

1980 and 1990 this increase would be 7.37 million, and 7.28 million for the decade ending at 2,000.

Needs then may be expressed in terms of specific types and units of facilities required to meet these demands. I believe it is apparent that if we can compute the number of people we can expect to be looking for access and facilities on a normal day during peak season, the number, types and costs of facilities can be readily determined. These would vary with the decisions as to what constitutes a balanced program in each case.

What these specific figures tell us is that the demand for access to and use of recreation resources for camping, fishing, picnicking, hiking, boating and nature study will in 2000 require almost four times the developed capacity than supported these activities in 1955. The design load equivalent of the additional capacity would appear to be in the neighborhood of facilities to support about 54 million people at any one time over the 1955 capacity.

Now I do not guarantee the accuracy of these projections. Time did not permit a full and thorough examination of the problem. My main concern here was to suggest a technique by which recreation use of water resources may be measured and projected. I do hold that this technique is particularly applicable to local and regional problems. With collection of appropriate data, each step can be refined to be used to support projects and programs in the planning process in a substantial manner.

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THE PROBLEM OF LOCATION AND MULTIPLE USE OF ACCESS AREAS

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The problem of location and multiple use of access areas is directly related to the source of funds available for construction and the primary purpose for which the area is to be developed. The types of usage depend on the owner, operators or agencies involved.

The responsibility of the State Game and Fish Department is to provide the fishermen and hunters access to the various bodies of water. But agencies, such as State Road Departments, Park Services and other state or federal agencies, rightfully devote a large part of their effort in developing multi-purpose areas near centers of populations or heavily used areas. These facilities may be located on both salt and fresh water in coastal states and may include launching ramps, shelters, picnic tables, rest rooms, showers, electric lights, water fountains, concessions, parking lots, beaches and other items that are so essential for a multi-purpose site. The funds which are used for construction of such facilities are usually derived from general revenue appropriations and no discrimination can be made as to usage.

State Game and Fish Commission funds however are usually derived from the sale of fishing and hunting licenses and their primary responsibility is to provide better fishing, hunting, and access areas for such sports.

It may be of interest to this group, today, to hear from one agency of admittedly limited interest in a specific narrow field of outdoor recreation in a southernmost state—the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, which I represent.

The problem of locating access areas and launching facilities in Florida is probably somewhat different than in other states. It will be necessary to provide you with certain background material before the role of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission in locating and constructing access sites can be readily understood.

Florida is a state of numerous lakes and streams. In fact, it has been estimated that the State has 30,000 named lakes, with 950 exceeding 150 acres in size, and 4,550 miles of navigable waters. Of the 30,000 lakes, not over 190 were meandered in the original incompleeted surveys and many of the lake

bottoms are today thought to be subject to private ownership. It has also been noted that certain rivers were not meandered and the records show that certain land owners have property lines which extend across navigable streams to the high water mark on the opposite bank of the river. To make the situation even more critical, we have certain meandered lakes which are completely surrounded by private owned lands which are fenced, thereby excluding the public from state owned lakes. The problem of access and ownership of submerged lands had received very little attention prior to 1958. In fact, the following is one of the many examples of the complete disregard of all parties concerned regarding the location of public access facilities. In 1958, from Lake George, consisting of about 46,500 acres, thence by the St. Johns River a distance of 75 miles to Jacksonville, only three public boat ramps were in use. These are world famous black bass fishing waters. For such reasons the location of access sites is of utmost importance to the fishermen of the State.

The Florida Game and Fish Commission realizing the need for establishing access areas began a ramp construction program, with funds from a special legislative appropriation in 1958. Sixty-three ramps were constructed statewide under this appropriation and the access sites were developed on lands belonging to counties, municipalities or property donated by individuals. The funds used for construction of these ramps were general revenue funds and therefore multiple use was assured. The sites were selected on bodies of water which were in great need of such facilities and which would be of most benefit to the fishermen.

On November 5, 1959, the Florida State Road Board recognizing the tremendous asset of the boating industry to the economy of Florida approved the construction of Wayside Parks and Boat Ramps at the following locations and under the following conditions:

"A. Location, Construction and Maintenance:

1. Within the existing primary or secondary road system right-of-way. These shall be constructed and maintained by the Department.

2. On property adjoining the present state-maintained rights-of-way, which may be donated or leased without cost to the Department by other governmental agencies, political subdivisions or municipalities. These shall be constructed and maintained by the department.

3. On a site which adjoins a public body of water and which also adjoins a county or public road, provided said road connects a state-maintained road within two miles. The right-of-way for these parks and/or ramps shall be owned by the Department, or leased at no cost to the Department by other governmental agencies, political subdivisions or municipalities and the facilities thereon shall be constructed and maintained by the Department.

No park or ramp shall be located near objectionable areas or places where intoxicants are sold, or so as to create a traffic hazard; nor shall any such facility be built where adequate and legitimate commercial facilities are available.

B. Funds:

Funds for the construction and maintenance of such wayside parks and ramps may come from the following sources:

1. Budgeted item for "Wayside Parks and Boat Ramps". (Provided this fund shall be used for parks and ramps related to the primary system and, in other instances, where secondary or other funds are not available.)

2. Duly authorized Secondary Funds.

3. Donations."

At the present time the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission is constructing access areas with launching facilities with funds partially derived from the Dingell-Johnson Federal Aid to Fisheries Program. As previously stated, the Florida State Road Department is now authorized to construct boat ramps on sites which adjoin a public body of water and which also adjoin a county or public road, provided said road connects a state-maintained road within two miles. Naturally, our Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission's main efforts are directed toward establishing access areas on those lakes and streams which are more than two miles from a secondary road. This means that our access areas are frequently located in isolated areas but areas which are heavily fished.

No funds have been allocated for the purchase of sites and to date all sites have been obtained from individuals, municipalities or counties on a perpetual or long-term easement basis.

The Wildlife Officers have been most helpful in designating lakes and streams which are inaccessible to the general public. The Lake and Stream Survey Team and other fishery personnel also recommend general areas in which access is a problem. Negotiations are then begun with land owners or companies in an attempt to interest them in donating lands for access areas. The selection of a ramp site is quite restricted since most land owners have a particular location in mind. These sites must conform to the following requirements before we attempt to negotiate with the owner for control of the property.

1. The site must be located on a lake or stream which has no public access facilities or is in need of additional facilities.

2. The area must be of sufficient size as to allow for the construction of a ramp and parking area. It is also desirable to allow space for other activities such as camping.

3. The area must be supporting a significant sports fishery.

4. The site must conform to certain physical requirements such as depth of water, suitable terrain, and soil type. The relation of the site to wave action or the cutting and filling action of stream flow is also taken into consideration.

5. Lakes or streams under management receive top priority.

6. The cost of construction and site preparation should not be prohibitive.

7. Suitable access roads must exist or agreements made for construction of said roads.

Other factors which should be given consideration in locating or selecting an access site are:

1. Initial cost of property.

2. Proximity to homes, factories or undesirable types of business.

3. Aesthetic value of both the site and its surroundings.

4. Sanitation.

Special efforts are made to obtain access on the larger lakes which are subject to private ownerships. It is not the intention of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission to infringe upon the rights of individuals, but we do have a responsibility and obligation to fulfill since we are a state agency charged with the protection, preservation and management of our wildlife resources.

The multiple use of launching facilities has not been a problem in Florida as of this date. The ramp construction activities of the State Road Department and their selection of sites near populated and accessible areas naturally encourage multiple use. The Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission ramps are constructed on those lakes and streams which are heavily fished and noted for fishing rather than boating.

Other states are apparently more concerned about multiple use. Perhaps some of their problems can be discussed at the end of the program at which time a discussion period will be held.

The Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission's public access program has been most effective in providing access to bodies of water with inadequate facilities. At the same time the program has assured continuous access and public usage as perpetual easement have been received on a majority of the sites.

The greatly expanding human population and the ever increasing interest in outdoor recreation of which fishing and hunting is such a vital part necessitates an increased effort on the part of all agencies concerned in acquiring access areas. The problems are numerous and the funds are limited in many instances, but if we are to keep pace with the public demand these problems must be resolved.