

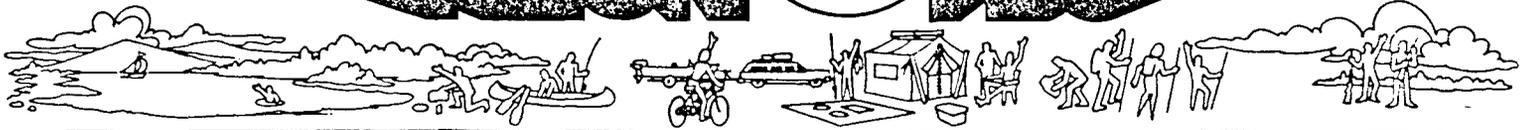
VOL R-77-1

RECNOTES

RECREATION
RESEARCH
PROGRAM



OCTOBER 1977



U. S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS INFORMATION EXCHANGE BULLETIN

GENESIS OF RECREATION RESEARCH PROGRAM

Innovative Program Initiated

When the Directorate of Civil Works authorized the initiation of a comprehensive Recreation Research Program, the Corps of Engineers embarked upon an exciting new venture: research designed to improve the effectiveness and efficiency with which the Corps delivers outdoor recreation services to millions of Americans.

The first Nationwide Outdoor Recreation Plan, published in 1973 by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation ("Outdoor Recreation: A Legacy for America"), confirmed what most Corps rangers and recreation resource planners and managers had known: Corps of Engineers water resource development projects are among the most significant outdoor recreation resources in the Nation. Each year increasing numbers of people visit Corps projects expecting safe and sanitary facilities and opportunities to boat, swim, fish, camp, hunt, picnic, or just plain sightsee.

Corps personnel from many disciplines, including engineers, biologists, and recreation planners, have been plagued by recreation problems not faced by other agencies and therefore not amenable to solutions drawn from the experience of others. It is the uniqueness of Corps outdoor recreation problems--caused partially by the sheer magnitude of visitation and partially by locational and other factors imposed upon the Corps as a water resource management agency--that gives rise to often-expressed research needs such as improved planning and evaluation techniques, more cost effective and user responsive facility layouts and visitor protection mechanisms, and improved social forecasting capability.

WES Chosen to Lead Research Effort

In May 1975, the Civil Works Directorate requested the Institute for Water Resources (IWR) to determine the desirability of a Corps recreation research program and, if the answer was affirmative, to recommend priorities for research, funding levels, and the research arm best suited to manage the effort. The IWR staff evaluated the missions of several Corps research facilities, concluded that the capabilities of the Waterways Experiment Station (WES) best matched the needs of the Recreation Research Program, and recommended that the WES assume leadership of the program. The IWR recommendations made clear that those research units with particular expertise, e.g., Construction Engineering Research Laboratory (CERL) in the field of designing improved sanitary facilities, would conduct pertinent research in their individual fields.

The WES was directed to implement the Recreation Research Program in July 1976. Responsibility for program implementation was assigned to the Environmental Effects Laboratory (EEL) by the WES Commander and Director. The laboratory has responsibility for such diverse research activities as the Dredged Material Research Program, the Environmental and Water-Quality Operational Program, and ecosystem modeling. Within EEL, program management responsibility has been assigned to the Environmental Resources Division.

Recreation Research Staff

Dr. Adolph J. Anderson is Program Manager. Andy transferred to the Recreation Research Program from the post of Recreation Planner in the Fort Worth District. Joining Andy is William J. Hansen, Economist, who was a member of the recreation research group that previously operated Corps-wide from the Sacramento District. Both Andy and Bill feel strongly that they should be readily accessible to all Corps personnel for the purpose of discussing the Recreation Research Program and advising on specific research queries. Their telephone numbers are: Commercial (601) 636-3111, extensions 3657 and 3724 respectively (FTS 542 and the four-digit extension). All Corps personnel with outdoor recreation problems, and especially those with solutions, are invited to call.

Field Reviews Program Schedule

In order to keep the Recreation Research Program attuned to field needs, the appointment of one field contact in each District and Division has been requested. Contacts appointed to date have been provided an initial Recreation Research Program Schedule for review. This schedule was developed by WES from the optimal program and need priorities recommended by IWR.

An In-Process Review of the Recreation Research Program was held 26-27 October at WES. Participants at this review included the District and Division contacts as well as representatives from OCE, WES, and other research laboratories. Recreation research needs and priorities were discussed and evaluated. The concept of a Recreation Research and Demonstration System to facilitate and support the research effort was also discussed.

FROM THE FIELD

Sacramento District Birdwatchers

Bob Martin and George Redpath of the Environmental Planning Section, Sacramento District, are conducting a study of the impacts of project construction and recreational development on avian diversity and population density. The study, being conducted at the New Melones Lake project under construction on the Stanislaus River in the western foothills of the Sierra-Nevada Mountains in California, will attempt to identify impacts from campgrounds, loss of riparian habitat, and added wildlife mitigation habitat. Field data collection has been initiated prior to project construction and will be continued through the operations phase for comparative purposes. Bob and George point out that definite field data of this type are not often obtained, and their study should yield results useful for this project as well as for future impact assessments of other projects. If anyone is interested in the study or knows of similar studies, please call them at FTS 448-3317 or Commercial (916) 440-3317.

St. Paul District Peopelwatchers

Through its involvement in the Great River Environmental Action Team (GREAT), the St. Paul District has played a lead role in pulling together various research efforts that were focused on the Upper Mississippi River this past summer. The studies are to provide information needed and requested by resource planning and management personnel.

One of the concerns of the GREAT recreation work group is the continued maintenance of islands that are created by disposal of dredged material and are used by thousands of recreationists each year for camping, picnicking, sunbathing, and other related activities. A survey of these island users was conducted this summer to determine their preferences and attitudes about the use of these by-product resources. The island-use survey was closely coordinated with an extensive river-use study conducted by the University of

Wisconsin on the St. Croix River, a main tributary of the Upper Mississippi. These studies were also linked with a District study to determine future demands for recreational craft lockages on the Upper Mississippi River from the Twin Cities to St. Louis. A survey of boaters using the lockage facilities provided most of the information needed to determine these demands. This fall, efforts will be directed to reviewing the results of all three studies. Study results will fill important gaps and provide an updated picture of public use on the Upper Mississippi-St. Croix River systems.

To determine the need for new small-boat harbors on Western Lake Superior, and the need for preparation of master plans on Western Lake Superior harbors maintained by the District, a recreational boating study was also conducted this summer. A secondary objective of the study was to identify an economically efficient and statistically effective methodology for estimating recreational use, user patterns, and future use demands. Aerial photography and 8-mm cameras were used, along with more traditional methods, to test the effectiveness of remote sensing techniques.

The results of the studies should be available early in 1978. Information regarding these study efforts may be obtained by contacting Jim Holleran at the St. Paul District, FTS 725-7574 or Commercial (612) 725-7574.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Urban Research and Development Corporation, "Guidelines for Understanding and Determining Optimum Recreation Carrying Capacity," January 1977, prepared under Contract 5-14-07-5 for the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, U. S. Department of the Interior, Washington, DC 20240.

Research results are presented that contribute to a better understanding of recreation carrying capacity and show one way of approaching the subject of optimum recreation carrying capacity. Practical guidelines are provided for use by recreational planners and administrators in determining optimum carrying capacity for particular activities and under specific physical and social circumstances. An approach or system is offered for use in tailoring recreation carrying capacity to a wide variety of circumstances. In addition to presenting a basic system for recreation planners and administrators to use in determining optimum carrying capacities, optimum carrying capacity ranges are suggested for 55 different recreation activities, based upon research and field survey interviews.

A WORD ABOUT RECNOTES

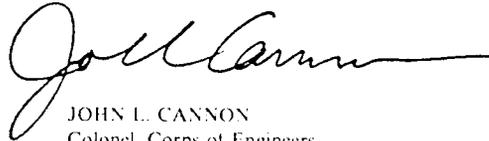
This is the first issue of the Recreation Research Program Information Exchange Bulletin, RECNOTES. Subsequent issues will be published intermittently by WES, dependent upon the quantity and importance of information to be disseminated. Its objective is to serve as the first of many communication links between Corps recreation planners, managers, and researchers. To meet this objective, RECNOTES will be distributed primarily within the Corps to OCE and Division, District, and project offices and to other Federal agencies concerned with outdoor recreation activities. Just as the Recreation Research Program is your program, RECNOTES is your bulletin. Notes, reviews, upcoming events, or other items of interest pertaining to recreation problems or research activities are desired. Feel free to communicate with the Recreation Research Program staff on any aspect of the Corps recreation program at any time. A research program that does not promptly respond to the people on the firing line is not much good, but the program staff finds it hard to respond to a vacuum.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Lower Mississippi Valley Division Recreation-Resource Management Seminar
November 8-10, New Orleans, Louisiana
Contact: Mr. C. A. Redmon, FTS 542-4337, Commercial (601) 636-1311, ext. 4337

FY 78 PAO Conference, Planning and Design of Visitor Centers
December 5-8, Seattle, Washington

This bulletin is published in accordance with AR 310-2. It has been prepared and distributed as one of the information dissemination functions of the Environmental Effects Laboratory of the Waterways Experiment Station. It is primarily intended to be a forum whereby information pertaining to and resulting from the Corps of Engineers' nationwide Recreation Research Program can be rapidly and widely disseminated to OCE and Division, District, and project offices as well as to other Federal agencies concerned with outdoor recreation. Local reproduction is authorized to satisfy additional requirements. Contributions of notes, news, reviews, or any other types of information are solicited from all sources and will be considered for publication as long as they are relevant to the theme of the Recreation Research Program, i.e., to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Corps in providing recreation opportunity at its water resource development projects. This bulletin will be issued on an irregular basis as dictated by the quantity and importance of information to be disseminated. Communications are welcome and should be addressed to the Environmental Effects Laboratory, ATTN: A. J. Anderson, U. S. Army Engineer Waterways Experiment Station, P. O. Box 631, Vicksburg, Mississippi 39180, or call AC 601, 636-3111, Ext. 3657.



JOHN L. CANNON
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
Commander and Director



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