

The Planning Phase of
Recreation Management on
The San Bernardino National Forest
Region Five

by

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PART I - ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Acknowledgement is made of the facts received upon which the description of the problem is dependent---credit being due to Mr. F. A. Robinson of the Supervisor's office of the San Bernardino National Forest who willingly gave assistance and access to the recreation plan for the Forest. Mr. Robinson has been in charge of the recreation plan which is still in rough draft and which has not as yet been presented to the Supervisor for approval. The recent floods and fires in the area have made necessary a revision of the recreation plan before submitting it to the Regional Forester.

Credit is also due the Division of Recreation and Lands in the Regional Office at San Francisco for the advice, assistance and explanations so willingly proffered.

PART II - INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this thesis is to present the planning phase of recreation management now in use on the San Bernardino National Forest-- Region Five, and to attempt an analysis as to the whys and wherefores.

The importance of the problem lies in the fact that the phase of Forest Recreation is becoming more and more a distinct problem on the National Forests and an amount of reason and analysis application here and there will help, at least in some ways, to bring about a better understanding of recreation problems.

Previously related studies in this field lay in an objective course of Recreation Management plus outside reading assignments. Land Planning also entered somewhat into this field.

Basic information was gathered through the consequences of extended correspondence with Forest Service officials in the Regional Office at San Francisco and at San Bernardino, California, and personal contact made at each of the above-mentioned places. Important parts of the recreation plan on this Forest were outlined from their rough draft copy and embody the first major division of this thesis. The analysis and solution are the product of correlation of knowledge gained through rambling "bullfests" with faculty, Forest Service officials and my own observation.

PART III - DESCRIPTION OF THE PROBLEM

A. Description of the Area

1. The San Bernardino National Forest--Region Five, is located in the south-central portion of southern California extending from Range 7 West through Range 6 East from the San Bernardino Meridian and from Township 3 North through Township 7 South from the San Bernardino Base Line.

Two mountain ranges and two counties are represented in this Forest. The San Gorgonio Range lying mostly in San Bernardino County extends from Cajon Pass in the northwestern portion of the Forest south-east to the San Gorgonio Pass. A distance of six miles across this pass separates the Forest in two parts, the other part being the San Jacinto Range in Riverside County bounded on the North by the San Gorgonio Pass, on the Northeast by Coachella Valley, San Diego County lying to the South.

2. The area of the Forest in acres is as follows:

<u>County</u>	<u>Gov't Land</u>	<u>Pat'd Land</u>	<u>Total</u>
San Bernardino	411, 890	125,444	537,034
Riverside	<u>181,099</u>	<u>85,914</u>	<u>267,013</u>
Total	592,989	211,058	804,047

3. The topography is characterized by precipitous slopes in the higher elevations, where valleys are hidden among the mountain peaks, and by long sloping foothills on the front or west side. The elevations run from 1500 feet above sea level on the valley floor to 11,485 feet at the summit of the San Gorgonio Range and 10,805 feet at the summit of the San Jacinto Range.

4. Precipitation is generally excluded to the period between November and March and occurs in the form of rain on the valley slopes and as snow on the mountain crest.

During the summer the valley and desert slopes are excessively hot while the crest is warm but even so is a great deal cooler than the valley floor. During the winter the valley and desert are mild in climate, the desert becoming cold at night and the crest cold at all times.

5. Chamise and mixed chaparral types are found on the lower valley slopes and foothills while the desert-sage types predominate on the desert side. From the desert floor up the types are as follows: sage, pinon-juniper, oak-pine, pure pine, mixed conifer, fir and sub-alpine types.

6. Forest Resources in order of importance are:

Water is the principal resource, the watersheds supplying 57 municipalities and water districts. This water is necessary to agricultural land in the valley estimated at a value of \$40,000,000 annually and consisting principally of citrus crops.

Recreation stands a close second in importance as a Forest resource. During the fiscal year of 1936-37 alone there were tallied 1,863,750 visitors who used the Forest. This does not take into consideration the 5,000,000 people annually who use the State Highway through Cajon Pass which is located in the Northwest corner of the Forest and which constitutes an East to West tourist route.

Forage rates a poor third with 72,000 acres being usable and open to grazing while 30,000 acres more are closed to grazing because of incom-

patibility with watershed protection and recreation uses.

Timber reserves are 1,048,000,000 board feet of saw timber and 1,553,000 cords of fuel wood. No green timber is cut if it interferes with recreation and no lumbering has been done for many years and will never be done if the present policy remains in effect.

7. Forest Development consists of:

Industrial development is limited on this Forest in that there are few minerals found here and there is no lumbering being practiced.

There are no incorporated towns in the Forest although Crestline, Arrowhead, Big Bear and Idyllwild are recreation centers and towns on private lands within the Forest.

Existing transportation routes are the Southern Pacific Railroad running through the San Gorgonio Pass and the Santa Fe Railroad following Cajon Pass.

U. S. Highways 60, 70, 99, and 66 run through the Forest. County highways are numerous and fairly good being found in Lytle Creek Canyon, in the Crestline Area, in the upper Mill Creek Canyon, in Oak Glen and between Banning and Idyllwild. Truck trails are closed to the public. Foot trails are limited to high elevations where there is less danger of fire.

An airplane landing field is located on the South side of Big Bear Lake.

B. Outstanding Attractions

1. The Arrowhead, a natural formation formed by a landslide in the lower Waterman Canyon, is considered as an outstanding attraction to Forest users. This formation is visible from the San Bernardino Valley

floor up to a distance of eight to ten miles. The recent fire of December 1938 destroyed the growth of wild oats which preserved the natural formation and prevented erosion thus making it necessary to re-plant it. White mustard has been chosen for this purpose.

2. Arrowhead Springs is located on private property in lower Waterman Canyon where, until the fire of December 1938, a popular resort stood. Visitors here enjoyed the benefits of the hot springs.

Other hot springs located on private property in the Forest are Warm Springs and Pan Hot Springs.

3. Waterfalls are numerous throughout the Forest and are valued as outstanding scenic attractions.

4. Along the mountain ridges and on the desert slopes are many rock formations of mild geological interest.

5. The lakes in this forest are restricted to the higher elevations and are few in number. The majority of them being located over a mile above sea level.

6. The two mountain ranges themselves are of intense scenic value to week-enders and the fifty-mile-an-hour recreationists who use the excellent high-gear roads.

7. Interesting trees not considered as a cover type, nevertheless native to this region are the Joshua Tree (*Yucca arborescens*), found on the desert slopes and the Washington Palm (*Neowashingtonia filifera*) found in Coachella Valley northeast of the San Jacinto Range. Many visitors flock to this desert area when the Joshua Trees are in bloom and tourists traveling over the Pines to Palms highway crossing the San Jacinto Range, enjoy the Palms.

8. Deer abound throughout the Forest on the valley slopes, along the crests and are numerous on the desert slopes.

Trappers report mild success in bags of red fox, bobcat, raccoon, lynx, coyote and squirrel.

9. There are a few good fishing streams and lakes, particularly on the crests and the valley slopes. Species found in these waters are Rainbow Trout, Loch Leven, Square-tail Catfish and Green Sunfish.

10. On the desert slopes along during the spring months people flock to admire the profusion of multicolored wild flowers.

C. Description of the Current Planning Phase of Recreation Management

1. Demand for Recreation on the Forest

a. History of Recreation on the Forest

Since the Forest has been in use by the public, a multiple use policy has existed.

Watershed protection has been and will always be the main problem or reason for existence of the Forest Service in this area.

Until recent years grazing problems have required special consideration but are gradually being forced out of the picture by recreation which, today, rates second to watershed protection in importance.

Lumbering has never been a major industry on this forest and the present policy forbids the extension of lumbering activities. Only a few deserted mills remain in the forested region.

b. Population

According to the 1930 census there were 2,542,100 people in Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino and Orange counties, the extent of which is considered a "using radius." Statistics maintain that at the present rate of increase in population there will be 3,922,700 people in the same "using radius" in 1940.

At the present time two-thirds of the campers are from the moderate income class and not much change is predicted in the type of people using the Forest. The under-privileged people have been noticed as not being in the class of recreationists.

c. General Accessibility

A very large portion of the Forest is easily accessible by means of high gear roads and will be more so in the future with the continued rise in population.

d. Estimated Present and Future Demand for Recreation.

During the months between May and September 1937, an average of 24,291 people per day used the Forest. Statistics predict that in 1942 the Forest will realize an influx of 2,590,000 visitors per year and will increase in proportion to the amount of 3,318,000 recreationists in 1947.

e. Relation of Recreational Use on this Forest to and with other Forests.

The Angeles Forest is not able, in the way of facilities, to care for all the visitors to its playgrounds. Consequently, the overflow from Angeles County runs into the San Bernardino National Forest.

The San Bernardino Forest is not affected by the presence of the Cleveland, Los Padres, Inyo or Sequoia Forests and these aforementioned forests will not be heavily used until the saturation point is reached here in the San Bernardino Forest. The carrying capacity has not yet been determined on the San Bernardino National Forest.

2. Policy Statement

a. The Place of Recreation in the Management of the Forest.

Recreation plays a very important part in the management of this Forest being second only in importance to watershed protection. A great deal of recreation takes place on the private land holdings which are for the most part better suited to the purpose of recreation than Government lands. This fact, however, merely lends more complications to recreation problems making it more difficult for the Forest Service in the long run.

b. Recreational Uses and Activities which will be Recognized.

Improved public campgrounds will be recognized as the main recreational use and at times will be recognized as a special use.

The policy concerning residences is as follows:

No new tracts will be permitted except in special cases.

No isolated residences will be permitted to exist from now on.

No permits will be issued for residence lots located near special attractions.

No more lots will be set aside in the Lytle Creek Drainage because of flood danger.

No more lots will be allowed in Cleghorn or Mountain Home Canyons because of fire danger.

c. Areas to be Reserved for Future Use.

Primitive Areas

Cucamonga

San Gorgonio

San Jacinto

Areas for Development

No large areas are reserved for future development as none occur in this area.

Fire Closure Area

Because of the high fire hazard the front country or valley slopes of the San Bernardino and San Jacinto Ranges will be closed to recreation use.

d. Coordination of Recreation on Government and Private Lands and Cooperation with Private Land Owners.

Forest protection, in policy, will be complete cooperation regardless of land ownership.

Private development will be encouraged and National Forest land will be restricted to the use of the general public only.

e. Protection

The amount of \$500 will be reserved each year for a possible necessity of some insect control.

In the event of the invasion of Blister Rust, special measures will be taken.

The protection of watershed and water supply is ultimately in the hands of the Government and will have Government control.

The State Board of Health will have the power of regulation of measures pertaining to public health.

3. Summary of Policy Statement--1928--Forest Atlas

- a. As rapidly as possible acquire through land exchange the lands needed for public use.
- b. Insert a "planting" stipulation in every campground and resort permit issued hereafter.
- c. Camping will be restricted to developed camps except in the three wilderness areas.

San Gorgonio Range above 7500 feet

. 20,000 acres used mostly for hiking

San Jacinto Range consisting of 22,000 acres used mostly for hiking. Agitation is prevalent for the creation of a State Park, however, the watershed protection value is of more economic importance.

Cucamonga Peak Region, comprising some 5000 acres, is close to the highly developed San Antonio Canyon.

- d. Observe the timber policy statement in all recreational development.
- e. No lots will be allowed nearer than 100 feet to lakes or nearer than 50 feet to streams.

- f. A 132 foot right of way for State Highways will be observed as will be a 66 foot right of way for all other roads.
 - g. No land uses will be permitted within 100 feet of the center line of State Highways or within 60 feet of the center line of other through roads.
 - h. No commercial permits will be issued on the Bear Valley highways.
 - i. Summer homes must be set back at least 350 feet from Cahon or Bear Valley Highways.
 - j. Require applicants for campground permits to submit plan and budget of development.
 - k. Consolidate semi-public resort and camp uses whenever possible.
 - l. No more summer home permits in Cleghorn, Bear Creek Mountain Home, Lytle Creek, Cucamonga Canyons, and in Deep Creek near Hot Springs because of flood dangers.
 - m. No new summer home site tracts will be laid out on land needed for public recreation.
 - n. Permits will require installation of chemical toilets, painting of frame buildings and the use of fire proof material for roofs.
4. Coordination of Recreation with Other Forest Uses and Activities.
- a. Water
- No recreation development will be permitted that interferes with irrigation of flood control reservoirs, that

materially impairs the purity of the water, or that will be an extra fire hazard.

Timber, brush, etc., which would be covered by water with flood control or water development must be removed and disposed of before flooding occurs.

b. Grazing

Grazing will be restricted or eliminated wherever it seriously interferes with recreational development because grazing values are somewhat limited in this Forest. However, until such time, grazing will be given high consideration on such areas where recreation is a coordinate use. When grazing permits are renewed due consideration will be given any possible future recreational use of the area before the permit is renewed.

c. Fish and Game

Forty per cent of the Forest is included in State Game Refuges #4-A, 4-D, and 4-G, covering portions of the Forest most intensively used for recreation. Herein the enjoyment of game birds and animals is realized by recreationists. The establishment of these refuges also prohibits the use of firearms which is dangerous in these congested areas. These refuges were established to act as game reservoirs. Poaching is very prevalent and unnecessary and Federal officers should make more intensive efforts to terminate violations of the State game laws.

d. Timber

Timber in this Forest is chiefly valuable as an asset to recreation and no live trees shall be cut except where they endanger life or property or are in line of legitimate or other road construction, where they are a source of insect or disease infestation, and except in the pinon-juniper type where some pinon may be cut for Christmas trees without impairing recreational values.

e. Mining

A total of 75 patented mining claims comprising 2530 acres are in the Forest, many of which are chiefly valuable for recreation. There are listed 700 mineral locations nearly all of which are questionable.

Bona fide mining is done on but a few of the claims and unless the mineral law is amended, mineral locations will have a material effect on recreational development since, as a rule, they cover areas of recreational value.

Very little is being done on the oil prospecting leases on the Forest. Any new locations for which recreational use can be foreseen, should be prevented by posting these areas as public service sites.

5. Designated Areas

a. Kinds of Areas Recognized on this Forest

Areas closed to public use because of the high fire hazard---200,000 acres on this forest are closed whether to seasonal or year-round use.

Three wilderness areas are on this forest:

San Gorgonio--20,000 acres

San Jacinto---22,000 acres

Cucamonga ---- 5,000 acres

Trail areas are excluded to the higher elevations where there is no great danger of uncontrolled fires.

Road areas are those areas where the building of roads will be permitted with certain limitations.

Private holdings in this Forest amount to 200,000 acres in extent. Of the approximate 800,000 acres in this Forest 400,000 are available for recreation planning.

b. Designated Closed Areas

Devil's Canyon in the northwest portion of the San Gorgonio Range is closed to the public only during the fire season.

Banning Canyon in the San Jacinto Range is closed to the public only during the fire season.

The west fork of the Lytle Creek in the Cucamonga Range is closed during the fire season.

With the exception of county roads the area between Waterman Canyon and Mountain Home Canyon is closed to public use during the fire season.

6. Special Problems

a. Private Lands

The Forest Service, which is primarily concerned with the general public, has a continuous squabble with private

landowners in regard to land use and land use problems.

b. Sanitation

Sanitation on Forest Service land presents no distinct problems in that the Forest Service enforces rigid sanitary measures. However, private landowners do not require their leaseholders to install chemical tanks in their privies.

Congestion on private lands makes it necessary to provide for sanitary measures, nevertheless, this practice is not adhered to among private landowners.

c. Water Supply

The principal sources of water supply are from the following watersheds:

Lytle Creek

Waterman Canyon

City Creek

Mill Creek

Santa Ana Watershed

The preservation of these watersheds is necessarily one of the most important problems encountered in this Forest.

d. Winter Sports Parking

It is a recognized fact that recreation is far ahead of its proper administration and there is a great need for solving the parking problem along State Highways. Peak travel on week-ends reveals to us the fact that the State is not able to keep up with the demand for parking facilities. Consequently, the State Highway Department "kicks" about it. As

fast as appropriations are received by the State, parking facilities are being developed but there is still in evidence strings of cars parked along the highway during the winter sports season.

e. House Trailers

During very recent years it was predicted that house trailers would experience a boom but the idea proved only to be a passing fad and the Forest Service sees no need for developing special camping grounds for trailers.

f. Fire Protection

The importance of increased fire protection has been brought about by the increasing amount of recreationists who increase the fire hazard proportionately.

7. Specific Areas

The Upper Santa Ana Basin, referred to as Barton Flats, is, from the Government's standpoint probably the most important recreation area in Government ownership in southern California.

A much greater demand is anticipated because of contemplated relocation of Mill Creek Highway and the extension of Barton Flats Highway to Baldwin Lake in the San Gorgonio Range.

8. Recreation Inventory

a. Field Studies

Each Ranger was consulted by R. H. May and R. H. Cron regarding recreation conditions and a quick reconnaissance trip was made over the entire district. "Selected Site" was the system of inventory used and only places of present or

possible future value were reported on rather than the entire area.

Fire closure areas and private lands were not covered so intensively.

The most detailed survey was made of the upper Santa Ana Basin in 1934.

b. Available Recreational Land

88,930 acres of usable recreation land are on the Forest; 49,917 acres (56.1%) of which is in Government ownership; 39,013 acres (43.9%) is in private ownership.

Now developed are 14,715 acres (16.5%) of the total of which 2,344 acres (15.9% of developed area) is Government owned and 12,371 acres (84.1%) is privately owned.

This leaves 39,064 acres which are suitable for near future development. 35,161 acres of the usable recreation land are of low value and will not be used for a long time to come. This leaves a mere 4,000 acres to be considered immediately.

9. General Discussion of Plan of Development

a. Administrative Units

Ranger Districts:

The Arrowhead District will be concerned with public camps and picnic grounds mostly in the future. Winter sports development will also be considered.

The Big Bear District, consisting of Barton Flats and Bear Valley, will be concerned mostly with summer camping

and the development of winter sports. The San Geronio primitive or wilderness area will be considered for skiing development or use.

The Cajon District was partially destroyed by the flood of March 2, 1938, and recreational development will not be replaced. However, camp ground and picnic sites will be constructed along the main routes of travel. One-third of this district is in a fire closure area.

Two-thirds of the Mill Creek District is located in a fire closure area. This area was damaged by the flood of March 2, 1938, and little development is planned for the future.

The San Jacinto District is used frequently by the people in the desert area north of here and the Palms to Pines Highway will cause an increase in recreation use. One-fourth of this area is closed because of the high fire hazard.

The Big Bear District is used mostly by hunters and fishermen and public camps and their relative problems will be the main concern of the Forest Service here.

In this district mining and grazing supercede recreation in importance.

Recreation Areas: (Refer to Forest Map)

b. Priorities for Development

Private ownership is given priority on this Forest.

Barton Flats is the number one in priority for Forest Recreation Development.

Priority or Preference in Recreational Use

(1928--Forest Atlas)

Priority is determined by the highest utilization on the basis of public service and interest. Temporary permits only will be issued.

(Priority List as Determined on the San Bernardino National Forest--Region 5)

- (1) Public camps maintained by the Forest Service or cooperative agencies
- (2) Camps maintained by municipalities
- (3) Camps maintained by semi-public agencies
- (4) Camps maintained by charitable, fraternal or denominational organizations
- (5) Summer schools conducted by public agencies
- (6) Hotels and Resorts for the use of the general public
- (7) Public utilities such as stores, garages
- (8) Club houses and exclusive uses
- (9) Summer home sites.

Summer home sites are not considered for Forest Service Development because of the 67,000 subdivisions now located on private lands.

PART IV - ANALYSIS OF THE CURRENT PLANNING PHASE

A. The Determination of Future Trends in Forest Recreation

1. The Influence of Demand

Future demand in recreation uses in all of Region Five is considered only generally. The reason being that the main problem is, and the most time is being spent on, satisfying present demand by providing facilities for recreationists and by maintaining those facilities.

The automobile with its corollary, good roads, has been perhaps the greatest influence in the demand for out-of-door recreation, and that influence is still being felt. With the increased leisure which has resulted from five-day weeks, to say nothing of depression and seasonal layoffs, is added to the other factors, the result is a surge toward the mountains rather than any back to the mountains sentiment of the people.

The growth of southern California itself is considered as the most important fact in determining future trends along recreation lines. The figures of past and present population increases and the proportionate increase in numbers of recreationists is considered as accurate enough in predicting that the visitors per year will be twice as numerous in 1947 as they were in 1937.

The San Bernardino Forest will at some indefinite time inevitably reach a saturation point as has the Angeles Forest and the overflow will need to be taken care of by nearby Forests or perhaps private landowners.

It is true that the increased use of National Forests has resulted, and quite naturally, in a demand of some weight that city-type amusements and facilities be transplanted to the mountains. Such a trend might be expected as the numbers of city people visiting the Forests increase. The preservation of the values unique to Forest areas from the inroads of urban, sophisticated, and regimented types of entertainment will continue to be one of the primary objectives of the Forest Service in Region Five.

The use of questionnaires, circulated among campers and organization areas, has proven to be the best index as to what the public wants in the way of recreation. Campground caretakers, rangers, and other Forest officers talk with campers during the season and attempt to obtain some indication regarding their preferences.

Public demand can possibly be altered through the effects of an extensive educational program via Public Relations work.

2. Financial Factors

That demand for facilities is present is evident, however, finances seem to be the limiting factor in providing these facilities. No funds were allowed directly for recreation management in Region Five last year which made it necessary to use \$35,000 from the General Maintenance Fund for the purpose of recreation improvements and maintenance throughout the entire region.

Present demand cannot be entirely satisfied on land belonging to the Government with such limited financial resources. Consequently, until the Washington office realizes the need for better

management, and appropriates more finances for this purpose, not much can be expected of Region Five in the way of recreation development and improvements in the near future.

B. Policy Statements

The recreation policy as adapted by this Forest in 1928 has been adhered to quite closely these last ten years and not much deviation from the original has been realized. This policy has been quite adequate in so far as this part of the planning phase has prevented some mistakes in land use.

Policies of the Forest Service are never forsaken in order to meet public demand because of the primary policy of watershed protection which is really maintaining the "greatest good to the greatest number of people in the long run" policy of the Forest Service.

The Forest Service will be primarily concerned with public use in this Forest and will go as far as to prevent friction with private landowners by any means possible.

The policy statement concerning residences is justifiable in that private land holdings have 67,000 sub-divisions for summer home sites which is more than enough to take care of those individuals who prefer this form of recreation. Other points of this statement are self-explanatory.

The statement concerning fire closure areas is obvious. This front country is composed of almost entirely chaparral types, highly inflammable, and its value as a watershed greatly exceeds its potential recreation value and the ultimate undue exposure to careless campers.

Approximately one-quarter of the total land area within the Forest is in the hands of private owners and it is only natural that under prevailing conditions that development, with certain restrictions, should be encouraged therein and that National Forest land should be reserved solely for the use of the general public.

The protection policy presented is self explanatory as far as watershed protection is concerned.

The protection of vegetation from insect and pathological agencies must be provided for, in a small way at least, even though in this area a relatively small amount of damage is done by insects and Blister Rust.

The protection of public health becomes more and more necessary as congestion in campgrounds, resorts and organization areas increases. At this point the State Board of Health sets restrictions, requirements and limitations to sanitary facilities and measures in an effort to promote and maintain public health.

In analyzing the policy statement of 1928, taken from the Forest Atlas, we find that the "planting" stipulation required in every campground and resort permit issued is quite necessary in view of the fact that not all of the Forest is composed of dense stands of timber and that shade is at a premium as well as isolation strips in the open stands of timber.

Restriction of camping to developed camps is necessary to simplify administrative work and protection measures. The setting aside of wilderness areas is necessary due to the increasing

expansion of recreation and these areas are needed to satisfy the type of recreationist who desires to roam the wide open spaces and is also needed to protect the head of the watershed system.

The timber policy of this Forest as applies to recreation is to forbid cutting of live trees unless absolutely necessary for road construction or as a protective measure. The saw timber on this area really isn't needed for this purpose as much as it is for watershed protection and for aesthetic recreation.

The policies setting distances of land uses from roads and water courses is necessary to allow free pedestrian movement along these routes and to maintain aesthetic qualities.

C. Coordination of Recreation with Other Forest Uses and Activities

As mentioned before watershed protection is the chief concern of this Forest, surely then this policy can't be waived and recreation permitted to take place, at least in the critical areas.

Recreation is gradually forcing grazing out of the picture on this Forest, however, until such time as recreation activities have reached their approximate saturation point, grazing should be permitted in conjunction.

Game refuges are essential on this Forest due to the seasonal congestion which would, if they were left alone, force game out of existence. The presence of game refuges in these congested areas also prohibits the use of firearms which so many recreationists are accustomed to carry and the use of which would be dangerous therein.

Other items under this heading need no analysis or explanation.

D. Special Problems

Recreational use of the Forest has only added to the complications brought about by conflicts with private landowners. The Forest Service is primarily concerned with the general public and has a continuous squabble with private landowners in regard to land use. Private landowners do not require their leaseholders to install chemical tanks in their privies thus creating a sanitary problem. Private landowners are also prone to cite their holdings much out of keeping with aesthetic propensities.

Sixty-seven municipalities and water districts are supplied by the watersheds of this Forest and the protection of this water supply is indeed a special problem, both as to water storage for domestic purposes and to prevent floods occurring in the valley all the way down to the ocean.

Peak travel on week-ends during the winter sports season makes us realize the inadequateness of facilities for winter sports parking by the long strings of cars parked along the highways. The State Highway Department is doing its best as rapidly as funds for parking place construction are allotted.

Fads are given no special consideration in making recreation plans for this Forest as is evidenced by the fact of the passing of the house trailer. The house trailer was considered by many to be permanent in the life of the American tourist, but as the Forest Service had no appropriations at the time to take care of the trailer traffic, a mistake was avoided in land planning.

PART V. - A POSSIBLE SOLUTION TO A MORE SERVICEABLE PLAN FOR
SUSTAINED DEVELOPMENT OF RECREATIONAL RESOURCES ON THE FOREST

A. Analysis of Inventory Data

Inventory data is correct as far as figures and procedure of selecting sites goes. As far as I can see, the necessary job was well done in spite of the adversity of prevailing conditions such as floods and fire damage, the presence of which by no means enlightened the task of estimating recreation probabilities.

The use of the "Selected Site" system was justified in so much as only 39,000 acres of the total National Forest Land of 600,000 acres is considered as suitable for near future development, 35,000 of this acreage being of low recreation value.

Private land almost entirely surrounds the lakes of any consequence, in some cases leaving only small areas of lake frontage which are in some ways usable for camp sites or picnic areas. The better sites desirable for public use must be acquired through some sort of land exchange. Lakes fall in the order of being first in preference for public use but streams are used more because of the fact that only five lakes of any size exist in the Forest.

The Barton Flats area, although quite extensively developed at the present is the logical place for future development taking into consideration, in spite of its remoteness, its ease of access, the broad extension of land and its all around characteristics of desirability for a recreation center.

B. Determination of Future Trends in Recreation

The mere fact that the surrounding valley floors are exposed to warm weather for fully six months of the year and the mountain areas are relatively cooler at all times, makes this a consideration in determining future trends. As long as there are people in southern California and as long as there are mountain resorts and camps, there will be an increasing influx of visitors per year to the National Forest simply because the only two places for the local people to escape the summer heat are the mountains and the beaches. Incidentally, many people who reside on the coast have summer homes in the mountains or frequent the Forest resorts and campgrounds. Likewise, many people in the valley own or have access to summer homes at the beach and in some cases in the mountains as well. If they don't happen to own summer homes at either of these places, they usually have friends who do, and who frequently hold open house to them. Many people spend the entire summer by staying a period of time at the beach and then another short period in the mountains and vice versa.

These combined factors make it relatively easier to determine future trends. The four major communities on private land in the higher elevations are populated the year round by people who have their business there and roads must be kept open to these areas thus facilitating the access of winter sports enthusiasts to the sports centers.

The Angeles National Forest to the West and North has, at the present time, reached a distinct point of saturation as far as ac-

commodating recreationists goes. But this doesn't seem to perturb the Angelenos for many of them would just as soon, or in fact many prefer to, motor the 80 miles to the San Bernardino Forest where seemingly better winter sport and all round recreation conditions prevail. The Angeles Forest itself really isn't well suited to recreation, not because of any lacking facilities but because of the nature of the land. These combined factors tend to increase the normal recreation trend in the direction of the San Bernardino Forest or northward a distance of 400 miles to the Inyo Forest. The mountain areas of over 6000 feet are the only places where ideal snow conditions prevail. Four hundred miles is a long distance for anyone to travel just for a week end of winter sports, consequently, in view of the usually good skiing conditions along the crest of the San Bernardino Forest, it is logical to expect the enthusiasts within the "using radius" of San Bernardino, Riverside, Los Angeles and Orange counties to use this area for that purpose.

The type of recreation that will dominate in the future will be by no means easy to determine. However, due to the fact that recreationists have been skiing, swimming, hunting, fishing, driving, camping and just ordinarily relaxing for the last fifteen years in this Forest, it is reasonable to assume that no drastic change in types of recreation will occur in the near future, just because of population changes.

Of the 1,900,000 tallied Forest visitors only 800,000 could be analyzed as to the extent of their business in recreation and it is safe to presume that the other 1,100,000 were merely 40-mile-

an-hour scenery enthusiasts who took advantage of the excellent system of high gear roads that penetrate the Forest.

With these facts behind and with this line of reasoning, it is safe to estimate the increased use of the Forest on the basis of future trends in population which are steadily increasing. No immediate change in economic conditions are forecasted so with the continued fairly high standards of living it is not easy to go wrong in making this assumption.

Recreation growth will never be stagnated by the progress of any major industry in the Forest because of the policy forbidding timber cutting and the recognized absence of any large amounts of mineral deposits or oil reservoirs. The immediate surrounding territory up to Los Angeles is necessarily agricultural in nature and manufacturing of any great extent will never be practiced therein.

C. Factors Discrepant to Logical Planning

The staggering amounts of visitors who use this small Forest annually makes it by no means easy to plan for sustained recreation on the limited amount of available land suitable for recreation. As mentioned previously, 200,000 acres, composed usually of the most suitable land, is privately owned while only 4000 acres of Government land is considered as suitable for near future recreation development. Probably due to this fact the Forest Service has adopted its policy of encouraging private development of recreation facilities by that means enabling the public to enjoy Forest recreation.

Recreation on this Forest, as on many other Forests, was unplanned for until very recent years when it was literally forced on the Administration. The Forest Service was unable to cope with the situation due to its unscheduled rapid advances and as a result recreation is far ahead of its proper Administration.

The recreation planners on this Forest are working on a plan to submit to the Regional Forester in San Francisco, a plan that will maintain flexibility for years to come, a logical, conservative plan that will permit expansion of recreation developments along with or not far behind the demand for these developments.

The theory that Recreation "just grew" is supported in view of the facts that facilities have previously been established merely to satisfy somewhat the demand. The present demand has been the consideration of this Forest and this Region more than future demand due to a definite "limiting factor" in the form of available finances.

Page after page of plans can be made in hopes that there will some day be specific appropriations made for extended recreation development. Until this is realized, the Forest is keeping its plans up to date as near as possible in order to be ready when the time comes.

In spite of the small available acreages of recreation land for the large population in relation to larger, more suited areas with less population density, there are practically unlimited recreational resources on this forest.

The limiting factor of recreation planning in the distant future when recreation has doubled in extent will be that of available water, if there is any limiting factor. Rainfall in this forested region rates low in amount of precipitation in comparison with areas farther northward. The limiting factor to development is and always will be that of available financial support. Due to this fact, and that the Forest Service is primarily concerned with watershed protection here, private land owners are encouraged to engage in recreational development for the use of the general public.



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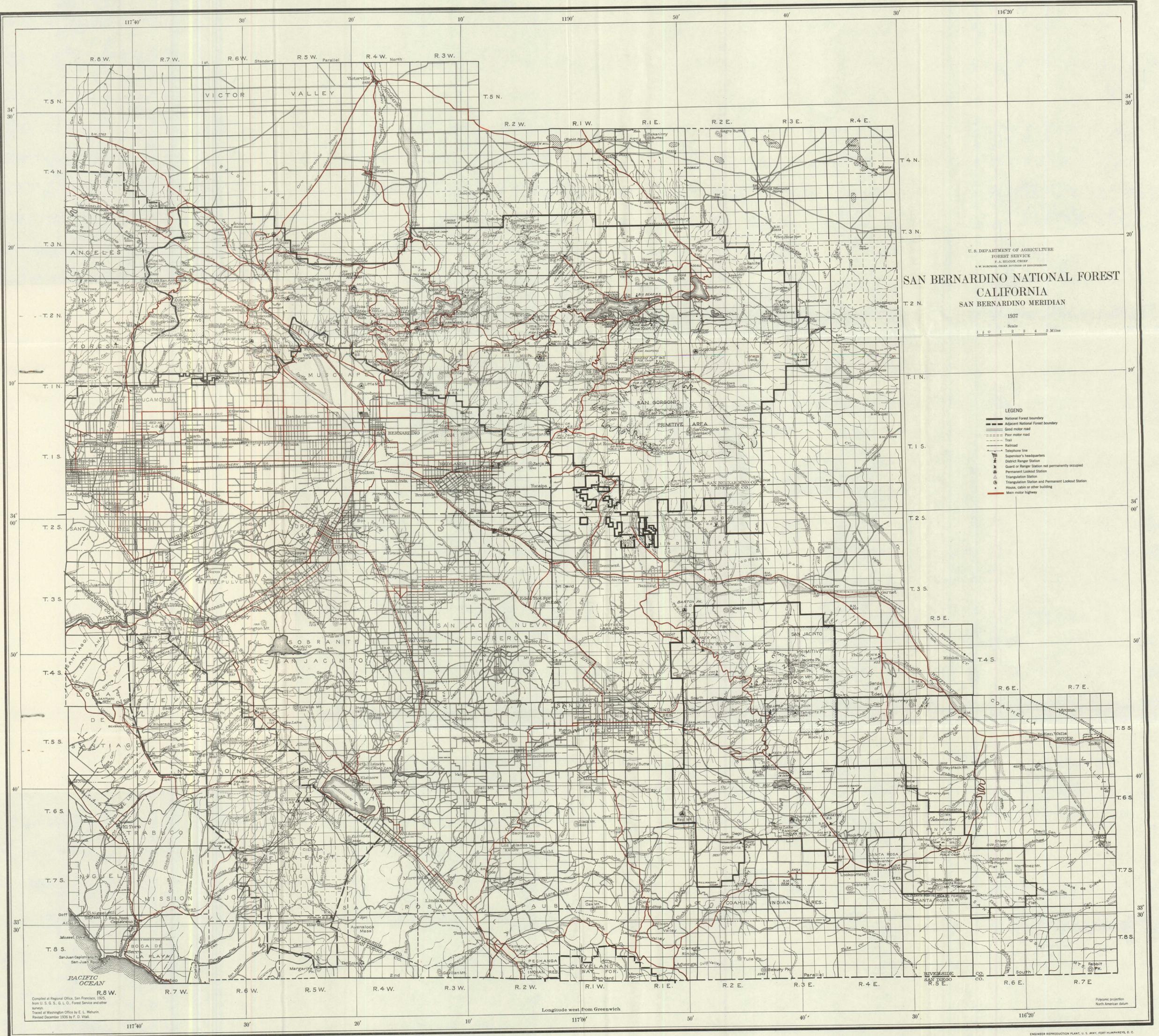
PART VI - SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

At a rough estimate, about 8% of the time of the Forest Service personnel of this Region is devoted to problems of recreation. It is estimated that the recreation business will reach such proportions in the future that 15-25% of the time of the personnel will be devoted to recreation.

It is believed, in Region Five, that all recreation management plans should be flexible. Because of changing conditions--economic, financial, and psychological--among the people of the country, and they are convinced that it is unsafe to plan farther than ten years into the future.

The presence of recreation has made general forest management a much more complicated job. The mere fact that in recreation the planners deal with an intangible value used by large numbers of people introduces questions of proper approach and new viewpoints regarding management. At the same time, the recreative use of the Forests has kindled an interest in the Forest Service and its work, has broadened the general fund of knowledge about the Service and has given the Administration a fine opportunity for informal educative work.

In view of the evidence presented herein, a logical solution would be to maintain the present rate of development on National Forest lands at the same time encouraging private development and keeping a watchful eye on economic and social developments. The Forest Service is not yet ready to make a big splurge towards satisfying future demand and should take a little more time and research in specific problems of recreation. This should be done to avoid any drastic mistakes in land planning and at the same time make an effort to satisfy present demand.



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
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SAN BERNARDINO NATIONAL FOREST CALIFORNIA

SAN BERNARDINO MERIDIAN
1937

Scale
1 2 3 4 5 Miles

- LEGEND**
- National Forest boundary
 - - - - - Adjacent National Forest boundary
 - Good motor road
 - - - - - Poor motor road
 - - - - - Trail
 - Railroad
 - Telephone line
 - Supervisor's headquarters
 - District Ranger Station
 - Guard or Ranger Station not permanently occupied
 - Permanent Lookout Station
 - Triangulation Station
 - Triangulation Station and Permanent Lookout Station
 - House, cabin or other building
 - Main motor highway

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from U. S. G. S. G. L. O. Forest Service and other
surveys.
Traced at Washington Office by E. L. Meहन.
Revised December 1936 by F. D. Wink.

Longitude west from Greenwich

Polyconic projection
North American datum