

STATEMENT FOR PANEL ON MULTIPLE USE OF REFUGES

By Jack H. Berryman 1/

It is easy to philosophize concerning the subject of multiple use on refuges, because of the cliches it prompts, and the fact that multiple use, like sunshine, is quite well accepted. So, we intend to avoid this pitfall because the entire matter is receiving the attention not only of the Division of Wildlife Refuges, but a study by the Leopold Committee, and we can advise, on the basis of firsthand experience, that the latter will have a most stimulating effect.

Suffice it to say that multiple use, like economy drives, should apply to someone else and conservationists, including wild-lifers, have been somewhat prone to urge the adoption by others, while protecting the so-called sanctity of wildlife lands. We are pleased that the Bureau does not embrace that concept.

It would be a bit presumptuous and extremely ambitious if, with one wildlife enhancement staff man assigned to each Region, we, as a Division, volunteered to assist in the development of multiple use refuge plans for the Division of Wildlife Refuges. First, Refuges is well staffed for this purpose. Second, an agreement has been negotiated with the Park Service to bring the talents of that agency to bear in developing recreational facilities. And, seriously, the Leopold Report will no doubt make recommendations in this respect.

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We believe, however, that there are some specific areas wherein working together with the Division of Wildlife Services might be helpful. These are:

(1) To advise the Regional and Central Office Directorates of the relationship of existing refuges to patterns of development on other Federal lands, on Indian lands, and other private lands and how these collectively tie in with resource needs on a broad flyway basis.

(2) To gain additional insight as to how the full non-consumptive use potential of the refuge system might be improved. We are aware that this use is increasing and that the Division of Wildlife Refuges is responsive to it. We believe, however, that, as a Division committed to rendering service to the great mass of the people who enjoy wildlife simply for the sake of enjoyment, we should be helpful in the development of long-range plans that will give full recognition to this use.

(3) Dependent upon management objectives and local problems, there are situations when some species of carnivorous animals should be controlled. There have been mutual working relationships in the past. These should be continued and formalized in the future, with each of the Division of Wildlife Services State work plans including a section on the animal control activities visualized for and requested by Refuges. The same is appropriate when it may become necessary to control animals to protect visitors' health, as might become the case in rabies outbreaks.

(4) Through our interest and responsibility in pesticide surveillance, which includes a surveillance of chemicals applied to control both plants and animals, we can and must be helpful not only in conducting surveillance, but in participating in the planning for chemical applications, to assure that the Bureau's skirt is always clean.

This is probably a more ambitious statement of intent than can be fully discharged, although we intend to try. In addition, of course, there is the continuing relationship we now enjoy.

Now, if we can turn the tables and use the panelists' liberty, we want to discuss the multiple use of Refuge personnel in achieving Bureau goals by the Division of Wildlife Services. Quite obviously we cannot, with existing staff or even with unlimited staff, render the services now needed on Indian and Federal lands, especially on military lands, not to mention activities on major private holdings. This can come about only through an interdivisional approach to a Bureau goal, with Wildlife Services identifying areas with management potential and with the Regional Directors making assignment of Refuge and other appropriately located and talented personnel to complete management plans. Therefore, it is our suggestion and recommendation that multiple use apply to the working responsibilities of Refuge and other Division personnel.

We are volunteering such assistance in the multiple use approach as we think we are capable of rendering and we close with the "commercial" that we hope others can do the same for us.