

conservation is game conservation, for proper protection against fire will naturally prevent loss of game. In spite of the fact that in some instances woodland fires are followed by shrubs and plants of special food value to certain species of game birds, it can never counterbalance the great loss sustained in the game life of the country through large forest fires.

The very abundance of forests and game with which our country was blessed, led to the ruthless cutting and killing that went on for so many years, but we can in a measure atone for the mistakes of the past by the wise conservation and protection of the many millions of acres of forests and woodlands still within our borders. There is much work to be done in securing adequate appropriations from the Federal Government for the acquisition of additional forest lands, proper fire protection, etc., all of which will result in a direct benefit to our wild life. While there are certain problems which need adjustment regarding land management for forestry purposes and for wild life, these can be adjusted and forests and game lovers have a common good in view in co-operating in the work of protecting the soil of the forests against erosion and fire, and encouraging the perpetual growth of trees, thus making for the natural conditions of wild-life environment.

By collective effort, the forest conservationist has quite as much to gain as the game conservationist, because the wild lands of this country can be restored to plant and game productivity only by the development of a public will to protect and restore. This end can be reached by co-operation on the part of the Federal Government in the acquisition, protection and management of wild forest lands, and then by the private owner in the development of commercially profitable methods of forest and game management.

Under the protection of the Government are the National and State forests, game preserves and parks. A significant step in the right direction was taken by the Government in the recently passed McNary-Sweeney Bill, which authorises forest research with a view to more intelligent National, State, and local programmes. These forest research programmes cover investigations of the problems and resources of wild life in connection with forestry practices.

Wild life in this country is most abundant in the National forests of the west, which provide natural range for 75 per cent. of the big game animals in the public lands States. Within the national forests there are 125 State game refuges,* with a total area of 19,500,000 acres. In addition they include between two and three million acres in Federal game refuges, and 2,000,000

*sanctuaries