

FAMILY OUTDOOR RECREATION ACTIVITIES
AND VARIABLES THAT INFLUENCE
PARTICIPATION IN OKLAHOMA

By

MAX R. CRAIGHEAD

ii

Bachelor of Science

Oklahoma State University

Stillwater, Oklahoma

1958

Submitted to the Faculty of the Graduate College
of the Oklahoma State University
in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the Degree of
MASTER OF SCIENCE
July, 1970

Topic

1970

C886f

cop. 2

1970-1971

1971-1972

1972-1973

1973-1974

1974-1975

1975-1976

1976-1977

1977-1978

1978-1979

1979-1980

1980-1981

1981-1982

1982-1983

1983-1984

OKLAHOMA
STATE UNIVERSITY
LIBRARY
NOV 4 1970

FAMILY OUTDOOR RECREATION ACTIVITIES
AND VARIABLES THAT INFLUENCE
PARTICIPATION IN OKLAHOMA

Thesis Approved:

Edward S. Sturgeon

Thesis Adviser

Richard W. Schermerhorn

Jerry H. Young

D. Durham
Dean of the Graduate College

764079

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The author wishes to express sincere appreciation to Dr. J. Lamar Teate, Dr. Edward E. Sturgeon, Dr. Richard W. Schermerhorn, and Dr. Jerry H. Young for their support and constructive criticism during the preparation of this study.

Acknowledgment is also made to Mr. Robert H. Breeden, Director, and to Mr. James L. Reed, Recreation Resources Planner, Oklahoma Industrial Development and Parks Department, and to personnel of the Denver office, Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, Department of the Interior, for assistance and permission to use data from the Oklahoma Outdoor Recreation Demand Study.

Special thanks is expressed to the author's family, Donna, Melanie, and Todd, for their understanding and encouragement.

Finally, special recognition is due Mrs. Tom Lee for her guidance and typing expertise in the final preparation of this thesis.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter	Page
I. INTRODUCTION	1
Situation	2
Resource-Based Recreation Areas	4
Purpose and Scope	5
Procedure	5
II. VARIABLES THAT INFLUENCE OUTDOOR RECREATION PARTICIPATION	9
Marital Status	9
Age	10
Family Income	12
Occupation	14
Education	16
Recreation Trips	17
Number of Trips Taken	17
Driving Time	19
Miles Driven	19
Recreation Trip Days	21
Type of Trip	23
Mode of Transportation	24
Month Trip Started	25
Overnight Accommodations	26
Route Preference	27
Site Selection	29
Service Facilities	30
III. FAMILY OUTDOOR RECREATION ACTIVITIES	34
IV. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS	42
Summary	42
Conclusions	45
A. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY	48
APPENDIX	49

LIST OF TABLES

Table	Page
I. Heads of Households Classified by the Number and Percent in Each Marital Status Classification	10
II. Heads of Households Classified by the Number and Percent in Each Age Class	11
III. Heads of Households Classified by the Number and Percent in Each Total Family Income Classification	13
IV. Heads of Households Classified by the Number and Percent in Each Occupational Class	14
V. Heads of Households Classified by the Number and Percent in Each Educational Class	16
VI. Heads of Households Classified by the Number and Percent of Out-of-Town Recreation Trips Taken During the Past Twelve Months	18
VII. Driving Time Required to Reach the Recreation Site Classified by the Number and Percent in Each Category	20
VIII. The Number of Miles Driven to Reach the Recreation Site Classified by the Number of Respondents and Percent in Each Category	20
IX. The Total Number of Days the Head of the Household Planned to Spend on the Recreation Trip Classified by the Number of Respondents and Percent in Each Category	22
X. The Type of Recreation Trip Taken by the Head of the Household Classified by the Number of Respondents and the Percent in Each Category	23
XI. The Mode of Travel Used by the Head of the Household to Reach the Recreation Site Classified by the Number of Respondents and Percent in Each Category	24
XII. The Month in Which the Head of the Household Started the Recreation Trip Classified by the Number of Respondents and Percent in Each Category	26

Table	Page
XIII. The Type of Overnight Accommodations Most Preferred Classified by the Number of Respondents and Percent Who Prefer Each Type	28
XIV. The Type of Route Preferred Classified by the Number of Respondents and the Percent Who Prefer Each Type	28
XV. Primary Considerations in Site Choice Classified by the Number of Respondents and Percent in Each Category	30
XVI. The Types of Service Facilities Used on the Recreation Trip Classified by the Number of Respondents and Percent Who Used Each Facility	32
XVII. Outdoor Recreation Participation by Heads of the Households Classified by the Number and Percent of Respondents and the Percent Participating Various Numbers of Times	50
XVIII. Outdoor Recreation Participation by Spouses Classified by the Number and Percent of Respondents and the Percent Participating Various Numbers of Times	52
XIX. Outdoor Recreation Participation by the Oldest Child Classified by the Number and Percent of Respondents and the Percent Participating Various Numbers of Times	54
XX. Outdoor Recreation Participation by the Second Oldest Child Classified by the Number and Percent of Respondents and the Percent Participating Various Numbers of Times	56
XXI. Outdoor Recreation Participation by the Third Oldest Child Classified by the Number and Percent of Respondents and the Percent Participating Various Numbers of Times	58
XXII. Outdoor Recreation Participation by the Youngest Child Classified by the Number and Percent of Respondents and the Percent Participating Various Numbers of Times	60

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure	Page
1. Location of the 42 Selected Resource Based Recreation Areas	7

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Outdoor Recreation means different things to different people, but to most it means some form of activity enjoyed in the out-of-doors from which the participant receives pleasure. These activities may vary from mountain climbing to relaxing in the shade of a tree. The participant is the only person who can evaluate the quality of a recreational experience. An enjoyable activity for one person may be drudgery for another. For example, many people sincerely enjoy gardening and keeping a lawn in immaculate condition. To others this is work to be avoided. People may even move into condominiums or apartments to avoid such tasks while others move to suburbia in order to enjoy them. The mental and physical pressures exerted through today's society must be relieved through some form of relaxation and each individual must find the avenue of escape most compatible with his personality.

In 1955 David Sarnoff predicted,

Leisure, of course, will be greatly extended. A much shorter work week will no doubt prevail in 1980, and another ten or fifteen years will have been added to the average life span . . . not labor but leisure will be the great problem in the decades ahead. That prospect should be accepted as a God-given opportunity to add dimensions of enjoyment and grace to life.¹

This great impact on outdoor recreation resulted in the creation of the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission in 1958. This Commission was charged with the responsibility of studying outdoor

recreation and resources throughout the nation. In 1962 the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission Report was completed and presented to President Kennedy. It estimated the outdoor recreational demands through the year 2000 and made recommendations intended to assure that outdoor recreational benefits would be available to all Americans both now and in the future.²

Many factors have contributed to the rapidly increasing demand for outdoor recreational opportunities. The greatest increase has been experienced since World War II. During the war, servicemen and civilian workers moved about to a greater extent than had been experienced at any previous time in history. They had the opportunity to see new places and do new things, which created a desire to continue these experiences. Technological advances have made more leisure time available to the working force. How this extra time will be used depends upon the opportunities available, how they are presented, and the physical and mental capabilities of the individual.³ Other trends which have contributed to increased demand are the growing population, changes in the occupational structure, more sophisticated transportation, a higher standard of living, and population changes, such as the rural to urban shift. Attitudes toward outdoor recreation have changed largely as a result of these factors.

The Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission suggests that outdoor recreation, like education, is one of the elements of the full life that should be made available to the general public.⁴

Situation

The state of Oklahoma is well endowed with natural landscapes and

resources to provide a wide diversity of outdoor recreation opportunities. Topography varies from rolling plains in the west through the crosstimbers of the central section to the pine-covered hills and mountains of the east and southeast. These natural features, when combined with man-made reservoirs, present almost unlimited potential for the development of both land and water-based recreation facilities.

Trees are an integral part of the landscape in resource-based recreation areas in Oklahoma. Their usefulness and the priorities for their existence are demonstrated in many ways. Trees add to the beauty of the surroundings, shade facilities, temper the climate in both summer and winter and provide a home and food for wildlife, which are in turn enjoyed by the recreationists. Soviet scientists have concluded that many forest trees produce substances called "phytoncides" which destroy the most elementary forms of microorganisms, bacteria and fungi. They report that these substances destroy the agents of tuberculosis, diphtheria, cholera, dysentery and typhoid fever, thereby increasing the health value within a forest environment.⁵

The majority of the more than 140 native tree species in the state can be found in resource-based recreation areas. Various oak species are most common on a statewide basis, but shortleaf pine predominates in the eastern one-fourth of the state. Several recreation areas are blessed with a stand of mixed hardwoods and pine. The specific species of tree is not of paramount importance to Oklahoma recreationists, but they definitely show a preference for those areas where trees are a dominant part of the landscape.

The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers has constructed an extensive system of reservoirs in the state. Other agencies which have

constructed reservoirs include: The Bureau of Reclamation, the Department of Agriculture, the Grand River Dam Authority, and the Civilian Conservation Corps. They are all developed, either by the administering agency or some other department, for outdoor recreation use. These reservoirs, when combined with smaller bodies of water, such as upstream flood control structures and farm ponds, provide Oklahoma with a tremendous potential for water-based recreational development.

The Industrial Development and Parks Department operates 22 state parks located in all sections of the state. The majority of these are located adjacent to or in the proximity of a reservoir or other body of water. In addition to the state parks this agency administers 15 state recreation areas and 12 monuments, memorials, and museums. Other recreation areas include those administered by the U. S. Forest Service, the Corps of Engineers, a Federal Wildlife Refuge, a national park, and municipal and privately owned recreation areas throughout the state.

Resource-Based Recreation Areas

A resource-based recreation area is defined as one which is developed in areas where the natural resources of the area lend themselves to recreational use. This type of recreation area is situated without regard to population centers. The outstanding resources, such as mountains, lakes and rivers, determine the location of such facilities.⁶ Recreationists are attracted to these kinds of areas because they offer a diversion from everyday routines. The relaxed pace of living in such areas stimulates people to take an objective look at the world around them. A greater interest in and concern for the total environment, by

the general citizenry, has contributed to the increased popularity of resource-based areas.

The Oklahoma Outdoor Recreation Demand Study revealed that nearly 80 percent of the respondents interviewed at a recreation site had selected a resource-based area.⁷ The popularity of such areas is also partially attributed to the fact that this type of facility is more numerous in the state than other types.

Purpose and Scope

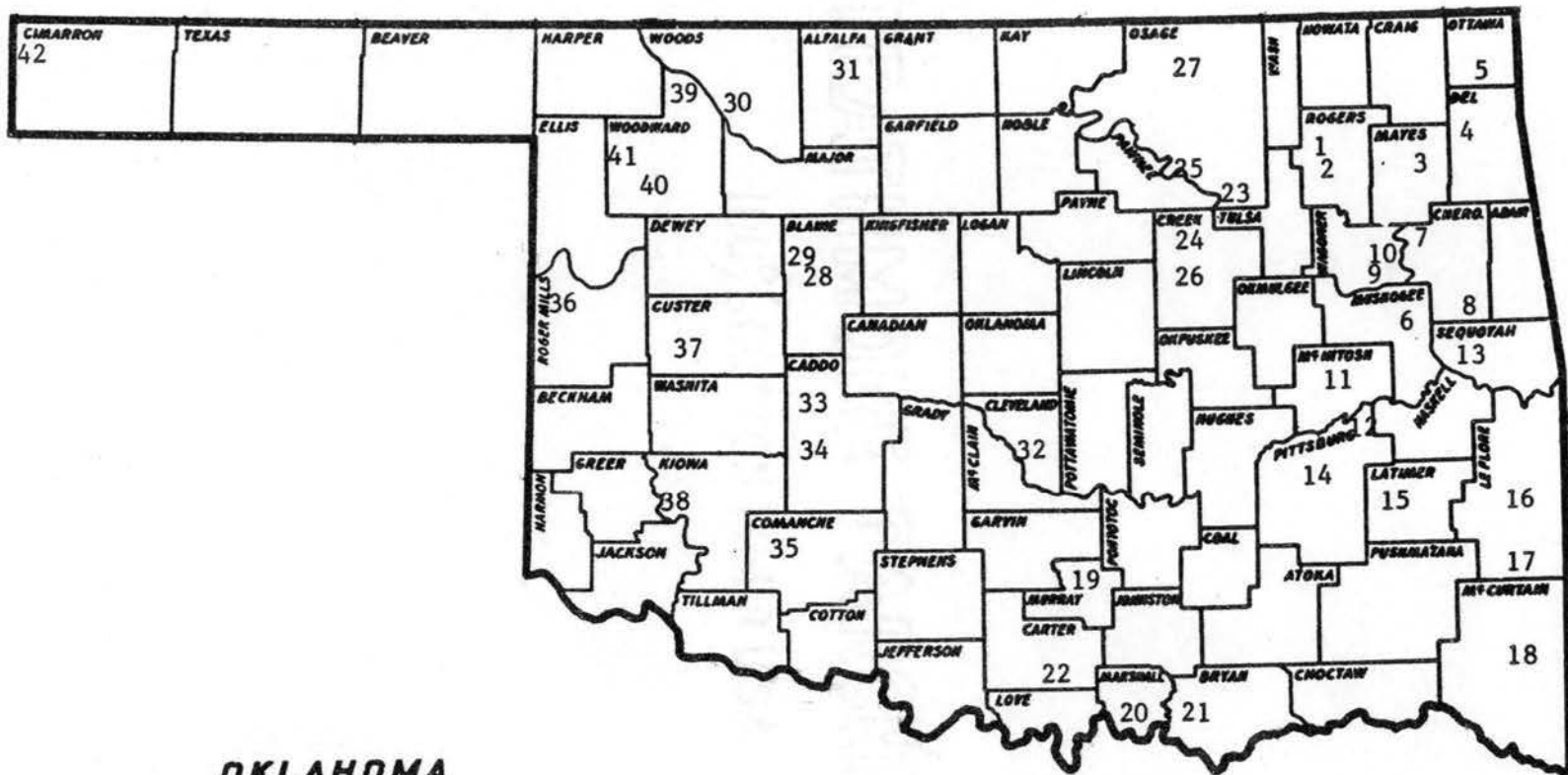
In order to plan adequately to meet the increasing demand for outdoor recreation opportunities it is necessary to understand certain personal characteristics and preferences of the users of these facilities. The purpose of this study is to present data concerning the present users of 42 selected resource-based recreation areas in Oklahoma. Information of this type is essential to the development of a meaningful and useful program of outdoor recreation.

Procedure

The basic data for this study were assembled from one section of the Oklahoma Outdoor Recreation Demand Study prepared by the Forestry Department, Oklahoma State University, for the Oklahoma Industrial Development and Parks Department and the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation. Only the head of the household was interviewed and he or she provided the information for all members of the family. Two thousand five hundred and forty-six questionnaires were completed at the 42 resource-based recreation areas during the summer of 1969. The location of the 42 sites are shown in Figure 1, page 7, and listed on page 6.

Key to Figure 1: Identification of the 42 Selected Resource-Based Recreation Areas

1. Will Rogers State Park
2. Damsite East, Oologah Reservoir
3. Cherokee Recreation Area
4. Honey Creek Recreation Area
5. Twin Bridges Recreation Area
6. Greenleaf State Park
7. Sequoyah State Park
8. Cookson Bend, Corps of Engineers, Tenkiller Reservoir
9. Sequoyah Bay Recreation Area
10. Whitehorn Cove, Corps of Engineers, Ft. Gibson Reservoir
11. Fountainhead State Park
12. Highway 9 Landing, Corps of Engineers, Eufaula Reservoir
13. Tenkiller State Park
14. Arrowhead State Park
15. Robbers Cave State Park
16. Wister State Park
17. Cedar Lake, U. S. Forest Service
18. Beavers Bend State Park
19. Platt National Park
20. Texoma State Park
21. Willow Springs Resort, Corps of Engineers, Texoma Reservoir
22. Lake Murray State Park
23. Washington Irving Cove, Corps of Engineers, Keystone Reservoir
24. Keystone State Park
25. Walnut Creek State Park
26. Heyburn Lake, Corps of Engineers
27. Osage Hills State Park
28. Roman Nose State Park
29. Canton Lake, Corps of Engineers
30. Little Sahara Recreation Area
31. Great Salt Plains State Park
32. Little River State Park
33. Red Rock Canyon State Park
34. Ft. Cobb Reservoir Recreation Area
35. Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge
36. Skipout Lake, U. S. Forest Service
37. Foss Reservoir Recreation Area
38. Quartz Mountain State Park
39. Alabaster Caverns State Park
40. Boiling Springs State Park
41. Damsite Left, Corps of Engineers, Ft. Supply Reservoir
42. Black Mesa State Park



OKLAHOMA

SCALE - STATUTE MILES
 0 10 20 30 40 50

Figure 1. Location of the 42 Selected Resource-Based Recreation Areas
 (See Key to Figure 1, page 6)

Interviewers approached respondents in every phase of recreation possible--at the boat docks, in picnic areas, in the campgrounds, at the swimming pools, and on the trails--in an attempt to get a truly cross-sectional representation of all activity participation at each site. Only selected portions of the total questionnaire were used for this study. It is designed to present the personal characteristics of the respondents; information concerning the current recreation trip the respondent was on; preferences in selecting recreation facilities and services; and the type and amount of participation in various recreational activities. The data from the completed questionnaires were coded and punched on cards. An analysis program was prepared to enable the data to be analyzed on the IBM 360 MOD 50 Computer. The remainder of this study presents an analysis of these data.

CHAPTER II

VARIABLES THAT INFLUENCE OUTDOOR RECREATION PARTICIPATION

Personal characteristics of the individual greatly influence his participation in outdoor recreation activities. These characteristics change even within the individual. A recent U. S. Forest Service report says,

In survey studies of campers you can no more lump together data for different campgrounds than you can mate widgeons and wombats. Campers differ not only from campground to campground, but also at the same campground from month to month.⁸

Recognizing that data presented here do not represent an "average outdoor recreationist," the results of the study are presented in terms of activity participation and preferences at the time of the interview. Not every respondent provided an answer to each question; therefore, the tables do not reflect the sum of all respondents. For example, although 2,546 respondents were interviewed, 18 did not provide the information relating to their marital status. Table I, then, shows a total of 2,532. The percentage was computed on the basis of only those respondents who supplied the requested information. This same procedure was followed in the preparation of all the tables in this study.

Marital Status

Nearly 90 percent of the heads of households encountered at

resource-based recreation areas were married, as shown in Table I. Opportunities available at this type facility are particularly attractive to family groups. Single people were in the minority at such areas, and they were usually with a group of friends. Their presence, however, indicates an active interest in the out-of-doors.

TABLE I
HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS CLASSIFIED BY THE NUMBER AND
PERCENT IN EACH MARITAL STATUS CLASSIFICATION

Marital Status	Number	Percent
Single	262	10.3
Married	2,270	89.7
Total	2,532	100.0

Source: The data for this and all subsequent tables were taken from the Special Report for the Oklahoma Industrial Development and Parks Department, Oklahoma Outdoor Recreation Demand Study, Forestry Department, Oklahoma State University, June, 1970.

Age

Heads of households in the 35 to 49 years of age group were more numerous than any other age classification, as seen in Table II. One thousand and forty-four of the 2,449 respondents, or 42.6 percent, were in this age category. There are several possible reasons for this.

People in this age group have had an opportunity to accumulate material resources and are better able financially to enjoy outdoor recreational pursuits. This is especially true of the campers who provide all of their own lodging and equipment. Another factor is that the children are old enough to be pretty much on their own and enjoy the out-of-doors with their parents. Since the children require less supervision, the parents are able to more fully enjoy the type of outdoor recreational activities they prefer. Many of the resource-based areas have activity opportunities designed especially for children.

TABLE II

HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS CLASSIFIED BY THE NUMBER
AND PERCENT IN EACH AGE CLASS

Age	Number	Percent
Less than 14	3	0.1
14 to 17	4	0.2
18 to 24	226	9.2
25 to 34	655	26.7
35 to 49	1,044	42.6
50 to 64	398	16.3
65 and over	119	4.9
Total	2,449	100.0

The second most numerous age group, accounting for 26.7 percent of the respondents, were those falling in the age bracket of 25 to 34 years. The fewer numbers in this classification may be accounted for by a reversal of the reasons given for the greater numbers in the older age group, namely, less financial resources and younger children, both of which restrict outdoor recreational activities. Only 9.2 percent of the respondents were from 18 to 24 years of age, and they were largely young married people. Sixteen percent of the respondents were from 50 to 64 years old. People in this range are normally free of the responsibilities of raising children. They are more apt to be financially secure and able to get out to see the country and do the things they enjoy most. Those over 65 years of age accounted for nearly 5 percent of the total respondents and were mainly retired people. Many of these people consider themselves to be on vacation most of the year and have trailers parked at recreation areas where they live on an annual basis. Age alone cannot, therefore, be considered a restricting factor in outdoor recreation participation. It may somewhat restrict the types of activities, but it in no way lessens the enjoyment or the enthusiasm of those who make use of resource-based areas in the state.

Family Income

Total family income, as demonstrated in Table III, influences the outdoor recreation participation of the entire family. Seventeen hundred and thirteen of the 2,500 respondents in this category, or 69.5 percent, said they had a total family income of \$7,000.00 or more annually. One hundred and nine respondents, or 4.4 percent of the total interviewees, indicated a total family income of less than

\$3,000.00 annually. This emphasizes the fact that available money is one of the greatest contributing factors in recreation participation, or the lack of it.

TABLE III
HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS CLASSIFIED BY THE NUMBER
AND PERCENT IN EACH TOTAL FAMILY
INGOME CLASSIFICATION

Family Income	Number	Percent
Less than \$3,000.	109	4.4
\$3,000. to \$4,999.	183	7.3
\$5,000. to \$6,999.	471	18.3
\$7,000. to \$9,999.	894	35.8
\$10,000 and over	843	33.7
Total	2,500	100.0

Unemployed people were found in fewer numbers at resource-based areas than any other occupational group. The same trend is seen in the area of income. If people do not have a job, or have a very limited family income, they do not participate in outdoor recreation activities--at least not at resource-based facilities.

Occupation

Table IV indicates that the outdoor recreation activities of the family are also influenced by the occupation of the head of the household. Certain occupations permit more leisure time, since the individual has specific work hours and is not obligated beyond a specified number of hours per week. This situation applies mainly to the skilled and semiskilled labor force. Other professions require that the individual spend more time on the job, such as traveling after normal work hours, or being on call beyond the normal work day. The actual participation of an individual may, therefore, not be a true indication of his interest or desires toward outdoor recreation pursuits.

TABLE IV
HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS CLASSIFIED BY THE NUMBER
AND PERCENT IN EACH OCCUPATIONAL CLASS

Occupation	Number	Percent
Professional	366	14.5
Manager; Official	393	15.6
Sales; Clerical	320	12.7
Craftsmen	480	19.1
Laborer	346	13.7
Service Worker	182	7.2
Farm Operator	73	2.9
Not Employed	20	0.8
Retired	179	7.1
Student	95	3.8
Military	65	2.6
	<u>2,519</u>	<u>100.0</u>

The data revealed that heads of households in the craftsman category were encountered more often at resource-based recreation facilities than any other occupational group. Nearly one out of every five interviewees listed his occupation as craftsman. Managers and officials were the next group most often encountered. This classification includes such positions as buyers, building managers, and managers of businesses and related vocations. Those in the professional category rank third and include such vocations as engineering, medical and health workers, teachers, accountants, foresters, and surveyors. Leisure time activities of this group are somewhat more restricted than those in the preceding categories.

Almost 15 percent of the respondents interviewed were professionals, which indicates a keen interest by this group in the out-of-doors and the natural resources available for recreational endeavors. Laborers and sales and clerical people were the next most numerous respondents in terms of occupations represented. These two labor classifications accounted for approximately 14 and 13 percent respectively of the total respondents. The occupational categories listed to this point--namely professional, manager, sales, craftsman, and laborers--accounted for 75 percent of all the heads of households interviewed at resource-based recreation areas. The remaining six categories--such as service workers, farm operators, not employed, retired, student, and military--make up the remaining 25 percent of the occupational categories encountered. Of this group, service workers and retired people were most numerous, each of which accounted for approximately 7 percent. Service workers include such vocations as housekeepers, policemen, firemen, barbers, domestics, and janitors. The majority of these people work a

more or less set number of hours per week, but their outdoor recreation participation may be influenced to a greater degree by available income. Students, farm operators, military personnel, and those people not presently employed were not encountered to any great extent. Less than 1 percent of all the heads of households interviewed were unemployed, indicating that available income and security play a major role in determining outdoor recreation participation.

Education

Heads of households interviewed at recreation sites had attained a relatively high educational level. More than 80 percent, as shown in Table V, had at least a high school diploma. Over one-fourth of the respondents had completed college. Earlier, reference was made to the fact that individuals with low incomes were not frequently encountered and this trend continues with respect to education. Respondents with 6 years or less of formal school work accounted for less than 2 percent of the interviewees,

TABLE V
HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS CLASSIFIED BY THE NUMBER
AND PERCENT IN EACH EDUCATIONAL CLASS

Education	Number	Percent
No school years completed	5	0.2
1 to 6 years	43	1.7
7 to 11 years	420	16.8
12 years (high school diploma)	844	33.7
13 to 15 years	659	26.3
16+ years (college degree)	534	21.3
	<u>2,505</u>	<u>100.0</u>

Recreation Trips

The Oklahoma Outdoor Recreation Demand Study revealed that resource-based recreation areas are used more heavily by family groups than any other type of facility. There are several factors which determine the degree to which facilities are utilized. Personal preferences of the recreationist influence participation to a greater extent than other variables. Not only do these preferences influence the kinds of activities in which he engages, but they also largely control the types of facilities that are visited.

Number of Trips Taken

There is a general trend toward families taking more than one recreation trip per year. Table VI shows that 1,033 of the 2,513 respondents interviewed indicated that they took from one to five outdoor recreation trips during the past twelve months. This figure accounts for 41 percent of all respondents. The table shows that the number of families taking more than five trips steadily decreases as the number of trips increases. Only 57 families, or just over 2 percent of the total, took more than 51 trips during the past year. Several factors account for the increasing number of recreation trips taken annually. The highly improved system of roads and highways makes it easy for families to reach a recreation destination in a relatively easy manner. The interstate highways and turnpikes provide easy access from the urban areas, and thus reduce the amount of traveling time required to reach a designated site. The system of state and federal highways reaches into every section of the state, and nearly all of the resource-based areas are located in close proximity to an improved road.

TABLE VI
 HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS CLASSIFIED BY THE NUMBER
 AND PERCENT OF OUT-OF-TOWN RECREATION TRIPS
 TAKEN DURING THE PAST TWELVE MONTHS

Number of Trips Taken	Number	Percent
1 to 5	1,033	41.1
6 to 10	530	21.1
11 to 15	376	15.0
16 to 25	306	12.2
26 to 50	211	8.4
51 and over	57	2.2
Total	2,513	100.0

Most of the recreation areas themselves have improved roads leading directly to the campgrounds and other facilities. Methods of transportation have also been vastly improved through technology and vehicles are now available which make traveling enjoyable. Many families provide their own means of lodging in the forms of tents, trailers, and pickup campers. Although this requires a heavy initial investment, when used over long periods of time the actual per night lodging costs are reduced. By taking advantage of such opportunities, a family is able to make a recreation trip without a large outlay of cash each time. The increased amount of leisure time available, through shorter working hours and longer vacations, provides more opportunities for family recreation trips. These factors, together

with a trend toward an increasing desire to see new places and become more familiar with the world in which we live, have resulted in an increasing number of recreation trips as opposed to the one major annual vacation of the past.

Driving Time

The amount of time required to reach a recreation area has influenced the number of trips taken annually. Nearly one-half of all the respondents, 1,250 of 2,540, indicated they drove less than one hour to reach their primary recreation destination on their last trip. The numbers of people decrease sharply as driving time increases, as shown by Table VII, with the exception of those traveling between two and one-fourth and five hours. People driving more than ten hours to reach a recreation site account for only a small portion of the total respondents. These were largely visitors from neighboring states who were interviewed at a resource-based area and Oklahomans who had driven a greater distance to reach a particular site.

Miles Driven

The amount of time spent reaching the recreation destination is closely related to the number of miles driven. Table VIII shows that nearly 18 percent of the respondents drove less than 20 miles, and nearly 23 percent drove between 21 and 50 miles. Both of these categories fall easily within the time limit of one hour on a major highway. Those driving less than 20 miles were on a one-day outing to a local recreation facility. One-half of the respondents, or 1,292 of the 2,546, indicated they drove between 51 and 300 miles. A radius of 300

TABLE VII

DRIVING TIME REQUIRED TO REACH THE RECREATION
SITE CLASSIFIED BY THE NUMBER AND
PERCENT IN EACH CATEGORY

Driving Time (Hours)	Number	Percent
0:00 to 1:00	1,250	49.2
1:01 to 2:00	511	20.1
2:01 to 5:00	582	22.9
5:01 to 10:00	109	4.3
10:01 to 25:00	56	2.2
25:01 to 50:00	30	1.2
50:01 to 99:00	2	0.1
Total	2,540	100.0

TABLE VIII

THE NUMBER OF MILES DRIVEN TO REACH THE RECREATION
SITE CLASSIFIED BY THE NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS
AND PERCENT IN EACH CATEGORY

Miles Driven	Number	Percent
0 to 20	454	17.8
21 to 50	578	22.7
51 to 100	564	22.2
101 to 300	728	28.6
301 to 500	83	3.3
501 to 1000	54	2.1
1001 and over	84	3.3
Total	2,546	100.0

miles from the center of the state would encompass all but one of the recreation areas included in the study. Less than 9 percent of the respondents indicated they drove more than 300 miles. These recreationists are those who were traveling through Oklahoma enroute to a destination in another state, or were on an extended vacation which included Oklahoma and the surrounding areas.

Recreation Trip Days

The total amount of time the respondent planned to spend on the recreation trip revealed that more than 50 percent intended to stay only one or two days. These people, and those planning to stay from 3 to 5 days, accounted for 74 percent of all the recreationists interviewed. The data in Table IX correlates very closely with the number of miles driven, the driving time required, and the number of out-of-town recreation trips taken per year. It shows that although they plan to stay only a short time they are able to reach their chosen site with minimum effort. Since a resource-based facility is located within easy traveling distance of all points in the state, families can add variety to their outdoor recreational experiences by visiting new places on each trip. Again, the numbers of people spending long periods of time on the trip diminishes sharply as the number of days planned increases. For example, 6.8 percent intended to stay from 11 to 15 days, but only 0.2 percent planned to stay from 36 to 50 days. This latter category, and those spending more than 51 days, are retired people who spend a good portion of the year on a recreation trip. It has become quite popular, particularly among the older generation, to join a caravan touring the country or to spend extended periods of time in various

sections of the country to take advantage of the weather conditions. Many of the resource-based recreation areas have installed electricity, hot water, and sewerage utilities. It is now possible for people to have all the comforts of home, yet be located in a scenic environment away from the confines of city living.

TABLE IX

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF DAYS THE HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD
PLANNED TO SPEND ON THE RECREATION TRIP
CLASSIFIED BY THE NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS
AND PERCENT IN EACH CATEGORY

Days Planned	Number	Percent
1 to 2	1,320	52.1
3 to 5	571	22.5
6 to 10	322	12.7
11 to 15	173	6.8
16 to 25	81	3.2
26 to 35	28	1.1
36 to 50	6	0.2
51 to 100	20	0.8
101 and over	14	0.6
Total	2,535	100.0

Type of Trip

As further evidence that people are taking relatively short trips, Table X shows that 1,082, or 43.2 percent of the 2,525 respondents, indicated that they were on an overnight trip. Just over one-fourth of the respondents said that this was either a major annual vacation or a one-day outing. Both the overnight trip and the one-day outing categories make it possible for an individual to visit a resource-based facility. Further, many of these areas have facilities available for activities appealing to those who do not plan to be gone from home overnight. There are swimming pools, picnic areas, children's playgrounds, golf courses, tennis courts, and horses and bicycles for rent at several areas included in the study. It is not necessary for a family to spend an extended period of time in a campground or a lodge to enjoy a resource-based facility. Many of those on a major annual vacation, however, spend the entire time at one site.

TABLE X

THE TYPE OF RECREATION TRIP TAKEN BY THE HEAD OF THE
HOUSEHOLD CLASSIFIED BY THE NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS
AND THE PERCENT IN EACH CATEGORY

Type of Trip	Number	Percent
Major annual vacation	682	27.2
Overnight trip	1,082	43.2
One-day outing	741	29.6
Total	2,505	100.0

Mode of Transportation

The mode of transportation used to reach the recreation site indicates very clearly that people prefer to recreate as family units. Over 86 percent of the 2,511 respondents indicated that they traveled by personal automobile as shown in Table XI. The second largest category, accounting for 12 percent of the respondents, traveled mainly in pickup campers. Travel by cycle, bus, train, or air was relatively insignificant. Only 1.3 percent of all respondents indicated these means of transportation. The number of trips, the duration of the trip, the miles driven, and the driving time all tie in very closely to the use of the family automobile for recreation travel.

TABLE XI

THE MODE OF TRAVEL USED BY THE HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD
TO REACH THE RECREATION SITE CLASSIFIED
BY THE NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS AND
PERCENT IN EACH CATEGORY

Mode of Travel	Number	Percent
Car	2,175	86.6
Cycle	15	0.6
Bus	13	0.5
Train	1	0.1
Air	4	0.2
Other (includes pickup campers)	303	12.0
Total	2,511	100.0

Month Trip Started

Evidence has shown that respondents encountered in this study do not spend long periods of time on recreation trips but that they take more than one trip per year. Table XII shows that all but 29 of the 2,475 respondents started their recreation trip in June, July, or August. Fourteen of these people began their trips in May and 12 between January and April. Three respondents said their trips started in September or October of 1968. These were retired people who had essentially taken up residence for a better portion of the year at some recreation site. These data are consistent with the traditional pattern of the summer months being the primary vacation time in America. The children are out of school and the head of the household normally takes his vacation during this time. A change from the established pattern is seen, however, in that rather than taking a long extended trip the family takes shorter trips and may visit a new recreation facility each time. The fact that 98.9 percent of the respondents had begun their trips in the months of June, July, or August indicates that the summertime is still the most popular time of the year for this type of activity. Most resource-based recreation areas are oriented toward outdoor activities, such as swimming, hiking, boating, and fishing. These kinds of activities require relatively mild weather. A short-duration trip does not require the advance planning or preparation necessary for an extended cross-country trip. Families can therefore enjoy a weekend at a resource-based recreation area several times during the summer months.

TABLE XII

THE MONTH IN WHICH THE HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD
 STARTED THE RECREATION TRIP CLASSIFIED
 BY THE NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS AND
 PERCENT IN EACH CATEGORY

Month Trip Started	Number	Percent
January	2	0.1
February	1	0.0
March	4	0.2
April	5	0.2
May	14	0.6
June	815	32.9
July	924	37.4
August	707	28.6
September	1	0.0
October	2	0.1
November	0	0.0
December	0	0.0
Total	2,475	100.0

Overnight Accommodations

The type of recreation trip being taken by a family largely determines the choice of overnight accommodations. This study is restricted to the resource-based recreation areas, so it is only logical that the majority of the respondents would prefer a camping area. Over 72

percent, or 1,686 of 2,383, of the total respondents selected a camping area as their first choice for overnight accommodations, as shown in Table XIII. Several different types of accommodations may be used in these areas including tents, camping trailers, pickup campers, and small trailer-houses. Over 21 percent of the respondents indicated that this question was not applicable to their particular trip since they were engaging in only the day-use recreation opportunities available and did not plan to stay in the area overnight. Motels received first priority by 2.6 percent of the respondents. Other categories such as hotels, staying in their own privately owned seasonal residence, staying with friends or relatives, renting a housekeeping cabin, or staying in a private club were preferred by only a few. These figures show that people who recreate in resource-based areas seem to prefer to commune with nature and to divorce themselves from the everyday routines of living at home.

Route Preference

One-half of the 2,555 respondents, as indicated in Table XIV, voiced preference for a combination of scenic and express routes to reach their chosen recreation site. This preference ties in very favorably with other data in the study--namely, that of the trend toward more than one trip per year and that of taking short trips by use of personal automobile. The preference of a scenic route was favored by less than 30 percent and that of an express route by nearly 22 percent. This indicates that recreationists do not enjoy spending a great deal of time on the road, yet they want to enjoy the trip as much as possible. The network of federal and state highways linked with

TABLE XIII

THE TYPE OF OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS MOST PREFERRED
CLASSIFIED BY THE NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS
AND PERCENT WHO PREFER EACH TYPE

Type of Accommodations	Number	Percent
Hotel	1	0.1
Motel	62	2.6
Your own seasonal residence	21	0.9
Friends or relatives	26	1.1
Housekeeping cabin	24	1.0
Private club	0	0.0
Camping area	1,686	72.1
Other	23	1.0
Not applicable	495	21.2
	<u>2,383</u>	<u>100.0</u>

TABLE XIV

THE TYPE OF ROUTE PREFERRED CLASSIFIED BY
THE NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS AND
PERCENT WHO PREFER EACH TYPE

Type of Route	Number	Percent
Scenic	747	29.2
Express	555	21.7
Combination	1,253	49.1
Total	<u>2,555</u>	<u>100.0</u>

interstate highways and turnpikes satisfies the traveling desires of most people.

Site Selection

There is less consistency in the factors which respondents consider in selecting their particular recreation site than in some other areas of recreation decision making. Table XV reveals that less than 20 percent of the respondents chose any one particular factor. The two considerations listed by just over 17 percent of the respondents were a quiet, uncrowded area and a previous visit to the area including staying in their own seasonal residence at the site. The services and facilities offered were considered quite important, as was a desire to visit new places. Since there is a trend toward reaching the site in the shortest possible time, 11.7 percent considered the accessibility of the site to be important. Recommendations to visit certain areas by other people who had been there previously was noted by 11.1 percent. The desire to visit natural or historic attractions, a remote primitive area, the favorable weather conditions, or a club association were not considered to be as important in determining site choice as the factors listed earlier. All of these factors, however, do play an important part in helping people to decide what type of area and what specific location they will visit on a recreation trip. The fact that no single consideration stands out above the others indicates that the respondents generally select an area for a combination of reasons.

TABLE XV

PRIMARY CONSIDERATIONS IN SITE CHOICE CLASSIFIED
BY NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS AND
PERCENT IN EACH CATEGORY

Site Choice Considerations	Number	Percent
Your seasonal residence; or a previous visit	453	17.2
Recommended by others	283	11.1
A club association	23	0.9
Desire to visit new places	334	13.1
Natural or historic attractions	115	4.5
An active, social area	59	2.3
A quiet, uncrowded area	443	17.3
A remote, primitive area	57	2.2
Accessibility of the site	299	11.7
The services and facilities offered	358	14.0
Favorable weather conditions	25	1.0
Other	107	4.2
Total	2,556	100.0

Service Facilities

Regardless of the type of recreation trip or the duration of stay there are certain types of service facilities which are necessary in order to fully enjoy the experience. The same type facilities are not in equal demand at all types of recreation areas. People visiting

museums or going to the zoo require quite different conveniences than those who are on a camping trip. Resource-based areas cater primarily to those who will be gone from home at least one night, although facilities are available for day-use activities.

Respondents indicated that they made use of certain types of facilities quite extensively and others received only very moderate use. The restrooms and shower facilities, as shown in Table XVI, were used more heavily than any other type. Over 84 percent of the respondents indicated use of these conveniences which shows the high priority for their availability in a resource-based recreation area. The purchase of food, either at a restaurant, grocery store, or other type of food service establishment was listed as being used by 71.5 percent of the respondents. These two categories show the most heavy use by all respondents interviewed. Cooking facilities were the next most used and were listed by 37 percent, whereas bait and tackle sales were named by 35.5 percent. The fifth most used service facility is the information center which shows another definite drop in popularity as it was mentioned by only 12.4 percent. Rental service including such things as boats, motors, and other equipment was utilized by 12.2 percent. Laundry facilities, used primarily by those on camping trips, with 10.4 percent was followed closely by use of souvenir and equipment shops. Only 6.8 percent of the respondents indicated that they used the lodging facilities in resource-based recreation areas. This points out the popularity of respondents providing their own living accommodations and the extent to which these areas are popular for day-use activities. Repair and storage facilities, guided tours, planned information programs, medical and health facilities, the pro golf shop, the airstrip,

TABLE XVI

THE TYPES OF SERVICE FACILITIES USED ON THE
RECREATION TRIP CLASSIFIED BY THE NUMBER
OF RESPONDENTS AND PERCENT
WHO USED EACH FACILITY

Types of Service Facilities	Number*	Percent*
Restaurant, food service, groceries	1,850	71.5
Lodging	181	6.8
Rental service	319	12.2
Bait and tackle sales	918	35.5
Pro golf shop	26	1.0
Souvenir and equipment shops	242	9.3
Nursery and child care	12	0.4
Information center	321	12.4
Planned information programs	41	1.5
Guided tours	80	3.1
Repair and storage facilities	92	3.6
Medical and health facilities	38	1.5
Airstrip	13	0.5
Laundry facilities	268	10.4
Restrooms and shower facilities	2,189	84.7
Cooking facilities	963	37.0

* Respondents were asked to list all the service facilities used; therefore, the number and percent columns reflect the total responses rather than 100 percent of the respondents.

and nursery and child care were all listed as being used by less than four percent of the total respondents. These types of services may all add to the enjoyment of certain individuals but are not mandatory to the welfare of the majority of the recreationists. They are the types of services which aid in attracting additional numbers of people and can help to make the recreation trip a more meaningful and memorable experience because of their availability.

The degree to which variables influence outdoor recreation participation is dependent upon each particular family situation. The activities of the head of the household are affected by personal characteristics such as age, income, education, and occupation as well as his interests and experiences. An influence is therefore exerted upon all family members as these factors are reflected through the actions of the head of the household. For example, the number of trips taken, miles driven, and length of stay at the site may be directly determined by available time and money. Both of these factors are generally closely correlated with occupation and education. Family outdoor recreation decision making is not done on the basis of any one single factor nor is any one factor dominant in the process.

CHAPTER III

FAMILY OUTDOOR RECREATION ACTIVITIES

Actual participation in outdoor recreation activities is influenced by a number of variables and personal characteristics as discussed in Chapter II of this study. Such things include the age of the participant, the type of recreation area being visited, the kinds and number of recreation opportunities available, the season of the year and local weather conditions, and the length of time being spent at the recreation site. Nearly all resource-based recreation areas offer the opportunity for certain types of recreational activities. Driving for pleasure and sightseeing are not restricted to certain types of facilities. Other activities such as camping, swimming, water skiing, boating, fishing, and hiking require some association with the natural environment. Golf, tennis, bicycling, and horseback riding require facilities not available at many resource-based areas. Viewing exhibits and cultural events and attending fairs and festivals are activities for which visitors to resource-based areas must depend upon other facilities in the vicinity. The scope of this study is limited to 19 separate outdoor recreation activities, most of which are available at resource-based areas or in close proximity to them. The study was designed to show to what extent the individual members of the family participated in various outdoor recreation activities and how often they participated. The head of household was interviewed and he or she

provided the information for all members of that family.

The 2,453 heads of households (see Table XVII, in the Appendix) who were interviewed indicated participation in some type of outdoor recreational activity while on the trip. Other data have shown that the majority of recreational trips are from one to two days duration. Since the activity participation is restricted to only those occasions while on the trip, it is reasonable that the number of activity occasions were concentrated in the category of from one to five times. Those respondents who indicated a large number of activity occasions are accounted for by people who were on extended trips. Many of these are retired persons. Less than 1 percent of the respondents indicated that they participated in a particular activity more than fifteen times. The influence of the head of the household in determining the kinds of activities which will be enjoyed shows up quite clearly as does the trend toward family-oriented type of participation. The data were collected for up to six members of a family--i.e., the parents and as many as four other family members. The other family members were usually children of the head of the household and the spouse, but where grandparents or other relatives were making their home with the head of the household they were considered as permanent members of that family unit. In such cases the activities of these people were recorded with the children.

The data show there is a high degree of participation consistency among individual family members when visiting a resource-based recreation area. This is borne out by the fact that when one member of the family, such as the head of the household, participates in an activity all other members of the family participate in that activity at about

the same rate. This is especially true for those types of activities which are enjoyed as family units, such as driving for pleasure. For example, 46.7 percent of the heads of the household went driving for pleasure while on the recreation trip they were experiencing at the time of the interview. On this same trip this activity was participated in by 46.4 percent of the spouses, 45.4 percent of the oldest children, 44.0 percent of the second oldest children, 40.0 of the third oldest children, and 37.8 percent of the youngest children. With only a few exceptions this same trend is seen through all of the activities. It should be remembered, however, that activity participation is restricted only to the time when the individual is on the trip. A survey of households made for the Oklahoma Outdoor Recreation Demand Study showed that outdoor recreation participation over a twelve-month period by individual members of the family varies to some degree.

There are certain activities, such as bicycling and swimming, which are engaged in a larger number of times and by a greater percentage of children than by the heads of households and spouses. Golfing, however, shows a reverse trend in that the head of the household participates at a greater rate than other members of the family. Picnicking and sightseeing are two other activities in which a high degree of family participation is noted. This finding is strengthened by the fact that there is also consistency in the number of times each member of the family has participated. For example, approximately 92 percent of all respondents who went driving for pleasure, picnicking, or sightseeing on the trip engaged in these activities from one to five times and approximately 6 percent of the respondents in all three categories participated from 6 to 15 times. Tables XXI and XXII in the Appendix

show that the younger children tended to participate a greater number of times than the other members of the family. Less than 1 percent of the respondents in these same three categories engaged in these activities 16 or more times while on the trip. Those who did were retired people living at a recreation site a good portion of the year or others on extended trips.

Hiking is enjoyed by the entire family but is participated in more by the younger family members. Certain other activities such as bicycling, horseback riding, playing outdoor games, and swimming are young people oriented. Certain of these activities are more popular with all age groups than others. For example, swimming is the most popular activity among all family members. More than 68 and 69 percent of heads of households and spouses, respectively, went swimming, but these figures increase to 83 and 85 percent for the children. The children also went swimming a greater number of times than did the parents. Bicycling and horseback riding were enjoyed by the children more times than by the parents; however, neither of these activities showed a high degree of participation. This is explained by the fact that opportunities for these kinds of activities are limited at resource areas. Playing outdoor games requires very little equipment or special facilities. It is not surprising that the percentage of participants in outdoor games increases as the age diminishes among the children. Many of the resource areas have special playgrounds for the younger children and other game type activities available for all ages.

Less than one-half of one percent of any of the family members indicated that they played tennis while on the recreation trip. This extremely low figure should not be interpreted as meaning that there is

an equally low interest in this sport in Oklahoma. It is simply a reflection of the lack of opportunity to engage in such an activity at a resource-based area. Should the opportunity become available to play tennis while in a resource area the number of participants would no doubt increase tremendously. The same analogies can be made for the activities of bicycle riding and horseback riding because of the limited opportunities. Golf also shows low participation, but the heads of the households play more often than other family members. The opportunity for this sport is also quite limited at resource areas. Some heads of households may take the opportunity to play a round of golf at a neighboring course while other members of the family engage in some other type activity at the recreation site. Golf courses which have been constructed at resource areas in Oklahoma are used quite heavily.

Camping is the second most popular activity among all heads of households and other members of the family. Over 65 percent of the respondents indicated participation in this activity. All of the areas sampled have facilities available for camping and this is, in most cases, the primary purpose of the recreation trip. Approximately 35 percent of the heads of households, however, were not on a camping trip which emphasizes the importance of day-use activities at resource-based areas. Certain activities which are available in these areas such as swimming, fishing, and boating are quite attractive to the local population who enjoy them for shorter durations of time without being gone from home overnight. Camping includes all those people who were staying in the area at least one night but who were not residing in a lodge or other accommodation provided by the management.

Water-based sports, in addition to swimming, are among the more popular activities. All members of the family, with the exception of the youngest child, participate in diving and water skiing at about the same rate and about the same number of times while on the trip. The same general trend is seen among those who go boating. Nearly 40 percent of all the respondents, with the exception of the youngest child, went boating while on the trip. Diving and water skiing and boating are two activities which go hand in hand. There appears to be a greater activity in the area of boating as opposed to water skiing because this category also includes people who go boating just for pleasure. One-half of the heads of households went fishing but less than 40 percent of the other family members participated in this activity. This may be another of those type activities in which the head of the household participates while other members of the family are enjoying a different recreational pursuit. Nearly all of the resource-based recreation facilities in Oklahoma are located in association with a body of water which accounts for the high degree of participation of recreationists visiting this type area.

One-half of one percent, or less, of the family members went hunting while on a trip to a resource-based area. Hunting is a very popular sport in Oklahoma, but the interviews were taken during the summer months at which time hunting is almost out of season. There are a few opportunities for hunting outside the resource-based areas of which the respondent might take advantage. Only 13 heads of households out of 2,453 interviewed indicated that they did go hunting. The household phase of the Oklahoma Outdoor Recreation Demand Study indicates a much higher percentage of hunters on an annual basis, so this

low figure should not be interpreted as indicating a low interest in the sport. Hunting is allowed on a few of the resource-based areas at certain times of the year but not during the summer months. Target shooting is another activity in which participation figures are quite low but the opportunity is also equally limited.

Viewing outdoor games, viewing exhibits and cultural events, and attending fairs and festivals are three categories over which the management of resource-based areas has very little control, nor can they provide the recreationist with such opportunities. The respondents who indicated participation in these types of activities were, for the most part, forced to find their own opportunities outside the resource-based area itself. There are a number of such facilities in the state located within easy driving distance from a resource area. During the summer there are also a number of festivals and cultural events, particularly those associated with Indian culture, to which recreationists could drive from their primary site. All three of these activities indicate a high degree of participation as family groups. They all engaged in the activity on a fairly even basis and approximately the same number of times. These are other categories in which, although the participation rates are quite low as compared to certain other activities, the opportunity for participation is also quite limited.

Resource-based areas receive a higher percentage of visitations than any other type of recreation facility in the state of Oklahoma. They are also more numerous than any other type and are distributed in all sections of the state. The popularity and use of this type of facility is reflected partially by an appreciation for the services

and facilities offered and also by their availability. Studies have shown that people are more inclined to be aware of their surroundings and want to know more about their environment. A visit to a resource-based area provides not only an opportunity to recreate but also to participate in an educational experience by simply being aware of one's surroundings. Since resource-based areas are located throughout the state, people have the opportunity to use this kind of facility for a home base and travel to other types of recreation facilities within a relatively short driving distance. This study, however, does not encompass activities or participation at other types of recreation areas.

CHAPTER IV

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Summary

The sampling procedures used at the 42 selected resource-based recreation areas in Oklahoma were designed to obtain information concerning user preferences and activity participation. The respondents were very cooperative and quite willing to provide the information requested.

The resources of the state, both natural and man-made, lend themselves to use as outdoor recreation areas. The system of reservoirs, combined with natural landscape features, provide almost unlimited potential for the development of such facilities. The economics and feasibility of recreation facility construction are beyond the scope of this study, but caution should be exercised to avoid flooding the recreation market. Resource-based recreation areas are located in relation to the features of the landscape rather than in relation to the population centers. Regardless of their location in the state they have all received very heavy use. Two-thirds of the areas included in this study are located in the eastern one-half of the state which also contains more than one-half of the state's population as well as six of the eight Corps of Engineers reservoirs sampled. The topography and natural landscape features are more suited to the traditional concepts of a recreation area than in other sections of the state. These facts

indicate that the facilities are located in the areas of greatest demand and where they can serve with greater accessibility a larger portion of the state's population.

Analysis of the data revealed several important findings. The recreation users in Oklahoma reflect a genuine interest in the out-of-doors and a desire to become more familiar with the world in which they live. Many of the users come from the urban areas and visit these facilities as a means of escaping the confines of city living. They show a deep concern for the natural resources and a desire to aid in their protection.

The personal characteristics of the respondents influence the type of activity in which they participate and the degree of participation. A very strong indication of family oriented recreation is evident throughout the study. Although a majority of the respondents were married, and were at the site with their families, single people were also in evidence at nearly all of the sites. The type of area under study offers a diversity of activities which lure both groups and individuals. They are designed primarily for visitors who plan to stay in the area for at least one night but services and facilities are accessible to day-time visitors. This type area attracts the local population for swimming, fishing, and boating in addition to those who travel greater distances.

Age alone is not a determining factor for outdoor recreation participation, although the greatest percent of the respondents were from 35 to 49 years old. Personal characteristics in addition to age and marital status, such as family income and occupation and education of the head of the household, all show definite correlations. Those with

more education and a higher income, which relate to occupation, were encountered in the greatest numbers. The majority of this class of people are confined to working indoors and they therefore feel a need to get away from home in order to have a truly satisfying recreational experience.

Tremendous technological advances have made traveling comparatively easy. The modern system of highways has made it possible to reach a resource-based recreation facility in only one or two hours driving time from any part of the state. The large numbers of pickup campers and trailers seen in recreation areas attest to the popularity of this type accommodation. These and other factors have contributed to the family taking more than one recreation trip per year. They tend to stay reasonably close to home and to spend only a short time at the recreation site. A camping area is the most popular type of overnight accommodation with the users of resource areas. They have very definite needs and opinions of the type of service facilities which should be offered at the sites they visit.

The activities in which the respondents participate at the recreation site are influenced by age, the type of area being visited, the kinds of recreation opportunities available, the season of the year, and the length of time they plan to stay at the site. The opportunities for some types of activities are limited or nonexistent at some sites. There is a definite indication, however, that users of resource-based recreation areas participate as family units. The head of the household, to a large degree, determines the types of activities in which the entire family will engage.

The number of times an individual participates in a certain activity is somewhat influenced by age. Children tend to go swimming and play outdoor games more often than do the parents. Although the opportunity to play golf is rather limited in resource-based areas, the head of the household participates in this activity more often than other members of the family. Certain activities, such as driving for pleasure and sightseeing, are enjoyed almost entirely as family units. The data show only slight variance in the percent of participants or the number of times in which participation was indicated regardless of position within the family. Spectator type activities also show this same trend but to a much lower degree in terms of participation.

Certain activities show a much higher popularity level than others. In some instances this is a reflection of the availability for the opportunity to participate. Target shooting, for example, and playing tennis are two activities in which very low participation rates are noted. The facilities for such activities are not generally available at resource-based recreation areas. All of the water-based activities show a high degree of popularity but the influence of facility location must be considered. Nearly all resource-based areas were developed in close proximity to a body of water. Many recreationists visit this type area primarily because of the availability of water-oriented sports.

Conclusions

Over 40 percent of the respondents said that they had taken from one to five outdoor recreation trips during the past year. A majority of the areas support capacity crowds much of the summer and especially

on weekends and holidays. This indicates a tremendous load on the existing facilities but the length of stay must be considered. The significant point is that over one-half of the respondents said that they planned to stay at the site only one or two days. This rapid turnover enables a facility to accommodate greater numbers of people without an increase in facilities in proportion to the total number of visitors. Time limitations of 10 days or two weeks therefore do not apply to most of the visitors. Less than 13 percent of the respondents said that they planned to stay at the site more than 10 days. These were largely retired people who were actually living within the area.

Resource-based areas are quite attractive, not only to campers and those who use the existing lodging facilities, but to the local population. Such activities as swimming, boating, and fishing draw large numbers of people from the surrounding localities. The same types of facilities are not required for these visitors as for those who stay overnight. An area which provides opportunities for recreation activities for both types of clientele can increase its efficiency in serving the public. The lure of the out-of-doors and the attractiveness of the surroundings draw people to the site even though the opportunity for the same activity exists elsewhere.

June, July, and August are the months in which the greatest portion of respondents visited the recreation facilities. Traditionally these have been the months in which the majority of heads of households have taken their annual vacations. Management might well make attempts to draw people to the sites in the months immediately preceding and following the time of heaviest use. This would help to relieve the strain, both from the standpoint of finances and manpower, by extending

use in both directions.

The tremendous increase in camping activity is having a detrimental effect on many of the camping sites. Vegetative management is beyond the scope of this study, but management officials should be very cautious with respect to these resources to insure the continued value and usefulness of the site.

The service facilities available are of critical importance to the recreationist in a resource-based area. The study indicates that there are certain things which are used much more heavily than others. The availability of these things determines, in large measure, the attitudes of visitors toward the entire recreation area. Ideally, an area should not be opened to public use until the services and facilities are available. All resource areas should provide restrooms and showers in addition to food service of two types. Campers need to purchase groceries and supplies and day-use visitors need the services of a restaurant. Bait and tackle shops are necessary to the fishermen and were used by a large percent of the respondents. The popularity of camping makes it absolutely necessary that adequate cooking facilities be provided. They should be of permanent construction and located in the picnic or day-use area as well as in the camping area. Certain service facilities are used by only a very small portion of the visitors. It would be well to allot available monies to the provision of those kinds of service facilities which are most needed and wanted by the majority of users of the recreation areas. It is virtually impossible to provide every kind of service which might be requested. Therefore, priorities should be established consistent with the needs of the majority of recreationists.

A SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- (1) Sarnoff, David. "The Fabulous Future." Fortune, Vol. 51, No. 1 (January, 1955), pp. 82-83.
- (2) Citizens Committee For The Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission. Action For Outdoor Recreation For America. A Digest of the Report of the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission, With Suggestions for Citizen Action, September, 1964, p. 4.
- (3) Brockman, C. Frank. Recreational Use of Wild Lands. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1959, p. 2.
- (4) Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission Staff. Outdoor Recreation For America, A Report to the President and the Congress. Washington: U. S. Government Printing Office, 1962, p. 75.
- (5) Tyul'panov, N. M. Management of Forest Parks. Jerusalem: Israel Program For Scientific Translations, 1968, p. 21.
- (6) Schermerhorn, Richard W. Recreation in Western Maryland Present and Future. Western Maryland Resources, Resource Study 2, June 1965, p. 28.
- (7) Special Report For The Oklahoma Industrial Development and Parks Department. Oklahoma Outdoor Recreation Demand Study, Forestry Department, Oklahoma State University, June, 1970.
- (8) Shafer, Elwood L., Jr. The Average Camper Who Doesn't Exist, U. S. D. A. Forest Service Research Paper NE-142, 1969, p. 1.

A P P E N D I X

TABLE XVII

OUTDOOR RECREATION PARTICIPATION OF HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS CLASSIFIED
BY THE NUMBER AND PERCENT OF RESPONDENTS AND THE
PERCENT PARTICIPATING VARIOUS NUMBERS OF TIMES

Activity	Number of Participating Respondents*	Percent of Participating Respondents	Number of Activity Occasions (In Percentage of Participating Respondents)						
			1 - 5	6 - 15	16 - 25	26 - 50	51 - 75	76-100	101-200
Driving for Pleasure	1147	46.7	92.8	5.7	0.7	0.5	0.1	0.1	-
Picnicking	1434	58.4	92.8	6.5	0.4	0.2	-	0.1	0.1
Sightseeing	1167	47.6	92.3	6.4	0.5	0.6	0.1	0.1	-
Hiking and Nature Study	465	18.9	89.9	8.8	0.2	0.9	-	0.2	-
Bicycling	38	1.5	78.9	18.4	2.6	-	-	-	-
Horseback Riding	66	2.7	96.9	3.0	-	-	-	-	-
Golf	62	2.5	91.9	8.1	-	-	-	-	-
Tennis	9	0.4	88.9	11.1	-	-	-	-	-
Playing Outdoor Games	258	10.5	93.8	6.2	-	-	-	-	-
Camping	1604	65.4	86.2	12.0	0.7	0.8	0.1	0.1	0.1

TABLE XVII (Continued)

Activity	Number of Participating Respondents*	Percent of Participating Respondents	Number of Activity Occasions (In Percentage of Participating Respondents)						
			1 - 5	6 - 15	16 - 25	26 - 50	51 - 75	76-100	101-200
Swimming	1685	68.7	90.3	9.3	0.2	0.2	-	-	-
Diving and Water Skiing	627	25.6	93.4	5.7	0.2	0.2	-	-	-
Boating	918	37.4	90.3	8.6	0.6	0.2	-	0.2	-
Fishing	1216	49.6	90.1	8.5	0.8	0.5	-	0.1	0.1
Hunting	13	0.5	84.6	7.7	7.7	-	-	-	-
Shooting (Target)	21	0.8	95.2	4.8	-	-	-	-	-
Viewing Outdoor Games	60	2.4	98.3	1.7	-	-	-	-	-
Viewing Exhibits & Cultural Events	144	5.9	93.1	6.2	0.7	-	-	-	-
Attending Fairs and Festivals	42	1.7	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	-

* 2453 Heads of Households indicated participation in at least one of the activities listed. The figures in this column refer only to the number of participants in each separate activity.

TABLE XVIII

OUTDOOR RECREATION PARTICIPATION OF SPOUSES CLASSIFIED
BY THE NUMBER AND PERCENT OF RESPONDENTS AND THE
PERCENT PARTICIPATING VARIOUS NUMBERS OF TIMES

Activity	Number of Participating Respondents*	Percent of Participating Respondents	Number of Activity Occasions (In Percentage of Participating Respondents)						
			1 - 5	6 - 15	16 - 25	26 - 50	51 - 75	76-100	101-200
Driving for Pleasure	1022	46.4	92.8	5.8	0.5	0.6	0.1	0.1	-
Picnicking	1287	58.4	92.6	6.7	0.4	0.2	-	0.1	0.1
Sightseeing	1061	48.2	92.0	6.9	0.4	0.6	0.1	0.1	-
Hiking and Nature Study	436	19.8	89.9	8.7	0.5	0.7	-	0.2	-
Bicycling	32	1.4	81.3	18.7	-	-	-	-	-
Horseback Riding	59	2.7	96.6	3.4	-	-	-	-	-
Golf	16	0.7	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tennis	4	0.2	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Playing Outdoor Games	229	10.4	94.3	5.7	-	-	-	-	-
Camping	1509	68.5	86.8	11.5	0.7	0.7	0.1	0.1	0.1

TABLE XVIII (Continued)

Activity	Number of Participating Respondents*	Percent of Participating Respondents	Number of Activity Occasions (In Percentage of Participating Respondents)						
			1 - 5	6 - 15	16 - 25	26 - 50	51 - 75	76-100	101-200
Swimming	1522	69.1	90.3	9.3	0.3	0.1	-	-	-
Diving and Water Skiing	526	23.9	93.9	5.7	0.2	0.2	-	-	-
Boating	789	35.8	90.7	8.4	0.5	0.1	-	0.2	-
Fishing	830	37.7	90.2	8.4	0.7	0.4	-	0.1	0.1
Hunting	5	0.2	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shooting (Target)	13	0.6	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Viewing Outdoor Games	49	2.2	98.0	2.0	-	-	-	-	-
Viewing Exhibits & Cultural Events	135	6.1	93.3	5.9	0.7	-	-	-	-
Attending Fairs and Festivals	38	1.7	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	-

* 2202 Spouses indicated participation in at least one of the activities listed. The figures in this column refer only to the number of participants in each separate activity.

TABLE XIX

OUTDOOR RECREATION PARTICIPATION OF THE OLDEST CHILD CLASSIFIED
BY THE NUMBER AND PERCENT OF RESPONDENTS AND THE
PERCENT PARTICIPATING VARIOUS NUMBERS OF TIMES

Activity	Number of Participating Respondents*	Percent of Participating Respondents	Number of Activity Occasions (In Percentage of Participating Respondents)						
			1 - 5	6 - 15	16 - 25	26 - 50	51 - 75	76-100	101-200
Driving for Pleasure	780	45.4	93.2	6.0	0.4	0.4	-	-	-
Picnicking	1022	59.5	92.8	7.1	0.1	0.1	-	-	-
Sightseeing	842	49.0	92.0	7.4	0.4	0.2	-	-	-
Hiking and Nature Study	405	23.6	92.1	7.4	0.2	0.2	-	-	-
Bicycling	56	3.3	82.1	17.9	-	-	-	-	-
Horseback Riding	82	4.8	97.6	2.4	-	-	-	-	-
Golf	8	0.5	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tennis	5	0.3	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Playing Outdoor Games	238	13.9	92.4	7.1	0.4	-	-	-	-
Camping	1153	67.1	86.0	13.1	0.5	0.3	0.1	-	-

TABLE XIX (Continued)

Activity	Number of Participating Respondents*	Percent of Participating Respondents	Number of Activity Occasions (In Percentage of Participating Respondents)						
			1 - 5	6 - 15	16 - 25	26 - 50	51 - 75	76-100	101-200
Swimming	1433	83.4	89.5	10.1	0.3	0.1	-	-	-
Diving and Water Skiing	468	27.2	93.6	6.4	-	-	-	-	-
Boating	637	37.1	90.7	9.0	0.3	-	-	-	-
Fishing	662	38.5	90.0	9.5	0.3	0.2	-	-	-
Hunting	8	0.5	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shooting (Target)	14	0.8	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Viewing Outdoor Games	45	2.6	95.6	4.4	-	-	-	-	-
Viewing Exhibits & Cultural Events	109	6.3	95.4	4.6	-	-	-	-	-
Attending Fairs and Festivals	33	1.9	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	-

* 1717 of the Oldest Children indicated participation in at least one of the activities listed. The figures in this column refer only to the number of participants in each separate activity.

TABLE XX

OUTDOOR RECREATION PARTICIPATION OF THE SECOND OLDEST CHILD CLASSIFIED
BY THE NUMBER AND PERCENT OF RESPONDENTS AND THE
PERCENT PARTICIPATING VARIOUS NUMBERS OF TIMES

Activity	Number of Participating Respondents*	Percent of Participating Respondents	Number of Activity Occasions (In Percentage of Participating Respondents)						
			1 - 5	6 - 15	16 - 25	26 - 50	51 - 75	76-100	101-200
Driving for Pleasure	547	44.0	93.2	5.9	0.4	0.5	-	-	-
Picnicking	717	57.7	91.8	8.0	0.1	0.1	-	-	-
Sightseeing	588	47.3	92.2	7.1	0.3	0.3	-	-	-
Hiking and Nature Study	295	23.7	90.5	8.8	0.3	0.3	-	-	-
Bicycling	42	3.4	80.9	19.1	-	-	-	-	-
Horseback Riding	60	4.8	96.7	3.3	-	-	-	-	-
Golf	4	0.3	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tennis	5	0.4	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Playing Outdoor Games	182	14.6	92.3	7.1	0.6	-	-	-	-
Camping	863	69.5	85.5	13.6	0.5	0.3	0.1	-	-

TABLE XX (Continued)

Activity	Number of Participating Respondents*	Percent of Participating Respondents	Number of Activity Occasions (In Percentage of Participating Respondents)						
			1 - 5	6 - 15	16 - 25	26 - 50	51 - 75	76-100	101-200
Swimming	1057	85.1	88.8	10.6	0.4	0.2	-	-	-
Diving and Water Skiing	329	26.5	93.3	6.7	-	-	-	-	-
Boating	462	37.2	89.4	10.2	0.4	-	-	-	-
Fishing	474	38.2	89.7	9.7	0.4	0.2	-	-	-
Hunting	5	0.4	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shooting (Target)	6	0.5	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Viewing Outdoor Games	27	2.2	96.3	3.7	-	-	-	-	-
Viewing Exhibits & Cultural Events	81	6.5	96.3	3.7	-	-	-	-	-
Attending Fairs and Festivals	22	1.8	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	-

* 1242 of the Second Oldest Children indicated participation in at least one of the activities listed. The figures in this column refer only to the number of participants in each separate activity.

TABLE XXI

OUTDOOR RECREATION PARTICIPATION OF THE THIRD OLDEST CHILD CLASSIFIED
 BY THE NUMBER AND PERCENT OF RESPONDENTS AND THE
 PERCENT PARTICIPATING VARIOUS NUMBERS OF TIMES

Activity	Number of Participating Respondents*	Percent of Participating Respondents	Number of Activity Occasions (In Percentage of Participating Respondents)						
			1 - 5	6 - 15	16 - 25	26 - 50	51 - 75	76-100	101-200
Driving for Pleasure	243	40.0	90.9	7.8	0.4	0.8	-	-	-
Picnicking	350	57.6	89.1	10.6	0.3	-	-	-	-
Sightseeing	271	44.6	90.4	8.5	0.7	0.4	-	-	-
Hiking and Nature Study	137	22.5	89.1	10.2	-	0.7	-	-	-
Bicycling	24	3.9	75.0	25.0	-	-	-	-	-
Horseback Riding	32	5.3	96.9	3.1	-	-	-	-	-
Golf	3	0.5	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tennis	1	0.2	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Playing Outdoor Games	90	14.8	88.9	11.1	-	-	-	-	-
Camping	428	70.4	84.4	14.7	0.5	0.2	0.2	-	-

TABLE XXI (Continued)

Activity	Number of Participating Respondents*	Percent of Participating Respondents	Number of Activity Occasions (In Percentage of Participating Respondents)						
			1 - 5	6 - 15	16 - 25	26 - 50	51 - 75	76-100	101-200
Swimming	510	83.9	88.0	11.2	0.6	0.2	-	-	-
Diving and Water Skiing	160	26.3	92.5	7.5	-	-	-	-	-
Boating	219	36.0	89.5	10.0	0.5	-	-	-	-
Fishing	227	37.3	90.7	8.4	0.4	0.4	-	-	-
Hunting	3	0.5	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shooting (Target)	2	0.3	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Viewing Outdoor Games	9	1.5	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Viewing Exhibits & Cultural Events	42	6.9	97.6	2.4	-	-	-	-	-
Attending Fairs and Festivals	16	2.6	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	-

* 608 of the Third Oldest Children indicated participation in at least one of the activities listed. The figures in this column refer only to the number of participants in each separate activity.

TABLE XXII

OUTDOOR RECREATION PARTICIPATION OF THE YOUNGEST CHILD CLASSIFIED
BY THE NUMBER AND PERCENT OF RESPONDENTS AND THE
PERCENT PARTICIPATING VARIOUS NUMBERS OF TIMES

Activity	Number of Participating Respondents*	Percent of Participating Respondents	Number of Activity Occasions (In Percentage of Participating Respondents)						
			1 - 5	6 - 15	16 - 25	26 - 50	51 - 75	76-100	101-200
Driving for Pleasure	82	37.8	87.8	12.2	-	-	-	-	-
Picnicking	129	59.4	85.3	13.9	-	-	-	0.8	-
Sightseeing	91	41.9	87.9	12.1	-	-	-	-	-
Hiking and Nature Study	43	19.8	79.1	20.9	-	-	-	-	-
Bicycling	8	3.7	50.0	50.0	-	-	-	-	-
Horseback Riding	10	4.6	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Golf	2	0.9	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tennis	0	0.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Playing Outdoor Games	39	18.0	82.1	17.9	-	-	-	-	-
Camping	150	69.1	78.7	20.7	-	-	0.6	-	-

TABLE XXII (Continued)

Activity	Number of Participating Respondents*	Percent of Participating Respondents	Number of Activity Occasions (In Percentage of Participating Respondents)						
			1 - 5	6 - 15	16 - 25	26 - 50	51 - 75	76-100	101-200
Swimming	186	85.7	84.4	15.1	0.5	-	-	-	-
Diving and Water Skiing	42	19.3	88.1	11.9	-	-	-	-	-
Boating	67	30.9	88.1	11.9	-	-	-	-	-
Fishing	75	34.6	85.3	14.7	-	-	-	-	-
Hunting	0	0.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shooting (Target)	2	0.9	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Viewing Outdoor Games	3	1.4	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Viewing Exhibits & Cultural Events	17	3.2	94.1	5.9	-	-	-	-	-
Attending Fairs and Festivals	2	0.9	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	-

* 217 of the Youngest Children indicated participation in at least one of the activities listed. The figures in this column refer only to the number of participants in each separate activity.

VITA

Max Ralph Craighead

Candidate for the Degree of

Master of Science

Thesis: FAMILY OUTDOOR RECREATION ACTIVITIES AND VARIABLES THAT
INFLUENCE PARTICIPATION IN OKLAHOMA

Major Field: Forest Resources

Biographical:

Personal Data: Born in Buffalo, Oklahoma, March 4, 1929, the son
of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph L. Craighead.

Education: Graduated from Buffalo High School, Buffalo, Oklahoma,
in May, 1947; attended Oklahoma Baptist University from 1947
through 1949; received the Bachelor of Science degree from
Oklahoma State University in 1958, with a major in General
Forestry; completed requirements for the Master of Science
degree from Oklahoma State University in July, 1970.

Professional Experience: Forestry Aide, U. S. Forest Service,
Summer 1956; Assistant Extension Forester, Oklahoma State
University, 1958-1962; Extension Forester, Oklahoma State
University, 1962 to present.

Professional Organizations: Society of American Foresters;
American Forestry Association; Registered Professional
Forester.