

MANAGEMENT R-1
ANNUAL REPORTS. 1922

1923
JAN 11 1923
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

COPY FOR

especially favorable for Elk, due partly to a favorable
Fish and Game-Selway and unusually low
Annual Report. 1922 all horns observed by Forest officers
during the past summer. Kooskia, Idaho Elk
January 11, 1923.

The grazing of some animals will never be a
serious factor in the game preserve of the Selway. The
District Forester, is closed to grazing and there will
always be maintenance feed along the streams for
the game Missoula, Mont.

Dear Sir:- predatory animals are a serious menace to the
game, especially cougar and coyotes. The cougar will not
increase Reference is made to Circular G-196. and the
game with which they can be fought or traced with dogs.

As stated in last year's report, the Selway
should be considered a Game Forest. Recreation is now
one of the chief assets and the completion of the Lolo
Pass Road will greatly increase the use of the Forest
for recreation. Much of the area of the Selway is un-
suitable for grazing domestic stock on account of the
topography and inaccessibility. The game use much of
the range adjacent to the rivers during the winter months,
and it is important that winter feed be available for them
along the streams.

It is difficult to give reliable information on
the numbers of game animals on the Forest. The only way
that reliable information could be obtained is by a winter
census, while the game are using the lower ranges. This
matter has been discussed with the State Game Warden, but
so far no funds have been made available for this purpose
by the State. It would be desirable for the State Game
Department and the Forest Service to do this work together.
It is of sufficient importance to make a project of the
work.

Deer, Elk, Moose and Goats are increasing in
number on this Forest. This increase is largely due to
the Selway Game Preserve, within which hunting is not per-
mitted, and also to the relative inaccessibility of the
summer ranges used by the game. Deer have always been
plentiful in this part of the country, but Elk, Moose and
Goats have materially increased in number since the crea-
tion of the Selway Game Preserve. The last year has been
a good one. Good cooperation has been received from the
local Deputy Game Warden in fire work during previous
years.

Archival research by
Dennis Bird
University of Idaho Library
Date Collected: Apr 2011
Source: NARA Collection

RG 95 E.73 Div of Wildlife Conserv.
Box 94

D. F.

Game birds are increasing in number and this especially favorable for Elk, due partly to a favorable winter and spring, and unusually large numbers of Elk calves were seen in all herds observed by Forest officers during the past summer. The increase in game birds is largely responsible for this. As stated in last year's report, it would be a serious factor in the game problem on the Selway. The Selway Game Preserve is closed to grazing and there will always be sufficient feed along the streams to care for the game animals during the winter months.

Predatory animals are a serious menace to the game, especially cougar and coyotes. The cougar will not increase in number, due to a fifty-dollar bounty and the ease with which they can be caught or treed with dogs. The coyotes and wolves are on the increase and the bounty on these animals is inadequate. The local trappers have little success in catching either coyotes or wolves, and apparently the only solution to the problem is the employment of government hunters. For this purpose, two men are needed, one to work on the Selway River and the other on the Lochsa.

The trapping of fur-bearing animals on the Selway Game Preserve is prohibited by the State Game Department, and no permits are being issued for trapping predatory animals within the Preserve. This appears to be a step in the right direction, since the number of fur-bearing animals has steadily decreased. Trappers are reporting a very light catch and few fur-bearing animals in evidence anywhere.

All Forest Officers on this Forest are deputy game wardens and take an active part in the enforcement of Game Laws. No arrests have been made by Forest Officers during the past year; the same policy being followed in dealing with the local deputy warden as last year. State officials are given assistance whenever they request it, but no assistance is asked for in handling cases which come to our knowledge. The local Deputy Game Warden is indiscreet and probable cases cannot be safely discussed with him. In matters of general game policy, licenses, fish planting, etc., good cooperation is obtained. The attitude of the local peace officers is excellent and it is not necessary to use Reg. T-7a to secure the desired action. Good cooperation has been received from the local Deputy Game Warden in fire work during previous years.

D. F.

Game birds are increasing in number and this increase is particularly apparent with ruffed and blue grouse. The number of native pheasants appears to be less than last year, but is much above the average. The Selway Game Preserve is largely responsible for this increase in game birds. As stated in last year's report, it would be advisable to establish a bird sanctuary including a strip one eighth mile in width, along the Lolo Pass highway from the Forest Boundary to Canyon Creek. No grazing restrictions will be necessary in this area.

The fish supply should increase some in the Middle Fork of the Clearwater and the lower portions of the Selway and Lochsa Rivers, since about 200,000 fish have been planted in these streams within the last two years. This increase is, however, temporary, since the streams are heavily fished, and large numbers of suckers, squaw fish and bull-trout are found in all of these streams. Artificial restocking will have to be done in all streams that are heavily fished. The fry or fingerlings required for restocking can be obtained from the State Hatchery at Sandpoint. 135,000 Eastern Brook and 45,000 Rainbow trout were planted in the Middle Fork of the Clearwater River during the past year. Fish are fully protected during the spawning season. Restocking cannot be accomplished by closing streams or parts of them for a few years.

No difficulty has ever been encountered in getting transportation for fish from the railroad to points along roads. Local sportsmen gladly cooperate in this work. Fish taken to outlying streams and lakes have been handled by the local Deputy Game Warden and Forest Service employees. Fish can be distributed here from June 1 to October 1.

There are no local associations for the advancement of fish and game work in this locality. Public opinion seems to be improving in fish and game matters, but there is still much room for improvement and education along these lines.

Very truly yours,

FRANK J. JEFFERSON, Forest Supervisor,

/s/ By Frank J. Jefferson

No reliable data on the number of game animals, by sex, can be obtained here until a count is made on the winter range.

To accompany letter of Jan. 11, 1923.

G
Fish and Game-Selway

Census of Game Animals.

Elk 1000, Black-Tail Deer 1000, White-Tail Deer 3000,
Moose 70, Goats 120, Sheep 20, Silvertip Bear 5, other
Bear 170

Census Fur Bearing Animals.

Beaver 500, Fox 150, Marten 500, Mink 500, Otter 200,
Fisher 20.

Last year's estimate on Marten was considerably
too low.

Census Predatory Animals.

Wild-Cat 200, Canadian Lynx 50, Cougar 40, Wolf 25,
Coyote 800.

Game Animals Killed by Man.

Elk 38, Deer 65, Goat 7, Bear 9.

Game Animals Killed by Predatory Animals.

Elk 40, Deer 150, Goat 3, Sheep 9.

Fish Distribution.

135,000 Eastern Brook and 45,000 Rainbow trout were planted
in Forest waters. Fish were secured from the Sandpoint
(Idaho) State Hatchery. Less than 2% were lost. Fish were
planted in the Middle Fork and the lower Lochsa Rivers.

Game Protection.

No arrests have been made by Forest Officers for violation
of the Game Laws during the past year.