



## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## INFORMATION SERVICE

## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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## NEW COOPERATIVE WILDLIFE RESEARCH UNITS AUTHORIZED

The Fish and Wildlife Service will establish two additional Cooperative Wildlife Research Units at the University of Arizona in Tucson, and the Montana State University in Missoula, Service Director Albert M. Day reported to Interior Secretary Oscar L. Chapman today.

Cooperating with the Universities in Arizona and Montana are the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Wildlife Management Institute and the respective state Fish and Game Commissions. These two units, together with one recently announced for Alaska, bring to a total of 17 the number of cooperative Units at various state land grant colleges and universities.

The Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit Program has been in effect since 1935. The program trains personnel for positions in the field of wildlife management, conducts research basic to the proper utilization of wildlife resources, promotes education through such means as demonstrations, lectures and publications, and provides technical assistance to conservation agencies in their wildlife management programs.

The Fish and Wildlife Service assigns a biologist to each Unit on a full-time basis. He supervises work of graduate student assistants and conducts some research personally. One or more University staff members are responsible for the formal training program, and also participate in the research activities. Cash contributions to the Units are made primarily by the state game and fish commissions and the Wildlife Management Institute. Although the Unit is concerned primarily with graduate students, many of the undergraduates, specializing in wildlife management, frequently receive training at the Units by doing part-time work.

By the end of the 1948-49 school year, 269 graduate wildlife students had received advanced degrees at the Unit schools. Practically all of these trained men have found employment in the wildlife field. The Units have been an important factor in making so successful the work of the Pittman-Robertson Federal aid to wildlife restoration and development program. The great need for trained wildlife workers, occasioned by the passage of the Pittman-Robertson bill in 1937, was met largely by the training Units.

While the present Unit programs is not specifically concerned with fishery research, it has had a small and indirect effect on training students for this important work. A few students, with the necessary funds, interest and ability, have been able to transfer into fishery research studies. At the present time there is a shortage of fishery scientists and skilled technicians. This shortage is more pronounced than in any other scientific field.

The research Unit projects have also resulted in numerous books, bulletins, and technical and semi-popular articles which have been of great value to conservationists in managing the country's wildlife resources.