

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 adapted 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 Jorger 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