To the Graduate Council:

I am submitting herewith a thesis written by Gerard J. Boos, Jr., entitled "Characteristics of Campers Who Used Various Types of Shelter Equipment at Chicot State Park in Louisiana." I recommend that it be accepted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Science, with a major in Forestry.

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CHARACTERISTICS OF CAMPERS WHO USED VARIOUS TYPES OF SHELTER EQUIPMENT AT CHICOT STATE PARK IN LOUISIANA

A Thesis

Presented for the

Master of Science

Degree

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Gerard J. Boos,Jr.

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ABSTRACT

The primary objective of this study was to identify the needs and desires of campers who use various types of shelter equipment. Identifying and evaluating camper tastes and preferences provide outdoor recreation planners with the knowledge needed for designing campgrounds which fit the needs of the campers.

Campers were classified into four categories, based on the type of shelter equipment that they use:

I. Campers who use travel trailers or motor homes over 23 feet in length.

II. Campers who use either travel trailers or motor homes less than 23 feet in length, or pickup truck campers or vans with plumbing facilities (shower, toilet, sink).

III. Campers who use either pickup truck campers or vans without plumbing facilities, or tent trailers.

IV. Campers who use tents.

Data for the study were obtained from 413 personal interviews which were conducted in three campgrounds at Chicot State Park in Louisiana. Questions revealing type of equipment owned and desired, camping experience, socioeconomic characteristics, reasons for camping and characteristics of a preferred campsite were asked each respondent. Chi-square analysis, Duncan's Multiple Range Statistical Test and one-way analysis of variance were used to determine which characteristics were significantly different between the camper classes.

Results showed that the four classes had unique socioeconomic characteristics, suggesting that each class was different from the others. The data revealed that only three of the four classes of campers had different campsite preferences. Campers in Classes I and II generally desired the same campsite attributes. Respondents who camped on weekdays had different characteristics from those who camped on weekends.

These findings suggest that campsites should not be designed to accommodate all types of campers. Three different types of campsites are desired by the four classes of campers. If it is impractical to provide three types of campsites in an area, then efforts should be made to design two types of campsites, one for tent campers and the other for nontent campers. Forcing campers to use campsites with undesirable attributes will not permit them to have maximum enjoyment from their recreational experiences.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The number of people using outdoor recreation areas, and particularly campgrounds, has been increasing since the late 1950's. Beazley, in 1961, recognized this trend and suggested six reasons for this increase:

1. Population growth.
2. Increase of leisure time.
3. Increase of income.
4. Increase in ease to travel.
5. Longer weekends and paid vacations.
6. A "psychosocial urge" to participate in an outdoor environment.

These reasons are still accepted as explanations for today's levels of camping participation.

Although outdoor recreation planners had predicted the increase in camping and have known the reasons for the increase for over 15 years, the proper design of camping facilities remains a problem. Two independent studies, one by Bury (1964) and another by Hendee and Campbell (1969) revealed that outdoor recreation planners were not designing campgrounds to meet the needs and desires of the campers. Recreation managers with the aid of planners have the responsibility of providing the services and facilities necessary to satisfy the basic needs of all campers (Cordell and Sykes, 1969). Also, recreation managers must strive to give campers enjoyable experiences.

To achieve this goal outdoor recreation planners must first collect, analyze, organize and process the ideas and desires of the campers (Driver, 1970). Once this technical information is acquired, the recreation planner can better design campgrounds to serve today's campers.

Acquiring a knowledge of the needs and desires of campers is a continuous and complex problem. Studies reveal that campers' desires are continuously changing (Bond and Oulette, 1968, Driscoll, 1967). It is also well documented that camper's desires and preferences are quite diverse (Shafer, 1969). Although acquiring this knowledge is a challenge to outdoor recreation planners, it is essential if they are to properly design campgrounds.

Recent studies reveal a trend for campers to use more sophisticated and convenient types of equipment than campers of previous years (Bond and Oullette, 1968, Driscoll, 1967). This preference by campers has resulted in a greater variety of equipment being found in campgrounds. Since campers take to the field with a wide variety of equipment, each expecting to find facilities to meet his needs, a single standard for campground development will not suit everyone (Bury, 1964).

It is the objective of this study to identify the needs and desires of campers who use the various types of shelter equipment. This study attempted to determine if any significant differences occurred among campers who used the various types of shelter equipment. Identifying these differences will not only expand the outdoor recreation planners' knowledge of campers but will also enable them to better design the needed and preferred campground facilities.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Much has been written about that group of outdoor recreationists known as campers. Most of the studies previously conducted dealt with campers as a whole group and very few studies have divided campers into unique classes. Shafer (1969) explained that campers cannot be treated as a single group. He expounded upon the fact that the characteristics of campers not only vary from campground to campground, but also at the same campground from month to month.

This same philosophy was expressed by Bury (1964). Bury went one step further. He not only believed that the characteristics of campers differ, but also that they are constantly changing. Campgrounds are usually designed for this mythical single group of campers. This type of poor planning does not meet the needs of the great variety of people who camp, resulting in unhappy campers, misused of unused facilities or increased site deterioration.

Classification of Campers Based on Type of Campground Used

There are many ways to classify campers. Wagar (1963) devised a system which grouped campgrounds on the basis of the types of recreational experiences and facilities offered. He established five classes of campgrounds, and then listed the characteristics of the campers using each class. The five classes of campgrounds were:

1. Central campgrounds.
2. Forest campgrounds.
3. Peakload campgrounds.
4. Long-term campgrounds.
5. Traveler's campgrounds.

A central campground provided maximum facilities and a comfortable headquarters. This campground was designed for campers who lacked experience. Forest campgrounds maintained a natural environment with minimum facilities. Peakload campgrounds were designed to handle temporary crowds. This campground had portable facilities. Long-term campgrounds were designed for users who were planning to stay a month or longer without moving. The last campground was the traveler's campground. These campgrounds were located adjacent to major highways and had the maximum facilities.

A study by Burch and Wenger (1967) classified campers according to the type of campground they used. The authors devised three classes of campers. These were: (1) those who used easy access campgrounds, (2) those who used remote campgrounds and (3) those campers who used both easy access and remote campgrounds. Socioeconomic characteristics, camping experience and the makeup of the camping party were then discussed for each of the three classes of campers.

Easy access campers generally were families with children between the ages of 5 and 14, had very little camping experience and were usually from small towns. Respondents in easy access campgrounds were less likely to have professional and technical careers than the respondents

in the other classes. This group of campers enjoyed socializing with other campers more than the other respondents.

Campers who used remote campgrounds were most often families with children over 21 and families without children. This class of campers had the strongest desire for privacy. Campers from rural areas were found most frequently in remote campgrounds.

Campers who visited both types of campgrounds were found to have the highest education levels of all classes. These persons were more likely to have professional and technical occupations than the other classes.

McCall (1972) in a study of campers in forest recreation areas of East Tennessee also analyzed campers in various campgrounds. Four types of campgrounds were selected. These were:

1. National Park.
2. National Forest.
3. State Park.
4. Private Campground.

Respondents camping in the National Forest were usually from smaller communities and had lower incomes and education levels than respondents in the other ownership types. These respondents lived closer to the campground than the respondents in the other classes.

Campers in private campgrounds were generally younger and had more education than other respondents. Most of these campers spent their youth in large cities and had less camping experience than the other

classes. Socioeconomic characteristics of National Park and State Park campers did not differ significantly from the other areas.

Classification of Campers Based on Type of Shelter Equipment Used

A classification scheme based on the type of shelter equipment used by the camper was the second classification system found in the literature. The classification scheme used and tested in this study was based on the types of shelter equipment used.

Recent Trends in Equipment Usage

A study of the attributes of campers in Massachusetts revealed that there has been an upward trend, from 1954 to 1967, in the use of travel trailers and other camping equipment on wheels. The authors of this study attributed this trend to the increased affluency of the population and the development of sophisticated camping equipment by manufacturers. This article also revealed that a higher proportion of the campers in 1967 owned their equipment than campers in previous years. Those campers who did not own their equipment were found to be less experienced campers (Bond and Oullette, 1968).

Driscoll (1967) in a study of campers in Alabama discovered that campers desired more comfort and accommodation when camping than campers in previous years. This trend was identical to the one found by Bond and Oullette (1968) in Massachusetts. In the Alabama study, tent trailers were the most frequently used type of equipment. Campers using travel trailers and tents each represented approximately 25% of the

camping population. Camping experience, and not income, seemed to be the most important factor in determining the type of equipment a camper bought. The article also disclosed that the equipment a camper planned on buying was a more comfortable type of equipment than he presently owned.

Beardsley in 1967 interviewed campers in 21 campgrounds in Pike and Acapaho National Forest of Central Colorado. He found tent campers to be the most popular class of campers making up 38% of the population surveyed. Travel trailer campers represented 32% of all campers, followed by pickup campers with 17% and tent trailers with 10% of the total population.

Masse and Fletcher (1973) discovered that campers using tents, tent trailers and travel trailers collectively accounted for 81% of all campers at a watershed in Northcentral Pennsylvania. Each classification contained about 27% of the camping population. The study also revealed the average expenditure for equipment to be $513, with 51% of the campers reporting investments greater than $1,000.

Similar results concerning percentages and cost of equipment were found in the following works: Roenigk and Cole (1968), Lucas (1970), Cordell and Sykes (1969) and Bond and Oulette (1968).

Characteristics of Campers

A study by the University of Minnesota revealed some of the unique attributes of campers who used different classes of equipment. Campers who used tents generally preferred to camp in primitive type campgrounds

(Merriam, Mills, Ramsey, West, Brown, Wald, 1975). Campers who used travel trailers and pickup campers generally preferred extremely developed campgrounds. The study also found that most primitive campers were from an urban or suburban area, had some college education or a college degree, had a professional or semi-professional job and were between 24 and 34 years of age. Campers who camped in highly developed areas were from rural and small towns, had a high school education or less and were over 34 years of age.

A study in two Michigan National Forests found that travel trailer campers in primitive areas complained more about lack of facilities and had more dislikes compared to tent campers (Lucas, 1970). This study also revealed that the campers' satisfaction from camping in primitive areas was directly related to years of camping experience. Campers using travel trailers generally seemed to want less vegetational screen between campsites than tent and tent trailer campers. This last finding was also reported by Shafer (1969).

Tent campers in Colorado's National Forest showed a higher preference for campgrounds away from major roads than other campers. The majority of both tent trailer and travel trailer campers, on the other hand, desired campgrounds near major highways (Beardsly, 1967).

General Characteristics of Campers

As was mentioned earlier, most research studies involving campers treat the entire camping population as a whole and do not divide campers into categories. The remainder of this chapter will review several

pertinent studies which discuss various characteristics and attributes of campers in general.

Results from the 1965 National Survey taken by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation showed that the two major motives for camping were: (1) a desire for a change of pace and (2) an urge to enjoy the out-of-doors (ORRRC #20, 1965). One-third of all campers chose campgrounds which allowed them to "visit and talk with all the other campers" (ORRRC #20, 1965). This last finding was consistant with those of Bultena and Klessig (1969), Hendee and Campbell (1969) and Gregerson (1965). Bultena and Klessig (1969) stated,". . . the appeal of camping lies not in the opportunity to escape people, but rather in the chance to meet them. . ." Hendee and Campbell (1969) felt that camping was much less of an environmental than a social experience.

The Bureau of Outdoor Recreation's survey revealed that people who camp most often are middle aged, white, married couples with children. Campers who are heads of households generally have either a professional, technical, craftsman or foreman occupation. The survey also showed that campers usually have a higher income than noncampers. Time was by far the most frequently mentioned reason for not participating more often in camping (ORRRC #19, 1965).

Gregerson (1965) strongly believes that the prime motive for camping is to socialize and meet people. According to his discussion, the next important motive for camping is the desire to avoid paying motel bills. The article also points out that the average camper is not interested in

roughing it, not when he brings along televisions, electric frying pans, irons and curlers.

The average camper in Delaware fits the same description of campers in other sections of the United States (Roenigk and Cole, 1968). Ninety-five percent of the campers were members of families with about 50% of the adults having six years or less of camping experience. The average camper's income in Delaware was relatively higher than the average family income. Camping parties had a mean of 4.7 persons. About 25% of the campers were ten years of age or younger and 50% 20 years of age or younger. Most of the campers had nonrural backgrounds (Roenigk and Cole, 1968).

Masse and Fletcher (1971) found these same socioeconomic characteristics to hold true for campers at a watershed in Northcentral Pennsylvania. The average camper was 39 years old, married, and had 8.5 years of camping experience. The mean annual income was $9,300. Camping parties were generally comprised of two adults and two children.

A study at Cherokee National Forest found that most heads of camping parties were middle aged, were camping with their families and largely represented the urban middle-income segment of the population. The mean family size was three. Eighty-five percent of the campers interviewed resided in a town or city with the vast majority living within 100 miles from the recreational area (Cordell and Sykes, 1969).

Cordell and Sykes (1969) also found the most desired facilities of campers to be clean comfort stations with bathhouses, with hot showers second. Campers generally desired comfort stations 200 feet from their

campsites and water hydrants 50 feet from their campsites. Campers preferred about 80 feet between campsites. Too much shade and not enough shade were the most undesirable traits of a campsite.

Cordell and James (1972) found the same results mentioned above in a later study in the same National Forest. However, in the later study the authors tried to relate socioeconomic characteristics with campsite preferences. The analysis revealed little correlation between these two factors. They concluded that socioeconomic characteristic measures have little relevance in explaining why certain campsites were selected or preferred. This finding illustrates the need for devising a classification system which could identify the preferred attributes of a campsite for a given class of camper.

It is evident from this review that little is known about the relationship of camper characteristics to the type of shelter equipment used, since most of the studies treat campers as a whole group and do not divide them into unique categories.

CHAPTER III

DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY AREA

Location

The study was conducted at Chicot State Park in Louisiana. Chicot State Park is located in the south central portion of the state in Evangeline Parish, eight miles north of Ville Platte on Louisiana Highway 3042 (Figure 1). Chicot is Louisiana's largest state park (6,480 acres). It was purchased with state appropriated funds in 1936. The park was first developed in 1938 by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Some of the cabins built by the Corps are still in use today. Since the initial development of Chicot State Park, periodic additions and improvements have been made to keep pace with changing needs of the users.

Several features made Chicot State Park well suited for this study. First and most important, it has three large, modern campgrounds which attract all four classes of campers. A variety of campers are attracted to the campgrounds because of the diversity of the park's natural environment and the many facilities provided.

Rolling topography and a forest cover of mixed hardwoods make for an attractive setting. Some 300 acres of the park is the Louisiana State Arboretum which provides an excellent environment for naturalists. There is a 2,000 acre lake within the boundaries of the park. The lake supports all water oriented sports from fishing to water skiing (Figure 2).

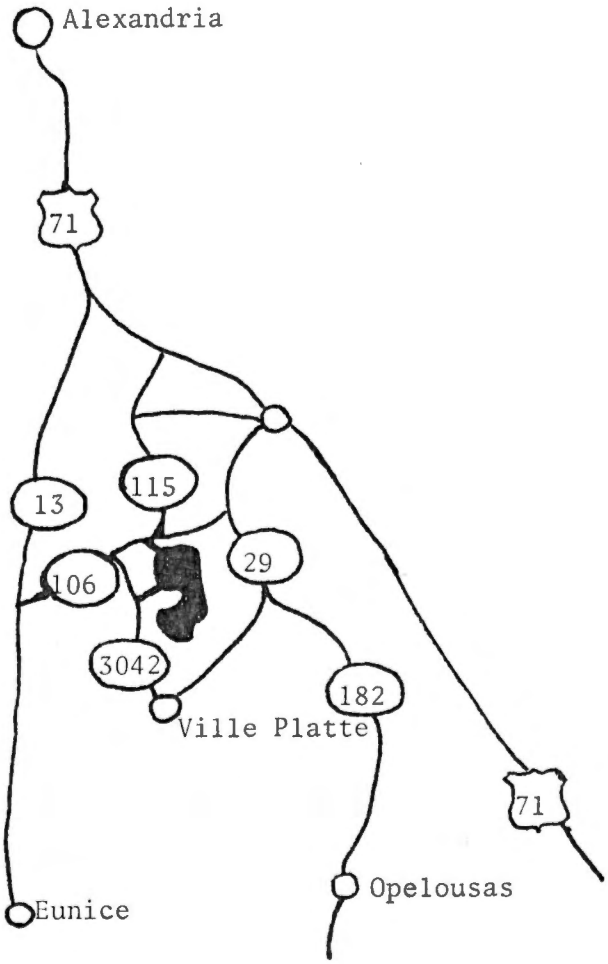

Figure 1. Location of Chicot State Park. Scale: 1/2 inch = approximately seven miles.

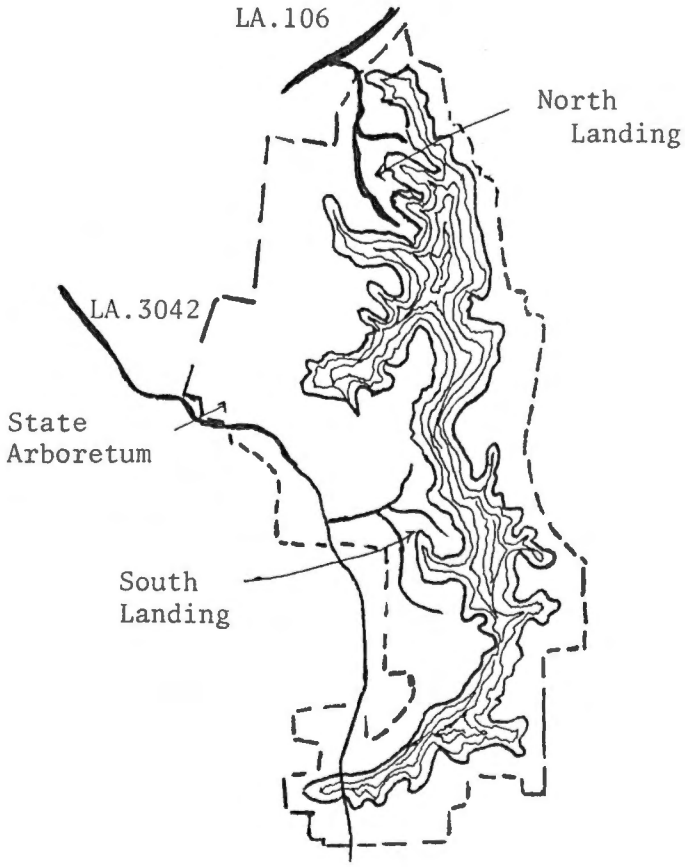

Figure 2. Layout of Chicot State Park. Scale: 1 inch = approximately one mile.

The type of facilities offered at the park varies from none in the heavily wooded areas to highly developed facilities in very active areas. Some of the facilities in the high-use areas are concession stands, meeting shelters, a swimming pool, boat rental and a boat launch.

Campgrounds

All three campgrounds are located away from both the natural areas and the highly developed areas. This allows campers to participate in activities they desire without disturbing other recreationists. Each of the three campgrounds vary in character, therefore each will be discussed separately.

The park is divided by the lake into two sections: the north landing and the south landing (Figure 2). Chicot's south landing is the main portion of the park (Figure 3). This half of the park contains two of the campgrounds. Since these campgrounds do not have names, they will be referred to as campground one and two, respectively.

Campground one originally consisted of 32 sites, an additional loop was installed adding 51 more sites. The original 32 sites each have a tent pad, water and electrical hookups, an underground garbage can, a picnic table and a barbecue grill. The new additions have all of the facilities mentioned above except for the tent pads. Sites in the original section tend to have more vegetational screen between sites, are larger and generally have more privacy than the new additions. The entire campground has only one bathhouse, one set of restrooms and one dump station located in the original section. Campground one is fairly

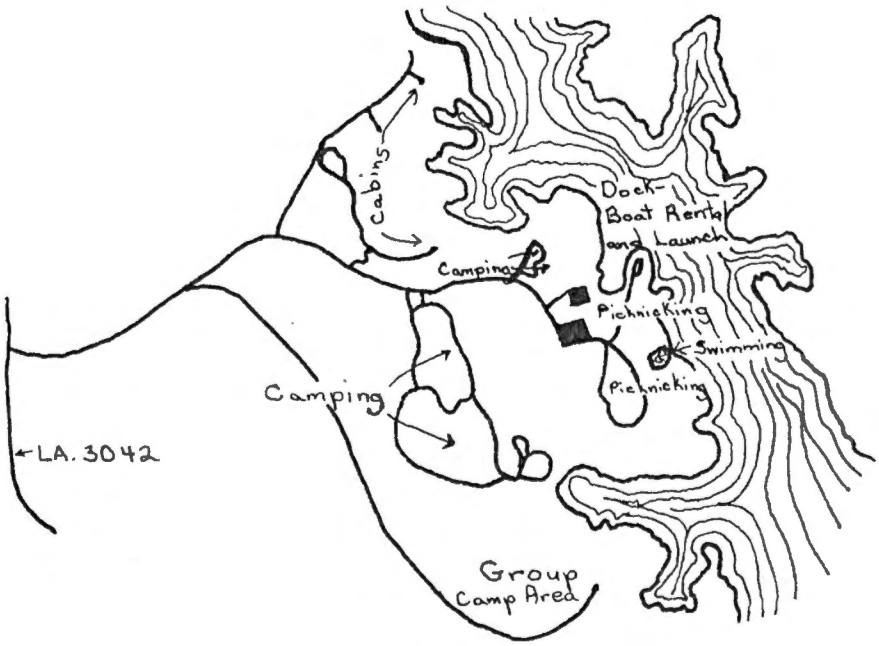

Figure 3. Chicot State Park's south landing. Scale: 1 inch = approximately one-half mile.

hilly with five to ten feet elevational differences. Large hardwoods supply ample shade. Sites in the addition tend to be more open with easier back-in driveways. The addition is located closer to the lake than the original section. Access roads through both sections are asphalt.

Campground two is the oldest campground consisting of 36 sites. This campground has the fewest trees of the three campgrounds, thus giving it an open field appearance. Sites are not numbered, so campers can setup anywhere. However, campers generally setup near the water, electrical and sewage hookups. The campground does not have any constructed tent pads. Because the campground has a limited number of trees, there is an abundance of grass. This attracts many tent campers. Each site has a picnic table, barbecue grill and a litter barrel. There is one bathhouse centrally located. Campground two is located nearer to the highly developed section of the park than the other two campgrounds. This campground has easiest access to the lake. Access roads are also asphalt in this campground.

Campground three is located in the north landing of the park (Figure 4), and was opened to the public in the summer of 1975. Each of the 100 sites has a table, a grill, water and electrical hookups and an underground garbage can: half have sewage hookups. Topography in the area is fairly flat and supports a mixed pine and hardwood forest. The campsites receive enough sunlight to allow the growth of grass which is attractive to tent campers. The road is surfaced with peat gravel. Two dump stations are located within the campground. A modern bathhouse and laundromat are centrally located.

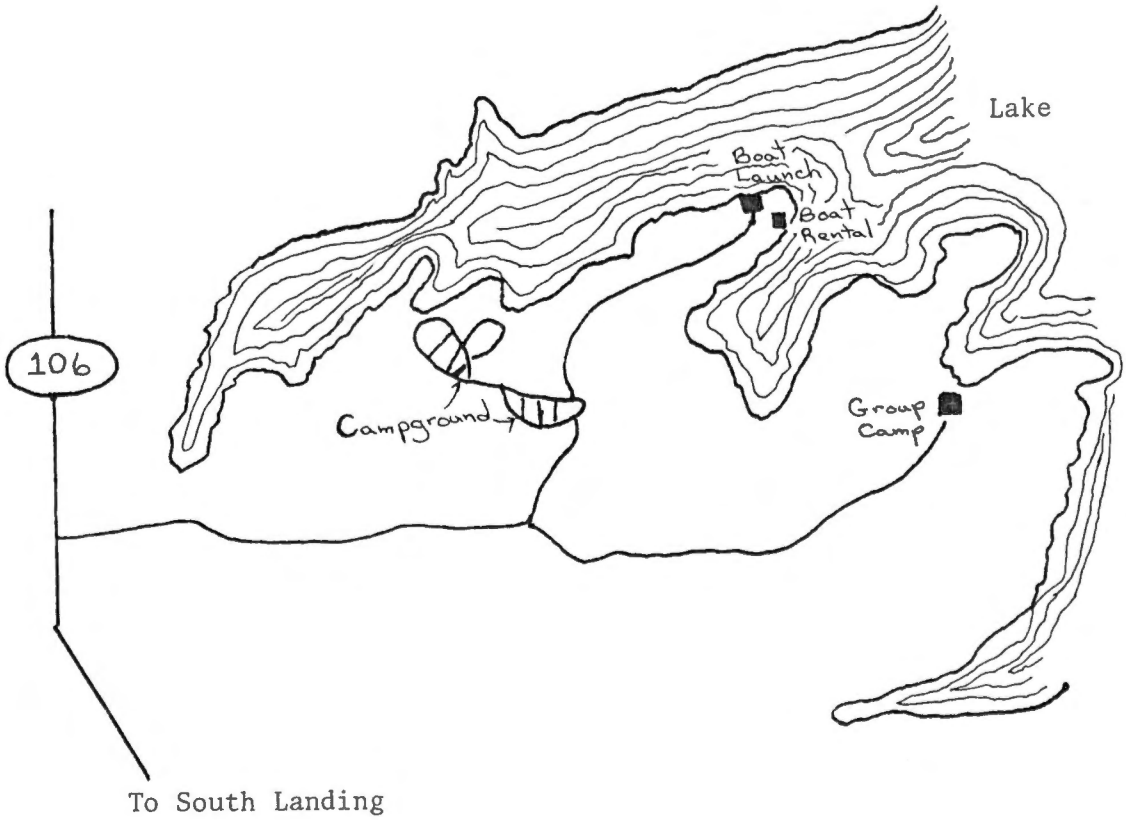

Figure 4. Layout of north landing. Scale: 1 inch = approximately one-half mile.

The north landing is seven miles from the south landing. This section of the park has its own boat rental and boat launch. It does not have a swimming pool or concession stand. The north landing is much less used than the more popular south landing.

Population Characteristics of Evangeline Parish

A discussion of the study area would not be complete without a brief description of the local citizens. Evangeline Parish is located in the heart of Acadian or "Cajun Country." The parish was established in 1908 and named after the ill-fated heroine of Longfellow's poem. The recorded history of the area covers over three centuries. The area was first inhabited by the Atakapas Indians and later became part of the Spanish Opelousas District. Most of the citizens are direct decendents of exiled Acadians (Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana, 1973). A large segment of the population speaks both French and English and is very proud of its heritage.

The economy of the parish depends heavily on agriculture. The annual gross sales of agricultural products exceed 25 million dollars. The following list ranks the crops in the order of greatest gross sales: rice, soybeans, beef, sweet potatoes, dairy, cotton, forestry, corn and grain, truck crops, swine, hay, catfish and crawfish (Ashlock, 1975). Table 1 shows the importance of agriculture in the employment of local citizens.

The City of Ville Platte has a population of around 10,000 people and is the parish seat. The city name is French which means "City of the

Table 1. Major Occupation Groups for Evangeline Parish, Louisiana

	Males	Females
Professional and Technical	477	476
Farmers and Farm Managers	540	18
Managers, Officials, Proprietors	438	35
Clerical	239	484
Salesworkers	247	216
Craftsman and Foreman	997	21
Operatives	970	89
Private Household	13	423
Service Workers	382	609
Farm Laborers	613	74
Laborers	594	33
Others	398	0
Total	5,908	2,478

Source: Statistical Profile of Evangeline Parish, The Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana, State of Louisiana, 1973.

Plains" (Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana, 1973). This name is derived from its location on the alluvial plains of southcentral Louisiana. Other pertinent information on Ville Platte, Evangeline Parish and Louisiana are shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Vital Statistics for Ville Platte, Evangeline Parish and Louisiana

	Ville Platte	Evangeline Parish	Louisiana
Total Population	9,692	31,932	3,643,180
White Population	6,890	23,247	2,541,498
% White	71.0	73.0	70.0
Nonwhite Population	2,802	8,686	1,099,808
% Nonwhite	29.0	27.0	30.0
Population Living on Farms	*	5,147	113,757
Population Living on Nonfarms	*	13,818	1,118,627
Population Living in Urban Areas	*	12,967	2,406,150
1969 Mean Income	$4,304	$4,289	$7,590
Median Years of School Completed by Persons 25 Years Old or Older	*	7.6	10.8
Square Miles	*	669	48,523

*Data not available.

Source: U.S. Census of the Population, Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1970.

CHAPTER IV

STUDY METHODS

The Questionnaire

In an effort to develop questions which would yield the needed information, pretesting was done on 30 campers at Big Ridge State Park and Norris Dam State Park in Eastern Tennessee. The purpose of the pretest was to eliminate ambiguous questions, to clarify the wording of the questions and to insure that the proper information was collected.

The questionnaire consisted of 49 questions designed to obtain information in five main areas:

1. Type of equipment the camper used, previously owned and desired.
2. Camping experience.
3. Socioeconomic characteristics.
4. Reasons for camping.
5. Characteristics of a preferred campsite.

Sampling Procedure

Classification of Campers

Four classes of campers were recognized for study purposes:

I. Campers who use either travel trailers or motor homes over 23 feet in length.

II. Campers who use either travel trailers or motor homes less than 23 feet in length, or pickup truck campers or vans with plumbing facilities (shower, toilet, sink).

III. Campers who use either pickup truck campers or vans without plumbing facilities, or tent trailers.

IV. Campers who use tents.

The four classes of campers were established on the basis of the conveniences offered by the equipment, the cost of the equipment and the campsite requirements for the equipment. Class I offers such conveniences as king or queen size beds, bathtubs, sofas, air-conditioning, ovens and many other household luxuries. The site requirements, for this class, are the most demanding of all the classes. There must be a wide, level and well constructed driveway to park the trailer or vehicle. The surface of the driveway must be capable of supporting heavy loads. Water and electricity hookups are generally a necessity for most of these campers. It is not uncommon for the cost of these rigs to exceed $10,000.

Class II camping equipment has considerably less floor space than Class I. This class does not offer the most elaborate conveniences, but does offer such things as showers, toilets, stoves, sinks and a large amount of sleeping space. The driveway for this type of equipment does not have to be as well constructed as the driveway needed for Class I, but it must be level and have a good surface.

Class III equipment does not include indoor plumbing. Therefore it is a requirement of the campground to provide restroom facilities.

This type of equipment offers very comfortable off-the-ground bedding. The only requirement of the driveway is a small level spot on which to set the equipment and to park the towing vehicle.

Class IV equipment, a tent, is the cheapest and offers the least number of conveniences. Like Class III, restroom facilities must be provided for these campers. However, the only site requirement is a level and well drained tent pad about 15 feet by 15 feet. These pads are much less expensive to construct than the driveways needed for Classes I and II.

Sampling

For study purposes, campers were separated into weekday and weekend campers. A camper who was interviewed Monday morning through noon Friday was classified as a weekday camper. Those campers interviewed after noon on Friday until Sunday night were classified as weekend campers. On weekdays all arriving campers were interviewed. This resulted in 100% of this population being interviewed. Because of heavy use on weekends, limited time available precluded interviewing all arriving campers. Therefore, on weekends, campers to be interviewed were selected by a stratified random sample procedure. The weekend sample was drawn from a daily campground inventory which specified the class of equipment the camper was using.

Table 3 shows the breakdown of the total population of weekday and weekend campers according to the classes described above. The table also reveals the proportion of the population which was interviewed.

Table 3. Population, Number of Persons Interviewed, and the Percentage of the Population Sampled for Each Class of Campers

	Population	Number Interviewed	% Sampled
Weekday			
Class I	50	50	100
Class II	49	49	100
Class III	48	48	100
Class IV	41	41	100
Total	188	188	100
Weekend			
Class I	94	53	56.4
Class II	104	52	50.0
Class III	129	59	45.7
Class IV	88	61	69.3
Total	415	225	54.2
Weekday and Weekend Combined			
Class I	144	103	71.5
Class II	153	101	66.0
Class III	177	107	60.5
Class IV	129	102	79.1
Total	603	413	68.5

An inventory of campers was taken each morning at 7:30 a.m. The inventory indicated the class of camper at each of the occupied campsites in the three campgrounds. When the inventory was completed, the campers were sorted into the four established classes. Only campers who had arrived within the previous 24 hour period were eligible for interviewing. Because of the time limit, only nine campers from each class could be interviewed each day. This figure is based on a ten hour day with each interview taking 15 minutes. Therefore, ten campers were drawn from each of the classes. The tenth drawing served as an alternate, in case one of the first nine campers was not available for interviewing.

There were seven occasions when a camper who had already been interviewed returned to the park and was selected again for interviewing. When this occurred the camper's responses from the first interview were recopied.

The goal was to interview at least 100 persons in each of the designated classes. One hundred interviews in each class would allow accurate statistical analysis. Interviewing was conducted on consecutive days until all classes contained at least 100 interviews. It took four weeks to complete the interviewing. Interviewing began on July 12, 1976 and ended on August 7, 1976.

Interviewing Procedure

Only one interview was conducted with each camping party. The adult of the camping party who had the most camping experience and who had some input in deciding on the type of equipment was the person interviewed.

In most cases, this person was the leader of the group and generally the head of the household. If the camping party did not have an adult (18 years or older), then the organizer of the trip was interviewed. This person would probably have the greatest influence on the type of equipment used by the group.

Each interview began with a brief introduction of the interviewer and an explanation of the study. The campers were informed that the interviewer was a graduate student working with the cooperation of the Louisiana State Parks and Recreation Commission. It was further explained that the study was to be used to aid recreation planners in the designing of future campgrounds and the modification of existing campgrounds. Each respondent was assured that his responses would be confidential.

The same questions were asked all campers. All of the responses from the interviews were recorded on a preprinted form (Appendix A).

All of the interviewing was done by the researcher. Each interview took 15 to 20 minutes. A study by La Page in 1969 revealed that campers did not consider interviews averaging up to 30 minutes to be burdensome. During the interviewing the respondent was not allowed to observe the probable responses on the coding sheet. However, when the respondent was asked to reveal his income, age and level of education he was handed a card with a range of responses from which to select. This procedure protected the privacy of the respondent from other members of the camping party who might be listening.

When the respondent was uncertain of the question or did not understand the question, the interviewer would randomly read the list

of probable responses written on the preprinted form. The list of probable responses was randomly given to eliminate as much bias as possible.

Statistical Analysis of the Data

The collected data was punched and verified on computer cards. The IBM 360/65 computer was used for statistical analysis. Various statistical tests from the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences, SPSS, were selected to analyze the data.

Chi-square, one-way analysis of variance and Duncan's Multiple Range Test were the main statistical tests used. Only data which were significant at the .05 level or 95% confidence level were selected as significant.

Since most of the responses obtained were discrete in nature and of the nominal or classificatory measurement scale, only a count of frequencies could be used to determine if significant differences occurred between the classes of campers. The frequencies of discrete responses were assembled into contingency tables and subjected to Chi-square analysis.

One-way analysis of variance was used on those responses which were of the continuous or the higher measurement scale. Examples of these responses are length of camping trips, number of times camped last year, age and years of camping experience.

Duncan's Multiple Range Test further analyzed those responses which were continuous. This statistical test determined if significant

differences occurred among the four classes of campers for each continuous response.

In the analysis, each of the question responses was treated as a separate variable. The individual responses to each of the questions thus became values for the independent variables. A total of 74 variables was used in this study. The relationships of these variables to the various classes of campers are discussed in the following chapter.

CHAPTER V

RESULTS

Characteristics of Weekday and Weekend Campers

The analysis of the data revealed that many characteristics of weekday and weekend campers were significantly different. The data suggest that weekday and weekend campers are two distinct and separate populations.

Campground Selection

The largest number of weekday campers, as seen in Table 4, camped in Campground Two (see page 16 for description of campgrounds). The majority of weekend campers, on the other hand, preferred Campground One. A probable explanation is that weekday campers placed greater importance upon closeness to the lake and restrooms. Campground Two offered easy access to the lake and a centrally located bathhouse (Table 5).

Weekend campers were more interested in campsites which were level, had plenty of shade and had adjacent campsites where friends could camp. Campground One had more shade than Campground Two. Since Campground One was over twice the size of Campground Two, it was easier for campers to find two adjacent sites which were vacant. No differences were observed in the levelness of the campsites in the two campgrounds.

Home Environment

The type of home environment in which weekday and weekend campers lived were significantly different (Table 6). The majority of farm

Table 4. Distribution of Number of Respondents by Campground

	Weekday		Weekend	
	No.	%	No.	%
Campground 1	77	41	121	54
Campground 2	88	47	73	32
Campground 3	23	12	31	14
Total	188	100	225	100

Table 5. Important Factors in Campsite Selection for Weekday and Weekend Campers

	Weekday		Weekend	
	No.	%	No.	%
Privacy	23	12.2	25	11.1
Shade	41	21.8	58	25.8
Level	16	8.5	30	13.3
Next to friends	20	10.6	33	14.7
Nearness to lake	22	11.7	14	6.2
Nearness to facilities	29	15.4	12	5.4
Only one vacant	2	1.1	13	5.8
Well drained	5	2.7	11	4.9
Near activities	3	1.6	3	1.3
Easy back-in driveway	6	3.2	7	3.1
Large size	6	3.2	5	2.2
Sewage hookups	6	3.2	5	2.2
Other	9	4.8	9	4.0
Total	188	100.0	225	100.0

Table 6. Distribution of Weekday and Weekend Campers According to Home Environment

	Weekday		Weekend	
	No.	%	No.	%
Farm	32	17.0	50	22.2
Small town	92	49.0	116	51.6
Inner-city	38	20.2	49	21.8
Suburb of large city	26	13.8	10	4.4
Total	188	99.9	225	100.0

respondents camped on weekends. Of the 36 respondents who lived in suburbs of large cities, 26 camped on weekdays. Respondents who lived in small towns and inner-cities were just as likely to camp on weekends as on weekdays. The fact that farmers are generally self-employed and do not have paid vacations could explain their camping on weekends. Persons living in suburbs of large cities might be from higher socioeconomic levels and have paid vacations. This could explain the high representation of suburbanites in the weekday category.

Proportion of Respondents on Vacation

The majority of weekday campers were on vacation, while weekend campers were not (Table 7). A large proportion of weekday campers were not on vacation. One reason for this is the large number of respondents who worked off-shore for oil companies. Off-shore workers work seven days and are off the next seven days. The seven days off are not considered vacation time, but days accumulated from working on weekends. Such employment schedules strongly influence use patterns in camping areas such as Chicot State Park. This explanation is based on observations made during the interviewing period. Since broad occupational headings were used to classify the respondents, this explanation cannot be statistically proven.

Proportion of Respondents' Vacation Time Spent Camping

The major difference between weekday and weekend campers concerning the proportion of vacation time spent camping was in the number of campers who spent none of their vacation time camping (Table 8). Only 1% of the

Table 7. The Number and Proportion of Weekday and Weekend Campers Who Were on Vacation

	Weekday		Weekend	
	No.	%	No.	%
Not on vacation	67	35.6	199	88.4
On vacation	121	64.4	26	11.6
Total	188	100.0	225	100.0

Table 8. Proportion of Vacation Time Spent Camping by Weekday and Weekend Campers

	Weekday		Weekend	
	No.	%	No.	%
None	2	1.1	15	7.9
25%	74	40.7	64	33.9
50%	30	16.5	32	16.9
75%	16	8.8	19	10.1
100%	60	33.0	59	31.2
Total	182*	100.0	189**	100.0

*6 respondents had no vacation time.

**36 respondents had no vacation time.

weekday respondents did not spend a portion of their vacation camping, compared to 8% of the weekend campers. Weekday campers had a higher percentage of campers who spent 25% of their vacation time camping.

Distance Traveled to Reach the Park

A larger proportion of weekday campers traveled over 100 miles to reach the park than was true for weekend campers (Table 9). This finding was expected since 65% of all weekday campers were on vacation, compared to 12% of all weekend campers (Table 7). Campers on vacation would have more time to spend traveling than weekend campers.

Number of Times Respondents Visited Chicot State Park

Since weekend campers lived closer to Chicot, they visited the park more often. Weekday campers, on the average, had previously camped at Chicot 6.0 times as compared to 9.4 times by weekend campers.

Length of Camping Trips

Weekend campers generally stayed longer at the park than weekday campers. Weekend campers spent an average of 2.9 days at the park. The average length of the camping trip was 2.1 days for weekday campers. These two means are significantly different at the .05 level.

Poor fishing conditions during the interviewing period could have shortened weekday campers' visits. The majority of weekday campers came to Chicot to fish. When the campers realized fishing was bad, they probably decided to leave and seek better fishing. Data are not available to test this hypothesis.

Table 9. Distance Traveled by Weekday and Weekend Campers to Chicot State Park

	Weekday		Weekend	
	No.	%	No.	%
Less than 50 miles	70	37.2	97	43.1
50 to 100 miles	63	33.5	99	44.0
101 to 200 miles	30	16.0	11	4.9
Over 200 miles	25	13.3	18	8.0
Total	188	100.0	225	100.0

The average length of the camping trip for weekend campers was 2.7 days. Theoretically, weekends consist of 2.5 days, Friday noon to Sunday night. However, campers who arrived on Friday afternoons spent the morning packing and traveling. Although the campers were only at the campground a half of day, they considered the entire day a part of the camping trip.

Composition of the Camping Party

The last characteristic which was significantly different for weekday and weekend campers was the composition of the camping party. The largest proportion of both weekday and weekend camping parties were single families with children (Table 10). However, weekend campers had a larger proportion of camping parties made up of groups of families and families plus friends. Over 80% of all weekday camping parties were either single families with children or single families without children. This could be contributed to the fact that friends and relatives who normally camp together could not coordinate their vacation time. This would result in more family groups during the week.

Characteristics of the Four Classes of Campers

Equipment Characteristics

Cost of equipment. The amount paid for equipment by the four classes of owners reflected the level of sophistication (Table 11). This finding was expected since the four classes of equipment were established partially on the basis of their monetary value. Some of the

Table 10. Composition of Weekday and Weekend Camping Parties

	Weekday		Weekend	
	No.	%	No.	%
A group of families	16	8.5	38	16.9
One family with children	110	58.5	111	49.3
One family without children	42	22.3	45	20.0
One family plus friends	7	3.7	19	8.5
A group of friends	11	5.9	12	5.3
An organized group	2	1.1	0	0
Total	188	100.0	225	100.0

Table 11. Financial Investment of Campers in Equipment by Camper Class

		Less than $100	$100 to $499	$500 to $999	$1000 to $1499	$1500 to $3999	$4000 to $6999	$7000 to $10,000	over $10,000	Does not own	Given to him
Weekday											
	No.	0	0	1	0	7	18	5	6	3	0
Class I*	%	0	0	2.0	0	14.0	36.0	10.0	32.0	6.0	0
	No.	0	1	5	12	16	6	0	4	5	0
Class II	%	0	2.0	10.2	24.5	32.7	12.2	0	8.2	10.2	0
	No.	0	6	7	10	19	1	0	0	5	0
Class III	%	0	12.5	14.6	20.8	39.6	2.1	0	0	10.4	0
	No.	19	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	2
Class IV	%	46.3	31.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	17.1	4.9
Weekend											
	No.	0	0	0	1	8	27	5	10	2	0
Class I	%	0	0	0	1.9	15.1	50.9	9.4	18.9	3.8	0
	No.	0	0	5	8	24	7	3	3	2	0
Class II	%	0	0	9.6	15.4	46.2	13.5	5.8	5.8	3.8	0
	No.	0	6	4	17	25	2	1	0	4	0
Class III	%	0	10.2	6.8	28.8	42.4	3.4	1.7	0	6.8	0
	No.	28	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	3
Class IV	%	45.9	31.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	18.0	4.9

*See description of classes of campers on page 23.

tent campers, both weekday and weekend, received their equipment as gifts. This was not evident in the other classes. The only difference in the amount paid by weekday and weekend campers for equipment was that weekday Class I campers generally spent more than weekend Class I campers.

During the interviewing, there was a greater number of motor homes in the campgrounds on weekdays. Motor homes cost over twice as much as travel trailers in the same class. This possibly accounts for the difference in the amount weekday and weekend Class I campers had invested in their rigs.

Explaining the existence of a greater number of motor home campers on weekdays is not easy. A statistically larger proportion of weekday campers were on vacation and traveled greater distances to the park (Tables 7 and 9, pages 36 and 39). Driving a large motor home 200 miles would be much easier than pulling a 30 foot travel trailer. Since incomes of weekday and weekend Class I campers did not differ, the author sees no other explanation for the price differential.

Proportion of campers who bought new or used equipment. Differences were detected between the classes of campers as to their desire to buy new or used equipment (Table 12). The majority of respondents in Classes I and IV bought new equipment while Classes II and III bought used. Campers using Class I equipment wanted the most modern conveniences and features. Since Class I equipment is the most recently developed type of equipment, a stock of used Class I equipment is just not available. Tents, on the other hand, do not last as long as the other three types of

Table 12. The Number and Proportion of Campers Who Bought Their Equipment New or Used

Weekday and Weekend Campers	New		Used		Does Not Own	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Class I	65	63.1	33	32.3	5	4.9
Class II	41	40.6	53	52.5	7	6.9
Class III	43	40.2	55	51.4	9	8.4
Class IV	70	68.6	14	13.7	18	17.6
Total	219	53.0	155	37.5	39	9.4

equipment. As tents age, they begin to leak and rot, making the purchase of used tents unappealing.

Reasons for selecting equipment presently owned. Campers were asked to give their reasons for selecting the type of equipment that they owned (Table 13). The responses were similar for weekday and weekend participants. The most frequent reply for Classes I, II and III was for the conveniences offered by the equipment. The most frequent reply given by tent campers for owning this type of equipment was that tents were the best that they could afford.

The second most frequent response of Classes II and III was that their type of equipment was the best that they could afford. For Class IV campers the second most frequent response was a desire to camp in a primitive manner. A second most frequent response for Class I could not be determined. Because 88% of Class I campers made the same response, only 12% of the responses were distributed over the other five categories.

Factors which limited camping experiences. Respondents were asked if their equipment prevented them from camping. Twelve percent of weekend tent campers responded that their equipment was a factor in limiting their frequency of camping (Table 14). These respondents felt that their tents could not withstand all types of weather. Four weekday Class I campers and two weekend Class I campers felt that their equipment prevented them from camping more often. They thought that their equipment was too big and too much trouble to use more often. No

Table 13. Distribution of Campers' Reasons for Selecting the Type of Equipment They Presently Own

Weekday and Weekend Campers	Class I		Class II		Class III		Class IV		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Conveniences Offered	86	83.5	45	44.6	33	30.8	1	1.0	165	40.0
Best He Could Afford	3	2.9	31	30.7	23	21.5	43	42.2	100	24.2
Safety	3	2.9	11	10.9	16	15.0	2	2.0	32	7.8
Had This Type Before	4	3.9	2	2.0	6	5.6	2	2.0	14	3.4
Does Not Own	5	4.9	7	6.9	8	7.5	16	15.7	36	8.7
Primitive	0	0	0	0	2	1.9	11	10.8	13	3.1
Recommended	2	1.9	4	4.0	2	1.9	0	0	8	1.9
Accessibility	0	0	1	1.0	7	6.5	10	9.8	18	4.4
Just Starting Out	0	0	0	0	1	0.9	9	8.8	10	2.4
Other	0	0	0	0	9	8.4	8	7.8	17	4.1

Table 14. Distribution of Campers' Responses to Whether or Not Equipment Limited Frequency of Camping

	Yes		No	
	No.	%	No.	%
Weekday*				
Class I	4	8.0	46	92.0
Class II	1	2.0	48	98.0
Class III	2	4.2	46	95.8
Class IV	2	4.8	39	95.1
Total	9	4.8	179	95.2
Weekend				
Class I	2	3.8	51	96.2
Class II	1	1.9	51	98.1
Class III	0	0	59	100.0
Class IV	7	11.5	54	88.5
Total	10	4.4	215	95.6

*No significant differences were detected between the classes of weekday campers.

significant differences could be detected between the classes of weekday campers.

Campers satisfaction with their equipment. Respondents were asked how satisfied they were with their equipment. Table 15 shows that the least sophisticated equipment classes had the least satisfied owners. This obviously shows the desire of today's campers to have more conveniences in their camping equipment. The same trend is found in both weekday and weekend campers. However, weekend campers are generally more satisfied with their equipment than weekday campers. It is important to remember that the majority of weekday campers were on vacation. Most people on vacation enjoy resting and relaxing. These campers would probably desire as many conveniences of home as possible in their camping equipment. Weekday campers might desire equipment offering more comfort because of this fact.

Type of equipment preferred. The type of equipment preferred by the campers also reveals a desire by the camper to have more elaborate equipment. Table 16 shows that the majority of all the classes preferred either Class I equipment or the type of equipment that they presently owned. Only three respondents out of 413 interviews desired less sophisticated equipment than the type presently owned. The data again revealed a tendency for weekend campers to be more satisfied with their equipment than weekday campers. This interpretation is based on the fact that weekend campers, more so than weekday campers, preferred the type of equipment they presently owned.

Table 15. Distribution of Degree of Campers' Satisfaction with Their Present Equipment

	Very Well Satisfied		Satisfied		Unsatisfied	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Weekday						
Class I	47	94.0	1	2.0	2	4.0
Class II	35	71.4	13	26.5	1	2.0
Class III	32	66.7	14	29.2	2	4.2
Class IV	24	58.5	15	36.6	2	4.9
Total	138	73.4	43	22.9	7	3.7
Weekend						
Class I	50	94.3	3	5.7	0	0
Class II	42	80.8	9	17.3	1	1.9
Class III	44	74.6	14	23.7	1	1.7
Class IV	42	68.9	19	31.1	0	0
Total	178	79.1	45	20.0	2	0.9

Table 16. Distribution of Responses about Preferred Equipment by Weekday and Weekend Campers

Equipment Presently Owned		Type of Equipment Preferred			
		Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV
Weekday					
	No.	50	0	0	0
Class I	%	100.0	0	0	0
	No.	30	18	0	1
Class II	%	61.2	36.7	0	2.0
	No.	21	8	18	1
Class III	%	43.8	16.7	37.5	2.1
	No.	15	5	5	16
Class IV	%	36.6	12.2	12.2	39.0
	No.	116	31	23	18
Total	%	61.7	16.5	12.2	9.6
Weekend					
	No.	52	1	0	0
Class I	%	98.1	1.9	0	0
	No.	24	28	0	0
Class II	%	46.2	53.8	0	0
	No.	32	1	26	0
Class III	%	54.2	1.7	44.1	0
	No.	34	0	2	25
Class IV	%	55.7	0	3.3	41.0
	No.	142	30	28	25
Total	%	63.1	13.3	12.4	11.1

Equipment last owned. Campers generally bought more sophisticated equipment as they became more experienced campers (Table 17). The largest proportion of all Class I campers owned Class II equipment immediately prior to their Class I ownership. Both populations of Class III campers owned tents immediately prior to their present equipment. The majority of campers just starting out invested in tents.

Camping Experience

Number of times camped last year. According to Duncan's Multiple Range Statistical Test, weekday Classes III and IV respondents camped significantly less times last year than campers in Classes I and II (Table 18). Weekday Class IV campers camped significantly less last year than weekday Class III campers. Weekend Class IV campers camped less last year than weekend Classes I, II and III. Weekend Classes I, II and III took approximately the same number of camping trips last year.

Proportion of camping done in the summer. The campers were asked to give the percentage of camping they did during the summer. This information was sought rather than percentages for each of the four seasons because campers had difficulty remembering how many times they had camped in each season. However, they had little difficulty in recalling whether they did all, most, half, or just a little of their camping during the summer. This was discovered in the pretest.

The only class which had a majority of its respondents camping only in the summer was weekend tent campers, Class IV (Table 19). The

Table 17. Distribution of Type of Equipment Last Owned by Weekday and Weekend Campers

Equipment Presently Owned	Equipment Last Owned									
	Class I		Class II		Class III		Class IV		None	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Weekday										
Class I	4	8.0	14	28.0	13	26.0	11	22.0	8	16.0
Class II	0	0	5	10.2	13	26.5	15	30.6	16	32.7
Class III	0	0	2	4.2	5	10.4	23	47.9	18	37.5
Class IV	0	0	2	4.9	3	7.3	11	26.8	25	61.0
Total	4	2.1	23	12.2	34	18.1	60	31.9	67	35.6
Weekend										
Class I	7	13.2	21	39.6	4	7.5	12	22.6	9	17.0
Class II	1	1.9	13	25.0	9	17.3	15	28.8	14	26.9
Class III	1	1.7	3	5.1	11	18.6	23	39.0	21	35.6
Class IV	0	0	1	1.6	2	3.3	16	26.2	42	68.9
Total	9	4.0	38	16.9	26	11.6	66	29.3	86	38.2

Table 18. The Average Number of Camping Trips Taken Last Year by Weekday and Weekend Campers

	Weekday	Weekend
Class I	14.0	14.9
Class II	12.6	13.1
Class III	9.9	10.8
Class IV	6.5	5.8

Table 19. The Proportion of Camping Done in the Summer by Weekday and Weekend Campers

	25%		50%		75%		100%	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Weekday								
Class I	37	74.0	4	8.0	4	8.0	5	10.0
Class II	31	63.3	2	4.1	7	14.3	9	18.4
Class III	21	43.8	5	10.4	5	10.4	17	35.4
Class IV	21	51.2	0	0	3	7.3	17	41.5
Total	110	58.5	11	5.9	19	10.1	48	25.5
Weekend								
Class I	42	79.2	2	3.8	2	3.8	7	13.2
Class II	35	67.3	0	0	7	13.5	10	19.2
Class III	34	57.6	6	10.2	9	15.3	10	16.9
Class IV	18	29.5	5	8.2	9	14.8	29	47.5
Total	129	57.3	13	5.8	27	12.0	56	24.9

majority of the respondents in the other seven classes did 50% or less of their camping in the summer. Class I had the fewest number of respondents who camped only in the summer. This was true for both weekday and weekend campers.

Proportion of vacation time spent camping. The four classes of weekend campers were significantly different concerning the proportion of vacation time they spent camping. No significant differences were detected between the classes of weekday campers. The majority of weekend Class I participants, unlike the other three classes of weekend campers, spent most of their vacation time camping (Table 20). The majority of tent campers, on the other hand, spent only 25% or less of their vacation time camping. Respondents in Classes II and III were evenly split between spending all and 25% of their vacation time camping. The trend is for persons owning more sophisticated equipment to spend more of their leisure time camping.

Childhood camping experience. An unexplainable relationship was found between the proportion of camping done yearly as a child and the four classes of weekend campers. Table 21 shows that respondents in Class I camped less as a child than respondents in Class IV. Sixty-two percent of all Class I campers had never camped as a child compared to 33% of Class IV, tent campers. The proportion of camping done yearly as a child by Classes II and III campers was in between these two extremes. This trend was not evident in weekday campers, thus making an explanation more difficult.

Table 20. Proportion of Vacation Time Spent Camping by Weekday and Weekend Campers

	None		25%		50%		75%		All	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Weekday*										
Class I	0	0	17	34.7	7	14.3	2	4.1	23	46.9
Class II	0	0	21	43.8	6	12.5	4	8.3	17	35.4
Class III	1	2.1	16	34.0	14	29.8	6	12.8	10	21.3
Class IV	1	2.6	20	52.6	3	7.9	4	10.5	10	26.3
Total**	2	1.1	74	40.6	30	16.5	16	8.8	60	33.0
Weekend										
Class I	1	2.3	10	23.3	7	16.3	7	16.3	18	41.9
Class II	3	6.5	16	34.8	7	15.2	6	13.0	14	30.4
Class III	3	5.9	14	27.5	12	23.5	4	7.8	18	35.3
Class IV	8	16.3	24	49.0	6	12.2	2	4.1	9	18.4
Total***	15	7.9	64	33.9	32	16.9	19	10.1	59	31.2

*No significant differences were detected between the classes of weekday campers.

**Six weekday respondents had no vacation time.

***Thirty-six weekend respondents had no vacation time.

Table 21. Yearly Proportion of Camping Done as a Child by Respondents

	None		Very Little		A Fair Amount		Plenty	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Weekday*								
Class I	27	54.0	10	20.0	0	0	13	26.0
Class II	19	38.8	9	18.4	3	6.1	18	36.7
Class III	24	50.0	4	8.3	2	4.2	18	37.5
Class IV	12	29.3	8	19.5	3	7.3	18	43.9
Total	82	43.6	31	16.5	8	4.3	67	35.6
Weekend								
Class I	33	62.3	8	15.1	1	1.9	11	20.8
Class II	27	51.9	6	11.5	3	5.8	16	30.8
Class III	30	50.8	7	11.9	0	0	22	37.3
Class IV	20	32.8	8	13.1	6	9.8	27	44.3
Total	110	48.9	29	12.9	10	4.4	76	33.8

*No significant differences were detected between the classes of weekday campers.

The only speculation is that campers who were not introduced to tent camping as a child did not develop a value for roughing it. Thirty-five years ago, the average age of the respondents, the predominant type of camping equipment was a tent. Therefore, most of the respondents as children were introduced to tent camping. These respondents, acting as parents themselves, probably want to introduce their children to the same type of camping experiences they were introduced to as children. The parents probably hope to develop camping values in their children similar to the ones they possess. This explanation is just speculation which cannot be statistically proven with the available data.

Socioeconomic Characteristics

Age of respondent. There was not a significant difference between the average age of weekday and weekend campers. Table 22 shows a strong relationship between age of campers and the four different classes. The tendency is for age to increase as sophistication of equipment increases. Classes I and II had the greatest proportion of campers who were 50 years old or older. Eighty-six percent of all respondents less than 20 years of age were tent campers, Class IV.

Age of the oldest member in the camping party. The mean age of the oldest member in the camping party of weekday classes increased as sophistication of equipment increased (Table 23). Statistically, weekday Class I camping parties had the highest mean age for the oldest member, followed by Classes II, III and lastly Class IV. These differences are

Table 22. Age Distribution of Respondents in Each Class of Campers

Weekday and Weekend Campers	Age											
	Less than 20		20 to 29		30 to 39		40 to 49		50 to 59		60 and Older	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Class I	0	0	6	7.4	33	24.3	30	32.6	24	34.8	10	37.0
Class II	0	0	17	21.0	26	19.1	23	25.0	24	34.8	11	40.7
Class III	1	12.5	19	23.5	48	44.9	19	20.7	16	23.2	4	14.8
Class IV	7	85.5	39	48.1	29	28.4	20	19.6	5	7.2	2	2.0
Total	8	1.9	81	19.6	136	32.9	92	22.3	69	16.7	27	6.6

Table 23. The Mean Age of the Oldest Member in the Camping Party for Each Class of Campers

	Weekday	Weekend
Class I	46.2	45.7
Class II	41.9	47.4
Class III	38.6	38.7
Class IV	35.4	33.5

shown by Duncan's Multiple Range Statistical Test to be significant at the .001 level.

The mean ages of the oldest member of the camping party was not statistically different for weekend Classes I and II. Weekend Class III camping parties had a significantly lower mean than weekend Classes I and II, but higher than weekend Class IV. These differences are also based on Duncan's Multiple Range Statistical Test.

Occupation of respondents. Campers having skilled vocations were the most represented occupational type among the classes except weekday Class I (Tables 24 and 25). Weekday Class I was mostly represented by retired persons. The largest proportion of all retired persons camping during the week used Class I equipment, while the largest proportion of retired persons who camped on weekends used Class II equipment. Over 60% of all respondents with agriculturally related jobs used Class I equipment, with another 25% using Class II equipment. The percentages of respondents with agriculturally related occupations were identical for weekday and weekend populations.

The largest proportion of tent campers had skilled occupations. The majority of campers who were either students or unemployed were tent campers. This was true for both weekday and weekend campers.

Sixty-three percent of all housewives (8) interviewed on the weekend were in Class III. Housewives responding on weekdays were evenly distributed throughout the four classes of campers.

Table 24. Distribution of Occupation Types of Weekday Campers

Occupations	Class I		Class II		Class III		Class IV		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Retired	9	18.0	3	6.1	3	6.3	3	7.3	18	9.6
Student	0	0	1	2.0	2	4.2	6	14.6	9	4.8
Unemployed	0	0	1	2.0	0	0	4	9.8	5	2.7
Housewife	3	6.0	2	4.1	4	8.3	3	7.3	12	6.4
Agriculture Related	5	10.0	2	4.1	1	2.1	0	0	8	4.3
Skilled	7	14.0	12	24.5	10	20.8	9	22.0	38	20.2
Unskilled	6	12.0	7	14.3	9	18.8	5	12.2	27	14.4
Professional	6	12.0	8	16.3	6	12.5	4	19.8	24	12.8
Small Business Owner	7	14.0	2	4.1	7	14.6	1	2.4	17	9.0
Service Employee	3	6.0	3	6.1	3	6.3	3	7.3	12	6.4
Executive	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Business	4	8.0	8	16.3	3	6.3	3	7.3	18	9.6

Table 25. Distribution of Occupation Types of Weekend Campers

Occupations	Class I		Class II		Class III		Class IV		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Retired	4	7.5	7	13.5	1	1.7	2	3.3	14	6.2
Student	0	0	1	1.9	0	0	8	13.1	9	4.0
Unemployed	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1.6	1	0.4
Housewife	1	1.9	2	3.8	5	8.5	0	0	8	3.6
Agriculture Related	6	11.3	3	5.8	1	1.7	0	0	10	4.4
Skilled	12	22.6	16	30.8	21	35.6	23	37.7	72	32.0
Unskilled	1	1.9	5	9.6	9	15.3	6	9.8	21	9.3
Professional	8	15.1	6	11.5	7	11.9	5	8.2	26	11.6
Small Business Owner	4	7.5	5	9.6	6	10.2	3	4.9	18	8.0
Service Employee	6	11.3	2	3.8	6	10.2	6	9.8	20	8.9
Executive	3	5.7	0	0	0	0	1	1.6	4	1.8
Business	8	15.1	5	9.6	3	5.1	6	9.8	22	9.8

Income of respondents. As one would expect, income generally increased with the sophistication of the equipment (Table 26). A close look at Table 26 will reveal a few campers in Classes I and II with low incomes. This was caused by two factors. First, retired persons having low incomes tended to buy Class I or II equipment. The other factor is that a few homemade rigs which qualified as Class I or II equipment were made by respondents with low incomes.

Childhood residence. There were significant differences between the classes of weekday campers concerning the respondent's childhood residence (Table 27). Sixty percent of Classes I and III campers were raised in small towns. The largest proportion of Class II respondents were raised on farms. The majority of tent campers, Class IV, were raised in small towns or inner-cities.

No significant differences were revealed between the classes of weekend campers in relation to childhood residence. The majority of weekend respondents were raised in small towns. Farms were the second most popular area of residence followed by the inner-city.

The Camping Party

The number of members in a camping party of weekday campers did not vary significantly between the classes. Camping parties of weekday campers had a mean of 4.1 members.

There was a significant difference in the number of persons in a camping party between weekend classes of campers (Table 28). Weekend Classes II and IV had significantly fewer members than weekend Classes

Table 26. Distribution of Gross Income Levels of Respondents by Classes of Campers

Weekday and Weekend Campers	Class I		Class II		Class III		Class IV		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Below $5,000	1	1.0	6	5.9	5	4.7	12	11.8	24	5.8
$5,000 to $6,999	4	3.9	6	5.9	4	3.7	8	7.8	22	5.3
$7,000 to $9,999	8	7.8	14	13.9	11	10.3	15	14.7	48	11.6
$10,000 to $12,999	11	10.7	11	10.9	24	22.4	24	23.5	70	16.9
$13,000 to $15,999	7	6.8	19	18.8	24	22.4	17	16.7	67	16.2
$16,000 to $19,999	16	15.5	23	22.8	21	19.6	11	10.8	71	17.2
$20,000 to $25,000	17	16.5	3	3.0	5	4.7	5	4.9	30	7.3
Over $25,000	25	24.3	10	9.9	5	4.7	4	3.9	44	10.7
Rather Not Tell	14	13.6	9	8.9	8	7.5	6	5.9	37	9.0

Table 27. Distribution of Childhood Residence of Weekday and Weekend Campers

	Farm		Small Town		Inner-city		Suburb	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Weekday								
Class I	15	30.0	30	60.0	5	10.0	0	0
Class II	21	42.9	20	40.8	7	14.3	1	2.0
Class III	11	22.9	29	60.4	8	16.7	0	0
Class IV	5	12.2	19	46.3	16	39.0	1	2.4
Total	52	27.7	98	52.1	36	19.1	2	1.1
Weekend*								
Class I	21	39.6	26	49.1	6	11.3	0	0
Class II	17	32.7	33	63.5	2	3.8	0	0
Class III	16	27.1	35	59.3	8	13.6	0	0
Class IV	14	23.0	36	59.0	11	18.0	0	0
Total	68	30.2	130	57.8	27	12.0	0	0

*No significant differences were detected between the classes of weekend campers.

Table 28. The Average Number of Members in a Camping Party for Each Class of Campers

	Weekday*	Weekend
Class I	4.1	4.5
Class II	4.0	3.6
Class III	4.6	4.4
Class IV	4.1	4.1

*No significant differences were detected between the classes of weekday campers.

I and III. Weekend Class II camping parties had significantly fewer members than Class IV. These significant differences are based on statistical analysis using Duncan's Multiple Range Test. Weekend Class II campers were the oldest respondents and had a higher proportion of retired persons. These factors are strongly associated with small family sizes.

The majority of all camping parties were family units (Table 29). In fact, the largest proportion of all classes except weekend Class II camping parties were composed of families with children. Weekend Class II camping parties were evenly split between families with children and families without children. Most camping parties consisting of groups of friends were tent campers.

Distance Traveled to Chicot State Park

Weekend Classes I and II campers generally traveled less than 50 miles to reach the park (Table 30). The largest proportion of weekend Classes III and IV campers traveled between 50 and 100 miles. Fifteen percent of weekend tent campers traveled over 200 miles to reach the park.

These results suggest two conditions. First, owners of more sophisticated equipment might not desire to travel as far on weekends as owners of tents and tent trailers. Secondly, the data showed that most of the weekend use of Chicot State Park is by local citizens.

Campers in the weekday classes did not travel significantly different distances to reach the park. Seventy-one percent lived within 100 miles of the park. By inference, Chicot's major use comes from local citizens.

Table 29. The Composition of Weekday and Weekend Camping Parties Based on Family and Nonfamily Members

	More Than 1 Family		1 Family with Children		1 Family No Children		Family Plus Friends		Group of Friends		Organized Group	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Weekday												
Class I	4	8.0	27	54.0	14	28.0	4	8.0	0	0	1	2.0
Class II	5	10.2	32	65.3	11	22.4	1	2.0	0	0	0	0
Class III	3	6.3	32	66.7	7	14.6	2	4.2	4	8.3	0	0
Class IV	4	9.8	19	46.3	10	24.4	0	0	7	17.1	1	2.4
Total	16	8.5	110	58.5	42	22.3	7	3.7	11	5.9	2	1.1
Weekend												
Class I	11	20.8	27	50.9	7	13.2	8	15.1	0	0	0	0
Class II	8	15.4	20	38.5	20	38.5	3	5.8	1	1.9	0	0
Class III	7	11.9	38	64.4	10	16.9	3	5.1	1	1.7	0	0
Class IV	12	19.7	26	42.6	8	13.1	5	8.2	10	16.4	0	0
Total	38	16.9	111	49.3	45	20.0	19	8.4	12	5.3	0	0

Table 30. Distribution of the Approximate Distance Traveled by Weekday and Weekend Campers to Chicot State Park

	Less than 50 Miles		50 to 100 Miles		101 to 200 Miles		Over 200 Miles	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Weekday*								
Class I	22	44.0	16	32.0	5	10.0	7	14.0
Class II	19	38.8	19	38.8	7	14.3	4	8.2
Class III	15	31.3	16	33.3	10	20.8	7	14.6
Class IV	14	34.1	12	29.3	8	19.5	7	17.1
Total	70	37.2	63	33.5	30	16.0	25	13.3
Weekend								
Class I	32	60.4	16	30.2	3	5.7	2	3.8
Class II	25	48.1	20	38.5	2	3.8	5	9.6
Class III	26	44.1	28	47.5	3	5.1	2	3.4
Class IV	14	23.0	35	57.4	3	4.9	9	14.8
Total	97	43.1	99	44.0	11	4.9	18	8.0

*No significant differences were detected between the classes of weekday campers.

Source of Information About Chicot State Park

There were two major sources of information about Chicot State Park:

1. Living in the area.
2. Through friends.

(Table 31). These sources are closely associated. Since the majority of Chicot's users were local citizens, this was expected. An unexpected finding was that out of 413 interviews, only six were informed about Chicot through the Louisiana State Parks and Recreation Commission.

Activities Planned While at Chicot State Park

Respondents were asked to mention the outdoor recreational activities that they planned to engage in while camping at Chicot. No significant differences were found between the classes of weekday campers. Forty-seven percent of the weekday campers were planning to fish, 23% were planning to swim and 22% were not planning to do any other type of outdoor recreation (Table 32).

Chicot State Park's 2,000 acre lake is known for its good fishing and swimming. Finding a large number of weekday campers planning to engage in these activities was expected.

However, significant differences were detected between the classes of weekend campers. The activity mentioned most frequently by weekend Classes I, III and IV was fishing. The largest proportion of weekend Class II campers and a large number of weekend Classes I and III campers were not planning any outdoor recreational activities. As pointed out

Table 31. Distribution of the Source of Information about Chicot State Park, as Reported by Weekday and Weekend Campers

	Live in Area		Friends		Publications		Map		La. State Parks Comm.		Other	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Weekday												
Class I	34	68.0	9	18.0	1	2.0	2	4.0	1	2.0	3	6.0
Class II	24	49.0	23	46.9	1	2.0	1	2.0	0	0	0	0
Class III	17	35.4	25	52.1	4	8.3	2	2.0	0	0	0	0
Class IV	13	31.7	15	36.6	4	9.8	3	7.3	1	2.4	5	12.2
Total	88	46.8	72	38.3	10	5.3	8	4.3	2	1.1	8	4.3
Weekend												
Class I	38	71.7	14	26.4	0	0	0	0	1	1.9	0	0
Class II	25	48.1	19	36.5	1	1.9	2	3.8	2	3.8	3	5.7
Class III	35	59.3	17	28.8	0	0	4	6.8	1	1.7	2	3.4
Class IV	21	34.4	32	52.5	3	4.9	4	6.6	0	0	1	1.6
Total	119	52.9	82	36.4	4	1.8	10	4.4	4	1.8	6	2.6

Table 32. Distribution of Outdoor Recreation Activities that Weekday and Weekend Campers Planned to Engage in While at Chicot State Park

	Fishing		Swimming		Boating		Hiking		None		Others*	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Weekday**												
Class I	22	44.0	9	18.0	1	2.0	0	0	18	36.0	0	0
Class II	24	49.0	7	14.3	0	0	2	4.1	12	24.5	4	8.2
Class III	25	52.1	14	29.2	2	4.2	0	0	7	14.6	0	0
Class IV	17	41.5	13	31.7	2	4.9	3	7.3	5	12.2	1	2.4
Total	88	46.8	43	22.9	5	2.7	5	2.7	42	22.3	5	2.7
Weekend												
Class I	32	60.4	5	9.4	1	1.9	0	0	14	26.4	1	1.9
Class II	19	36.5	7	13.5	0	0	1	1.9	22	44.3	3	5.7
Class III	35	59.3	8	13.6	1	1.7	2	3.4	12	20.3	1	1.7
Class IV	38	62.3	11	18.0	3	4.9	4	6.6	4	6.6	1	1.6
Total	124	55.1	31	13.8	5	2.2	7	3.1	52	23.1	6	2.6

*Includes bicycling, motorcycling, sports, and sightseeing.

**No significant differences were detected between the classes of weekday campers.

in the review of literature, many campers go camping to socialize with other campers. Although this is not what one would formally call an outdoor recreational activity, it definitely is an important part of today's camping experience. Weekend tent campers had the highest percentage of campers who hiked, swam and went boating.

Preferred Campsite Attributes

Electricity. Campers were asked if having electricity on their campsites was important to them. The importance of having electricity on each campsite increased as sophistication of equipment increased for both weekday and weekend campers (Table 33). The only class with the majority of respondents feeling electricity was not important was the weekday tent campers. Weekend tent campers also had a large proportion of campers who felt the same.

Water. The majority of campers in all classes felt that having water on their campsite was important (Table 34). There were significant differences between the classes of weekday campers as to the importance of water on each campsite. Weekday Class III had the largest proportion of campers who felt that having water was not important. This group of campers represented 19% of all weekday Class III respondents.

Privacy. Respondents were asked to state how they felt about other campers being able to see their camping activities. The question was designed to determine the amount of vegetational screen the classes of campers desired between campsites. The majority of respondents in all

Table 33. Distribution of the Importance of Electrical Hookups, as Reported by Weekday and Weekend Campers

	Yes		No		Does Not Matter	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Weekday						
Class I	50	100.0	0	0	0	0
Class II	47	95.9	1	2.0	1	2.0
Class III	37	77.1	10	20.8	1	2.1
Class IV	18	43.9	22	53.7	1	2.4
Total	152	80.9	33	17.6	3	1.6
Weekend						
Class I	53	100.0	0	0	0	0
Class II	52	100.0	0	0	0	0
Class III	54	91.5	4	6.8	1	1.7
Class IV	32	52.5	24	39.3	5	8.2
Total	191	84.9	28	12.4	6	2.7

Table 34. Distribution of the Importance of Campsite Water, as Reported by Weekday and Weekend Campers

	Yes		No		Does Not Matter	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Weekday						
Class I	49	98.0	1	2.0	0	0
Class II	46	93.9	3	6.1	0	0
Class III	38	79.2	9	18.7	1	2.1
Class IV	37	90.2	3	7.3	1	2.4
Total	170	90.4	16	8.5	2	1.1
Weekend*						
Class I	52	98.1	1	1.9	0	0
Class II	51	98.1	1	1.9	0	0
Class III	56	94.9	2	3.4	1	1.7
Class IV	52	85.2	6	9.8	3	4.9
Total	211	93.8	10	4.4	4	1.8

*No significant differences were detected between the classes of weekend campers.

classes of campers did not mind other campers being able to see their camping activities (Table 35).

However, Class III and Class IV had a larger proportion of campers who did mind if other campers saw their activities. Campers in Classes I and II who did not plan on doing any other recreational activities were the same persons who did not mind other campers seeing their camping activities. This finding supports the assumption that socializing plays an important part in Classes I and II's camping experience.

Another possible explanation for this finding is that campers in Classes I and II could find privacy within their air-conditioned motor homes or trailers if they desired. Classes III and IV campers could not find such privacy within their equipment.

From this finding it might be concluded that as sophistication of equipment decreases the desire for privacy increases. Therefore, the vegetational screen desired by the various classes will also increase as equipment becomes less sophisticated.

Campers were asked if being able to hear other campers bothered them. Table 36 is the distribution of the responses. Significant differences were not detected between the classes of weekday campers. The majority of the respondents in all the classes felt that hearing other campers did not disturb them. Most respondents replied that hearing loud radios and boisterous partying late at night did disturb them.

The majority of the weekend campers also claimed that hearing other campers did not bother them. However, Classes III and IV had a large

Table 35. Distribution of Respondents' Attitudes toward Having Other Campers See Their Camping Activities

Question: Do you mind if campers next to you see your camping activities?

Weekday and Weekend Campers	Yes		No		Does Not Matter	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Class I	5	4.9	97	94.2	1	1.0
Class II	11	10.9	89	88.1	1	1.0
Class III	15	14.0	92	86.0	0	0
Class IV	24	23.5	76	74.5	2	2.0
Total	55	13.3	354	85.7	4	1.0

Table 36. Distribution of Respondents' Attitudes toward Hearing Other Campers

Question: Does it bother you to hear the camper next to you?

	Yes		No		Sometimes	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Weekday*						
Class I	6	12.0	42	84.0	2	4.0
Class II	10	20.4	35	71.4	4	8.2
Class III	7	14.6	39	81.3	2	4.2
Class IV	10	24.4	29	70.7	2	4.9
Total	33	17.6	145	77.1	10	5.3
Weekend						
Class I	2	3.8	49	92.5	2	3.8
Class II	1	1.9	47	90.4	4	7.7
Class III	12	20.3	45	76.3	2	3.4
Class IV	17	27.9	41	67.2	3	4.9
Total	32	14.2	182	80.9	11	4.9

*No significant differences were detected between the classes of weekday campers.

proportion of respondents who said that hearing other campers did bother them. This finding strengthens the observation that a large number of Classes III and IV campers desire privacy. Weekday Classes III and IV might feel the same way if campgrounds were as crowded on weekdays as on weekends.

Designating a separate area for tent campers. Campers were asked if tents should be in a separate area from other types of shelter equipment. There were no significant differences between the classes of weekday campers based on this question. Thirty-seven percent of the weekday campers felt that tents should not be in a separate area, 29% felt that they should be in a separate area and 34% had no preference (Table 37).

The largest proportion of weekend Classes I, II and III respondents would not want to see tents in a separate area. Over half of weekend tent campers, Class IV, desired to be separated from the other types of campers. This further emphasizes the tent campers desire for privacy.

Important factors in campsite selection. No significant differences were discovered between weekday and weekend campers concerning important factors in campsite selection. However, there were differences between the shelter classes. The campsite attribute Classes I, II and III looked for most frequently was the proper amount of shade. Class IV desired privacy above all else for their campsite (Table 38).

The second most popular campsite quality with Classes I and II was level driveways. Nearness to the bathhouse was Class III's second most

Table 37. Distribution of Campers' Attitudes toward Having a Separate Area for Tents

Question: Would you prefer tents to be in a separate area?

	Yes		No		Does Not Matter	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Weekday						
Class I	14	28.0	18	36.0	18	36.0
Class II	21	42.9	9	18.4	19	38.8
Class III	20	41.7	12	25.0	16	33.3
Class IV	15	36.6	15	36.6	11	26.8
Total	70	37.2	54	28.7	64	34.0
Weekend						
Class I	20	37.7	15	28.3	18	34.0
Class II	25	48.1	9	17.3	18	34.6
Class III	27	45.8	13	22.0	19	32.2
Class IV	18	29.5	32	52.5	11	18.0
Total	90	40.0	69	30.7	66	29.3

Table 38. Distribution of Important Factors in Campsite Selection

Weekday and Weekend	Class I		Class II		Class III		Class IV		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Privacy	6	5.8	3	3.0	14	13.1	25	24.5	48	11.6
Shade	23	22.3	30	29.7	26	24.3	20	19.6	99	24.0
Level	14	13.6	18	17.8	10	9.3	4	3.9	46	11.1
Well Drained	4	3.9	1	1.0	4	3.7	7	6.9	16	3.9
Next to Friends	11	10.7	15	14.9	14	13.1	13	12.7	53	12.8
Near Lake	7	6.8	9	8.9	7	6.5	13	12.7	36	8.7
Near Bathhouse	10	9.7	5	5.0	18	16.8	8	7.8	41	9.9
Easy Back-in Driveway	8	7.8	5	5.0	0	0	0	0	13	3.1
Only One Vacant	3	2.9	4	4.0	3	2.8	5	4.9	15	3.6
Size	3	2.9	3	3.0	2	1.9	3	2.9	11	2.7
Sewage Hookups	8	7.8	3	3.0	0	0	0	0	11	2.7
Others	6	5.8	5	5.0	9	8.4	4	3.9	24	5.8

frequent response to this question. The amount of shade was tent campers second most popular response.

Campers in Classes I and II were the only campers who looked for easy back-in driveways and sewage hookups in a campsite. Nearness to the lake was found to be an important factor for tent campers in selecting a site. The remainder of the attributes listed in Table 38 are relatively equal among the four classes of campers.

Characteristics of Campers

Certain responses were found to be similar for all classes. The variables in question play an important part in completing the picture of campers at Chicot State Park. It is important to keep in mind while reading this section that the responses for each of these variables were not significantly different for all campers.

Equipment Characteristics

Campers were asked if they owned their equipment. The responses to the question showed that 90% owned the rig they were camping in, while 10% did not. Of the 10% who did not own their equipment, 2% rented and 8% borrowed the equipment they were using. The majority of respondents owned their equipment two years or less, with 40% owning their equipment less than a year (Table 39).

Responses to the question, "Do you camp more now that you have this rig?" showed that 79% did camp more. Nineteen percent camped the same and 2% camped less.

Table 39. Length of Equipment Ownership Period, as Reported by All Campers

	Frequency	Percentage
Less than 1 Year	166	40.2
1 Year	54	13.1
2 Years	56	13.6
3 Years	40	9.7
4 Years	16	3.9
5 Years	17	4.1
Over 5 Years	24	5.7
Does Not Own	40	9.7
Total	413	100.0

Factors Limiting Camping

It was discovered that lack of available time was by far the leading factor which limited camping experiences (Table 40). Thirty-four percent of the campers responded that they camped as much as they wanted. This group claimed that no factors prevented them from camping more often. Lack of money was the second most important factor limiting camping. Members of the family having other plans was the third most frequent response. It is important to realize that these responses represent all campers.

Reasons for Camping

When asked to give a reason why they camped, the largest proportion of respondents or 32% said to get away from the city. The second most popular response was to get outdoors. Relaxation was the third most frequent response. A distribution of the responses can be seen in Table 41. These motives were also reported by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation in 1965 (ORRRC #20, 1965).

Initial Interest in Camping

The data revealed that parents and self-interest were the two major origins of interest in camping for respondents. Table 42 shows the distribution of the sources which introduced camping to the respondents. A large segment was introduced to camping through friends. Youth groups such as Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts played a role in the introduction of camping to respondents.

Table 40. Factors Influencing the Frequency of Camping Trips for All Campers

Factors	Frequency	Percentage
Time	198	47.9
Money	29	7.0
Other Members Have Other Plans	28	6.8
Weather	4	1.0
Overcrowded Campgrounds	4	1.0
Physical Conditions	4	1.0
Other	4	1.0
Camp as Much as Desired	142	34.3
Total	413	100.0

Table 41. Distribution of Campers' Reasons for Camping

	Frequency	Percentage
To Get Away from the City	131	31.7
To Get Outdoors	108	26.2
To Relax	74	17.9
To Recreate with Family	42	10.2
A Place to Stay While Performing Other Activities	29	7.0
A Low Cost Form of Outdoor Recreation	20	4.8
Other	9	2.2
Total	413	100.0

Table 42. Distribution of Sources Which Introduced Camping to the Respondents

	Frequency	Percentage
Parents	139	33.7
Self-interest	137	33.2
Friends	95	23.0
Youth Groups	35	8.5
Other	7	1.6
Total	413	100.0

Years of Camping Experience

The average camper at Chicot State Park had 10.7 years of camping experience. Campers' experience ranged from no years to 60 years.

Socioeconomic Characteristics

Out of 413 campers interviewed only one was black. This shows without a doubt that camping is not popular with blacks in Louisiana.

Thirty-six percent of the respondents were high school graduates, while 28% had less than 12 years of schooling (Table 43). A large proportion of the respondents were exposed to college, while only a small number had some type of college degree.

Preferred Campsite Attributes

Eighty-two percent of all campers desired blacktop access roads through the campground (Table 44). Eleven percent of the campers preferred gravel roads with 2% preferring dirt roads. Only 5% had no preference as to the surface of the access roads.

Over three-fourths of the campers desired lots of shade on their campsite (Table 45). This figure would probably change if the interviewing took place in other seasons of the year.

Campers were also asked if they used the barbecue grills. Forty-eight percent responded that they did, 39% did not and 13% did on occasions.

Results from the interviewing showed that 39% of the campers had campfires and 39% did not. The remaining 22% only made campfires in the winter. Also, 83% of the campers had never paid for firewood. Only 17% bought firewood at other campgrounds.

Table 43. Distribution of the Level of Formal Education Completed by the Respondents

	Frequency	Percentage
Less than 12 Years	117	28.3
High School Graduate	148	35.8
Some College	96	23.3
College Graduate	23	5.6
Postgraduate	29	7.0
Total	413	100.0

Table 44. Distribution of Campers' Preference for Road Surfacing throughout the Campgrounds

	Frequency	Percentage
Blacktop	339	82.1
Gravel	45	10.9
Dirt	8	1.9
Does Not Matter	21	5.1
Total	413	100.0

Table 45. The Proportion of Shade Desired on a Campsite by All Respondents

	Frequency	Percentage
Complete	106	25.7
Plenty	202	48.9
Half	65	15.7
Some	34	8.2
Does Not Matter	6	1.5
Total	413	100.0

Summary of the Characteristics and Preferred Campsite Attributes for Each Class of Campers

Weekday Campers

The majority of weekday campers were from small towns. Weekday campers were strongly family oriented and were generally on vacation. Weekday campers would travel greater distances to reach the campgrounds at Chicot State Park. It was found that weekday campers did not visit the park as often as weekend campers and did not stay as long as weekend campers. Weekday campers desired campsites located near the lake and restroom facilities and to have plenty of shade.

Weekend Campers

The majority of weekend campers lived in small towns. These campers were usually not on vacation. Weekend campers generally lived within 100 miles of Chicot. This allowed them to visit the park more frequently and to stay longer than weekday campers. The majority of weekend camping parties consisted of families with children. However, a larger proportion of the camping parties were groups of families and families plus friends than found in weekday campers. Weekend campers preferred their campsites to be level with plenty of shade and adjacent to friends.

Class I Campers

Class I campers used the most sophisticated and expensive equipment. Owners of this type of equipment were highly satisfied with it. They most frequently bought their equipment new. The reason given most often

for buying this type of equipment was because of the conveniences offered by the equipment. Class I campers generally owned Class II equipment immediately prior to their present rig.

The majority of Class I campers did 25% or less of their camping in the summer and spent a large segment of their vacation camping. This group of campers camped less as a child than the other classes of campers.

Over 60% of the respondents in this class were 50 years of age or older. The largest proportion of the respondents in this class had skilled occupations. However, a large proportion of Class I members had either an agriculturally related vocation or were retired. Of all the classes, Class I had the highest gross income last year.

The results from the interviewing revealed that Class I had the largest proportion of respondents who felt that having electricity on their campsite was important. Having water and sewage hookups on the campsite was also found to be an important campsite attribute. The majority of Class I campers desired not to have tents in a separate area. The proper amount of shade and a level driveway were the two most desirable attributes of a campsite for Class I participants. Class I campers had the largest proportion of campers who did not mind hearing other campers and did not mind other campers seeing their camping activities. In fact, the data suggest that an important part of camping for this class and for Class II is socializing with other campers. Therefore, one can conclude that privacy and a lot of vegetational screen between campsites is not important or desired by this class of campers.

Class II Campers

Class II campers had many unique equipment and socioeconomic characteristics. However, most of the preferred campsite attributes were identical to those of Class I campers.

Equipment in Class II was less sophisticated, had fewer conveniences and was less expensive than Class I equipment; but ranked higher in all these characteristics when compared to Classes III and IV. The majority of Class II owners bought their equipment used and were not as satisfied with their rigs as Class I owners. The reason most frequently given for buying this type of equipment was for the conveniences it offered. A large proportion of Class II campers responded that this was the best equipment they could presently afford. The largest proportion of Class II respondents owned tents immediately prior to purchasing their present rigs.

Class II campers, like Class I campers, generally spent the majority of their vacation time camping. This group of recreationists camped more often as children than campers in Class I but less often than campers in Classes III and IV.

Respondents in Class II like Class I were older and were more likely to be retired than respondents of Classes III and IV. The largest proportion of respondents in Class II had skilled vocations. Campers with agriculturally related occupations were strongly associated with Class II. The average income of Class II campers was above the average incomes found in Classes III and IV, but below the average income of Class I campers.

As was mentioned before, most of the preferred campsite attributes of this group are identical to those of Class I campers. The majority of Class II campers desired electricity, water and sewage hookups on their campsites. The two most important attributes looked for when selecting a site were the proper amount of shade and a level driveway.

The majority of this group did not mind hearing other campers or having other campers seeing their camping activities.

Class III Campers

Class III had the largest population of campers (see Table 3, page 27). This group of recreationists was very different from the other classes of campers. The sophistication, the conveniences offered, and the cost of Class III equipment were substantially less than Classes I and II, but higher than Class IV. The majority of Class III owners, like Class II owners, bought their equipment used and for the same reasons. Most Class III campers purchased this type of equipment for the conveniences offered. The second most frequent reason given was that it was the best they could afford. The level of satisfaction of Class III campers was less than Classes I and II, but higher than Class IV campers. The largest proportion of Class III campers owned tents immediately prior to their present ownership. Campers of Class III camped less last year than campers of Classes I and II.

Respondents of Class III were found to be younger than campers in Classes I and II, but older than Class IV campers. Respondents usually had skilled occupations and were earning significantly less than

Classes I and II campers and more than Class IV campers. Families having children was the predominant type of camping party. These families generally lived between 50 and 100 miles from the park.

The majority of the campers in this class felt that having electricity and water hookups on the campsite was important. This class of campers had no desire for sewage hookups. The two most desired campsite attributes were the proper amount of shade and nearness to the bathhouse. Unlike Classes I and II, a portion of Class III campers acknowledged that hearing other campers and having other campers observing their camping activities did indeed bother them. Privacy is an important campsite quality for some Class III campers.

Class IV Campers

Class IV equipment, tents, offers the least number of conveniences and sophistication and is by far the cheapest equipment. The only characteristics which Class IV campers shared with Class I campers was that the majority of both classes bought new equipment. The reason given by most tent campers for buying a tent was that it was the best they could afford. A large proportion of Class IV campers used tents in order to camp in a primitive manner. Tent campers had the largest proportion of respondents who felt that their equipment prevented them from camping more often. This was due to their tents being unable to fair all types of weather. Class IV campers were the most unsatisfied owners. They preferred more sophisticated equipment. The majority of tent campers did not own any type of equipment immediately prior to their present ownership.

Tent campers camped significantly less last year than the other classes. The majority of tent campers did most of their camping in the summer, and generally spent only a small amount of their vacation time camping.

This group of campers was found to be the youngest and had the fewest number of persons in their camping parties. The largest proportion of camping parties in Class IV was composed of families with children. Respondents had predominantly skilled vocations. This class had the highest representation of students and unemployed persons of all four classes. The average income of tent campers was lower than the other classes.

Class IV had the largest proportion of respondents who felt that having electricity on their campsite was not important. Of all campers, Class IV had the largest number of respondents who minded hearing other campers and having other campers seeing their camping activities. Privacy was the most frequent campsite attribute looked for by tent campers when selecting a site. The proper amount of shade was the second most popular campsite attribute desired. Class IV had the largest proportion of campers desiring to have tents in a separate area.

Implications to Recreation Professionals

The intent of this study was to identify the characteristics of campers who use various types of shelter equipment. The results showed that campers using different types of equipment had distinct characteristics, needs and desires. Outdoor recreation planners must

recognize these needs and desires when designing campgrounds. It is the outdoor recreation planner's responsibility to design campgrounds which provide the services and facilities desired by the camper.

Recreation managers make many decisions which affect campers. In order to make the proper decisions, the manager must know as much as possible about the clientele he serves. Surveying and interviewing users of recreation areas is the only way recreation managers are going to collect this type of information.

Identifying the characteristics of campers will also help park naturalists, recreationists and other staff to develop their programs. Recreation programs cannot be developed without an in-depth knowledge of the camper.

Although the purpose of this study was to help outdoor recreation planners better design campgrounds, its usefulness does not stop there. The findings in this chapter can be utilized by the recreation profession in an unlimited number of ways.

CHAPTER VI

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Summary

The analysis of the data suggested that campers at Chicot State Park were not a homogeneous group. This is not to say that every characteristic which was investigated differed among the four classes of campers. In fact, no significant differences were detected between the classes of campers as to their reasons for camping. All campers wanted to get away from home and get out-of-doors.

On the other hand, some differences were expected and found, such as the effect camping experience and income had on choice of equipment. The years of camping experience and the income level were found to be directly related to the type of equipment a camper purchased. Although campers generally began camping with tents, most eventually bought more sophisticated equipment as they gained experience. Income seemed to be the limiting factor in determining the level of equipment sophistication the campers reached.

Since income is linked to many socioeconomic characteristics, it was significant, as expected, in predicting the class of equipment. Many socioeconomic characteristics were associated with each camper class. It is essential that outdoor recreation planners and managers become aware of the various socioeconomic characteristics of campers. Outdoor recreation planners should know the average makeup of camping parties,

the average age of children, and various other socioeconomic traits of the camper before he attempts to design a campground for a given clientele. These characteristics will influence the needs and desires of the camper, and consequently should influence the design of the campground. Managers and planners must strive to learn as much as possible about the clientele they are serving.

For instance, if outdoor recreation planners are to inform the public of new policy and administrative changes for a particular park, they must know where the clientele is located. At Chicot State Park, over 70% of weekday campers and 87% of weekend campers lived within 100 miles of the park. In this case, the recreation planners would want to inform and educate the local citizens around Chicot State Park of changes prior to initiation of the new policy.

A major contribution of this study was the identification of the campsite attributes that each class of camper preferred. Results from the interviewing revealed that only three of the classes had distinct and unique preferred campsite attributes. The preferred campsite attributes of campers in Classes I and II differed slightly. For all practical purposes, the two classes can be combined when discussing these characteristics. The three groups of campers which had distinct preferred campsite attributes were:

1. Campers who used either motor homes, travel trailers, pickup truck campers or vans with plumbing facilities (sink, toilet, shower).

2. Campers who used either pickup truck campers or vans without plumbing facilities or tent trailers.
3. Campers who used tents.

Conclusions

The findings suggest that campers desire three types of campsites. Therefore, in order to meet these desires, campgrounds should have three types of areas. Each of the three areas should be designed for one of the three classes of campers. A fourth area could be offered for accommodating camping parties using different types of equipment and desiring to camp together.

If campers are to utilize an area, they must have easy access to the campsites. This was a major problem mentioned by Classes I and II equipment owners. Therefore, a camping area designed for this group of campers should have well constructed roads and easy back-in driveways. To prevent campers from damaging both their equipment and the campsite, each site should have a wide and well constructed driveway which is free of obstacles. Driveways should also be level.

Campsites designed for large rigs should have water, electrical and sewage hookups. Privacy is not important to this group of campers. Socializing with other campers is an important part of their camping experience. Therefore, campsites in this area probably do not need vegetational screening to restrict vision between campsites. Also, wide spacing is not necessary to this group of campers.

In the designing of campsites for campers using Class III equipment, it is important for the sites to be located near a bathhouse. Driveway construction for these campers should allow sufficient room to back the equipment into the campsites easily.

Campsites should have water and electrical hookups. Vegetational screen which allows some privacy should exist between campsites. A large proportion of these campers enjoyed socializing, but they also desired some privacy. Campsites should be far enough apart to eliminate most of the noise from campers in adjacent campsites. The spacing would depend on the topography of the campground.

Privacy was the most important factor in campsite selection for tent campers. Campsites should have both an abundance of vegetational screen between campsites and sufficient distance between campsites to allow the campers to experience a feeling of isolation.

Water is the only utility desired by most tent campers. Some of the campsites designed for tent campers should have electrical hookups. It is not important to have an easy back-in driveway. In fact, the driveways should be designed to provide privacy from traffic on the access road. It is important for all the camping areas to be located near the lake. However, tent campers had the largest proportion of campers who fished or swam, increasing the importance of locating the tent camping area near the lake.

The fourth area is for campers who desire to camp in an area with all types of equipment. This camping area would have to be designed similar to the area for motor homes and travel trailers. For the most

part, campers who use this area are interested in socializing with other campers. Therefore, vegetational screening between campsites would not be a requirement. This camping area would not appear to be divided into campsite areas, but resemble a large, common area. This would bring campers together and allow them to meet and communicate.

Each of these areas discussed should have approximately the same number of campsites. Since the importance of privacy in each type of camping area varies, the size of the areas would have to vary. The area designed for tent campers would have to be larger than the area for motor homes in order to allow the privacy which is desired.

The overnight fee to the campers should vary according to the type of camping area used. The cost of constructing and maintaining the tent area would be much less than the cost for the motor home and travel trailer area.

If it is impractical to have four designated areas in a campground, then the next best solution would be to have at least two specially designed areas. One of the areas should be designed and reserved for tent campers and the other for nontent campers. The preferred campsite attributes were extremely different for tent campers and nontent campers. Designing a campsite to serve both types of campers would compromise the needs and desires of both groups. A designated area should be designed and available for tent campers to use. However, the use of this area should not be mandatory, leaving the tent camper some freedom of choice.

The nontent areas should be designed for all types of campers. This area would be similar to the fourth area which was just discussed.

Outdoor recreation planners should provide campers with an environment which allows them enjoyable camping experiences. To achieve this goal the planner must design the campsite according to the recreationists' desires. Forcing campers to use campsites with undesirable attributes will not satisfy the camper completely.

The study also revealed that campers can be characterized by the type of shelter equipment which they use. Using a classification system, dividing campers into groups instead of describing campers in general, provides more meaningful data to recreation planners and managers. Such a system will allow outdoor recreation planners to obtain a more detailed picture of campers. The classification scheme used in this study could be used for studying campers in most state parks.

Trying to predict the future demands of campers is another important role of the outdoor recreation planner. This study revealed a trend for campers to use more sophisticated equipment. This same trend was discovered by Bond and Oulette (1968) and Driscoll (1967). Since this trend is still evident and without signs of changing, state recreation agencies must decide how they are going to deal with an increase in sophisticated equipment. As campers desire to use more sophisticated equipment, they will also demand more intensely developed campgrounds. Each state recreation agency must decide if they are going to keep up with the demands for highly developed campgrounds and at what point the development will stop. This decision must be based on both the mission and philosophy of the agency and the resources available to the agency.

The findings of this study only represent campers' desires at one point in time. Recreation agencies must make provisions to constantly update their knowledge of the needs and desires of recreationists. Studies should also be conducted to determine what motivates people to camp and their reasons for selecting this particular recreation activity. Only through studies such as these can knowledge be gained to allow recreation agencies to properly serve the people. Bury (1964) emphasized the need for continuing research in his article when he stated that campers' desires and preferences are constantly changing.

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APPENDIX

QUESTIONNAIRE AND EXPECTED RESPONSES

Observation number _____
Date _____
Day of week _____
Sample weight _____

Time of Day _____
Equipment type _____
Campsite number _____
Description of equipment _____

1. Do you own this rig or equipment?
   1. yes
   2. renting
   3. borrowing

2. How long have you had it?
   1. less than a year
   2. 1 year
   3. 2 years
   4. 3 years
   5. 4 years
   6. 5 years
   7. over 5 years
   8. does not own

3. Did you buy this equipment new or used?
   1. new
   2. used
   3. does not own

4. Roughly how much did you pay for this rig?
   1. less than $100
   2. $100 to $499
   3. $500 to $999
   4. $1000 to $1499
   5. $1500 to $3999
   6. $4000 to $6999
   7. $7000 to $10000
   8. over $10000
   9. does not own
   10. given to him

5. How did you decide on this type of equipment?
   1. conveniences offered
   2. the best he could afford
   3. appearance
   4. recommended
   5. safety
   6. pickup already own
   7. peer influence
   8. raise in salary
   9. given
   10. had this type before
   11. does not own
   12. primitive
   13. other_____

6. What type of equipment did you own before you had this rig?
   1. class 1
   2. class 2
   3. class 3
   4. class 4

7. How well satisfied are you with this equipment?
   1. very well satisfied
   2. satisfied
   3. very unsatisfied

8. Would you prefer to camp in any other type of equipment in this park if cost and other factors did not limit you?
   1. class 1
   2. class 2
   3. class 3
   4. class 4

9. Does your equipment prevent you from camping more often?
   1. yes
   2. no

10. If yes how?
    1. too expensive to use
    2. too much work
    3. cannot take the weather
    4. other _____

11. Do any other factors prevent you from camping more often?
    1. time
    2. money
    3. weather
    4. other members of group have other plans
    5. physical condition
    6. too far to travel
    7. overcrowded campgrounds
    8. camping companion(s) are deceased or stopped camping with you
    9. no
    10. other _____

12. Do you find yourself camping more now that you own this equipment?
    1. same
    2. yes
    3. less
    4. does not own

13. About how many times did you camp last year? _____

14. How much of your camping do you do in the summer (June 1 to Labor Day)?
    1. all
    2. some 25%
    3. half 50%
    4. most 75%

15. What would you say was the average length of your camping trips last year?
    _____ days

16. About how much camping did you do as a child (12 yrs. and younger) each year?
    1. none
    2. very little 1 to 2 times/yr
    3. a fair amount 3 to 5 times/yr
    4. plenty over 5 times/yr

17. If none, did you camp before you had this equipment?
    1. camped as a child
    2. yes
    3. no

18. About how many years have you been camping? _____

19. How would you classify the place where you now live?
    1. on a farm
    2. small town
    3. inner-city
    4. suburb of large city

20. How far is that from here?
    1. less than 50 miles
    2. 50 to 100 miles
    3. 101 to 200 miles
    4. over 200 miles

21. How would you classify the place in which you were raised?
    1. on a farm
    2. small town
    3. inner-city
    4. suburb of large city

22. Is this your whole family; or is this the whole camping party?
    1. more than one family
    2. one family with children
    3. single family without children
    4. family plus friends or relatives
    5. group of friends
    6. organized group
    7. other _____

23. How many members are in this group? _____

24. What is the age range of this group? _____

25. Are you on vacation; or is it a weekend trip?
    1. weekend
    2. vacation
    3. business
    4. business and vacation
    5. business and weekend
    6. other

26. If on vacation, did you come from another campground?
    1. not on vacation
    2. no
    3. yes

27. About how much of your vacation do you spend camping?
    1. none
    2. little 25%
    3. half 50%
    4. most 75%
    5. all 100%
    6. have no vacation

28. How much vacation do you have each year? _____weeks

29. Race (not asked)
    1. white
    2. black
    3. oriental
    4. other _____

30. What do you do for a living?
    1. retired
    2. student
    3. unemployed
    4. housewife
    5. agriculture related
    6. skilled (plumber, carpenter, etc.)
    7. nonskilled (laborer)
    8. professional (doctor,lawyer)
    9. small business owner
    10. executive of a large business
    11. service employee (clerical, salesperson)
    12. Business oriented(insurance agent)
    13. other _____

31. Would you tell me the number which best describes your gross income last year?
    1. below $5,000
    2. $5,000 to $6,999
    3. $7,000 to $9,999
    4. $10,000 to $12,999
    5. $13,000 to $15,999
    6. $16,000 to $19,999
    7. $20,000 to $25,000
    8. over $25,000
    9. rather not tell

32. Would you do the same for your age?
    1. less than 20
    2. 20 to 29
    3. 30 to 39
    4. 40 to 49
    5. 50 to 59
    6. 60 and older
    7. rather not tell

33. And also for your level of formal education?
    1. less than 12
    2. high school graduate
    3. some college
    4. college graduate
    5. post graduate

34. What other outdoor recreational activities do you plan to engage in besides camping while in this park?
    1. fishing
    2. swimming
    3. boating
    4. hiking
    5. organized sports (baseball, horseshoes, etc.)

6. nature hikes
7. bicycling
8. water skiing
9. bird watching
10. motorcycling
11. no other
12. other _____

35. How did you find out about this park?
1. friends or relatives
2. magazine, camping guide, or other publications
3. roadsigns
4. map
5. travel agent
6. travel bureau
7. live or lived in area
8. La. State Parks Comm.
9. other _____

36. How many times have you camped in this state park? _____

37. How did you become interested in camping?
1. parents or relatives
2. self interest
3. friends
4. reading about camping
5. television
6. camping club
7. youth group (Boy Scouts)
8. other _____

38. What would you say are the reasons why you camp?
1. to get outdoors
2. to get away from the city
3. to relax and relieve tension
4. to recreate with family and/or friends
5. it is a low cost form of outdoor recreation
6. a place to stay while performing other recreational activities
7. fellowship with other men
8. money invested
9. like to rough it
10. to get exercise
11. other _____

39. Does it bother you to hear the camper next to you?
1. yes
2. no
3. sometimes
4. does not matter

40. Do you mind campers next to you to see all of your activities?
1. yes
2. no
3. does not matter
4. just a little
5. other _____

41. Which would you rather have in this campground, a gravel, dirt, or blacktop road?
1. gravel
2. dirt
3. blacktop

42. Is having water on your campsite important to you?
1. yes
2. no
3. does not matter

43. Is having electricity on your campsite important?
1. yes
2. no
3. does not matter

44. How much shade do you prefer on your campsite?
1. complete 100%
2. plenty 75%
3. half 50%
4. some 25%
5. no shade
6. does not matter

45. Would you prefer tents in a separate area?
    1. no
    2. yes
    3. does not matter

46. Do you use the barbecue grill that is provided?
    1. yes
    2. no
    3. sometimes

47. Do you normally have a campfire?
    1. yes
    2. no
    3. sometimes

48. Have you ever paid for firewood?
    1. yes
    2. no

49. What factors did you look for when you chose this campsite?
    1. privacy
    2. shade
    3. level
    4. high (well drain)
    5. scenery
    6. next to friends
    7. nearness to lake
    8. nearness to facilities
    9. nearness to other activities
    10. easy back-in driveway
    11. only one vacant
    12. cleanness
    13. other _____

50. Weather
    1. hot and clear
    2. hot and cloudy
    3. rain
    4. warm and clear
    5. warm and cloudy
    6. very overcast
    7. other _____

51. Respondent
    1. wife
    2. husband
    3. peer male
    4. peer female
    5. organized male
    6. organized female

52. How many days are you planning to stay at Chicot State Park? _____

VITA

Gerard Joseph Boos, Jr. was born in New Orleans, Louisiana on July 24, 1952. He attended elementary school in that city and graduated from John F. Kennedy, Sr. High School in 1970. In January of 1971 he entered Louisiana State University, and in December 1974 he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry.

Upon graduation, he worked six months for Louisiana State Parks and Recreation Commission. In September 1975 he entered the Graduate School of The University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He received a Master of Science degree with a major in Forestry in March 1977.

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