

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
NORTHERN REGION

FOREST SERVICE
FEB 17 1939
REFERRED TO
RANGE AND TIMBER MANAGEMENT

ADDRESS REPLY TO
REGIONAL FORESTER

AND REFER TO
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MANAGEMENT, R-1
Reports
Annual-1938



FEDERAL BUILDING
MISSOULA, MONT.

February 13, 1939

U. S. F. S. RECEIVED
TIMBER MANAGEMENT
RANGE MANAGEMENT
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

FEB 17 1939

Chief, Forest Service,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

In accordance with instructions contained in circular of July 19, 1938, the annual report has been compiled in two sections. The statistical data is being mimeographed and will be submitted at an early date.

This brief narrative discussion will be limited to Cooperation, as outlined under item 4 of your instructions. Objectives, plans, programs, problems and the field organization were presented and discussed last year. The slight changes since then warrant no new presentations.

Item 4 - Cooperation with Other Bureaus and States

A. BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

Operations are conducted with harmony and in conformity to Cooperative Agreement of January 4, 1935. No need for modification has arisen; there is, however, an urgent need for doing something on research, outlined in the agreement as a responsibility of the Biological Survey. No attempt is made to list complete needs but items of especial urgency are listed as follows:

1. Census methods for determining populations of predators, fur-bearers and native upland game birds.
2. Ecological relationship between predators and the other species of the wildlife community.
3. Determination of the carrying capacity of different forest types for indigenous fur-bearers and methods of maintaining areas at highest point of productivity.

Chief, F.S.

4. Studies of life histories of native upland game birds for purpose of devising improved management practices.
5. Of especial importance is the matter of establishing and proving a method for determining within reasonable limits of accuracy the carrying capacity of different types of forest and grass lands for the principal big game species.

B. BUREAU OF FISHERIES

No change in the Cooperative Agreement of March 18, 1935, is proposed. Working relationships are harmonious but progress in improving management of fishing waters is intolerably slow. Urgently needed from the Bureau of Fisheries are:

1. The assignment of an employee of the Bureau trained and experienced in fisheries management of inland waters to devote full time to the fish problems of the National Forests.
2. The development and proving of a method of determining the carrying capacities of lakes and streams at a cost sufficiently low to permit its widespread use in the preparation of stocking plans.

C. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

The fluctuating migration each winter of elk summering in Yellowstone Park to winter ranges on the Absaroka and Gallatin Forests of course continues; here the management of this herd and its maintenance is a joint responsibility of the Park Service, Forest Service and Montana State Game Department. Cooperation between the two Federal Bureaus is all that can be expected. We have less of a joint problem with Glacier Park. In all phases of mutual interest cooperation is satisfactory between us and the superintendent of Glacier.

D. STATE OF IDAHO

New legislation has recently been enacted by initiative of the people of Idaho providing for greatly improved management of the wildlife resources of the State. A five-man

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game commission has been appointed and attention to the biological aspects of game management is provided for in the legislation but as yet no important steps have been taken. Excellent cooperation is expected.

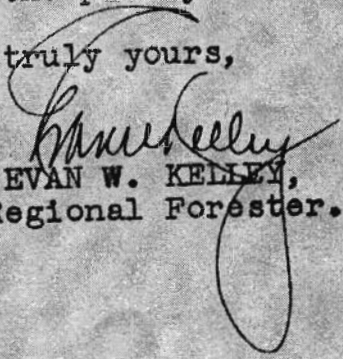
E. STATE OF MONTANA

Politics, patronage and prejudice are still apparent in the management of fish and game in Montana but through use of local pressure groups we have been able to obtain improvement in hunting seasons on all problem areas. A bill providing for the employment of a well qualified game manager was before the legislature, but was knocked out in committee. The interest shown by certain civic leaders is encouraging. In spite of very decided differences of opinion and policy between Forest Service and the State Game Department, relationships are cordial and cooperative activities are hampered by but little dickerings.

F. SPORTSMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS.

The Wildlife Federations in both Montana and Idaho are now definitely leading. Our relationship with the organization in both States is one of cordial helpfulness and mutual confidence. Some local sportsmen's groups emphasize their disapproval to livestock grazing on the National Forests. Occasionally there are other sources of difficulty but generally speaking the relationship throughout both States has improved greatly during the past year.

Very truly yours,


EVAN W. KELLEY,
Regional Forester.