

## **A Program for Outdoor Recreation Research**

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The growing acceptance in the United States of the philosophy that holds outdoor recreation to be a primary public purpose promoted the Study Conference of which this booklet is the Report. Such new thinking supersedes the traditional viewpoint that such recreation is only a valuable byproduct of conservation policies which motivated the stewardship of potentially productive economic resources.

In the light of the heavy commitment of funds the Conference was called to formulate a course of action to increase the understanding of the economics, demand and motivation of outdoor recreation so as to refine the projection of needs and optima for investment.

Of the six objectives recommended the greatest emphasis is laid on the desirability of Research programmes beyond the present primary emphasis on managing recreation resources. This would involve social and psychological studies as well as supply and demand economics. The question is posed whether already congested recreation sites can bear the cost of any additional visitors due to the depletion of the total resource for all visitors.

It is not the function of the Report to provide concise answers but in its discussion of current experience in resource management and study, it provides useful guide lines which are applicable in many circumstances. The chapter dealing with the operation of recreation service systems is particularly good in discussing the potential for expanding the supply of recreational opportunities and in the study of ecological and land use factors.

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