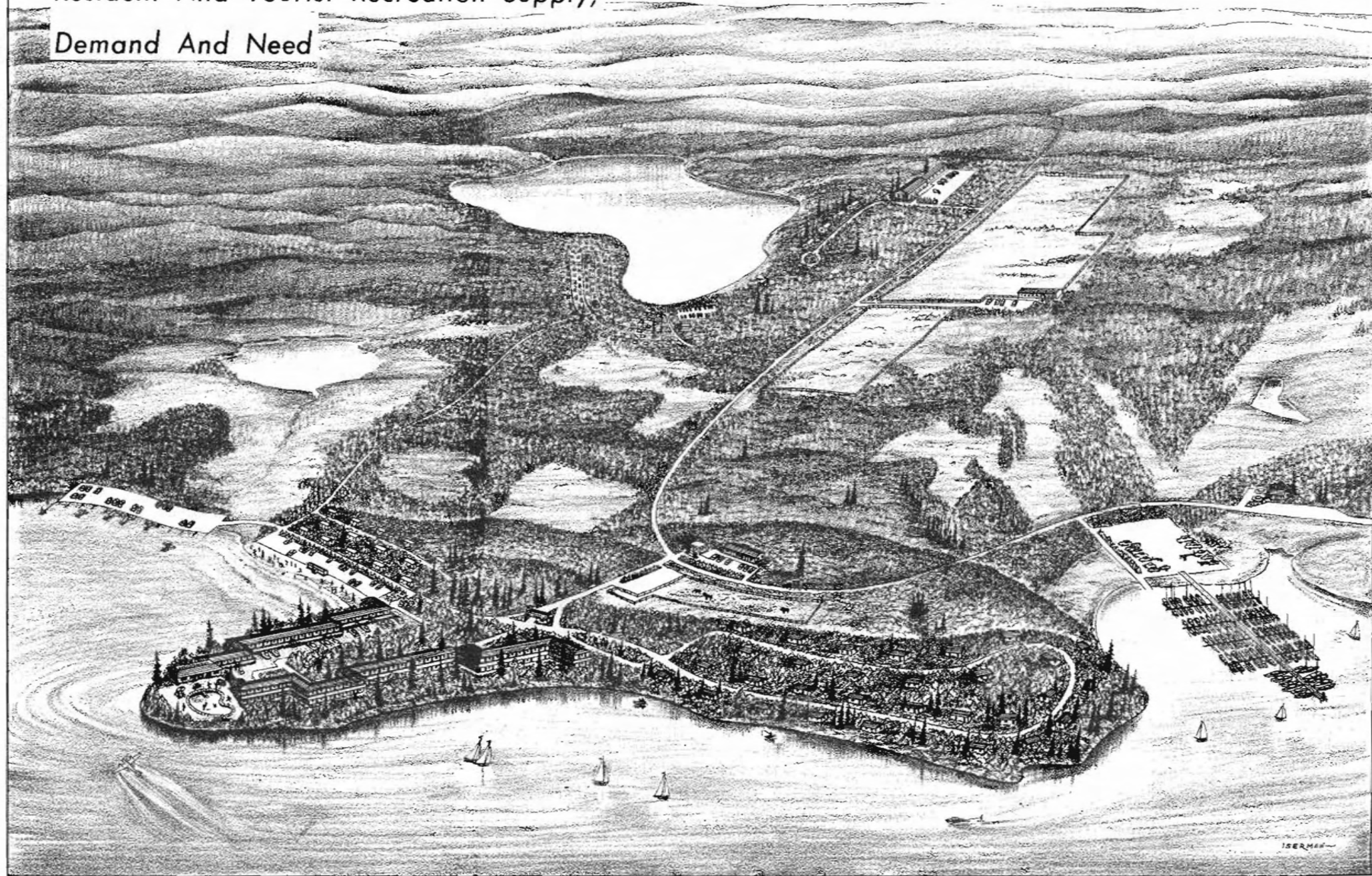


PART TWO

Analysis

Resident And Tourist Recreation Supply,

Demand And Need



NANCY LAKE STATE RECREATION AREA
Artist's View into Park from Entrance Area

INTRODUCTION

It is a paradox that in Alaska -- with its limited population and tremendous land area -- the outdoor recreation situation is critical. Despite the existence in the State of over 3 million fresh water lakes larger than 20 acres; 10,300 streams and rivers with a total length of 82,000 miles; and 57 million acres of salt water within the 3 mile limit*, Alaska roads provide access to only 264 lakes, streams and salt water fisheries, all within one mile of a highway.**

This example of the problem -- a problem completely of access -- applies not only to fishing. The same could be said of all water activities including the important ones of boating and swimming. It could be said also of hiking trails, camping, picnicking and so on. Nancy Lake in effect is access -- the opening up of a large, varied and sorely needed recreation opportunity.

GENERAL

It is critical to the long range effectiveness of the Nancy Lake Master Plan that the number of users be estimated so that facilities in adequate quantity can be provided. In other words, that supply meet demand over the long term.

There is no alternative to reasonable projections of user numbers. Guesswork results in facilities that are inadequate and become overrun, often to the point where the attractiveness of an area is destroyed, a factor critical to the maintenance of good parks. If not overrun, then facilities may be overbuilt, a waste of the public purse.

Although still not an exact science by any means, it is now possible to reasonably anticipate the facilities that are needed in a particular park to meet the needs of a growing population.

Such an estimate must be based, first, on the **total population** that can be expected to use the area at some specific future time and, secondly, on the **extent** to which those particular people engage in the different recreation activities. This estimate for the Nancy Lake Area is limited in time to 1980 for two reasons. First it has been shown to be unrealistic to attempt to project beyond 20 years. Second, most of the basic planning studies on population and socio-economic conditions on which a specific plan such as this must depend for basic data, project only to 1980.

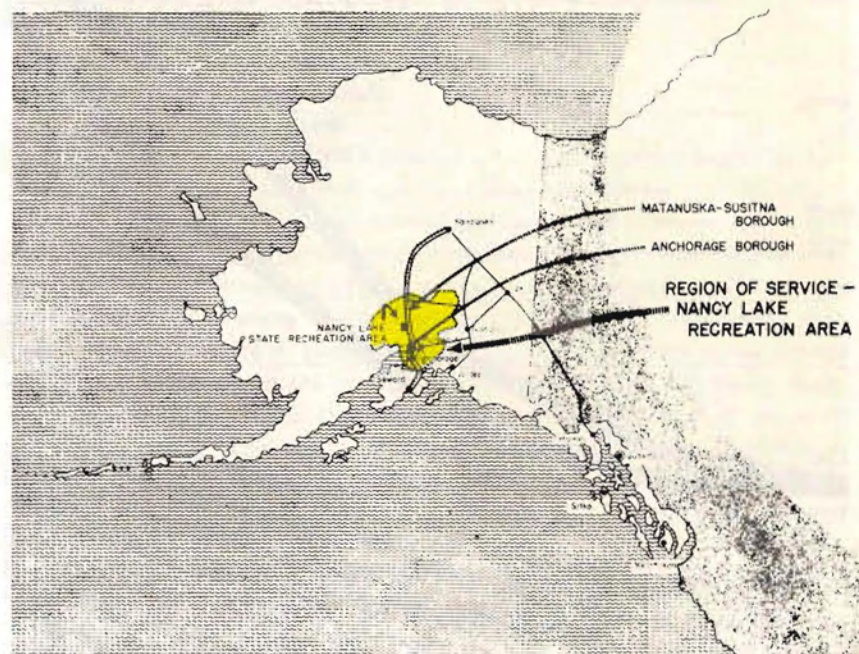
DEMAND AND NEED -- RESIDENT POPULATION

All of Alaska's people will not use Nancy Lake -- only the segment to which it is most convenient. What is this segment? Obviously the Anchorage Metropoli-

tan Area since it will be only 66 road miles distant -- close enough for a pleasant drive and Sunday picnic. Obviously, also, all of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough which will be even closer -- only 28 miles from Palmer for instance. We cannot anticipate significant use by any other major population segments. Seward is 195 miles away and the other Kenai Peninsula towns even further. Another reason people from the Kenai part of the State will not make much use of Nancy Lake is that they have many equivalent facilities in Chugach National Forest and the Kenai Moose Range, both closer to home. North, Fairbanks will be almost 300 miles distant via Alaska 3, the new (under construction) Fairbanks-Anchorage highway.

Even though there will be some use by residents outside the Anchorage area, this will be balanced off by Anchorage people visiting other parts of the State.

Illustrated on the map following, this user area -- the Anchorage and Matanuska-Susitna Boroughs is designated as the **Region of Service** of Nancy Lake. These two boroughs coincide with election districts 8 and 10 and also with census districts, enabling use of official population tabulations.

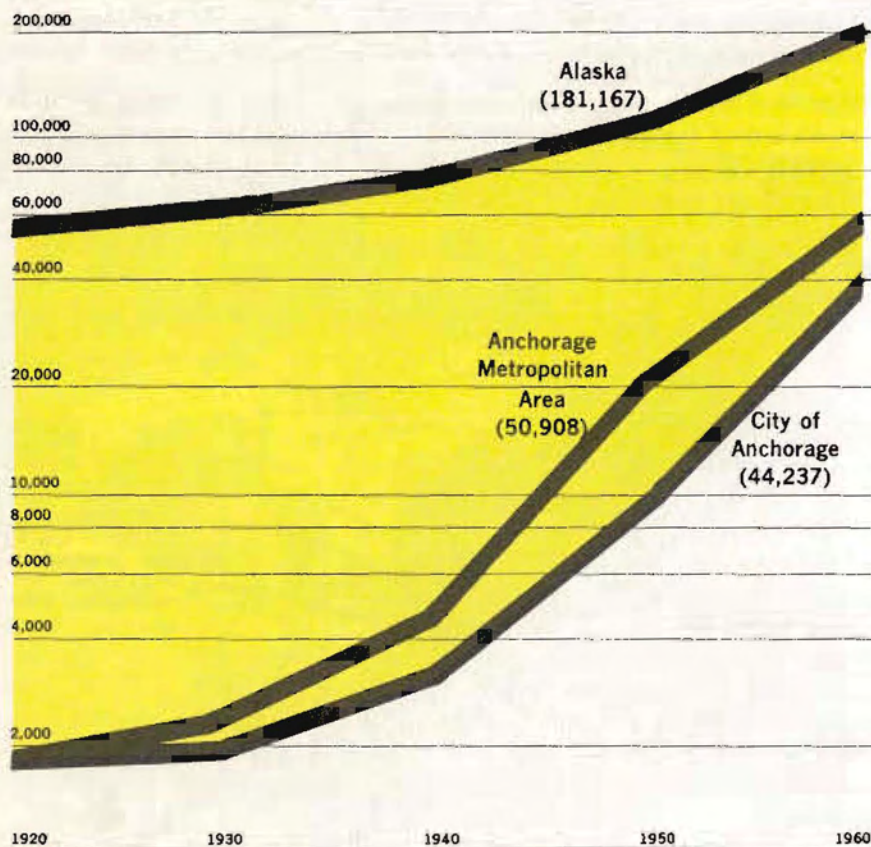


To estimate population of the Region of Service of Nancy Lake in 1980, various projections were examined, not only for the Anchorage area but also for the state as a whole, the latter being used as a rough check on the Anchorage figures. 1980 projections for the Anchorage Metro Area range all the way from

* U.S. Dept. of Interior: Rampart Project, Alaska, Jan. 1965, Vol. 1, page 180

**Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game: Report to Alaska Outdoor Recreation Council, Nov. 1, 1964, page 11

CIVILIAN POPULATION GROWTH 1920-1960



112,500 to 400,000. For the Alaska Housing Authority in the report "Land Utilization and Marketability Study" -- Downtown Urban Renewal Project, the consultants, Real Estate Research Corporation, estimated 1980 Anchorage Metro Area population in a range from 180,000 to 195,000.

Comparing this against state projections, specifically the 46% of state population projected to live in Anchorage Metro in 1980, we find ranges from 323,000 to 605,400 including *ORRRC - 404,500; U.S. Census Bureau - 323,000 to 371,000 and Rogers and Cooley - 373,500 to 407,700. The ORRRC projection was selected as a reasonable estimate for state population as it lies between the extremes of the ranges. 46% of the ORRRC - 404,500 results in an equivalent for Anchorage Metro of 186,000. Feeling this is conservative, the higher figure of 195,000 was orbitrorily selected as the base popouion of Anchorage Metro for purposes of the Nancy Lake demand analysis.

Added to this number was the population of the Motanuska-Susitna Borough - 5,188 in 1960, growing at the statewide average of 2.5% per onnum to a total of 8,500 in 1980. Added also was the projected 1980 traveller population. See Tourism, Need and Demand page 13. Finally, because the recreation porticipation rotes of ORRRC do not count children 12 or under (on the basis they are part of the family group and tag along, not being copable of independent oction in the sense of selecting activities), they were deducted from the total. The result of these computations is a population of 221,500 persons over 12 years of age who will constitute the 1980 Nancy Lake user population.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

However, the simple total number of prospective users that may exist in 1980 is not enough. That total must be tempered by the socio-economic charactor of the particular population segment **because such characteristics determine how much of what kinds of recreation the individual will participate in.**

Age, for instance, is a key charocteristic. Obviously, the 70 year old is not likely to water ski.

Income is an even greater determinant thon age -- the man who cannot afford a boat will not engage in boating.

Education influences choice of recreational pursuits and is closely related to income. Generally, high income and educational levels generate more outdoor recreation. The influence of education appears to be greater in activities like swimming, game playing, sightseeing, walking and driving for pleasure. It is less for some activities like fishing, hunting and camping.

Occupation. There is an overlopping here because occupation reflects income and education. As might be supposed, professional people with greater income, longer weekends, longer vacations, more freedom from regulation, etc. enjoy

*Outdoor Resources Recreation Review Commission

the most leisure time for recreation while farm workers, with low pay and long hours enjoy the least.

While income, age, education and occupation are the only factors analyzed in detail for Nancy Lake, other factors deserve passing mention.

Families with Children are significant since outdoor activities are increasingly family activities. This is particularly true of recreational type parks like Nancy Lake where there is a wide range of activities and family members can find something of interest to all, or to the individual -- mother swimming, father fishing, children horseback riding, etc.

Sex is a factor because men participate in certain sports like hunting, fishing or touch football more than women. But the sexes are about equal in swimming, driving for pleasure, picnicking, camping -- again because these are **family activities** particularly in an area like Nancy Lake. Thus while sex is a population characteristic it is not felt to be important in either motivation or opportunity for outdoor recreation generally. Fifty years ago it would have been given great weight in any analysis.

Place of Origin is a factor because choice of recreation activity is partly habit. Also, it is often a matter of skill that, once developed, is not easily discarded to learn something new. However, because Alaskans cannot be easily tagged as to place of origin, unless perhaps the majority are from the northern mid-west, this is not considered an important factor in the Nancy Lake analysis. To be relatively accurate, participation rates would have to be determined by a careful survey of the Region of Service population. But even this would be somewhat misleading because the **opportunity** to participate to the extent desired may not at present exist. The lack of opportunity is in fact a large part of the basis for creation of the Nancy Lake Recreation Area, not only for present residents but also for those of 1980 and the years beyond.

Lacking such detailed data, participation rates developed by ORRRC for the north-central region of the U.S. have been utilized despite the fact that in the ORRRC report Alaska was included in the western region -- all of the U.S. west of the Missouri River. Except for the north Pacific coast this is arid and/or desert country of few streams or water bodies, meager forest cover and a range of climate from extreme cold to semi-tropical.

The north-central region was chosen because of its similarity in climate and land character to the Nancy Lake Region of Service -- a relatively short summer season and heavily wooded, rolling terrain with many lakes and streams. With these similarities, **opportunity** for recreation pursuits tends to become equivalent.

However the north-central participation rates **have not been used as directly applicable to the people of the Nancy Lake Region of Service**. Rather, all the key socio-economic determinants -- age, income, years of education and occupation Index were carefully researched and adjusted so as to relate as closely as possible to the Nancy Lake Region of Service.

Family income, for instance, averaging \$7,305.00 statewide, was adjusted to \$8,873.00 for the Anchorage Metropolitan area, on the basis of statistics in the Land Use and Marketability Study, Downtown Urban Renewal Project, Anchorage. This amount, to get a factor equivalent to the north central states, was then reduced by 25%, (the differential in the cost of living index between Anchorage and Seattle). Age was adjusted to the low 26 (white only) statewide average of 29. Since natives constitute only 10% of the population of south-central Alaska and would constitute a still lesser percentage of park users because of low income and education levels, no separate calculation was made to adjust to this segment of the population.

Years of Education Completed -- in Alaska -- nationally high at 12.1 years for all those over 25 was adjusted upward to 13 years (1 year college) on the basis of the higher level of educational attainment for the south central Alaska region shown in the report, Alaska's Population and Economy, Rogers and Cooley, 1962. Though this was a judgment increase of about eight tenths of a year, it was deemed justified because of the increasing concentration in Anchorage of technical, professional and white collar workers.

The Occupation Index was adjusted directly through U.S. census data to the Anchorage Borough. Similar data did not exist for Matanuska-Susitna so no adjustment could be made, a matter of small consequence because of the relatively small number of people involved.

EQUIVALENT FACILITIES

After the gross 1980 need for the Anchorage-Matanuska-Susitna Region of Service was derived, there remained one more major adjustment to make. There are many public agencies - state, federal and local - and some private entrepreneurs providing recreation facilities in Alaska. These facilities may or may not be equivalent to those planned for Nancy Lake but personal preference or even just a change of scene dictates that we consider all of them equal even though major differences in **quality** may exist. One of the major complaints of campers, for instance, was the lack of a potable water supply at many campgrounds. Others complained of the lack of swimming facilities or of places to play games. Nancy Lake will be of such size that amenities not justifiable at small roadside areas will be present. Probably, because of these amenities, and because a wider range of activities will be available, Nancy Lake will tend to attract many away from existing facilities.

Equivalent to those of Nancy Lake, as far as the people in the Region of Service are concerned, will be all of the **other** facilities within the Region **plus** certain weekend and vacation type facilities on the Kenai Peninsula. These add up to a rather impressive total as shown on the table on the next page.

For weekend or longer term use, both the Chugach National Forest and the Kenai National Moose Range hold attractions that will be directly competitive with Nancy Lake. As the table illustrates, both have or will have extensive camping, picnicking and hiking trail facilities while the Moose Range plans

large extension of its equestrian trail system. It also will have an impressive system of canoe trails. The programmed facilities of both these federal areas are scheduled for completion by 1980 or shortly thereafter.

The tabulation of all these equivalent facilities that will serve the Nancy Lake Region of Service enables us to subtract them from the estimates of total need in Nancy Lake itself. This factor, along with the others entering into the determination of actual facility needs are shown on the table on page 18.

EXISTING & PROGRAMMED EQUIVALENT FACILITIES

	Swimming	Picnicking	Fishing	Boating Not Canoeing	Ice Skating	Hiking and Nature Walks	Camping	Horseback Riding	Sledding Tobogganing	Water Skiing	Canoeing	Sailing	Lodges Cabins
ALASKA DIVISION OF LANDS Existing Programmed (except Nancy Lake)	1 Area	24 Units	Extensive	3 Ramps	1 Area	15 Miles (Appx)	278 Units			Extensive		Extensive	
MUNICIPAL Existing Programmed	1 Area	34 Units			6 Areas		30 Units		1 Area				
KENAI NAT'L. MOOSE RANGE Existing Programmed	1 Area	27 Units 44 Units	Extensive	5 Ramps		17 Miles	115 Units 246 Units	80 Miles		Extensive	80 Miles 180 Miles	Extensive	
CHUGACH NAT'L. FOREST Existing Programmed		52 Units	Extensive	2 Ramps		80 Miles	281 Units 429 Units			Extensive	1 Area	Extensive	
COMMERCIAL Existing Programmed			Extensive	10 Ramps (Approx.)			105 Units			Extensive		Extensive	300 Rooms (Approx.)
MILITARY Existing Programmed	2 Areas												
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT Existing Programmed		12 Units		1 Ramp	1 Area	NA	42 Units						

NA - Not Available

GENERAL FACILITY ANALYSIS

The following includes not only those activities and facilities shown on the table on page 18 but also others that are pertinent but not analyzed due to lack of ORRRC participation rates.

WATER ACTIVITIES

Swimming at Nancy Lake will be a sport for the young and the hardy. Tolerance to cold water seems to decrease in direct proportion to age. Actual extent or capacity of the beach should be very closely related to the swimming pools (undoubtedly heated) that will ultimately be constructed by the City of Anchorage. On the basis of standards adopted by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department, 16 swimming pools will be needed in the Region of Service to serve the 1980 resident and tourist populations. For adults, swimming is not generally an all day activity as it is for children. Swimming facilities, therefore, to provide the most public benefit, are best located in urban areas where they are easily accessible to children. Swimming at Nancy Lake should be looked on as an adjunct to other major, adult activity but perhaps as **the prime attraction to children in the company of adults.**

Fishing, with practically unlimited potential in Alaska is now distinctly restricted by lack of access to most waters. The situation near the population center of Anchorage is particularly critical. Nancy Lake will be of great benefit because it will make available about *5,000 acres of lake and 17 miles of stream previously reached mostly by fly-in fishermen.

On behalf of the Nancy Lake Master Plan project, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game conducted a study in the Nancy Lake Area, classifying water bodies as primary, secondary and tertiary as to fishing potential. According to this survey there are 6 lakes of 2,254 acres classified primary; six lakes of 755 acres classified secondary – in effect a very good potential with a stocking and rehabilitation program; 20 lakes of 902 acres classified tertiary – marginal waters that may or may not be important to the fisherman. The report states further that "The balance of, and smaller lakes and ponds, are largely unsuited to cold water fisheries except on a seasonal basis. A certain number of these waters may support summer – only fisheries. The small, shallow ponds are important to production of waterfowl and are utilized by moose and furbearers." Classification of stream fishing potential was as follows, "There are three known stream fisheries: the Little Susitna River, Fish Creek and Rolly Creek. There are two additional streams that appear as capable sport fisheries, and they are Jarger Creek and Lynx Creek." These streams have a length of about 10 miles in the park.

Fishing, boating (of three types) and water skiing, though separated in the analysis, actually overlap and cannot be clearly defined. The analysis of fishing

is academic and made only to show a relationship of total need to water availability in the Nancy Lake Area, demonstrating that it falls far short of supplying the total need of the Region of Service. The need for streamside and lake fishing can only be satisfied by improved roads and trails to open up new resources. The Nancy Lake Plan takes maximum advantage of the fishing potential of the area. The main road loop reaches all four major lakes – Nancy, Red Shirt, Butterfly and Lynx. Boat launch ramps are provided on all these lakes with marinas on Nancy and Red Shirt. Launch ramps are provided at all primary and most secondary fishery lakes and all lakes of any quality are accessible either by road or trail. A spur road is planned to extend to the little Susitna River for a canoe-raft takeout point which would provide a float trip of some 12 miles starting at Houston on Alaska Highway 3. As extensive a canoe trail system as proves feasible on detailed field investigation is planned.

Boating analysis like fishing analysis is academic since the total need of the Nancy Lake Region of Service is much greater than can be supplied by even the 4200 *effective lake acres of the Nancy Lake Area. And, like fishing, additional boating can be supplied only at other existing lakes or by new access to ones not now on roads. Canoeing, sailing and water skiing fall in the same category as boating (which is for the most part motor boating). Nevertheless provision is made in the Plan for these recreations to the extent of **capacity** of the park.



Fishing and Boating

*See Summary - page 4 and Map - page 21

*Water bodies 25 acres or larger in size

Flying, a very different feature of Nancy Lake - one that could occur only in Alaska - is provision of a float plane drome. The need for this facility is demonstrated by the statistic that one-third of the total U.S. registry of float planes is based on Lake Hood at Anchorage - some 200 planes - while half of the 1200 (1961) civil aircraft in Alaska were based on Lake Hood and Merrill Field (private). However, this is not an accurate total as many planes are based on other lakes in the vicinity and converted to floats and skis. Merrill Field in Anchorage has, according to the 1961 General Plan for Anchorage, an ultimate capacity of 650 to 800 light planes. This Plan states that eventually an additional field will be required. Mostly used for "flying" recreation, many people can be expected to fly to Nancy Lake, combining their flying fun with picnics or whatever may interest them at the area. The ratio of private aircraft to population in Anchorage in 1961 was 81.3 per 10,000, in Alaska 63.2 per 10,000. Land planes will be able to land 2-1/2 miles north of the park entrance road at the settlement of Willow where there is now a good strip. Such arrivals could easily be picked up by the concessionaire.

Camping is a major recreation activity in Alaska, partly because of the lack of cabins and lodges but also because it is an activity that puts one on the fishing stream, boating lake or hunting ground. Even though it is a recreation very closely related to all outdoor activities except those requiring a stay of a day or less, camping for itself alone, unrelated to other activities, is an important Alaska activity. The demand therefore for camping facilities is very strong as illustrated by the chart. Nancy Lake, by providing amenities not presently justified in the small campgrounds now existing along highways, in the National Forest or the Kenai Moose Range will be an ideal situation for family camping. These amenities, in addition to the usual table and fire-place, will consist of tap water, flush toilets, laundry facilities, showers, and sanitary disposal stations at central locations. Activities will not be limited, as in most of the other campgrounds, but will cover a wide range of activities of interest to all members of the family. Because so many campers are fishermen or vice versa, **campgrounds were given priority of location on prime fishing lakes.** Actually, picnic grounds and campgrounds require the same kind of terrain. The Nancy Lake Plan relegates the picnic grounds to the shores of lakes having a low fishery potential. See Plan and Description - Typical Campground, pages 41 and 42.

CAMPING DEMAND AND NEED -- TOURISTS

This section is concerned solely with demand for camping facilities by tourists. Once the tourist is at Nancy Lake, his activities will be indistinguishable from those of resident users. Consequently, the number of tourists at the park is added to resident numbers for facilities other than camping.

Determining the impact of non residents on the park requires careful differentiation among the tourists Alaska attracts. Various they arrive by airline, cruise ship, ferry or highway. Some are **vacationers**, some are **visitors**. Still



Campfire Singalong

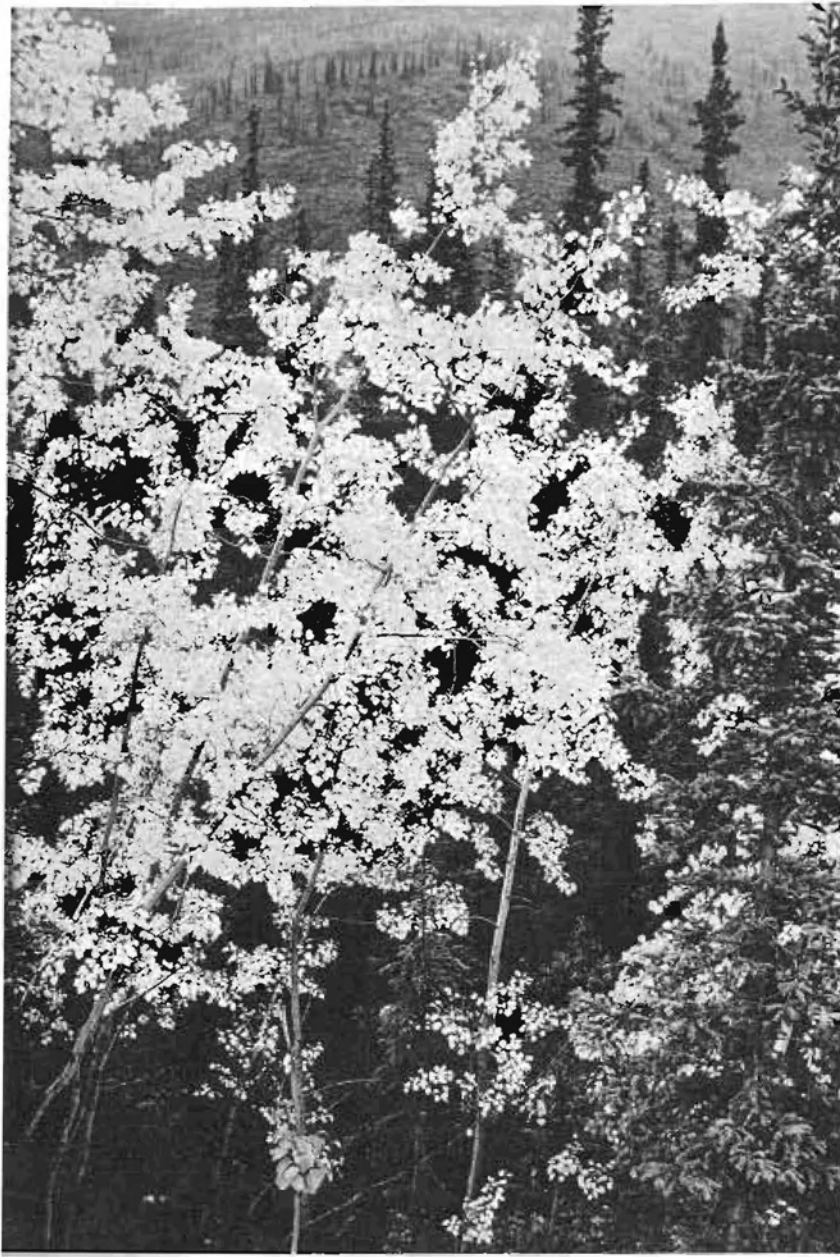
others are business travellers.

We can discount the impact the airline vacationer would have on Nancy Lake because he is ill prepared baggage-wise and in transportation for camping. Additionally, the low airline "size of party" at 1.9 persons indicates a vacationer not oriented toward the family activities of Nancy Lake. Similarly we can exclude cruise ship passengers since they are highly organized for conducted, group tours. Nor would the business traveler have noticeable impact on Nancy Lake.

Our concern is with the highway traveler, and with the ferry passenger who utilizes a car during his stay. Among these we must differentiate further between visitors and vacationers. In the context of this report, **a visitor is one who comes to Alaska to visit an Alaskan. The vacationer on the other hand comes to see Alaska.** Even though the visitor spends 30% of his time visiting his host and the other 70% in seeing something of Alaska he was not included in the user projection because of a very different situation on the travel pattern of Alaska residents as compared to citizens of the lower 48.

Because of Alaska's isolation and its large number of Federal employees who receive bonus leaves home, about as many Alaskans depart as there are visitors arriving. In fact outward bound Alaskans spend more time away from Alaska than visitors spend in the state.

Survey work accomplished by the Alaska Department of Economic Development and Planning in its "Traveler Profiles, 1963-64" points up some very interesting facts regarding the particular highway and ferry vacationers who can be expected to utilize Nancy Lake facilities:



Early Fall Color - Quaking Aspen

- . . . the average highway vacationer spent 9-1/2 days in Alaska out of 39 days away from home.
- . . . people who visited Alaska were ones who liked a traveling vacation with only a few days in each spot.
- . . . over 50% of all highway vacationers were prepared for almost continuous camping.
- . . . 50.8% of Alaska Highway travelers used public campgrounds in the Yukon enroute.
- . . . in 1964 there were 5,411 highway vacationer parties amounting to 17,344 people (3.2 persons per party).
- . . . in 1964 there were 1,718 ferry vacationer parties amounting to 6,509 people (2.6 persons per party).
- . . . of the ferry vacationers, 71.4% used a car as a supplemental method of travel.
- . . . 60% of all highway vacationer parties visited the Anchorage-Valdez area and 20% (probably a segment of the 60%) the Kenai Peninsula.
- . . . of Ferry vacationers 59% visited Anchorage-Valdez and 10% the Kenai Peninsula.

This data indicates that Nancy Lake will attract practically all the highway vacationers who camp and who visit the Anchorage-Seward-Kenai Peninsula area plus all the ferry vacationers who utilize a car in the same region of Alaska. This indicator is not based solely on the number of campers or Nancy Lake's location near Anchorage. For many of these people Nancy Lake will be a destination point, particularly when Alaska Highway 3 is completed between Anchorage and Fairbanks. Connecting the two major cities of the state and with Mt. McKinley National Park midway in between, Alaska Number 3 will also serve Nancy Lake.

Vacationers will of course camp at all other campgrounds. However, for the most part, these are of the roadside, overnight type. The attraction of Nancy Lake that will make it a destination point will be not only its extensive recreation facilities but, perhaps more important to the camper who has traveled all the way from Haines or the whole distance of the Alaska Highway, its shower and laundromat facilities and its store where he can provision up. For many campers it will serve as a convenient central location and base for exploration of all of south central Alaska.

Deriving the number of campers from the 1964 figures of "Traveler Profiles" shows that a demand for 54 campground units for vacationers existed in Nancy Lake in that year. This calculation is based not only on the data mentioned but also on the assumption that use of the park will amount to 75 days per sum-

mer season. The normal 90 day summer season is not applicable to vacationer activity in Alaska as it does not take into account his week of travel at both ends of his Alaska sojourn. The survey, "Alaska Campers, 1964" indicated that the average campground stay of users was two days. This figure, along with the other data, was used to estimate the number of camp units needed in the Nancy Lake area in 1980. It is emphasized that the two day stay is thought to be overly conservative for Nancy Lake campers. In comparison to the campgrounds covered by the 1964 camper survey, Nancy Lake will tend toward a longer stay for reasons previously mentioned. In fact the area will offer sufficient in size, activity and interest for an entire vacation.

The foregoing is the point of beginning for projecting the long range need for camping development of Nancy Lake. Basic to the projection are several projections of future tourists in Alaska. The University of Alaska in its report, "Tourism in Alaska, 1965-1967" states that a conservative estimate of tourists in 1975 would be 450,000 which would be increasing at 18% per annum. This would mean 1,030,000 by 1980. Also, this report states that the lowest 1975 number would be 200,000 if absolutely nothing is done to attract more tourists. This low range would grow to about 275,000 by 1980. The U.S. Department of Commerce has estimated that the number of tourists could reach 650,000 by 1980. The same report showed that Alaska had 75,000 tourists in 1965. Another estimate is that under the most favorable conditions tourism could be developed to a total of 850,000 by 1980.*

The Department of Commerce points out that 650,000 tourists would spend 230 million dollars, resulting in 14,000 new workers who would earn 87 million dollars which would serve as the base for an increase in population of 88,000 persons!

The projections of 1980 tourist numbers and economic benefit are especially striking when compared to a **1953 U.S. National Park Service study which showed that in the year June 1, 1952 to May 31, 1953, 22,500 visitors spent 7 million dollars in Alaska. This report also reveals other comparable factors (illustrated in the table following) that are useful for long range projections.

The important fact of the table, for purposes of this report, is the increase in the number of highway vacationers. The ferry, of course, did not exist at the time of the 1952 or 1960 surveys. The other differences certainly do not indicate that there will be appreciable departures in the future from the two important tangibles - percent of total campers and the percent of those campers who can be expected to visit the Anchorage area in 1980.

Applying the same formula to secure the number of 1980 Nancy Lake campers as was used to derive the 1964 need, against an overaged projected total of 1980 tourists, (700,000) we have a twenty fold increase in that time - to a to-

*Transport Requirements for the Growth of Northwest North America - Vol. 2, Sec. V, pg 260.

**Alaska Recreation Survey Vol. 2, pgs 114, 116.

tal of 1100 campsites. This is the total projected need of the Nancy Lake Region of Service for vacationers.

However, solely on the basis of judgement and for reasons noted on pages 13 and 14, this total is felt to be about 50% under the 1980 need. A certain madness seems to seize Alaskans at spring break-up and the self-imposed prescription for relief from the cabin fever of winter seems to be the outdoors and camping. Though participation rates for camping must be assumed, it is believed the rate is much higher in Alaska than elsewhere in the country. This situation applies of course only to residents. Other factors at work on both residents and travelers to increase camping is the great growth in leisure time and the increase in popularity of the activity, partly because of the ease of conducting it in the newer trailers, campers and turtlebacks. A further factor is the concentration of recreationists at Nancy Lake that is bound to occur as a result of completion of Alaska Highway 3. For these reasons the number of camp units to be provided in Nancy Lake for both residents and vacationers, was arbitrarily increased to a total 1750.



Nancy Lake Pond Reflects Mt. Susitna

COMPARISONS - 1952 - 1963-64

	Time Spent in Alaska	Number of Highway Vacationers (Departures)	% Campers	Size of Party	% Visiting Anchorage	Complained Lack of Campsites	Desired Improved Campsites (Includes trailers)
1952	11 days	5,493	55%	2.6	52%	18.4%	26.7%
*1960	13.5 days	N.A.	56.7%	N.A.	80.7%	N.A.	54.3%
1963-64	9-1/2 days	17,344	50%	3.2	60%	N.A.	8%

*From the **University of Alaska report**, "Tourist Industry in Alaska (1960)" which also makes the following general comments regarding the camping vacationer.

- . . . Campsites and good camping facilities are necessary for increasing the number of highway visitors.
- . . . The United States is becoming more camper minded and Alaska must meet the demand of the camper visitor.
- . . . The state should develop natural recreational areas for campsites and provide camper facilities.
- . . . The importance of campsites is shown by the high percentage that are using the present facilities.

Group Camps

Facilities for group or organized camps in the Region of Service presently consist of a 40 acre area at Russian Jack Springs Park, City of Anchorage, used by the Girl Scouts, Kings Lake Camp, an area of 260 acres at Wasilla which is used by the Girl and Boy Scouts, YMCA, 4H and various churches. This is a highly organized operation with permanent buildings, a recreation hall, directors' residence and an area for water sports.

Undoubtedly, as time goes on, additional group camp facilities will be needed. Since Nancy Lake will serve ideally for this purpose, two locations have been set aside. See Detail Plan of Group Camps, and description, pages 37 and 38.

Picnicking, either a short or long term activity, can suitably be provided in either urban areas or in large, natural parks such as Nancy Lake. Distance is the major factor determining use and the outlying area would receive primarily the all day visitor. His picnic would be associated with any of the other activities that Nancy Lake will provide, but these would be secondary to the picnic itself. Very extensive picnic facilities are indicated in the Nancy Lake Region of Service largely because there is at present a distinct lack of the particular facility. Believing this deficiency will be corrected, especially with more close-in, short term facilities, despite the fact that no specific programs could be shown, Nancy Lake will not attempt to provide for the full shortage that is indicated for 1980. Rather the total demand has been reduced from 3500 to 2900. It is believed this number will be adequate to satisfy the demand of the all-day users of the Region of Service. Also, capacity of the land would seem to have been reached with this number. See Plan and Description, Typical Picnic Ground, pages 41 and 42.

Playing Games

This activity ranges all the way from shuffleboard (usually for the elderly) through the court games all the way to the major game of golf. Some, such as scratch court basketball and/or softball; the court games of tennis, handball, badminton and volleyball are all short term activities entailing an expenditure of less than a half day. For such short term activities, people will rarely travel any distance. They are therefore urban and more logically municipal or borough responsibilities rather than state. They have no real place in areas such as Nancy Lake. People will travel a great distance to play golf and the game would be a major attraction at Nancy Lake, particularly enhancing the Lodge operation. An 18 hole course is included on the plans, with possible expansion to 36 holes. However, it is pointed out that, according to the usual standard of 18 holes per 50,000 population, four 18 hole courses will be needed in the Region of Service by 1980. One of the three exists at Elmendorf Air Base serving a population of 25,000 military. Two additional courses should be provided by either the boroughs or the City of Anchorage. For Plan and Description of Nancy Lake Golf Course, see pages 35 and 36.

Hiking Trails and Nature Walks though separated in the ORRRC studies are here combined because there will be little opportunity for the hiker who prefers miles of distance between himself and others. Trails through the Nancy Lake terrain will be easy and suitable for the less rugged type hiker. Isolated trail camps will be provided for families or organized groups who wish a light, backpacking experience.

Conoe Trails. Though adequate conoe trail is supplied by Kenai National Moose Range, conoe trails will be essential in Nancy Lake as a supplemental activity to major recreations; to reach areas not on the road system and to fully capitalize on the potential of the water in the Area.

Horseback Trails, despite their nationwide popularity as a major activity, are completely lacking in the Nancy Lake Region of Service. They are extensively provided however in the Kenai National Moose Range. This large gap in the range of activities available in the Region of Service will be made up by the trails and accompanying rental horse concession in Nancy Lake. All trails will serve both equestrians and pedestrians.

Lodge and Cabin Facilities. There is insufficient data for projection of need for lodges and cabins in Alaska since residents and travelers alike come prepared to camp because more sophisticated facilities are generally lacking. The commercial resort cabins are for the most part not equipped with sanitary facilities. There are no lodges in the whole of the south central part of Alaska unless the lodge at Mt. McKinley National Park is included.

It would seem that a lodge-cabin complex in Nancy Lake would be as successful as are those in state parks in the lower 48 where they are, literally, reserved years in advance. Lodging facilities are normal adjuncts to state parks. The Nancy Lake plan proposes inclusion of three types of such facilities -- a lodge, cabin areas and tent cabins, the latter a minimum cost shelter that has proven very popular at Grand Teton National Park. The lodge would supply the needs of short term or even overnight visitors off Alaska Highway 3 plus the luxury vacation trade (rooms should not be equipped for cooking). The lodge would have a heated swimming pool. It could be designed to accommodate small conventions in the off season (as is effectively done at the Oklahoma State park lodges). A quality restaurant in the lodge would add a very real attraction, suited to a pleasant afternoon or evenings drive (or float plane flight), from Anchorage. Two cabin areas at Nancy Lake proper and one at Red Shirt would supply the need of families for vacation cabins. The tent cabins would provide a semi-roughing it experience half-way between the tent and cabin. These structures are wall tents in effect -- floored and framed up to window level but canvas roofed. Cooking facilities and cots with all necessary bedding etc. are provided but toilets are of the public comfort station type. Such a facility would, it is believed, fill a very great need in Alaska, namely that of **low cost accommodations.** One of the common complaints of most travelers was the cost of accommodations.

Recent figures are unavailable but according to the 1955 Yearbook on Park and Recreation Progress the five states with the largest capacity in lodges were: Indiana - 1251 persons; Oklahoma - 750 persons; Kentucky - 363 persons, South Dakota - 350 persons and New York - 231 persons. Cabins are provided by all but 12 states with capacities of certain states as follows: New York - 3,094 persons; Oklahoma-1,360 persons; South Dakota-975 persons; Kentucky - 924 persons; Pennsylvania - 796 persons; Ohio - 678 persons and Virginia -

588 persons. Much expansion has of course taken place in the twelve years since this count was made.

GENERAL CONCESSION OPERATION

At present it is planned that the State construct all facilities but certain of these would be leased to one or several concessionaires. Concession operations are illustrated and described in detail on pages 34 and 35.

WINTER SPORTS

Ice skating can be an important Nancy Lake activity **only if** other winter sports are developed in conjunction with it. Alone, the limited number of participants would not warrant maintaining the park open in the winter. Ice skating is not usually an all day activity and the greater number of participants are children. However, since the opportunity exists to develop an excellent winter sports complex, the Plan proposes that such a complex be located on and adjacent to Red Shirt Lake. It would include not only ice skating but also sledding and tobogganing, cross country skiing, dog sled racing, ski-joring, ice fishing, curling and a beginners ski slope. The pedestrian-equestrian trail system would provide excellent opportunity for the use of snow mobiles. In conjunction with these activities certain limited concession activities would remain open through the winter season. Present winter sports activity in the Region amounts to Intermediate and adult amateur hockey, ice skating, a beginners ski slope and a nordic ski trail system sponsored by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department; the Arctic Ski Bowl (military along with civilian) 12 miles from Anchorage and the Mt. Alyeska ski development at Girdwood, 30 miles from Anchorage. See Plan and Description, Red Shirt Complex, pages 39 and 40.



Winter Carnival

FACILITY ANALYSIS TABLE

	Swimming	Picnicking	Fishing	Boating (not canoe or sail)	(4)Ice Skating	Hiking & Nature Walks	(2)Camping	(3)Horseback Riding	(4)Sledding Tobogganing	Water Skiing	Canoeing	Sailing
Annual days per person	4.63	2.34	2.05	1.48	1.0	.81	.40	.32	.27	.21	.07	.05
Total user days -- 3 months summer 1980	1,025,545	518,310	454,075	327,820	135,000	179,415	54,000	70,880	36,450	46,515	15,505	11,075
Total users peak weekend day 1980	21,367	10,798	28,379	6,840	27,000	3,737	3,375	14,760	456	2,907	323	230
Size of party	1	2.7	1	2.2	2.2	2.2	2	2.2	1.5	3	2	2
Total parties	21,367	3,999	28,379	3,109	767	1,699	1,687	671	304	969	161	115
Space requirement per party	1/10 lin. ft. beach	0.1 acres	(1) 100 ft. shore or 1 acre water	6 acres	0.05 acres	.02 trail miles	0.2 acres	.4 trail miles	0.1 acres	6 acres	1/2 mile	5 acres
Total space needed	2,136 lin. ft.	399 acres	27 miles or 25,481 acres	18,654 acres	83 acres	340 trail miles	337 acres	268 trail miles	304	5,814 acres	80 trail miles	575
Less existing equivalent facilities elsewhere in region	500	283 units	(7)Academic (not calculated)	(7)Aca- demic (not calculated)	40 acres	112 trail miles	941 units	00.00	(5)100 acres	(7)Academic (not calculated)	80 trail miles	(7)Academic (not calculated)
Less programmed equivalent facilities elsewhere in region	00.00	200 units	(7)Academic (not calculated)	(7)Aca- demic (not calculated)	20 acres	283 trail miles	675 units	80 trail miles	150 acres	(7)Academic (not calculated)	180 trail miles	(7)Academic (not calculated)
Net facility requirements	1,636 lin. ft. 1/4 mile	(6)3,524 units 352 acres	(7)Academic (not calculated)	(7)Aca- demic (not calculated)	23 acres	00.00 surplus of 55 mi.	71 units +traveler 1100 units 1171 (6)	0.00	23 acres	(7)Academic (not calculated)	(7)Academic (not calculated)	(7)Academic (not calculated)

(1) 10% stream fishermen
90% boat(2) Residents based on
1980 population
of 135,000(3) Combined
with foot
trails(4) 5 months
season --
resident popu-
lation only(5) Judgement
adjustment(6) This total not
provided in
Nancy Lake
See text explanation(7) This statement means that further analysis of the activity would
be pointless since the imbalance of supply and demand is such
that it cannot be corrected by Nancy Lake facilities.