

With this number (Volume II, Number 6) of the Idaho Forestry Bulletin, publication is suspended till October, 1925, when Volume II, Number 7 will be issued, hence no numbers will appear in July, August and September.

The Idaho Forestry Bulletin would greatly appreciate being informed of any change of address so that our mailing list may be kept up to date.

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FORESTS AND RECREATION

All forests have some recreational possibilities, but the national forests and national parks are the most noteworthy in this regard. Last year over 10,500,000 recreation seekers visited the national forests and more than 2,000,000 made trips to the parks. In 1922 the forests of Idaho received 168,932 visitors, but the number jumped in 1924 to 205,000 in North Idaho alone. The last few years have provided a quickened interest in out-of-door activities and a definite movement back to nature. We read about this development in the various widely read periodicals; nature organizations are increasingly active in their appeals for conservation of wild life and forests; and some of our friends who are planning camping trips wouldn't have thought of camping as a pleasure a few years ago. A great factor in this new enthusiasm is the common use of the automobile and the yearly extension of good roads which are making great forest areas easily and quickly accessible.

This adds one more problem to forest management, and the professional forester, who not long ago derided the idea of providing for recreational development, now realizes that it is a valuable forest resource - one that has its place in forest management beside timber growing and grazing.

Recreational uses include primarily camping, fishing, hunting and the study of wild life. The problems relative to camping resolve themselves into arrangement of sanitary camp sites with good water, shelters, refuse disposers,

etc., where a camp ground is generally used. Fences to exclude stock are sometimes necessary and fire protection is always an urgent point. The construction of roads and trails is a necessary thing in opening up scenic country. Since fishing and hunting lure many to much needed exercise in the open, maintenance of the fish and game resource is very urgent. The field of game protection is a fascinating one, and it is a problem of interest not only to the sportsman but also the nature lover and scientific student of wild life. It is a question on the one hand of insuring good fishing and hunting for the future and also of preventing the extermination of our fauna, so that the American people may always be able to get at least an idea of what species originally made up the remarkably rich life of our forests and waters.

The national park administration is devoted wholly to development of recreational values, and the fame of such as Yellowstone, Glacier, Crater and Yosemite Parks has spread thruout the land. In these areas the state of nature is preserved. There are no logging operations; there is no water power development; there is no grazing, except by game animals. Here future generations may see something of the Old West with modern comforts. The parks are easily accessible by train or auto, and they have excellent automobile roads and trails. Moreover, each park is unique in itself. Its scenery and its plant and animal life represents the best type of nature peculiar to these United

states, and it has been the policy of the Government to create parks only where the area concerned does typify a natural beauty and interest. Many are the petitions, but few are granted. We have no national parks in Idaho, but the recently created Craters of the Moon National Monument is something similar, being set aside to preserve inviolate that rare area of weird volcanic flow.

We do have in Idaho great forest areas, both within and without the national forest boundaries, and the opportunities for recreation in this state are exceptional. We have every phase of outdoor attraction from the lake summer resorts to the remote mountain crags accessible only to the pack string or by foot. Idaho has some of the best fishing and hunting left in the West.

Game and fish are forest products, and their encouragement and perpetuation are a part of a well developed forest policy. Large forest areas are worthless or too inaccessible for grazing domestic stock or lumbering, but they will support game. The natural game fields now lie in rugged mountain areas where the animals have taken refuge from the rapidly increasing horde of hunters. This is usually national forest territory. It is a forest problem to care for this game.

A game census has been made on the national forests and it shows some interesting features for Idaho as follows:

Antelope	765
Deer	45,021
Elk	5,213
Moose	579
Mountain Goats	3,452
Mountain Sheep	1,222

The figures indicate an increase of all animals except mountain goats.

These are at best approximations and apply to national forests. The figures for antelope are very low,

because the large herds of antelope (1,000 head) are in the southwest corner of the state in Owyhee County outside of national forest boundaries. If figures for bears were given, they would probably be quite high. They are not considered big game animals although there is strong sentiment for placing them in this category.

The deer are most numerous, some forests (Nez Perce, Selway, and Salmon) have four to five thousand each; the Boise has over six thousand, and the Idaho has 7,000. Deer are very adaptable to varied conditions; they are not so conspicuous in the woods as most other big game animals, and they are not so likely to be exterminated by hunting. Deer respond quickly to protection and it seems that this animal will furnish the bulk of our future hunting. Pennsylvania lost its big game animals years ago, yet by a wise game protection policy she has brought back her deer to a high point, and the annual kill of deer in that state is about 10,000. Maine alone supplies 14,000 head annually.

A conservative estimate of the possible production of deer on the waste lands of the United States is 2,000,000 annually. At a valuation of \$10.00 per head this resource would yield \$20,000,000 a year, and the benefits of healthful recreation for the thousands of sportsmen who take to the field every year have far greater value.

Another important item in determining the recreational value of any region is the amount of good fishing that it affords. Because of its beauty and gameness trout probably is our popular game fish. Idaho's lakes and streams are ideal for the growth of several species of trout, and thousands of small trout are planted in her waters each year. The State Fish and Game Department has secured the services of

an expert fish culturist, Mr. W.M. Keil, and under his direction and efficient policy of management the state's fish resources are rapidly taking form. Eggs collected from fish in native waters are hatched in state hatcheries at Sandpoint, Coeur d'Alene, Ashton, and Hay Spur. They are raised to fry, fingerling or yearling size and then released in waters that need restocking or in vacant waters. Since 1921 a great many of these plantings have been made in National Forest waters in cooperation with the Forest Service. The distribution in Idaho during 1924 was as follows:

Chinook salmon	152,000
Ouananiche or land-locked salmon	16,800
Yellow perch	91,400

All of these efforts to preserve and develop scenic values, game, and fish are made in behalf of the sportsman, the camper, and the nature lover. We need these things; our natures have been moulded thru the ages by these very forces and they satisfy a craving that the artificial cannot. Moreover, the modern ideal of land usage - the greatest possible production - leads directly to recreation as a use of great value and one which does not interfere with more firmly entrenched uses for timber raising, grazing, and watersheds.

Eastern brook trout	2,266,800
Rainbow trout	2,528,000
Native cut-throat trout	2,784,100

Remember always that FIRE may destroy all recreation values. The fire season may develop at any time now. Everyone who goes to the woods this summer should bear in mind that the cost of carelessness is

DESTRUCTION.