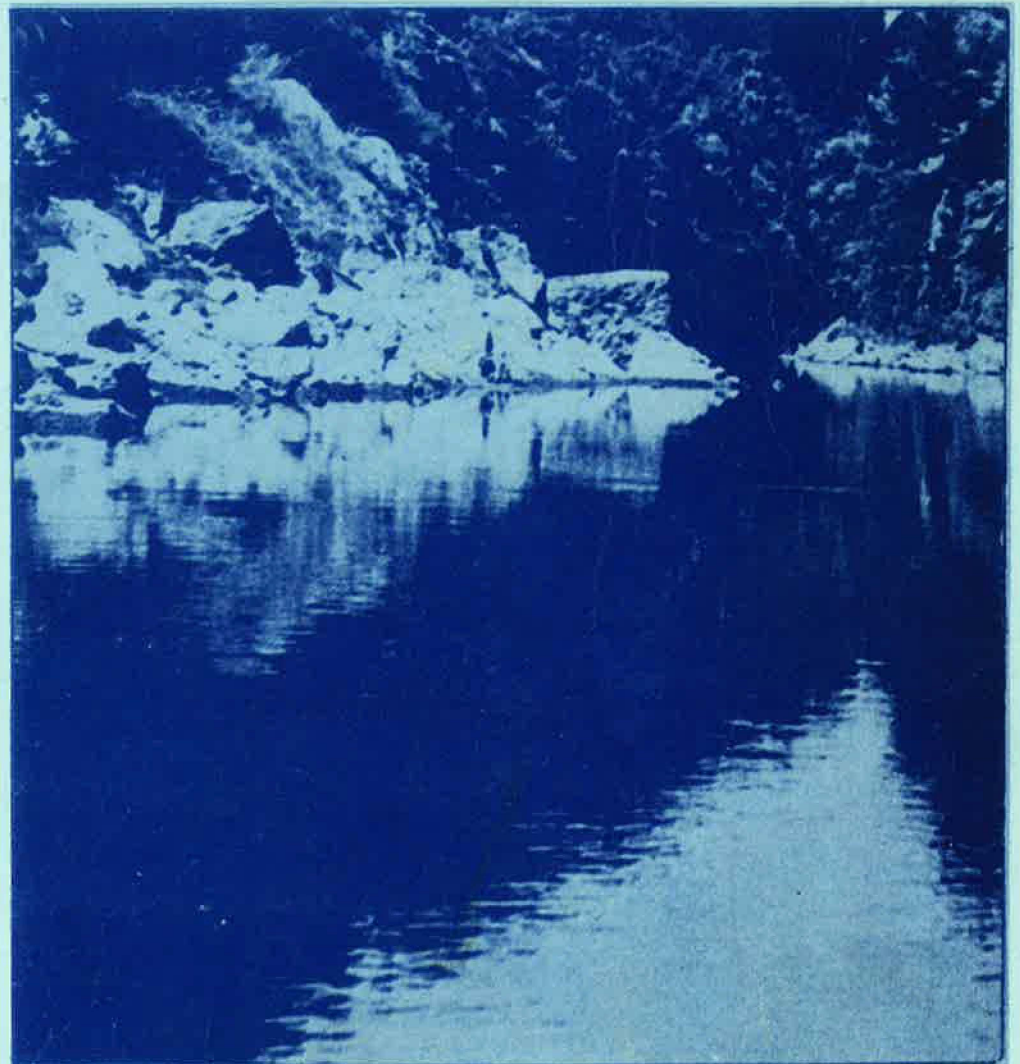




# The Wanganui River -a Recreation Survey

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Margaret Hoskyn patiently carried out much of the time-consuming work with the coding of questionnaire data and the general administration of the survey. David Simmons prepared and supervised the computer programming and data analysis as well as giving generously of his time to the final report. Judy Boyd did the typing and we are particularly grateful for her efforts.

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Gerry Turner, and John Ombler in particular, have been provocative and challenging as well as being patient in waiting for the results of this survey.

The results of the survey are, nevertheless, independent of their contributions in that they are a summary and interpretation of the data provided by respondents and not a statement of belief.

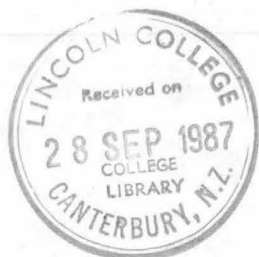
As is usual in a co-operative effort such as this, the final interpretation and written report must remain the responsibility of one person. In accepting this responsibility, I thank all of those who have contributed directly or indirectly to its completion.

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CHAPTER 1.

Principal Management Objectives

The following management implications are presented here only for easy reference, and should not be interpreted without reference to the research data. As such they are fully supported in the text of this report and analysed in the final chapter.

1. Preservation of the natural environment is essential to ensure the 'wilderness character' of the River which in turn is essential to both the motivations and satisfactions of its users.
2. In keeping with the above, water quality must be improved and quantity must be maintained or increased.
3. The characteristics and experience levels of current users suggest that the Wanganui River is an important introduction, or training ground for novice canoeists. Management must be directed to the lowest level of experience, while providing alternatives for the more experienced user through side trips and relevant interpretative materials and guidance.
4. User characteristics, motivations and experience all suggest that the Wanganui, and other New Zealand rivers, may experience geometric growth in canoeing. The provision of adequate educative material is essential in ensuring their safety and enjoyment, and the protection of the river and its environs.
5. The present status of the Wanganui River as a waterway through a collection of Scenic Reserves is seen as inadequate protection for this most significant resource. Both its legislative status and management should be in keeping with its unique position among New Zealand's river systems.

## CHAPTER 2.

### 2. INTRODUCTION

#### Origins

This Report is a joint undertaking between Lincoln College and the Wanganui River Scenic Board. Its principal objective is to provide user-information which in conjunction with other essential resource information will offer a substantive basis for management planning. As such, this report which looks at users, their motivations, characteristics, satisfactions and management preferences, may be unique in such a planning venture.

#### Methodology

Three methods have been employed to accumulate the data base analysed in this report.

1. A questionnaire survey of all those canoeists, rafters, or other boaters who prior to their trip recorded their names and addresses with the Taumarunui Police. (Appendix 1.)
2. A system of data gathering by the River Ranger and his assistants. This device cross checked other data in an empirically useful way in that it compensated to a large extent for those river users who do not register their intentions with the Taumarunui Police. (Appendix 2.)
3. Unstructured interviews with representatives of other user groups to elicit differences in points of view or competing demands for the one resource.

#### Reliability of Results

Difficulties were experienced with the initial and major survey in that many canoeists use temporary addresses for their river excursions. Consequently, many questionnaires never reached their intended destinations. Nevertheless, 56 percent (N = 335) of those registered during the 1977/78 period returned their questionnaires.

Reports from the River Ranger suggest that registrations at the Police Station represent approximately one third of those who canoe the River between Taumarunui and Pipiriki. Of the other two thirds, most were contacted by the Rangers and data from these contacts have been included in the results.

Because the non-randomness of the sample

must inevitably be open to criticism, the authors have taken some care to point out that those who register are indeed cross-sectional of canoeists in that they include a smaller group of experienced canoeists leading a larger fraction of inexperienced canoeists down the river. The repetitive and consistent appearance of this style of group arrangement is strongly supportive of the representativeness of the data base.

Given the additional checks of River Ranger observations and data gathering, plus the in-depth interviews with river-users, the authors believe these results to be reliable indicators of the general opinions of river users as well as indicating the range of extreme views - all of which are of significance for management planning.

### The River Resource

Without doubt the Wanganui River is unique. Its origins in the lore of the Maori establish it as a special place, carved by the mountain, Taranaki, on his angry path to the sea. To the Maori who lived inland, it provided a pathway to the sea as well as products from its waters and surrounding forests. To the early European it provided access inland and became a noted tourist resort. Thousands of people travelled its length by steamboat and were enthralled by its tranquil beauty and fiery rapids. The feats of the early river users remain accessible to the curious and venturesome who travel the Wanganui River today.

But it is today's users we are primarily concerned about, and numerically, canoeists are the largest group. For most of them the Wanganui is a first great adventure through unspoilt wilderness. The total experience is a unique admixture of physical, social and intellectual opportunities which cannot be rivalled elsewhere in New Zealand. Notwithstanding the requirements of this user group, management must consider a generation of jet-boaters and several generations of those that hunt, fish, tramp or explore. There are also those who enjoy the river because they 'know it is there' and that it is part of their heritage. Thus we must acknowledge the thousands of 'users' who drive alongside the river, who read about it or see pictures of its scenic attractions. To all of these, some management consideration is due, but over-riding



sectional concerns and interests is a shared concern for the basic integrity of the resource in its 'natural' state. This clearly remains the most compelling single objective.

'Wilderness' as prescribed by most respondents is essentially a concept which requires 'human observers' and is not easily defined. Active management must, nevertheless, pursue this goal above all others because all other goals are subservient to it. Second, management must facilitate river use in ways which foster the physical, social, and intellectual experiences so valued by its user groups.

Management of the Wanganui must set a pattern for other rivers. Unless management is seen to be far-sighted and positive for this important waterway, the diverse possibilities of our New Zealand rivers for recreation and nature preservation may never be realised.



3. RESULTS

SECTION I.

Experience.

1. Pre-trip
  2. Post-trip experience or intentions.
  3. Discussion.
-



## 1. EXPERIENCE

### 1.1 Pre-trip Experience

Three aspects of experience were taken into consideration.

1. Experience canoeing other rivers.
2. Experience of canoeing on the Wanganui.
3. Number of years involved in canoeing.

Information on (3) above was coded in with (2) to enrich the meaning of 'experience'. Hence a canoeist who made one trip every four or five years would not be categorised as experienced.

#### General Canoeing Experience

59 percent had no previous experience  
 29 percent had some experience (a few rivers)  
 12 percent had medium to extensive experience  
 (many rivers)

#### Previous Trips on Wanganui

55 percent were on their first trip  
 19 percent were on their second trip  
 14 percent were on their third or fourth trip  
 12 percent were on their fifth to twelfth trip

### 1.2 Post-trip Experience or Intentions

Because the survey sample includes those whose first trip down the Wanganui may have been several years ago, as well as those for whom the trip was a first, some have had the opportunity to continue canoeing while others can only note their intentions.

Three levels of information emerge:

1. Intend to canoe the Wanganui again.
2. Intend to canoe other rivers.
3. Have canoed other rivers.

#### Intend Canoeing Wanganui Again?

63 percent intend to do trip again  
 8 percent are not intending to  
 29 percent don't know

Other Rivers Planned?

73 percent plan to do other rivers  
 23 percent do not plan to do other rivers  
 4 percent don't know

Have Canoeed Other Rivers?

64 percent had not canoeed any other rivers  
 31 percent had canoeed one or two other rivers  
 5 percent had canoeed several other rivers

1.3 Discussion

Three points of prime importance emerge.

1. Large numbers of canoeists have no experience before canoeing the Wanganui River.
2. For many of them it serves as a catalyst, leading them to other rivers and therefore, a significant recreational style.
3. Because 45 percent of respondents were on a repeat trip it is likely that they in turn are introducing novices to the river. This suggests the likelihood of a rapid, rather than a steady increase in river usage. Indeed, the pattern may well be exponential.

The significance of this river for beginning canoeists emerges as a clear message for recreation planners. Not only must the Wanganui River be managed in ways which meet the needs of the least experienced, but authorities charged with the responsibility of administering other notable canoeing rivers must also be prepared for an increasing commitment to planning for canoeists among other river users or river uses.

It must be pointed out however, that many canoeists do not register at the Taumarunui Police Station and, at the best, assumptions about non-registering canoeists are only a guess. It is clear from the results that experienced canoeists do register and subsequent checks show some of these to be

among New Zealand's leading administrators of the sport. Until better evidence is available, the Wanganui Scenic River Board must gear its level of management to the less experienced rather than the more experienced.

Additional suggestive, if not supportive evidence, for the likelihood of increased use is readily available. Egarr (1977) describes canoeing as one of the three fastest growing sports in New Zealand and personal communication with boat dealers indicates that sales of non-motorised craft are currently soaring.



SECTION II.

Who are the Canoeists? A demographic profile.

1. Dwelling.
2. Age.
3. Sex.
4. Marital status.
5. Age of children.
6. Children present on trip.
7. Education.
8. Occupation.
9. Discussion.

## 2. DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION: WHO ARE THE CANOEISTS?

### 2.1 Where do They Live?

Canoeists		New Zealand	
Metropolitan	42%	Metropolitan	50.4%
Other Urban	51%	Other Urban	32.6%
Rural	7%	Rural	17.0%

### 2.2 Age

Age categories sought for this survey were of necessity arranged differently from the census categories. But while direct comparisons are not possible, the raw data have been regrouped to produce a near approximation. (Tabulated on following page.)

### 2.3 Sex

Canoeists		New Zealand	
Male	Female	Male	Female
84.0%	16.0%	Approx 50%	Approx.50%
(73.0%) <sup>1</sup>	(27.0%) <sup>1</sup>		

1. These figures from observational data December 1978 - January 1979.

### 2.4 Marital Status

Canoeists		New Zealand	
Married	48.0	Married	66.5
Single	52.0	Never married	23.4
Other (information		Other	10.1

Survey Categories		
Age in Years		
Canoeists	%	NZ <sup>1</sup>
< 16	6.4	31.7
16-19	17.0	7.6
20-22	16.4	8.3
22-25	11.6	
26-30	14.0	8.0
31-40	16.0	12.1
41-50	12.8	10.1
51-60	5.2	9.5
60+	0.6	12.5

<sup>1</sup>Data for New Zealand Society presented in this report are extrapolated from the 1978 official Year Book. For the most part they relate to the 1976 General Census.

## 2.5 Age of Children

Sixtyfive percent of respondents did not have children. The figures below are thus an adjustment of the 35 percent of the sample that did.

0 - 5 years	19%
6 - 10 years	25%
11 - 15 years	21%
15+ years	33%

## 2.6 Children Present on Trip

65.0%	Did not have children.
21.0%	Had children but children not with them.
7.0%	Had children with them but age unspecified.
1.0%	Children under age 12 with parents.
6.0%	Children over age 12 with parents.

## 2.7 Education

Canoeists		Canoeists Regrouped	New Zealand
11.0%	2 yrs. secondary	] = 39.0	79.21
14.0%	school certificate		
9.0%	university entrance		
5.0%	7th form year		
18.0%	trade exams	] = 21.0	14.5%
3.0%	Teachers' College		
12.0%	part degree	] = 40.0	6.5%
16.0%	university graduate		
7.0%	advanced degree		
5.0%	other		

## 2.8 Occupation

These were classified according to occupational prestige (after Davis 1977) but have been regrouped here for simplicity and clarity.

Canoeists		New Zealand <sup>1</sup> (over 15 years)
42.0%	Professional/Managerial	21
27.0%	Skilled trade	78
5.0%	Other	-
26.0%	Students	3% <sup>2</sup>

1. These data only relate to the current New Zealand work force.
2. This figure represents the percentage of the total New Zealand population undertaking full time tertiary education. The age structure of canoeists would suggest, however, that some canoeists are secondary school pupils.

## 2.9 Discussion

Demographic data are always a problem. They tell you whether the aggregate of respondents are similar to, or different from, the general New Zealand population. But most recreational activities draw from discrete sections of the population anyway and will thus always look different, e.g. netball is specific to females, bowls tends to attract older people. What is more important is first to have a demographic profile of canoeists and to ask how factors within this profile might affect access to canoeing. Secondly, is the question of change. Changes within education, factors prompted by economic conditions, fads promoted by commercial interests or campaigns such as 'come alive New Zealand', are all examples of powerful forces for change in the recreational field. Demographic information which leads to a profile of canoeists is thus a starting point for enquiry into change and hence, informed

management. In extracting planning information from demographic data much care is necessary and generalisations such as those listed below should not be considered in isolation from the rest of the report.

- Canoeists are predominantly urban, more so than the general population.
- Canoeists come mainly from the 16 to 30 year age group, peaking at approximately 25 years. Relative to the rest of the population they are over-represented in all age groups from 16 to 50 and under-represented both before and after that.
- Relative to the rest of the population:
  - . fewer are married
  - . canoeing is male dominated
  - . they have had longer education
  - . have higher qualifications
  - . have more highly paid occupations
  - . have longer vacations.

Being an active pursuit it is not surprising that younger age groups dominate, but as it is still a relatively new recreational option (in a 'mass' sense) there could well be future changes in age distribution. Young canoeists of the 1970's still have to decide whether to continue canoeing once married with families and whether or not it can become an option for the whole family. The survey provides some evidence to suggest that canoeing has the potential to develop as a family recreation. Several canoeists took very young children with them and 14 percent of parents over-all (or 41 percent of those that had children), had some, or all of their children with them.

Although the high levels of education of canoeists has been noted, it is by no means unique to this sport. Most outdoor resource-based pursuits are the same. Similar findings are available for tramping and climbing and a partial explanation may be found in the nature of school activities available to senior secondary school pupils. Sixth and seventh form pupils have traditionally been involved to a greater extent than lower classes in organised outdoor education activities. While these in the past were tramping and camp craft/bush craft oriented, many schools have now formalised outdoor education programmes including canoeing.



Numbers of schools have purchased 'fleets' of canoes and are preparing interested teachers as instructors. The long-term significance of this is likely to be considerable. Only small numbers of those exposed to canoeing through school need become enthusiasts and an extra generation of canoeists will be seeking outlets for their interests - and this will include the Wanganui.

SECTION III.

Party Size and Composition: The Nature of Groups.

1. Size.
2. Composition.
3. Role of commercial operations.
4. Discussion

### 3.1 Party Size

Party size ranges from a small percentage of two-person groups through to large organised parties of 20 plus. The average group size observed during the peak of the 1978-79 summer was 10.

### 3.2 Companions

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4.0%	one other only
40.0%	friends
20.0%	family and friends
8.0%	family only
28.0%	organisation

---

#### 3.2.1 Composition

Forty three percent of the parties covered by the survey did not have any females in their group, while 4.0% had no males in the group.

#### Numbers of Males and Females per Party

---

Numbers of Males and Females per Party									
4.0%	Zero males in party				43.0%	Zero females in party			
3.5%	1	"	"	"	15.6%	1	"	"	"
11.0%	2	"	"	"	15.0%	2	"	"	"
12.0%	3	"	"	"	3.0%	3	"	"	"
13.0%	4	"	"	"	11.0%	4	"	"	"
22.0%	5-6	"	"	"	7.0%	5-6	"	"	"
9.5%	7-8	"	"	"	3.0%	7-8	"	"	"
6.0%	9-10	"	"	"	0.6%	9-10	"	"	"
19.0%	> 10	"	"	"	1.6%	> 10	"	"	"

---

### 3.3 Role of Commercial Operators and Voluntary Organisations

Nearly one third of the groups surveyed were organisation based. This includes two commercial operators who 'outfit' a party and guide them down the river as well as traditional voluntary organisations such as Scouts, Boys Brigades, Venturers, and Guides. Because the 'clients' of organised groups are constantly changing and the principal 'guides' remain relatively stable and lead trips year after year they must be of special interest to management. For example, they could provide access to one of every three canoeists for educational programmes, the identification of these people, and some system of communication with them could be a very useful management tool.

### 3.4 Discussion

The question of party size is one which must be constantly reviewed. Large groups are seen as a 'threat' by small groups. They represent competition for limited bank space and camp sites. In fact, they overwhelm any existing hut facility. Further discussion of this point will be dealt with later but it may some time be necessary to place an arbitrary limit on party size, or better still, to persuade canoeists or party organisers to do this themselves.

Composition of groups is of sociological interest. It may be conjectured that the ratio of females in parties will increase over time as sex-role stereotyping continues to weaken and if school-based introduction to canoeing expands.

Party size as well as numbers of parties is of special significance to quality of experience. While a beginning canoeist may be fully satisfied with a 'large-group' experience, this is not the case for seasoned canoeists. Although it is recognised that the Wanganui is not generally the choice of experienced canoeists, some consideration for this aspect of experience should be a management responsibility.

SECTION IV.

Trip Analysis: Pre-trip.

1. Motivation and information
2. Timing.
3. Vacation length.
4. Discussion.

## Section IV. Trip Analysis: Pre-trip.

### 4.1 Motivation and Information

Questions in these areas sought reasons for respondents making the decision to canoe the Wanganui and how they found out and gained information about it.

#### 4.1.1 Motivations to make the trip

- 
- |     |    |   |
|-----|----|---|
| 33% | 1. | Wanted the physical challenge.  |
| 32% | 2. | Because friends were going or as a regular trip or to take someone new. |
| 15% | 3. | Because of beauty of area.  |
| 8%  | 4. | To 'get away from it all'.  |
| 6%  | 5. | Live nearby - wanted to do it.  |
| 4%  | 6. | Opportunity for leadership training.                                    |
| 2%  | 7. | Combination of 2 and 4.   |
- 

#### 4.1.2 Information source

- 
- |     |    |   |
|-----|----|---|
| 37% | 1. | Heard about trip from friends.                          |
| 26% | 2. | Heard from a club or organisation they were members of. |
| 24% | 3. | Had previous trip experience.                           |
| 9%  | 4. | Family lived in area.                                   |
| 2%  | 5. | Read about it in publications.                          |
| 2%  | 6. | Combination of 1 and 5.                                 |
- 

### 4.2 Trip taken at this time of the year because:

- 
- |     |    |   |
|-----|----|---|
| 66% | 1. | Coincided with holidays.                              |
| 16% | 2. | Group constraints (most could take this time easily). |
| 9%  | 3. | Time chosen to avoid crowds.                          |
| 8%  | 4. | Weather and river conditions were favourable.         |



## 4.3

## Vacation Length

---

1.0%	one week
14.0%	two weeks
24.0%	three weeks
8.0%	four weeks
1.0%	five weeks
1.0%	six weeks
1.0%	seven weeks
34.0%	eight or more weeks
16.0%	not applicable <sup>1</sup> (self employed)

---

Note: <sup>1</sup>If self-employed, most respondents took three weeks annual holiday.

4.4 Discussion

The reasons for making a canoe trip down the Wanganui represent a most valuable source of information. Arising from it are important questions for management. That is, how can management maintain or enhance the conditions which most people are seeking? Of the responses, most are in some ways open to management options. For example, the physical challenge may become diluted if the water level is allowed to fall below a level which maintains reasonable rapids, or if an over-supply of facilities removed the sense of adventure and adversity. The second ranked set of motivations are all social in origin but are, nevertheless, dependent to some extent on maintenance of the scenic and wilderness values, plus facilities which enhance social opportunities.

A trip enjoyed once is repeated for self and for others, to experience again the rewards of a previous visit, or just to join good friends. All of these reasons highlight the importance of the social dimension of river-running. The third major reason highlights the beauty of the area and finally, respondents just want to escape from civilisation. These two motives are closely linked while the remainder of the motives are of little consequence to this report.

Motivations tend to be a constellation of reasons, rather than 'one shot' reasons, and are often very difficult for participants to articulate. Clearly, however, it is the wilderness qualities which provide the setting for groups of close friends who enjoy physical challenge to undertake their pursuits in a unique environment. All of this, plus the excitement of novelty are features which Wanganui River trips readily foster.

Availability of information must remain a question mark. Eighty seven percent were reliant on second hand information and nine percent lived in the area. Only a small group were inspired to make the trip because of publicity.

This report does not suggest that this is necessarily a problem. Once people become attracted to canoeing, the avenues for obtaining information, especially through clubs, is readily available. Access to this information should be facilitated by adequate publicity. It is certain that this is not currently the case.

Timing of trip and length of vacation are not seen as important to management except for the nine percent of people who deliberately chose their time to avoid crowds. This tendency is likely to increase as those who love the river attempt to repeat their experience in less crowded conditions.

A final noteworthy point is the large number (34 percent) who have eight or more weeks holiday. This reflects the strong influence on this recreation of teachers and students. The long term implications of this is simply that it is likely to increase.

SECTION V.

Trip Analysis: Craft and Equipment.

1. Craft type.
2. Equipment taken.
3. Subsequent evaluation of equipment.
4. Discussion.

Section V. Trip Analysis: Craft and Equipment.

## 5.1

---

Craft Type

---

36%	Canoe only in party
48%	Kayak only in party
13%	Both in party
4%	Rubber raft
3%	Dinghy

---

## 5.2

---

Equipment taken on trip

---

8%	Minimum gear taken (no tent or stove).
66%	Adequate gear taken (tent or stove).
9%	Adequate, plus <u>additional</u> (e.g. rifle, fishing rod).
4%	Adequate, plus safety equipment, (spare paddles, etc.)
13%	Adequate, plus safety, plus <u>additional</u> equipment.

---

## 5.2.1

---

Tents and/or stoves

---

75%	Carried tents
45%	Carried stoves
18%	Carried neither tents nor stoves

---

## 5.3

---

Evaluation of gear taken in retrospect

---

46%	Would take no more, no less, equipment.
32%	Would take <u>more</u> gear for greater comfort.
11%	Would take <u>less</u> gear for comfort.
6%	Would take <u>more</u> gear for <u>more</u> activities.
3%	Would take more gear to <u>increase</u> safety.
1%	Would take <u>less</u> safety gear.
1%	Would take less gear for activities.

#### 5.4 Discussion

Craft used are predominantly canoe or kayak type<sup>1</sup> with a few people using rubber rafts or dinghy type craft. These appear to be the most suitable in that they provide optimal experience for one or two people. Type of craft chosen within this range does not appear to be of particular concern to management.

The amount of gear taken is of considerable concern and it would seem from the survey results that while three quarters of the parties carried tents and nearly half carried stoves, almost 20 percent relied entirely on the facilities they expected to find available. The figure is possibly higher than this but the trend is sufficient to warn management that either facilities to cope for these 'unprepared' river users are provided, or that river users are educated to adequately prepare for their trip.

Some combination of these solutions is probably the ideal.

Additional equipment taken for comfort or to facilitate 'other activities' drew a mixed response. Half of the respondents are satisfied with what they took but the majority of the balance are less than satisfied. They would take more equipment on a future trip. This suggests inadequate pre-trip information. Of the balance, some would take less safety or emergency equipment, thus further supporting the need for adequate information. Most would take more equipment to enrich their 'other activities'.

---

<sup>1</sup>It is unlikely that many respondents clearly distinguish the canoe/kayak difference. It may be best to consider them as one for this study.

SECTION VI.

Trip Analysis: Travel to and from Starting Point.

1. Organisation of transport.
2. Distance travelled.
3. Stops on way.
4. Other activities on way.
5. Time taken to get to and return from river.
6. Entry and exit points.
7. Costs.
8. Discussion.



SECTION VI. Travel to and from Starting Point.

6.1 Organisation for Return Transport

46%	Picked up by arrangement.
26%	Shuttle vehicles beforehand.
14%	Land party following.
8%	'Hitched' back to car.

Note: Shuttle system does not involve people other than those in the party.

6.2 Distance Travelled Excluding River

%	Km	%	Km
3%	< 100	16%	500-599
5%	100-199	12%	600-699
13%	200-299	9%	700-799
14%	300-399	16%	> 800

6.3 Stops on Way/Return

71%	Made no stops.
29%	Made stops.

6.4 Reasons for Stops (of the 29% who made stops).

45%	To visit scenic or other interest spots.
27%	Social - to visit friends.
13%	Trip maintenance.
8%	Continue holiday.
7%	Other.

6.5	Time Taken to get to River.	Return from River.
	88% One day.	88% One day.
	8% Two days.	7% Two days.
	4% Three to six days.	3% Three to six days.
		2% More than 10 days

6.6	Entry Point	Exit Point
	91% Taumarunui	73% Phipiriki
	1.5% Kakahi	9% Points south of Phipiriki.
	1.8% Te Marie	10.5% Wanganui
	1.5% Wades Landing	7.5% Other points north of Phipiriki.
	1.5% Poukaria	
	2.7% Other	

6.7	Costs \$
	36% < 20
	32% 21-40
	15% 41-60
	5% 61-80
	4% > 80
	8% Didn't respond

#### 6.8 Discussion

Organisation of transport at the down stream end of the journey can be a problem but apart from the 11 percent who rely on 'hitching', or hire a vehicle, all seem to get by.

The distance travelled by road reveals little new information. It does confirm the metropolitan origins of many canoeists, and more important,

indicates a willingness to travel considerable distances to canoe this river. It may also be speculated that as most North Island urban centres are linked by rail to both Taumarunui and Wanganui, long-term arrangements for enterprising canoeists could be independent of private transport.

Most canoeists have a single objective. The majority completed the commuting side of their trip without interruption in a single day each way. Of the 29 percent who did other things on route, scenic stops or social visits were important. For eight percent, the river trip was part of a longer holiday.

For most canoeists, the Taumarunui/Pipiriki section of the river is the most popular but the River Ranger<sup>1</sup> notes that large numbers canoe some part of the upper river but leave the water before the confluence of the Ohura. Few, if any of these canoeists register with the Police and this survey has no information about this user group.

A final comment in this section concerns costs. Respondents offered an approximation of the cost of their trip but variation of conditions under which the sum was arrived at makes them rather useless. It does seem however, that costs are not excessive to the point where they would deter would-be canoeists and thus restrict access to this sport or this river.

---

<sup>1</sup>Ombler, J. pers. comm. 1979: estimates 1000 canoeists travelled some part of the upper river over the summer period of 1978/79.

Time Taken to get to river	Return from River
88% One day	88% One day
7% Two days	7% Two days

SECTION VII.

Trip Analysis: On the River.

1. Time on the river.
2. Where camped.
3. Health.
4. Activities.
5. Expectations.
6. Satisfactions.
7. Sections of river most enjoyed.
8. Perceptions of crowding.
9. Perceptions of environmental degradation.
10. Discussion.

100	21
13	21-45
15	41-65
52	61-80
41	71-75
27	didn't respond

Discussion

Organisation of transport at the end of the journey can be a problem but more than the 11 percent who rely on 'hitchhiking' and hire a vehicle - all need to get by.

The distance travelled by road remains little new information. It does confirm the importance of origins of new candidates, and more important, whether they are...

Trip Analysis: On the River

7.1 Time Spent on the River Trip

---

0.6%	One day
8.0%	Three days
19.0%	Four days
34.0%	Five - six days.
20.0%	Seven - eight
13.0%	Nine - ten
5.4%	> ten.

---

7.2 Where Camped: Popularity of Sites (ranked).

---

Site 1.	Site 2.	Site 3.	Site 4.	Site 5.
Te Marie	Ohura	John Coull	Tieke	Tieke
Poukaria	Mead	Kirikiroa	John Coull	Un-named
Un-named	Kirikiroa	Tieke	Un-named	John Coull.

---

Note: 77 percent of respondents stayed one night only at each site.

7.3

Health

---

54.0%	No illness.
34.0%	Stomach complaints
6.0%	Sunburn
2.0%	Physical injury
1.0%	Unspecified problems
3.0%	Preventitive measures succeeded.

---

## 7.4 Activities Other than Canoeing the Main River.

## 7.4.1 Rank order according to time spent.

1. Historical sites visited.
2. Relaxing.
3. General exploring.
4. Swimming.
5. Nature observation.
6. Photography.
7. Side trips by water.
8. Sunbathing.
9. Goat hunting.
10. Fishing.
11. Tramping.
12. Pig hunting.

## 7.4.2 Activities Ranking by Importance to Participants.

First	%	Second	%	Third	%
Relaxing	27	Historical sites	16	Exploring	1
Nature observation	19	Nature observation	16	Historical sites	1
Historical sites	17	Exploration	15	Swimming	
Exploring	12	Relaxation	12	Side trips	
Swimming	7	Swimming	9	Photography	
Photography	4	Photography	9	Relaxing	
Side trips	4	Side trips	8	Nature observation	
Goat hunting	2	Tramping	4	Tramping	
Sunbathing	2	Goat hunting	3	Goat hunting	
Tramping	2	Sun bathing	2=	Fishing	
Fishing	1	Fishing	2=	Sunbathing	
Pig hunting	1	Pig Hunting	1	Pig hunting	

Note: All percentages have been rounded and do not necessarily total 100 percent. Where two activities are shown to have the same percentage, the first in column is ranked ahead unless shown as equal.



---

7.5 Fulfilment of Expectations

---

- 45% River trip met up to their expectations.
  - 9% River trip exceeded their expectations.
  - 46% River trip did not meet expectations.
- 

---

7.5.1 Why it failed to meet expectations for the above 46% (reworked out of 100)

---

- 72% White water not up to expectations.
  - 20% Pollution of river spoilt trip.
  - 3% Weather spoilt trip.
  - 3% Found river too crowded.
  - 1% Hunting not up to expectations.
  - 1% Presence/quantity of goats shocked them.
- 

7.6 Satisfaction with Experiences.

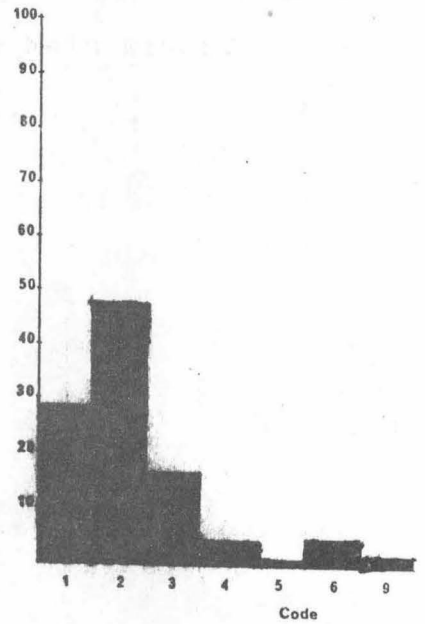
The following graphs represent levels of user satisfaction separated into seven key areas.

Historical and Scientific Interests

Legend

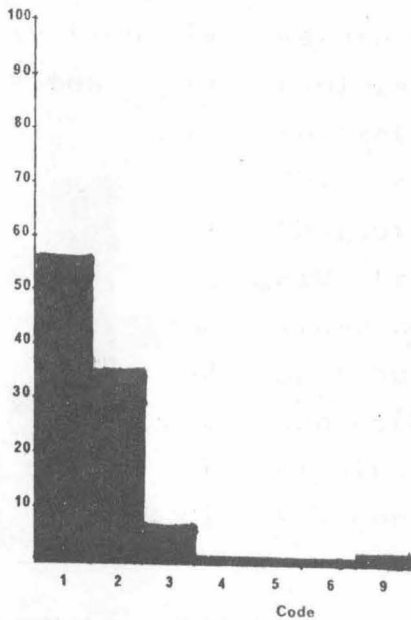
- 1 Very Satisfied
- 2 Satisfied
- 3 Neutral
- 4 Dissatisfied
- 5 Very Dissatisfied
- 6 Didn't Apply To My Trip
- 9 No Response

Percentage of Respondents



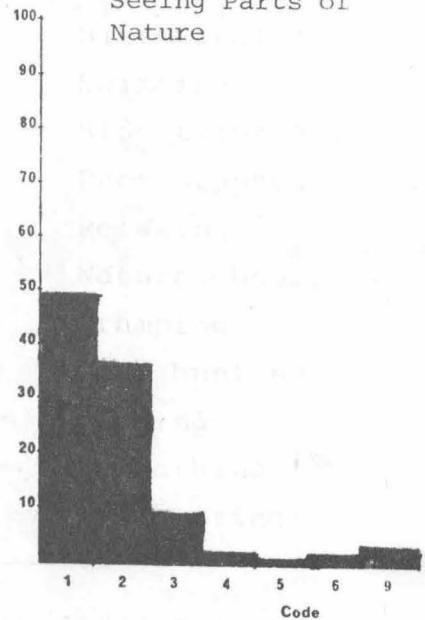
Social Aspects

Percentage of Respondents

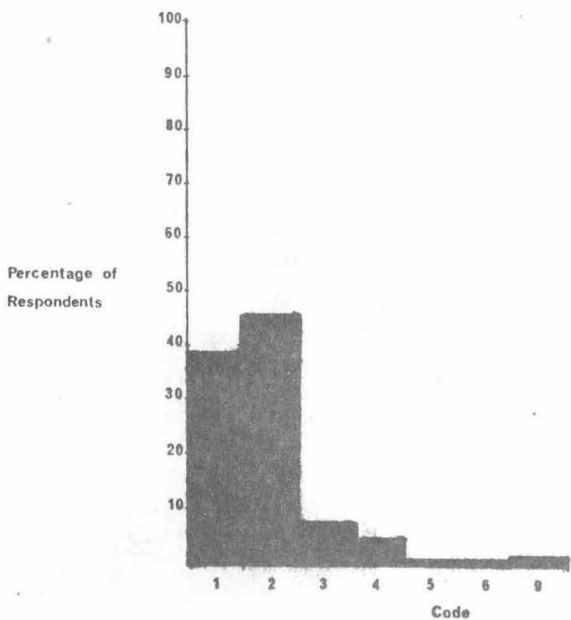


Observing and Seeing Parts of Nature

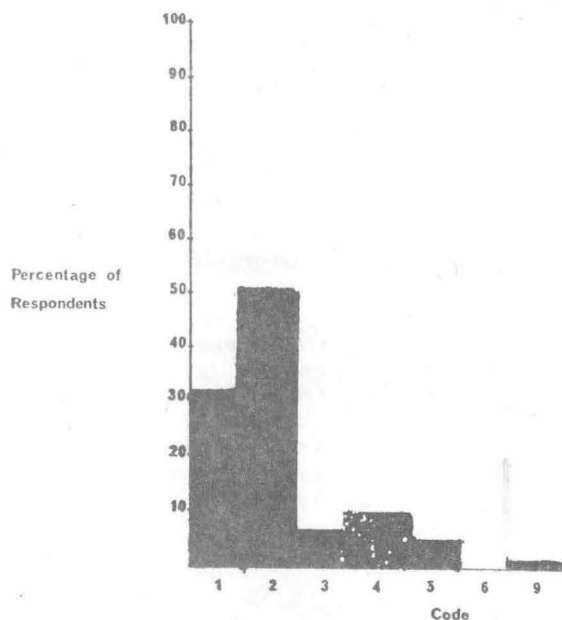
Percentage of Respondents



Camping

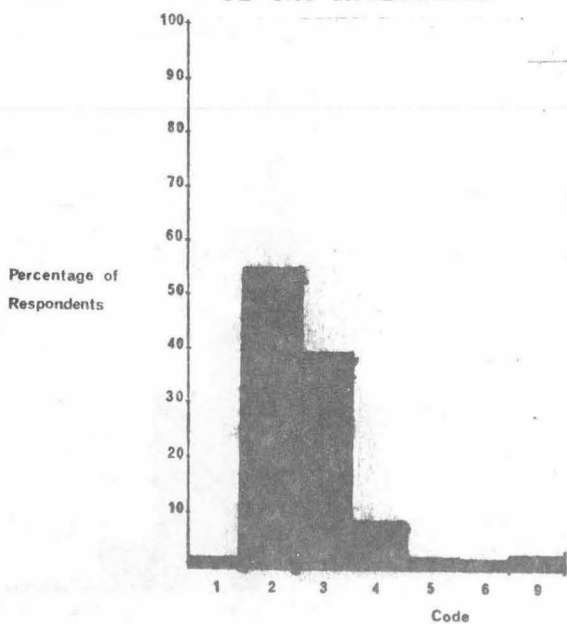


White Water

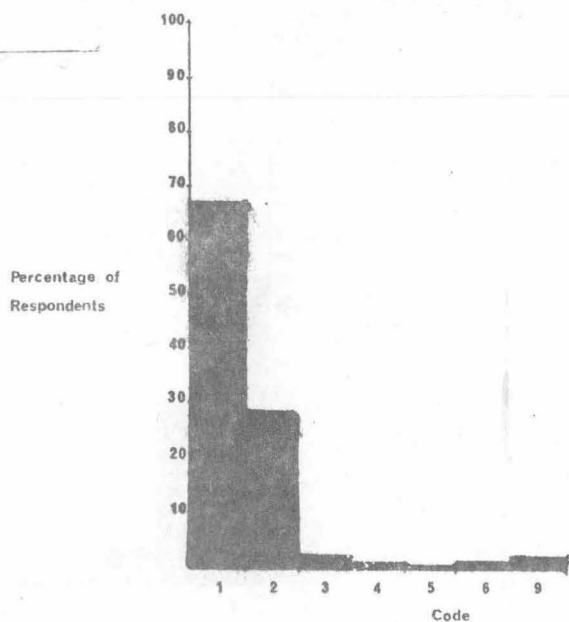


- 1 Very Satisfied
- 2 Satisfied
- 3 Neutral
- 4 Dissatisfied
- 5 Very Dissatisfied
- 6 Didn't Apply To My Trip
- 9 No Response

Physical Effort of the Recreation



Solitude Experience



## 7.7 Sections of River as evaluated by canoeists.

Legend: See map over page.

Section A = Whakapapa confluence to Taumarunui.

" B = Taumarunui to Wades Landing (Gorge starts).

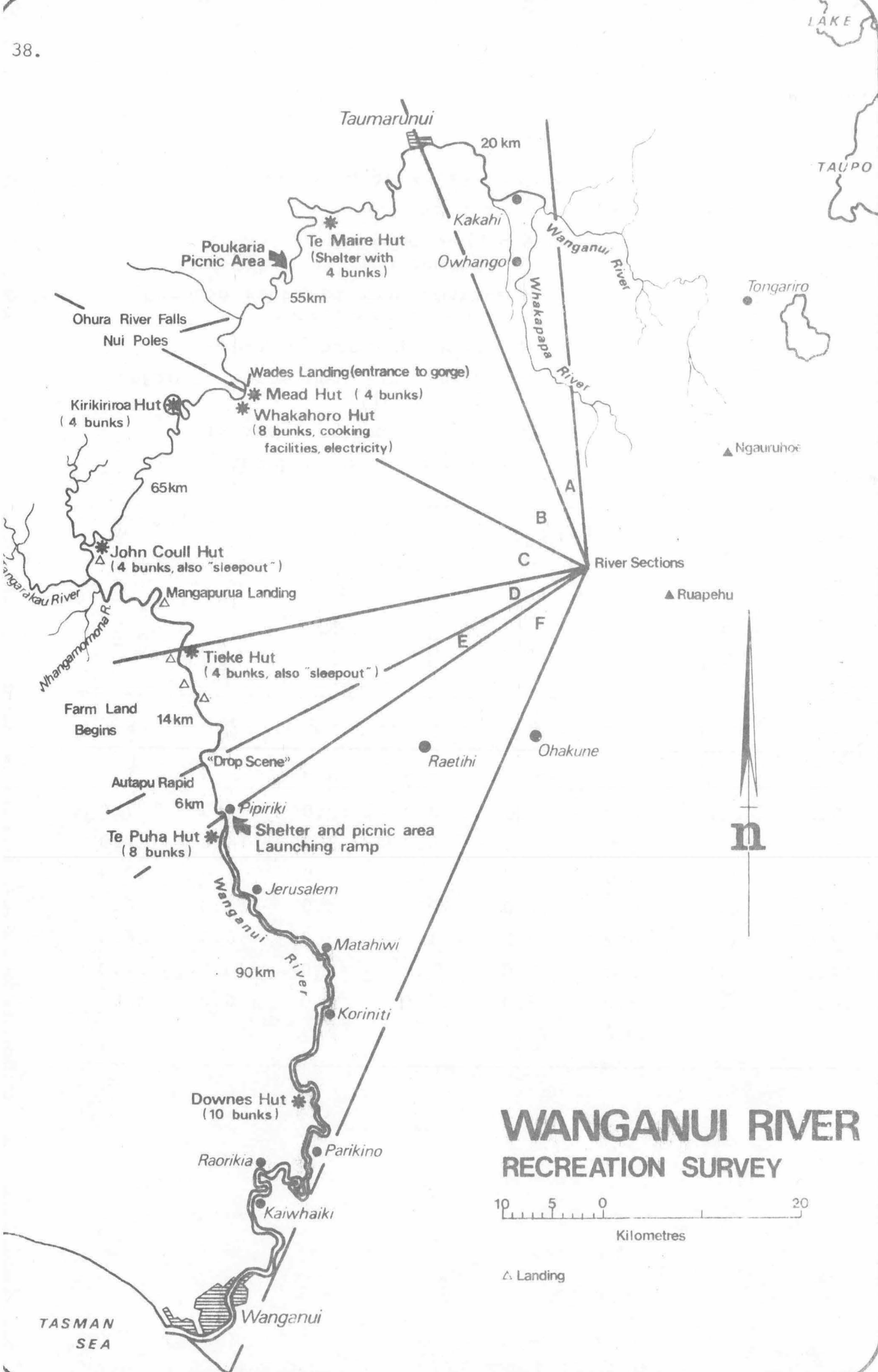
" C = Wades Landing to Tieke.

" D = Tieke to 'Drop scene' (Gorge finishes).

" E = Drop scene to Pipuriki.

" F = Pipuriki to Wanganui.

Section of river	Environmental Degradation	Most Scenic Parts of Trip	Best Fishing	Best Hunting	Best White Water	Areas Wild-life seen	Sections Most Enjoyed	Sections Least Enjoyed
A	1.0	1.0	0.5	0.0	2.0	0.3	0.3	1.0
B	8.0	12.0	4.0	3.0	30.0	12.0	13.0	7.0
C	5.0	31.0	8.0	10.0	8.0	23.0	14.0	7.0
D	6.0	10.0	2.0	3.0	9.0	12.0	7.0	12.0
E	3.0	4.0	0.3	1.0	30.0	4.0	11.0	6.0
F	3.0	1.0	0.2	0.5	1.0	2.0	0.9	16.0
All	24.0	36.0	2.0	2.0	5.0	40.0	48.0	2.0
None	50.0	5.0	3.0	2.0	15.0	8.0	6.0	49.0
N/A			80.0	78.0				



# WANGANUI RIVER RECREATION SURVEY



△ Landing

TASMAN SEA

LAKE

TAUPO

Tongariro

▲ Ngauruhoe

▲ Ruapehu

Raetihi

Ohakune

n

River Sections

A  
B  
C  
D  
E  
F

Taumarunui

Kakahi

Owhango

Te Maire Hut  
(Shelter with 4 bunks)

Poukaria  
Picnic Area

Ohura River Falls  
Nui Poles

Wades Landing (entrance to gorge)

\* Mead Hut (4 bunks)  
\* Whakahoro Hut  
(8 bunks, cooking facilities, electricity)

Kirikiriroa Hut  
(4 bunks)

\* John Coull Hut  
(4 bunks, also "sleepout")

Mangapurua Landing

\* Tieke Hut  
(4 bunks, also "sleepout")

Farm Land Begins

Autapu Rapid

Te Paha Hut  
(8 bunks)

Shelter and picnic area  
Launching ramp

Jerusalem

Matahiwi

Koriniti

Downes Hut  
(10 bunks)

Raorikia

Parikino

Kaiwhaiki

Wanganui

20 km

55 km

65 km

14 km

6 km

90 km

Wanganui River

Whakapapa River

Whangamomona R.

Whangarei River

LAKE

TAUPO

Tongariro

▲ Ngauruhoe

▲ Ruapehu

Raetihi

Ohakune

n

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A  
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Ohakune

n

River Sections

A  
B  
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D  
E  
F

Taumarunui</

## 7.8 Perceptions of Crowding and Over Use.

WACANANUS RIVER - RECREATION SURVEY (INTERVIEW FORM)

### Meeting Others on the River

46%	Met other groups who were also canoeists.
28%	Met other groups who were <u>not</u> canoeists.
17%	Met other groups including both above.
9%	Did not meet anyone else.

### Does Seeing Other Recreationists Worry Users

59.1%	No
29.5%	Yes
11.4%	N/A or No Response

But of the 29.5% who stated they were worried by other users, 64% attributed this to jet/motor boats.

## 7.9 Environmental Degradation

Although few respondents commented on their satisfactions presented in Section 7.6, the causes of environmental degradation draw the greatest number of comments and therefore, warrants further extrapolation.

### Causes of Environmental Degradation

13.1%	Water pollution.
8.7%	Rubbish/litter on banks.
6.6%	Other
3.3%	Dead animals.
3.0%	Erosion.
2.4%	'Noxious' animals

7.10 Question 8 and 16 compared.  
 8. Motivation for trip.  
 16. Satisfaction with different experiences.

Q8 Motivation	% Response	Q16 Experience	% Response: Satisfaction		
Physical challenge	33%	White water (Q16. Part B)	32% very satisfied 51% satisfied	= 83%	5% neutral 9% dissatisfied 4% very dissatisfied
		Physical effort of the recreation (Part C)	54% very satisfied 38% satisfied	= 92%	6% neutral 2% dissatisfied 1% very dissatisfied
Social motivation	31%	Social enjoyment (Part D)	56% very satisfied 35% satisfied	= 91%	6% neutral 1% dissatisfied 1% very dissatisfied 1% didn't occur
'Aesthetic motivation 'Exit civilisation'	15% 8%	Solitude (Q16. Part A)	68% very satisfied 28% satisfied	= 96%	2% neutral 1% dissatisfied 0.3% very dissatisfied 1% didn't occur
		Camping experience (Part D)	40% very satisfied 47% satisfied	= 87%	7% neutral 4% dissatisfied 0.3% very dissatisfied 1% didn't occur
	13% =	Historical and scientific interest (Part E)	29% very satisfied 47% satisfied 15% neutral	= 81%	3% dissatisfied 2% very dissatisfied 5% didn't occur
		Observing and being a part of nature (Part F)	49% very satisfied 39% satisfied	= 88%	10% neutral 1% dissatisfied 0.3% very dissatisfied 1% didn't occur



## 7.11 Discussion

- 7.11.1 Time spent on the river is modal at four to six days. This includes 53 percent of canoeists. It must be noted, however, that an additional 40 percent take from seven to ten or more days over their trip compared with the seven percent who take fewer than four days.

For most canoeists, therefore, the trip is essentially a leisurely one.

- 7.11.2 Most river users either sleep in or camp near the established huts. Exceptions to this are the river stretches before and after the gorge where a number of 'unnamed' camp sites are utilised. Most campers or hut users stay only one night at each site - (77 percent).

- 7.11.3 Health of individuals is a much discussed topic among river users and does indeed seem to be a matter of concern. More than one in three contract stomach disorders of some sort. Other health problems such as sunburn are also noteworthy.

It would seem from in-depth discussions that all experienced river users are aware of the likelihood of stomach disorders if unboiled water is consumed during the trip. Indeed, most illness is attributed to this factor. Notwithstanding access to this information, discomfort persists. The need for more effective warnings is clear.

- 7.11.4 Of all the alternative activities to the major objective of canoeing the river, four activities stand out as especially significant. These are in order of overall merit.

First: The exploration of historical sites.  
 Second: General exploring.  
 Third equal: Nature observation, relaxing  
 (including swimming).

A fifth ranked activity; photography, serves to place the balance of activities in perspective. Hence, fishing, hunting, tramping (or side trips), are relatively unimportant to this group of recreationists. The link however, between side trips and 'exploration of historical sites', or 'general exploring' is tenuous. These expressions of interest are almost certainly best considered as a cluster than separately. That is, they go together rather than representing separate motivations. Hence, relaxation, nature observation

and exploration of historical sites are ranked in that order as first preferences. A re-working of overall preferences highlights the importance of historical sites to all river users as the number one feature. General exploration comes second and nature observation and relaxation come third. It would be absurd to consider that these features are realistically individual.

- 7.11.5 It will be informative to management to know that for the sample, the overall fulfilment of expectations for the trip were virtually evenly distributed between those satisfied and those less than satisfied. Overall however, more canoeists met or exceeded their expectations than otherwise.

Figures for those who considered their expectations not fulfilled (46 percent) were re-worked to indicate the causes of dissatisfaction.

Two factors only stand out as significant. These are:

- white water not up to expectations (72%)
- pollution of water spoiled trip (20%)
- other various (8%)

Overall however, it becomes clear that the general satisfaction of canoeists with their experience was extremely high, despite the fact that it may not have fulfilled their original expectations, e.g. for white water.

Of all the criteria noted as influential in terms of satisfaction, none could be described as under threat. It is instructive to note that the three features which receive the highest support of all are:

- solitude
  - social enjoyment
  - physical effort of the recreation
- ]=equal

Next to these, it is important to consider that 'camping experience', 'being part of nature' and 'historical and scientific' interest were all highly thought of. Finally, the experience of camping and observing and being part of nature are closely behind and clearly part of the same syndrome in action. It is therefore emphasised by the writers that while it is theoretically and statistically possible to separate these distinctions they operate together.

What remains significant is that within this 'constellation' of satisfactions, some are more open to management control than others.

7.11.6 Canoeists reported on their impressions (perceptions) of their trip in some detail. These responses indicate the following beliefs.

1. Half of all respondents thought the river showed signs of environmental degradation. Half of these (25 percent overall) find this to be the case over all the stretches of water from Taumarunui to Pipiriki. Relative to the numbers who canoed each section, dissatisfaction is highest for the areas between Taumarunui and the end of the gorge. It is the writers' interpretation that 'degradation' is seen in general terms rather than specific instances. However, this question drew a number of specific additional comments from 40 percent of respondents. Their main concern was evidence of water pollution, followed by rubbish and litter. Other concerns were the carcasses of dead animals (principally goats), live goats, and evidence of erosion.
2. The stretch of water from Wade's Landing to Tieke was thought the most scenic (31 percent). Thirty six percent enjoyed all sections.
3. Hunting and fishing were not major activities but approximately 20 percent participated in these to some extent. Best results for these sports were obtained between Taumarunui and the southern end of the 'gorge'.
4. Best white water was experienced in the sections from Taumarunui to Wade's Landing and from the 'Drop Scene' to Pipiriki.
5. Evaluations of wildlife seen rated the sections Taumarunui to the beginning of the 'gorge' as best (35 percent in combination). Forty percent were satisfied with wildlife observations in all areas and few respondents (eight percent) were disappointed.
6. The question of 'areas most enjoyed' was answered as equal for 'all sections' by 48 percent of respondents. The 'gorge' area was the least enjoyed and all other areas between Taumarunui and Pipiriki were virtually equally evaluated. When the same question was asked in the negative (i.e. the sections least enjoyed), an identical picture emerged.

7.11.7 'Perceptions of crowding' is theoretically an important question for management. Ninety-one

percent of respondents met up with, or observed other river users not in their party. Nearly half of these 'others' were fellow canoeists. A further 28 percent were jet-boaters. The other 17 percent included both other canoeists and jet-boaters.

The reaction of canoeists to 'others' shows 60 percent neutral or quite happy about this. Thirty percent found it a 'matter for concern'. A further breakdown of this response from dissatisfied respondents indicates that for 64 percent it was the presence or activities of jet boats that caused the dissatisfaction. This represents about one in five canoeists.

7.11.8 To enable comparisons to be made with other resource-based recreationists, the motivations of canoeists were synthesised into five major motivational categories. Two significant motives stand out:

1. The physical challenge (33%)
2. Social motivations (31%)

Resulting fulfilment or satisfactions from the trip were thus high. Over 80 percent were 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with the physical challenges of their trip, and over 90 percent were satisfied with the 'social' side of their trip. What must be noted by management however, is the descending rate from 'very satisfied' to 'satisfied' in specific instances. Hence, 'white water' which depends on river flow and is, to some extent a manageable commodity, was poorly rated by 35 percent of respondents. Similarly, the 'camping experience' and 'historical/scientific' experiences were not relatively highly rated. Again, both are accessible to management intervention. The first concerns facilities in terms of design and quality, while the second involves information and access.

SECTION VIII.

Opinions of River Users on Facilities and  
Management Options.

1. Huts, shelters, campsites.
2. Cooking arrangements.
3. Rubbish disposal.
4. River access.
5. Regulation of party size.
6. Regulation of use.
7. Quality of information.
8. Improvements to trips.
9. Management objectives.

### Shelter

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#### 8.1 User Preference for Huts, Shelters and Campsites

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- 42% Combination of all of above.
  - 31% Sites only.
  - 16% Huts.
  - 6% Shelters.
  - 3% See need for larger facilities.
  - 2% Other/Don't know.
- 

### Cooking

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#### 8.2 Fireplaces or Portable Cooking Equipment

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- 49.8% Fires.
  - 24.9% Both fires and cookers.
  - 21.8% Cookers (don't want fires).
  - 3.4% Don't know.
- 

### Rubbish Disposal

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- #### 8.3
- 64% Rubbish holes.
  - 26% Don't require holes (will carry out!).
  - 9.7% Combination.
- 

### Access

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#### 8.4 Provision of Access to the River

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- 75.5% No more (or minimal) accesss required.
  - 17.7% Improve access.
  - 5.0% Undecided.
  - 1.8% More maintenance on present accessways.
-



Regulation of Party Size

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8.5 Should Party Size be Regulated

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66.1% No.

33.9% Yes.

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The 32.6 percent of respondents who suggested a size limit breakdown in the following way:

Size	0-4	5-8	9-12	13-16	17-20	20+
%	1.3	9.8	9.8	3.3	5.5	2.3

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8.6 Regulations to Use

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Should Use be Regulated Now

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62.7% No.

14.3% Yes.

1.5% Don't know.

21.5% No response.

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or in the Future.

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44.5% Yes.

27.5% No.

6.0% Don't know.

21.5% No response.

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Of those who made additional comments to this question, one quarter saw regulation of use tied to environmental constraints, one quarter felt power boats should be regulated and a further quarter commented on their right to have freedom of entry at all times.



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8.7 Quality of Information

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84% Adequate.  
16% Insufficient.

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The 16 percent who see a need for additional information require it in the following areas:

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27% Maps.  
22% Hut or campsite information.  
22% Information difficult to get hold of.  
13% Lack of information on river conditions.  
12% Historical information.  
3% Signs/landmarks.  
2% Present booklet inaccurate.

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8.8 The two following questions sought open comments from respondents on:

- how their trip could be improved for others
- what should be the principal management objectives for the river.

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Improvements

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42.3% Did not respond.

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The 50.7% responding suggest:

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31% More trip details, advice on gear, etc.  
 17% More signs to landmarks.  
 15% More information, maps etc.  
 8% Improve or expand huts/shelters/campsites.  
 7% Improve facilities at huts (especially water supply).  
 6% Improve water quality.  
 5% More tracks.  
 1% Improve museum.

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10% No improvements needed.

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8.9 Management Objectives (1st two choices only).

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51% Manage as a 'wilderness' area.  
 14% Improve water quality.  
 6% More huts/campsites.  
 6% Educate users.  
 5% More recognition of historical features.  
 4% No hydro-electricity development.  
 4% Restrict power boats.  
 3% Control noxious animals.

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6% Not enough experience to comment.

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## 8.10 Discussion

From a management point of view this section is no doubt seen to be of particular significance. It is therefore, re-emphasised that no section of this report should be considered in isolation. Opinions of river users are important, but must be viewed relative to other resource management criteria including alternative opportunities for similar recreational opportunities elsewhere in New Zealand. The following analysis is intended to both represent user views and to place them in a wider perspective.

- 8.10.1 User preference for huts, shelters and campsites gives no clear indication for a specific management strategy. What it does is emphasise a hierarchy of preferences to meet a cross section of needs. Thus 40 percent of respondents favoured a combination of huts, shelters and campsites. Nearly one third of respondents favour campsites only and the mandate for this approach is interesting when compared with an only slightly smaller sample component who specifically sought huts, shelters or 'ever larger facilities'. It is the writer's belief (based on qualitative comments accompanying responses) that reactions to facilities are strongly influenced by prevailing weather conditions, presence of other users, experience, equipment carried and other factors perhaps less clearly articulated. In short, the varied responses to this question clearly indicate the need for variety in facility provision so that choice remains to a large extent the prerogative of the user, but within a framework of what is managerially possible.
- 8.10.2 Half the respondents want to have fires. One quarter want either fires or cookers. The balance see cookers only as essential.
- 8.10.3 The question of rubbish disposal found 64 percent of respondents carrying out their own rubbish while the balance favoured a combination of both. It is noted that qualitative comments heavily favoured the 'carry in - carry out' option.
- 8.10.4 Respondents were generally satisfied with access to the river. This was also true for jet-boaters who were interviewed.
- 8.10.5 The possibility of management enforcing limits on use or size of parties is an alternative to user dissatisfaction with meeting large parties

who overwhelm campsites or huts. Questions concerning restriction of use as a possible management option met with an interesting set of responses. Nearly two thirds of respondents wanted no form of regulation of party size or regulation of use at this time. However, nearly half of these respondents suggested that it may have to be restricted at some time in the future.

- 8.10.6 Additional comments made to this question indicate that:
- one quarter felt regulation of use should be tied to environmental constraints,
  - one quarter felt power boats should be regulated,
  - one quarter felt freedom of entry should be available at all times.
- 8.10.7 While the quality of information available is generally highly rated, management can note the areas of observed deficiency as ones which are generally easy to rectify if contact with canoeists before their trip is actively pursued. The need for an information facility at Cherry Grove, Taumarunui, stands out as the most appropriate means for this to be achieved.
- 8.10.8 Following on from the above was the request to respondents for suggested improvements. Fewer than half responded (42 percent) and the majority of these sought more detailed pre-trip information (trip details, advice on gear, maps and information) or more signs to landmarks while on the trip. It is again stressed that these requirements are very open to management action.
- 8.10.9 What should Management Objectives be? This question was enthusiastically answered and the first two choices of respondents have been summed to indicate both the breadth and depth of user opinion. The fact that two choices stand out above all others provides a clear indication of the priorities of canoeists. First and foremost, the wilderness qualities must be maintained. Secondly, water quality must be improved. The 51 percent who opted for management as a 'wilderness' are looking for a restriction of development and the continued protection of forests. This group must, nevertheless, be seen at present as similarly concerned about freedom and lack of restriction.

It is noted however, that a paradox exists in that the possibility of future restriction is allowed for by a majority of respondents.

SECTION IX

## Other River Users

## 9.1 Jet Boaters

## 9.1.1 Summary

## 9.2 Power Boats

## 9.3 Fishermen

## 9.4 Passive and 'Involuntary' River Users

## 9.5 Wildlife Values

## 9.6 Hunters

## 9.7 Summary

## SECTION IX.

### Other River Users and Uses: A Summary.

While the principal recreational use of the Wanganui River in a numerical sense is by canoeists, they are far from the only river users who value the resource as a unique and special part of New Zealand.

It is beyond the scope of this report to investigate other user-group opinions in any breadth, but the strategy employed of in-depth interviews with selected experts is believed to offer views which generally support those put forward in the main body of the paper. It is also suggested that any sharply varying opinions will emerge through other avenues of public participation during the management planning exercise.

#### 9.1 Jet Boaters

Four concession operators and two managers of commercial jet boat operations were interviewed. All have extensive experience of the Wanganui River.

Their views are very much in accord - one with the other, and are summarised as follows:

1. Leave the river basically as it is but ensure that the minimum water level does not drop any further. Ideally, the minimum water level should be higher.
2. Retain the wilderness qualities by protecting the bush. Fencing of principal reserves and eradication of wild animals should be rigorously pursued.
3. Keep regulations and restrictions to a minimum. Jet boaters are happy to follow requirements for safety and have their own normative rule-sets. Additional restrictive legislation on this river is unnecessary and not wanted by jet boaters.
4. No additional facilities are necessary. The existing system of huts and camp sites are seen to be adequate. Jet boaters favour campsites with adequate toilets and space for camping, plus a back-up facility (shelter) in case of bad weather.



5. Information brochures on walks and history are welcomed. The mobility and speed of jet boats gives them plenty of time to walk and explore.
6. Search and rescue operations generally depend on jet boats. One worry is that water quantity could be inadequate at crucial times to operate jet boats.
7. Water quality is seen as a real threat by jet boaters. Like canoeists, they believe substantial efforts are required to up-grade water quality.
8. Canoeists are not seen as a threat by jet boaters. They believe there is room for all river users. They do not see substantial conflict between themselves and canoeists but recognise that there is some. They blame this on the occasional irresponsible jet boater, but also point out that some canoeists are equally irresponsible. For instance, it is easy for a jet boat to give way to a canoe while travelling up stream but almost impossible while travelling downstream. Some canoeists try to 'race' jet boats through rapids thus compromising the position of the jet boat operator.

Rule sets of both canoeists and jet boaters are in accord over the required behaviours of their members vis-a-vis each other, so apart from publicising this information there may be little else that can be done.

9. Over and above information brochures, jet boaters in particular, are anxious to see a more comprehensive approach to interpretative planning for the river.
10. Of those approached, the concensus is that jet boating on this river and elsewhere, has taken a severe down turn as a result of the recent steep increases in fuel costs. It is also pointed out that the manufacture and sales of jet boats has slowed down substantially - at least in some areas of New Zealand.
11. Access: No further access or slipways are required by the jet boater interviewed.
12. Development opportunities are seen to be considerable by the commercial operators interviewed. They see substantial opportunities to offer people exciting and educational river trips which introduce aspects of history, scenic

beauty and unspoiled wilderness their clients would never experience in other ways.

#### 9.1.1 Summary

In general terms this user group does not differ markedly from canoeists. They recognise their differences and are prepared to adjust accordingly. They are nevertheless, adamant about their rights to utilise this water way. Their opposition to development - including hydro-electrical development, is similarly uncompromising. Their view in brief, is that the Wanganui River has something for everyone and should be managed accordingly, provided always that fundamental scenic and wilderness qualities are a first priority. It can be argued that the noise of jet boats violates the nature of wilderness but this purist view is historically untenable on a water way which relies on jet boats for economic and access reasons over and above any recreational claims. The legitimacy of the jet boat is therefore acknowledged and potentially conflicting aspects of their usage should be minimised by suitable publicity and sharing of information.

#### 9.2 Power Boaters

Although user figures are not available, representatives of power boat recreation have expressed their appreciation of the river resource for their purposes. This applies particularly to the first 15 miles or so of the lower Wanganui which can be negotiated by propellor driven boats. Water skiing and pleasure boating for picnics, swimming, scenery and relaxation are the principal motives.

No special management strategies have been suggested that are not covered for other groups.

#### 9.3 Fishermen

Information from fishermen suggests little, if any conflict between themselves and other river users. Indeed, very little fishing is apparently done much below Taumarunui other than by canoeists. This in turn, has led to the belief that few trout are to be found in the

middle reaches of the river.<sup>1</sup>

For the purposes of this study, an assumption is made that by supporting the maintenance of minimum water flow, and fighting for improvement of water quality and preservation of wilderness values, the basic requirements of fishermen as with other users, will be satisfactorily met.

#### 9.4 Passive and 'Involuntary' River Users

This report accepts the fact that large numbers of New Zealanders feel an affection and a sense of 'ownership' of the Wanganui River. The entire history of the Wanganui River has been such that it is part of the fabric of the life of many New Zealanders. In addition to this, there are considerable numbers of people who drive on roads that bring them into contact with the river. This includes drivers on Highway 47 below the flanks of Tongariro where the river has its source, through to Taumarunui, as well as the road from Pipiriki to Wanganui itself. It must therefore be acknowledged that to see the river as a visual experience, to see and relate it to village settlements and their origins, are all a part of a significant recreation experience highly valued by a non-vocal and un-estimated group of New Zealanders.

The responsibility of management planning for this group should involve consideration of interpretative possibilities including close liaison with the Automobile Association. The Colonial House at Pipiriki already goes part way towards fulfilling this role but with an imaginative approach there is more which could be done to serve this somewhat 'anonymous' group of New Zealand's public.

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<sup>1</sup>Ombler, J. (River Ranger), pers. comm. April 1980, reports that numbers of trout in these areas may exceed the traditional beliefs as customarily reported. The fact that trout are being captured in hinaki traps by professional eel trappers tends to support these assertions.

## 9.5 Wildlife Values

These are beyond the scope of this report but are clearly relevant to the expressed views of the majority of recreationists who seek continued maintenance of wilderness qualities. Discussions with the Department of Internal Affairs Wildlife Officer based near Pipiriki, indicate that surveys of the wildlife resources are currently in progress and will therefore be available to the Management Planning team. Important to River planning is the basic premise that wildlife in both a quantitative and diversity sense depends on the availability of habitat. Given the continuity of reserved areas of indigenous forests the first step to maintain this diversity is already achieved. Second to this must be the eradication of introduced animals which compete for food resources. A third requirement would be the extension of reserve acquisition where this could provide corridors between forested areas or which would enlarge forested areas.

## 9.6 Hunters

Only a small number of hunters were interviewed. To this group, the river and its tributaries provides access for their sport. Herds of fallow deer, pigs and goats are the main objectives of hunters. Game birds are also a possibility but this is not numerically important in the overall hunting scene relative to the former game animals.

Hunting of animals is well covered by existing legislation and this report adds nothing to the provisions already available for hunting by permit. It is clearly beneficial to the reserves to have these animals removed and all efforts in this regard should be encouraged. If recreational hunting is unable to provide adequate control, then other means must be invoked. Hunting as a traditional recreational activity along the river; must be recognised and facilitated wherever possible.

## 9.7 Summary

Passive River users, wildlife values, fishermen, and hunters are all recognised by this report as having a legitimate claim for rights to utilise the river resource. While

little supportive detail is put forward in this section, it is the writer's belief that none of these user groups are in conflict. Within reasonable limits their specific resource demands can be met without compromising the requirement of other user groups.



CHAPTER 4.

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION AND MANAGEMENT

IMPLICATIONS

## Summary of Information and Management Implications

### 1.1 Pre-trip Experience

1. Many canoeists have no previous canoeing experience.
2. Most canoeists plan to canoe other rivers. The Wanganui experience is therefore an important recreational catalyst.
3. Nearly half the canoeists were on repeat trips and were taking novices with them. Because each 'experienced' person leads more than one novice, future increases in canoeing may well be exponential as novices graduate to the experienced class and themselves lead groups down the Wanganui.

### 1.2 Implications for Management

1. Information and facilities for canoeists should as a first priority cater for the novice and the 'limited experience' recreationist.
2. Management must appreciate the importance of the Wanganui River as a catalyst for the sport in general.
3. If, as is predicted, canoeists follow their Wanganui experience with other rivers, national, regional, or local authorities elsewhere must be prepared to make an increasing commitment to planning and financing for what is certainly a growing sport.

### 2.1 Who are the Canoeists: A Demographic Profile

1. Canoeists are predominantly urban, more so than the general population.
2. Canoeists came mainly from the 16 to 30 year age group, peaking at 25. They are over-represented in age groups 16-50 years and under-represented before and after those two ages.
3. Relative to the rest of the population:
  - fewer are married
  - canoeing is male dominated
  - they have had longer education
  - have higher qualifications
  - have more highly paid occupations



4. Several canoeists took very young children with them. Half of those respondents who had children, took some, or all, with them on the trip.

## 2.2 Additional Information

Canoeing as a recreational activity in schools (especially secondary schools) has increased dramatically over the last few years.

## 2.3 Implications for Management

1. Many canoeists are not only novice in a 'skill' sense but are also young and therefore likely to be less experienced in a general sense, suggesting the need for detailed, basic information to be available.
2. Canoeing as a family or group activity is likely to increase.
3. Canoeists are likely to be receptive to programmes of 'education'.
4. Canoeing is somewhat 'elitist' in that it is over-representative of the higher socio-economic groupings and does not represent the population in general. Management planning while concerned about canoeists, must consider other areas of responsibilities which this survey only briefly deals with, such as the motorist who drives alongside the river, the sedentary non-user and other recreationists. A principle of equal opportunity and access for all people should be a basic consideration.

## 3.1 Party Size and Composition: The Nature of Groups

1. Groups of friends, or family and friends, are the predominant user groups. Organisations (clubs and concession groups) are also very important (28 percent of users). Two person parties account for only a small percentage of users.
2. Average group size is 10 canoeists. The range in size is up to 20 plus.

## 3.2 Implications for Management

groups. They are 'overwhelming' competitors for camping sites or huts. It may be desirable to limit party size by splitting groups or initiating 'group' camping sites for large parties. This could serve to meet the needs of large groups at the same time that it would maximise the experience for 'small' groups who could choose 'small' sites. At this stage it is relatively easy to identify those who regularly initiate large group trips and an appropriate communication programme would serve to achieve such a management goal. Information brochures should deliberately encourage appropriate behaviours by establishing 'user codes'.

2. While the number of females is likely to increase over time this is not seen to require different management techniques.
3. Canoeists who are initially satisfied with a 'large-group' experience, are more likely to seek a 'small-group' experience on their next trip down the river. Management programmes should recognise that canoeists needs will continue to alter with experience. Provision for both kinds of groups should be an aim.

#### 4.1 Why do Canoeists Make the Trip?

1. Three reasons are selected as most significant:
  - the physical challenge,
  - social reasons (other friends were doing the trip),
  - the beauty of the area.

#### 4.2 Implications for Management

1. Retain water levels which maintain the white-water qualities important to the physical challenge.
2. Ensure that 'social reasons' i.e. being with one's family or close friends is fostered by the physical facilities to be made available.
3. Retain or acquire sufficient lands to ensure a forrested corridor which maintains the wilderness qualities generated by the bush clad hills which generally enclose the waterway. Loss of these to development would surely diminish user satisfactions.

### 5.1 How do Canoeists Hear About the Wanganui River Trip?

1. Information received is almost entirely by chance! 'Word of mouth' via friends or organisations is the primary source of information.

### 5.2 Implications for Management

1. Management must consider whether or not it sees its role as one of promotion. If so, information which will encourage use should be prepared. Notwithstanding such a decision, any increase in use is going to mean subsequent expansion as the numbers of users available to influence others continues to increase. Management is dealing with a dynamic and potentially exponential model of increase rather than a static or linear model.

### 6.1 Timing of Trip and Vacation Length

1. These are not seen to be of special significance to Management except for:
  - A small percentage of canoeists who deliberately choose off-peak times to avoid crowds and as such, highlight this option as one available to canoeists who are sensitive to crowding.
  - Over half the canoeists have four weeks' or more holiday. Of this number, the majority have eight or more weeks.

### 6.2 Implications for Management

1. Deliberate manipulation of use throughout the year must remain an alternative for management, if this helps maximise use and/or experience.
2. Users with eight or more weeks' vacation are likely to be teachers or students. Because education has become more readily available, the long-term implications are that this group will continue to expand. Long vacations means that they may be a group with sufficient flexibility to choose their time to canoe the river in accordance with whatever restrictions may ultimately be needed to maintain quality experiences on the river.

### 7.1 Equipment

1. Because of the significance of this area of information for management, the essential figures from the body of the report are summarised in terms of what the canoeists didn't have:
  - one quarter had no alternative shelter to the huts provided,
  - half had no alternative to open wood fires,
  - 18 percent had neither tents nor stoves,
  - only half were satisfied with the equipment they had taken with them.

### 7.2 Implications for Management

1. Encourage self-sufficiency.
2. Provide sufficient facilities to cope with the numbers who are not self-sufficient or who prefer facilities.
3. Undertake a comprehensive education programme which prepares these recreationists for their experience and which elicit most desirable user behaviours.

### 8.1 Organisation of Trip

1. Most canoeists came from North Island urban centres.
2. Most canoeists are able to make satisfactory transport arrangements to commence, and to be picked up after their river trip.
3. For most canoeists the river trip is their primary and only objective.
4. Most canoeists travel the Taumarunui/Pipiriki section of the river but this does not account for a large number of canoeists who may travel other reaches, but do not register at Taumarunui and leave the water before reaching Pipiriki.

## 8.2 Implications for Management

1. Most aspects of organisation and travel seem quite satisfactory. It is important however, that management considers the significance of future changes in energy resources. Given that these are likely to change, canoe trips could still be organised by bus or rail. It is a recreational activity that can be organised using a variety of public transport systems. This may however, require users to canoe the less popular section from Pipiriki to Wanganui. Thus, the facilities downstream from Pipiriki which are currently under-utilised should be regarded as potentially important and maintained accordingly.

## 9.1 Time on the River

1. For most users the trip is essentially leisurely. While the modal time is four to six days, 40 percent of users take seven to ten days. Only seven percent take less than four days. Support for this leisurely approach is found within the 'motivations' section which stresses 'relaxation', as an important satisfaction.

## 9.2 Implications for Management

1. Encouragement of this leisurely approach can be fostered by provision of information which stimulates side trips for natural history, historical or general exploration and use of the reserves. It also means that facilities (huts and camp sites) cannot be too far apart.

## 10.1 Where Camped

Most canoeists sleep in, or camp near the hut sites and stay only one night at each site. Twenty-five percent stay more than one night.

## 10.2 Implications for Management

Carrying capacity at any one time may be overwhelmed by this group of 25 percent who stay more than one night at each site. Any increase of information for side-trips or alternative activities is likely to increase 'stop-over' numbers



### 11.1 Health During Trip

More than one in three canoeists contract stomach disorders. Sunburn is the other major problem.

### 11.2 Implications for Management

1. Install and maintain tank water supply.
2. Provide specific information on precautions such as using sunscreens, boiling drinking water and use of side stream sources. Additional advice on camping hygiene would also be important. Involve other authorities and groups in attempts to improve water quality.

### 12.1 Activities and Satisfaction

The physical satisfactions of the canoeing experience is the number one and other satisfactions all stem in part from this.

### 12.2 Activities

1. Exploration, particularly of historical sites is the most important alternative activity.
2. Relaxing or to be and feel 'relaxed' is a state of mind or a physical state which is pervasive for all activities.
3. Nature observation and the 'presence' of nature are important.
4. Photography (obtaining a record of the trip) is important.
5. Fishing, hunting and tramping (other than the walk to an historic site) are important for only 20 percent of canoeists but are possibly important to other specific groups of recreationists. Trout fishing is not reported as an important activity very far downstream from Taumarunui.

### 12.3 Satisfactions and Dissatisfactions

Half of the sample were totally satisfied with all aspects of their experience. For the remainder, various aspects of their trip did not meet up to expectations. This comment needs to

be placed into perspective. For 72 percent of this group the 'white water' did not meet expectations and for 20 percent, river pollution was offensive.

For overall satisfactions:

1. Highest ranked of satisfactions was solitude.
2. Next ranked are social enjoyment and the physical effect of the recreation.
3. 'Camping experience', 'being part of nature', and 'historical and scientific' interest were also important.

#### 12.4 Implications for Management

Satisfaction with activities must be looked at in total as they are logically interdependent and strongly influence motivations for similar or repeat trips. In recognising this, management must positively attempt to influence a number of contributing factors.

These are:

1. Water quantity which must be negotiated with the appropriate authorities to ensure a supply which meets the requirements for canoeing, jet-boating and other water based recreation.
2. Water quality which has been reported as having declined over recent years, partly as a result of headwater diversion. Close liaison with other 'authorities' may help with this problem.
3. Maintenance of wilderness values which constantly emerge as an essential pre-requisite to other user-satisfaction.
4. Maintenance of 'social experiences' by careful monitoring of facilities, conditions and numbers which will maximise 'quality of experience'.

#### 13.0 Section VIII: Opinions of River Users on Facilities and Management Options:

##### 13.1 Accommodation

Response was divided between those requiring huts,



shelters, campsites or combinations of these. No clear mandate is available and it would appear that users prefer the option of deciding on accommodation in terms of the prevailing conditions - particularly weather, and the size of the party.

### 13.2 Implications for Management

Provide adequate hut or shelter accommodation to ensure user-safety. Huts should generally be small (much as at present) and where feasible, could have adjacent camp sites. Where shelters are envisaged as an alternative to huts, they too could have nearby camping areas.

If it were possible, the pattern of distribution of these facilities should be consistent and regular to enable users to plan their travel patterns.

Given these general guidelines, other management criteria would appear more important than user preferences in making decisions on accommodation.

### 13.3 Cooking

Seventy-five percent see fires or combination of fires and 'cookers' (gas or other fuel) as desirable.

### 13.4 Implications for Management

Provide fireplaces but encourage users (through pre-trip information provision) to be self-contained in case of emergency and to collect wood before reaching their daily destination.

### 13.5 Rubbish Disposal

Only a minority (25 percent) of users favour a 'carry in carry out' policy, while a further 11 percent prefer a combination of carry out and rubbish holes. The balance (64 percent) favoured rubbish holes.

### 13.6 Implications for Management

As the digging of rubbish holes cannot be sustained in the long-term a user-education

programme should be stressed. Such a programme would advise on selection of foods and containers to minimise rubbish and would encourage the development of norms favouring the carrying out of non-combustible items.

### 13.7 Access

Respondents, including jet boat owners interviewed, were generally satisfied with access.

### 13.8 Implications for Management

No further access is required in the immediate future.

### 13.9 Restrictions on Use

Almost two-thirds of users rejected the concept of restrictions of use at this time. However, half of these foresee a time when it may be necessary to limit river use. It is the writer's opinion that replies to such questions invariably reflect a 'last settler' syndrome in which the current user perceives present use-levels as ideal and wants to see it stay that way.<sup>1</sup>

### 13.10 Implications for Management

At least for the foreseeable future, the only constraints on carrying capacity are likely to be environmental. Given the capacity of accommodation and camp sites to cope with increasing numbers, user experience is unlikely to be affected by this increase.

### 13.11 Availability of Information

While the quality of information available is appreciated, users generally required more pre-trip information.

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<sup>1</sup>'Sociological carrying capacity and the last settler syndrome.' Neilsen, J.M., Shelby, B. and Hass, J.E. (1977). Pacific Sociological Review 20 pp, 568-581.

### 13.12 Implications for Management

The provision of a manned information facility at or near Cherry Grove (Taumarunui) should be the Board's aim. This would virtually ensure that a majority of users are intercepted at the beginning of their trip, thus aiding their enjoyment of the trip while ensuring a degree of management control not presently available. The suggestion gains added strength from responses to 'suggested improvements' where almost half of the respondents required more detailed pre-trip information and advice.

### 13.13 Future Management Objectives

Overwhelming response to this question indicated two major concerns. First and foremost was the maintenance of wilderness qualities, and secondly, that water quality must be improved.

### 13.14 Implications for Management

The implications are two fold:

1. Preservation of the natural environment requires that indigenous forest be preserved in such a manner that it not only fulfils the minimum visual requirements of the immediate visible landscape, but also fulfils the need for expansive and continuous areas of protected vegetation which will ensure the satisfactory maintenance of wild-life populations.
2. That water quality must be improved and that the quantity must be maintained or increased.

These two management strategies are so clearly defined by users that the Wanganui River Scenic Board must be left in no doubt of the depth and breadth of these beliefs.

Other 'requests of management' may be referred to in the main text but generally reflect sectarian 'wish lists' when compared with the concern for maintenance of wilderness and water qualities.

CHAPTER 5.

CONCLUSIONS

### CONCLUSIONS

While the management implications, which are spelt out elsewhere in this report, are the principal conclusions from this research, two further aspects warrant a special mention.

The writers have been impressed by the intensity of public feeling for the Wanganui River. This has its roots in the beliefs of the Maori which are as enduring today as ever they were. It is an imperative that the enduring qualities of Maoridom be a basic underlying premise for all interpretative strategies, and in addition, that the management plan in general is seen to be sensitive to the long standing use of the river by the Maori.

A second belief is that the preservation of the Wanganui is significant to New Zealand as a nation, and not just to those who actively use it. This includes its wilderness, its physical challenge, its social opportunities, and the sense of adventure that it offers to its many users, but it is also the view from the road, the painting or post-card, the knowledge that 'its there' or perhaps knowing that the expertise being applied to the management of this river may be available to guide planners concerned with other rivers. In these terms, its management will be seen as a national issue, rather than a regional concern. Hence, the management plan itself will in many ways be looked to as a model, or prototype from which other riverways may come under thoughtful management.

It is the conclusion of the writers that this report is a genuine reflection of the beliefs and concern of the user-public for the future management of a most significant natural resource. It is by no means a last word in the area of public participation and it is expected that other opportunities will be available for individual and group input before any plans become a final management document.

LAKE

TAUHU

Tongariro

▲ Ngauruhoe

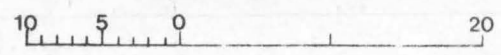
▲ Ruapehu

● Raetihi

● Ohakune

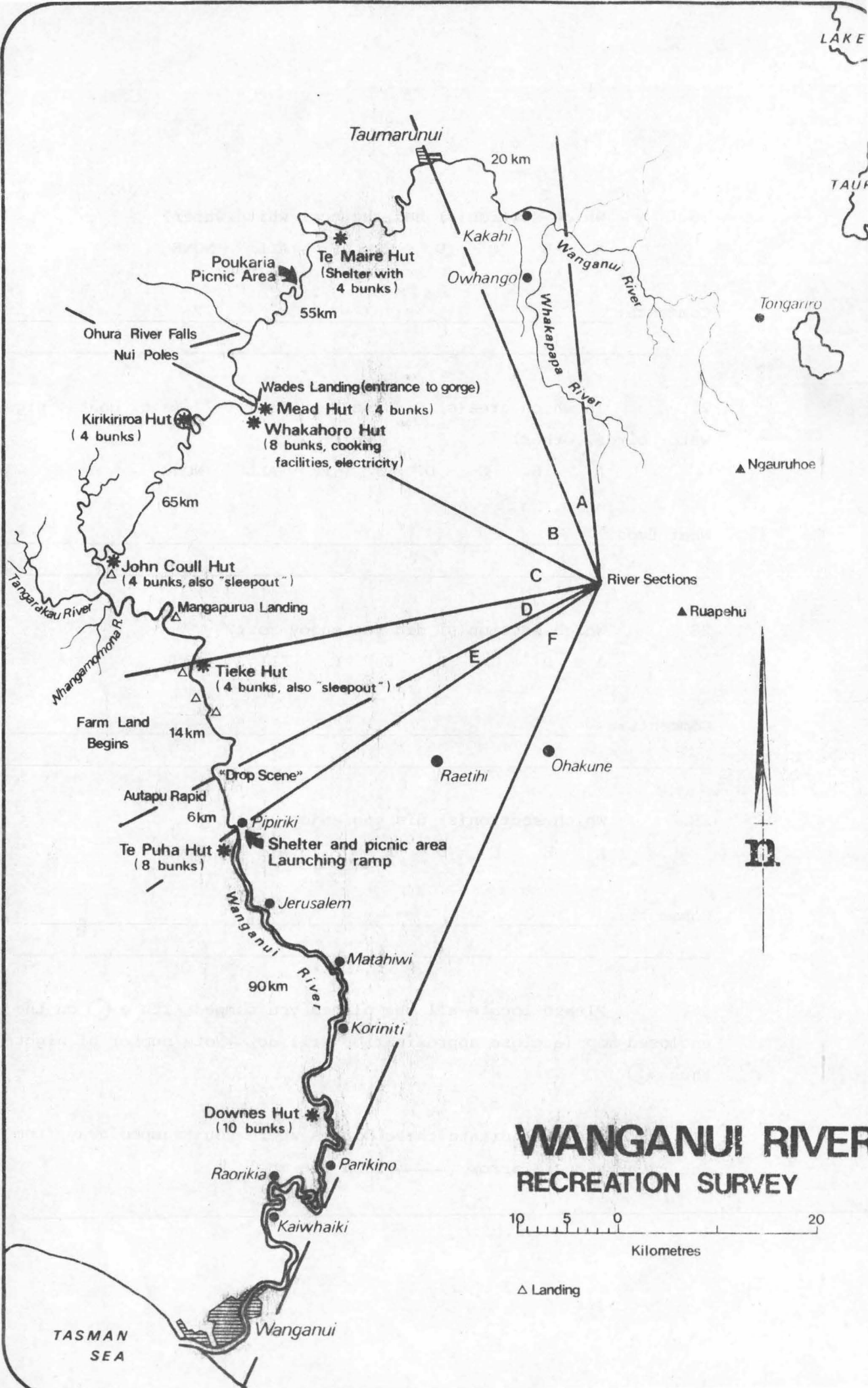


# WANGANUI RIVER RECREATION SURVEY



Kilometres

△ Landing



Taumarunui

20 km

Kakahi

Owhango

Wanganui River

Whakapapa River

\* Te Maire Hut  
(Shelter with 4 bunks)

Poukaria Picnic Area

55 km

Ohura River Falls  
Nui Poles

Wades Landing (entrance to gorge)

\* Mead Hut (4 bunks)

\* Whakahoro Hut  
(8 bunks, cooking facilities, electricity)

Kirikiriroa Hut  
(4 bunks)

65 km

\* John Coull Hut  
(4 bunks, also "sleepout")

Tangarakau River

Mangapurua Landing

\* Tieke Hut  
(4 bunks, also "sleepout")

Farm Land Begins

14 km

Autapu Rapid

"Drop Scene"

6 km

Te Puha Hut  
(8 bunks)

Pipiriki

Shelter and picnic area  
Launching ramp

Jerusalem

Wanganui River

90 km

Matahiwi

Koriniti

Downes Hut  
(10 bunks)

Raorikia

Parikino

Kaiwhaiki

TASMAN SEA

Wanganui



APPENDIX I.

YOUR OPINION DOES MATTER! THE RESPONSES THAT YOU GIVE US ON THIS QUESTIONNAIRE AND MAP ARE SIGNIFICANT. PLANNERS AND MANAGERS KNOW WHAT YOU BELIEVE IS IMPORTANT IF THEY ARE TO SATISFY THE NEEDS OF THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE USING THIS AREA FOR RECREATION. ALL INFORMATION WILL BE CONFIDENTIAL AND USED ONLY FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS STUDY. THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION.

PART A.

This section seeks information on the organisation of your trip and your previous experience with river recreation. Please tick or respond as appropriate.

1. How many trips have you made down the Wanganui?

1  2  3  4  5  or more

2. Had you travelled other rivers before your first Wanganui River Trip? Yes  No

If Yes: Which rivers? \_\_\_\_\_

How many times? \_\_\_\_\_

Over what number of years? \_\_\_\_\_

Other comments \_\_\_\_\_

The questions which follow apply to your most recent Wanganui River Trip.

3. Who did you go down the Wanganui River with?

_____	By yourself	_____	Family and Friends
_____	Husband and Wife only	_____	Friends only
_____	Couple	_____	Organisation
_____	Family	_____	Other (please specify)
_____	Family and Relatives	_____	_____



4. What was the number of people (by age group) in your party?

No. Females	No. Males
___ under 16	___ under 16
___ 16-19	___ 16-19
___ 20-22	___ 20-22
___ 23-25	___ 23-25
___ 26-30	___ 26-30
___ 31-40	___ 31-40
___ over 40	___ over 40

5. Type of boat you used on your boat trip?

___ Canoe	___ Kayak
___ Rubber Raft	___ Jet Boat
___ Dinghy	___ Other (please specify)

\_\_\_\_\_

6. What was the approximate date you:

Left home \_\_\_\_\_  
Started your trip down the river \_\_\_\_\_  
Finished your trip on the river \_\_\_\_\_  
Arrived home again \_\_\_\_\_

7. Did you stop to visit any areas on your way to or from starting your river trip? Yes  No  If Yes where? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. We would like to know what gave you the incentive to make this trip. Can you say what source of information or contacts motivated your Wanganui River Trip?

Please comment \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. Were you able to get adequate information on or about the trip? Yes  No

9. continued.

If not please comment on information which would have been helpful. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. Why did you take your trip at the particular time you did as opposed to an earlier or later date?

\_\_\_\_\_ Coincided with my vacation time

\_\_\_\_\_ Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

11. What gear/equipment did you take with you?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

12. Looking back: Would you take anything else or were some items superfluous? Please elaborate.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

13. How did you organise return transport? Please detail. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

14. About how many kilometres was the round trip from home to home? (river excluded). \_\_\_\_\_

15. Did you or any member of your group suffer from illness or accident during your trip? Yes  No

Please comment on your diagnosis of this, its duration, cause, treatment you adopted etc. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PART B.

This section asks you to think back on your trip and to evaluate your experiences.

16. How satisfied were you with the following experiences. Indicate your satisfaction by circling one number after each statement (A-H) below.

	1 Very satisfied	2 Satisfied	3 Neutral or No opinion	4 Dissatisfied	5 Very dissatisfied	6 Didn't apply to my trip
A. Solitude, uncrowded areas, being away from the rush of civilisation.	1	2	3	4	5	6
B. White water (the rapids).	1	2	3	4	5	6
C. Camping experience.	1	2	3	4	5	6
D. Social enjoyment.	1	2	3	4	5	6
E. Historical and scientific interest.	1	2	3	4	5	6
F. Observing and being a part of nature.	1	2	3	4	5	6
G. The physical effort of the recreation.	1	2	3	4	5	6
H. Other (please list).						
_____	1	2	3	4	5	6
_____	1	2	3	4	5	6
_____	1	2	3	4	5	6

Comments

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17. Did the river meet up with your expectations? (please comment)

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18. Please tick the activities you undertook during your trip and the approximate time spent doing each. Please rate them in their order of importance to you 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Time (hours)</u>	<u>Importance</u>
_____ Fishing	_____	_____
_____ Goat hunting	_____	_____
_____ Pig hunting	_____	_____
_____ Tramping	_____	_____
_____ Nature observation	_____	_____
_____ General exploring (land)	_____	_____
_____ Side trips (water)	_____	_____
_____ Looking at historical sites	_____	_____
_____ Swimming	_____	_____
_____ Photography	_____	_____
_____ Relaxing	_____	_____
_____ Sun bathing	_____	_____
_____ Other (please list)	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Comments

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19. Were you passed or did you pass other river users?  
Yes  No . Were they doing the same as you? Yes  No .

Did meeting the other party(ies) worry you or affect your enjoyment of the trip? \_\_\_\_\_

20. The following situations are things you might have encountered on your Wanganui River trip. Please indicate how each affected you. Circle the number after each statement which best shows your reaction to these situations. If you did not encounter or experience these on your trip, then mark final column to indicate that it did not occur.

	I enjoyed it a lot	I enjoyed it a little	It didn't matter	It bothered me a little	It bothered me a lot	Did not occur this trip
A. Finding litter along the river or at campsites.	1	2	3	4	5	6
B. Camping at a place with no toilet facilities or shelter.	1	2	3	4	5	6
C. Meeting no other parties.	1	2	3	4	5	6
D. Seeing man-made features.	1	2	3	4	5	6
E. Camping at a place that shows substantial amounts of use.	1	2	3	4	5	6
F. Camping at a place where several other parties are camped.	1	2	3	4	5	6
G. Noise from planes or other man-caused disturbances.	1	2	3	4	5	6
H. Others not listed or comments on any of the above.	1	2	3	4	5	6
_____						
_____						
_____						
_____						



PART C

The following items refer to the adjoining map. Please refer to it in answering and mark as appropriate.

21. Mark the map at your point of entry and exit from the river and state the sections of the river covered.

22. Were there any section(s) in which you felt there were too many people?(please circle)

- A B C D E F ALL NONE

Please comment on those places you felt were crowded. (be as precise as possible).

23. If you saw or experienced any environmental deterioration or other related problems, in which section(s) did these occur?

- A B C D E F ALL NONE

What were they?

24. Which section(s) did you enjoy most for their scenic qualities?

- A B C D E F ALL NONE

Comments:

25. What section(s) had the best fishing/hunting?

- A B C D E F ALL NONE DIDN'T FISH/HUNT

Comments:

26. Which section(s) had the best white water?

A B C D E F ALL NONE

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

27. In which area(s) did you see wildlife? (e.g. goats, pigs, water birds, other)

A B C D E F ALL NONE

What type? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

28. Which section(s) did you enjoy most?



A B C D E F ALL NONE

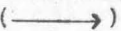
Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

29. Which section(s) did you enjoy least?

A B C D E F ALL NONE

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

30. Please locate all the places you camped with a  on the enclosed map (a close approximation will do). Note number of nights thus 

31. Please indicate those places where you tramped away from the river with an arrow () on the map.



32. Do you plan to do this trip again in the future?

Yes  No  Don't know

Reasons - if yes \_\_\_\_\_

- if no \_\_\_\_\_

33. Do you plan a similar type of trip again? e.g. to canoe other rivers? Yes  No

If your trip was sometime ago, have you had other trips since? Yes  No

If yes, which rivers? \_\_\_\_\_

PART D.

This section seeks your ideas on management and improvement possibilities .

34. What do you think the principal objectives for management of this river should be?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

35. Do you think that recreational use of the Wanganui River should be regulated:-

At the present time? Yes  No  At some future time? Yes  No

Comment: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

36. Do you feel there should be more stringent controls or limits placed on the size of parties using the Wanganui? Yes   
No . If Yes, what should be the maximum number of people in a party? \_\_\_\_\_

37. Should rubbish holes be dug or should river users carry out all rubbish with them?

Please elaborate: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

38. Should use of fireplaces be encouraged or should river users be expected to carry portable cooking equipment?

Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

39. Do you prefer huts, simple shelters, camp sites or some combination of these? \_\_\_\_\_

Reasons: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

40. What provisions should be made for access to the river? (e.g. ramps etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

41. What suggestions do you have that would improve this trip for others? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

PART E.

This section is to gather simple data about the kinds of people who mostly travel the river. Because some of this information may seem to invade your privacy we again assure you that you can remain anonymous and that all information will be completely confidential.

42. What is your: Age? \_\_\_\_\_
43. Sex? M  F
44. Occupation (indicate position) \_\_\_\_\_  
e.g. School teacher(primary)  
e.g. Carpenter (self-employed)
45. Where do you live? \_\_\_\_\_
46. Marital status? Married  Single
47. Do you have any children? Yes  No   
If yes, what are their ages? \_\_\_\_\_
48. Were they with you on this trip? Yes  No
49. What is the highest level of education that you have completed?  
\_\_\_\_\_ 2 years secondary \_\_\_\_\_ Teachers' College Graduate  
\_\_\_\_\_ School certificate \_\_\_\_\_ Part degree  
\_\_\_\_\_ University Entrance \_\_\_\_\_ University Graduate  
\_\_\_\_\_ Further secondary \_\_\_\_\_ Advanced degree  
\_\_\_\_\_ Trade exams \_\_\_\_\_ Other
50. How many days of paid vacation do you have each year? \_\_\_\_\_
51. If self-employed, how many days of vacation do you take each year? \_\_\_\_\_

52. Approximately how much did your trip cost?

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

How many people did these costs include? \_\_\_\_\_

53. Do you belong to any organisations that are primarily concerned with conservation and/or outdoor recreation?

Yes  No

If Yes please specify:

Conservation Grqups

Outdoor Recreation Groups

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

54. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your Wanganui River trip? If so please use this space for that purpose.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Your contribution to this effort is very much appreciated. Please enclose this questionnaire in the prepaid envelope and mail as soon as possible. Thank you.



(To be completed by River Ranger)

APPENDIX II

WANGANUI RIVER - RECREATION SURVEY (INTERIM FORMAT)

Site Number \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Location \_\_\_\_\_

Weather \_\_\_\_\_

Observer \_\_\_\_\_

USERS

Number in party \_\_\_\_\_ Males \_\_\_\_\_

Females \_\_\_\_\_

Composition of Party (e.g. family, friendship group, club group, other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Travel: Single canoe \_\_\_\_\_  
Double canoe \_\_\_\_\_  
Canadian \_\_\_\_\_  
Raft \_\_\_\_\_  
Jet boat \_\_\_\_\_  
Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

	M	F
Age Group: School age	_____	_____
School age - 19	_____	_____
20 - 29	_____	_____
30 - 39	_____	_____
40 - 49	_____	_____
50+	_____	_____

ACCOMMODATION AND SITE USE

Type of Shelter: Tent \_\_\_\_\_  
Hut \_\_\_\_\_  
Nothing \_\_\_\_\_  
Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Length of Time at Site: Nights \_\_\_\_\_ Hours \_\_\_\_\_

Cooking Medium: Fire \_\_\_\_\_  
Portable Stove \_\_\_\_\_

Fire Use: Cooking \_\_\_\_\_  
Warmth \_\_\_\_\_  
Social \_\_\_\_\_  
Drying gear \_\_\_\_\_

IMPACT ON SITE

Vegetation Crushing (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Use of Natural Materials to improve Camp Site (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Toilet Facilities or Alternatives \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Use of Firewood \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Evidence of Fires \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Rubbish Left on Site (quantity) \_\_\_\_\_

(type) \_\_\_\_\_