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CALLS FOR CO-ORDINATED EFFORTS IN
WILD-LIFE MANAGEMENT AND FORESTRY

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Wild life should have a very definite and important consideration in the program of reconstruction that is now being planned and projected by the States and the Nation, said W. C. Henderson, associate chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey, U. S. Department of Agriculture, in an address delivered yesterday (May 29) at the Central States Forestry Congress in Knoxville, Tenn.

Declaring that man has done almost irreparable damage to wild life in his indiscriminate, unguided, and unplanned exploitation of natural resources in this country, Mr. Henderson called for a coordinated effort in wild-life management and in forestry. "The establishment of game preserves on forested areas," he said "affords opportunity to bring back suitable species, and under good management to provide a surplus for restocking other lands where conditions are favorable."

The few extra measures it is desirable to take to encourage wild life in forests are simple and inexpensive, said the Biological Survey official, and most of the recognized forestry principles are as favorable for wild life as they are to the forests. Fur and game species, he further pointed out, may be treated as a crop, and revenue may thus be derived from the disposal of shooting rights and from other sources during the period when trees are growing but none are being sold.

To be well-coordinated, a plan of wild-life management, Mr. Henderson explained, must be developed by experts in the several fields. Emphasizing that

biological investigations must provide the basis for all practical management plans; he declared that every major forest unit and every similar combination of smaller units of forested land should be assigned to a biologist, who would plan the wild-life management on the area. This, he said, would be only a modest provision for the studies required. The biologists, he pointed out, "could undertake and carry to a point of maximum usefulness the research that would be of value to the administering agencies. Biologists therefore should be associated with the administrative staff of all the forests."

"We cannot," he concluded, "have ideal forestry conditions at the expense of the forest wild life, and there can be no satisfactory solution of forest-fauna problems at the expense of the forest. The ideal balance is reached only by having expert representatives of both branches of management actively associated on the administrative staff that exercises supervision over the areas concerned--those interested in forestry and those concerned with the forest wild life. Each, in working for the best interests of his special field, will, through coordination of planning, work also for the best interests of the other."