



# 1982-1983 Nationwide Recreation Survey



**U.S. Department of the Interior  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**



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**U.S. Department  
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## Foreword

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The 1982-83 Nationwide Recreation Survey (NRS) is the latest in an irregular series of interview surveys of the American public dating back to the 1960 National Recreation Survey sponsored by the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission. Like the earlier efforts, this survey provides current information on what Americans do for recreation in the outdoors and on their perceptions and aspirations with respect to recreation opportunities.

This most recent NRS was sponsored by the Interior Department's National Park Service in cooperation with the Forest Service (Department of Agriculture), the Bureau of Land Management (Department of the Interior) and the Administration on Aging (Department of Health and Human Services). This is the first time that a nationwide recreation survey has been conducted cooperatively by a consortium of agencies. This shared effort resulted in a much larger, better, and more comprehensive outdoor recreation data base than any of the sponsors could have acquired alone in the constrained budgetary climate of the 1980's. The sponsoring agencies have earned our thanks for their cooperation, perseverance, and spirit of accommodation.

The computer tape of the 1982-83 NRS data base, with documentation, is available for purchase, and scientists of different disciplinary viewpoints are encouraged to acquire and analyze it. For further information on the NRS data base, contact the Recreation Resources Assistance Division, National Park Service, at 202/343-3780.

Future recreation surveys are in various stages of planning. So that we may serve your information requirements better, we need your comments and suggestions. A response form is provided at the end of this report for your convenience in evaluating the 1982-83 NRS and suggesting improvements in our data collection efforts. I can assure you that your advice will be given the most careful consideration in planning future recreation surveys.

Finally, on behalf of all concerned, I would like to direct a heartfelt word of thanks to the 5,757 Americans who generously consented to be interviewed during the 1982-83 Nationwide Recreation Survey.



William Penn Mott, Jr.  
Director, National Park Service