



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT *of the* INTERIOR
BUREAU OF OUTDOOR RECREATION

..... **NORTHEAST REGION**

128 North Broad Street - Philadelphia, Penna. 19102

CONNECTICUT RIVER NATIONAL RECREATION AREA FEASIBILITY STUDY

REPORT NO. 1

Public Law 89-616, approved October 3, 1966, authorized the Secretary of the Interior to study the feasibility and desirability of establishing all or parts of the Connecticut River from its source to its mouth in the States of New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, and Connecticut, as a Connecticut River National Recreation Area. Secretary Udall assigned the responsibility for the study to the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, and from the Northeast Regional Office, 128 North Broad Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102, it is being conducted under the supervision of Rolland B. Handley, Regional Director.

This first report is being released to keep citizens informed on the activities and progress of the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation study. It is expected that this study, which began in November 1966, will continue through October 1968, when the Department of the Interior will submit a report

The Bureau of Outdoor Recreation is following a plan of study which incorporates the provisions of Public Law 89-616, as well as those published in the President's Recreation Advisory Council Circular #1. This publication, released in March 1963 and available from the U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20240, established policy governing the selection, establishment, and administration of National Recreation Areas. If it is determined that a National Recreation Area is feasible and desirable in all or part of the Connecticut River Valley, the Bureau's report will present a recommended plan of development complete with methods of implementing, administering, and financing suggested alternatives.

STUDY TEAM

The Bureau presently has five persons assigned to this project, with three located at its Philadelphia office. Field Project Leader Gene Woock, assisted by William Baranyay, are based in Room 308, Main Post Office Building, Springfield, Massachusetts 01101. They can be reached at 413-781-2420-Ext. 325. It is expected that the field office will be maintained until the field review phase of the study is completed about October 1, 1967.

FIELD REVIEW

The field review includes an examination and appraisal of Federal, State, local, and private resource plans and programs in the valley, land-use and land-ownership patterns and trends, population and employment characteristics, and specific resource problems and needs. This analysis will develop the picture of human and natural resource characteristics that will be used as the basis for determining the desirability and feasibility of establishing a National Recreation Area in the valley. Field studies are almost complete in Connecticut, well along in Massachusetts, and recently initiated in New Hampshire and Vermont.

STATE REPRESENTATIVES

The Governors of the four States have designated staff representatives in the study and to provide daily contact with the Bureau. These State representatives are:

Connecticut:	Mr. Joseph N. Gill, Commissioner Dept. of Agriculture & Nat. Res. State Office Building Hartford, Connecticut 06100	Mr. Carl Otte, Coordinator Open Space Program Dept. of Agric. & Nat. Res. State Office Building Hartford, Connecticut 06100
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Massachusetts: Mr. Robert Yasi, Commissioner
Dept. of Natural Resources
State Office Building
Gov't. Center, 100 Cambridge St.
Boston, Massachusetts 02202

Mr. Albert Zabriskie, Director
Div. of Conservation Services
Dept. of Natural Resources
State Office Building
Gov't. Center, 100 Cambridge St.
Boston, Massachusetts 02202

New Hampshire: Miss Mary Louise Hancock
Office of Planning & Research
State House Annex
Concord, New Hampshire 03303

Mr. Johnathan B. Pollard
Community Planning Technical
Dept. of Resources &
Economic Development
State House Annex
Concord, New Hampshire 03303

Vermont: Mr. Forrest E. Orr, Director
Interagency Committee on Natural Resources
State Office Building
Montpelier, Vermont 05602

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public Law 89-616 provides that public hearings shall be held at the request of the respective Governors. In anticipation of public hearings, some State and local administrators have held advance informational meetings to discuss matters of general interest. Three such meetings were held in Essex, Middletown, and Hartford, Connecticut, sponsored by local planning groups and attended by both State and Federal agencies. These meetings were well attended, the local residents asked searching questions, and gave definite opinions as to the impact a National Recreation Area would have in their portion of the valley.

The Bureau of Outdoor Recreation considers these meetings most helpful and appreciates sincerely the cooperation and assistance it is receiving from public and private agencies at all levels of government throughout the Connecticut River Valley.

FUTURE REPORTS

To those of you who have expressed an interest in the Connecticut River NRA Feasibility Study, we will do our utmost to keep you informed. Reports similar in scope to this one will be disseminated from NERO.