

INFORMATION FOR THE PRESS



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF INFORMATION
PRESS SERVICE



Release - Immediate.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

January 10, 1934

PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON WILD-LIFE
DEVELOPING LAND UTILIZATION PLANS

Marginal Lands to be Retired for Crop Curtailment Being Considered
for Reforestation, Flood Control and Sustenance
Purposes as Well as Game Areas.

Preliminary investigations by the President's committee on wild-life restoration appointed by Secretary Wallace (Jan. 2) to outline a course of action to aid the restoration of game by utilizing for that purpose some of the marginal farm lands to be retired from unprofitable crop production, indicate the additions to the public domain contemplated may serve important economic as well as game restoration purposes.

Reforestation, flood and erosion control, sustenance farms for the partial support of numbers of older employed residents who would practice game and forest management in the tracts, and use of Federal relief workers to execute projects requiring considerable labor, are contemplated. Sources of income from forest products and recreational privileges, with the view to development of self-supporting perpetual management, are being explored.

Coordination of Federal departmental functions in utilization of the areas to be acquired is envisaged by the committee in development of the lands to the point of greatest public usefulness. Cooperation of the Forest Service, Bureau of Reclamation, Soil Erosion Service, Bureau of Biological Survey, and any divisions of the Federal Government identified with natural resources under Federal control is contemplated. Cooperation of the Special Senate Committee on Conservation of Wild-Life Resources and bureaus has already been enlisted.

1582-34

The committee, composed of Thomas H. Beck, Wilton, Conn., chairman; J. N. Darling, Des Moines, Iowa, and Prof. Aldo Leopold, Madison, Wis., has proceeded with early development of the game restoration plan following its first meeting on January 6. It is announced that all of the projects to be evolved will probably be confined to pre-determined sections where the land retirement proposal will be effected, and to Federal lands already available.

In a letter to all State game and conservation officials and interested organizations (Jan. 9) the committee states:

"The plan contemplates the restoration of migratory waterfowl and upland game. The need for such a program is apparent to every student of wild-life conservation and restoration in the United States, and it is obvious that the work should be confined to acquisition and restoration of suitable nesting areas for natural propagation purposes.

"This committee seeks information from all authorized sources, including Government departments, State officials and leaders of interested organizations, and aims to coordinate, in one unified program, the best ideas of all interested parties.

"While there is a vast amount of information available in Government bureaus and departments, we will be glad to receive information and suggestions with regard to suitable natural propagation areas which you may know of and which come under the classification of waste or sub-marginal land."

Stating that organizations should contact their nearest State game commissioner through whom localized projects may be recommended and brought to the committee's attention, the letter concludes:

"If the plan is accepted and approved by the President and the Secretary of Agriculture, it will be financed out of Federal funds."