

National Forest Recreation

1987

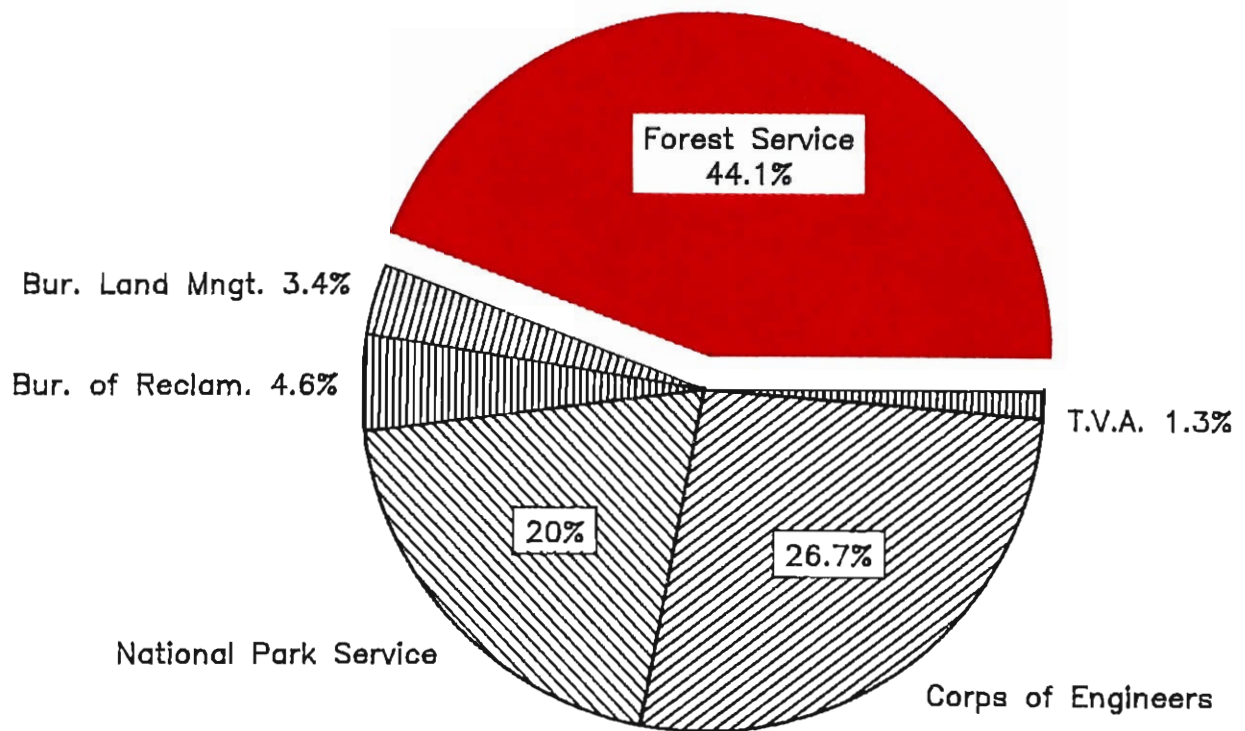
George S. Dunlop

Assistant Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment

Recreation Use at Federal Areas

- More outdoor recreation occurs on NFS lands than on any other single landholding.
- In 1986, 226.5 million RVD's occurred on NFS lands - more than twice NPS use.
- National Forest recreation includes a wide spectrum of activities ranging from camping at constructed facilities to backpacking in primitive settings.
- National Forests are located within 35 of the 39 States where tourism is ranked among the top 3 growing industries.
- After 80 years of intensive management for a multitude of products, some Forest Service lands are still sought after by the National Park Service.
- There are 48 National Natural Landmarks, 13 National Recreation Areas and 7 National Scenic Areas or National Monuments on Forest Service lands.
- 124 Special Areas have been designated administratively which include Historical, Geologic, Botanical, Archeological and Scenic Areas.

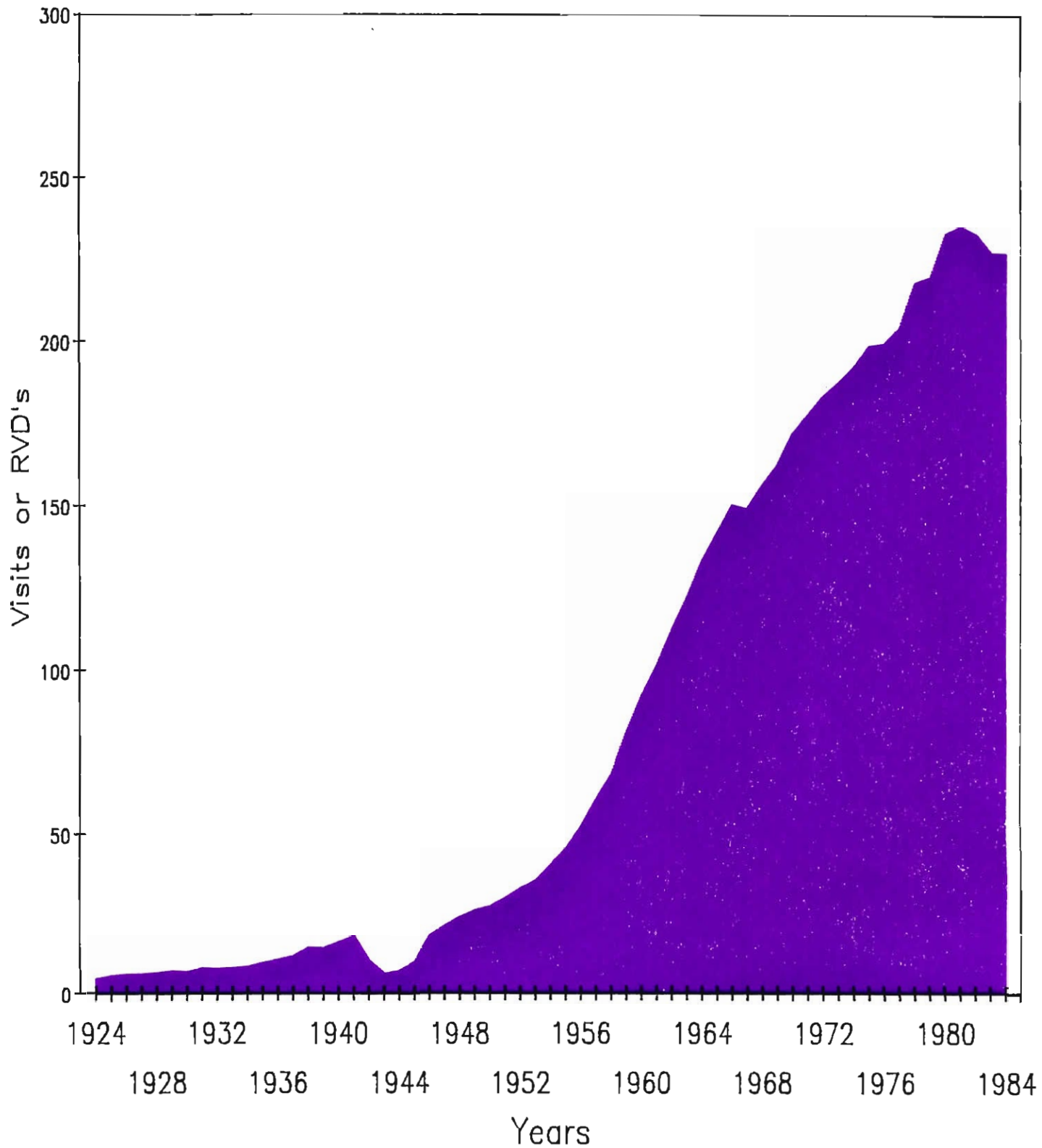
Recreation Use at Federal Areas



Recreation Use on National Forests

- The building of campgrounds, picnic areas, boat ramps, swimming beaches, trailheads and visitor centers began in earnest on the National Forests during the CCC period.
- This effort gave the Forest Service a legacy of high quality facilities across the Nation.
- Forest Service recreation grew from 10 million visits in 1942 to over 90 million visits in 1960.
- Starting in the 1960's a major effort was undertaken to begin to replace or rehabilitate many of the worn out facilities.
- Resource never matched the needs, and investments began to be lost.

Recreation Use on the National Forests 1924 through 1984

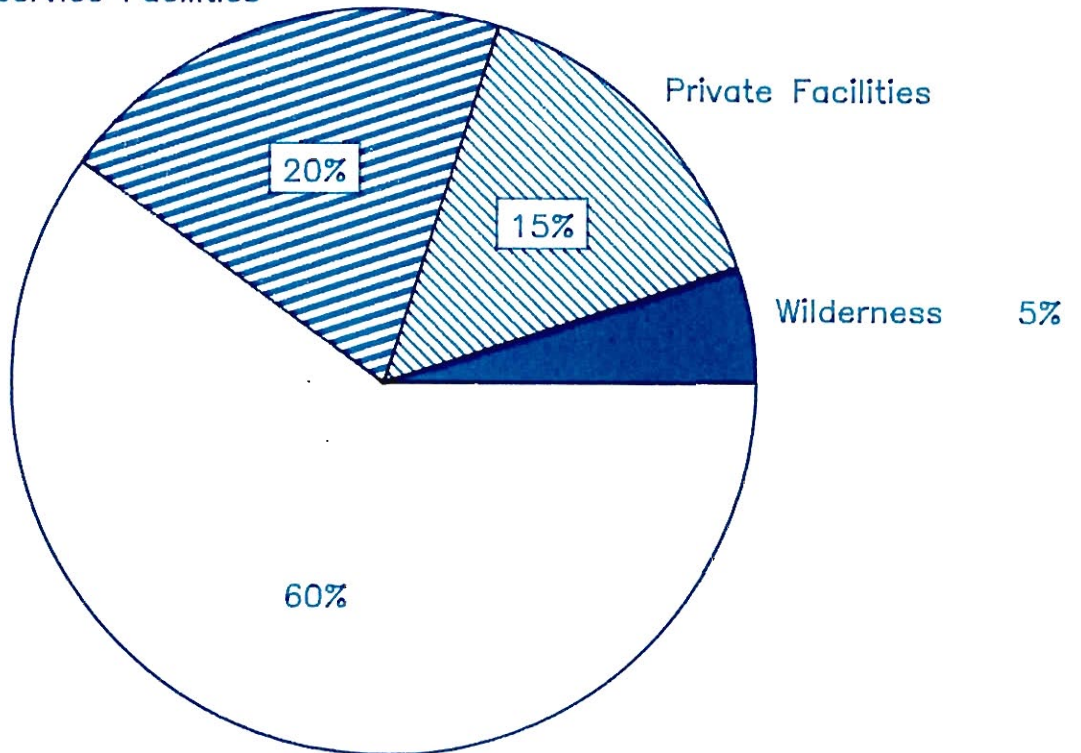


Where Recreation Occurs

- In 1986, 226.5 million RVD's occurred on National Forest Service lands.
- Use at Forest Service operated facilities such as campgrounds, picnic areas, and boating areas was 50.5 million RVD's
- Facilities operated by the private Sector on NFS lands, such as ski areas, accommodate 15% of total visitation.
- Ski areas, recreation residences, resorts and organization camps are under Forest Service permit and generate several million dollars in fees each year.

Where Recreation Occurs on National Forests

Developed Forest Service Facilities



Private Facilities

Wilderness 5%

General Forest Areas

Recreation Use By Activity

- Camping and Picnicking
 - :Camping by Auto, Tent or Trailer
 - :Picnicking

- Mechanized Travel and Viewing Scenery
 - :Driving for pleasure
 - :Train, Bus and Boat travel
 - :Bicycle and motorcycle travel

- Fishing and Hunting
 - :Fresh and Salt Water Fishing
 - :Hunting Big and Small Game

- Hiking and Horseback Riding
 - :Hiking and Walking
 - :Mountain Climbing

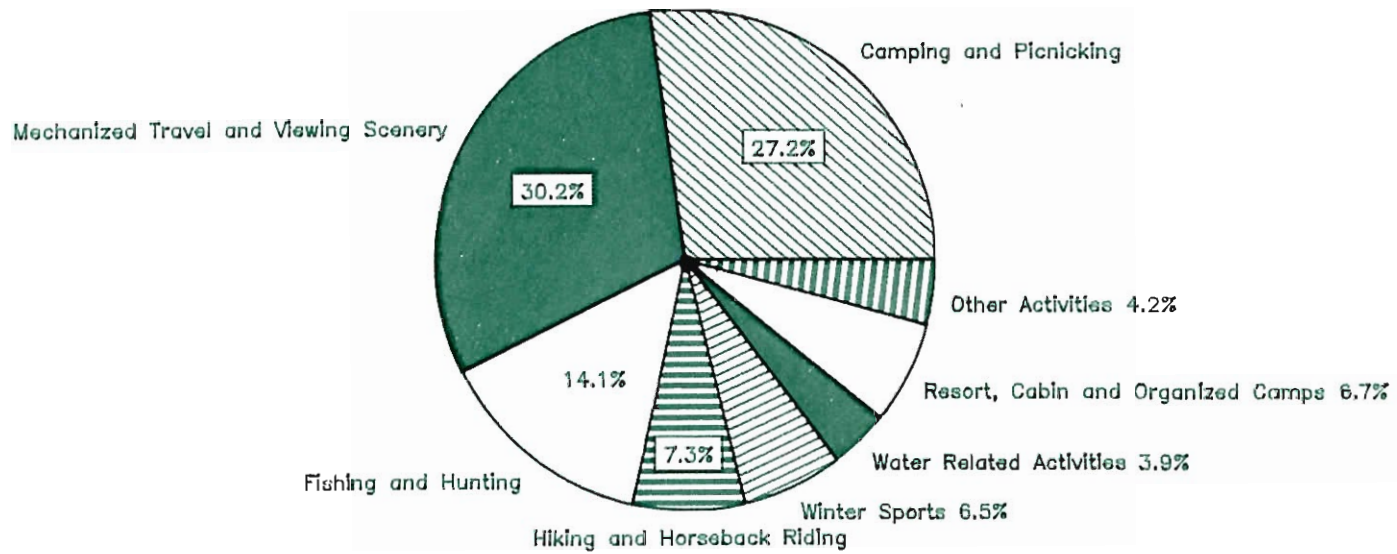
- Winter Sports
 - :Downhill and Cross-country
& Skiing
 - :Ice Skating and Sledding

- Water Related Activities
 - :Canoeing and Sailing
 - :Swimming and Water Play

- Resort, Cabin and Organized Camp Activities
 - :Resort Lodging
 - :Organization Camping

- Other Recreation Activities
 - :Viewing Interpretive Sites and
& Exhibits
 - :Team Sports
 - :Gathering Forest Products

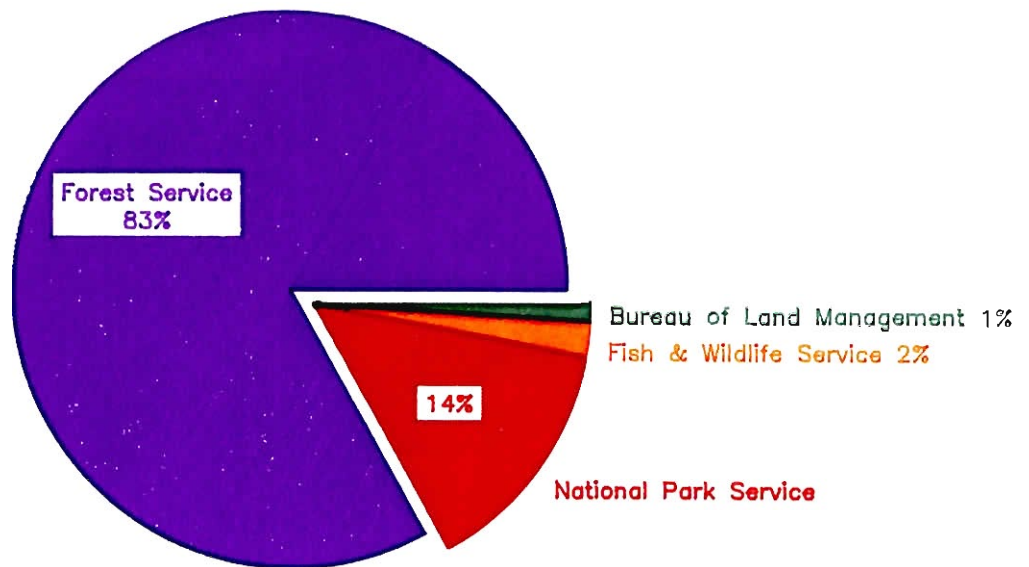
Recreation Use by Activity on National Forest Lands



The National Wilderness Preservation System

- There are 338 wilderness units totaling 32.4 million acres in the National Forest System.
- NF has 83% of the wilderness acreage in the 48 contiguous States where most visits occur (26.9 million)
- The number of wildernesses doubled in last 3 years-- from 165 to 338.
- Wilderness acreage nearly tripled in the last 10 year-- from 12.6 to 32.4 million acres.
- Wilderness visits have grown from 8 million to 12 million RVD's in the last 10 years.
- 92% of the National Forest have one or more wilderness units to manage.
- 17% of National Forest System land is designated as wilderness.
- 178 person/years of volunteer work was completed in National Forest Wildernesses in 1986

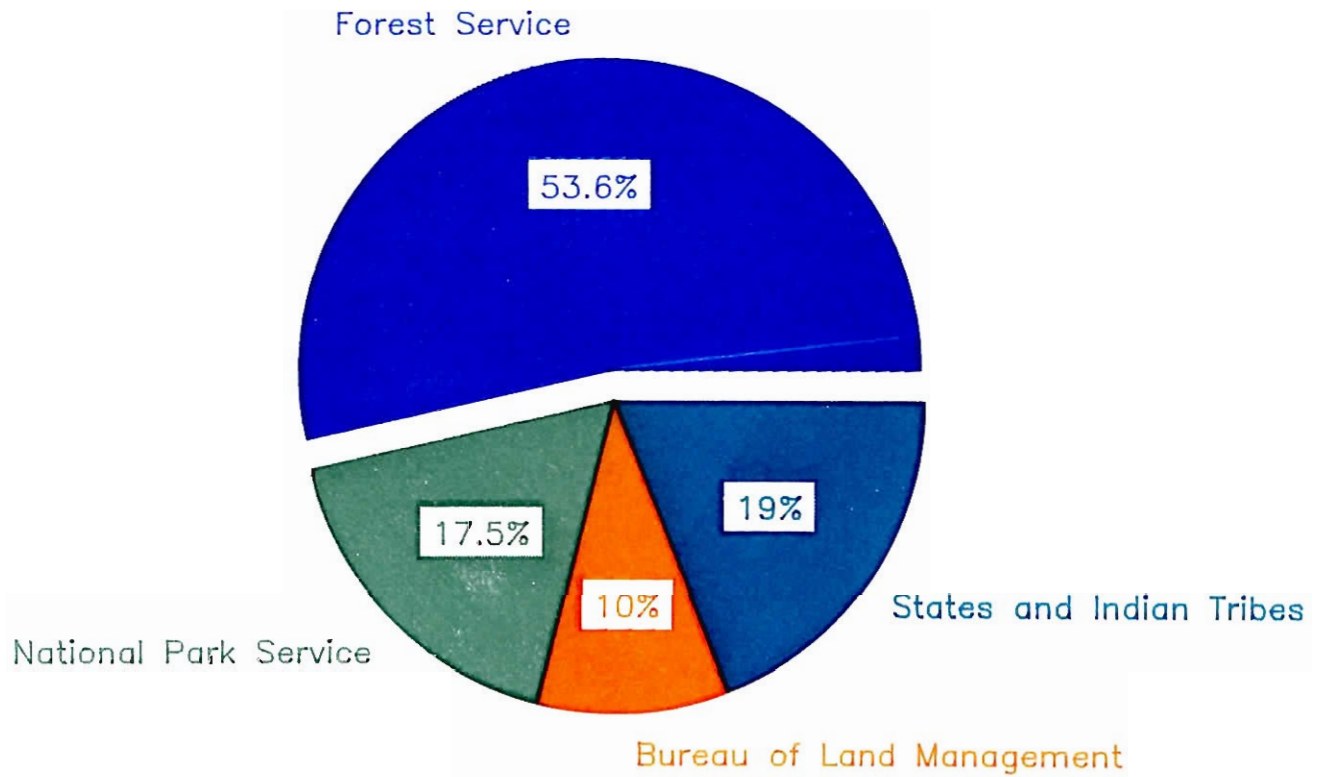
The National Wilderness Preservation System (acres of Wilderness in lower 48 states)



The Wild and Scenic Rivers System

- The National Rivers Inventory, published in 1982 identified about 1500 rivers with outstanding values and potential candidates for the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.
- The Forest Service has established agency policy direction that each of the inventoried rivers that cross National Forest land and any identified additional rivers with potential outstanding values will be evaluated for Wild and Scenic River eligibility.
- 376 inventoried rivers and 122 other rivers are being evaluated in the Forest planning process.
- Each Forest must, as a minimum, determine eligibility of the rivers and provide appropriate protection for the outstanding values in the river corridor until a suitability analysis and study report is completed.
- The Forest has the option to complete the suitability determination in the Forest planning process, or defer this evaluation to a later date.

The Wild and Scenic Rivers System (miles of rivers in lower 48 states)

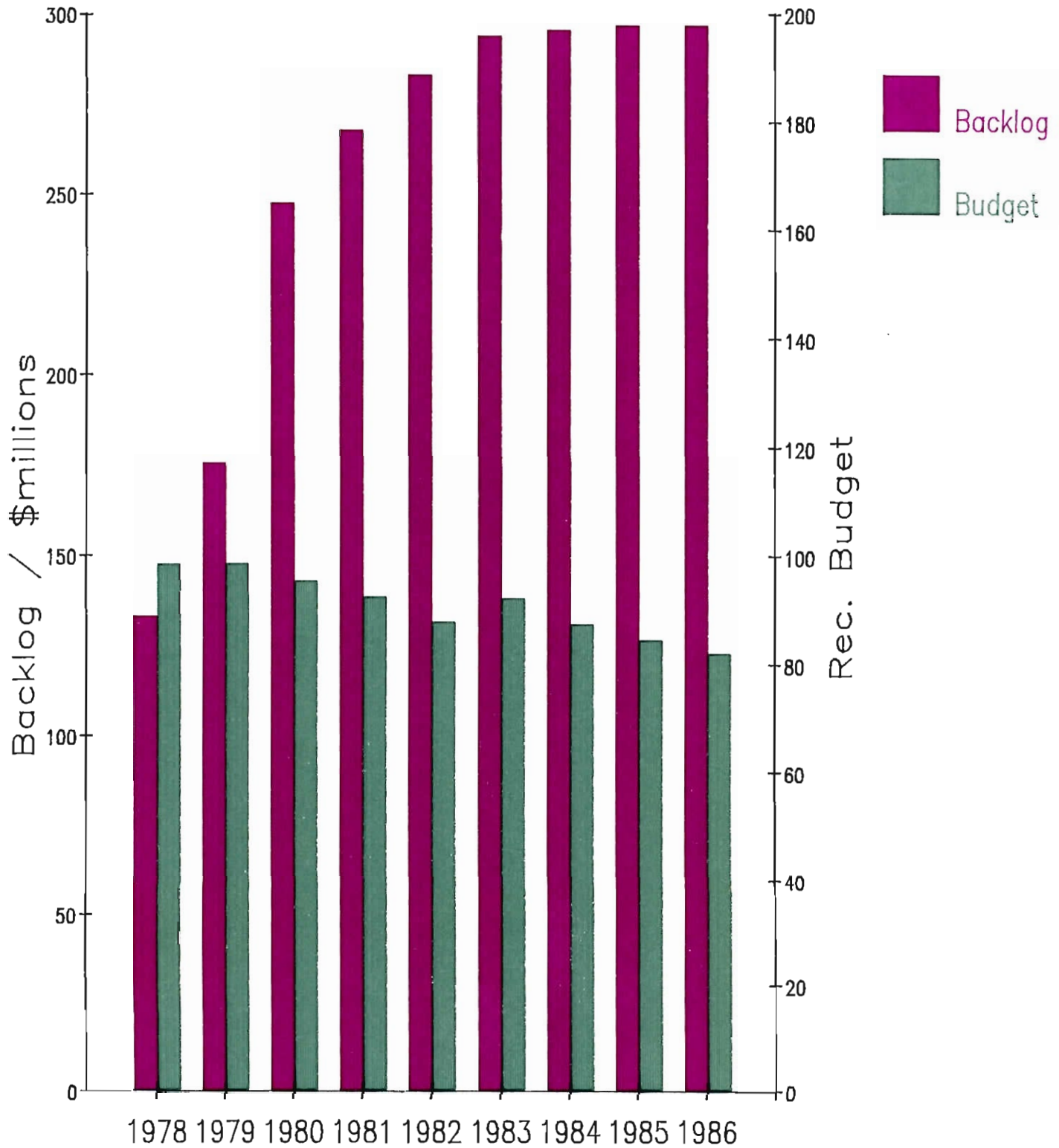


Recreation Rehabilitation Backlog

- The budget declines while the rehabilitation backlog grows.
- Budget trend is leading to continued investment losses, lawsuits, tied up M.U. lands, and increasing public discontent.
- Backlog levels off in the mid 80's is due to closure and/or elimination of facilities.
- Current backlog in rehabilitation work has resulted in below standard maintenance of some facilities.
- Due to backlog, more than 300 camp and picnic grounds were closed between 1980 and 1986.

Recreation Rehabilitation Backlog

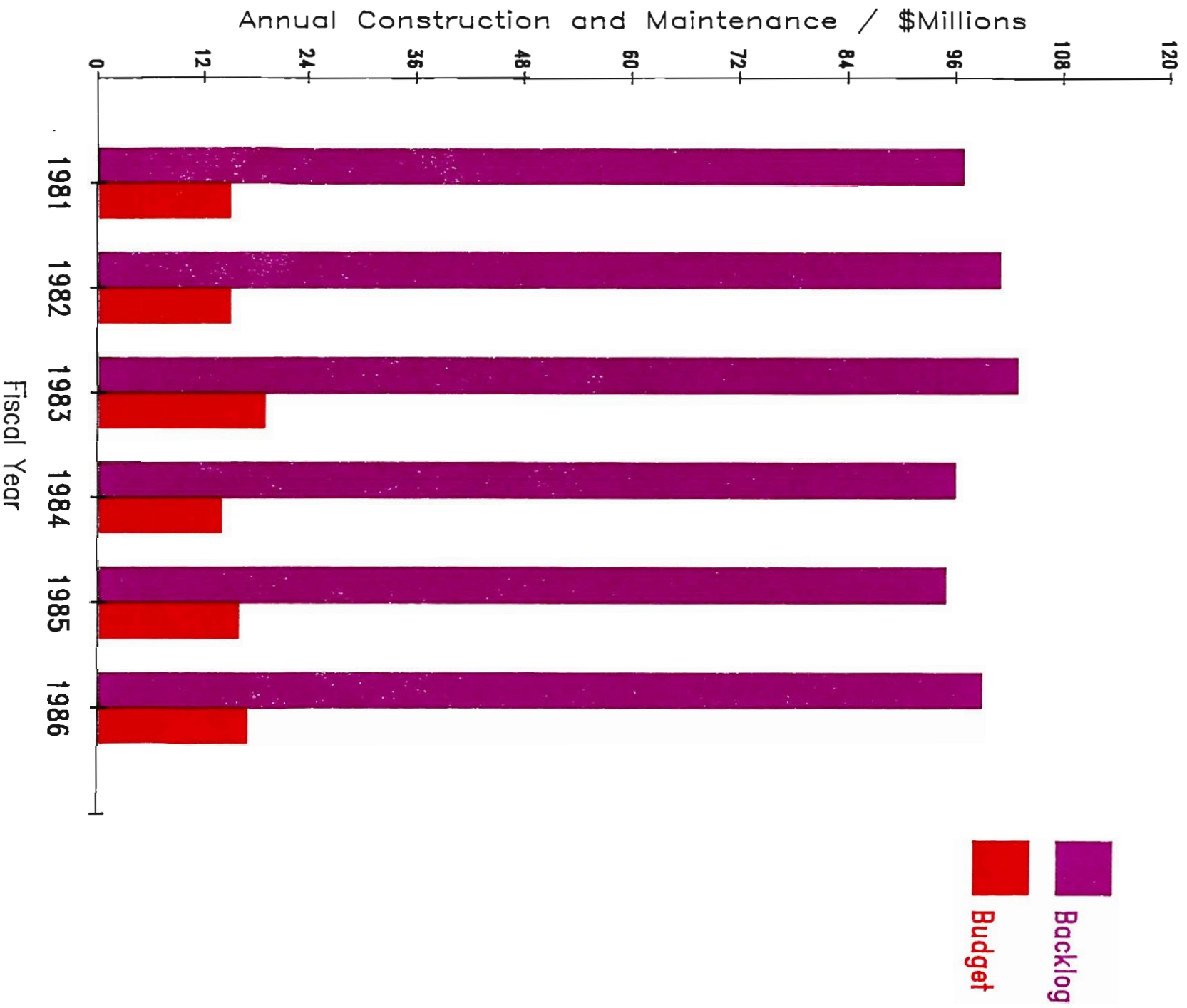
1978 - 1985



Recreation Backlog for Trails

- The Forest Service has the largest trail system in U.S.:
:99,761 miles
- 374 National Recreation Trails, over 1300 miles.
- The agency administers portions of 3 National Scenic Trails.
3975 miles are on National Forest lands of a total of 6750 miles.
 - :Pacific Crest
 - :Continental Divide
 - :Florida National
- Significant segments of the National Scenic Trails are on National Forest:
 - :Appalachian
 - :Ice Age
 - :North Country
- Types of trail use are hiking, horseback, cross country, skiing, motorcycle, mountain bicycle, snowmobile, and all terrain vehicle.
- Also have interpretive trails, and barrier free trails.

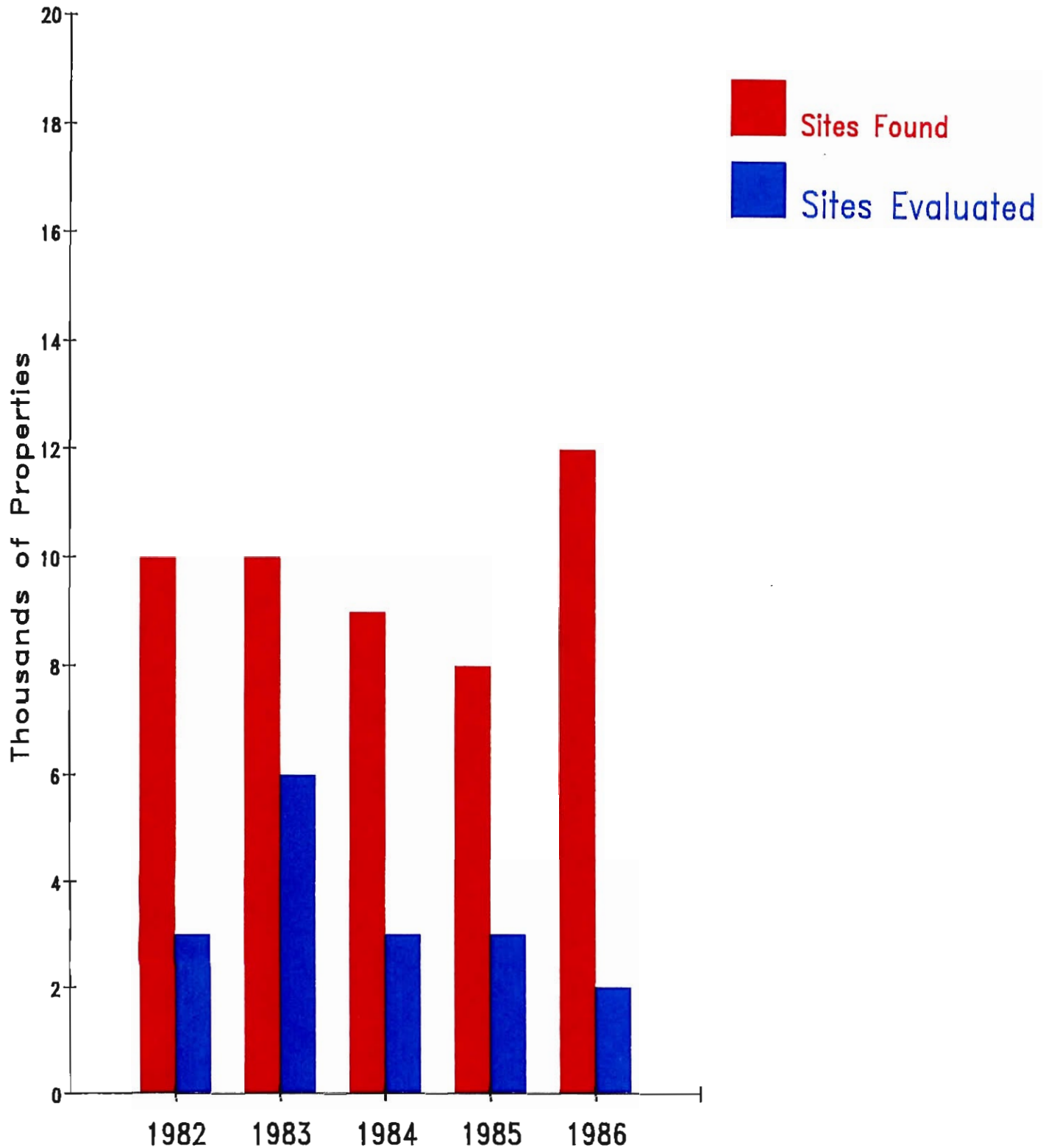
Trail Rehabilitation Backlog



Cultural Resource Management

- The Historic Preservation Act requires the Forest Service to identify and protect significant cultural resource properties prior to surface disturbing activities.
- Unevaluated cultural resource properties precludes multiple-use management.
- Lawsuits over the management of cultural resources are expensive and tie up multiple use lands.
- Damaged or stolen artifacts are irreplaceable.
- Increasing public discontent could bring about legislation to transfer National Forest lands to the National Park Service.

Backlog of Unevaluated Cultural Resource Properties



FY 89 Requested Increments

To respond to today's needs and provide:

- Revitalized facilities and trails
- Public health and safety
- Quality attraction/private sector
- More acres for producing timber and other resource

And increase:

- Private/public partnerships
- Challenge grants

FY 89 increments have been requested that will:

- Reopen 200 recreation sites
- Prevent closing 60 sites
- Provide information and safety for 92 new wilderness areas
- Return 150,000 acres to production through CRM evaluation
- Increase financial effectiveness by \$9.5 mm with challenge grants
- \$28 mm of health and safety projects
- Increase receipts by \$2.5 mm

FY 89 Requested Increments

