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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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WILDLIFE UNITS COMPLETE TWENTY YEARS OF CONSERVATION WORK

Director John L. Farley of the Fish and Wildlife Service today paid tribute to the nation-wide chain of wildlife conservation stations known as Cooperative Wildlife Research Units which mark their twentieth anniversary this year.

"These Units," the Director said, "can view with pride the record of their achievements over the past two decades. As our Nation has worked to restore, maintain, and perpetuate its wildlife resources, these units have exerted a most progressive influence."

Located at colleges and universities in 16 States and the Territory of Alaska, the Cooperative Wildlife Research Units are designed primarily for field and laboratory research, student training, promotion of conservation education, and for guidance to conservation organizations. The units are sponsored and financed by the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Wildlife Management Institute, land-grant colleges, and State game departments.

Basis research conducted by the units has resulted in findings which have been used by conservation agencies throughout the Nation to initiate or modify game laws, conduct game inventories, manage wildlife habitat, and to solve numerous conservation problems requiring fundamental facts.

Since their inception in 1935, the units have provided a much-needed supply of highly-trained personnel for wildlife conservation work. About 2,200 wildlife students have graduated from unit schools, and many of the earlier graduates have advanced to key positions in the wildlife conservation field. Recent graduates and contemporary students are making substantial contributions to the conservation cause by applying scientific approaches to wildlife problems which once were dealt with by trial-and-error methods.

The first unit was established at the University of Iowa in 1935 at the suggestion of "Ding" Darling, noted cartoonist and erstwhile Director of the Bureau of Biological Survey--a parent agency of the Fish and Wildlife Service. Units then were formed in other parts of Continental United States and are now functioning in Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Missouri, Montana, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Utah, and Virginia.

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