

**Rocky Reach Project
Social Sciences Working Group Meeting**

May 15, 2002

**Recreation Use Assessment/Recreation Inventory/Recreation Needs Forecast and Analysis,
Summary**

Recreation Supply and Use (from Recreation Use Assessment)

- Five out of the seven public recreation sites offer camping facilities, six offer boating facilities, and all seven offer a variety of day-use facilities.
- Seven parks accommodate approximately:
 - 3,500 people per day during peak-season (Memorial Day to Labor Day), camping facilities, picnicking, boating (in that order) received most use
 - 1,500 people per day during the fall, camping facilities received most use
 - 1,135 people per day during the spring, picnicking and camping (in that order) received most use
- 102 watercraft per day observed during peak-season weekends, less than half as many during the peak-season weekdays.
- 65 people observed on undeveloped shorelines during one peak-season weekend and approx. 34 people per day observed on undeveloped shorelines during peak-season weekdays.

Estimated Growth

- By 2020, the total average number of people per day is expected to grow by 1,325 visits during the peak-season, 545 additional visits per day in the fall and 420 additional visits in the spring.
- Watercraft use on peak-season weekends is predicted to grow by an average of 35 additional watercraft per day.
- Dispersed shoreline activity during peak-season weekends is predicted to grow by an average of 23 additional people per day.

Existing Planning Documents and Studies

- Federal, state and local studies indicate future demands for trails, picnic areas, beach and boating access, natural areas, water viewpoints, and sports fields.
- RV camping is likely to grow at a higher rate than tent camping.
- Non-motor boating will grow at a higher rate than motorboating.

Recreation Needs and Potential

Camping

- Visitor concerns: generally satisfied; want well maintained camping facilities, especially bathroom and shower facilities; too many people.
- Campground facilities are well utilized during the peak-season, meeting current demand except on some peak-season holidays and/or weekends in July and August.
- Lincoln Rock and Beebe Bridge Park campgrounds are currently the most heavily utilized.
- RV campsites more utilized than tent sites.
- Off-season use is well below capacity.
- Potential for additional campsites, especially RV sites and group sites to accommodate the increasing peak-season demand.

Boating

- Visitor concerns: generally satisfied; indicate some desire for more docks and better docks; too many people.
- Using recommended standards, the average watercraft activity is below capacity. Exceeds capacity standards in some areas on some holiday weekends.
- If boating activity continues to increase, future watercraft activity will likely exceed recommended standards within some areas during peak-season holidays and weekends.
- Boat launch and boat trailer parking capacities are sufficient to meet current demands.

Non-Boating Day-Use

- Visitor concerns: satisfied with day-use facilities (beach, trail activities, etc)
- Day-use parking is meeting current demands. However, Additional parking may be needed at Lincoln Rock State Park, Orondo River Park, Entiat Park, and Daroga State Park to meet future peak-season weekend demands.
- Off-season day-use parking utilization is relatively low except for Entiat Park.
- Comparisons of the supply vs use estimates for trail type activities indicates a need for additional trails and walkways.
- Potential for development of additional trails at or near recreation sites to enhance trail-type activities and protect natural environments and habitats at parks from deteriorating due to overuse.
- Potential for additional sports fields where feasible.
- Potential for additional interpretive facilities at recreational sites.

Dispersed Shoreline Use

- Dispersed shoreline use occurring primarily at Turtle rock, Entiat River Sandbar, some private and PUD and BLM owned shorelines between Daroga State Park and Beebe Bridge. Some dispersed use occurring between Beebe Bridge Park and Wells Dam.
- No indication that there is a need for additional facilities along undeveloped shoreline areas.
- Recommend monitor and review of use along undeveloped shorelines to ensure the lands are not degraded due to human activities.

Displaced Use

- Most visitors were displaced from recreation sites outside of the Project area.
- Visitors that are displaced from sites within the Project generally go to other Project area sites.
- Surveys indicated that there was no displaced camping occurring at USFS campgrounds due to Entiat Park or other project sites being too full.

ADA Compliance

- ADA accessible facilities exist at all Project recreation sites and will be provided at other sites when facility improvements and upgrades are made.

Ability of Project to Accommodate Needs

- Potential recreation development opportunities should consider constraints of the resources (environmental and economic constraints for example.) See page 8-1 for list of potential recreation development opportunities.
- Infrastructure repair and replacement is critical to all existing sites.
- Continued review of park planning decisions and funding sources will be needed to maintain the current level of visitor satisfaction.