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ALASKA OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN

VOLUME ONE (SUMMARY)

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STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

This is a summary of the Alaska Outdoor Recreation Plan which is designed to be a quick and easy reference for those Federal, State and local government officials and the general public not having time to read the entire four volume plan.

The plan is based on surveys of resident and non-resident demand for outdoor recreation; an inventory of the supply of recreation space, facilities and programs, and discussions with representatives of public and private organizations at meetings of the Alaska Outdoor Recreation Council.

Preparation of the plan was financed through a planning grant from the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, Department of the Interior, under the provisions of the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (Public Law 88-578) and 1966 State Outdoor Recreation Bond funds.

The plan was written by the consulting firm of Cresap, McCormick and Paget, Inc. in cooperation with the Parks and Recreation Section of the Alaska Division of Lands.

State of Alaska
Department of Natural Resources
February 1970

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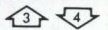
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STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAU

I am pleased to present the second revision of the Alaska Outdoor Recreation Plan. This is the comprehensive guide for providing needed outdoor recreation facilities through 1975 and for preserving sufficient recreation space for present and future generations of Alaskan residents and visitors. Alaska's exceptional recreation resources and the needs for recreation space and facilities are described and summarized by the major regions of the State, leaving detailed planning for specific recreation areas up to individual agencies and organizations.

The plan has been prepared in accordance with the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation Manual for State Outdoor Recreation Planning and with the assistance of representatives of Federal, State, and local government agencies, quasi-public organizations, and private enterprises involved in outdoor recreation.

Residents and visitors are attracted to Alaska because of the untrammelled way of life which may be enjoyed here. We recognize that the quality of Alaskan life is dependent in large part on the beauty and wild nature of the environment. The Alaska Outdoor Recreation Plan is representative of the State's policy to maintain and improve the high quality of the environment and to insure that people will continue to enjoy an increasingly rare way of life which is still possible in Alaska.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Keith H. Miller".

Keith H. Miller
Governor

ALASKA OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN

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FOREWORD

Alaska faces an important challenge during the next decade in properly developing its resources for the maximum benefit of this and future generations of Alaskans and out-of-State visitors. Fortunately, because the State is now on the threshold of substantial economic development, government and business still have an opportunity, through careful planning and equally careful implementation of plans, to achieve economic objectives and yet preserve the high quality of Alaska's environment. This document is a summary of the State's most comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan to date, which was designed to meet this challenge. Details of the Plan are presented in three additional volumes, which are available from the Department of Natural Resources.

The preparation of the Outdoor Recreation Plan stemmed initially from the State's desire to provide a well-coordinated program for the development of Alaska's outdoor recreation resources for the benefit of both residents and visitors, while also protecting outstanding natural resources for future generations. The opportunity to formulate such a program came with the passage of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (Public Law 88-578), which provides for joint Federal and state participation in planning, acquiring and developing specific outdoor recreation areas and facilities. Alaska's original plan for outdoor recreation was submitted in 1965, and established the State's eligibility to participate in Federal grants made under the provisions of that Act. Since then, funds allocated to Alaska have gone toward providing such recreational areas and facilities as:

Nancy Lake State Recreation Area, a 21,000-acre complex which will offer a wide variety of recreational opportunities (camping, fishing, golf, swimming, hiking, etc.) at a location within easy driving distance (66 miles) of Anchorage, the State's largest city.

Sandy Beach Recreation Area, a municipal beach planned for the Greater Juneau area, providing facilities for swimming, picnicking, and a variety of outdoor games and sports.

Chester Creek Green Belt, a seven-mile green belt of 400 acres running through the heart of Anchorage, providing a wide range of facilities for outdoor recreation including baseball, football and soccer fields, as well as trails for cross-country skiing, horseback riding, hiking, and bicycling.

The 1965 outdoor recreation plan was followed by a revised and expanded plan submitted in October 1966. Intensive work on the present plan (the one summarized in this document) was begun in 1967.

The basic responsibility for preparing this plan was assumed by a Planning Task Force consisting of professional consultants plus the Chief and an Assistant Recreation Planner from the Parks and Recreation Section of the State's Division of Lands. A vast amount of information had to be gathered for a plan of this complexity, and the Planning Task Force gratefully acknowledges the generous assistance it received from many sources, including:

The Alaska Outdoor Recreation Council and its Executive Committee, which reviewed the approach, the methodology, and the completed plan, and recommended that the document be adopted as the State's official plan.

The Federal Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, which assisted through meetings with various people and agencies involved in the planning process, and through informal review of drafts of the plan.

Alaska's Division of Data Processing, which assisted in the preparation of computer programs which tabulated and stored much of the information collected for use in the plan.

Representatives from various other Federal, State and local agencies, who were extremely helpful in offering and discussing ideas and in providing important information on the policies and programs of their agencies in Alaska

While the Planning Task Force is sincerely grateful for this substantial assistance, it of course accepts responsibility for all statements made in the plan.

This summary description of the Outdoor Recreation Plan is divided into four parts:

A description of Alaska's outdoor recreation resources.

The present demand for outdoor recreation.

A forecast of demand to 1975, and the indicated needs for additional facilities.

Recommendations for achieving Alaska's outdoor recreation potential.



ALASKA'S OUTDOOR RECREATION POTENTIAL

Few places in the Western world offer the richness and variety of outdoor recreation resources available in Alaska, where both residents and visitors have the opportunity to participate in recreation activities among a profusion of beautiful lakes, rivers and mountains, largely untouched by modern civilization. Wildlife roams in abundance, largely undisturbed by man; rivers flow in their natural state; and many of the people of Indian, Eskimo and Aleut origin still practice their traditional art and music skills in essentially the same manner as their ancestors. Thus, Alaska has important assets to preserve and, unlike many other parts of the world, the opportunity to do so and to extend the recreational benefits of its natural resources to growing numbers of both residents and visitors.

THE OPPORTUNITY

Rarely is a nation afforded a second opportunity to plan for the recreational use of its natural resources before commercial exploitation imposes severe constraints. Alaska, however, provides such an opportunity, and perhaps this nation's last chance to prove that compatible development of natural resources for both recreational and commercial purposes is possible. While most of the rest of the nation is struggling with problems of environmental pollution and overcrowding, Alaska is in the enviable position of planning to avoid these problems before they arise.

Moreover, with the continuing urbanization of America, sociologists and psychologists indicate that more people will feel the need for some means of "returning to nature." yet it is becoming increasingly evident that many Americans may never see real wilderness. As this trend continues, Alaska is in a strong position to provide the nation and the world with a place of repose, away from the hurry and pressure of life in the cities, where one may enjoy the splendor of some of the world's most spectacular scenery, and view wildlife in its natural habitat.



In response to growing recognition of the effect of environment on personal well-being, and especially the relationship of outdoor recreation to physical and mental health, Congress has passed significant legislation to preserve natural areas and provide outdoor recreation opportunities for the nation. These laws include the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the National Trails System Act, the Wilderness Act, and the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act. In addition, many private organizations have been formed, with similar objectives. These events indicate a growing concern with conservation of natural resources. Hence, the nation appears to be encouraging Alaska's leaders to avoid the mistakes made in other areas, and to take the necessary steps to ensure preservation of the State's natural environment throughout its economic development.

THE ENVIRONMENT

Alaska's outdoor recreation environment is of enormous extent and richly varied. From the fiords and rain forests of Southeastern Alaska to the summer marshlands of the Interior and the rolling tundra of the far north, the land is largely in its primitive state, with some areas still unexplored. Many states share with Alaska one or more of its magnificent features but few can match the proportions, the quality, or the variety of these resources in Alaska.

Mountains

For more than 1,000 miles from Ketchikan to Barrow, and 2,000 miles from Barter Island to Attu, elevations ranging from low hills to the continent's highest mountains dress Alaska's landscape. There are two general systems. The Brooks Range, an extension of the Rocky Mountain System in the northern part of the State, forms a barrier between the central plateau of the Tanana-Yukon Basin area and the treeless tundra of the Arctic Slope, with peaks from 3,000 to 9,200 feet. To the south is the Pacific Mountain System, including the Alaska Range, which is dominated by majestic 20,320-foot Mt. McKinley, the highest peak in North America, and five other ranges extending from Southeastern Alaska far out into the Aleutian Chain. Undoubtedly, the most spectacular of these is the St. Elias Range, with peaks rising dramatically from sea level to more than 18,000 feet within 20 miles of the coastline.

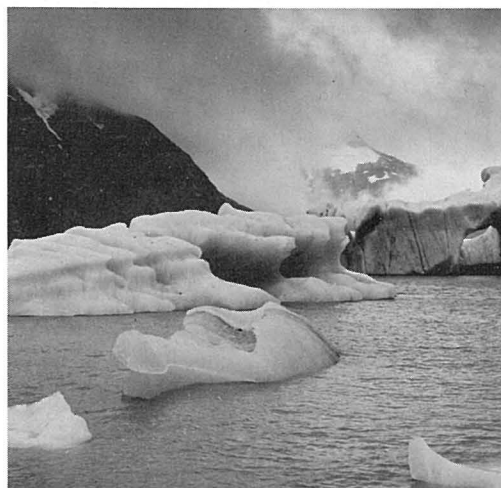
Water

It is a matter of justifiable pride to one state that it can call itself the land of 10,000 lakes; Alaska, however, has 3,000,000 lakes, most of which have never been fished or held a boat, ranging from the thousands of small lakes in the flatlands of the Kuskokwim Delta and the Yukon Basin to the glacier-

Augustine Volcano in Cook Inlet



Icebergs in Portage Lake



Castle Mountain



fed waters of huge Lake Illiamna and Lake Tustumena. Furthermore, there are 10,000 rivers and streams within the State, six of which are more than 400 miles long. The most famous Alaskan river is the historic Yukon, which flows nearly 2,000 miles through the Yukon Territory and Alaska to the Bering Sea. The salt waters of the State are also varied, especially in Southeastern Alaska, where remnants of ancient mountains, submerging at the end of the ice age, have created beautiful fiords, channels and islands, much like those of Norway. Into many of these fiords flow Alaska's glaciers, edging slowly down the mountainsides.

Fish And Wildlife

Alaska is justly world-famed for the variety and abundance of its fish and wildlife. Within the State are found eleven species of big game, with the population of nearly every major species exceeding that of the State's people. For example, approximately half a million caribou roam the Arctic tundra, much as the buffalo roamed the central and western United States in the last century. Some of the more unusual big game species are walrus, polar bears, musk oxen, and Dall sheep.

Trophy-size fish abound in Alaska's fresh and salt waters. Southeastern Alaska is world-renowned for its spectacular catches of several varieties of salmon, and Southwestern Alaska possesses record-size rainbow trout, Arctic char, Dolly Varden, and other freshwater fish. Moreover, numerous species of shellfish (such as shrimp, the famed Alaska king and Dungeness crabs, and razor and butter clams) are harvested from Alaska's waters.

Small game, upland birds and waterfowl are also numerous. For example, fox, mink, beaver, wolf, wolverine and other small game roam in their natural state in Alaska, and the 177 species of birds stay

Fishing on Upper Russian Lake, Kenai Peninsula



in Alaska year-round, while more than 400 species and subspecies use the State for spring and summer nesting grounds.

Primitive Areas And Wilderness

Natural wild areas constitute the most striking feature of Alaska's outdoor recreation potential. These wild areas (estimated, in total, at 60 acres per capita of the State's population) are immensely varied, ranging from the mushy tundra (a vast expanse of low vegetation underlaid by permanently frozen ground) to the lakes and cascading streams of hilly and mountainous areas. Throughout these areas there are no roads, permanent habitations, or recreation facilities. Surprisingly, none of the millions of acres have yet been set aside and formally dedicated for retention in their natural state.

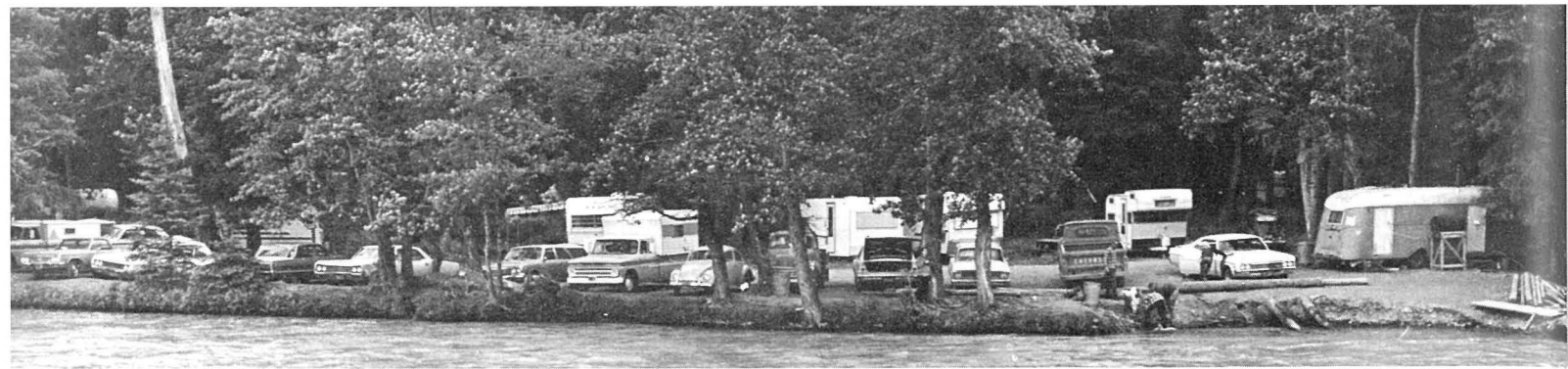
National Parks, Monuments And Historic Sites

Alaska has one National Park at Mt. McKinley, and three National Monuments at Katmai, Glacier Bay and Sitka. In addition, there are 18 wildlife ranges and refuges, with a combined acreage greater than two-thirds of the United States total of such refuges, which offer protected habitats for much of Alaska's wildlife.

The early Russian history of Alaska has left its imprint in the form of old churches and other buildings and relics. Moreover, many sites are fruitful for both professional and amateur archeological excavation, yielding artifacts of past northern cultures.

Guided tour in Katmai National Monument





THE DEVELOPED AREAS AND FACILITIES

Most of Alaska's 365 million acres of mountains, forests, tundra, and waters are currently available for outdoor recreation. Of this total, 48 million acres have been specifically reserved for public use, with the emphasis on environmental preservation and recreation in national forests, private resorts, and national, State, and community parks.

However, most of this rich environment is not readily accessible to the average person, and the supply of formal facilities is relatively small. Exhibit A is an inventory of the existing outdoor recreation areas and facilities available to tourists and residents for such pursuits as camping, picnicking and hiking, broken down to show the level of administration. Generally, facilities and areas administered by the Federal Government dominate the inventory, primarily because of the extensive influence of Federal agencies and 10 State agencies have varying degrees of responsibility for matters affecting outdoor recreation. At the other extreme, the private sector accounts for only a small portion of the total.

Most of the outdoor recreation facilities are found in the South Central and Interior Regions, where the concentration of population is greater and access to recreation areas is easier. For example, these two regions contain nearly 90 per cent of the State's developed campsites, the majority of the picnic areas, and all of the State's golf courses. Southeastern Alaska ranks next in quantity of facilities. Southwestern and Northwestern Alaska have generally minimal facilities, because of their sparse populations.

At the same time, it should be noted that many outdoor recreation activities have little or no requirement for formal facilities beyond the availability of the natural environment itself. The adequacy of existing formal facilities are discussed further in a later section entitled "Forecast Demand And Additional Facilities Needed."



STATEWIDE INVENTORY OF DEVELOPED RECREATION AREAS AND FACILITIES

TYPE OF FACILITY	LEVEL OF ADMINISTRATION					
	FEDERAL	STATE	LOCAL	QUASI-PUBLIC	PRIVATE	TOTAL
Historic And Natural Sites And Visitor Centers						
Number of areas	9	8	11	9	25	62
Acreage	56*	63*	240	15	32*	406*
Lodges And Camps (a)						
Buildings	15	-	1	3	147	166
Beds	225*	-	12	85	1,332*	1,654*
Acreage	n.a.	-	1	3	902*	906
Cabins (Open To The Public)						
Buildings	217*	2	1	9	347	576*
Beds	1,475*	n.a.	10	30	1,176*	2,691*
Acreage	203*	n.a.	12	n.a.	912*	1,127*
Warm-Up Huts						
Buildings	4	-	3	3	7	17
Simultaneous Capacity, (b)	555	-	170	150*	180*	1,055*
Acreage	47*	-	1*	5*	1*	54*
Campgrounds - Developed Areas						
Number of campgrounds	71	56	10	6	44	187
Number of campsites	1,078	607	118*	87	480*	2,370*
Acreage	580*	3,165	21*	215*	67*	4,048*
Campgrounds - Group Camping						
Beds	8	-	-	295	22	325
Acreage	1	-	-	209	n.a.	210*
Picnic Areas						
Number of picnic areas	76	49	28	2	54*	209*
Number of picnic units	325	281	144*	13	2,126	2,889*
Acreage	79*	152*	59*	20*	53*	363*
Swimming Beaches (And Pools)						
Number	6	11	11	6	17	51
Square feet	23,000*	3,375*	8,875*	8,575*	8,332*	52,157*
Frontage feet	350*	530*	800	-	1,700*	3,380*
Bathhouses						
Number of units	3	2	11	5	25	46
Rifle And Archery Ranges, Skeet And Trap Fields						
Number	6	-	2	4	8	20
Acreage	9*	-	n.a.	10*	45*	64*
Golf Courses						
Number of holes	27	-	-	-	9	36
Acreage	87*	-	-	-	65	152*
Tennis Courts						
Number	20	2	17	4	-	43
Acreage	18	1	8*	1	-	28*
Baseball And Softball Diamonds						
Number	27	-	60	2	-	89
Acreage	117	-	64*	5	-	186*
Football Fields						
Number	5	-	3	1	-	9
Acreage	25	-	2*	2	-	29*
Soccer Fields						
Number	1	-	2	1	-	4
Acreage	n.a.	-	1*	3	-	4*
Track And Field Areas						
Number	3	-	1	-	-	4
Acreage	n.a.	-	n.a.	-	-	n.a.
Playgrounds						
Number	77	10	70	5	5	167
Acreage	76*	7	38*	3*	9	133*

TYPE OF FACILITY	LEVEL OF ADMINISTRATION					
	FEDERAL	STATE	LOCAL	QUASI-PUBLIC	PRIVATE	TOTAL
Other Outdoor Game Areas						
Number	1	-	15	1	4	21
Acreage	10	-	2*	n.a.	n.a.	12*
Outdoor Cultural And Sports Viewing Areas						
Number of seats	-	-	4,630	300*	-	4,930*
Acreage	-	-	18*	4	-	22*
Hockey, Figure And Speed Skating Rinks						
Number	20	-	37	2	4	63
Acreage	506*	-	7*	2	5	520*
Toboggan, Sled, And Luge Hills						
Number	3	1	1	1	2	8
Acreage	11	1	1	5	402	420
Vertical descent (feet)	382	50	n.a.	20	n.a.	452*
Ski Jumps						
Number	2	1	1	1	1	6
Acreage	1	45	n.a.	70*	3	119*
Length (feet)	60	n.a.	20	n.a.	n.a.	80*
Downhill Ski Slopes						
Number	9	1	2	4	33	49
Acreage	776	5	1*	12	970*	1,764*
Slope length (feet)	10,510*	n.a.	30*	1,170	30,900*	42,610*
Vertical descent (feet)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Mechanical Ski Lifts						
Number	15	1	1	5	12	34
Capacity per hour	11,480*	200	n.a.	2,450*	5,000	19,130*
Length (feet)	16,810*	n.a.	n.a.	950*	21,500	39,260*
Vertical rise (feet)	2,656*	n.a.	n.a.	320*	5,250	8,226*
Trails						
Cross country skiing (miles)	230	26	25	-	36	317
Hiking (miles)	633	59	11	1	57	761
Horseback riding (miles)	48	46	5	-	12	111
Canoeing (miles)	355	-	-	2	42	399
Snowmobiling (miles)	230	50	5	3	71	359
Bicycle paths (miles)	-	-	4	-	-	4
Other (miles)	-	-	1	34	6	41
TOTAL (MILES) (c)	831	112	32	40	185	1,200
Campgrounds - Remote Wilderness						
Number of campgrounds	7	-	-	1	8	16
Number of campsites	130	-	-	75	260	465
Acreage	10	-	-	n.a.	17	27*
Scenic Turnouts And Roadside Rest Areas						
Number	7	28	5	-	8	48
Parking spaces	50	375*	30	-	75*	530*
Boat Launching Ramps						
Launching spaces	41	28	15	2	21	107
Acreage	22*	1*	8*	n.a.	7*	38*
Marina Slips						
Number of slips	92	67	1,207	33	121	1,520
Moorings						
Number of moorings	60	5	1,511	2	123	1,701
Airstrips						
Number of strips	4	-	4	1	26	35
Runway length (feet)	5,500*	-	16,900	4,500	36,002*	62,702*

n.a. - not available

*Because inventory forms were not always filled out in detail, these numbers are totals of the figures provided, rather than a complete tally. Most of the omissions are of little significance, but caution should be exercised in attempting to develop ratios (acres per visitor center, picnic units per acre, etc.)

(a) Includes only lodges and camps which are closely connected with outdoor recreation, such as fishing camps or hunting lodges, does not include major hotels and motels such as those found in downtown urban areas.

(b) Simultaneous capacity is defined as the number of people which the facility can normally be expected to accommodate at one time.

(c) Totals are not necessarily cumulative because of multiple use of some trails.

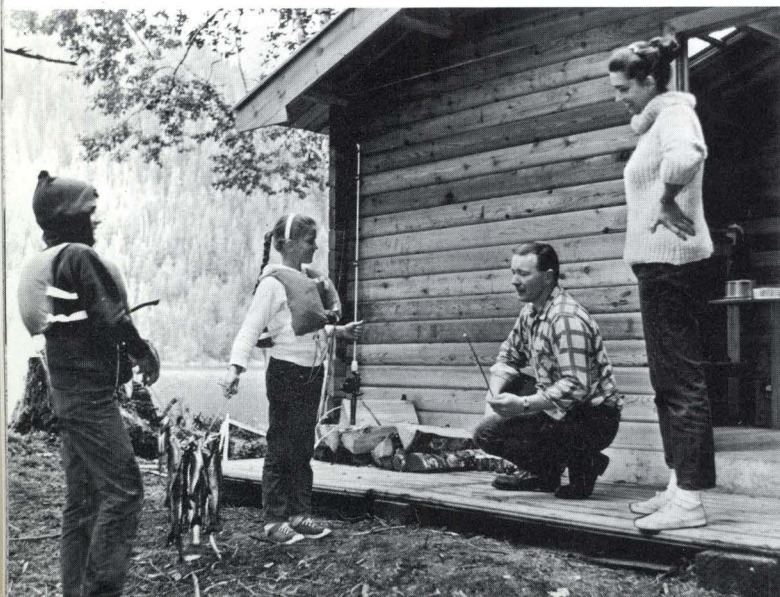
PRESENT DEMAND FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION

Even before the time when natural resources can be expected to become much more scarce than they are today, participation in most outdoor recreation activities in Alaska is widespread and frequent, and nearly all residents and visitors consider that the State has a distinct competitive advantage in many of the more popular activities. Both residents and visitors are free to choose from a wide variety of opportunities for recreational activity - and also to choose whether to concentrate on a favorite single activity or to indulge in a combination of related activities. At the same time, variations in cost and in ease of participation, as well as individual interest, have led to some activities becoming more popular than others.

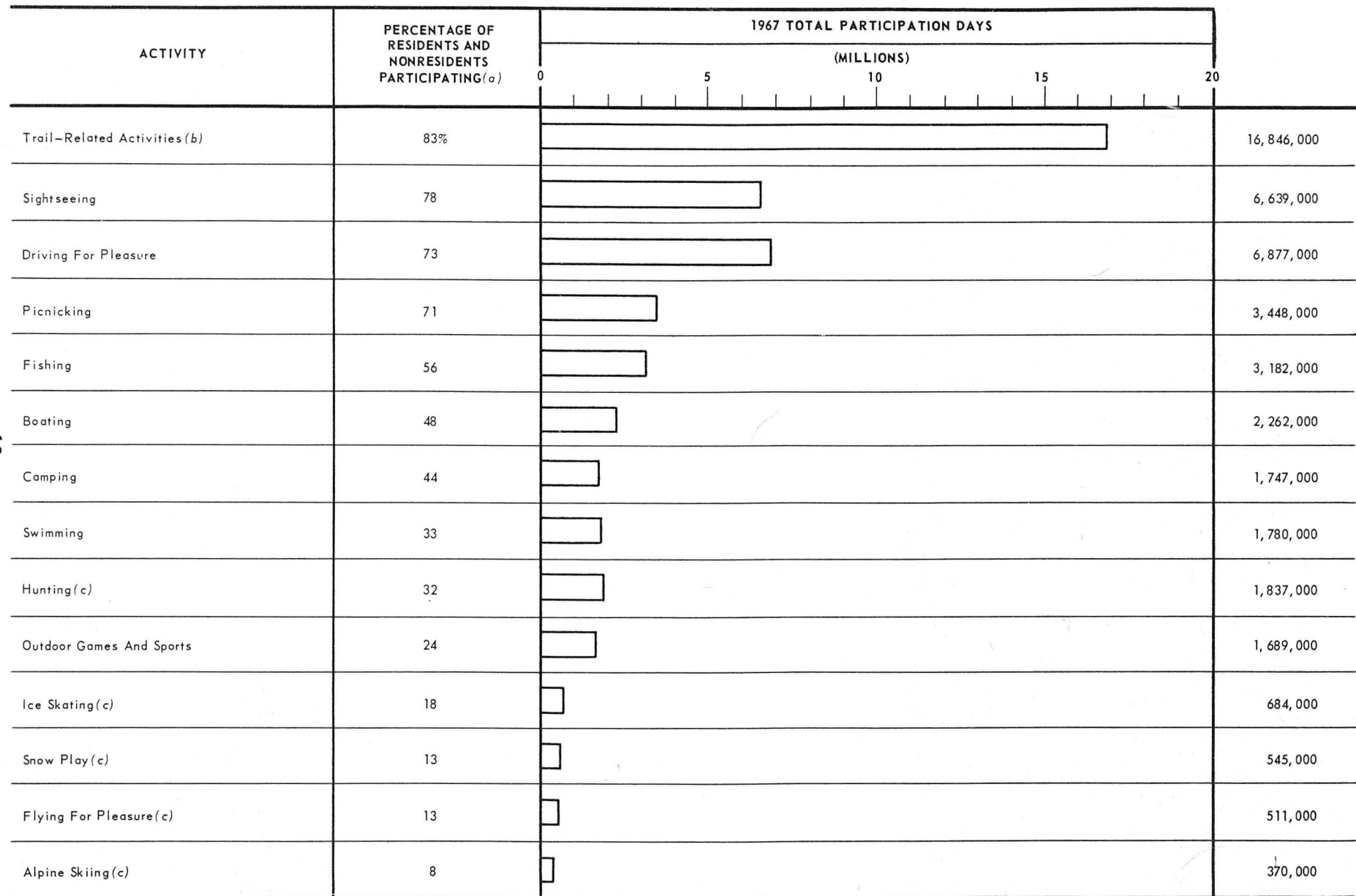
Fourteen major outdoor recreation activities were selected for intensive survey, and the overall popularity of these activities is reviewed first. This is followed by a comparison of resident and nonresident demand, and, finally, a discussion of regional differences in the popularity of activities.

OVERALL POPULARITY OF ACTIVITIES

Exhibit B ranks the 14 major activities by the overall (weighted) percentage of both residents and nonresidents who pursue each activity and the total number of participation days (that is, participation in any 24-hour period) in one year.



STATEWIDE PARTICIPATION IN MAJOR OUTDOOR RECREATION ACTIVITIES



(a) Weighted average, based on total participation days.

(b) Includes only "walking for pleasure" for nonresidents.

(c) For nonresidents, figures include only the results of the summer survey.



Camping in Interior Alaska

The group of "trail-related" activities* constitutes by far the most popular recreational pursuit in Alaska. During the year, approximately 83 per cent of Alaskan residents and nonresidents take to some trail or path in the outdoors, with a frequency (expressed in "participation days") nearly three times that of the second most popular activity. Sightseeing, driving for pleasure, and picnicking also enjoy widespread participation, and the closely related percentages of people participating in these activities suggest that all three activities may often be enjoyed together on the same day. Participation in the remaining activities is generally more costly, seasonal or specialized, and therefore not as widespread. Further comments on participation in these activities can be found in the next section of this summary, dealing with forecast demand.

In addition to the relative popularity of activities reflecting the participant's interest in the natural environment, it should be noted that the frequency of participation in most activities is high when compared with that in the United States overall. While this might be expected for forms of recreation in which Alaska has a distinct advantage, such as fishing and camping, annual rates of participation in some other activities run four to seven times the national average. For example, average annual participation per Alaskan in sightseeing is 21 days, versus 3 days for the nation as a whole; for picnicking, the figures are 12 days and 3 days, respectively.

There are several possible reasons for this higher frequency of participation. Life in Alaska is more closely tied to the outdoors than in many other parts of the country, and a large part of the State's economy is based upon natural resource industries, such as fishing and timber. Also, many Alaskans consider their main reasons for living in the State to be its beautiful natural environment, its frontier character, and its fantastic recreational opportunities. It can be concluded, therefore, that the richness of the State's natural environment has a strong effect upon participation in outdoor recreation.

*Composed of the following 12 subactivities (in order of popularity): walking for pleasure, nature study, bicycling, hiking, snowmobiling, motorcycling, snowshoeing, canoeing, horseback riding, dogsledding, cross-country skiing, and mountain climbing with gear.

RESIDENT AND NONRESIDENT DEMAND

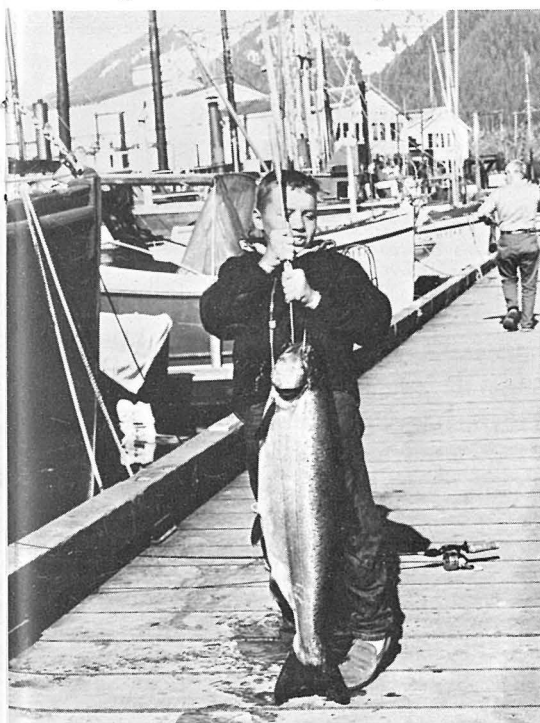
Many outdoor recreation activities are about equally popular among residents and nonresidents because of their common interest in the State's natural environment. However, as Exhibit C shows, there are slight variations in the ranking of activities, and significant variations in the frequency of participation.

For residents, the four most popular activities, in order, are trail-related activities, picnicking, sightseeing, and driving for pleasure. For nonresidents, they are sightseeing, and driving for pleasure, trail-related activities, and camping.

Residents are the dominant participators in nearly all activities except sightseeing and camping, where larger percentages of nonresidents participate. The high volume of nonresident sightseeing, of course, stems from the well-documented facts that is by far the most popular outdoor activity for visitors, and that Alaska's scenic beauty is the principal attraction for vacationing tourists. In the case of camping, roadway access to developed campgrounds results in heavy use by nonresidents, especially since camping is an easy and inexpensive way for tourists to visit Alaska. This popularity of developed area camping among nonresidents is further substantiated by a recent campsite survey, conducted by the Parks and Recreation Section of Alaska's Division of Lands, which indicated that more than 40 per cent of all vehicles observed at Alaskan campsites had out-of-state registrations.

The principal reason for the substantial differences in the total annual participation days is, of course, the typically short stays of nonresidents. However, these lower figures for nonresidents are also due in part to the characteristics of a large group of Alaskan visitors: many are senior citizens who generally do not participate in the more rigorous forms of recreation. Nevertheless, the projected rate of growth in tourism is expected to alter this relationship substantially in future years, and nonresidents are expected to account for an ever-growing portion of the total demand for outdoor recreation in Alaska.

King Salmon catch at Petersburg



Nome snowmobile race



Ferry service on Prince William Sound



A significant characteristic of nonresident participation (not shown on Exhibit C) is the regional distribution. Most of Alaska's visitors spend their time in Southeastern, South Central and Interior Regions, where most of Alaska's people live and where the public systems of transportation are more fully developed. It is estimated that 78 per cent of all tourists visit South Central Alaska, 62 per cent visit the Interior Region, and 58 per cent go to Southeastern Alaska. The outlying regions (Southwestern and Northwestern Alaska) receive only 11 per cent and 20 per cent, respectively.

EXHIBIT C

**COMPARISON
OF RESIDENT
AND
NONRESIDENT
PARTICIPATION
IN OUTDOOR
RECREATION
ACTIVITIES**

(a)

Activity	Per Cent Participating	Annual Participation Days Per Resident Or Nonresident	Total Annual Participation Days
Trail-Related Activities			
Residents	87%	60.1	16,664,000
Nonresidents(b)	71	2.1	182,000
Sightseeing			
Residents	73	20.9	5,798,000
Nonresidents	97	9.7	841,000
Driving For Pleasure			
Residents	73	23.6	6,548,000
Nonresidents	74	3.8	329,000
Picnicking			
Residents	80	11.8	3,266,000
Nonresidents	41	2.1	182,000
Fishing			
Residents	64	10.1	3,069,000
Nonresidents	32	1.3	113,000
Boating			
Residents	54	8.0	2,218,000
Nonresidents	27	0.5	44,000
Camping			
Residents	43	4.9	1,349,000
Nonresidents	47	4.6	398,000
Swimming			
Residents	43	6.4	1,771,000
Nonresidents	3	0.1	9,000
Hunting			
Residents	40	6.4	1,786,000
Nonresidents (c)	6	0.2	51,000

(a) Based upon 277,906 residents and 87,000 nonresidents.

(b) "Walking for pleasure" only; no other data available.

(c) Estimated on the basis of nonresident hunting licenses.



Skindiving in Southeastern Alaska



Alpine skiing in Southcentral Alaska



Ice fishing in Northwestern Alaska

REGIONAL DIFFERENCES IN RESIDENT DEMAND

Because of Alaska's size and the uneven population dispersion throughout the State, differences between regions in the volume of resident outdoor recreation participation are to be expected. However, these differences, shown in Exhibit D, are much greater than can be explained by the population dispersion alone.

For example, Southwestern and Northwestern Alaska have an abundance of fish and game, as well as untouched scenic beauty, and the people of these regions lead a way of life that is related closely to the natural environment, with hunting and fishing as their major means of subsistence. Southwestern Alaska has both the highest proportion of the population participating and the highest average frequency of participation in trail-related activities, fishing, boating, and hunting. Northwestern Alaska ranks second or third on the same activities except for fishing, because fish are somewhat less plentiful in this region. On the other hand, for such urban-oriented activities as outdoor games and sports, swimming, and driving for pleasure, both of these regions generally rank low, as might be expected from the substantially different mode of living characteristic of their residents.

The larger, more urban populations of South Central and Interior Alaska have outdoor recreational demands more closely resembling those found in the balance of the United States. In these regions, significantly lower percentages of the population participate in such activities as fishing, boating and hunting, and much higher frequencies and percentages are found for such activities as driving for pleasure, picnicking, sightseeing, and outdoor games and sports. As a result of this facility-oriented demand, the crowding in many parts of these two regions during the peak summer months approaches that found in campgrounds in the states to the south.

Outdoor recreational demand in Southeastern Alaska is somewhat of a mixture, falling between the facility-oriented demand of South Central and Interior Alaska and the natural environment orientation of Southwestern and Northwestern Alaska. Southeastern Alaska ranks first in the State, in terms of both proportion of the population participating and frequency of participation, in such activities as picnicking, sightseeing, driving for pleasure, and outdoor games and sports. On the other hand, it ranks second in the State, right behind Southwestern Alaska, in both of these measures for fishing and boating - apparently reflecting a comparative advantage in these two activities as a result of the extensive inland waterways of the region. Southeastern Alaska ranked lowest in the State in participation in hunting and camping, further indicating that this region is distinctly different not only from the sparsely populated bush but also from the urban-oriented Interior and South Central Regions.

RECREATION PARTICIPATION BY ACTIVITY AND REGION

1967

(Average Annual Participation Days Per Capita)

Activity	Southeastern	South Central	Southwestern	Interior	Northwestern	Statewide
Trail-Related Activities	80.9	46.6	111.2	42.0	89.3	60.1
Sightseeing	35.6	19.5	22.3	10.6	23.0	20.9
Driving For Pleasure	35.5	27.0	23.8	14.7	13.4	23.6
Picnicking	16.1	11.7	7.5	11.4	8.5	11.8
Fishing	13.4	10.8	18.1	6.0	10.0	10.1
Boating	11.4	5.7	20.9	3.8	8.9	8.0
Camping	3.2	5.3	6.0	4.1	5.8	4.9
Swimming	8.8	6.1	5.5	6.0	4.7	6.4
Hunting	4.6	5.8	13.3	4.9	10.0	6.4
Outdoor Games And Sports	7.9	6.0	4.0	6.1	3.6	6.0
Ice Skating	1.5	2.7	5.6	0.8	2.7	2.5
Snow Play	1.4	2.0	2.6	1.2	4.9	2.0
Flying For Pleasure	1.5	1.4	5.3	1.5	1.4	1.8
Alpine Skiing	0.7	1.5	0.6	1.8	1.5	1.3

FORECAST DEMAND AND ADDITIONAL FACILITIES NEEDED

Probably as a direct result of the outstanding quality of Alaska's environment for outdoor recreation, participation in most of the popular activities already exceeds the capacity of the facilities currently available - and, as participation in outdoor recreation rises in the coming years, the pressure on these facilities is expected to mount more and more rapidly. Therefore, identifying the magnitude of growth in demand and the need for additional facilities is a mandatory first step in preparing a dynamic plan for outdoor recreation in Alaska. In addition, special needs must be identified, such as those of the handicapped and of residents in small communities, as well as the critical need for easier access to many recreation areas.

FORECAST DEMAND

With substantial future increases expected in resident population, tourist visits, and per capita rates of participation (due to rising incomes, additional leisure time and improved mobility), outdoor recreation demand is forecast to increase at a startling rate, as shown in Exhibit E. As can be seen from the exhibit, total annual demand by the year 2000 for each of the 14 major activities will have risen to level one-and-one-half to four times greater than the 1967 demand. These forecast levels are based largely on expectation that the resident population will more than double between 1967 and the year 2000, and there will be nearly a sevenfold increase in the number of tourists. Also, participation is expected to be stimulated by improved access to some of the more remote areas.

Throughout this period of growth, most activities are projected as retaining their present relative popularity, except that camping will move up to the fifth most popular activity by the year 2000, largely because of substantial increases in tourist camping.



ADDITIONAL FACILITIES NEEDED BY 1975

This forecast demand indicates that many additions to the present supply of outdoor recreation will be required during the coming years. Most pressing, of course, are the needs of the immediate future. To determine the quantity of additional facilities needed by 1975 for each major activity, total facilities required to satisfy 1975 demand were first calculated. Obviously, certain activities, such as sightseeing or hunting, require only a minimum of facilities; therefore, no calculations were made for these activities. For other activities, such as picnicking or ice skating, not all of the participants desire formal facilities, and total demand was adjusted accordingly, so that the calculations would reflect the demands of those who will actually use formal facilities.

Comparison of existing facilities with the calculated total needs identified the additional numbers of units of a particular facility which must be constructed by 1975 to meet the forecast level of demand. Some of these needs will be met through construction already programmed (planned) by public and private organizations. For example, more than 1,550 miles of trail, 1,750 picnic units, 2,167 developed campsites, 9 holes of golf and 23 tennis courts are among the additions to present facilities pro-

FORECAST INCREASE IN TOTAL ANNUAL DEMAND(a) FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION ACTIVITIES

EXHIBIT E

(Per Cent Of 1967 Demand)

	Activity	1975	1980
Trail-Related Activities	129%	147%	249%
Sightseeing	146	175	385
Driving for Pleasure	136	162	335
Picnicking	132	162	235
Fishing	134	155	268
Boating	134	169	343
Camping	156	197	516
Swimming	138	167	344
Hunting	130	149	254
Outdoor Games And Sports	133	163	335
Ice Skating	127	147	243
Snow Play	129	147	241
Flying for Pleasure	125	147	300
Alpine Skiing	137	180	361

(a) In total annual participation days.

rammed through 1975. Despite these additions, however, there is a significant level of demand for which no facilities will exist. Exhibit F depicts in graphic form this net deficiency in facilities for those activities for which the planning of facilities is possible. Net deficiencies in facilities for individual activities are discussed briefly below.

Trail-Related Activities

Participation in all trail-related activities is expected to increase markedly over the next years, maintaining the rank of this group as the most popular form of recreational activity in the State. The following table shows the existing miles of trail, and the additional miles by 1975, for those activities which would be enhanced by the availability of formal trails:

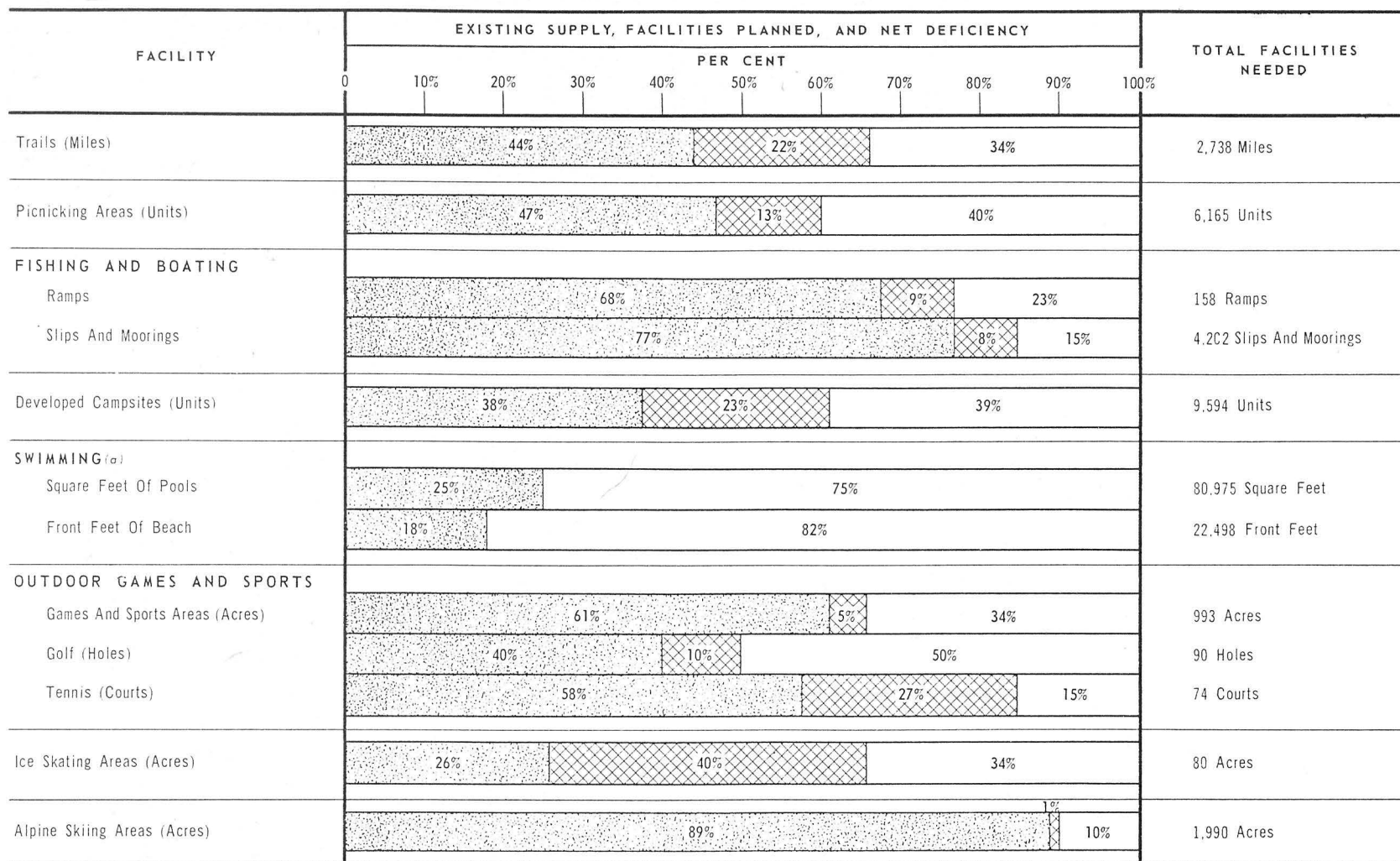
	Present Miles Of Formal Trail	Additional Miles Required
Bicycle Paths	4	257
Hiking Trails	761	516
Snowmobile Trails	359	317
Canoe Trails	399	227
Horseback Riding Trails	111	200
Cross-Country Skiing Trails	317	21
Total		1,538

The total miles of trail actually needed will be less than the sum of the "additional miles required" column because a single mile of trail can be used for several different trail-related activities (for example, cross-country skiing, hiking, and horseback riding, or snowmobiling and motorcycling).

Bicycling and hiking are becoming increasingly popular in the State, and it is estimated that increased demand for these activities by 1975 will call for at least 256 additional miles of bicycle paths (mostly close to urban areas) and 616 miles of hiking trails for those participants who desire formal facilities. Similarly, the popularity of snowmobiling is expected to continue to grow, requiring by 1975 approximately 88 additional miles of formally marked snowmobile trail - preferably located at some distance from crowded residential areas where the noise of the machines would be unpleasant. Canoeing, horseback riding and cross-country skiing are more specialized activities, and therefore will require only modest increases in supply to satisfy participants who desire formal trails.



RELATIONSHIP OF EXISTING AND PROGRAMMED SUPPLIES TO TOTAL NEEDS FOR FACILITIES BY 1975



NOTE: Length of bar represents total facilities needed (shown at right) to satisfy expected 1975 demand for each type of facility. Each bar is subdivided into three categories:

- Existing Supply Of Facilities
- Programmed Or Planned Facilities
- Net Deficiencies Or Additional Facilities Needed.

(a) No additional pools, and only 75 front feet of beach, are programmed for construction through 1975.

Picnicking

Heavy participation in picnicking occurs throughout the State, in part because picnics are often combined with other forms of recreational activity, such as fishing, sightseeing or nature study. To meet the substantial increase in demand which is projected, the number of picnic sites in Alaska should be nearly doubled by 1975, with approximately 2,487 additional units required. Picnicking facilities appear to be in shortest supply (both now, and as projected for 1975) in Southeastern and Interior Alaska, where the level of demand is particularly high. In addition to the mere provision of tables, most participants surveyed indicated a desire for drinking water, rain shelters, firewood and rest rooms nearby, as well as access to other activities such as hiking to enhance their outdoor experience.

Fishing And Boating

The biggest constraint on participation in these activities will be the relative shortage of roadway access and launching ramps. Accordingly, the State's 107 launching ramps and 3,221 slips and moorings, along with programmed additions, will be insufficient to meet the needs of those residents and visitors who will desire to use such facilities in 1975. The greatest needs for additional facilities are in Southeastern and South Central Alaska.

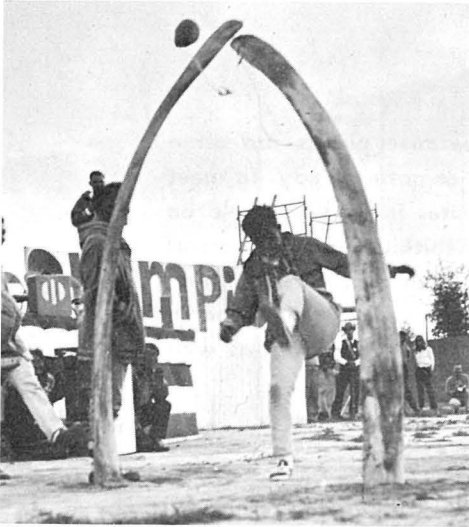
Developed Campsites

At least 3,800 developed campsites beyond those already programmed, or the equivalent in cabins or group camping areas, will be required by 1975 to meet the increasing demand for this popular activity. This need is particularly important because of its implications for tourism (and consequently that part of the Alaskan economy which is dependent on tourism), since many of the tourists who travel to Alaska by car desire to camp. Moreover, the need for facilities for this activity is closely correlated with needs for other activities, such as hiking, fishing and boating, since most of the campers surveyed indicated that they wished to participate in such activities near the campsite. South Central and Interior Alaska are the regions with the greatest need for developed campsites, because of the heavy utilization of camping facilities in these regions by both residents and visitors.

Swimming

One of Alaska's greatest shortages in facilities for outdoor recreation is in those associated with swimming. An estimated 12 additional pools are needed. Outdoor/indoor pools are suggested to ensure year-round usage, particularly during the long winter. Similarly, there is a need for a substantial increase





Eskimo high kick



Community ski slope scene



Ice Hockey

in developed beach areas - on the ocean, and at lakes, ponds and streams. Since most participation in this activity occurs near the participant's home, these beach developments should be located close to communities.

Outdoor Games And Sports

The addition of more than 300 acres of games and sports areas, plus 45 holes of golf and 11 tennis courts, will be required by 1975 to satisfy the increasing demand for these activities. The greatest need for games and sports acreage is in South Central Alaska, representing more than half of the total need. In addition there is a substantial shortage of such areas in the bush regions of Southwestern and Northwestern Alaska, as well as shortages of golf courses in South Central and Interior Alaska, and (to a lesser extent) in Southeastern Alaska. Because of the wide population dispersion in the remaining two regions, however, golf courses are not deemed feasible at this time. Tennis court shortages are largely in Southeastern and Southwestern Alaska.

Ice Skating

For this activity, Alaska has a tremendous advantage in natural environment. While much of the participation occurs informally on streams or ponds, facilities such as speed skating rinks, parking areas and warm-up huts would enhance the enjoyment of this activity for many participants. The major need for additional facilities is in Southwestern Alaska, where demand far exceeds the supply of huts and rinks. Southeastern, Northwestern and Interior Alaska also require facilities, but in significantly smaller quantities, while the present and planned acreage in South Central Alaska is considered adequate to handle demand through 1975.

Alpine Skiing

A substantial outlay will be required by 1975 to provide additional acreage of developed ski area around the State. More than one-third of the total requirement for 226 acres should be located in South Central Alaska to alleviate crowding on some of the facilities there, and the balance should be spread more or less evenly throughout Southeastern, Southwestern and Northwestern Alaska. The Interior Region is assumed to have adequate facilities for demand through 1975.

AREAS OF SPECIAL NEED

In addition to deficiencies in facilities for specific activities, as noted above, there are a number of other, more qualitative needs requiring attention over the coming years. Some of the more prominent ones are discussed below.

Recreation In Alaska's Cities And Boroughs

Additional outdoor recreation space and facilities in boroughs and cities are greatly needed, because the largest proportion of demand for outdoor recreation occurs close to people's homes and schools. Unfortunately, the only serious shortage of public lands available for recreation in Alaska is in the urban areas, where most lands are privately owned. The lack of facilities for recreation also is most acute in the urban areas, because most local governments, with their characteristic shortage of funds for social purposes, have not assumed responsibility for recreation programs.

Only two of Alaska's 10 boroughs now have the legal authority to acquire space and develop facilities for outdoor recreation, but all first- and second- class boroughs can begin to meet future park and open space needs as a part of their planning and zoning function. Furthermore, boroughs can preserve lands for public purposes, including recreation, by selecting up to 10 percent of the State lands within their boundaries, and by flood plain zoning, which limits development in areas susceptible to flooding.

The acquisition, development, and management of recreation areas in conjunction with schools represents another economical approach to providing recreation opportunities within urban areas - and an approach which will become increasingly important as urban living grows more congested and mechanized. Because recreation can be an important part of an educational program, cooperation between school and park agencies is appropriate. Natural areas, winter sports areas and playing fields adjacent to schools can serve as outdoor classrooms during the weekdays and as parks for the entire community in the evenings and on weekends.

Furthermore, land for park/school complexes acquired in advance of urban growth will ensure that recreational and educational opportunities are provided close to where people live, and that a well-distributed system of large natural areas will prevent monotonous urban sprawl from becoming a feature of the Alaskan landscape.

Fairbanks



Anchorage



Juneau





Blanket toss



Eskimo dance

Special Recreation Needs Of Smaller Communities

At present, almost no recreation areas or facilities are provided in the approximately 200 rural communities of Alaska. Because of the small populations involved, these outlying areas frequently do not receive adequate attention in the political allocation of funds for recreational development. Furthermore, according to the Alaska Statutes, second-, third-, and fourth-class cities do not now have the legal

In planning to meet the needs of these smaller communities, special attention will have to be paid to their unique requirements. Many residents of these communities have altogether different modes of living and culture than the residents of the larger urban centers such as Juneau, Fairbanks or Anchorage. There are opportunities in some areas to help rural residents develop skills and secure employment in the rapidly growing recreation and tourism industry. Training programs are badly needed to help Alaskan villagers become managers of tourist facilities, interpreters of the Indian, Eskimo and Aleut cultures, and guides for the growing numbers of resident and nonresident hunters and fishermen.

At the same time, many of the recreation needs of rural community inhabitants, particularly the school children, are similar to those of their counterparts in urban communities. Playgrounds and winter sports areas are needed adjacent to schools and thereby near the homes of most village residents.

Improvements in Roadways And Other Forms Of Access

The provision of additional and improved access to more of Alaska's vast land area is seen by many as the most fundamental recreational need, for it is ironic that the nation's largest State, with such an abundance of recreational resources and a small population, should frequently experience crowding on a par with comparable areas in more densely populated states. Facilities are needed to provide new access routes by land, water, and air.

The high cost of building and maintaining roadways in Alaska is a major problem. While the need for improved recreational access is already substantial and will continue to grow, costs will tend to constrain the development of highways to opportunities for roads that can be made to serve a number of purposes in addition to recreation, such as improved connection between population centers or the opening of areas to commerce, through the construction of engineered but unpaved development roads.



Road to proposed Captain Cook State Park



Trail on the Kenai National Moose Range



Boat launching facility at Mirror Lake

Development roads as a means of recreation access will be successful only where commercial and recreational activities are compatible, or where zoning is used to separate incompatible land uses. Outdoor recreation needs should be considered in the location and design of all new highways, so that, along with other uses, the roads can give the hunter or fisherman access to good game and fishing areas and provide protected scenic views for the pleasure driver.

Additional boat launching ramps, small boat harbors, and enlargement of the marine highway system would result in greater utilization of the recreation opportunities offered by Alaska's saltwater sounds and fiords, and its freshwater lakes and streams. The construction of remote airplane landing strips would provide access to areas not on the water and highway routes, and would serve a population which makes extraordinary use of air transportation.

Trails And Trail Markers

The analysis of recreation needs indicates a major need for trail development in Alaska, particularly in view of the high cost of other means of access. Trail-related activities (including canoeing) also constitute by far the most popular form of recreation in the State, and a strong system of trails would provide not only trail recreation (such as hiking and horseback riding) but also badly needed access to remote areas for other recreational pursuits (such as camping, fishing and hunting).

Because of the importance of trails as both a form of access and a facility for several recreation activities, it is hoped that the planned study of potential National Scenic Trails (in accordance with the provisions of the National Trails System Act) will be conducted as early as possible. Moreover, consideration should be given at the State and local government levels to the development of additional trail systems, building upon the National Trails System concept, to provide a complete system of Alaskan trails. Such a system might feature interesting and colorful trails which permit one to "Hike From The Gulf Of Alaska To The Arctic Ocean," and should also pay particular attention to the development of trail systems which provide a wide range of recreational opportunities within and near communities, where most of the demand for trail-related activities occurs.

A closely related need is for the development of a uniform system of trail markers or symbols which can be used to mark all trails in Alaska. Common markers or symbols would be important particularly

for those trails which cross lands owned or administered by more than one government agency, and symbols depicting the types of use permitted on a trail would be a means of separating incompatible trail-related activities.

Youth Conservation Corps

While this plan was being prepared, the suggestion was made a number of times that a Youth Conservation Corps be created in Alaska, as an organization not unlike the CCC of the depression era. Such an organization would meet two very important needs:

The provision of training and employment for many young people while contributing to enhancement of the State's natural environment.

The development and maintenance of at least some of the present and future recreational areas and facilities.

This suggestion deserves special study at the State level, to determine its feasibility and to establish preliminary guidelines concerning such matters as age requirements, eligibility, compensation, discipline, and location.

This special study probably should be conducted by a task force appointed by the Governor, and the first area to be examined might well be parallel proposals at the Federal level. Preliminary discussions of this concept with people interviewed as a part of the planning process have elicited highly favorable reactions. In particular, such a Corps could be of substantial help in the maintenance of recreational facilities - a function chronically hard to finance.





Brooks River in Katmai National Monument



Needs Of The Handicapped

Providing recreational benefits to people with mental and physical disabilities is also of major importance in Alaska. Handicapped people, though limited in some pursuits, have basically the same needs and desires for recreational opportunities as able-bodied persons.

At present, only one camp, located at Kings Lake, exists to serve the needs of the handicapped in Alaska. Handicapped people, though limited in some pursuits, have basically the same needs and desires for recreational opportunities as able-bodied persons.

At present, only one camp, located at Kings Lake, exists to serve the needs of the handicapped children during several weeks each year. The Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department also provides a valuable service to the handicapped by running a special arts and crafts program, and a number of State and Federal agencies design their facilities with the needs of these people in mind.

However, there is need for more attention to this area. Whenever practical, the design of recreation areas and facilities should take into account the needs of the handicapped - for example, by providing wide doorways and ramps adjacent to steps, and by designing recreation complexes to avoid requiring people to cross vehicular traffic in getting from one part of the complex to another. Special facilities designed specifically for the handicapped should also be developed, such as:

- Fishing piers
- Archery and rifle ranges
- Swimming areas
- Canoeing and sailing
- Short trails
- Parks with scenic views and benches.

These special facilities should be located close to urban areas, where most handicapped people live, whenever possible.

Historic Preservation

Much of the evidence and flavor of Alaska's colorful history is being lost year by year with the passage of time and as the result of the actions of a few who see opportunities to profit from collecting and selling artifacts and curios relating to Alaska's history, or from developing areas in ways which destroy their historic significance. There is a strong need for a great deal of work in the area of historic preservation, to take an inventory of present and potential historic areas and sites, and to develop a Statewide program for historic preservation.

While Alaska has adopted regulations covering the designation, use and excavation of historic and archeological sites, there is a strong feeling in many quarters that additional action must be taken in the near future to preserve such sites before general thoughtlessness or economic development impairs their worth.

The State's Department of Natural Resources, Division of Museums, the Alaska Historical Society, and the History Departments of the University of Alaska and Alaska Methodist University could provide invaluable service in helping to inventory existing and potential historical areas for future action, and in developing a plan of action for the day when additional Federal or State funds may be available.



Russian Church at Ninilchik



Baranof Castle overlooking Sitka Harbor

Wilderness Conservation In Alaska

The subject of preserving wilderness is fundamental to planning for recreation and conservation in Alaska. This issue is quite a heated one, with conservation groups both within and outside Alaska militating for quick action to preserve lands while others, more inclined to a development viewpoint, cannot abide a conservation philosophy which prevents economic exploitation of what may prove to be highly productive portions of the State's primitive areas.

Thus, it is clear that studies of potential Wilderness Areas should be conducted and completed as soon as possible, in order to identify the truly wild areas that should be preserved and protected before the pace of development forecloses the opportunity. These areas, if they can be retained, will see increasing use by residents, and will attract growing numbers of nonresidents as the scarcity of primitive and natural environment areas in other parts of the country makes them increasingly valuable.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACHIEVING ALASKA'S OUTDOOR RECREATION POTENTIAL

This final section of the summary of Alaska's Outdoor Recreation Plan presents a review of specific recommendations designed to ensure successful development of Alaska's outdoor recreation resources. Adoption of these recommendations is vital to the protection of the State's natural environment, and to satisfaction of the increasing demand for outdoor recreation in Alaska.

The State Administration Should Adopt A Position Of Strong Leadership In Matters Affecting Recreation And Conservation In Alaska

Alaska occupies a unique position as America's last frontier, with an environment unusually well suited to outdoor recreation. The State Government should become the leader in preserving the State's rich natural resources and developing this outdoor recreation potential. Recent major discoveries of oil in the Prudhoe Bay area offer tremendous prospects for financial return to the State on a scale not believed possible a few years ago. This newly found affluence can help to remove some of the budgetary constraints which have operated on the State in the past, and can aid Alaska in developing its invaluable natural environment while ensuring compatible economic development.

With imaginative leadership, Alaska should be able to channel substantial portions of its prospective revenues into the development of its recreational resources and the tourism industry. This approach will:

- Represent an unusually rewarding form of investment, with returns over a nearly infinite period as resources are enhanced rather than depleted.

- Help the State diversify its economic base, so that it is less heavily dependent upon resource-extractive industries and the Federal Government.

- Help to create additional employment opportunities in many parts of the State, through the stimulation of an industry which is highly labor-intensive.

- Support the development of an industry and a form of economic development highly compatible with Alaska's natural environment.

Alaska also has an unparalleled opportunity to be selective in its economic development, and to establish foresighted policies, legislation, and regulations concerning its natural environment. It is in position to:

- Enact and enforce strong legislation relating to all forms of environmental pollution.

Consider recreation and esthetic factors in the development of other resources.

Provide incentives (such as tax breaks) to industries in the State that will encourage them to invest in, and manage, the State's resources in the long-term best interests of the total population.

Enact programs to clean up blighted areas and eyesores, such as abandoned automobile bodies left along the roadways and the oil drums, garbage and other litter found in some parts of the State.

Promote the continued expansion of the State's highway system in a manner compatible with recreation and conservation interests, while opening up more of the State's attractions and land area for recreational opportunities for both residents and visitors.

Consider seriously the feasibility and desirability of a State Youth Conservation Corps which might

Help to develop and maintain needed recreational areas and facilities throughout the State.

Provide meaningful training and employment for many of the State's younger residents.

Develop an interesting and colorful Statewide system of trails, combining urban recreation trails with access to more remote areas as a part of a single State Trails System.

Consider reorganization of elements of the State structure to reflect the rapidly growing importance of tourism and recreation.

Encourage appreciation of many natural wonders of Alaska through an imaginative environmental education program in the State's schools, and through public displays sponsored by outdoor recreation-related agencies.

Matanuska Valley



Skilak Lake



Mt. McKinley



It must be noted once again, however, that realization of these unusual opportunities for the combination of recreation and conservation planning with compatible economic development depends heavily upon strong, committed leadership from the State Government. Without such commitment, Alaska may well lose by default its present outstanding advantages.

The Finest Features Of The Alaskan Environment And Potential Recreation Areas Should Be Identified And Preserved As Part Of A Comprehensive Land Use Planning Procedure

The preservation of Alaska's finest natural attributes for present and future generations is fundamental to realization of the State's tremendous recreation potential. Studies of potential wilderness areas, rivers, trails, and natural and historic landmarks now under way or planned by Federal Government agencies should be encouraged at all levels of government, and completed as promptly as possible, with appropriate recommendations for Congressional, State legislative, and local government action.

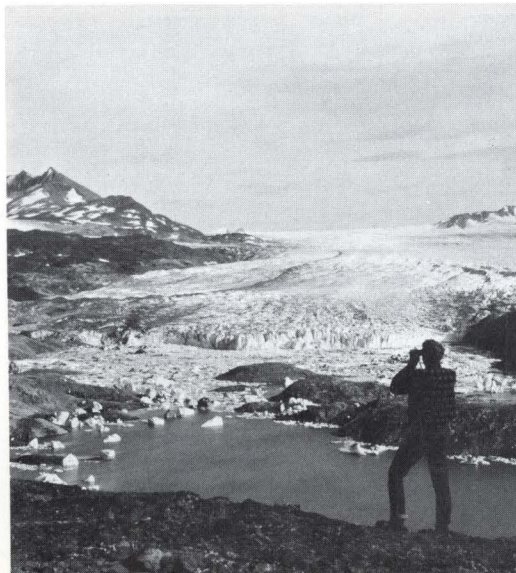
The identification and preservation of Alaska's recreation resources should be coordinated with the identification and evaluation of the many other types of resources. Knowledge about the quality and location of the resource is essential to realizing its full potential, whether it be mineral or recreational. When results of the various current surveys, ranging from "remote sensing" of mineral resources to wilderness studies, are available, wise land classification decisions can be made.

The principal objective should be to identify and protect those resources which could be irretrievably lost through adverse development of the land. Subsequent action could release protected lands for needed developments, but it would be impossible or exorbitantly expensive to transform most types of developed land into natural areas.

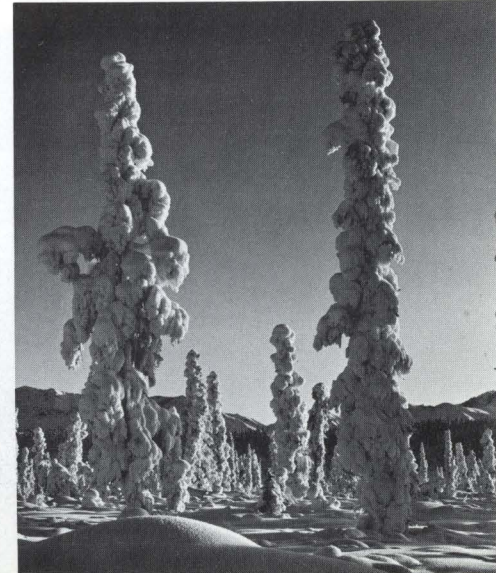
Great Horned Owls



Tustumena Glacier



Gulkana Basin



Federal, State, Local, Quasi-Public And Private Agencies Should Invest In A \$35 Million To \$45 Million Program To Meet Alaska's Major Recreational Needs

Substantial growth in both resident and nonresident recreational demand, combined with present deficiencies in facilities for many activities, point to the need for an ambitious program of recreational development in Alaska over the coming five years. Statewide, the greatest needs (in order of cost) are for developed campsites, trails for various purposes (hiking, snowmobiling, canoeing, etc.), and swimming pools and beaches. In addition, above average Statewide deficits (that is, high percentages of unsatisfied demand) will exist for ice skating areas and golf courses. The cost of providing the additional developed areas and facilities needed by 1975 for the major outdoor recreation activities will be approximately \$38 million, of which an estimated 15 per cent will be for land acquisition.

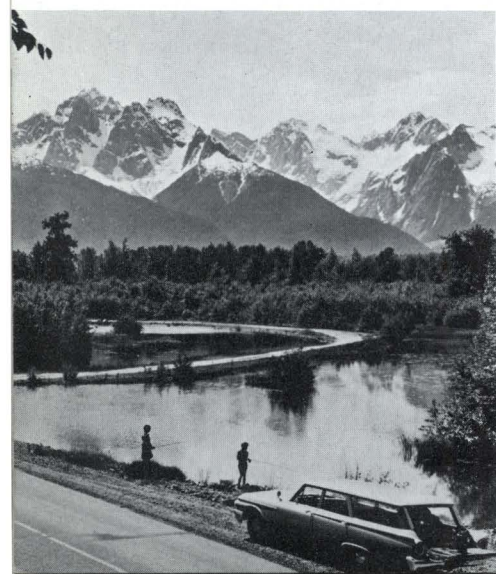
The major needs by region (without allowing for currently planned facilities) are as follows:

Southeastern, approximately \$7.3 million, with the greatest expenditures needed for swimming pools and beaches, picnicking areas, launching ramps, slips and moorings for boating, and trails; and with early provision to be made for ice skating areas, a golf course, tennis courts, and developed alpine skiing areas, for which above-average deficits are projected.

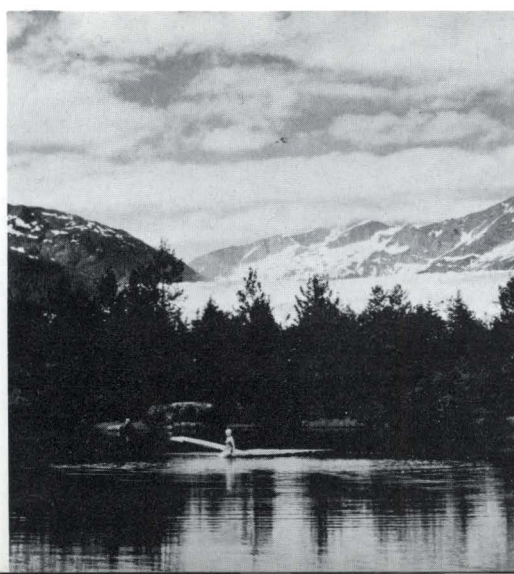
South Central, approximately \$17.8 million, with the greatest expenditures needed for developed campsites, trails, swimming pools and beaches, and outdoor games and sports areas; and with early provision to be made for tennis courts, ice skating areas, and golf courses, for which above-average deficits are projected.

Southwestern, approximately \$4.0 million, with the greatest expenditures needed for developed campsites, trails, outdoor games and sports areas, and swimming beaches; and with early provision to be made for tennis courts, ice skating areas, developed alpine skiing areas, and boat launching ramps, for which above-average deficits are projected.

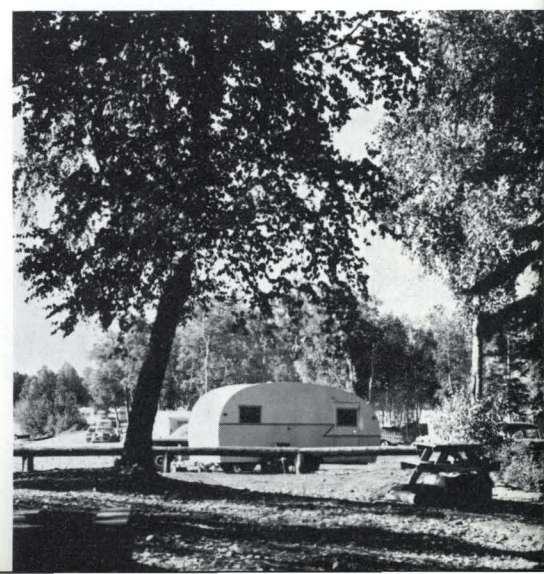
Fishing near Haines



Swimming by the Mendenhall Glacier



Camping at Finger Lake



Interior, approximately \$6.2 million, with the greatest expenditures needed for developed campsites, trails, picnicking areas, and swimming pools and beaches; and with early provision to be made for a golf course, for which an above-average deficit is projected.

Northwestern, approximately \$2.7 million, with the greatest expenditures needed for swimming beaches, trails, developed campsites, developed alpine skiing areas, and outdoor games and sports areas; and with early provision to be made for ice skating areas and boat launching ramps, for which above-average deficits are projected.

Exhibit G delineates the boundaries of the geographic regions.

In addition to the total of \$38.0 million needed for developed areas and facilities (less whatever savings may be achieved through multiactivity and multiseason use): \$4.5 million will be needed for the acquisition of urban natural areas; \$0.5 million to \$1.5 million should be spent for improvements benefiting outdoor recreation activities with lower participation rates; roughly \$2.0 million should be allocated for the special needs and studies recommended in this Plan; and \$0.5 million will have to be spent for master plans for parks and recreation areas.

All Levels Of Government In Alaska Should Place Special Emphasis On Meeting Recreational Needs In And Near Cities And Villages

Because Alaska's residents tend to have a natural orientation toward recreation, some of the State's greatest recreational needs and deficiencies exist in and near populated areas. In outlying communities, particularly in Northwestern and Southwestern Alaska, there are serious shortages of recreational opportunities, with no prospects for change in the immediate future. Playfields and winter sports areas are needed immediately, and a special study should be undertaken to identify and meet the needs of people in these communities. In the urban communities, similar pressing needs must be satisfied, and the necessary space should be dedicated or purchased while natural areas are still available.

High school cross country ski race



Drums along the Arctic



RECREATION DEVELOPMENT
INVESTMENT REQUIRED
BY 1975

50 0 50 100 150

V NORTHWESTERN
REGION
(\$ 2.7 million)

IV INTERIOR REGION
(\$ 6.2 million)

II SOUTHCENTRAL
REGION
(\$17.8 million)

III SOUTHWESTERN
REGION
(\$ 4 million)

I SOUTHEASTERN
REGION
(\$ 7.3 million)

Legislation should be enacted to extend recreation powers to all classes of cities and boroughs, and parks and recreation programs should be established in all major communities. Valuable park and open space land, and recreational corridors such as trail rights-of-way, should be selected and acquired before the choicest areas have been lost, even if funds will not permit immediate development of recreational facilities.

In both small villages and large cities, it would be advantageous to develop some of the needed parks and open space areas as elements of school/community use of such areas would lead to maximum utilization while reducing total development and maintenance costs.

Because such large amounts of the additional recreation areas and facilities needed by 1975 are in urban and rural communities, the Federal and State levels of government should provide substantial financial assistance to local governments for parks and recreation purposes, by means of grants-in-aid and revenue-sharing programs.

The Newly Reorganized Alaska Outdoor Recreation Council Should Be Further Strengthened To Become The Clearinghouse For Outdoor Recreation Affairs In Alaska

At present, recreation responsibilities in Alaska are spread among a great many public and private agencies. The newly reorganized AORC, with its Executive Committee and regional or subregional councils, constitutes the kind of basic organizational structure that can provide the advisory, coordinating, and policy-making functions necessary for successful management of Alaska's recreation resources.

The advisory function should be performed through discussion by the full AORC membership of issues at the regional or subregional level, and through presentation of the resulting suggestions to the Statewide Executive Committee by the chairmen of the regional or subregional councils.

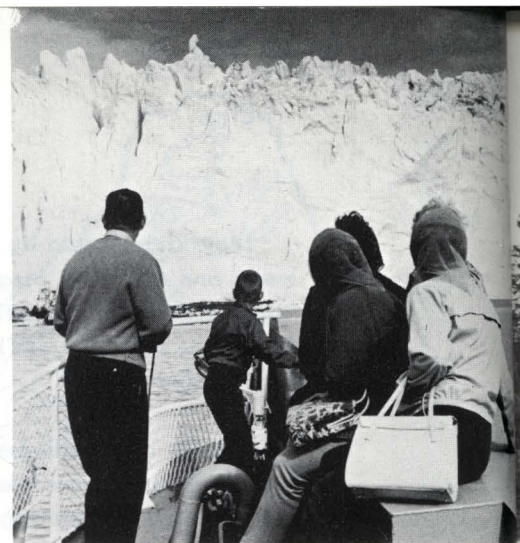
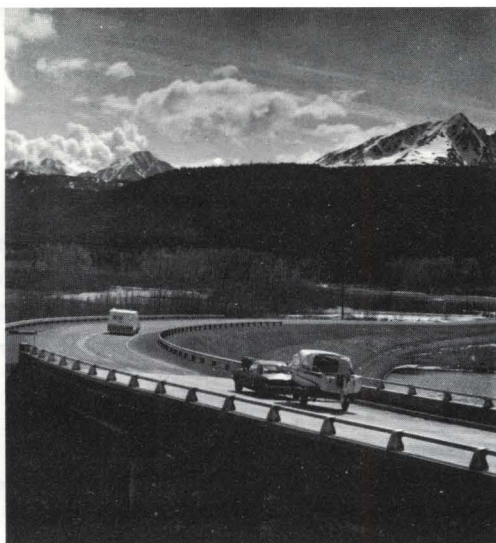
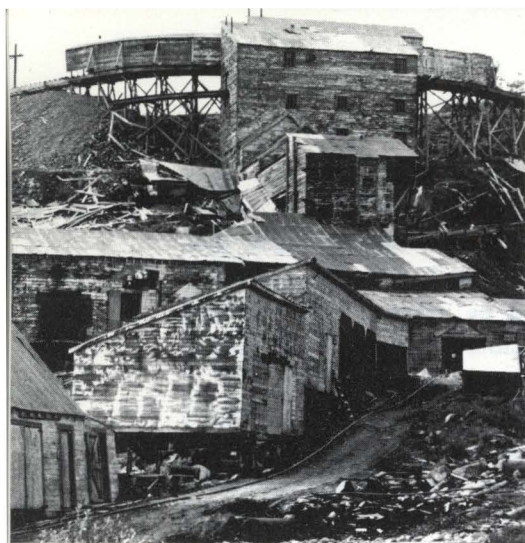
Coordination of the recreation projects of the various public agencies and private groups should be accomplished by the Executive Committee, which allocates responsibilities for satisfying Alaska's recreation needs and evaluates State and local government project proposals.

Sailing in the Gastinau Channel



Nature study in Katmai National Monument





The Executive Committee should formulate recreation resource policy concerning those issues for which the AORC is the appropriate decision-making body, and should forward recommendations concerning other recreation-related issues to the appropriate agencies. The recommendations in this Outdoor Recreation Plan should be presented by the Executive Committee to the appropriate Federal, State, and local government policy-making bodies for adoption or rejection.

The Alaska Outdoor Recreation Council is the means by which the State of Alaska can fulfill its pivotal role in the provision of outdoor recreation opportunities for present and future generations of Alaskan residents and visitors. Primary leadership in the organization is properly vested in the State Government, with appropriate representation from Federal and local government and the quasi-public and private groups involved in recreation.

Because this group will have the main responsibility for successful implementation of the Alaska Outdoor Recreation Plan, support and encouragement for it should be provided through:

Legislative recognition and sanction as the principal advisory, coordinating and policy-making body for recreation in Alaska.

Public support from the Office of the Governor.

Assignment to the State Parks and Recreation agency of the necessary additional staff to enable the Executive Committee to carry out its responsibilities for coordinating the efforts of recreation-related agencies.

Alaska's Systems Of Recreational Access Should Be Enlarged And Improved

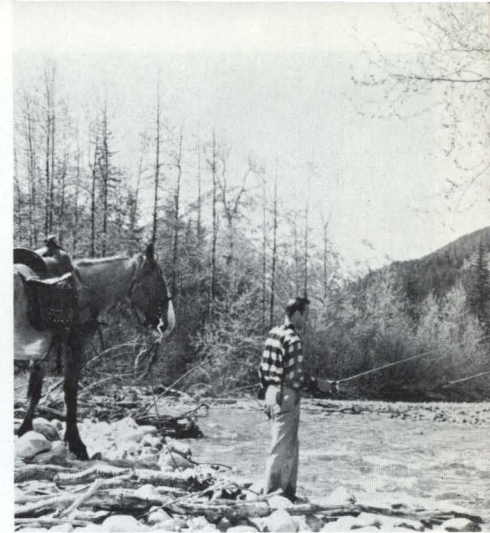
The shortage of adequate access to recreational areas, particularly in the form of roadways and trails, acts as a severe constraint on the use and enjoyment of most of Alaska's natural environment. At the same time, there are heavy recreation pressures on those areas that are currently accessible - pressures as high as those experienced in many other, more populous states. Accordingly, there is urgent need for additional roadways to open up more of the State's land area and attractions for recreational use. These additional roadways might take the form of development roads (engineered but unpaved). Recreational and esthetic considerations should be given high priority in the location and design of all new highways, and additional scenic turnouts, rest areas, and similar features should be provided along both existing and future highways.



Hunting access trail



Skiing in the Tongass National Forest



Fishing along the Chilkoot Trail

Trails, which provide not only recreation but also lower-cost access than roadways, are badly needed throughout Alaska, particularly in view of the finding that trail-related activities represent the most popular form of recreation in the State. The current study of potential National Trails should be completed as quickly as possible, because such trails would represent elements of an enlarged and improved system of trails and trail access, and the State should also develop an interesting and colorful Alaska Trails System to complement the Federal system and provide for recreation trails in both urban and remote areas. At the same time, a uniform system of trail markers should be developed for all trails in Alaska.

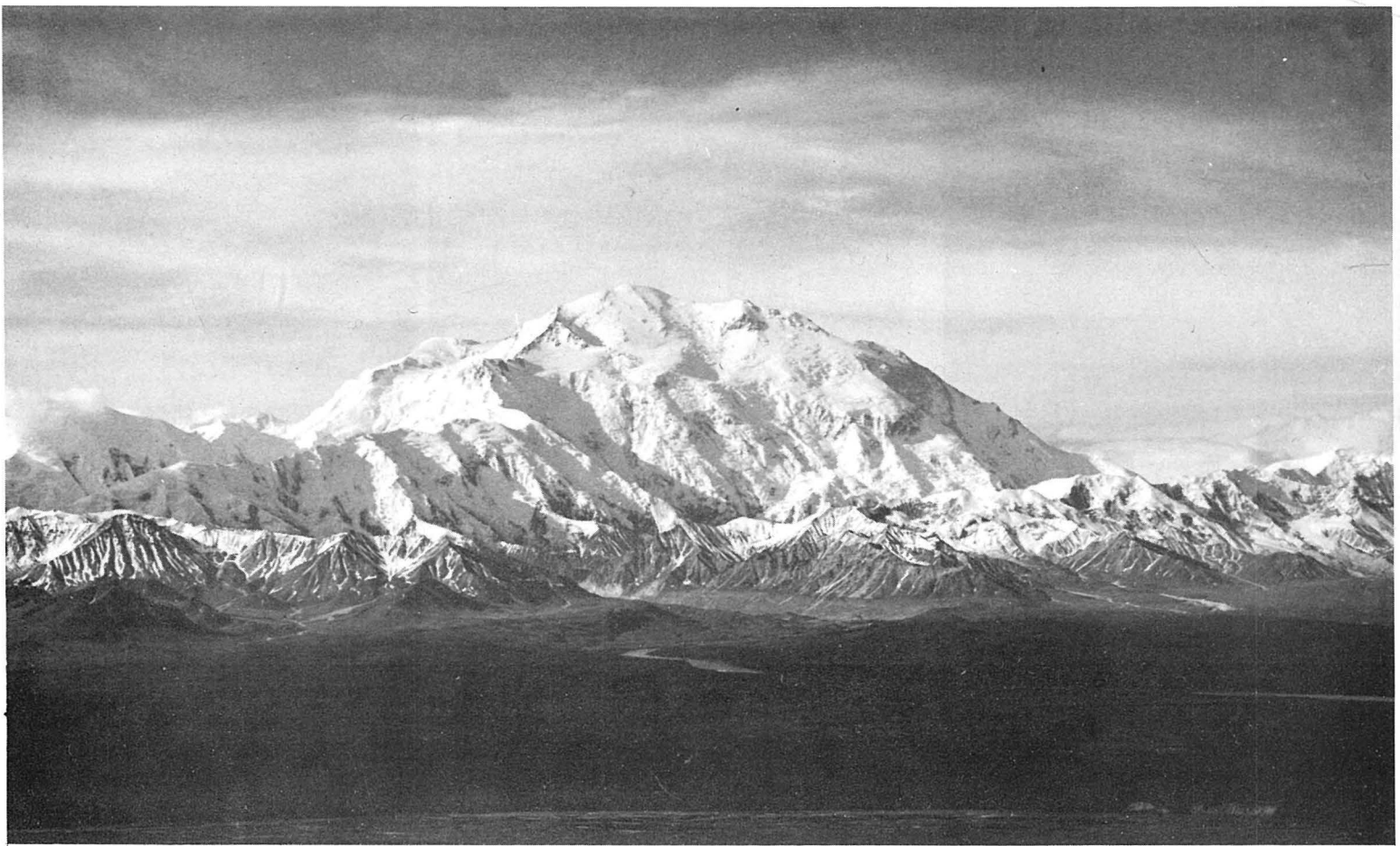
Remote airplane landing strips and boat launching sites are developments that can provide access to most areas of the State.

Provisions Of The Land And Water Conservation Fund Should Be Reviewed To Provide Even Greater Benefits To Alaska

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (L&WCF) has provided tremendous benefits to Alaska over the years since its creation. Many of the State's recent recreational developments, for example, would have been impossible without the special policy which permits Alaska to match appraised land value with Federal development dollars. However, Alaska's recreation needs through 1975 exceed the most optimistic estimates of the amount of L&WCF money available. The L&WCF matching program could be of greater benefit to Alaska if:

The amount of funds available for use by the states were increased.

The annual spending authority for the states could be predictably stabilized.



Mt. McKinley



Wrangell Mountains





5 6

CAPTIONS FOR THIS PAGE APPEAR ON INSIDE BACK COVER





CAPTIONS FOR THIS PAGE APPEAR ON INSIDE BACK COVER

7 8



VOLUME ONE COLOR PHOTOS

1. Skiers ride the chairlift on Mt. Alyeska prior to skiing above the clouds that form over the salt waters of Turnagain Arm and the valley floor.
2. Winter carnivals are major events in Alaska's rural communities.
3. Caribou migration in Northwestern Alaska.
4. Upper Russian Lake in the Chugach National Forest on the Kenai Peninsula is known for its fine fishing. Numerous float planes land on the lake, and a hiking trail leads to the lake from the Sterling Highway. A Forest Service Cabin is available for overnight stays by reservation.
5. Sightseers mingle with icebergs which have broken off the terminus of a glacier in Southeastern Alaska.
6. Knik Glacier in Southcentral Alaska sometimes dams the outflow of Lake George, Alaska's only dedicated national natural landmark. When the terminus of Knik Glacier advances, the river seen at the bottom of the photograph is blocked until the waters of Lake George, rising during the spring break up, overflow the glacier dam and a new channel is carved through the terminus of the glacier. At this time towers of ice crash into the water, sending spray high into the air.
7. The salt-water fiords of Prince William Sound, accessible through the port of Whittier, Alaska, are becoming a popular summer playground. Kayaks and small sail boats, as well as larger motor craft, make use of this area.
8. Snowmobiling by 20,320 foot high Mt. McKinley, North America's highest peak.

Photographs were provided by:

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