

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**, "Taurist 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 Wasillo 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, skijoring, 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 Artic Ski Bowl (military along with civilian) 12 miles from Anchorage and the Mt. Aleyaska 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 Tobogganning	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.