

numbers of people. However, recreation opportunities which provide nationally famous scenery in uncrowded conditions usually are rated of high quality while facilities of indifferent beauty which are heavily crowded are regarded as having low quality.

2. EXISTING CAPITAL PLANT

State and Federal agencies provided a wide range and variety of outdoor recreation facilities and structures in mid-1965. There were 83,118 acres of picnic lands containing 307,810 picnic tables. To serve swimmers, there were 18,164 acres of beach and 5,102,215 square feet of swimming pools. Boaters enjoyed 17,985 acres of boat access areas, 144,508 parking places, and 5,173 acres in marinas. Ski slopes covered 31,628 acres. Golfers could enjoy 3,372 holes of golf covering 34,899 acres.

Overnight accommodations also were extensive. For camping enthusiasts, there were 171,722 tent spaces on 61,776 acres; 32,538 trailer spaces on 13,319 acres, and 30,643 acres devoted to group camping. Cabins and motels provided 17,903 units.

Many facilities are not provided within the limits of an incorporated city. Limited data are available for those within corporate limits by size of city.

Most of the recreation facilities on State and Federal lands have been constructed since 1941. Approximately 1 percent of existing facilities were constructed between 1901 and 1920, 23 percent between 1921 and 1940, 50 percent between 1941 and 1960 and 26 percent between 1961 and 1965.

The proportion of State to Federal facilities varies widely among the types of facilities and from State to State. For example, States maintain 5,070,938 square feet of swimming pools, the Federal Government but 31,277 square feet. On the other hand, the Federal Government provides 25,471 acres of ski slopes, the States but 6,157 acres.

Federal outdoor recreation facilities are heavily concentrated in the public land States of the West. Thus, the 8 Mountain States have 133,615,959 acres of Federal recreation lands, but only 1,858,271 acres of State recreation lands. In the 8 Mountain States, the Federal Government provides 20,538 tent camping spaces; the 8 States but 1,083. On the other hand, in the three Middle Atlantic States where there is almost no Federal land, the Federal Government provides but 788,059 acres of recreation lands, the States 6,692,729. In that region there are 1,332 Federal tent spaces, 12,038 State.

No estimate has ever been made of the current value of Federal and State outdoor recreation lands and facilities. The compilation of such an estimate would be well-nigh impossible. Many of the land and water areas dedicated to outdoor recreation were acquired from Great Britain by the Treaty of Paris and the treaty of 1848; the Louisiana Purchase; the treaty of 1819; and the treaty with Mexico of 1845. The Louisiana Purchase, for example, cost 15 cents per acre. No one has ever attempted to set a value on Yellowstone National Park, which was a part of that transaction. Moreover, except for national parks, most of the Federal lands are managed for multiple purposes including timber, forage, watershed management, and mining.

Capital investments in outdoor recreation facilities have often been made with other purposes in mind. Thus, many improvements were