

property, and those traveling to the area primarily to partake in recreational activities from publicly accessible facilities. For both types of recreationists the primary water-based activities include fishing, waterskiing, boating, and swimming. Visiting recreationists also enjoy camping. This bulletin focuses on visiting recreationists.¹

Objectives

In order to efficiently allocate the water in a river basin, knowledge of benefits to alternative uses of various management schemes is necessary.

It was the purpose of this bulletin to present procedures for estimating the economic value of outdoor recreation and apply these to the Kissimmee River basin. In addition, the impact of variations in water level on recreational values was derived.

The demand for outdoor recreation in the Kissimmee River Basin was determined by estimating the average demand function for a visit to the basin and then expanded to include all visits during 1970. In addition, the aggregate demand was functionally related to water level. In this way, estimated dollar impacts to recreationists can be postulated by utilizing tentative water levels of a particular allocation scheme. Procedures used in this endeavor include interviews with recreationists in order to obtain estimates of the annual value of recreation. To maintain as much homogeneity as possible, recreationists were analyzed separately for each of four time periods: (1) February through May, (2) June through September, (3) October through November, and (4) December through January. A summary of the fundamentals of demand analysis will precede the presentation of the demand for visiting recreationists.

Demand Analysis

Assume that there is one consumer and two commodities, Q_1 and Q_2 . It is also assumed that the consumer prefers to have as much of each commodity as possible. The objective of the consumer is to maximize his satisfaction, subject to a constraint — the amount of money he has available to purchase the two commodities in a given time period.

All of the information concerning the consumer's satisfaction is contained in his utility function. A utility function ex-

¹Details on waterfront residents can be found in References, subsequent numbers in brackets refer also to References. [2].