

It is our opinion that statutory designation of scenic rivers by Congress is not necessary. We would call your attention to the action of the State of Maine in relation to the Allegash River. A state authority was established and funding was supported by the citizens by popular referendum. The shorelines and areas having recreation potential will be developed without the implication of the federal government and all the attendant problems. The management decisions are made within the concept of the best interest of the state, its economic development and by people knowledgeable in the public interest. We see no reason why this approach is not preferable to the bills before this committee.

GOVERNMENT'S ROLE IN RECREATION

In speaking of this subject the delegates to our annual meeting said:

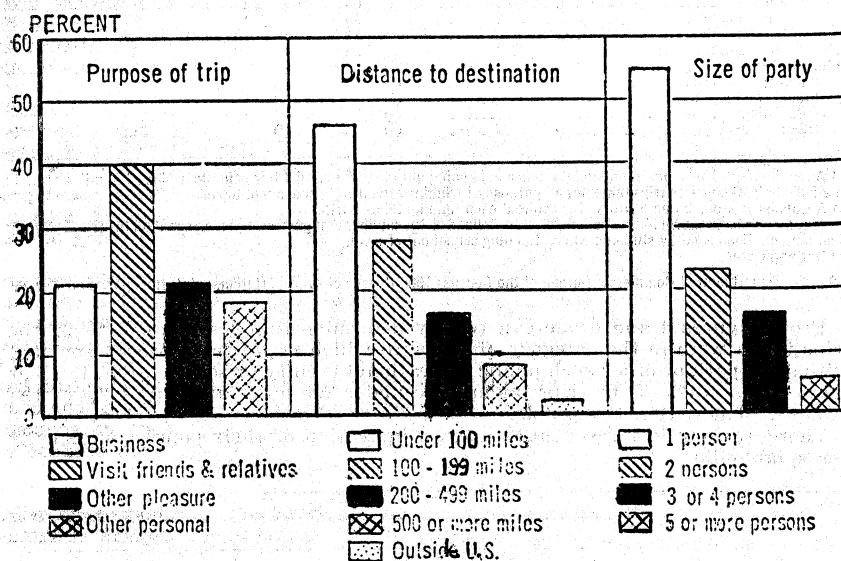
Local planning for resource use

The development of recreational resources should be primarily the responsibility of state and local units of government and private enterprise.

Conflicting demands on land, water, and recreational resources, both public and private, have resulted in demands for, and in some cases establishment of, local and state planning committees and interstate commissions to resolve conflicts on the basis of a coordinated approach. Local control is essential to ensure that planning and projects meet local needs and objectives.

Recreation is not the responsibility of the federal government. If, in fact, such facilities are needed they should be provided by local people or private enterprise. Figures 4 and 5 bear upon this consideration and we so direct your attention.

NATIONAL TRAVEL—CHARACTERISTICS OF TRIPS: 1963



Source: Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

Figure 4