

TABLE 4.—PERCENTAGE OF AREAS IN VARIOUS LAND-OWNERSHIP CATEGORIES, 1958

[In percent]

Land-ownership status	Type of area ¹			Wyoming Total
	Concentrated recreational use areas	Other land "public counties	"Private land" counties	
Private.....	14.55	37.33	77.57	42.67
State and local governments.....	3.71	7.43	9.67	7.04
Indian tribal.....	11.82	-----	-----	3.29
Federal lands.....	69.92	55.24	12.76	47.00
Total dryland.....	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Ownership of Federal lands:				
Bureau of Land Management.....	23.83	43.48	5.58	27.02
U.S. Forest Service.....	30.27	9.88	6.49	14.57
National Park Service.....	12.55	-----	.01	3.49
Fish and Wildlife.....	.14	(¹)	.02	.05
Other Federal.....	3.13	1.88	.66	1.87
Recreational use areas:				
National Parks and Wildlife Refuges.....	12.69	(¹)	.03	3.55
Wilderness.....	13.03	.51	-----	3.84
Other national forest area.....	17.24	9.37	3.32	9.80
BLM section 3.....	21.96	37.19	.02	22.18
BLM section 15 or USFS national grasslands.....	1.87	6.26	8.73	5.76
Total recreational use.....	66.79	53.36	12.09	45.12

¹ Less than .005 percent.

About 43 percent of the total area in these counties of northwestern Wyoming, and including Yellowstone Park, are available for high quality recreational uses in National Parks, and wilderness or other National Forests. An additional 24 percent, although less desirable, has recreational value. State lands and Indian Tribal lands provide additional recreational use opportunities on about 16 percent of the area.

The major burden of supporting state and local communities and government fall on the 14.6 percent of this land area which is in private ownership. Some benefits derive also from grazing and timber production and recreational uses on the public lands and concentrated recreational activities in Yellowstone and Teton National Parks.

Although there are significant acreages of public lands, problems of concentrated recreational uses are much less severe in other areas of Wyoming.

CONCLUSIONS

Vast differences exist within particular states and especially between different states in the size of wilderness areas. "Locking up" these resources can have detrimental effects on state and local economies. Careful consideration must be given to these problems in designating or extending wilderness areas.

From the standpoint of facilitating public use a single standard should not be applied to wilderness-type areas of all various sizes. Extremely large-sized areas should have provision made for access. Construction of roads into and within wilderness areas would not become excessive because of the extremely difficult terrain in most parts together with prohibitive costs of road construction. However, access roads constructed where it was feasible from an engineering and an economic standpoint would do less damage to the wilderness character of the area than would a large number of pack animals which are used in the areas at present.

Commercial use including prospecting by modern methods, which do little or no damage to terrain, exploitation of significant mineral deposits found, and exploitation of significant stands of commercial timber should also be permitted, in some of the extremely large wilderness areas, such as those in Northwestern Wyoming.