SITE SELECTION AND DEVELOPMENT
CONSIDERATION FOR MULTI-LEISURE
RECREATION COMPLEX

22 sites were considered in the original Sub-committee meeting for a potential site for the Cultural Complex. It was the feeling of the sub-committee that many of the sites eliminated themselves due to inaccessibility, or generally accepted that there were areas of higher import as related to the criteria of scenic beauty, multiplicity of resources, and further agreed to narrow their thinking to those sites which might possibly be most readily available. The enclosed map of the State of Washington indicates those sites which were first considered, as well as those sites which were ultimately visited by part of the sub-committee. The sub-committee viewed first hand the following areas:

Fort Flagler
Fort Worden
Lake Cle Elum
Leavenworth
The Ocean beaches in general
Potholes Reservoir
White Pass

In keeping with the guidelines, heavy consideration was given to the sites as they would relate to having a direct statewide significance and would in effect serve the entire State of Washington as well as encourage tourism.

It is acknowledged that no one site would necessarily have all of the features desirable, nor would have all of them in the highest quality. The attached chart of the various areas attempts to show in brief form both the strengths and weaknesses of each of the sites. It becomes obvious that the sub-committee's feelings about many of the original sites was very valid as it relates to accessibility and abundance of resources. Further consideration must be given to the definition of a 12-month use season, inasmuch as in one site there is a great deal of winter sports activities by way of snow, while in others there is a greater season of ongoing activities.

In three specific areas there is a great deal of local interest which could be very helpful in the creation of a cultural-recreation center, and should not be discounted.

All of the sites visited have a great deal of potential for such a Center. However, it must be acknowledged that if financing is a prime factor, then more weight should be given to those areas which are already developed -- i.e., White Pass, Fort Worden, or those areas which have been already acquired by some governmental agency -- i.e., White Pass Potholes, the Ocean Beaches, Fort Flagler and Fort Worden.
FORT FLAGLER

Fort Flagler is located at the northwest part of our State, which removes it from the population areas of eastern Washington, and further, has two built-in stumbling blocks - the ferry and the toll bridge. Although it does currently have a number of buildings, none of them are permanent and would need to be replaced prior to the initiation of any comprehensive program. Fort Flagler is a very beautiful area, however, with an abundance of flora and fauna, as well as scenic beauty and historical significance. It is also blessed with a small rainfall, and has considerable local support behind it.

FORT WORDEN

Fort Worden contains the same basic stumbling blocks as Fort Flager, and essentially has the same natural assets with two notable exceptions. There are a number of more permanent buildings which could be possibly made available and would allow for an immediate initiation of programs on a limited scale. It was not acquired on an historical grant, and therefore could be used for recreation in total. Fort Worden has one problem which is also perhaps an asset, and that is its proximity to Port Townsend. It should be noted that there is a lack of still waters for sailing and water skiing.

LAKE CLE ELUM

Lake Cle Elum, although originally a lake is now enlarged considerably through the construction of a dam. It is unfortunate that there is a great fluctuation of water level in the reservoir which makes it highly undesirable. The flora and fauna of the Lake Cle Elum area is most abundant, and it is adjacent to manifold facilities and to the natural mountain lakes and trails. There is good local support for such a project. It should be noted that Lake Cle Elum is considerably closer to the overall center of the state than many of the other areas, as well as being on a well developed four lane, all winter, mountain route. Although a mountain pass has been noted in several cases, this would be true on all sites inasmuch as the east would go west and the west, east. There is some public ownership on Lake Cle Elum and considerable private ownership which would be available.

LEAVENWORTH

The Leavenworth site is located on the Icicle River which has a small dam for constant water level and is adjacent to the confluence of the Wenatchee River and relatively near to Lake Wenatchee. The site has ample land, although is currently in private ownership and is adjacent to a large federal holding. The site is near skiing, although water skiing and boating would be somewhat limited. As in the Fort Worden site, the proximity to the town of Leavenworth is both a draw-back and an asset. The town is attempting to, in a very delightful way, create a Bavarian atmosphere and has also made strides toward being a cultural center. Leavenworth appears to be in a pivotal position as it relates to access to the high mountains, the waters of the Wenatchee River and tourist facilities at Lake Wenatchee.
THE OCEAN BEACHES IN GENERAL

Although there were many possible sites, the Ocean beaches were given consideration in a general manner. The three great attractions of the Ocean are the water, the beach, and the related digging of clams and fishing. The biggest drawback to the Ocean beaches appeared to be the lack of privacy and control along with the added distance from the center of Washington.

POTHOLES

The Potholes, although being the closest to the center of the State of Washington has a very real drawback inasmuch as it is quite warm in the summer-time and lacks variety in both flora and fauna. It is a vast area which to sun lovers and fishermen is very desirable, but it was felt that there were other areas of greater variation which would serve the needs.

WHITE PASS

White Pass has considerable development for skiing, including a very lovely developed condominium complex and projected hotel, recreation, restaurant. It is situated overlooking a lovely mountain lake and is adjacent to a U.S. Forest Service camp which is on another lake. Although it is fairly southerly from the population centers, it should be given consideration since a great deal of development is already completed and it serves as a potential summer center as well as winter. The White Pass area is in the middle of U.S. Forest Service property which gives access both to the north and the south on the Cascade Crest Trail.

CONCLUSION

The site selection sub-committee should make very attempt to evaluate all of the above-mentioned sites and to make a selection of at least the two, and make an on-site investigation, taking into consideration both the present needs as well as the long range goals. It would be recommended that upon the selection of the top site, the next step would be the securing of preliminary financing for further planning with the actual acquisition of the site following the planning stage.

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