

primarily to recreation. In this way the great scenic treasures of the nation could be preserved for all time and be available for all people, while the heavy recreational pressures would be diverted towards other areas that would cater specifically to this type of use.

RECREATION AS GOOD BUSINESS

The economics of recreation will continue to receive an increasing amount of attention in the years ahead. Although major advances in this field have been made in government, university and foundation circles in the United States, we are only beginning to make similar significant advances in this country. The days when parks will be justified solely on the basis of emotion and sentiment are drawing to a close. We are going to have to show that the allocation of resources to park and recreation purposes is good business. There may well be many cases where the best use of natural resources, for the good of society as a whole, will be to leave them alone and not subject them to extractive use. A standing tree, an undammed stream, an ungrazed meadow may well have more value to society than if it had been actively used. The tools for determining the facts that can be used in problems of resource allocation for recreation are being developed and sharpened.

Another aspect of outdoor recreation that is receiving increased attention is that of demand. When we come to examine recreational demand, we find that we have a very slippery conception in our hands. The traditional economic demand curve of so many units at a certain price cannot be transferred directly to the field of recreation. In recreation, both the units and the price are imprecise quantities. Recreation must be considered in terms of a complete experience, hence it is a combination of activities which may well provide the greatest satisfaction to the uses long after the experience is over. In North America, outdoor recreation has traditionally been supplied at or near zero price. To calculate demand on the basis of assumed prices is a risky proposition.

One method of measuring demand for outdoor recreation that seems to offer some hope, is to relate individual participation in recreation to social and economic status. In this method the opportunity factor becomes very important. If there is no opportunity for water-based activities, the participation will be low. Change the opportunity by water impoundment and participation and demand will alter radically.

Pioneer studies along this line have been carried out by the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission and the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation in the U.S. The Federal-Provincial Parks Conference is currently investigating the desirability of a similar study in Canada.

When we obtain a reasonably accurate measure of demand, we will then be able to take the data produced by the Canada Land Inventory, and start to prepare long range plans for outdoor recreation on a nation-wide basis. Such plans will go a long way towards telling the parks authorities the quantity, type and location of land required to meet these demands....

RECREATION RESEARCH

...Although outdoor recreation has existed for years, little scientific work has been done in this field. We face a vast array of unanswered problems. Only in the last few years has an attempt been made to seek out solutions to the problems that throw hurdles in the way of a clear-cut direction. For example, we must know what the carrying capacity of different resource bases are for outdoor recreation. This is most certainly a subject in which the forester must play a much greater part than in the past. What is the maximum number of people that can be accommodated in a given area before the quality of the outdoor experience declines? What are the factors that constitute recreational demand and how may these be measured and how can the results be equated with land needs? What is recreational need and how does it differ, if indeed it does, from recreational demand? What is the role of private enterprise in this field?

INTERNATIONAL CO-ORDINATION

The entire field of outdoor recreation in Canada presents many challenges to government, private enterprise and to all who are interested in sound resource use. Contributions in the form of technical know-how are necessary from every aspect, if we are to properly manage this valuable resource.

My Department has long been associated with the field through the National and Historic Parks and the Canadian Wildlife Service, and is in a position to provide much of the leadership required at this time. However, we look to major interest and participation by other agencies involved in the proration of the natural resources of our country.

Departmental research will expand in the future to attempt to provide some of the answers we need to know in the matter of resource allocation to meet the vastly outdoor recreation needs of the future.

In addition to the national and historic parks, many other forms of outdoor recreation areas are required to meet the varied needs of the country. Through the annual Federal-Provincial Parks Conference my Department presently performs a co-ordinating role and acts as a source of technical information on the subject of outdoor recreation. My officers also participate in recreation on an international level as outdoor recreation has grown to such proportions that it requires international co-ordination.

We feel that emerging nations will increasingly look to Canada for guidance in the development of park systems and the management of outdoor recreation resources generally....

SALMON FISHERIES MEETING

Canadian and U.S. fishery experts met in Ottawa recently to consider salmon-fishing problems in the Pacific Northwest, British Columbia and southeastern Alaska. A preliminary meeting on these problems was held in Washington last October.