The Growth and Future of Forest Recreation in the National Parks and National Forests of the United States

by

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INTRODUCTION

It is necessary, before an adequate understanding of our present and future forest recreation problems can be attained, to first define or limit the definitions of recreation and forest recreation. Recreation may be defined as anything done directly for the pleasure or enrichment which it brings to life, while forest recreation may be defined as recreation enjoyed on forest lands. This thesis is primarily concerned with the forest type of recreation, but at times difficulties are met in differentiating between the two.

Since this is a general type of report, very little specific information will be cited with the exception of "use" figures and other data necessary for full understanding of the topic. An attempt will be made to trace the growth of forest recreation from its beginning to the present time and further to determine the probable future of recreation on forest lands in growth, development, use, policy, administration, and other related topics.

Forest recreation is an extremely timely topic, important both to the individual and to the public as a whole. In recent years the people of the United States have turned more and more toward making good use of their leisure time and more and more leisure time has become available to the public through improvements in the standard of living. Forest recreation has been stimulated by a number of reasons:

(1) The Increasing Ease of Transportation. The development of the automobile and its consequent reduction
in price through mass production has made it available to nearly all. Through necessity and demand the road systems of the country have been developed and extended until little of our country's area is inaccessible by road. As highways and roads improved, so did automobile speed and performance, seeming to draw the distance places nearer to home. Attractive areas once too far away are now accessible in a matter of minutes, hours, or days.

(2) Low Cost Recreation. Forest recreation provides nearly every kind of outdoor activity a human could desire at a comparatively low cost. Nominal fees covering administration and maintenance of recreation areas may be charged which are small enough to draw even the poorer families to the areas. Superlative, primeval, and wilderness areas may be enjoyed through one's own initiative rather than through one's pocket book.

(3) Shorter Working Hours. Before machines replaced hand labor in industry, jobs that take minutes or only seconds now, required hours of tedious effort. As a result the average man was forced to work long, hard hours with little or no free time to devote to his family and to pleasure. With the coming of the machine age, jobs were done faster with less effort and time required, leaving the worker with time to enjoy life's pleasures. As industry became more and more concentrated in certain areas and as larger
TABLE I
RELATION BETWEEN WEEKLY WORKING TIME AND LEISURE TIME
(Based on 168-hour week of which one-half of the number of hours are needed for eating, sleeping, etc.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>Average Work Week</th>
<th>Leisure Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1840</td>
<td>70 hours</td>
<td>14 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930</td>
<td>50 hours</td>
<td>34 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>40 hours</td>
<td>44 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1880</td>
<td>1890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total U. S.</strong></td>
<td>50</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Urban</strong></td>
<td>15</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rural</strong></td>
<td>35</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Urban (percent)</strong></td>
<td>30</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
numbers of workers were employed, they became organized and desired improvements in working conditions, pay, and hours spent on the job. Improvements were made shortening the working day and week with increases in compensation. As a result, the population had time to seek recreation and forest areas provided the source.

(4) An Increasing Population and the Need for Escaping to Restful Areas. As industry and population concentrated themselves in cities and towns, conditions for living became crowded and oppressive. Seeking an escape from these factors the populace vacationed in rural areas, particularly forest areas, where scenery was pleasant, worries and problems were forgotten temporarily, and where mental and physical health could be restored. Our ancestors were pioneers and rugged men and people of today crave to get into the forests and live for a spell as they had lived.

(5) Widespread Publicity. Through radio programs, newspapers, magazines, moving pictures, pamphlets, lectures, and any number of mediums, forest recreation areas have been brought to the attention of the public. Every area has something of particular interest to offer and human nature urges us on until we too have seen the wonders of the recreation areas.

As a result of stimulated interest in forest recreation, the people of the United States have increased their use of these areas many times. Everyone has different ideas of pleasure and different interests. Forest recreation areas can
Good fishing -- Columbia National Forest
fulfill nearly all desires. To list all of the reasons people use forest areas would be an endless task, but a few are listed below.

(1) The Urge to go Somewhere and the Desire for Amusement. Oppressed by the crowded conditions of urban areas, people desire to get away into places offering temporary changes in environment. It seems to be human nature to seek new and pleasurable types of amusement. No matter how fine a home one has and how convenient conditions are, there is that urge to seek a change. Humans are never satisfied with present conditions; they are always seeking new and different things. For these reasons people visit and enjoy our forest recreation areas.

(2) The Pursuit of Beauty. The same daily sights of billboards, buildings, and crowded streets become hard to bear after continued exposure to them. The forest areas offer changes of scenery—scenery welcome to the eye and restful to the nerves. Those in ill health have the opportunity to regain their well-being in the restfulness and peacefulness of forest areas.

(3) For Scientific Studies. Our forest recreation areas abound in situations interesting and valuable to science. Wildlife is available for intensive studies as are also factors interesting to geologists, timber managers, watershed experts, and others working in the scientific field.
(4) To Follow the Traditions of the Pioneers. Many are surprised at the strength of this factor. Even as little boys we enjoyed imagining ourselves as hunters, cowboys, and Indians which proved that we did these things for pleasure. As adults we enjoy pitting ourselves against the forces of nature as our ancestors did with long trail travels, mountain climbs, hunting and fishing in distant secluded lakes and streams. Our forest recreation areas offer the emotional outlet to any seeking to follow the traditions of our ancestors.

(5) For regaining health. Few people can endure the rigors of the American "hustle" and struggle to succeed without a little time being devoted to recreation. Forest recreation areas with their cool colors, placid waters, long trails, and solitude are ideal for rebuilding health. A forest area may have the attraction of hot springs or sulphur baths recommended for particular human ills. At one time or another the majority of the population rests and relaxes in forest areas. Since forest recreation is important to the individual and to the public as a whole, it becomes, also important to the nation. A nation is no better than its people. People rested and invigorated by vacations in forest recreation areas contribute a great deal more to the power of our nation than do those weary and stagnated by continual city life. We are a healthy nation and forest recreation areas make it possible
A National Forest Camp Area
for us to continue that health or regain it if it should be lost.

From our nation other nations of the world take leadership in many policies. It follows that they may also look to us as leaders in recreation. Our forest recreation areas serve as precedents for others to follow. Our reputation as a nation is strengthened by these areas and serves as a goal for other countries. National Parks or similar reservations have been established on every continent and in nearly every country in the world.

As stated before, forest recreation is recreation enjoyed in forest areas. The beginnings of the recreation idea lie far in the past to moments when recreation was being enjoyed but not known as such. Perhaps some savage, traveling through the forest, was exhilarated by the beauty of sunshine through a forest canopy, a distant mountain peak, or a placid lake. He was enjoying forest recreation without actually realizing what it was that inspired his pleasure. Forest recreation became known in Europe with the setting aside of forest areas for the hunting pleasure of the nobility. Associated with the pleasures of hunting were the contests of markmanship enjoyed by those users of recreation areas. Slowly recreation activity became important to the entire population; now it holds a definite place in the life of all people.

In America the first settlers thought little about recreation in the forests. The forests were the source of game, timber to build their homes, and for wood to heat those homes. The forests provided the needs for life and were not enjoyed
for pleasure as such. As the forests were cut to provide agricultural land and land for building towns and villages, the timber became harder to obtain. The people began to wonder a little about the diminishing supplies and to think a little about preserving timbered areas for future use. Still the forest areas were the source of food and shelter and the game in those forests was a necessity. With increasing population and domestic food supplies, the people became less dependent on the forest and looked more to the forest for an escape from the cities. Thus the forest recreation idea was born. In 1852 Central Park in New York City was set aside as a recreation area -- the first in the United States.

Today many agencies are directly or indirectly concerned with forest recreation. All departments concerned with forestry are concerned with some form of recreation. The popularity of forest areas for recreational use is becoming of staggering importance and can no longer be ignored as a basic use of forest areas.

The following agencies are directly involved with forest recreation:

(1) The National Park Service

This agency maintains the National Parks in an unimpaired form for present and future use. It functions under a directorship subordinated by a staff of experts and the necessary employees for adequate operation.

(2) The United States Forest Service

This service operates and maintains our National
Forests for the greatest good to the greatest number in the longrun. Its organization is administered from Washington, D. C. with foresters in charge of the various regions.

(3) The Department of Interior
(4) The Department of Agriculture
(5) The War Department
(6) The Fish and Wildlife Service
(7) The American Forestry Association
(8) The States
(9) The Counties
(10) The Cities
(11) Private Organizations
(12) The National Parks Association

From the number and size of these organizations, it is apparent that forest recreation is indeed an important business and a necessity for the well-being of our nation.

GROWTH OF RECREATION IN THE NATIONAL PARKS

One might say that initial legislation recognizing parks and recreation as a national responsibility occurred in 1864 when the State of California, by an act of Congress, was granted the Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove of Big Trees for public use and recreation. Previous to that the Hot Springs Reservation in Arkansas was set aside for its medicinal values and healing qualities for certain ailments. It was made a National Park in 1921.

In the late 1860's, from out of the Yellowstone area,
had come fantastic stories from trappers, hunters, travelers, and explorers of the wondrous sights present there. In 1870, the Washburn-Langford-Doane Expedition, under the expense of those making up the party, traveled to this incredible area to investigate and verify the legends. Around the expedition's campfire one evening a new social concept was born—the National Park idea. Those of the party fell to discussing the merits and commercial value of the area and were making plans for dividing the area into personal claims. Cornelius Hedges, a Montana lawyer and one of the leading members of the party, brought forward the suggestion that the expedition waive all personal claims and endeavor to have the area set aside as a public park or plessuring ground for the benefit of the entire country. His suggestion was met with immediate acclaim by all the others in the party. Upon return of the expedition to civilization, Congressman William H. Clagget from Montana was approached. He personally drew up the park bill and introduced it into Congress in late 1871. The campaign to gain passage of the bill was one of the most intensive ever waged. All members of Congress were personally visited and photographs of the area were placed on their desks. The bill was immediately passed and signed by the President in March, 1872, creating Yellowstone National Park. As a result, a new conception of conservation was also born to include mountains, lakes, streams, forests and other wonders of nature along with the old items of coal, iron, and other natural resources of the earth.

In 1890, other National Parks were added to the growing
system including Yosemite National Park and Sequoia National Park.

The Federal Antiquities Act of 1906 further enlarged the park and recreation area program. The act gave the President the authority to declare historic landmarks, prehistoric structures and other objects of scientific interest to be National Monuments. Under this authorization eighty-six National Monuments have been reserved. The Administration of these areas of military significance was placed under the Secretary of War, those in or adjacent to National Forests under the Department of Agriculture and the rest of the areas under the Department of Interior.

This type of administration continued until 1915 in an unsatisfactory and inefficient manner. It became apparent that there was a need to adopt policies and plans for development, protection, and conservation on these areas congruent with the public interest. As a result of the apparent inadequacies, the National Park Service as a bureau of the Department of Interior was created and organized in 1917. This major development culminated long years of effort by conservationists and those interested in the problem to gain an organization for good management and administration of these areas.

The National Park Services' first director was Stephen T. Mather who devoted his entire energy, enthusiasm, and large sums of his own personal fortune toward furthering National Park progress. Because of ill health, he was forced to resign and was replaced by a second director, Horace M. Albright. Under his administration important changes were made. The
branch of Research and Education was established and landscape work was greatly increased. National Park and National Monument areas under the Departments of War and Agriculture were transferred to the Park Service. Mr. Albright left the most advanced ideas and ideals of the day in conservation and recreation. The third director was Arno B. Cammerer who supervised outstanding work for the service particularly in the Eastern park areas such as the Great Smokies National Park, Mammoth Cave National Park, and Isle Royal National Park. The present director of the National Park Service is Newton B. Drury. The service has been very fortunate throughout its years of existence in having, as directors, men of high caliber who have given whole-heartedly and unselfishly to the progress of the Service and the good of the people of the United States.

During the years the various acts and regulations have become resolved into general policies for administration and management for the system. They may be stated briefly as follows:

(1) A National Park is an area maintained by the Federal Government for the benefit and enjoyment of the people. Areas must have outstanding scenic, scientific or historic values and the resultant national interest in its preservation.

(2) The National Park System shall possess variety and accept only the supreme in each of the various types.

(3) There shall be a dual purpose in establishing such areas—enjoyment and use by the present generation
with preservation unspoiled for the future and conservation of scenery and wildlife by means which will leave those values unimpaired.

(4) Every opportunity shall be given to all for education in the park areas.

(5) Areas shall be developed and administered with the foremost thought to preserving the natural.

(6) Administration shall seek the benefit and enjoyment of the people rather than the financial gain.

(7) Every effort shall be made to provide accommodations suitable to the tastes and pocketbooks of the visitors.

(8) Structures shall intrude on landscapes to a minimum.

(9) The national interest shall be supreme prohibiting encroachments for local or individual benefit.

(10) There shall be exclusive jurisdiction by the Federal Government.

Since its establishment as a bureau, the duties and responsibilities of the National Park Service have been steadily extended. As a result of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's executive order in 1933, all federal park activities were consolidated in an Office of National Parks Buildings and Reservations. Shortly after this order, the name "National Park Service" was restored as a result of its prestige in the field of recreation and conservation. 4

Although Congress had authorized National Parks as pleasuring grounds, the addition of areas of importance as living laboratories suitable for scientific studies logically promoted a program of education and research along with
recreational use. It was in the 1930's when the importance of park areas as education grounds first became important. Various small and private groups who had been using the areas for study, consolidated into larger groups and established national organizations. The National Parks Association bloomed as one of the outstanding organizations with the representatives of leading conservation organizations as members. Nature guiding was being developed on a nation-wide scale following such endeavors on individual parks; outstanding of which was the work being done in Yosemite National Park.

In 1930 the Branch of Research and Education was established, followed the next year by the Naturalist Division consisting of a staff in Washington, D. C., in the Regional offices and in the Parks and Monuments themselves. The staff held duties which entailed assembling data on scientific and aesthetic features of the parks, advising on matters pertaining to educational use of the parks and conducting field trips and lectures for the public visiting in the area. Along with the development of nature guiding, came the establishment of museums exhibiting and interpreting the things to be seen in the parks. The program became so important that educational working plans for each area were devised. To further the education of visitors "focal point museums" were established. These were trailside museums pertaining to and located in a specific part of the park. Visitors surrounded by a particular aspect of the park were able to understand more readily with the use of these local museums. The Branch of Research and Information, as it is now called, became charged with interpreting park
phenomena to the public, conducting research to those ends and protecting and conserving the natural resources. In developing this education program, several main policies were kept in mind:

1. To present understandable and simple interpretation of park features to the public by means of lectures, field trips, literature, and exhibits.
2. To avoid resemblance to academic methods in interpretation to the public.
3. To use highly trained personnel for guiding.
4. To develop a research program for gaining new supplies of facts suitable for use on guided tours.
5. To promote library facilities.

Probably the most momentous piece of legislation in recent years affecting parks and recreation was the passing of the Park, Parkway, and Recreation Study Act of 1936. The Act authorized cooperation between the States and Federal Government in the study made of recreation areas and cooperation in planning an adequate, coordinated recreation program.

In 1937 public recreation was further extended by the establishment of the United States Travel Bureau. This bureau coordinates travel information for the public to stimulate recreation in the United States.

In 1937 the National Park Service was divided by a field administration plan establishing four regions under which it is administered at this time.
The National Forests have become a very important medium for recreation for the people of the United States. They include more than 176 million acres of land—more than an acre for every man, woman, and child in the United States. Because of their distribution they are the most generally accessible large public areas adapted to outdoor recreation in the country.

In 1891 the President of the United States was authorized to create forest reserves; this was the first act authorizing creation of National Forests, although the reserves set aside were not known as such at that time. Under this act the Yellowstone National Park Timberland Reserve was set aside.

One of the first Presidents to push conservation and, indirectly the cause of forest recreation, was Theodore Roosevelt. Being an outdoor man himself, he was very interested in seeing that forest reserves were set aside for future generations. Under his administration more than 200 million acres were set aside.

In 1905 the United States Forest Service was established and charged with the responsibility of promoting the conservation, protection, and wise use of the country's forest resources in the public interest. National Forests began to be set aside under the Weeks Law of 1911, which authorized the purchase of forest areas to protect the headwaters of all navigable streams. By 1942 there were 160 National Forests covering an area of approximately 176 million acres.
Since the need for forest recreation has been realized, it has become increasingly important. In the decade beginning in 1910, the first steps were taken in recreation use of forest lands. By 1922 the first appropriation for recreational development on the National Forests was realized and soon after the demand for recreation facilities had become so intense that recreation had a definite place in National Forest management plans. According to the Copeland Report, the ultimate need for forest recreation areas might be as large as 45 million acres. As an example of the tremendous increase in forest recreation use, the following figures are given covering the period from 1929 to 1936. During this period the number of visitors to forest areas increased 81.5 per cent, while areas suitable for recreation use increased only 4 per cent. The relationship between those two figures alone should serve to establish the definite need for larger and more numerous recreation areas. Many would say that recreation is not a business. Contrary to that idea, recreationists spent 1-3/4 billion dollars in 1933. With the increase in recreation activity since that year the yearly spending of the public for pleasure has also increased to establish recreation as a definite enterprise. It has been found that approximately 250 million man-days per year are devoted to recreation.

The National Forests are administered from Washington, D. C., under the Department of Agriculture and divided into ten regions under a regional forester and staff. Recreation facilities of the National Forests come under the branch of "Lands"—one of the many branches established.
National Forests play an important part in the recreational life of the people and furnish large opportunities for its enjoyment.

THE FUTURE OF RECREATION IN THE NATIONAL PARKS

There appears to be little doubt as to the glowing future of recreation in National Park areas. The activities offered to the public have become increasingly popular and new additions to facilities have become quickly crowded. This shows both a need and desire on the part of the public and an excellence of service and facility furnished by the park staffs.

Today the public seeks recreation so feverishly that the problems that must be solved are mainly those of control on areas already established. In addition to controlling area use, other problems for the future must be solved.

Many National Parks include areas within their boundaries that are not federally owned. To consolidate the individual park, these privately owned areas must be purchased. It has been estimated that all lands of this type could be purchased at an estimated cost of 20 million dollars. Funds should be made available as soon as possible to make these purchases. Privately owned lands within the National Parks have always been a problem. The majority are poorly or destructively managed under policies at variance with those of federal lands. As a result of these purchases, administrative control would be simplified; needed development otherwise impossible or highly expensive could be attained and finally, the scenic, scientific, and historic resources of our National Parks would be preserved.
Bighorn Sheep, Mountain Goats, Black Bears--
Inhabitants of many of our National Parks
To further protect our diminishing wildlife, boundary revisions should be made to include the year-round habitat of animals. Under the present control, wildlife may be protected during a portion of the year on National Park lands and live unprotected outside the areas the remainder of the year. To approach maximum protection, these boundary revisions should be made.

Nearly all federal agencies are hampered by financial limitations and the National Park Service is no exception. To properly perform the necessary functions of development, maintenance, administration, etc., adequate funds must be made available. Throughout the years of the C.C.C. activity, a tremendous amount of improvements was made in park recreation facilities at a low cost. Work must go on to furnish pleasing grounds regardless of cost since the desire and need is so great. The dire need for funds must be brought to the attention of the people in an effort to make them available for further work.

The National Parks now established, contain some of the outstanding features of the country. For example, Grand Canyon National Park has breathtaking scenery, attractiveness, and land formations unequalled in the United States. The time will come when it will be suggested to add newly discovered areas of great public interest to the National Park System.

It is important that there be no lowering of the high standards to include an area whose attractions are not sufficiently outstanding to warrant its establishment.
Efforts to establish parks with regard to individual gain must be thwarted.

Care must be taken not in include in the establishment of a National Park, an area containing economically needed resources. During the war two parks had to be opened to mining which detracted from the scenic beauty of the area. Along with this same problem is that of preventing over-development. Frequently, scenic values have been disregarded in an effort to increase the capacity of a certain area or to make facilities available to the public. Maintaining park simplicity must be foremost in undertaking development.

Always a problem and particularly with the increased use and future further increases is that of proper regulation. Specific limitations must be placed on area capacities and control of use must include all facilities. With huge numbers of visitors and users coming to recreation areas, control is difficult and the value of personal contact with the people by forest officers toward preventing fire and destructive use is lessened. Additional guards must be employed during times of heavy use and every effort must be made to keep the park areas in their natural scenic state.

As mentioned before, the trends in park use, with war times as an exception, are continually upward. The present and future problems of recreation use in the National Parks cannot be solved at once, but every effort needs to be made towards constant improvement of the areas for the good of the people.
THE FUTURE OF RECREATION IN THE NATIONAL FORESTS

Forest recreation is becoming more and more important with each passing year. As a result of its increased popularity, it now becomes a definite part of area management plans and must be coordinated with other forest uses.

Recreation is a difficult item to evaluate as far as its importance is concerned. Its importance is a known fact based upon the intensity of area use, but it is another problem to evaluate it in relation to a use with a steady income.

According to Marshall, recreation could conceivably be evaluated by four different methods as follows:

1. The amount of money invested in recreation facilities.
2. The taxable wealth from forest recreation use.
3. The amount of money spent in recreation areas.
4. The relation between a forest recreation activity and a form of amusement having a definite charge multiplied by the number of people participating.

To place a monetary value on the spiritual and mental well-being resulting from long wilderness journeys, from viewing mountain peaks and lakes, from evenings spent around a campfire, and from other pleasures of nature present in our recreation areas is truly a difficult task. To so many, recreation is worth more than all the "cheap" commercial amusements with which our country abounds. Forest recreation areas are open for the pleasure of all even though some visitors appreciate or gain a great deal more benefit from their use than others.
Olympic National Primeval Park
Since recreation areas are becoming so popular, a priority must be established for area use. Primarily the areas are for the good of all so that the general public receives the first priority. They may use all areas as they please, subject to the standard restrictions and regulations.

Those having special use permits are entitled to a second priority which includes picnic grounds, playgrounds, schools maintained by public, semi-public, or charitable organizations.

Third priority goes to business utilities such as private hunting or fishing clubs and utilities on a commercial basis for the public use including hotels, resorts, and stores.

The fourth priority is given to those seeking small tracts for summer home sites.

As a result of this specific priority system, the general public receives the most possible good from areas set aside for recreation use.

Recreation areas set aside have been segregated into various types based on their size, attraction, and use.

1. **Superlative areas**: These are areas of unique scenic value and stupendous, unusual beauty so outstanding as to affect nearly everyone who views them. Such areas as Grand Canyon and Crater Lake are superlative areas.

2. **Primeval areas**: These are virgin tracts where humans have never upset the processes of nature. A minimum size of 1,000 acres has been established for these areas.

3. **Wilderness areas**: Formerly called "primitive areas" are those including 100,000 acres or more free of artificial influences and accessible only by trail or water.
A Wilderness Area -- Bitterroot National Forest
These areas give users a chance to retire completely from the 20th century and lead them to depend upon themselves for survival. The majority of these are high altitude areas because development in the lower country makes it impossible to find any areas fitting the prescribed standards.

(4) **Wild areas:** These are areas from 5,000 acres to 100,000 acres in size and are really only small wilderness areas.

(5) **Roadless areas:** These are areas simply where the restrictions on commercial use are less strict.

(6) **Roadside areas:** Strips adjoining roads, rivers, and lakes have been designated as roadside areas and are used largely for rest stops and picnics.

(7) **Campsite areas:** Campsite areas are situated away from highways but still accessible for visitors' use. Areas such as these prevent disuse of unregulated areas.

(8) **Residence areas:** These areas of one-fourth acre or larger for residence use.

(9) **Outing areas:** These are walking areas that have not been severly injured scenically.

These various areas will be important for both public pleasure and for scientific investigation. A great amount of information may be obtained from studying the relationship of our cut-over lands and the virgin stands reserved for recreation and scientific use. New ideas of climax forest types, silvicultural methods, soil erosion, and cover factors will be realized and prove valuable for future planning.
IT IS UNLAWFUL
TO INJURE SHRUBBERY
AND TREES.
TO PICK FLOWERS AND
Ferns.
TO MAR OR DEFACE ANY
OF THE NATURAL FEATURES
IN ANY NATIONAL PARK
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

"That we may preserve for future enjoyment."
Problems are always encountered in improving our recreation facilities particularly in the intensely used National Forest areas. Present and probable future trends in area use serve as an indication to the future problems of overcrowding. More and more areas must be made available and others already established should be improved to accommodate the desires of the public. Available facilities lead to destructive use as has always been the case in America. When large quantities of timber seemed available it was cut indiscriminately with no regard to the future. The same will happen to our wonderful recreation facilities unless the public is educated to protect them for the future while enjoying them in the present. Both education of the public and careful planning of area use should overlap each other. Certain areas must be restricted in use because of soil characteristics or other factors. Others must be closed entirely to use. In all areas definite plans must be made both to satisfy the desires of the people and retain the natural beauty of the area. Definite regulations should be established and strictly adhered to. Maximum protection should be provided against fire, insects, disease, and commercialization. Politics must be played to a certain degree to obtain cooperation, but at no time should compromises be made which might endanger future use and enjoyment of our recreation areas.

In recent years winter sports popularity has been increasing by leaps and bounds until serving the enthusiasts has become an important business. The very best areas for these sports are found in our National Parks and National Forests.
A National Forest Winter Sport Area -- White Mountain National Forest
Many of these areas had previously been undiscovered in regard to excellence as winter sports areas. Until recently these mountain areas were closed or were almost entirely inaccessible during the winter months. With road improvement and maintenance throughout the winter, many of our forest recreation areas are now used the year round. Probably the most popular and widely used winter recreation areas are located in the East; New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York being the most popular states. On our own West Coast, Mt. Hood in Oregon and Mt. Rainier in Washington are receiving heavy use throughout the snow seasons. Facilities have been provided in all popularly used areas and further developments are either underway or are under consideration. Hills have been cleared, tows and lifts constructed, trails cleared, and numerous lodges for weekend or overnight accommodations have been financed. Still the problems of overcrowding have not been solved, making further development necessary. Parking areas have always been a problem along with lack of bus or other means of transportation during bad weather. Ski areas must have adequate control under regulations and supervision to be safe and enjoyable for the novice and the expert alike.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

From this brief study it has been learned that forest recreation is no longer something to be put into the background or an item incidental to other uses in management plans. The public needs and desires are the foremost objectives in regulating nationally owned areas. It has been pointed out
how pitifully inadequate are our present recreation facilities and what a tremendous job is before us in developing, rebuilding, and repairing for future needs.

Recommendations are difficult to make since the "powers" behind National Forest and National Park administration do not know all the answers. Funds are so inadequate that the money available limits the amount and kinds of work that might be undertaken. Without a doubt recreational use of our forest areas will increase still further until the inadequacies cause the unsatisfied public to demand more and better facilities.

In all government enterprise, politics plays a large part. Some administrations may push development of recreation facilities to a large extent while under another administration, little will be accomplished toward the desired ends. To overcome prejudices of government officials toward recreation is a real task. Its value to the nation and to the individual must be emphasized and "sold" to those controlling planning and financing.

In the recreation areas themselves personal contact with the public by the forest officers should be more widely practiced. When necessary laws must be enforced, not simply to punish the violator, but to preserve for the next user. Posters and literature are valuable aids in obtaining proper use. The people must be made to think of the recreation areas as their own personal property in regard to its use and the condition upon leaving. I firmly believe that an increase in high caliber personnel in the recreation areas is the answer
to many problems of destructive use and overcrowding.

Without a doubt the field of recreation in our forest areas is a coming and extremely important one deserving the upmost attention and work and cooperation on the part of everyone for the good of all.
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(4) A Brief History of the National Park Service, U. S. Department of Interior, 1940.


(8) Recreational Development in the National Forests, Maughan, K. O., New York State College of Forestry Technical Publication #45.


-APPENDIX-
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Campers</th>
<th>Picnickers</th>
<th>Winter Sports Participants</th>
<th>Hotel and Resort Residents</th>
<th>Summer Home Residents and Guests</th>
<th>Other Forest Areas</th>
<th>Total Cols.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1933</td>
<td>2,219,804</td>
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<td>---</td>
<td>1,037,096</td>
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<td>1,268,998</td>
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<td>857,359</td>
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<td>715,369</td>
<td>370,173</td>
<td>2,481,140</td>
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<td>1945</td>
<td>1,814,928</td>
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<td>505,963</td>
<td>3,225,162</td>
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<td>1946</td>
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<td>OVERNIGHT VISITS Number</td>
<td>TOTAL VISITS Number</td>
<td>MAN-DAYS Number</td>
<td>AVERAGE DAYS Number</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(3)</td>
<td>(4)</td>
<td>(5)</td>
<td>(6)</td>
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<td>150,834</td>
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<td>Organization Camps not Owned by F. S.</td>
<td>70,170</td>
<td>137,560</td>
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# TABLE V

## NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM

Acreage of units of the National Park System grouped according to classification as of June, 1946

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPE OF AREA</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Federal land (acres)</th>
<th>Lands within exterior boundaries not federally owned (acres)</th>
<th>Total lands within exterior boundaries (acres)</th>
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<tr>
<td>National Parks</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>11,062,455.76</td>
<td>140,111.83</td>
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<td>National Military Parks</td>
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<td>24,012.94</td>
<td>3,173.71</td>
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<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
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TABLE VI

A GOOD CAMPER WILL

1. Build his fire only in a designated place, and completely extinguish it with water before leaving. Apply water slowly and directly to the fire in a rock stove to avoid cracking or chipping the structure. Where a door to the stove is provided, it will not be necessary to completely extinguish the fire.

2. Burn all refuse possible and place the remainder in the provided garbage receptacle.

3. Share camp facilities with fellow campers when crowded conditions exist.

4. Not deface signs, buildings, tables, or other conveniences.

5. Not pick or dig flowers or plants; chip the bark of trees; tramp through shrubbery; take moss or ferns; cut tent poles or boughs in or near any forest camp.

6. Not wash clothes or clean fish in a lake or stream.

7. Not shoot firearms in the campground or vicinity.

8. Not shoot any fireworks anywhere inside the National Forest.

IF YOU ARE LOST, DO NOT BE FRIGHTENED

Remember the figure 3. Three blasts on a whistle, three regulated smudging smokes, three waves of a blanket, or three flashes of a mirror or flashlight repeated regularly will bring assistance.

The rescue party will answer by two signals. Repeat your distress signal until you are found.

If you must use signal fires or smokes, be sure to clean away the duff and ground litter to mineral soil.

If entering strange country, notify a Forest Officer of your approximate destination.

The rule of three signals for distress is Nation-wide and should never be used except when in actual need of help.

DO NOT MOVE AROUND!
WILDERNESS AND WILD AREAS
IN THE NATIONAL FORESTS
1943

Note: Little Indian Sioux and Superior in Minnesota are Roadless Areas
MAP IV

NATIONAL PRIMEVAL PARKS AND OTHER NATURE RESERVATIONS ADMINISTERED BY THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

SCALE

0 50 100 150 200 MILES

DRAWN FOR NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE
By Ross L. MacDougall, 1946