

consisted of three distinct lakes (see Table 5). The degree of usage and size of the lake were the criteria for distinguishing the sampled lakes. Lake Gentry is representative of small lakes, Lake Marian medium sized lakes, and Lake Tohopekaliga large lakes.

Definition Of Variables

The following sections will briefly discuss each variable used in the analysis. The empirical results will be presented following the discussion of the variables.

Number of Visits (V)

The dependent variable (V) is the estimated number of people using the lake facilities for recreational purposes. The use of a lake facility includes such activities as launching a boat from a ramp, water skiing, swimming, hiking, fishing, or just "passing the time of day" along the shoreline. Therefore, the variable V is an estimate of the total number of visitors (or visits) that attend the lake or its immediate surroundings to participate in a type of recreational activity during a set time period. ($\sum V_T$ is the estimated annual visitations.)

It should be noted that a visit to the river basin was defined as any entry of a person upon a recreational site in order to participate in any activity other than those associated with the pursuit of a gainful occupation. If, for example, a group of three recreationists arrived at a site, in one car, this would be recorded as three visits regardless of how many days they stayed at the site. Thus, a particular visitor can be counted one or more times during the year depending on how often he visits the river basin throughout the year.

The method chosen to estimate the number of people utilizing the facilities of a sampled lake (V) was to conduct a traffic count survey. The survey consisted of data gathered by eight mechanical traffic counters at selected locations. A traffic counter was placed at all public access points on each of the three lakes. The access points were located at organized fish camps, county boat ramps with parking facilities, and at two and three lane boat ramps with no parking facilities. The analytical procedure for estimating the number of people using a lake will now be described.

The data obtained directly from the traffic counters had to be adjusted in order to obtain an estimate of the number of people using the area rather than just the number of axles that