

This statement, together with the two following in GUIDELINE (Policy & Plng. 22 and 23), was presented by the Committee on Standards, National Conference on State Parks, adopted by the Board of Directors on September 20, 1959, and published in the December issue of PLANNING AND CIVIC COMMENT.

Introduction

Types of areas in State Park Systems are listed in the Report on "Suggested Criteria for Evaluating Areas Proposed for Inclusion in the State Park Systems," prepared by the Committee on Suggested Criteria, appointed by President Flickinger, consisting of K. R. Cougill, Chairman; George J. Albrecht, Ernest Allen, Charles H. Flory, H. W. Groth; U. W. Hella, Leonard L. Huttleston, Thomas W. Morse, and Charles G. Sauers, adopted by the Board of Directors and published in *Planning and Civic Comment* for December, 1954. This Report on Standards for Use and Management Practices is geared to apply to the areas which make up State Park Systems, as recommended in the Criteria Report. There are variations in the nomenclature and types of administrations in the different States, and it is apparent that many types of active outdoor recreation would not be suitable in scenic and historic parks.

SUGGESTED WILDLIFE POLICY FOR STATE PARKS

As far as possible, State Parks shall be preserved as natural areas. At least two conditions must modify this concept. Many State Parks are strictly limited in extent and artificial management is essential to maintaining or "stabilizing" the various features of the environment. Public use or visitation is the second factor for which compensatory measures must be taken. Use by the public must be restricted, likewise, if the Parks are not to become mere play areas.

Native species of animals and plants shall be maintained in the State Parks to the extent made possible by the size of acreage, the persistence of essential living requirements, and the type of economic use of surrounding lands. Extirpated species may be restored if stock of the same type is available elsewhere and if the restored animals can be maintained under the above limitations.

Mammals which are capable, when abundant, of greatly modifying the vegetation shall be maintained at an approximate level which will permit of preserving a normal assemblage of the plant species. The goal should be to retain an approximately normal ratio of abundance in the various plant species and to preserve at least representative specimens of rare kinds but not to eliminate evidences of use by the animals.

Control of animal numbers, when required, is a work function of the park authority, essentially no different from control of plant life and maintenance of roads and trails. The park administration should be free to accept or reject offers of contributed labor in wildlife reduction programs exactly as in other aspects of park operation. But it should be clear that sport hunting as such is not considered a state park function.

The aquatic environment and its inhabitants should be regarded as an integral part of State Parks and managed in conformity with general practices governing these areas. Fishing, being generally accepted as permissible, should be regulated so that natural reproduction will be sufficient to meet anglers' needs. Artificial stocking should generally be reserved to artificial lakes.

