

One product of the Rutgers study will be an analysis of trends in outdoor recreation activity between 1960 and 1965, based on a comparison of the two surveys.

*Inventory of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities*

As authorized in its Organic Act, the Bureau has conducted an inventory of Federal, State, and local public recreation areas. These data now are being used by Rutgers for developing the supply elements of the model. The inventory covered all Federal and State and county recreation land and water. It also included the recreation land under municipal administration in all cities with more than 50,000 people and in a sample of cities and towns with between 10,000 and 50,000 people.

In general, the content of the inventory was descriptive of the recreation area with regard to type, location, acreage characteristics, use intensity classification, physiography, facility units and acres, activities supported on the area, use characteristics, multi-use features, etc.

*Benefits*

The model, when fully developed, will be useful as a tool in the determination of the impact of adding new facilities or resources to the system in terms of how these additions will affect consumption (participation). This can be done for different geographic areas, depending upon the kinds of data that are available. For example, if data on participation are available only for people interviewed in a sample survey that is reliable for groups of States (Census Divisions or Regions), then the model will be specific for that level. But, if data become available for the people living in individual counties or metropolitan areas, the model will be of much greater utility. Similarly, the model can be made as specific as necessary for different groups of people (age groups, income groups, ethnic groups, etc.), depending upon the data fed into it.

The development of such a model is not something that will replace the need for intelligent and carefully derived policy judgments on the part of administrators and lawmakers. Nor will it obviate the need to test alternatives in the crucible of public opinion. But the development of such a tool will be a major step toward establishing a more systematic approach to developing alternatives because, with such a tool, the effect of each alternative on the overall system can be evaluated.

BRIEF DESCRIPTIONS OF ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS IN OUTDOOR RECREATIONS

SPECIAL AREA STUDIES

A prerequisite to preservation, management, and development of our Nation's remaining unprotected historic and natural resources is investigative study. The Department conducts research studies to identify the best available examples of major American geological and ecological types, unique examples of flora and fauna, nationally significant historic lands and buildings, and lands of nationally significant recreational opportunities.

These studies determine the suitability and feasibility of adding proposed areas to the National Park System. Research is conducted to determine the national significance of an area and to consider all the alternative land use, management, and administrative arrangements for an area. An economic analysis is frequently made to determine the effect of the proposal upon the local economy.

Our studies of areas proposed for addition to the National Park System must consider how the area may be developed and managed to conserve the resources and still make them available to the American people. We urgently need to develop methods to determine the optimum visitor capacity of an area. We need to know the best transportation system for an area which will not seriously alter the resources being conserved while permitting the largest number of people to experience a quality park visit. The importance of planning an entire region around a park rather than just the park is also becoming an obvious research need. Likewise we need to know just what is wilderness and how to manage these special areas.

Frequently bureaus of the Department combine efforts to conduct special research studies of a resource or recreation need. Such research includes the past scenic road and parkway study, the recent trail and river studies, and the present investigation of islands.