shining on some darkened tree trunk and felt all at once without knowledge of the reason, a moment of great, surging joy in the chaotic passage of his life.

We know that it existed in England at a very early date when the woodlands served as hunting grounds for the King and his many favorites. Recreation was the first major influence in European forestry because of the regal rights of the Crown to the chase.

When American land was first being settled along the Atlantic Coast, the people were little concerned with outdoor recreation. They wanted to clear the forests away in



order to have land for agricultural practices and to have logs for their homes. Consequently what time was spent in the forest was classed as work to them. Even when they went hunting and fishing it was for the purpose of securing food for their families and not for recreation. Only occasionally did they go camping and picnicking, and the building of summer homes was quite rare.

As civilization moved westward and forests became more and more rare, the population of the East began to turn toward forest recreation and conservation. More summer homes were built and Congress granted the first funds for recreation which was, at that time, combined with Sanitation. The first appropriation amounted to the huge sum of \$2500. This sum seems small when compared to the funds available for the Civilian Conservation Corps, which was the first chance to create some real constructive work on the recreation program.

Considered as a whole, the recreation wave lagged a long distance behind the pioneering wave as it swept its way westward.

#### DEVELOPMENT OF RECREATION

(6) National Forest recreation is a type of recreation which must continue to grow and become more popular. This is because it is an outgrowth of a fundamental human need, that of maintaining the physical and mental health of our citizens. It is a form of land use which represents, in

many cases, the highest use possible. In certain regions, and for millions of people, it is the only form of outdoor recreation readily available as a relief from urban life. The National Forests, more than any other existing class of land areas in America, afford the ideal opportunity not only for securing an added enjoyment of life which the term "recreation" normally implies, but also the acquisition of those inspirational and spiritual values which are so necessary to the mental well-being of the race.

#### First Growth of Recreation:

Recreation has grown rapidly throughout the country and is becoming a factor which can not be neglected. The most spectacular rise has come since the ending of the World War in 1918. Responsibility for this rapid rise falls upon the rapidly developed automobile together with better roads and increased leisure time. One needs to merely look back on the "autos" built even a few years ago and compare them with our modern, stream-lined, high-speed cars. Population is becoming so dense in spots that it is impossible to get away without a car. It formerly required a week to make a trip which can now be made in a day because of improved automobiles.

(11) Treadwell Cleveland, Jr., of the United States Forest Service said in 1910: "So great is the value of the National Forest area for recreation and so certain is this value to increase with the growth of the country and the shrinkage of the wilderness, that even if the forest



resources of wood and water were not to be required by the civilization of the future, many of the forests ought certainly to be preserved in the interest of national health and well-being for recreational use alone."

The first real demand for recreation was for summer home sites. In 1910 the first surveys of summer home sites were made and the people were given any place they wanted. In 1919 the separation of recreational uses began.

#### Reports of the Forester:

A review of the annual reports of the Forester reveals that reference was made to recreational use becoming more popular as early as 1912. Even before 1912, reference had been made to game management.

In 1917 the report said: "The use of some of the National Forests for recreation purposes is growing to such importance as to be one of the major activities. Upon the Angeles National Forest permits for 814 residences, 26 hotels, and 28 summer resorts were in force at the end of the fiscal year. It is believed that the use of the National Forests along this line as shown by the foregoing figures, represents only a promising beginning of development which is to follow."

(11) In 1918 Frank A. Waugh made for the Forest Service an investigation and report on "Recreational Uses of the National Forests" in which he traced briefly the growth of recreation and the priority of right of camping over other uses. This report is of value chiefly because it was the

first authentic survey undertaken by the Forest Service and it did much to bring before the Service, as well as the public, the real value and importance of recreation on the National Forests. It was in this report that recreation was first stressed as being one of the "major" uses of forests.

The 1919 report which ended in June, had recreation and game preservation placed together. It remarked of the importance of adequate administration of these resources because of expanding use and stated: "The forests must be handled with full recognition of their recreational values, present and future", and, "Protection of recreation involves measures that will safeguard for the use and enjoyment of the public the natural attractions which appeal to visitors and cause them to seek the forests, and also measures that will reserve for their use adequate supplies of wood, forage, and afford pure water".

The report which ended in June, 1920, said: "As an important use it bids fair to rank third among the major services performed by the National Forests, with only timber production and stream flow regulation taking precedence of it."

W. B. Greeley, who was Chief Forester in 1924, said: "As a matter of fact, the most unsentimental inventory of the National Forests would have to set down recreational assets as scarcely less valuable than their economic resources."



When Calvin Coolidge addressed the National Conference on Outdoor Recreation in 1924 he said that it is essential to enjoy some form of outdoor recreation because of the type of life most people live. He said that this type of recreation had a desirable physical, mental, and emotional effect. The people of that time were aware of the increasing leisure time and wanted to spend that time in recreation that would improve citizenship. They had decided that outdoor recreation was one of the vital problems affecting them and that upon its proper solution rested the welfare of the population of the country.

#### Later Growth:

In 1933 some of the people had decided that recreation was still very much in its infancy. They knew that as yet they had only a limited conception of the future possibilities and needs for its social service in their highly industrialized nation.

(2) In the seven year period from 1929 to 1936 actual recreational use of the National Forests mounted from 6,550,317 to 11,891,494, an increase of 81.5%, while during the same period the area had increased from 159,750,250 acres to 165,978,691 acres, an increase of 3.9%.

Perhaps none of these travel figures are entirely accurate, but since they have been taken from year to year under the same practice, they are indicative of the trends in public use.

(2) The increase in recreational use has been

particularly marked during the past three years, and has affected not only the National Forests, National Parks and Monuments but metropolitan, county, and state parks as well. Under the impetus of the Emergency Conservation Work program the state park systems and related recreational areas (monuments, recreational areas, waysides, and parkways) have grown from 3,259,996 acres to 3,859,087 acres, an increase of 18% in three years.

As an example of the development of recreation let us consider the White Mountains of New Hampshire. The consideration of preserving for recreational benefit the logging areas near to large centers of population has arisen here as it has in many other parts of the United States. Such a problem involves two types of land use, one conservational, the other exploitive. It needs to be solved immediately.

The development of recreational use of this area has been amazing and its potential possibilities are unlimited. The application of "the greatest good to the greatest number for the longest time" would certainly fit this problem. The survival of any particular forest business should not claim priority over legitimate recreational uses of public land by citizens.

#### PAST RECREATIONAL USE

(13) The development of the recreational uses of the National Forests is receiving increasing attention. To an increasing extent the forests are being used as playgrounds



for the people of the country(1924). It is said that nearly 700,000 people visited the National Forests of Colorado in the summer of 1916, left the sweltering heat of the prairie states and the states farther east, for a vacation in the mountains. The Forest Service is trying in various ways to increase the usefulness of the National Forests to those seeking recreation.

(13)In 1915 a law was passed authorizing the Secretary of Agriculture to grant permits for summer homes, hotels, and for similar uses in the National Forests for periods of not more than 30 years; and under this law a great number of permits have already been issued(1924). Through the use of permits in this way, the Forest Service is able to prevent any class of individuals from permanently appropriating the most beautiful lake and mountain sites. Wholesale appropriation of beautiful mountain regions, as for instance in the case of the Dunraven Estate in what is now Estes Park, Colorado, is not possible in the National Forests.

(9)Development has been carefully studied by the United States Forest Service and its conclusions are constructive. Before the War the maximum number of visitors per year registering at the National Forests of California was approximately 150,000, including transients. In 1910 this number had risen to 707,550. In 1932, including the transient travelers, as before, the total was 17,804,000. Slightly over 78% of this total were transients not

stopping in the forest; but confining the figures to the people who actually used the forest for recreation purposes, the number was 3,610,500. On either basis this increase will be seen to be vastly greater than the increase in state population during the period involved. It is also worthy of note that recreation has been the only use of the National Forests which has continued to increase in spite of the depression.

The following table shows trends in use:---

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1910	400,000	visitors to National Forests
1917	3,160,000	
1920	4,833,000	
1924	11,394,000	
1927	18,524,000	
1929	31,758,000	
1931	32,228,000	

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In 1933 more than 50 areas containing about 9 million acres had been set aside to preserve the pioneer conditions of our forests. Under protection, wildlife had gradually increased even though 100,000 big game animals were being killed annually. As fast as possible, plans were prepared and put into effect.

Protection against fire is important in managing all forest resources. Although there was a rapid increase in human use, the size of the total area burned in the average year was reduced from 1,350,000 acres in 1910-15 to 500,000 acres in 1920-25.

During 1936 all previous records were toppled by the huge crowd of people visiting the National Forests of Oregon and Washington. In 1935, 1,249,827 summer home users, hotel



and resort guests, and campers and picnickers used the Forests in the two states, while in 1936, it grew to 1,554,958. This is a gain of 24%. Total figures including all types of visitors grew from 4,600,107 in 1935 to 7,498,428 in 1936. These last figures include motorists using forest highways to enjoy the scenery or to pass through.

A total of 246,900,000 persons visited all the types of public recreational areas in 1931. This figure includes all areas from private lands to National Parks.

250 million man days were spent in forest recreation and enjoyment during 1931.

#### PRESENT RECREATIONAL USE

More than 30,000,000 visitors used the 157 National Forests for camping, picnicking, fishing and all other forms of recreational enjoyment during the fiscal year 1937. This is a 29% gain over 1936 and 1000% increase over 1916.

Seventy-five percent of the states contain National Forests. Vacationists, campers, and picnickers now use 6,000 free public camp grounds which are maintained by the Forest Service. Other facilities are furnished by more than 1000 hotels, resorts, clubhouses, and similar structures within the National Forest boundaries.

Hundreds of dude ranches, resorts, and similar centers entertain a great many of their guests by hiking or horse-back trips over mountain trails through the forest's scenic wonderlands.

Summer home permits totalling 13,000 have been issued on National Forest areas about which the surrounding population is not so dense as to interfere with other recreational use by the public. Summer home and resort permits are at present usually issued for 1-3 year periods. These short-term permits are a good control on appropriation of areas by individuals who are not satisfactory users.

(6) The 1937 estimate of persons who made use of the National Forests for recreation includes 857,000 persons with summer home permits and their guests, 2,165,000 hotel, dude ranch, and resort guests, 2,836,000 campers, and nearly 6,000,000 picnickers. Nearly 19,000,000 additional persons motored, rode horseback, or hiked through the National Forests to enjoy the scenery or the cool forest climate, or entered for other reasons.

Millions of motorists who merely used the National Forest roads enroute to other destinations are not included in any of the above estimates.

(6) More than 15,000,000 persons--- a total larger than the combined populations of Norway, Denmark, and Sweden--- visited the areas administered by the National Park Service, exclusive of the National Capitol Parks in Washington, D. C., during the travel year ended Sept. 30, 1937. This represents a 26% increase over the record-breaking attendance during the 1936 travel season.

(10) "Outdoor recreation in the National Forests of



California is in greater demand today than ever", according to S. B. Show, Chief of the California Region, United States Forest Service. Travel figures to the 18 National Forests of the state for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1937, showed a total of 4,217,000 individual visits to these great mountain playgrounds, an increase of more than 400,000 over the previous record during the 1932-33 season.

The four National Forests in Southern California accounted for more than two and one-half million visitors; the Angeles leading the way with a total of one million, followed by the San Bernardino with 773,000 visitors, Cleveland 205,000, and Los Padres 121,000.

The most popular recreation area in northern California was the Tahoe National Forest with 359,000 visitors, followed by the Sierra with 178,000, Eldorado 172,000, Sequoia 153,000, and Shasta 145,000.

Classification of all visitors to the National Forests of the California Region showed nearly two million picnickers, a million campers, 675,000 hotel and resort guests, and 450,000 summer home permittees and their friends.

Fishing was the most popular outdoor sport and accounted for 610,000 visitors. Winter sports was a close second with 545,000 enthusiasts, and hunters numbered 330,000.

During the month of June, 1937, about 49,000 people used the state forests of tiny Connecticut. Car license plates showed that about 95% of these people were residents of that state.

According to James F. Bogardus, Secretary of the Department of Forests and Waters, six million people visited recreational areas in Pennsylvania forests during the summer of 1936. This is definite proof that state forests are getting their share of recreationists.

#### WINTER USE

Lured to snow sports by the lowly ski during the depression years, the public has found that the National Forests were not only great summer playgrounds, but that they were equally as great winter playgrounds.

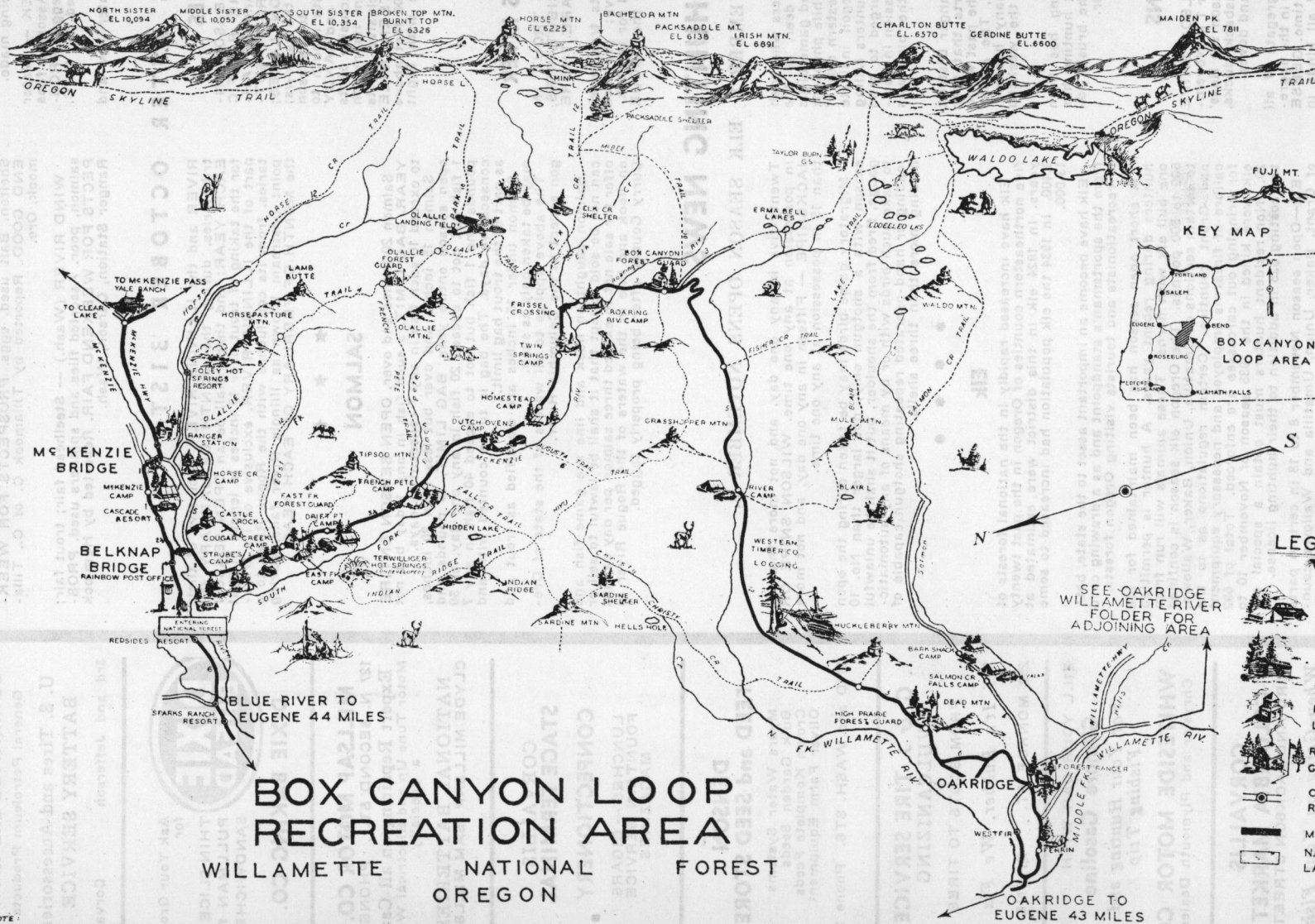
To meet this increasing snow sports demand, the Forest Service has developed special skiing areas or centers on many of the Forests. These areas provide for demands ranging from merely ski trails in solitudes of wild whiteness to centers of activity where large crowds gather for tournaments.

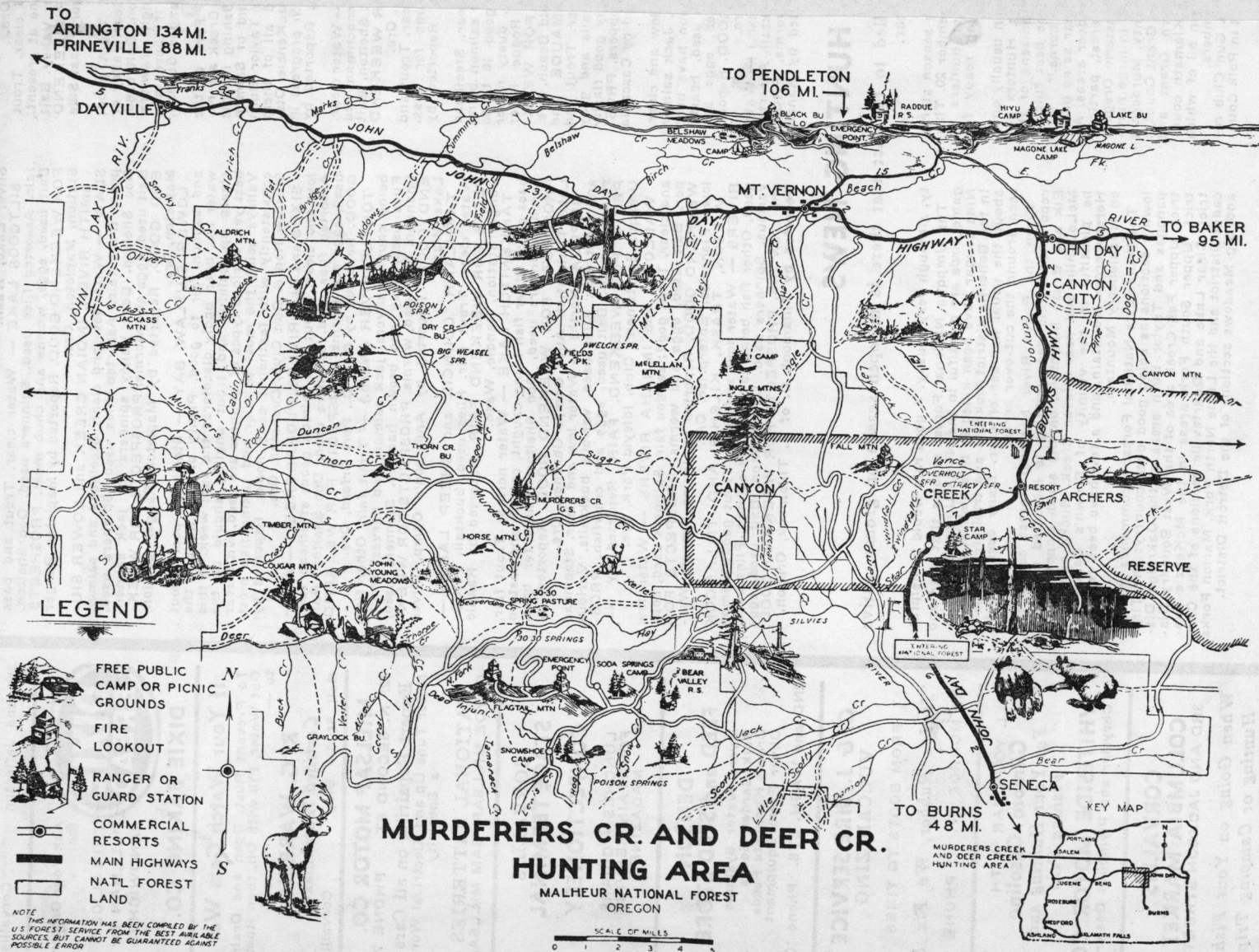
The increasing popularity of snow sports on the Forests may be attributed primarily to the long skiing seasons, texture of the snows, and the spectacular winter scenery of the high mountain country embraced by the National Forests.

Examples of these areas in the Pacific Northwest are Mt. Hood's recently completed and dedicated "Timberline Lodge" on Oregon's premier snow peak; Sun Valley in the Sawtooth National Forest of Idaho; and the Heather Meadows in the Mt. Baker National Forest of Washington.



**SERIES OF MAPS FOR THE SPORTSMAN**  
**A DIFFERENT DISTRICT EACH WEEK**







## FUTURE OF RECREATION

There is excellent reason to anticipate a further increase in the future. The principle factors which will cause this increase are: the trend in population increase of the United States, increasing ease and better means of transportation, and the increasing necessity, as society becomes more and more mechanized, for a change of environment for short periods of time.

The completion of Mt. Hood's "Timberline Lodge" set a new milestone in National Forest recreation, being the first of its kind on a National Forest to be built from public funds. According to C. J. Buck, Regional Forester of Region 6, the Mt. Hood recreation area, of which the "Lodge" is center for out-of-door recreation of all types, is the best developed of scenic playgrounds of Oregon and Washington. The National Forests are operated under the multiple-use principle and combine recreational use with the management of timber and other natural resources.

(2) The recreational demonstration projects which have been developed under the emergency program of the past three years indicate still another extension and expansion of recreational facilities for the public. These areas are being developed to fit in with the recreational and welfare programs of large centers of population. To date 46 such projects have been established, involving the eventual purchase of 412,670 acres. These projects are divided among 24 states.

It is difficult to fortell just how extensive will be this expansion of the recreation field under the intensely social and humanitarian program of the Roosevelt administration. The first congress of 1937 authorized a survey to be made to determine present use and future needs for recreational areas. Already numerous recreational areas are so intensively used that they have lost their charm and attraction for many people who demand additional and less crowded conditions for their picnicking and camping. The suggestion has been made that a limit be placed upon the number of people who shall be admitted to some of the National Parks, as for instance in Yosemite Valley, in order to prevent overcrowding and damage to natural conditions. Even now the length of camping privileges must be restricted in the National Parks, and this is true also of some of the most intensively used prepared campgrounds in National Forests and State Forests and Parks.

In connection with this camping problem, recreational administrators are now confronted with the question as to the probable extent to which the use of trailers will develop. Will a considerable portion of our population become nomads, housed in trailers, and to what extent will this require increased campground facilities? If the interest displayed in trailers at current automobile shows is any index, we shall probably see many more of these houses on wheels on the highways and in our Forest and Park camping grounds in the next few years(2).



Let us consider the ideas advanced in the Copeland Report and the subsequent report of the Forest Service to the National Resources Board. What amount of land should be devoted to recreational use? From the Copeland Report we find that Marshall (the present chief of recreation) estimated that nearly 45,000,000 acres will be needed primarily for recreational use. Such an acreage would amount to quite a percentage of the total 506,000,000 acres of commercial timberland in the United States.

The latter report of the Forest Service shows 21,028,243 acres now in use for parks, recreation, wildlife refuges, and shooting grounds. This report also gives a total of 41,608,671 acres as recommended for ultimate use of these areas, and in addition, another 15,589,792 acres recommended for use as wildlife refuges and shooting grounds. These figures give a grand total of 57,198,463 acres for recreational areas. The figures are probably based on reports covering about 83% of the timberland area of the United States.

(2) Including wildlife refuges and shooting grounds under the general designation of recreational areas, John D. Coffman of the National Park Service ventures the prophecy that 70,000,000 acres within the United States will ultimately be dedicated to recreation and aesthetics. Of this total probably half, or 35,000,000 acres will be forested lands. If this appears to be high, let it be compared with the total of 546,586,217 acres in all ownerships recommended in the Forest Service report as best

suited for forest management, in comparison with which 35,000,000 acres would form only 6.4%. Even in comparison with the 268,598,795 acres recommended for forest management under federal ownership alone, 35,000,000 acres is not excessive. In fact, these comparisons make one wonder whether an estimate of 35,000,000 acres of forested lands to be dedicated to recreation and aesthetics is altogether too low.

It is estimated that eventually the state recreational systems should include not less than 6,665,000 acres. A far greater change in all forest recreation in the next 10 years, than we have had in the past 25 years, has been predicted.

#### FUTURE PROBLEMS

Involving the solution of forest resource problems we have the policy laid down by the Secretary of Agriculture in a letter to the Forester, February 1, 1905.

(7)"In the administration of the National Forests it must be clearly borne in mind that all land is to be devoted to its most productive use for the permanent good of the whole people, and not for the temporary benefit of individuals or companies. All the resources of the National Forests are for use, and this must be brought about in a thoroughly prompt and business-like manner under such restrictions only as will insure the permanence of these resources. You will see to it that the water, wood, and forage of the Forests are conserved and wisely used for



the benefit of the home builder first of all, upon whom depends the best permanent use of lands and resources alike.

In the management of each Forest, local questions will be decided upon local grounds; the dominant industry will be decided first, but with as little restriction to minor industries as may be possible. Sudden changes in industrial conditions will be avoided by gradual adjustment after due notice, and where conflicting interests must be reconciled, the question will always be decided from the standpoint of the greatest good to the greatest number in the long run."

(8) The Forest Service policy regarding recreation is: "The appeal of National Forests to recreationists lies partly in the opportunity for temporary adoption of simple modes of life, and partly in the field they afford for exercise of qualities of endurance, hardihood, resourcefulness, freedom of action, and skill in woodcraft. Artificial or discordant forms of physical improvements seriously impair these attractive qualities and should be avoided. Simplicity should be the keynote of all recreational work."

#### MORE IMPORTANT PROBLEMS

The most serious of the possible inhibiting factors of the future volume of recreational use seem to be commercial exploitation and fires. These two factors threaten to severely deplete the beauty of many recreation areas. Since there is no doubt about the principle attractiveness of the forest being its natural beauty, if it is not

adequately safeguarded, millions of people will lose this enjoyment.

More of the possible factors are destroying of vegetation, trees, and trampling and packing of the soil. However, these have remedies which should be applied.

One phase of the recreation problem is to anticipate the volume and range of needs and possibilities. Another problem is to decide whether the areas should be superlative, wilderness, primeval, residence, camp site, roadside, outing or others. How many of each of these should there be, and how should they be distributed.

Still another phase is that of ownership. Private ownership has been characterized in the past by forest devastation and deterioration because of the desire for immediate income, and this does not conserve recreational values. Would it be possible to permanently preserve such areas if they are not in public ownership? It is doubtful if lands in private ownership will be open to permanent use by the public.

The forests of the United States provide most of the habitat for our remaining wildlife. This wildlife is important for food, fur, hunting, and for aesthetic purposes. Many valuable game fishes make their habitat in the streams and lakes dependent on forest land for water supply. Commercial anadromous fishes such as salmon and shad use these waters as a temporary habitat during their early lives.



## TYPE OF AREAS NEEDED

Nearly all forest land which has not been severely injured by logging, fire, and other types of devastation, has some recreational value. Should sustained yield timber growing practices become a part of forest plans it would preserve much of the value for recreationists. It will be necessary to set aside a limited area exclusively for recreation because even the best silvicultural practice does not conserve all of the recreational values.

(2) With relation to character of forest lands which should be devoted exclusively to recreation and aesthetics, John D. Coffman believes that recreational needs will demand inclusion of practically all types of forest land within one or another system of recreational areas---- federal, state, county, municipal, or private. In a large number of instances present dedication of forest land to exclusive recreational use has resulted from gradual development of such use of the area by the public and its demand finally for recognition of this use as the prime value of the area. Where use has not yet resulted in such dedication, but where wise planning indicates the greater value of such lands for recreational use than for any other purposes in the future, land managers must be careful to preserve the recreational use of these areas against those uses or abuses which will impair their value for future recreation and aesthetics.

Protection forest types at the higher elevations will

probably form a large part of the forested recreational areas. Even the most magnificent stands of timber on the continent, although they are of high value commercially, should be represented in the areas set aside. This is necessary in order to give the future generations a view of the past composition and beauty of our forests.

These reservations illustrative of some of the most magnificent forests that man has ever known should not be tiny fragments or even roadside strips, but should contain enough area to provide excellent examples of what virgin forests of the country were in the past. Some of the best sugar pine and ponderosa pine area was set aside and included in Yosemite National Park. This purchase by public and private funds was brought about by public pressure and demand.

Commercial objectives should not be permitted to jeopardize the value of lands which are primarily of importance for recreational use. We have had opportunity to contrast ungrazed mountain meadows and forests with those which have been grazed, usually overgrazed, by range stock. It isn't right that the camper or traveler should be deprived of scenic and other recreational values because of grazing cattle.

(2) The fact is recognized that cut-over lands may frequently be valuable for camping purposes, either because they are conveniently located or because they furnish good hunting. However, when an area of any material size is of value primarily for recreational use other than hunting,



we can well afford to keep the area in natural condition to an extent greater than that of mere strips of unlogged timber along the road. The lumberman has his rights and they are justifiable. So does the stockman have his rights, but we must give just as careful consideration to the rights of the public for recreational use of suitable forest areas in public ownership in those dominant for recreational use. In many cases where timber of high commercial value is concerned, a careful analysis would show a greater value and public benefit if reserved to preserve attractive recreational surroundings.

It is highly desirable that the crop-production uses of forest lands be accompanied by recreational uses as much as possible. However, it would be wrong to assume that every forested area could be properly utilized by multiple-use forestry. Good land-use planning shows that certain uses, or combinations of uses, are more suitable to some areas than to others. Then comes the decision of how much and what kind of forest land should be devoted to recreation. This of course will depend on the character of the area and its relation to human needs. Again, the greatest good to the greatest number must be considered.

#### FINANCIAL SUPPORT

In the past the support of forest recreation has come from appropriations by Congress. Recently there have been arguments both for and against making a charge for recreational use. The arguments on both sides of the question

are founded on fairly good bases. The term "recreation charge" does not mean "admission charge".

The majority of supervisors and most regional foresters are against any charge other than that for special use permits. The National Council on Outdoor Recreation is also opposed to the charge and they believe that some other method of raising revenue should be found.

(11) Several prominent principles have been suggested as an aid in determining the most logical and beneficial means of financial support. They are:---

1. All possible means should be used to secure adequate appropriation from Congress to make possible the necessary development of recreation. Appropriations would be made on the basis of the needs shown to Congress.

2. Everything possible should be done to increase the number of special use permits to a point where this form of service may be able to practically support the entire recreational program. Care and discrimination should be taken in order not to interfere with the general forms of public recreation.

3. The use of the sliding scale for profit making concessions and the proper development of such concessions, which would result in: (a) increased revenue without hardship on anyone; (b) some increase in summer residence permit fees; and (c) would not be a disagreeable situation if handled correctly.



4. If Congress does not give sufficient appropriations, more charges will have to be made. More development (comparable with parks) should be placed on intensively used campgrounds and those persons using these will have to pay the cost. If this fails, then a charge should be made with each campfire permit. This, however, should be used only after all other methods have failed.

Taxing depends on:- (a) ease of collection, (b) ability to pay, and (c) evidences of tangible property. None of these are applicable to forest recreation.

#### VALUE OF RECREATION TO FORESTRY

(1) Recreation offers one opportunity for foresters to reach farther down into community life and thought----an exceedingly valuable opportunity. Already it is being used to varying extents in different states and communities. The public recreation contact is a ripe plum dropped into the forester's lap. Camping, picnicking, summer home establishment, hunting and fishing, and tramping, and community developments dependent on recreational travel all are possible----but only if the forests are protected from fire. The one greatest enemy of forestry---F I R E---is here met directly, and the human propensity to use fire is brought into keen conflict with the other recognized human values. Encourage and develop recreational life and its concomitant businesses and public service enterprises, and when fire comes in spite of us, we have public indignation,

assistance, and support for fire protection funds. To an extent, and often to a great extent, we have public support for fire control, and from fire control on, public concepts of sustained yield, values of watersheds for irrigation and power are obtainable. With this sympathetic public contact established, foresters are furnished opportunities of reaching the ultimate in general public conceptions of forestry objectives.

There is also another psychological attitude for foresters to consider, namely, an inherent feeling of common ownership of the large spaces, mountains, and forests of the earth. The mountains, the sea, the wild forested places--they are nature's solitudes--belong to all.

#### FACTORS OF RECREATIONAL EXPANSION

There are three factors which have caused the vast expansion of forest recreation: Urbanization of population, motor age, and realization of the value of outdoor recreation.

##### Automobile:

The most important of these is the motor age. Once upon a time a motor car was a luxury, but now it is a necessity. At present there is one car for every 4.63 people. Travel has been developed so that now we drive several hundred miles in the same amount of time it took to go a few miles several years ago. Modern methods of production are making more and more hours of leisure time and the people will have it to spend whether they like it



or not. More and more this increased leisure will tend to seek its outlet in using those areas and participating in those activities where least expense is involved. Consequently many will turn naturally to the mountains, lakes, and streams.

#### Urbanization:

The second factor is importance is that of the urbanization of the population. The following table shows the trend in urbanization:---

1850	1910	1920	1930	
50	92	106	123	total million
15	42	54	69	urban
35	50	51	54	rural

At the present time people are again returning to the rural districts slightly, but this will make small difference in recreation because of the other two factors.

The question arises as to whether we can continue to concentrate our population in large cities as we have done in the past. Is it possible for human beings to live in a city for generation after generation without nervous disorders? Is our biological preservation dependent on at least some relaxation and a change of atmosphere?

Charles Eliot in speaking of this subject said: "The life history of humanity has proved nothing more clearly than that crowded populations if they would live in health and happiness, must have space for air, for light, for exercise, for rest, and for the enjoyment of that peaceful beauty of nature which, because it is the opposite of

the noisy ugliness of towns, is so wonderfully refreshing to the tired souls of townspeople."

Frederick Law Olmstead, Sr., stated: "That the average human nervous system could stand only 3 to 4 generations of city life with its lights and noises, poor air, and lack of exercise; that there was thus a biological reason why the majority of leaders in every walk of life came from the country and that in physical and mental inheritance as well as in financial, it was frequently three generations from shirt sleeves to shirt sleeves; that the decline of great families was frequently due to the 'running out' of mental and physical vigor occasioned by the continued drain of city life upon the nervous and physical vigor of succeeding generations."

In the past, great nations have reached the zenith of their civilizations and that for some reason became stationary. Then they disintegrated as nations and others took their places. Perhaps there is such a catastrophe as a nation becoming too much urbanized, resulting in the breakdown of its citizenship both mentally and physically.

Either we must be able to adapt ourselves to these city conditons, or make provision for retaining the fundamental elements of our aboriginal life. We formerly lived close to nature and we must either adapt ourselves to the difference or provide for getting back to that sort of life at times.



### Realization of Value:

More and more, people are beginning to realize the value of outdoor recreation. They feel the difference it makes in how they feel after returning from open air and nature. They feel that life is worth living once again. We have all heard of doctors prescribing a trip to the outdoors where there is good air, sunshine, and exercise for their patients. It makes a new person both physically and mentally.

It is the recognition of this value that has resulted in the creation of municipal, county, state and national parks, and the use of state and national forests for recreational activities. It has brought about the realization of the Federal Government of its responsibility to its citizens in this movement. A democratic government cannot grow beyond the capacity of its people, and this capacity is dependent on the health of those people--- both physical and mental.

### CONCLUSION

As a general conclusion it seems that modern plans for timber management, range management, and water management are solving the problem of recreational attraction cooperatively with utilization of resources.

Only a few years ago recreation was begging for a place in forest management. It was neither heard nor regarded by foresters so took its own way into public land

management. In the State of New York, forestry schools and the state forest service developed rapidly because of the power of recreation. This same development has gradually grown over the entire nation. Recreation in the forest has forced itself into the forestry program and it is here to stay. Foresters are taking more interest now, not only because they are required to do so by public demand, but because they too see the vast values which it offers. Forest Recreation is now a major forest use.

According to Fred W. Cleator of the Region 6 Office, "Recreation is tied into almost every part of forestry and land use." At a meeting of the Society of American Foresters in Portland, Oregon, a few years ago, every state forester east of the Mississippi River had a recreation problem instead of management problems.

Why do we have forest recreation? Because of its physical and mental health possibilities and the great possibilities of values it gives to the people of the United States of America in making better citizens and consequently a better government.

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