

private and public sectors will be required to meet the surging demand for a widening variety of recreational opportunities. Neither sector will be able to supply the needed facilities by itself. But between them, they can provide sufficient quantities and satisfactory qualities of recreation opportunities for the American people. Private investment and private enterprise can complement public efforts as public efforts can complement private ones. On the other hand, it is equally possible for the two sectors to be in competitive positions. It is precisely this magnitude, diversity and quality of recreation needs which require that public and private sectors act cooperatively. Projects planned by each sector can be closely related and interdependent. Cooperation between the two sectors will help to insure that recreation developments are complementary, not competitive, and may result in a more concentrated supply and a wider range of recreational opportunities.

Private Land Resources for Recreation—More than 70 percent of the land area within the contiguous 48 States is in private ownership.² Private land ownership is prevalent in regions where population, and consequently demand for outdoor recreation, is greatest. Federal and State lands account for only 8 percent of the land area in the Northeast and 2 percent in the Corn Belt. These data contrast sharply with the 48 percent of Federal and State ownership in the Pacific States and 57 percent in the Mountain States. These proportions reflect the suitability of lands for varying purposes which help explain why western areas are renowned for providing certain wilderness and other extensive recreation experiences at National Parks and Forests and, conversely, why pressures for private development of new recreation facilities are occurring in eastern areas.

Many privately owned forest lands and farms, idle or of declining agricultural importance, are located near densely populated regions of the Nation. Technological changes now permit conversion or even multiple-use of these lands for recreation. The fortuitous location of some of these lands relative to population centers provides unique opportunities for developing private land resources to satisfy recreation needs.

A study of potential new sites in 10 Northeastern States showed a substantial number of holdings physically suited for outdoor recreation.³ Within a 25-mile zone outside of suburban developments, the land was about 55 percent forest, 9 percent idle, 7 percent pasture, and 29 percent cropland and other uses.

Five types of recreation sites were defined. These five types were headwater or ridgetop; gorge and ravine; stream, river, lake or pond frontage; small stream or brook; and potential pond site.

One or another of these sites occurred within the 25-mile zone once per 129 acres of forest land, once per 258 acres of idle land, and once per 320 acres of pasture. The frequency with which these sites occurred in the outer zone was once per 132 acres of forest, once per 303 acres of idle land, and once per 645 acres of pasture.

This study emphasizes the existence of potential resources for outdoor recreation near urban concentrations where the demand for

² ORRRC, "Hunting in the United States—Its Present and Future Role." ORRRC Study Report 6. Government Printing Office, 1962, table D-26.

³ ORRRC, "Potential New Sites for Outdoor Recreation in the Northeast." ORRRC Study Report 8. Government Printing Office, 1962, pp. 33-35.