Federal Providers of Wildland Recreation

CSS 287
Prof. Ed Krumpe
Lesson 8 -- 10

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

- National Wildlife Refuges
  - 92+ million acres in 500 units.
  - Primary purpose—Habitat for mammals, birds & fish.
  - Wildlife Observation, fishing, picnicking
    - (passive or non-consumptive recreation favored)
  - Over 30 million visitors annually.
  - Wildlife mgmt. has priority over recreation.

Wildlife Refuges in Idaho

- Bear Lake National Wildlife Refuge
  - (Montpelier)
- Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge
  - (Nampa)
- Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge
  - (Bonners Ferry)
- Minidoka National Wildlife Refuge
  - (Rupert)

Many are located near urban areas.
Have visitor centers & educational facilities.
Refuges are often Off-Season destinations
  - Fall, winter & spring viewing is often best
  - 26 million Americans took trips to watch wild birds in 1998
Educating the public an important component.
Since Revolutionary War.
Maintained waterways for navigation.
Navigation, Flood Control, Hydropower, Municipal water supply, Irrigation.
State & County Parks often operate recreation facilities.
Recreation cannot be the primary purpose.

Army Corps of Engineers

- "Nation’s largest provider of Outdoor Recreation"
- 426 recreation areas.
- 11 million acres of land & water.
- 40,000 miles of shore.
- 380 million visitors.

- 2,800 sites developed for camping & dayuse.
- 450 swimming beaches.
- 32,000 campsites.
- Thousands of miles of levees.

Bureau of Reclamation

- Reservoirs for irrigation.
- 17 Western states.
- 264 recreation areas.
- 1.7 million acres of water & 12,300 miles of shoreline.
- 70 million visitors/yr

- Irrigate 9.3 million acres -- recr. values.
- Cooperate w/ NPS, USFWS, USFS, state fish & wildlife, county, city, irrigation districts.
- Controversy w/ new mandates (e.g. T&E)

In 2003, BuRec legally became a "multiple-use" agency.

Bureau of Land Management
The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), an agency within the U.S. Department of the Interior, administers 262 million surface acres of America's public lands, located primarily in 12 Western States. The BLM sustains the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

- Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA)
- Multiple-Use Sustained Yield Act of 1960
- The BLM administers 206,498 miles of fishable streams, 2.2 million acres of lakes and reservoirs, 6,500 miles of floatable rivers, over 500 boating access points, 69 National Back Country Byways, 300 Watchable Wildlife sites, 4,500 miles of National Scenic, Historic, and Recreational Trails, as well as thousands of miles of multiple use trails used by motorcyclists, hikers, equestrians, and mountain bikers.

**TVA (Tennessee Valley Authority)**

- Since 1933 has built 41 reservoirs, (11,000 miles of shoreline)
- Recreation is an important multiple use.
- Cooperates with other agencies that develop recreation around the lakes.
- Develops demonstration areas.
- Provides technical assistance on recreation planning & design.

**Controversy over Reservoirs**

- Whitewater vs. Flatwater
- Eminent Domain (power of condemnation)
- B/C Ratio (benefit/cost)
- Big-Dams vs. Little Dams
- Levees push flooding problems downstream.
- Regional vs. local control (power grid, water budgets, & flushing).
- Draw-down, “Bathtub Ring”
- ESA, water quality, lifespan
- Ramping rates

**Reservoir “Bathtub Ring”**

(Flood storage & Draw-down for flushing)

- Flood Pool
- Breast of Dam
- Minimum Pool
- Periodically flooded shoreline

**Lesson 9**
“Ramping Rates”

The rate at which downstream water levels rise or fall as water is released from a reservoir.

(Safety issues, fish habitat & riparian impacts)

“Wilderness”—another unique idea

Why did we need a new land classification?

The Wilderness Act 1964

- Why did we need a new act?
  - lack of permanency, threats from dams, etc.
  - Holistic solution (nationwide)
  - It is a product of 8 years of compromise.
    - (65 different bills & amendments)
  - Only Congress can designate a Wilderness.
  - It has never been amended.
  - We now have 776 Wildernesses totaling 109.4 million acres. (171,085 sq. mi.)
On 3/30/09 President Obama signed the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Public law 111-11) which designated 52 new wilderness areas & added acreage to 26 existing areas, a total addition to the NWPS of over 2 million acres.

Where do we rank?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Percent of Total Wilderness Acres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alaska</td>
<td>57,425,569</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>15,000,212</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>4,529,613</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Idaho</td>
<td>4,522,779</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>4,423,465</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>3,707,338</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montana</td>
<td>3,443,835</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nevada</td>
<td>3,368,796</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyoming</td>
<td>3,111,232</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oregon</td>
<td>2,471,951</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

USA Rank of State / Acres

- Alaska 16% 57.43 m
- California 15 15.00
- Arizona 6 4.53
- Idaho 9 4.52
- Washington 10 4.42

The National Trail System

- 1968 included Appalachian & Pacific Crest Trails
- National Scenic Trails 8 Congress
- National Historic Trails 9 Congress
- National Recreation Trails 785 w 8,200 miles, 513 federal created by Sec. Agr. or Interior
- Connecting or Side Trails
- “Rails-to-trails.”

Wilderness in Idaho

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wilderness Area</th>
<th>Acres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Big Jacks Creek</td>
<td>52,826</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bruneau-Lemhi National Forest Reserve</td>
<td>89,996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Craters of the Moon</td>
<td>43,243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frank Church River of No Return</td>
<td>2,366,757</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gospel Hump</td>
<td>265,796</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hells Canyon (ID)</td>
<td>83,811/131,041</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Jacks Creek</td>
<td>50,929</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Fork Owyhee River</td>
<td>43,413</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owyhee River</td>
<td>267,328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pole Creek</td>
<td>12,533</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selway-Bitterroot (ID/MT)</td>
<td>1,089,059/251,433</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2,345,932</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Idaho Total Acreage 4,522,779 acres (7,067 sq mi)

Federal Providers of Wildland Recreation
The National Trail System

- The Appalachian Trail
  - 2,146 miles
  - From Georgia to Maine
  - 4 million hikers
  - Built by volunteers
  - 1921-1937

- The Pacific Crest Trail
  - 2,300 miles long
  - Mexican border to Canadian border

National Wild & Scenic Rivers Act of 1968

- Established 3 classes of rivers:
  - Wild Rivers
  - Scenic Rivers
  - Recreational Rivers
- Primary purpose of Act was to stop impoundments.
  (154 with 10,815 mi. = 1%)

Wild Rivers
- “Vestiges of primitive America”
- No road access
- No development
- No dams, impoundments, or diversions
- Afforded a highest level of protection.

Scenic Rivers
National Wild & Scenic Rivers

**Scenic Rivers**
- Free of impoundments.
- Very little development—should blend with natural landscape.
- Limited access by roads (may be crossed by roads). Some private property.

**Recreational Rivers**
- May have impoundments
- Limited development permitted
- Accessible by roads
- High recreational values.

Designation Process
- Direct Congressional Designation or State Legislature & Governor can petition the Secretary of Interior
- Congressional Study: Lengthy study
  - River is protected during study and for 3 years after report is submitted.
- Condemnation allowed on Scenic & Recreation Rivers only IF government owns less than 50% of the land along the river.

Eligibility Study:
- Free Flowing
- One or more Outstandingly Remarkable Values (Scenic, Recreational, Geologic, Historic, Fish & Wildlife, Cultural, or Other)

Suitability Study:
- Ownership patterns, Manageability, Boundaries (1/4 mi. each side), Special uses or constraints
- Political Viability
- Recommendation for Wild, Scenic or Recreational

Wild & Scenic Rivers in Idaho
- Clearwater
- Lochsa
- St. Joe
- Main Salmon
- Middle Fork Salmon
- Selway
- Snake
- Rapid

3,000 mi. of boatable whitewater.
10% of total whitewater miles in America!
A Lasting Legacy of Protected Areas

- 1st National Park in 1872
- Outdoor recreation is a major multiple use on most federally managed lands
- Some land management practices involve controversy and competing values
- America’s legacy of protected area management has spread around the world