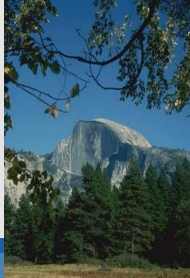


Justification for Public Provision of Natural Resource Based Recreation Services

- Public recreation service affords many people their primary opportunity for many forms of wholesome recreation.
- Only through government can adequate lands be acquired. (in both urban & rural settings—size matters)



Justification for Public Provision of Natural Resource Based Recreation Services

- Public recreation is democratic and inclusive (paid for by the people, for the people, and it is non-discriminatory).
- It equitably distributes the costs... among rich/poor, young/old, locals/non-locals, & over time (through taxes, regs, set-asides...).

2

Justification for Public Provision of Natural Resource Based Recreation Services

- Government provides permanency to recreation & leisure services & natural features. (commercial interests = frequent turnover & short-term, profit driven)
- The job is too large for the private sector!



3

Justification for Public Provision of Natural Resource Based Recreation Services

- Public Use & Outdoor Recreation contributes significantly to local economies.
- The people demand it, are willing to forego other uses, & are willing to be taxed for it.
- People vote for it!*

4

Why is Resource-based Recreation a Governmental Function?

- For over 200 years recreation has been supported as a primary concern of our government because:
- "...it contributes to the welfare of the people."*

But the American perspective has changed over time . . .

5

Generational Views of Leisure

- Great Grandparents -- viewed leisure/play as frivolous (*Idle hands do the devil's work!*)
- Grandparents -- Only purpose of Leisure was to refresh oneself for work
- Parents -- Work to play (*people defined themselves by their leisure pursuits*)
- Young Adults -- Work hard, play hard (*"They want it all!"*). . . *Affects job, location, & lifestyle decisions.*

6

The Challenge to Managers

- Public demands to use & enjoy outdoors regardless of which agency or private entity manages it.
- All natural resource managers (public & private) are affected by public demands, even if it is not their primary responsibility (fish, wildlife, forestry, fire protection, grazing, mining, etc.)

7

The Challenge to Managers

- Demand is growing from a public less-knowledgeable about natural resources.
- Providing access for recreation in a sustainable manner is a huge responsibility – *future generations will be your judge!*

Future Challenges

- Increasing tension among 3 branches of government (& subcommittees & regulatory agencies...)
- Fiscal austerity will lead to decay in infrastructure & loss of professional employment.
- Natural resource laws often conflict & other legislation is often at cross purposes.
- Litigation results in the least qualified branch of government (Judicial) setting natural resource policy.

9

Conclusion

- Conservation is a social endeavor conceived by people, designed by people, implemented by people — it doesn't just happen.