

occur because too great a number of persons were brought together in situations requiring a considerably increased degree of care for their safety. The landowner could under these circumstances become liable for injuries caused by one invitee to another. To some degree this liability could be assumed by the patrons by way of contract, as a part of their admission. Signs and other notices and consents might lessen the degree of risk, but of themselves might not completely obviate liability.

• Trespass by invitees on the lands of another. In certain instances, there could be liability where the landowner may have misled invitees as to property lines, and injury is done to property of adjacent neighbors. While normally the landowner is not liable for trespass by others, the degree of care the landowner owes toward

his neighbors will increase with their proximity, the sparseness of community development, etc. A golf driving range so situated that driven golf balls would likely cause injury to nearby houses or people would illustrate this. Picnic areas may lead to the liability of the landowner for littering and other health menaces. When invitees break the landowner's fences, permitting his stock to escape and do damage, the landowner may be liable.

• Injury by invitees to employees of the landowner. Employees normally assume the risks attendant to their employment. Where the normal risks of employment are increased, such as a farmhand working in the field being shot by a hunter or a farmhand being injured by animals unreasonably excited by guests of a dude ranch, the landowner may become liable for the damages.

Our Heritage— The Countryside

LLOYD E. PARTAIN



AFUNDAMENTAL HERITAGE of the American people has been the opportunity to know the outdoors—its character, its challenges, and its wonders. Traditionally, experience and activity in the open country have been an important part of the lives of most of our people—first as a wilderness to be conquered, and then as a source of livelihood, inspiration, and enjoyment.

As our Nation has progressed from primarily agrarian to a vast industrial complex, an increasing percentage of our total population began, of necessity, to reside in the cities and towns. A vast number of those living in urban places even today, however, were either born in rural areas

or are only one generation removed from the farm. Most parents of today's youth remember experiences in the country with grandfather and grandmother, an uncle or aunt, or a family friend. But few of our children have that chance. This situation need not prevail, however.

Rural America has adequate space for more people to live, work, and play; to perpetuate our heritage; and to assure a strong community and family life with gainful employment and wholesome leisure. The enduring strength of our society



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may well depend on the future development and use of America's countryside.

Only five out of a hundred Americans are primarily employed in producing the food, fiber, and a substantial portion of the shelter which we all need today—and even more than that, substantial farm commodities available for export.

There is every indication that production efficiency can be much greater in the future. In fact, the ingenuity of the American people under our competitive, capitalistic system permits us to produce more of just about everything than we can now use. In the case of agricultural production, we can do it on fewer and fewer acres.

As production per acre and per animal goes up, the amount of land required goes down. Land areas most suited to modern farming become more intensively used. Other land areas are released for non-farm uses. This is true in most States. Nearly 60 percent of the land area of the highly industrialized State of Pennsylvania now grows trees and brush with the smallest percentage in cultivation since before 1890. And the percentage is even higher in such States as Connecticut, North Carolina, and Missouri. Only about 50 percent of the land area of New York State is required for farming, industries, cities and suburban dwelling, roads, highways, airports, and other intensive uses.

In the countryside across the Nation, lands are available for recreation and open space, natural beauty, new home expansion, industrial and commercial sites, nature centers, travelways and transportation services. All these potential uses of rural space require well-planned resource conservation and development programs in which multiple purposes can be incorporated to meet local, State, and national needs. The U.S. Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with other Federal, State, and local agencies, organizations, groups, and individuals, supports a Rural Areas Development program in the national interest. This program has many integrated facets.

Small watershed projects authorized by Public Law 83-566, as amended, offer excellent opportunity for development of multiple uses. Even though flood control and agricultural water management are

the prime purposes, these projects often can provide rural, municipal, and industrial water supplies, water-based outdoor recreation, and fish and wildlife development. Once floodwaters are harnessed, many rural communities can develop safe and attractive places for industry, homes, and wholesome recreation.

Add to this some 2 million farm ponds, most of which are stocked for fishing, and the managed waters of rural America become a great attraction to people of town and country alike.

Since the strong surge of emphasis and interest in outdoor recreation began about 5 or 6 years ago, USDA has constantly accelerated its efforts toward helping meet national needs for recreation.

The almost universal recognition of the dependence on private land development as a means of supplying a major portion of the outdoor recreation demands led to new functions of the Federal, State, and local agencies and organizations. Important among these functions has been expansion of the Nation's soil and water conservation programs to include outdoor recreation as an alternative land use to be considered by the private landowners and operators requesting technical assistance from the Soil Conservation Service. The goal has been a three-point one: To appropriately use and conserve natural resources, to provide an income-producing operation for farmers, and to help meet the needs of rural and urban people alike.

Since 1962, Soil Conservation Service technicians have helped 34,700 rural landowners and operators to establish one or more income-producing recreation enterprises. More than 3,200 of them derive their major income from recreation.

Through March of 1967, the Farmers Home Administration has made recreation loans to 345 nonprofit rural associations totaling \$44 million, and to 550 farmers amounting to \$4 million.

Between 1961 and 1966, Rural Electrification Administration borrowers helped to establish over 250 recreation projects.

The Cooperative Extension Service now has about 35 recreation specialists and 26 wildlife specialists working on recreation and related activities.

USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and

Conservation Service—through its Agricultural Conservation Program and Cropland Adjustment Program—performs an important role in cost-sharing on conservation practices necessary for recreational use of land. Under the Cropland Adjustment Program alone, about 800,000 acres of farmland have been made available for public recreation uses. Grants are also being made to the State and local governments to help buy cropland for recreation, fish and wildlife purposes under the Greenspan program.

Many landowners today, with large homes on farms or ranches that are fully modernized for comforts comparable to city living, convert a part of their acres to income-producing outdoor recreation uses. Some make vacation farming or dude ranching a major source of income. The majority prefer to continue their operations as working farms or ranches with recreation and vacation services as a supplementary source of income.

Most of these rural recreation enterprises feature moderate rates, quality food served family style, comfortable lodging, and a wide variety of facilities for enjoying a rest away from the masses.

A vacation on a farm or ranch is only one of many opportunities to enjoy rural recreation activities. Landowners and operators in many parts of the country, especially in areas near large centers of population, have installed facilities and services for those who have only a few hours, a day, a weekend, or a month to spend enjoying the open country.

On private rural lands across the country you will find picnicking, camping, trailer parks, fishing, hunting, swimming, boating, and water skiing; tobogganning, sledding, skating, skiing, and other winter sports; guided trail rides, canoeing, river float trips, horseback and pony riding stables, hayrides and wagon trains, group camping, nature trails, cave and cavern exploration, playing fields and courts, and golfing.

In our countryside's vastness lies the greatest portion of the Nation's developed and undeveloped natural resources. Nearly three-fourths of this land space is

privately owned, comprising a continuing source of our new wealth. From it come our food and fiber, most of our fresh water, wood, and minerals, and our outdoor recreation opportunities.

Competition for that rural space grows with population increase, greater affluence among our people with increased mobility, higher standards of living, improved access, and more and more leisuretime.

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NATURE'S TEACHINGS

A child learns through all of his senses when roaming woods and fields. He feels soft, spongy pine needles under his feet and later in life he can better understand the water-holding capacities of forest soils. He also learns the sharp unyielding feel of natural stone. He smells the fresh tilled soil. He feels the cool breeze through the trees, and tastes the freshness of filtered spring water—no chemicals added. With his hands he learns the feel of rough tree bark, the resiliency of a sapling, the peace of solitude and quiet, interrupted only by an occasional bird call, buzzing insect, or rustle of a squirrel in late fall.

—IVAN R. MARTIN

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But fortunately, too, a vast amount of knowledge is available to cope with the problems of conservation and wise use of this Nation's renewable natural resources. Science and technology provide the basis for practical multiple use of our farm, ranch, and forest lands.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture and its cooperating State and local agencies are applying their scientific, technological, and resources management principles more and more to broad area resource planning and development. Urban as well as rural areas are involved. Enlightened local initiative and leadership, technical and financial assistance, continued research and effective education from sound public programs—all of these insure a more rewarding countryside environment for both rural and urban people and preserve a great heritage.