

Notes to be filed

Report #832

Talk before Forum, Peoples Church
East Lansing, March 3, 1935
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Problems in Wild Life Conservation

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- 1; Conservation of natural resources involves many special fields and should be closely coordinated with agricultural policies of the state.
- 2; Will not discuss the many problems of other divisions of Department
 - Geology
 - Forest fire and Law Enforcement
 - Fish
 - Forestry
 - Parks
 - Lands
 - Education
 - Land Economic Survey
- 3; Wish to illustrate few items in conservation and wise use of Birds and mammals
 - Animals with feathers or hair
- 4; Moose largest wild mammal native to Michigan at present
- 5; Few in U P
 - Scattered
 - Land seems suitable but never taken hold
- 6; Isle Royale herd was and perhaps still is largest concentration of moose now existing.
- 7; Estimated at 1000 - 5000 in 1929-30, but probably much less now.
- 8; Isle Royale imm
 - 45 miles long
 - 4-8 miles wide
 - In Lake Superior, nearly parallel to North shore
 - 13 miles from Canadian mainland
- 9; Rocky.
- 10; Ridges
- 11; Lakes and bays
- 12 Cover, fairly virgin although fired and used some when mining on island

13; Adams Survey in 1905

14; Legislature ..\$20,000 in ~~apx~~ 1929 , National park prospect

15; Aquatic vegetation scarce where Adams found it plentiful

16; Moose Study by Murie and Hickie

17; Concluded that island was over browsed

18; Evidence

Cedars, Balsams, water lilies, Poplars,

Hardwood , park like, lots of seedlings nothing less 1 inch in diameter

19; Suported by Stehenson, Bartlett, Mc Murray surveys

20; Island residents,

21; Ben East... Silly

22; Oasler, National Park Commissioner thought no over crowding

23; Hastings ... Scientists unduly alarmed

24; Isle Royale National Park action

State Legislature

Park Commission by Brucker

Congress

Money not forthcoming

Commissioners resigned and not replaced

25; Status and responsibility confusing

26; Methods of adjusting never tried on such a n area before

Killing by paid men

Expensive and no funds

Limited hunting

Opposed by national parks. Bad precedent

Possibly destroy island beauty in some mysterious way

Special privilege and unconstitutional by East

Live Trapping

Expensive

would not relate to the question of

Feeding impracticable and only pyramid

Let nature take its course

Wasteful

Cruel

No progress in handling future excesses

27; Because of objections nothing was done until Radio telling dying moose last winter.

28; Hickie and Coburn

No epidemic disease account for losses

Some parasitism ticks, lung worms, pneumonia

Concluded, malnutrition, exposure

29; Interest grew in Live trapping, only thing would agree to

30; Hickie therethis winter

Feeding small nucleus to come thru winter in good conditions

Experimental live trapping

Feeding and census

Appraisal of carrying capacity of island

31; Now has 10 in captivity taken with tow box traps

One escaped, one dead, one released

33; Transfer to mainland for stocking, but of little help to island herd

34; Hope can be handled when ~~myxomatosis~~ herd has gone down, vegetation recovered, moose come back.

35; Bickering and lack of faith in Scientific has resulted in loss of thousands of moose without doing ~~any~~ man any good.

36- Same kind of problem with deer.

Means much to Upper areas- 80,000 deer hunters- Spending perhaps

3-5 hundred thousand dollars each year in north alone.

~~Am~~ Beaver trout

37/ Cut trees and take into water

More hide for trout

Fertilizes so more trout food

But removes shade

38/ Dams

Drown out shade

Empond water and warms it

Enriches

More water

Better trout growth and catches first few years but decreasing

Too warm

Biocemical demand and toxic elements

39/ Spawning migrations

Sifting gravel

40; Other nuisances

41 ; Outlet of lakes, cabin sites

42; Fur and tourist values

43; Manadmgnet but before details well workedout man/ goes to U S B S

44; Conroversy wages not

445; Likely beavers willbetakend down to near exterminationagin and then pendulum swing the other way

46; Poaching, openseasons etc hard to handle

47; Beaver scandlas

Predator
~~Amateur~~ Problem

Otter, protected

50,000 worlds catch

Scattered inMcih perhaps 1000

Demand for puttingthem on black list becasue they may eat a few trout
Examinations few but not sobad as painted.

Same of kingfishers, blue herons, bitterns , Mergnaser ducks, Golden eyes

Hawk andowl problem

Audabon attitude

Spprtsmens attitude

What are the facts?

Are they harmful?

Do they need protection?

What are the administrative and economic anglesinvolved?

How are we to adjust these differences?

How apply them whenfew know onehawk from another?

Hunter + Fisherman dominant Conservation Police all
only 10% hunt, 20% fish.
Conclustions:

1; Wild life is one of the essentials in maintaining an effective
Tourist andresort business whci is very important in northern mch.
Wholesome

2; Out - Of - door recreationin its many phases seem to fulfill a real need
of man , and tobe an important social, physical and moral well being
part of his

3; Managment of any species involves a series of ecologicalrelationships
whichare very complex andas yet are little understood.

3- Trained and experienced personell which makes conservation its life work offers the only hope developping and applying a sound technique in wild life management .

4; Freedom ~~from political overthrows~~ from political overthrows, adequate salary schedules, merit system of emplyment and promotion are necessary to induce and hold capable men in the field.

experienced and welltrained

5; At present the demand for ~~men~~ men far exceeds the supply. The U S Forest Service, National park service, C C C, and States are seeking men.

6; Agricultural colleges and agricultural leaders should play a very important part in the conservation program- Among other things they can help in Training men for this field, organizing working out needed technique and management proceedures, Extension work, exerting

Leadership in c onservation research, and coordinate and orientate

conservation projects with agriculture so that the best use of land is secured.

I hope, East Lansing and the College will take a leading part in the Conservation movement in the future, and I believe they will do so.