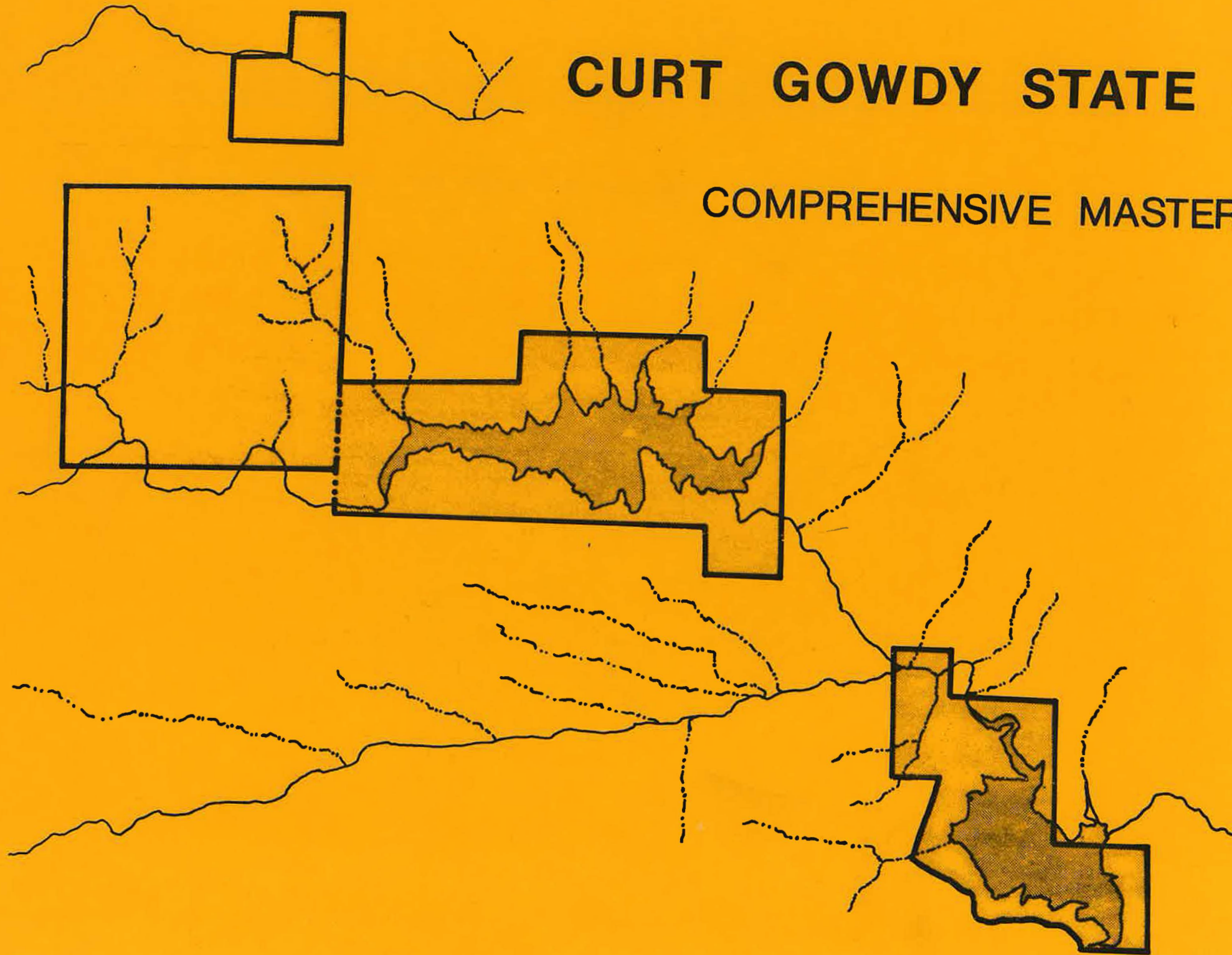


# CURT GOWDY STATE PARK

## COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN





# CURT GOWDY STATE PARK

## MASTER PLAN

### PREPARED BY:

DONALD BESSLER

MARK COLLINS

GREGORY DAVIS

MARY FRITCH

STEVE HOLLINGSWORTH

PETER JACOBS

DAVID MCGUIRE

DEPARTMENT OF

RECREATION AND PARK ADMINISTRATION

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

HOWARD MUNN

DANA MURDOCK

FREDERICK SMITH

REED SNYDER

NANCY WALKER

JULIE ZIELKE

GEORGE GROSH

MAY, 1980





# TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION . . . . .	1
2. REGIONAL CONTEXT . . . . .	2
Introduction . . . . .	2
Location of the Park . . . . .	2
History of the Region . . . . .	2
Regional Recreation Opportunities . . . . .	3
Demographic Trends, Projections . . . . .	6
Population of the Region . . . . .	6
Location of Residence . . . . .	7
Education Level . . . . .	7
Age and Sex . . . . .	7
Summary . . . . .	8
3. THE PARK SITE . . . . .	10
Legal Authority . . . . .	10
Lease Agreement #1214 . . . . .	10
Water . . . . .	11
Water Quality . . . . .	13



Geology . . . . .	13
Soils . . . . .	13
Vegetation . . . . .	14
Wildlife . . . . .	18
Topography . . . . .	20
Land Ownership Patterns . . . . .	20
Access and Road Systems . . . . .	20
Facilities . . . . .	20
4. THE PARK VISITOR . . . . .	25
Introduction . . . . .	25
Where the Activities Occur . . . . .	25
Periods of Use . . . . .	26
Reasons for Visiting the Park . . . . .	27
Miles Traveled . . . . .	27
Participation Rates . . . . .	28
Daily Use Rates . . . . .	29
Suggested Improvements and Comments . . . . .	29
Location of Residence . . . . .	31





Mode of Transportation . . . . .	31
Length of Stay and Type of Permit . . . . .	31
Use Projections . . . . .	32
Summary . . . . .	32
5. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT . . . . .	37
Introduction . . . . .	37
Recommendations . . . . .	37



# 1

## INTRODUCTION

Curt Gowdy State Park was established in 1971 through a lease agreement between the City of Cheyenne, the Boy Scouts of America and the Wyoming Recreation Commission. This lease which extends until 1996 gives the Wyoming Recreation Commission the power and authority to manage 1,860 acres of land for the benefit of the citizens of the State of Wyoming.

In October of 1975, a development plan for Curt Gowdy State Park was completed by the Wyoming Recreation Commission's planning team. This plan identified modifications of Curt Gowdy State Park which were needed to meet the management objectives of the State Park System. Recent economic trends in the United States such as rapidly increasing energy costs and spiraling inflation, however, may have considerable impact upon the use of Wyoming's state park system. Not only might increasing participation costs affect the extent to which individuals are able to participate but they also may affect the duration and location of that participation.

A recognition of potential changes in recreation behavior by state park visitors suggests the need to update and re-evaluate projections made by previous studies. Such an update should provide accurate information with which to assess the nature and extent of involvement the Wyoming Recreation Commission has in the provision of recreation opportunities

throughout the state.

In addition to changing recreation patterns, since the time of the 1975 development plan, the possibility of acquiring 640 acres of land (Section 17) for addition to Curt Gowdy State Park has developed. Section 17 encompasses portions of the Middle Fork of the Crow Creek Drainage System and should provide the opportunity to enjoy one of nature's transition zones. This zone varies from one dominated by prairie grasses to a zone dominated by lowland timber and climax forests.

As a result of this potential increase in park land at Curt Gowdy State Park, management and planning alternatives must be re-evaluated and possibly expanded.

This master plan identifies and addresses the provision of adequate recreation opportunities at Curt Gowdy State Park to meet projected user demands through the year 1995. The goal of this planning effort is to establish an optimum level of use within Curt Gowdy State Park by determining the type of experience that should be encouraged and the corresponding level of development that can best be sustained.





## THE REGIONAL CONTEXT

2

### INTRODUCTION

The regional context provides information about surrounding influences on Curt Gowdy State Park. The region is defined as a 50-mile radius from the park boundaries. This area encompasses the municipalities of Cheyenne and Laramie and also includes two divisions of the Medicine Bow National Forest.

An examination of regional influences which may affect Curt Gowdy State Park include the location of the Park, the history of the region, alternative recreation opportunities within the region, and regional demographic trends and projections. An inventory and analysis of these regional influences are presented in the following chapter as well as an examination of the importance of this information for Curt Gowdy State Park. It is anticipated that a thorough inventory of regional factors can help to promote a better awareness of the needs and demands for recreational opportunities at Curt Gowdy State Park.

### LOCATION OF THE PARK

Curt Gowdy State Park is located in the southeastern corner of Wyoming, 26 miles west of Cheyenne and 22 miles east of Laramie on the foothills of the Laramie Range. It lies in close proximity to the

Colorado border, 12 miles directly south, and to the Nebraska border, 61 miles west. The Park's three sections, Crystal Lake Reservoir, Granite Springs Reservoir, and Hynd's Lodge, comprise nearly 872 square acres which enable it to nearly touch the eastern boundary of the Medicine Bow National Forest.

### HISTORY OF THE REGION

Albany and Laramie Counties were established in 1869 and 1867 respectively. Since that time, the populations of these two counties have grown largely as a result of mining industries, the expansion of the Union Pacific Railroad, ranching, and the installation of an Army/Air Force base. The main early source of growth was brought about by the mining industry which started 22 miles west of Cheyenne in the town of Silver Crown. Ores had been discovered as early as 1868, but active mining did not begin until 1877. Silver Crown had a hotel, stable, general store, several adobe and log cabins, and a smelter capable of handling up to 20 tons of ore per day. This area, and others like it, spread to what is now Cheyenne and Laramie.



Faced with a water shortage in the late 1800's, the City of Cheyenne constructed a dam and created Granite Springs Reservoir in 1904. The city also constructed Crystal Lake Dam in 1910 and North Crow Dam in 1911, which ensured an adequate water supply for Cheyenne. The region surrounding Curt Gowdy State Park also includes many significant historical and archaeological features. Among those sites which have currently been set aside for public enjoyment are: The Abraham Lincoln Monument, the Ames Monument, the Tree in the Rock, and the Dinosaur Graveyard.

#### REGIONAL RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

The region in which Curt Gowdy State Park is situated offers a wide variety of outdoor recreation activities. The Medicine Bow National Forest, Pole Mountain Division, lies directly west of the Park and offers a recreational area that encompasses 56,000 acres of mountaintop landscape. It includes the Vedauwoo camping and picnicking area and the Summit Rest Area just off Interstate 80. Directly north of the Park is North Crow Reservoir which provides fishing in the summer months but lacks developed camping and picnicking areas.

The Snowy Range Division of the Medicine Bow National Forest, located 29 miles west

of Laramie, offers unspoiled forest recreation opportunities. Camping, picnicking, fishing, and downhill skiing are popular activities in the more developed areas of the "Snowies." Horse packing, hiking, snowmobiling, and cross-country skiing are also popular recreation activities in the mountaintop regions. Lake Hattie, 17 miles west of Laramie, provides a predominantly water-based recreation area for local residents and visitors.

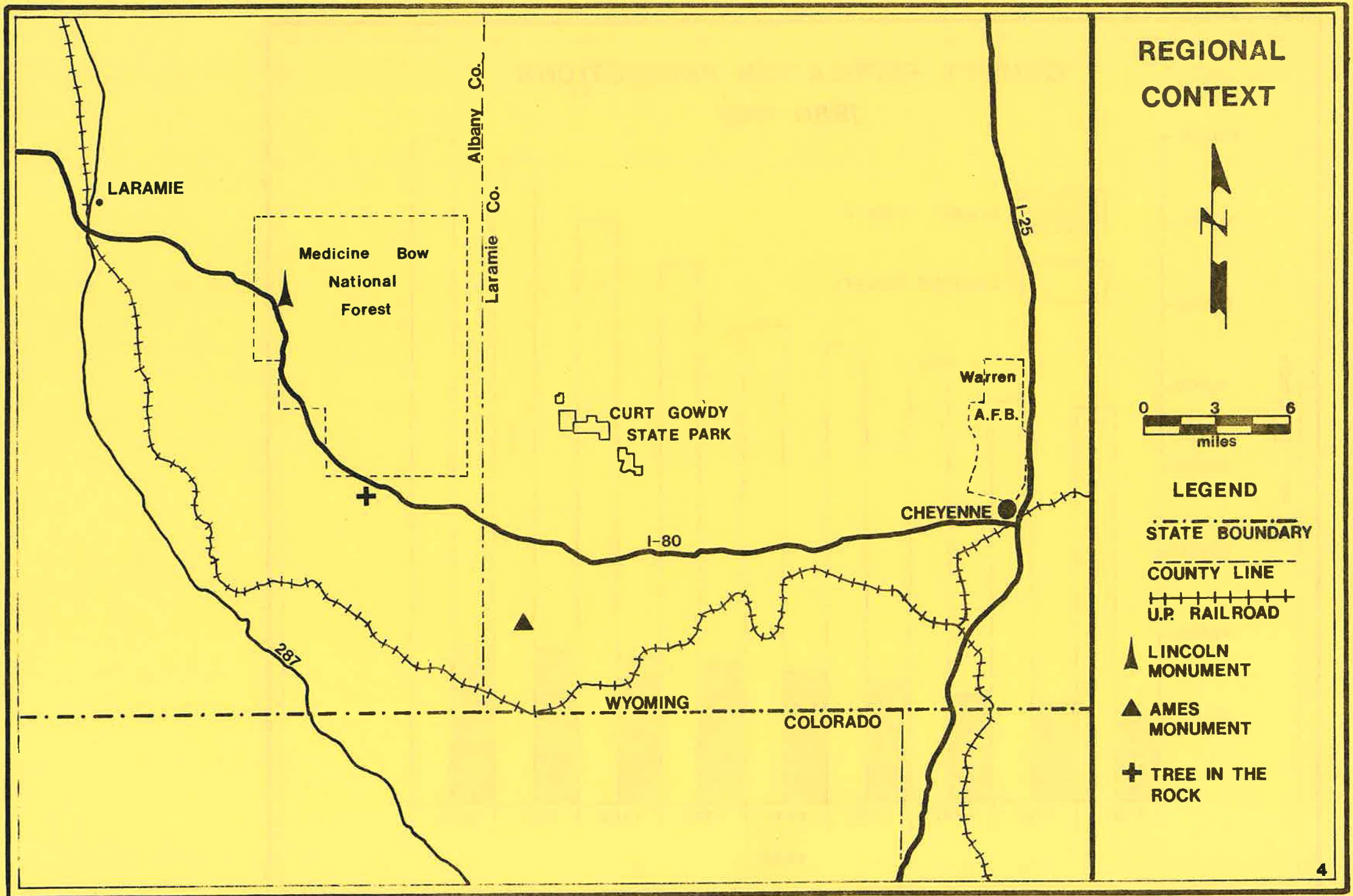
Historical and cultural features in the area extend in many directions from the Park. The Lincoln Monument is situated at the Summit Rest Area on Interstate 80 and commemorates the highest point on this highway. Ames Monument, south from the Vedauwoo exit of I-80, was built in 1881 to honor one of the promoters of the trans-continental railroad.

Laramie contains the remains of Fort Sanders which was established in 1886 to protect the Overland Trail and later the railroad. The Laramie Plains Museum, including the Edward Iverson Mansion and the Overland Trail Art Gallery, is a popular year-round attraction. Laramie is also home to the University of Wyoming, the only four-year institution in the state. The University operates a geological museum which is also a popular year-round attraction to both tourists and local residents.

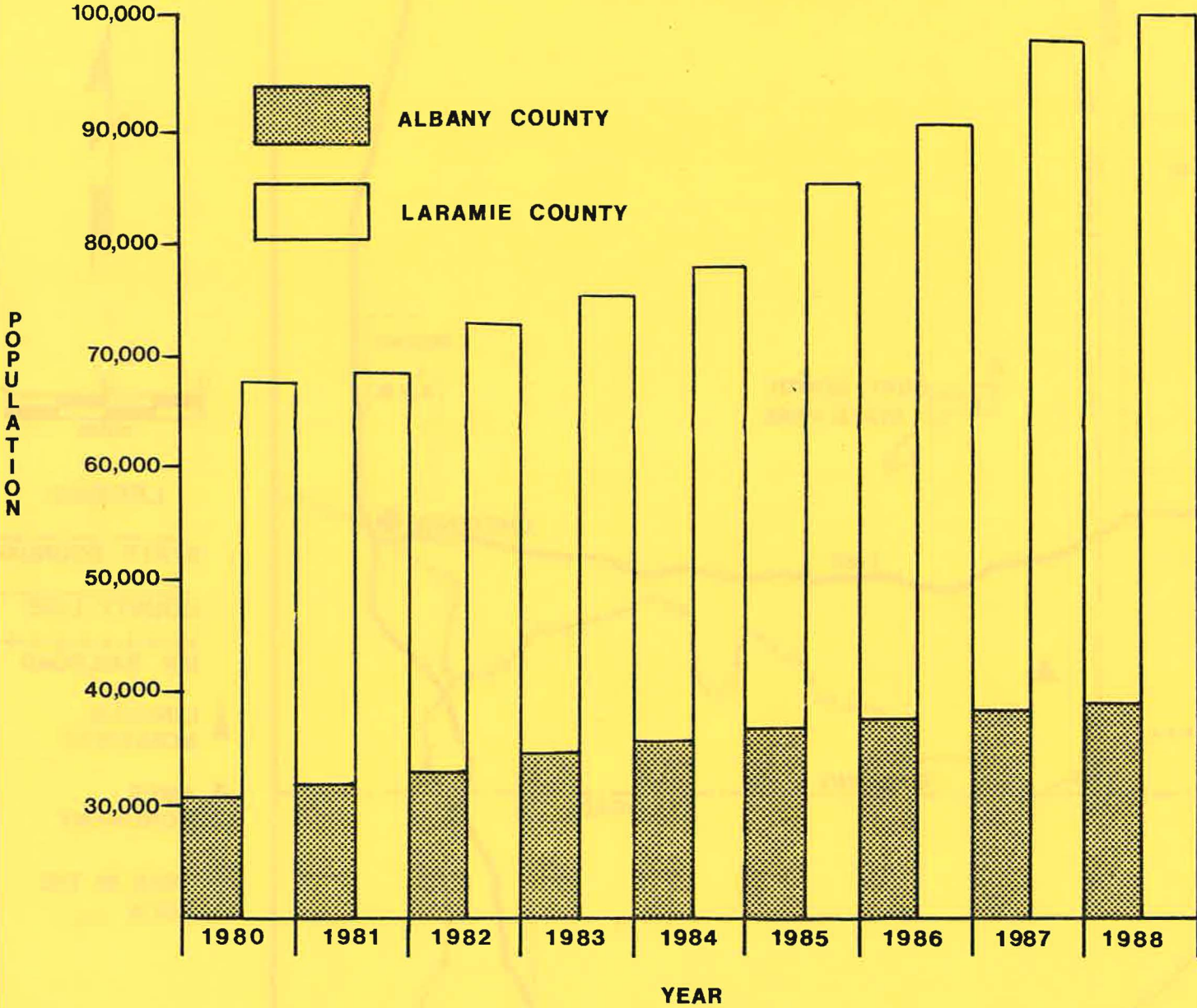
As the state capital, Cheyenne offers a number of varied attractions. The State Museum is located there in addition to the historic State Capital Building which was built in 1887. The Wildlife Visitor's Center at the Wyoming Game and Fish Headquarters features life-size mounts of most species of the state's game and non-game animals and birds. The Atlas Theatre, a National Historic Site, was constructed in the early 1900's and has sponsored a variety of entertainment over the years. Cheyenne also contains Lion's Park and Wildlife Zoo, a miniature zoo 2 miles from the center of the city. Both Cheyenne and Laramie have municipal recreation facilities. Cheyenne has two municipal golf courses and Laramie has one.

Curt Gowdy State Park has the potential to draw recreationists from throughout the state. Due, however, to the extensive opportunities available for outdoor recreation across Wyoming and northeastern Colorado, it is anticipated that the majority of use will come from a 50-mile radius of the Park. This demarcation thereby constitutes the "region" for the Park and includes the major municipalities of Cheyenne and Laramie. The regional boundary extends 35 miles into the northern reaches of Colorado, but does not encompass any major urban areas in that state. The 50-mile arc does not include Nebraska, since previous use statistics indicate that of all park visitors, only 2.3% are from





**COUNTY POPULATION PROJECTIONS  
1980-1988**





Nebraska.

Rural countryside is prevalent north of Curt Gowdy and the major population center of Wheatland is outside of the 50-mile radius. This area is predominantly ranching and farmlands and has an extremely low population density.

The region's primary sites for outdoor recreation activities are in the National Forest which enables the recreating public to enjoy both a wide variety of recreational pursuits and unique natural settings. This is true for the City of Laramie which has the Snowy Range and Pole Mountain in very close proximity. Cheyenne is approximately 34 miles from the Pole Mountain District of Medicine Bow National Forest where the resources for recreation are far more developed and diverse than at Curt Gowdy State Park. North Crow Reservoir may be expected to entice some recreationists but, due to its undeveloped nature and difficult access, the users will more than likely be predominantly fishermen. North Crow Reservoir is stocked with rainbow trout by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department in both May and June. Lake Hattie also is a major fishing area and has facilities for picnicking and powerboating. Laramie residents seeking a nearby water-based recreation area may choose to visit this area which is only 17 miles away.

Out-of-state recreation areas that might draw use away from Curt Gowdy State Park include Horsetooth Reservoir near Fort Collins, National Forest areas south of the Wyoming border on Highway 287, and the Lodgepole Wildlife Preserve and Recreation Area 65 miles east of the Park in western Nebraska.

Municipal recreation opportunities associated with Cheyenne and Laramie must also be considered. Swimming at Cheyenne's new indoor/outdoor pool facility or at Sloan's Lake in Lion's Park could certainly draw from the potential users traveling to Curt Gowdy State Park. The University of Wyoming also offers indoor swimming facilities as well as a variety of indoor and outdoor activities.

It is apparent that, because of the Snowy Range to the west, Seminoe Reservoir to the northwest, and Glendo, Greyrocks, and Guernsey Reservoirs to the north, most of Curt Gowdy State Park's potential users will come from the immediate population centers of Cheyenne and Laramie with residual visitors coming from extreme northwestern Colorado. This suggests that plans for the future development of the Park should rest heavily upon the needs and desires of Laramie and Cheyenne area residents.

It also must be recognized that to avoid duplication of services and to promote increased use of the state park system, the

recreational opportunities at Curt Gowdy State Park should offer clientele opportunities and experiences not currently available from either municipal or federal resources or facilities.

#### DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS, PROJECTIONS

Outdoor recreation is a function of the people it serves and its variety reflects the diversity of those people. For this reason, it is important to understand the characteristics of the population that will be frequenting the recreation area. A few of the social statistics that enable the recreation planner to forecast recreation needs are population trends, place of residence, education, occupation, and employment.

#### POPULATION OF THE REGION

Wyoming is unique with regard to rapid population changes from increased energy production in the state. The state experienced a 40% population increase from 1970-1979 due mainly to the influx of energy production workers. This single factor has and will continue to have great significance for future recreation development.

In 1979, Region 1 (consisting of Albany,



Carbon, Goshen, Laramie, and Platte Counties) accounted for 30.5% of the total state population. Laramie and Albany Counties ranked number one and five respectively in population.

Population changes in Laramie and Albany Counties are of importance in determining future outdoor recreation use at Curt Gowdy State Park. Laramie County experienced a 19% population increase from 1970-1979, and has been predicted to experience an increase in population of 78% from 1979-1990. Should these projections prove to be true, there will be a tremendous increase in outdoor recreation demand within the region. In order to cope with this demand, it is necessary to have sufficient lead time for planning, funding, and constructing outdoor recreation facilities.

Curt Gowdy State Park should become a more important outdoor recreation facility than it is at present. With increasing energy costs, Curt Gowdy State Park should establish itself as a convenient outdoor recreation attraction. As the state park now exists, however, it will not be able to handle the increase in use without planning directives to guide the future development of the Park.

#### LOCATION OF RESIDENCE

An increasing percentage of the population

in Wyoming is residing in urban areas (those places of 2,500 people or more). Albany and Laramie Counties are also following this trend of urbanization. In 1970, 87.6% of Albany County residents lived in urban areas. By 1990, that percentage is forecasted to increase to 95.2%. Laramie County had 80.6% of its population residing in urban areas in 1970, and this figure is predicted to increase to 85.2% by 1990.

These figures play an important role in recreation planning. Not only will urban recreation facilities need to be increased, but rural outdoor recreation areas will also have to expand since rural areas provide recreation experiences unavailable in an urban setting. Curt Gowdy State Park is in a prime location to be heavily used by residents of both Albany and Laramie Counties. With more people living in urban areas, there will quite likely be an increase in desire to visit recreation areas outside the urban setting. With proper planning, Curt Gowdy State Park can provide a wide variety of outdoor recreation experiences not offered in the urban environment yet within a short driving distance of those urban areas.

#### EDUCATIONAL LEVEL

Educational levels frequently are helpful in determining recreation needs and preferences. The educational level within the

region surrounding Curt Gowdy State Park is expected to increase. It is predicted that Albany County will have a 19.8% increase in median education level from 1970 to 1990. Laramie County has been forecasted to have a 20.2% increase during the same time period.

Educational level usually has a direct relationship to income level which, in turn, influences the ability to afford outdoor recreation. Higher education levels are also commonly associated with professional and government occupations that generally have more liberal holiday and vacation benefits. Taking this into consideration for Curt Gowdy State Park suggests that it would be wise to plan on increased use not only during traditional vacation periods but also during governmental-based vacation periods.

#### AGE AND SEX

The Age and Sex Distribution Table presents information regarding forecasts for the specified region of study (Laramie and Albany Counties). The Table indicates that the largest group of potential outdoor recreation users are adults. This is understandable since this category covers the largest chronological range. Another fact illustrated in the Table is that males outnumber females from ages 1-22. From ages 23-65+, however,



the females outnumber the males. This indicates that as age increases, female participation should also increase. The Age and Sex Distribution Table also indicates a definite increase in the average age of the population in the region.

There will be a steady increase in the total regional population with Albany County averaging approximately 473 more people annually, and Laramie County increasing by approximately 1,043 people per year. These figures indicate an influx of people amounting to 1,500 individuals annually. Albany and Laramie Counties are not expected, however, to experience any large energy development projects which would involve the influx of large numbers of younger transient individuals into the region.

# SUMMARY

The information presented in this section implies that Curt Gowdy State Park has the potential to provide important recreational opportunities to the regional population.

The Park's accessible location, diversified resource area, and proximity to high

ALBANY & LARAMIE COUNTY POPULATION DISTRIBUTION BY AGE & SEX

AGE		1978		1979		1980		1981	
		Albany	Laramie	Albany	Laramie	Albany	Laramie	Albany	Laramie
0-5 Pre-School	M	2,233 (7%)	3,867 (6%)	2,246 (7%)	3,943 (6%)	2,271 (7%)	4,019 (7%)	2,297 (7%)	4,127 (6%)
	F	2,175 (7%)	3,731 (6%)	2,188 (7%)	3,804 (6%)	2,213 (7%)	3,877 (6%)	2,238 (7%)	3,981 (6%)
6-13 Elementary	M	1,605 (5%)	4,572 (7%)	1,684 (5%)	4,544 (7%)	1,824 (6%)	4,614 (7%)	1,972 (6%)	4,762 (7%)
	F	1,551 (5%)	4,358 (7%)	1,632 (5%)	4,327 (6%)	1,757 (6%)	4,406 (7%)	1,909 (6%)	4,586 (7%)
14-18 High School	M	1,431 (5%)	3,128 (4%)	1,405 (5%)	3,056 (5%)	1,337 (4%)	3,004 (4%)	1,302 (4%)	2,845 (4%)
	F	1,323 (4%)	3,273 (5%)	1,310 (4%)	3,185 (5%)	1,276 (4%)	3,041 (4%)	1,208 (4%)	2,889 (4%)
19-22 College	M	2,872 (10%)	2,589 (4%)	2,914 (9%)	2,639 (4%)	2,962 (9%)	2,625 (4%)	2,988 (9%)	2,690 (4%)
	F	2,330 (8%)	2,241 (3%)	2,388 (8%)	2,317 (3%)	2,438 (8%)	2,368 (3%)	2,501 (8%)	2,406 (3%)
23-64 Adults	M	6,220 (20%)	15,909 (24%)	6,202 (20%)	16,177 (24%)	6,218 (20%)	16,432 (24%)	6,245 (20%)	16,937 (24%)
	F	6,688 (22%)	16,703 (25%)	6,762 (22%)	16,996 (25%)	6,872 (22%)	17,322 (25%)	7,009 (22%)	17,786 (26%)
65+ Seniors	M	910 (3%)	2,531 (4%)	927 (4%)	2,604 (4%)	945 (3%)	2,676 (4%)	967 (3%)	2,757 (4%)
	F	1,155 (4%)	3,451 (5%)	1,196 (4%)	3,568 (5%)	1,238 (4%)	3,690 (5%)	1,277 (4%)	3,816 (5%)
Population Totals		30,493	66,353	30,854	67,160	31,351	68,075	31,913	69,482





### 3

## THE PARK SITE

#### LEGAL AUTHORITY

The Wyoming Recreation Commission has the authority to purchase tracts of land for the State of Wyoming. This legal authority gives the Wyoming Recreation Commission the right to consider land purchases near or in proximity to Curt Gowdy State Park.

It is advisable to mention again that the existing state park is located on lands leased from the City of Cheyenne. Long range development plans must consider the stability of existing and future lease agreements as well as potential impacts of the lessor on the physical recreation site. Specifically, the Wyoming Recreation Commission must recognize that increased water needs by the City of Cheyenne may cause fluctuations of water levels within the two reservoirs (Granite and Crystal) to a degree which is detrimental to the provision of recreation opportunities. All future development plans must recognize and consider the impact of a variety of water acquisition strategies currently being considered by the City of Cheyenne upon Curt Gowdy State Park.

#### LEASE AGREEMENT #1214

The lease agreement, established July 1, 1971, between the City of Cheyenne and Wyoming Recreation Commission has nine stipulations that must be met by the

Wyoming Recreation Commission. Failure to meet these stipulations could cause the nullification of the contract agreement. The nine stipulations are as follows:

1. The City of Cheyenne is to be paid \$1.00 a year by July 1 of each year.
2. The City of Cheyenne has the right to access and use of the reservoirs and their waters.
3. No recreational activities are to be established on Sections 22 and 26.
4. No recreational activities that cause adverse impact or excessive pollution are to be permitted.
5. Administrative regulations are to be established and filed with the Secretary of State.
  - a. No structures or vehicles are to be allowed on reservoir ice.
6. Rules are to be established to protect all life.
7. Administration of the Hynd's Lodge Area must be in agreement with the City of Cheyenne and the Boy and Girl Scout agencies.
8. Fenced areas owned by the City of Cheyenne, within the lease boundaries,



are to be maintained by the Wyoming Recreation Commission.

9. Re-leasing or subletting will be under direct approval of the City of Cheyenne.

- a. The Recreation Commission can use and improve access roads through the sections stipulated in #3.

The existing lease is scheduled to expire on July 1, 1996.

## WATER

The Granite Springs and Crystal Lake Reservoirs represent approximately 80% to 90% of the available water in Curt Gowdy State Park. These reservoirs are fed by the South Fork of the Middle Crow Creek and the Middle Crow Creek. The Middle Crow Creek is fed by the Cheyenne Water Project at a rate of 5-8,000 acre feet/year. This dendritic system flows into the two man-made lakes, Granite Springs Reservoir and Crystal Lake Reservoir, that make up the Park. From Granite Springs spillway, a 100-foot drop is encountered in the 1/2 mile it takes to reach Crystal Lake. The flow then occurs from Crystal Lake spillway at a grade of 100 feet per 1/2 mile.

Problems with water supply occur not in

the drainage network, but in the man-made controls placed on the reservoirs. Two potential development alternatives will require consideration prior to development of the existing Park. One is the possibility of destroying the Crystal Springs Reservoir and constructing a larger dam to stabilize the Cheyenne water supply. The other concerns the Cheyenne Stage II water development. If this project is disapproved or held in court for years, the future of Curt Gowdy State Park is questionable.

Due to the large amount of runoff that occurs in the spring, the reservoirs are maintained at a near-capacity level throughout the summer. Once the summer use season decreases, the reservoirs are let down to allow for next spring's runoff. Flooding never occurs in the reservoirs because the levels are maintained by spillways. However, due to the steep terrain and large volume of snow runoff, Middle Crow Creek between Granite and Crystal Reservoirs experiences flooding in the spring months.

Water is perhaps the single most important component of the Park, not only because of its importance to recreation, but due to the fact that the Park's reservoirs are a source of water for the City of Cheyenne. In the past, the water levels of the reservoirs has been adequate to maintain recreational activities. However, this

situation could change drastically in the future. For instance, Crystal Lake Reservoir presently has a 15-foot below spillway limit. Until the dam and spillway receive needed repairs, the reservoir must be maintained at a lower level. This drawdown has created an unattractive area all around the lake.

Also, if Cheyenne's water needs continue to grow, it will subject the reservoirs to extreme drawdown even in the summer months. Recreation in the Park is highly integrated and dependent upon an adequate level of water in those reservoirs. Any great fluctuation in the water levels during the summer months could seriously jeopardize the water-based activities as well as the Park's existence. If the Park's future is to remain secure, then it will have to rely less on the questionable future of the reservoirs. Diversifying the recreation to more land-based activities might mitigate any adverse decision regarding the reservoirs and thereby permit the Park to continue functioning.



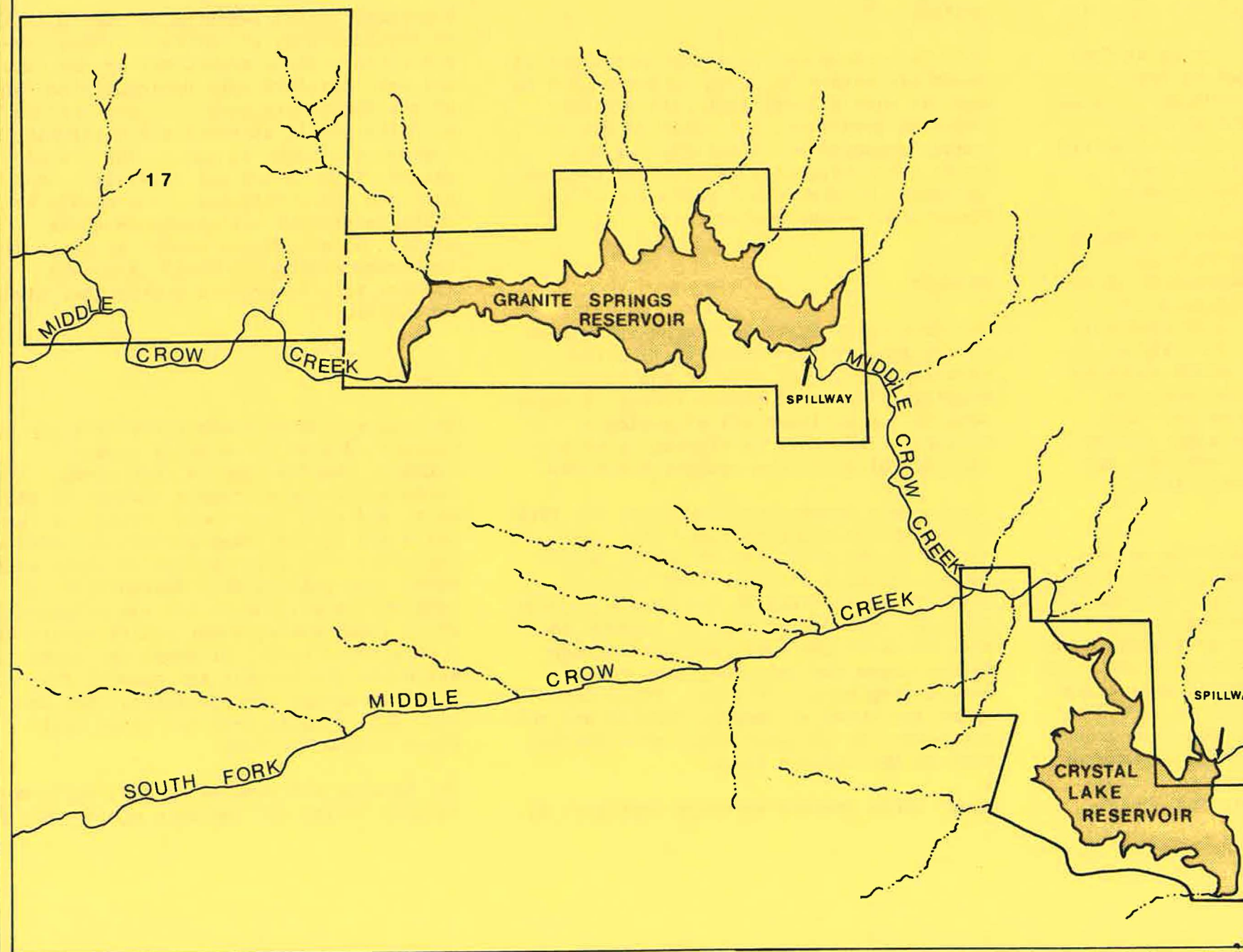
## WATERSHED SYSTEM



### LEGEND

PERMANENT STREAM

INTERMITTENT STREAM





## WATER QUALITY

Water quality is of major concern at Curt Gowdy State Park. As stated in the fourth stipulation in the contract between the City of Cheyenne and the Wyoming Recreation Commission, use of these waters for recreational purposes is to have minimal adverse impact of pollutants.

The limited development within the Park's watershed probably explains the high quality of water that is maintained in the reservoirs. The water contains a low level of dissolved solids (good clarity), and has little pollution. The City of Cheyenne Water Department, which controls the levels of the reservoirs, does not monitor the quality of the water. The one exception is when large algae blooms occur in the summer months, the City may treat them with allowable amounts of copper sulfate.

Wyoming's water quality standards as developed and regulated by the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality state that, "During the recreational season (May 1 through September 30) waste attributable to or influenced by the activities of man shall not be present in amounts which will cause fecal coliform concentrations to exceed a geometric mean of 200 fecal coliform groups per 100 milliliters (based on a minimum of not less than 5 samples obtained during separate 24-hour periods for any 30-day

period)..."

This regulation requires that pollution of reservoir waters by human activity must be kept at such a level that with minimal chlorine treatment, the water is fit for human consumption. Activities at Curt Gowdy State Park must be selected carefully therefore to minimize degradation of the reservoirs' water quality.

## GEOLOGY

The Curt Gowdy State Park area is typical of the geology that characterizes the Laramie Range. The core of the range consists of a pre-Cambrian formation representing the earliest era of geologic history. This core is flanked on either side by Paleozoic and younger sediments.

The Laramie Range which surrounds the Park is an ancient mountain range that was formed by the extrusion of molten magma from volcanic activity. This volcanic activity is apparent in the Park's geology. The many exposed outcrops of igneous rock that occur in the Park were formed when molten magma was extruded, then cooled over a long period of time. These outcrops are known as Sherman Granite and they represent the youngest major pre-Cambrian unit in the Laramie Range.

These large granite outcrops represent an

important visual resource by adding to the aesthetic beauty of the Park. They comprise the highest elevations in the area and are therefore very noticeable to many of the Park's visitors. These outcrops can be particularly attractive for climbing and exploring. However, due to the fragile nature of the soils and vegetation that surround these outcrops, care should be taken to prevent any change in these areas. Consideration should be given also to incorporating the Park's geologic history into interpretive programs, signs, or trails.

## SOILS

The soils of Curt Gowdy State Park can be classified into three major types: igneous, shallow igneous, and loamy. The loamy soils are a fragile mixture of clay, silt, and sand that occur around the reservoirs and on the lower elevations surrounding them. The fine texture of these soils makes them particularly susceptible to erosion. Also, due to the low permeability of these soils, water runoff occurs at a very rapid rate. Although the loamy soils are the deepest and support the greatest amount of vegetation, they are also more fragile than the other soil types within the Park.

The igneous and shallow igneous soils more closely follow the geologic history of the



Park. Composed primarily of decomposed granite, these soils occur on the higher elevations and hilltops of the Park. The shallow igneous occur more at the medium elevations, while the igneous are usually present at the base of the many granite outcrops. Much coarser in texture than loamy soils, these two types are also more permeable. The granitic nature of shallow igneous and igneous soils make them much less susceptible to soil and wind erosion. However, both types are relatively shallow soils over an impervious layer. Therefore, the areas where these soils occur have less vegetation and a higher runoff than loamy soils.

The fragile nature of the soils surrounding the reservoirs is apparent when one considers the erosion that has occurred due to off-road driving within the Park. Any development or use which occurs adjacent to the reservoirs must take into consideration the fragile nature of the soils. Even at the higher elevations, the soils are subject to erosion. Although the solid granite that is commonly present in the area appears to have good structure, it is actually quite brittle. Due to this brittleness, the rock decomposes very quickly when exposed to moisture and wind.

Something that might warrant particular consideration is the inability of the

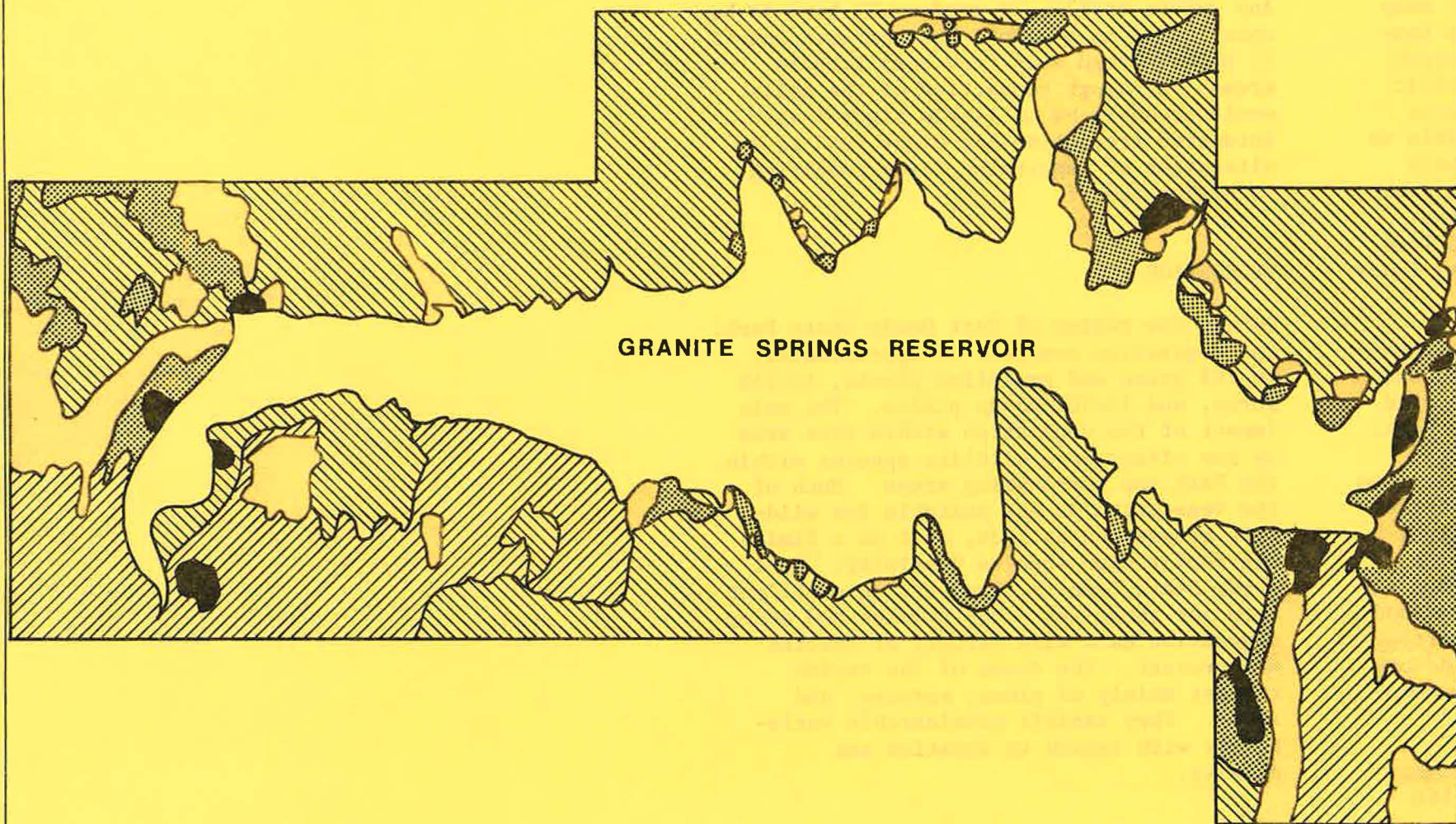
Park's soils to recover once erosion has occurred. Therefore, one must consider any long range results which might occur from poorly planned development and use.

Any future trails and roads will have to be constructed in a manner that permits runoff to be channeled away from more fragile areas. Although compaction of the soils would probably be of little significance, intensive recreation use might lead to an alteration of vegetation types resulting in higher runoff.

#### VEGETATION

Within the region of Curt Gowdy State Park, the vegetation consists of approximately 60-70% grass and grasslike plants, 10-25% forbs, and 10-30% woody plants. The main impact of the vegetation within this area is its effect upon wildlife species within the Park and surrounding areas. Much of the vegetation is not suitable for wildlife browse and as such, acts as a limiting factor upon species diversity. Curt Gowdy State Park is, however, an excellent area for those who study grasses and other vegetation as a wide variety of species are present. The trees of the region consist mainly of pines, spruces, and aspen. They exhibit considerable variability with regard to location and density.






GRANITE SPRINGS RESERVOIR

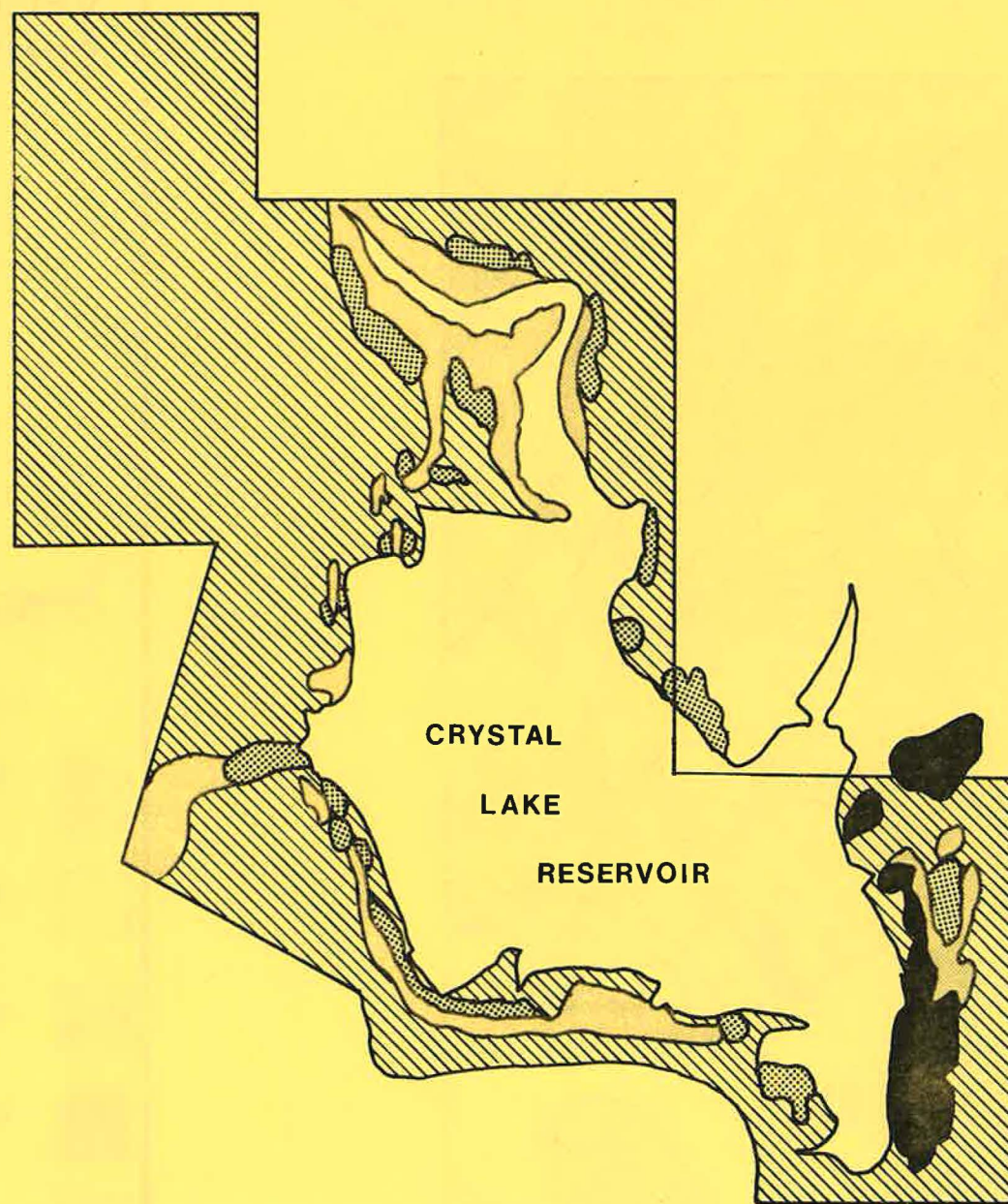
## VEGETATION



### LEGEND

-  TREES (DENSE)
-  TREES (SPARSE)
-  BUSHES
-  ROCKS
-  GRASSES





## VEGETATION



### LEGEND



GRASSES



TREES (SPARSE)



BUSHES





ROCKS

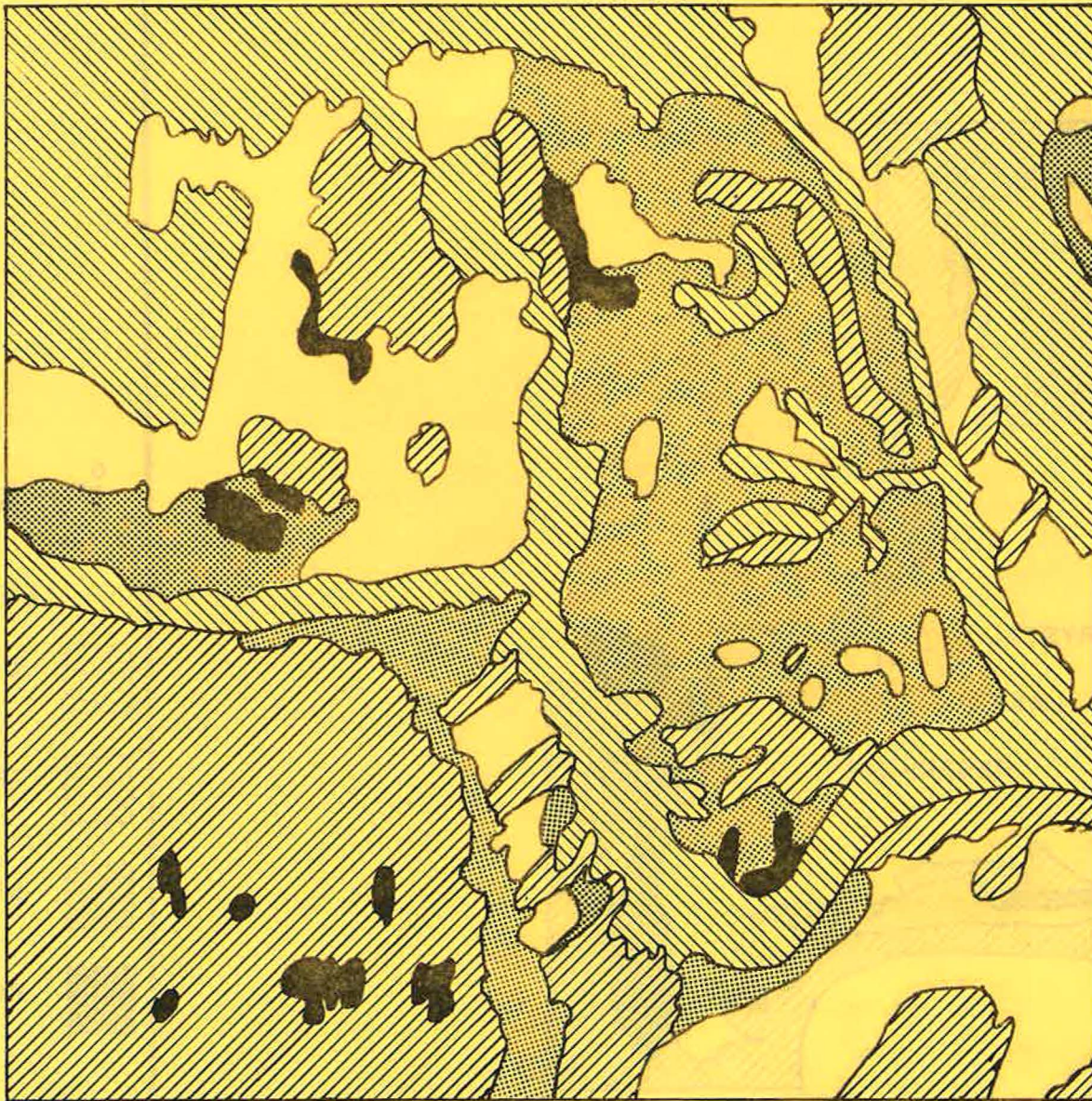


## VEGETATION SECTION 17



### LEGEND

-  TREES (DENSE)
-  TREES (SPARSE)
-  BUSHES
-  ROCKS
-  GRASSES





WILDLIFE

Typical wildlife species to be found in the region of Curt Gowdy State Park are identified in the adjacent Table. Although recent national trends have indicated a strong and consistent growth in non-consumptive recreational use of wildlife (photography, bird-watching, etc.), consumptive use of wildlife (hunting, fishing) continues to be the dominant recreational use of wildlife in and around Curt Gowdy State Park. The hunting of deer, elk, antelope, and birds has been and is expected to remain a major recreational activity on both private and federal lands surrounding the State Park. With regard to fishing at the Park, stocking is done by the Game and Fish Commission several times a year in southeast Wyoming.

In 1978 in Crystal Reservoir, 29,557 rainbow trout were stocked; and in Granite Reservoir, 28,784 rainbow trout were stocked. In 1979 in Crystal Reservoir, 30,033 rainbow trout were stocked and 33,048 trout were stocked in Granite Reservoir. Many ponds and streams in the Medicine Bow National Forest are also stocked every year with brook trout, rainbow trout, and cut-throat trout.

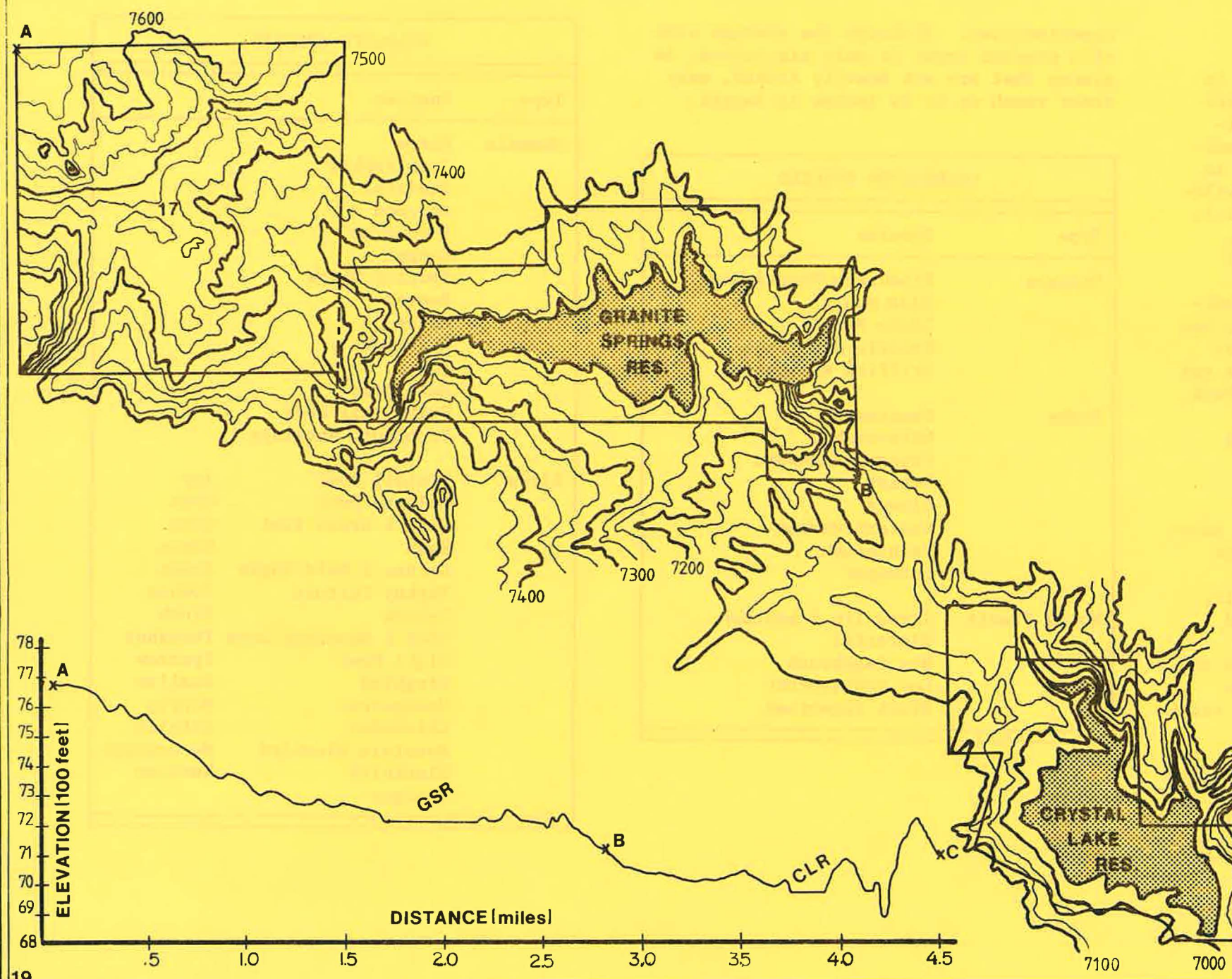
The amount of trout stocked at Curt Gowdy State Park and in the Medicine Bow National Forest provide excellent fishing

opportunities. Although the average size of a stocked trout is only six inches, in places that are not heavily fished, many trout reach up to 14 inches in length.

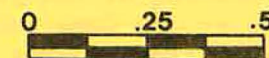
VEGETATION SPECIES	
Type	Species
Grasses	Bluebunch Wheatgrass
	Slim Muhly
	Idaho Fescue
	Prairie Junegrass
	Griffith Wheatgrass
Forbs	Penstamon
	Milkvetch
	Fringed Sageward
	Violet
	Clover
	Western Yarrow
	Paintbrush
	Larkspur
Woody Plants	Three Tip Sagebrush
	Winterfat
	Big Sagebrush
	Low Rabbitbrush
	Black Sagebrush

WILDLIFE SPECIES			
Type	Species		
Mammals	Shrew		
	Jack Rabbit		
	Squirrel		
	Raccoon		
	Porcupine		
	Badger		
	Spotted Skunk		
	Beaver		
	Mouse		
	Chipmunk		
	Fox		
	Mule Deer		
	White Tail Deer		
	Pronghorn Antelope		
Birds	Pintail Duck	Jay	
	Mallard Duck	Wren	
	Blue & Green Teal	Crow	
	Hawk	Robin	
	Golden & Bald Eagle	Junco	
	Turkey Vulture	Towhee	
	Falcon	Finch	
	Rock & Mourning Dove	Thrasher	
	Night Hawk	Sparrow	
	Kingbird	Swallow	
	Woodpecker	Magpie	
	Chickadee	Catbird	
	Mountain Bluebird	Meadowlark	
	Blackbird	Warbler	
	Tanager		





## TOPOGRAPHY



## LEGEND

CONTOUR  
INTERVAL 33.3 Feet

SPILLWAY  
ELEVATIONS

GRANITE  
SPRINGS 7210 Ft

CRYSTAL  
LAKE 6969 Ft



## TOPOGRAPHY

Land forms in the area reflect a relatively new alpine area. The topography is a high altitude, steeply-sloped area with relatively few gentle or flat areas. The nature of soils allows for rather quick erosion. This erosion is possibly the single most damaging occurrence in the area.

The north and south sides of Granite Springs have gentle slopes while, on the east and west, steep slopes rise as high as 7,500 feet. This is approximately 200 feet above the reservoir. The low point within Park boundaries is near the Crystal Lake spillway at 6,900 feet above sea level.

The nature of the topography leaves relatively few potential development areas. Even where slope is not a problem, the soil composition will require an in-depth feasibility study to minimize scenic scars.

## LAND OWNERSHIP PATTERNS

Land holdings in and around Curt Gowdy State Park are dominated by private ownership. City, state, and federal lands, however, also exist adjacent to Park boundaries.

When examining land ownership in and

around the Park, those considering the recreation potential of the area must acknowledge the possible problems for both expansion and access. The overall make-up of the area including a one-section buffer zone around the Park amounts to 65.8% private, 14.3% city, 9.5% federal, 7.5% land developers, and 2.9% state-owned land. The private holdings adjacent to the Park have seventeen individual or group ownerships which control almost 66% of the land.

The main issue regarding land ownership concerns the private lands bordering the Park. Any expansion consideration will involve these private holdings because of their size and location.

## ACCESS AND ROAD SYSTEM

The two main paved access routes which make the Park accessible to Cheyenne and Laramie are Interstate 80 and Happy Jack Road (Wyoming State 210). These two arteries are connected to Crystal Lake Road. Crystal Lake Road is an improved dirt road which branches off into unimproved dirt roads. The majority of unimproved dirt roads lies within the Park boundaries and makes up 85% of the access to Granite Springs Reservoir and 60% of the access to Crystal Lake Reservoir when considering the total land area circumventing both reservoirs.

Because of seasonal variations in weather conditions, accessibility may vary from unlimited to highly restricted. During the summer, all roads through the Park are open and access is unlimited. During the winter months (November-April), nearly all Park roads are periodically closed. As the snow conditions grow in intensity during the course of the winter and with no programming of activities within the Park, the maintenance of passable highways has been considered an unjustifiable expense.

Unrestrained travel within the Park currently causes soil and snow compaction and erosion. The soils in the area are not capable of handling the unrestrained travel in the Park which has resulted in considerable damage to the existing landscape.

Restricting travel to designated roads must be seriously considered because the soil makeup is too weak in many areas to withstand even the most minimal use. Limiting travel would confine use and allow for the reclamation of flora and fauna for a large majority of the Park.

## FACILITIES









The Hynds Lodge acreage consists of a lodge, 6 picnic tables, and the facilities for limited overnight camping. A disadvantage of the location of these facilities is that they are over a mile away from Granite

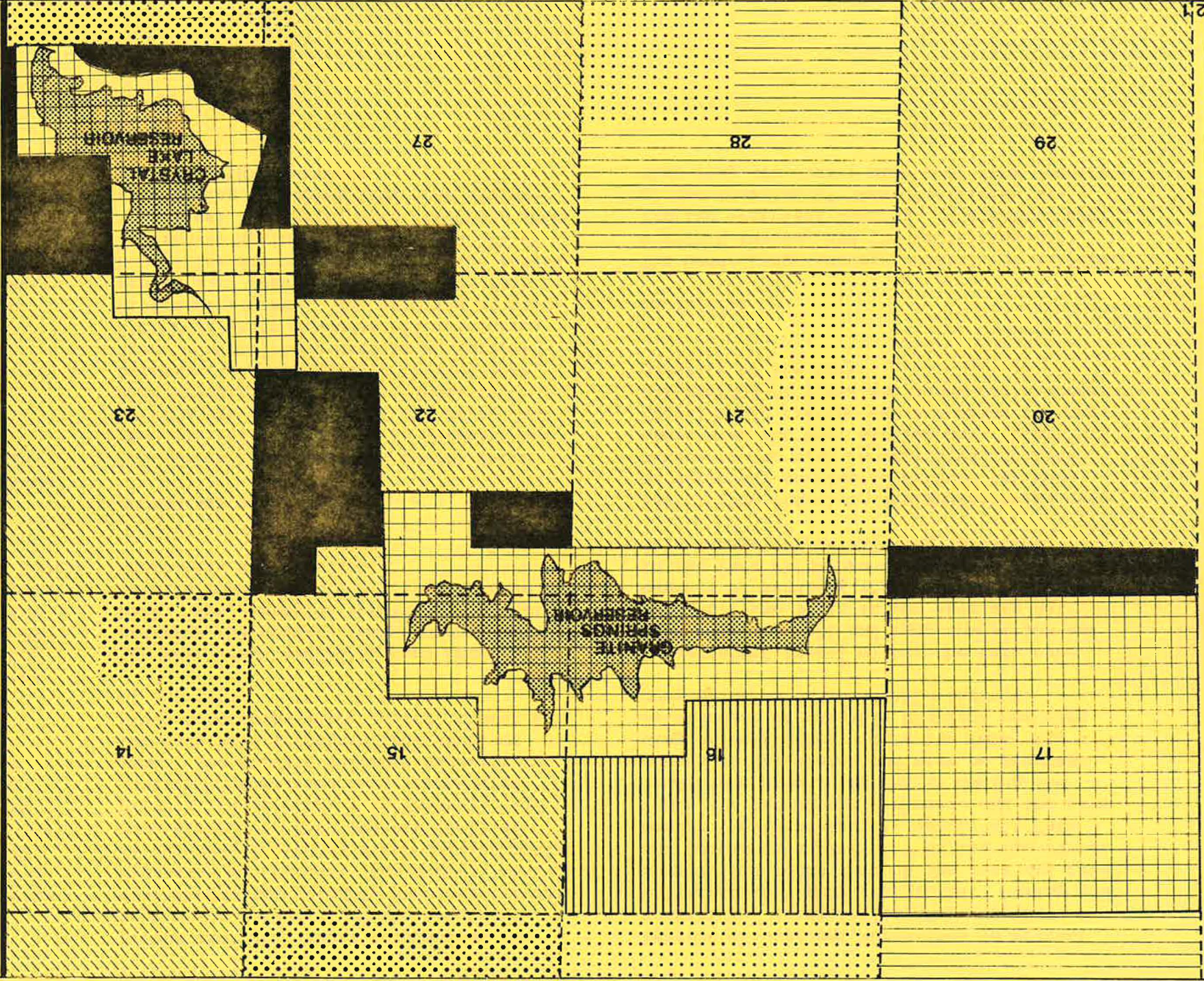


# LAND OWNERSHIP



## LEGEND

	PARK
	BLM
	SCHOOL
	CITY
	STATE
	PRIVATE
	DEVELOPERS
	SECTION BOUNDARY



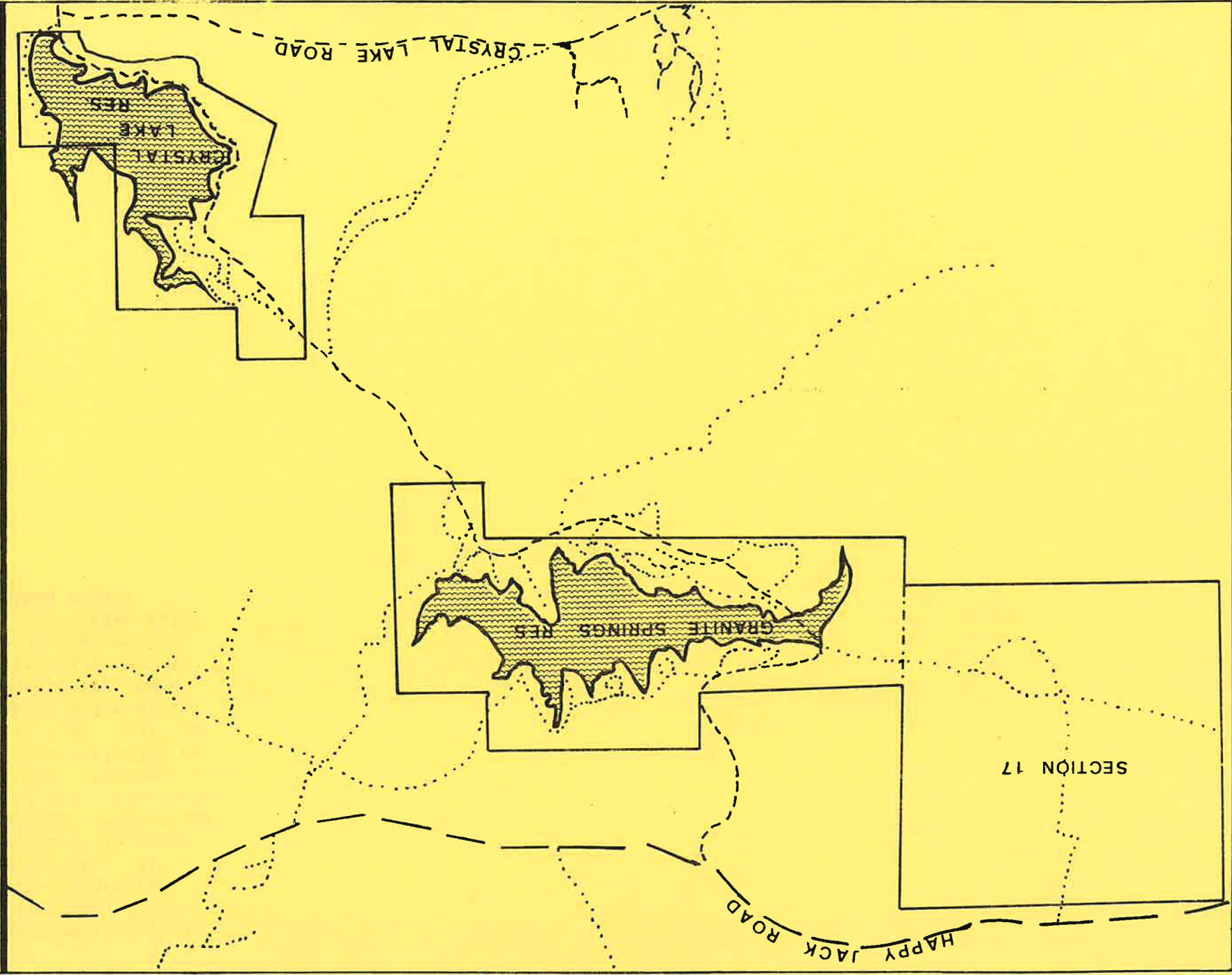


ACCESS  
ROUTES



LEGEND

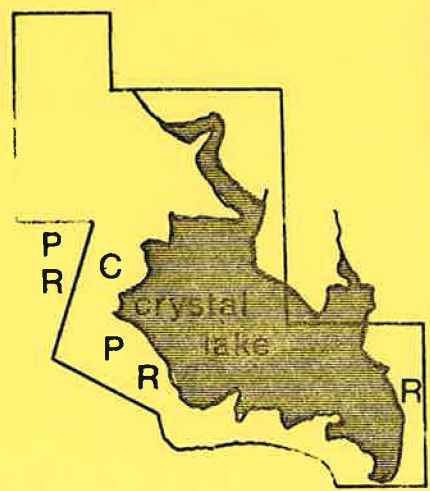
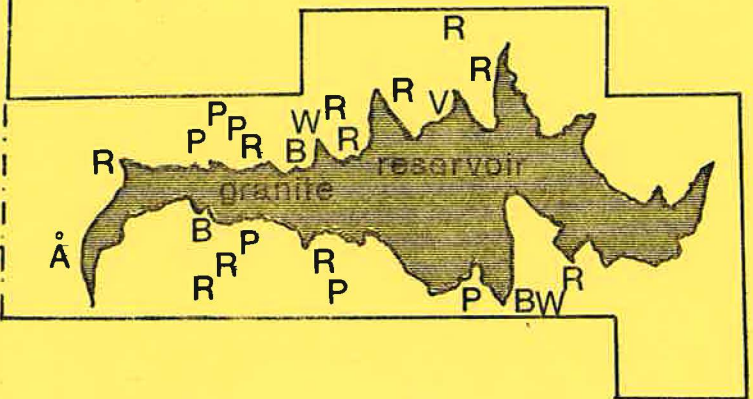
- SECONDARY ROAD
- - - - - IMPROVED DIRT
- ..... UNIMPROVED DIRT



Springs where use is most concentrated. At Granite Springs, a boat ramp is provided on the north central shore for small motorboats and sailboats. Although there are fluctuations in water levels in the summer months, boating and waterskiing are favorite activities here as well as on Crystal Lake. Fishing is a very popular activity especially due to the frequent stocking of fish. Many opportunities for picnicking exist around the perimeter of the reservoir. East-southeast of Granite Springs Reservoir located about one mile in distance is Crystal Lake. Similar facilities exist here but on a more limited scale.



SECTION  
17



## EXISTING FACILITIES



## Legend

- P - picnicking
- V - pavilion
- R - restroom
- B - boat ramp
- C - campground
- A - archery
- W - well water





## THE PARK VISITOR

4

### INTRODUCTION

Traditionally, Curt Gowdy State Park has been used primarily for water-based recreation. From May through September visitors come to the park to participate in boating, waterskiing, fishing, camping, picnicking, and hiking. Within this chapter, recreation activities will be examined in relation to:

1. Where the activities occur.
2. When the activities occur.
3. Improvements suggested by Park visitors.
4. Reasons for visiting Curt Gowdy State Park.
5. Information about the Park visitor.
6. Use Projections.

It is anticipated that this information, when combined with the data analyzed in Chapters Two and Three, should provide specific information with which to assess the feasibility of development alternatives for Curt Gowdy State Park.

### WHERE THE ACTIVITIES OCCUR

The sample for this study consisted of 173 persons who visited Curt Gowdy State Park

during 1978. Results from this study indicated that approximately 40% of all Park use occurred on the south shore of Granite Reservoir. Of the visitors utilizing this area at the Park, 52% participated in shore fishing, while 30% picnicked. Hiking and boating were activities engaged in by 16% of all south shore visitors.

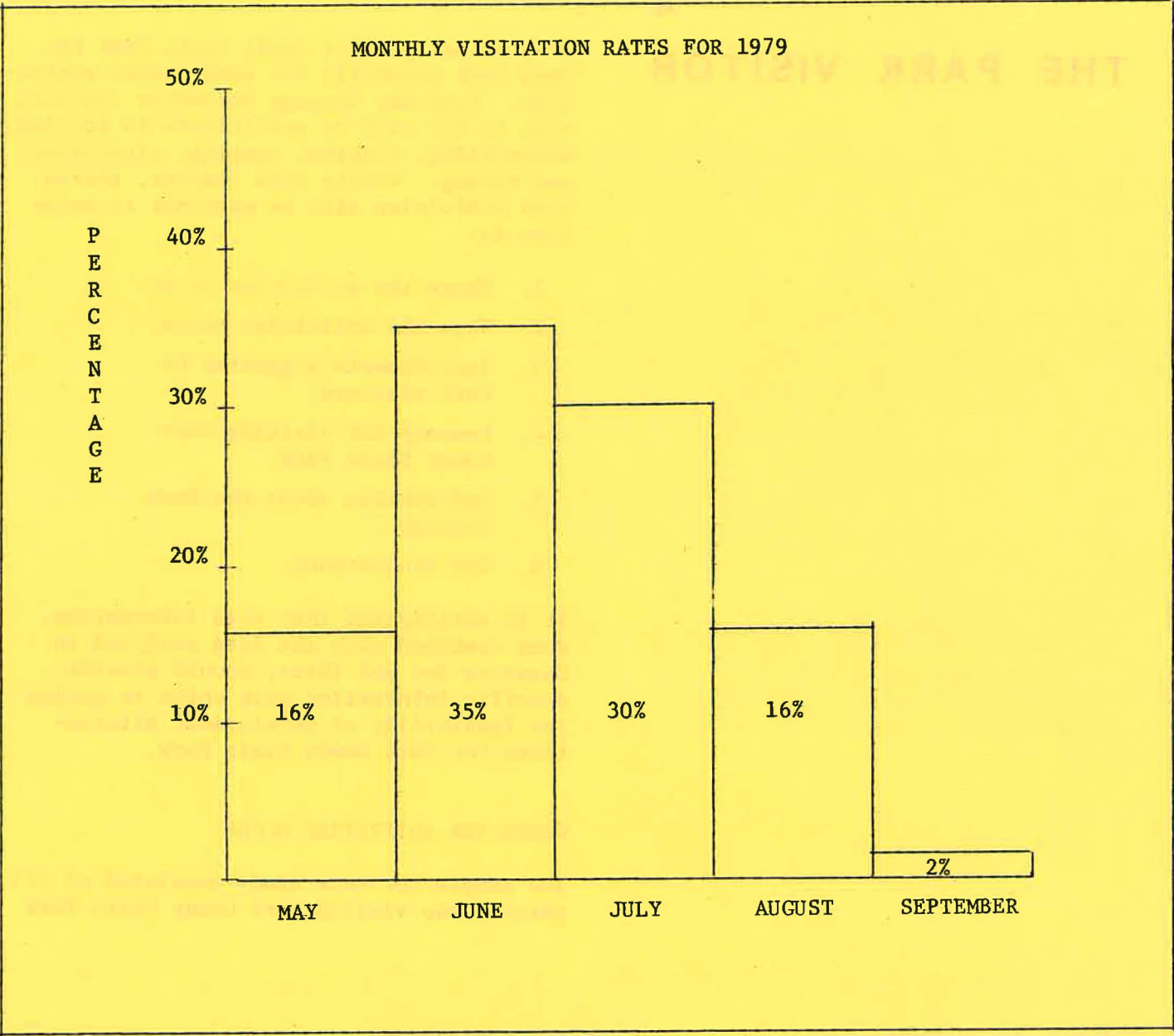
Visitation to Crystal Reservoir also accounted for approximately 40% of all Park use. At Crystal Reservoir, however, 75% of the visitors engaged in shore fishing while 37% picnicked. Hiking and boat fishing activities were engaged in by approximately 14% of all visitors to Crystal Reservoir.

The area of Curt Gowdy State Park which had the least amount of use (20%) was the north shore of Granite Reservoir. Forty-eight percent of all visitors to this area of the Park participated in shore fishing. Picnicking and boating were engaged in by 28% and 24% of all visitors to this area, respectively.



PERIODS OF USE

June is the month of heaviest visitor use at Curt Gowdy State Park (35% of all Park use). Thirty percent of visitor use occurs in July, and May and August each account for about 16% of the total annual Park visitation. September ranks fifth with about 2% of the total Park visitation. These figures were determined by averaging the total percentage of activity use each month.





REASONS FOR VISITING THE PARK

The most common reason given by visitors to Curt Gowdy State Park was that it was close to their home (50.4%). This indicates that Curt Gowdy State Park draws many of its visitors from local communities (Cheyenne and Laramie). The fact that most visitors utilize the Park because it is conveniently located has important implications for future use. With increasing energy costs, the ability and willingness of many local residents to travel great distances for outdoor recreation will decrease. Because of its proximity to Cheyenne and Laramie, use at Curt Gowdy State Park will, in all likelihood, continue to increase in proportion to increasing transportation costs.

REASONS FOR VISITING THE PARK - 1978*	
Reason	% of Visitors
Close to Home	50.4 %
Boating/Swimming	11.7 %
Fishing/Camping/Scenery	9.3 %
Fishing Only	7.0 %
Picnicking Only	6.8 %
Overnight Trip	5.9 %
Someone Told Them About the Park	5.4 %
Sightseeing	2.3 %
To Rest	1.2 %
*1978 Carlson Study	

MILES TRAVELED

Specific information concerning the distance traveled by visitors to Curt Gowdy State Park has never been collected through Park questionnaires.

From demographic data collected in 1979, however, some estimates can be made concerning miles traveled by people to Curt Gowdy State Park. Seventy-three percent of the people traveling to the Park were less than 50 miles away from their homes; 16% were less than 100 miles from their homes; 4% were less than 200 miles from their homes; and 7% were 200 miles or more away from home. Thus, to participate in a one-day outing, the average party will travel 20-50 miles. For an overnight or weekend experience, the average adult will travel between 100-150 miles.

## PARTICIPATION RATES

The most common activity participated in by visitors to Curt Gowdy State Park in 1978 was shore fishing. Specifically, 64.6% of the Park visitors shore fished, while 11.5% boat fished. A reason for such a high percentage of fishing as compared to other activities at the Park is that the two reservoirs are the most heavily stocked fishing waters in the region.

Other activities participated in by Wyoming residents at Curt Gowdy State Park were: Picnicking (30%); boating (15.4%); and hiking (10%). Other activities participated in by Wyoming residents exhibited relatively small percentages compared to the above activities. A few people indicated that they participated in water skiing and swimming but, with water temperatures between 34°-48° in the summer, the lack of large numbers of participants is understandable.

Out-of-state visitors participated most commonly in shore fishing. Of the Colorado residents who visited Curt Gowdy State Park in 1978, 56.5% participated in shore fishing and picnicking. Of those people from Nebraska who visited Curt Gowdy State Park, 75% participated in shore fishing and the other 25% picnicked.

PARTICIPATION RATES BY LOCATION OF RESIDENCE				
ACTIVITY	N = 107	N = 21	N = 4	N = 11
	WYOMING	COLORADO	NEBRASKA	OTHER STATES
Sightseeing	5.4%	13.0%	25.0%	25.0%
Picnicking	30.0%	56.5%	25.0%	41.7%
Shore Fishing	64.6%	56.5%	75.0%	33.3%
Boating/Fishing	11.5%	17.4%	---	---
Boating	15.4%	21.7%	25.0%	16.7%
Water Skiing	10.0%	4.3%	---	8.3%
Swimming	3.1%	4.3%	---	---
Hiking	10.0%	26.1%	25.0%	16.7%

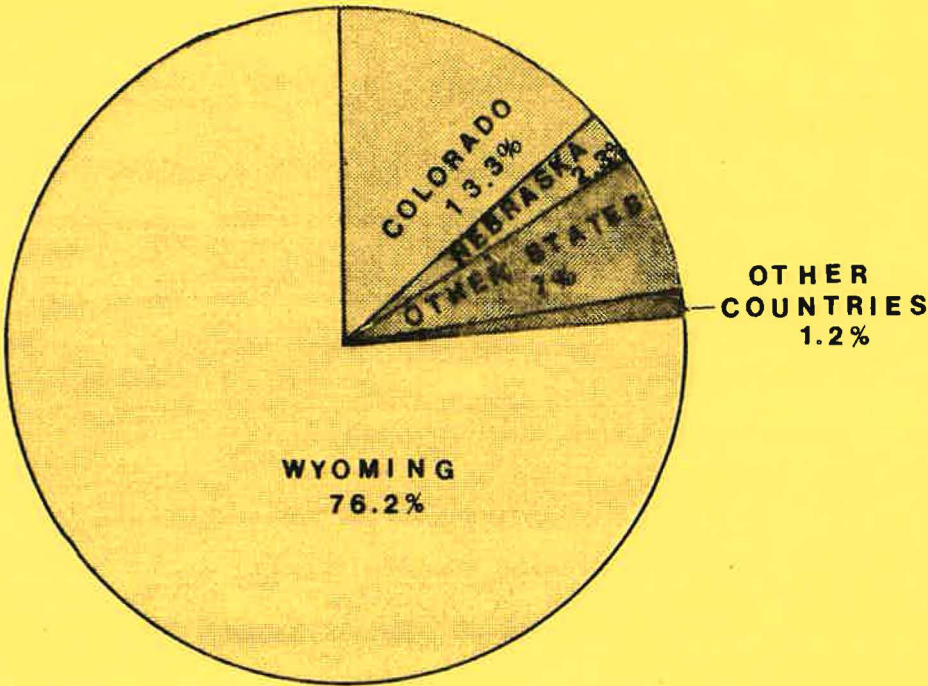


## SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENTS AND COMMENTS

There were many Park improvements that the visitors to Curt Gowdy State Park felt were needed. Listed in the order of priority, these improvements included:

1. Water Taps	19.0%
2. Roads	17.0%
3. General Facilities	18.0%
4. Swimming Facilities	5.0%
5. No Improvements Needed	8.0%
6. Boat Facilities	8.0%
7. Park Aesthetics	5.0%
8. Police Boaters/Skiers	4.0%
9. Restrooms	4.0%
10. Better Fishing	3.0%
11. Expand Facilities	1.0%
12. Better Signs/Maps	1.0%
13. Other Suggestions	7.0%

**RESIDENCE  
OF  
PARK  
VISITORS**



**1979**



#### LOCATION OF RESIDENCE

The highest percentage of non-resident visitors to Curt Gowdy State Park in 1979 were from Colorado (13.3%); Nebraska (2.3%); other states (7%); and other countries (1.2%). With Wyoming residents comprising 76.2% of all visitors to Curt Gowdy State Park and Colorado comprising the second highest percentage of users, these two user groups should be the main consideration in assessing activities within the Park.

#### MODE OF TRANSPORTATION

The most common mode of transportation to Curt Gowdy in 1979 was sedan or station-wagon (48.6%). This may imply that a large portion of the visitors to Curt Gowdy State Park were families. The second most common mode of transportation was the pickup (26%), and the 4-wheel drive was the third most frequently used vehicle (15.6%). Vans and mobile campers (ORV's) exhibited equal frequencies (4.6%).

#### LENGTH OF STAY AND TYPE OF PERMIT

The majority of visitors at Curt Gowdy State Park stay less than one full day. In 1978, 70.1% of all resident visitors to the Park indicated that they had visited the Park for an afternoon outing. The majority of Colorado residents who visited the Park, however, stayed overnight. A detailed analysis of length of stay at Curt Gowdy is located in the adjacent Table.

The highest overall percentage of permits sold at Curt Gowdy State Park in 1979 were the \$2.00 overnight camping fee permits (58.7%). The \$5.00 yearly permits for one state park constituted 19.6% of all permits sold, while 17.4% of the permits sold were \$10.00 yearly permits for all Wyoming state parks. Private cabin permits were sold to only 2.2% of the total visitors.

LENGTH OF STAY BY RESIDENCE - 1978*			
RESIDENCE	LESS THAN ONE DAY	ONE DAY**	2 OR MORE DAYS
WYOMING (N=107)	70.1%	12.1%	17.8%
COLORADO (N=21)	33.3%	47.6%	19.1%
NEBRASKA (N=4)	25.0%	25.0%	50.0%
OTHER STATES (N=11)	44.4%	---	55.6%
*1978 - Carlson Study			
**Includes One Night			



## USE PROJECTIONS\*

Use projections for 1995 are based upon regional projections calculated for the 1980 Wyoming SCORP. The region used for calculating projections for Curt Gowdy State Park includes Laramie, Albany, Carbon, Goshen, and Platte Counties.

The regional projections calculated for the SCORP used a multiple regression analysis based upon data collected regarding recreation patterns within the region during 1977. The projected regional increases in participation from 1977 to 1995 were then applied to the participation rates in the same activities at Curt Gowdy in 1977 to arrive at preliminary projections for 1995. These 1995 projections were then examined to consider if they were realistic within the bounds and expectations of future changes in the Park. Also, expected future regional changes such as family income, median age, and total population were considered.

The Tables presented in the remainder of this chapter identify the most popular activities at Curt Gowdy State Park and the total number of users participating in each for selected years and projections for 1995. Occasionally, total number of users does not equal the sum of those participating in specific activities because some people participated in more than one activity.

Shore fishing will remain the most popular activity in 1995 with over 80,000 users participating. The primary reason for the popularity of shore fishing is the fish stocking program. Any change in stocking practices will probably be reflected in a change in fishing participation.

Picnicking and camping will continue to be the next two most popular activities with about 40,000 annual participants in each. The proportional increase expected by 1995 for 20 to 44 year olds in the regional population should increase the number of families proportional to the total population and, hence, increase the popularity of these two family activities slightly above the projected population increase.

All boating activities including boat fishing and water skiing will increase only slightly by 1995. The small increase is mostly due to the size of the reservoirs. Currently, both reservoirs have a large number of boats on weekends and holidays from June through August and can only accommodate a small increase during these peak periods. If gasoline prices continue to rise as they have during the 1970's, powerboating may also decline for financial reasons.

Participation in hiking from 1972 to 1977 changed very little. In 1979, hiking increased drastically. The 8,431 figure may be partially inflated due to sampling

error and therefore may not be representative of the amount of hiking in the Park. In comparison to 1972 through 1977, the demand for hiking in 1995 is expected to increase greatly -- as much as 100%. This increase will require more or better trails.

Total use in 1995 is expected to exceed 123,000 visitors. Total use from 1972 has grown annually, reaching a high of over 94,000 users in 1976. Use decreased to about 70,000 users in 1979. The increases in the early 1970's may be partly attributable to curiosity with the newness of the Park. After 1977, use leveled off and is expected to be fairly consistent each year until 1995.

## SUMMARY

Most use is taking place immediately around the reservoirs on weekends during June, July, and August. Curt Gowdy State Park currently provides mostly water-based activities primarily for Cheyenne and Laramie area residents. Nearly two-thirds of the out-of-state users camp, but only about one-fourth of the Wyoming residents camp overnight. Current users would like to see a number of improvements including more water taps, better roads, and better boating facilities.

Projections for 1995 show boating activities increasing only slightly. Shore fish-

\*Carlson, J., and C. Phillips. 1979. "Projections of Outdoor Recreation Participation for Wyoming. Laramie: Wyoming. Water Resources Research Institute.



PAST AND PROJECTED  
PARTICIPANTS IN SELECTED ACTIVITIES

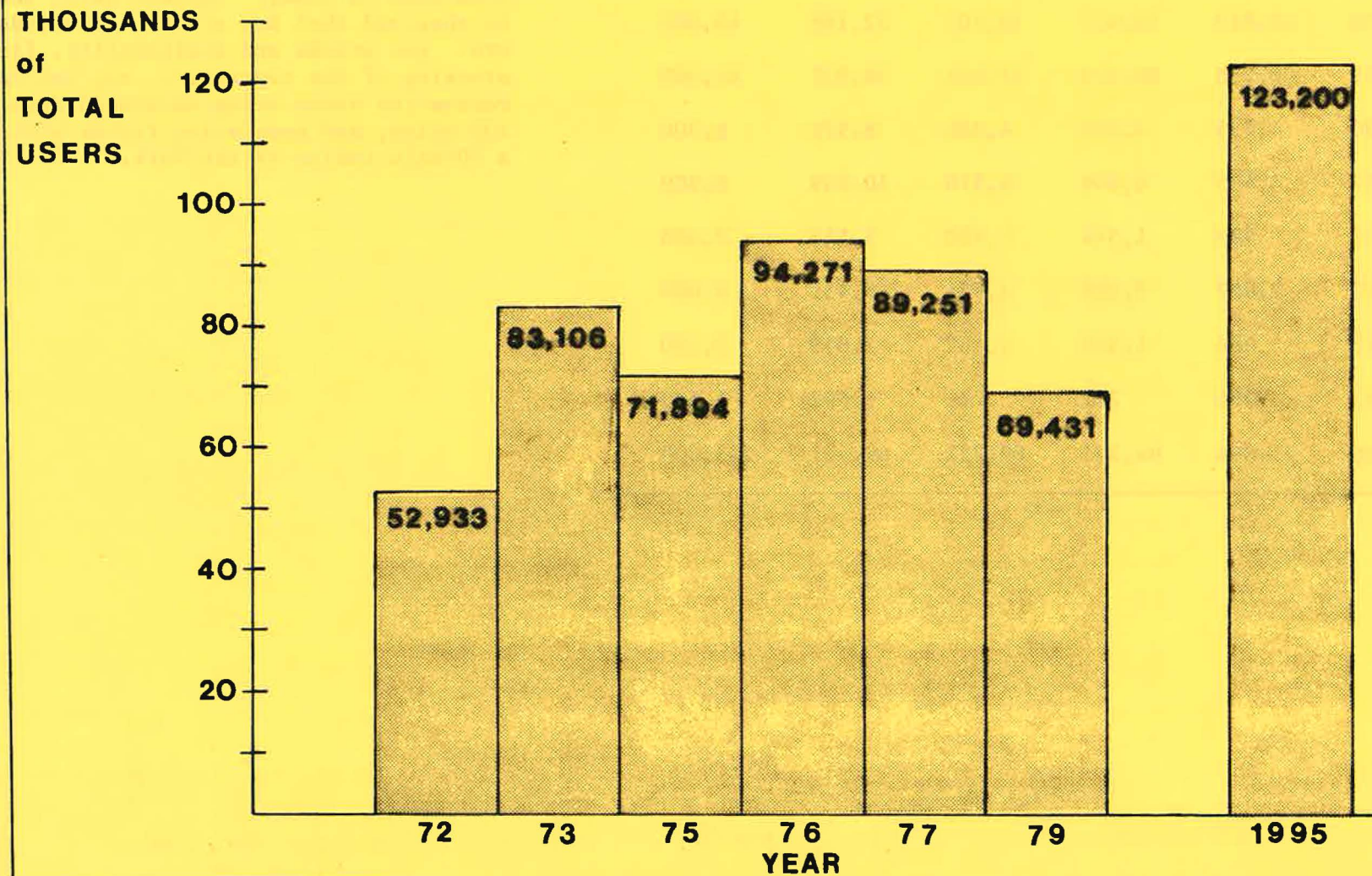
ACTIVITY	1972	1973	1975	1976	1977	1979	1995
Camping	9,829	9,090	13,306	27,795	26,315	20,475	37,100
Picnic	9,465	8,754	12,813	32,427	30,701	22,186	40,000
Shore Fishing	22,569	20,879	30,555	60,222	57,061	38,037	81,000
Boat Fishing	3,276	3,030	4,435	4,632	4,386	6,976	6,300
Boating	2,548	2,357	4,435	6,949	6,578	10,649	6,900
Water Skiing	364	337	493	1,544	1,462	5,515	2,400
Hiking	2,185	2,020	2,957	3,088	2,924	8,431	6,000
Motorcycling	728	673	986	1,544	1,462	1,838	2,100
Other	728	673	986	722	731	6,692	1,100
Total Users	52,933	83,106	71,894	94,271	89,251	69,431	123,000

ing is expected to remain the most popular activity and to increase over 50% from 1977. Picnicking and camping are expected to increase relative to shore fishing. The biggest increase should be in hiking with participation doubling from 1977 to 1995.

No sharp changes are anticipated in use from what is today. Factors which should be observed that may affect use trends are: gas prices and availability, fish stocking of the reservoirs, any new water recreation areas being developed within 100 miles, and population trends within a 50-mile radius of the Park.

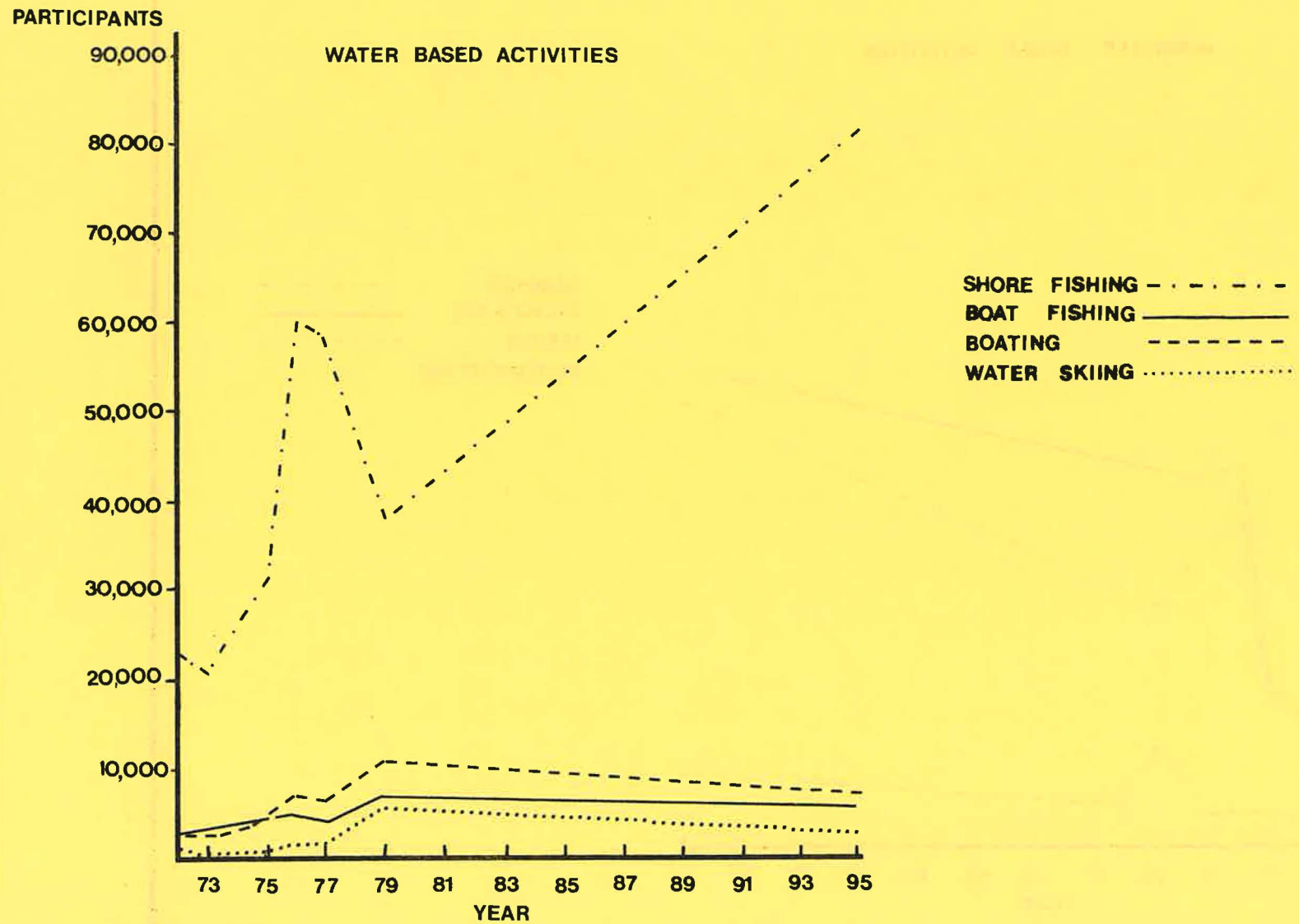


# **TOTAL USERS PAST and FUTURE**

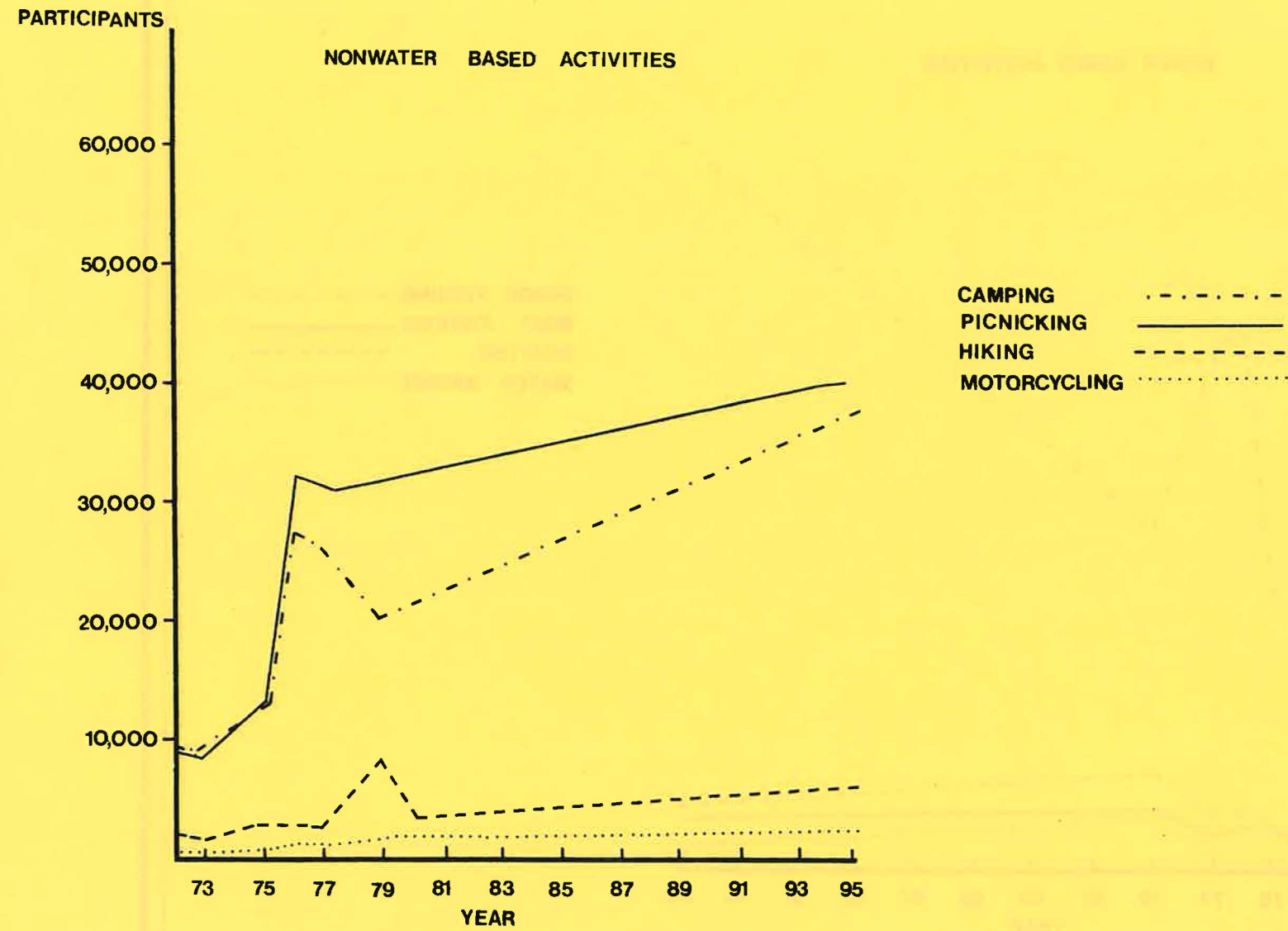




## ANNUAL PARTICIPATION RATES AND PROJECTIONS



# ANNUAL PARTICIPATION RATES AND PROJECTIONS





## PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

5

The importance of Curt Gowdy State Park as an outdoor recreation resource which serves both residents and visitors to the State of Wyoming is expected to increase. Regional population increases in the next several decades are expected to place increased demand upon existing outdoor recreation facilities. In addition, rising energy costs should also encourage increased visitation by residents from nearby population centers. Despite a growing recognition that energy costs and population growth will affect regional recreation demand in southeastern Wyoming, it is not yet clearly established what role the state park system will serve in meeting this increased demand

The current level of development at Curt Gowdy State Park would best be described as primitive. Available facilities are sporadically located and minimal amenities are provided to either the day user or camper. The nature and type of facilities provided are basically the same as those available at a variety of U.S. Forest Service sites within the same geographical region. In an attempt to avoid duplication of outdoor recreation services between municipal and federal agencies, to promote increased state park use by a wider variety of Wyoming residents and visitors, and to meet the demands of Wyoming residents as well as non-resident tourists, an intermediate level of development for Curt Gowdy State Park is recommended. This level of development is intended to provide a wider range of recreation opportunities to the clientele of Curt Gowdy State Park

by complimenting the more primitive and rustic outdoor recreation experiences available on neighboring U.S. Forest Service lands. An intermediate level of development at Curt Gowdy State Park is intended to promote a relaxing and enjoyable family-oriented outdoor recreation experience in a natural setting while recognizing the desire by many visitors for comfort, convenience, and a sense of security in the utilization of park resources.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Curt Gowdy State Park currently consists of 872 acres of minimally-developed leased lands. An additional 640 acres of land may be added to the Park, should current land acquisition projects succeed. It is recommended that capital improvement programs on this land proceed in the following manner:

- I. All renovations as well as development of park facilities should proceed with the understanding that the long range goals of Curt Gowdy State Park involve year-round utilization by Park clientele.
- II. All renovations as well as development of Park facilities should be preceded by a detailed archaeological and historic resource survey. Until such a survey has been com-



pleted, all potential historic sites should be considered significant and disturbance of any potential sites should be prohibited.

In this regard, any sites determined to have historical or archaeological significance to the State of Wyoming should be integrated into the Park development process in such a way as to highlight their interpretive potential to Park visitors.

III. All renovations as well as development of Park facilities should accommodate the handicapped including shoreline access where practical.

IV. All renovations as well as development of Park facilities should be undertaken in a manner to minimize visual impact of the reservoirs and adjacent lands while permitting non-destructive uses and providing access and outdoor recreation opportunities for Park visitors.

All renovations as well as development of new Park facilities should be designed and utilize colors and materials which will "blend in" with the natural environment.

V. A uniform sign system should be established to provide visitors with

information regarding recreational opportunities and regulations governing the use of Curt Gowdy State Park. It is also recommended that signs and message boards be used at Hynd's Lodge and major camping and picnicking areas to acquaint the visitor with emergency services and park hazards (e.g., the danger of water temperatures for swimming).

VI. Health, safety, and emergency services should be located at the headquarters office in the Hynds Lodge area. Major health services are located less than 25 miles away in both Cheyenne and Laramie.

VII. At this time, paving of roads within the park is not feasible due to cost and maintenance problems. However, paving would eliminate dust problems, encourage driving on designated roadways and enable plowing of roads in the winter season.

A. Develop specific recreation areas to prevent indiscriminant vehicle use of Park Lands.

B. All 4-wheel drive trails should be closed and barricaded to correct existing off-road vehicle abuse and prevent unauthorized and damaging vehicle use.

C. Reseed and reinstitute planting

and landscaping program to correct existing erosion and improve the appearance of the area. Special attention must be devoted to the planting of indigenous species which will require minimal maintenance and act as wind screens adjacent to major recreation areas.

D. Parking lots should be developed and located adjacent to existing and proposed recreation sites. Parking should be permitted only in designated locations.

VIII. All maintenance facilities should be retained at their present location at the Headquarters Building where there is electricity, running water, and the Park's headquarters.

An additional dump station is recommended but due to leeching problems an extensive study must be undertaken for determination of an exact location.

IX. Outdoor Recreation Activities to be provided and their suggested level of development:

A. Fishing

1. Ample access points should be provided to all fishing



locations.

2. A fish cleaning station should be provided with the minimum of one per lake.
3. Stocking practices presently employed by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department should be continued.

#### B. Powerboating

1. Powerboating and waterskiing should occur on Granite Reservoir only. Crystal Lake should be reserved for non-motorized water craft only. The reasons for this zoning are:
  - a. Conflict between boaters and fishermen on the relatively small body of water provided by Crystal Lake.
  - b. The need for a relatively large water area on which to ski or powerboat.
2. Construct new double-width boat ramps to provide launching capabilities at varying water levels. Courtesy docks as well as parking facilities designed to accommodate vehicles with trailers should be provided nearby.

3. Water buoys should be placed in some areas of Granite Reservoir approximately 100 yards from shore to separate shore fishermen from powerboats and skiers.

#### C. Swimming

1. Swimming is not recommended for either Granite Reservoir or Crystal Reservoir due to their low water temperature.
2. Beaches should not be developed primarily due to the No Swimming regulation, inappropriate soil texture near the shorelines (granite-based), and the problems encountered with high winds characteristic of the area. These winds will cause blowing and drifting of any beach sand introduced into the area.

#### D. Hiking

1. Maintain current hiking trails south of Granite Reservoir where the topography is conducive to a scenic experience.
2. Extend and develop hiking trails into Section 17. These trails should be designed in such a manner as to provide the option for cross-country skiing in winter.

3. Interpretive facilities, both natural and cultural should be provided whenever appropriate and practical.

#### E. Picnicking

1. Increase and redevelop existing picnic facilities.
2. Clearly establish the perimeters of existing picnic facilities including the installation of permanent tables, barbecue grills, and appropriately located trash receptacles and restrooms.
3. Prohibit motorized vehicles within the picnic area; however, parking should be provided near-by.
4. Provide tap water at appropriate central locations.
5. Develop several picnicking "pavillions" which will allow multiple parties to utilize picnic facilities during inclement weather or during time periods when increased shading is necessary. These facilities should also be designed with permanent fireplaces to facilitate and encourage off-season use.



6. Establish a new picnic area on the northern border of Section 17 directly adjacent to the Happy Jack road.

#### F. Camping

1. Campsites should be clearly designated and camping should be limited to areas so developed. All developed camping areas should contain picnic tables, fire pits, post barriers, and should be in close proximity to water, washing facilities, and toilets.
2. Due to an expected increase in demand for camping, a minimum of 100 campsites are currently needed with room provided for possible expansion to 200 sites by the year 1995. Expansion areas may serve as overflow campgrounds during periods of peak use.
3. Because of the large number of recreation vehicles currently being used as well as the potential that increased energy costs may encourage recreation vehicle owners to use such vehicles at recreation areas closer to home, it is recommended that electric hook-ups be provided at some of the developed campsites.

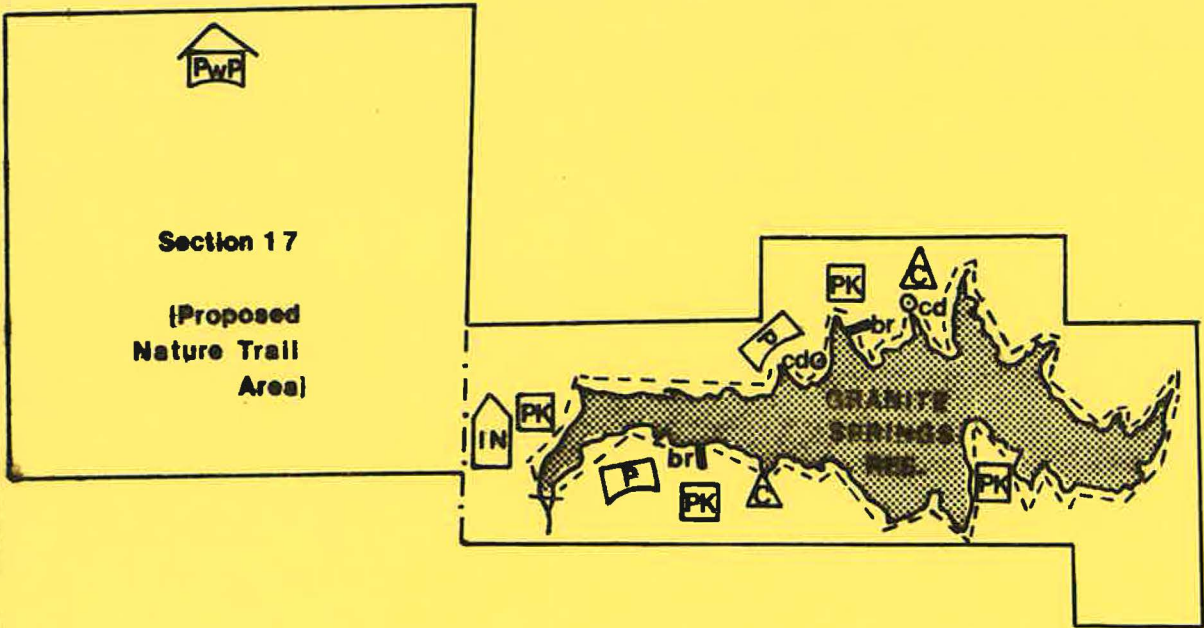
4. Primitive camp sites should be located adjacent to appropriate sections of the trail to be developed throughout Section 17. Water and sanitary facilities should be provided at major trail heads. Lean-to facilities are also suggested at various appropriate locations within Section 17. These facilities should encourage camping by novices as well as use by cross-country skiers or other individuals who wish to use the state park during the off-seasons.

#### G. Hynds Lodge

1. The field archery range currently separating Section 17 from Granite Springs Reservoir should be removed and re-instituted if possible in the Hynds Lodge section of Curt Gowdy State Park. This change in orientation of the Hynds Lodge area is recommended for several reasons. First, current use statistics indicate extremely limited use of this component of Curt Gowdy State Park. Second, because the Hynds Lodge area is segregated from the rest of the Park, this area provides the most secluded location in which to operate a field archery range. Additional study should be made to determine the feasibility of con-

tinuing the operation of the archery range. If location of the archery range is not feasible at the Hynds Lodge area, it is suggested that this area continue to provide minimal picnic facilities and operate as maintenance headquarters for the Park. No additional facility expansion is recommended for this park component.





# **PROPOSED FACILITIES**



## **LEGEND**

- PARKING AREA
- CAMPING AREA
- PICNIC AREA
- BOAT RAMP
- COURTESY DOCK
- INTERPRETATION CENTER
- PICNIC AREA with PAVILION
- SANITARY DUMP
- LAKE SHORE TRAIL







