

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT, UPLAND GAME AND GENERAL PRINCIPLES

By Reuben E. Trippensee. 479 pp. Illus. McGraw Hill, Inc. N. Y. 1948. \$5.00.

The addition of this volume to the American Forestry Series will be most appreciated by teachers and practitioners devoted to wild land management, where execution of the job is perhaps more dependent on breadth than on depth of knowledge. It fills a niche which has long been vacant in the American Forestry Series bookshelf.

This book does an excellent job of associating game production with other uses of wild lands—timber, water, and forage. The multiple use theme appears throughout the book. A few quotations in this regard are noteworthy:

"...expenditures [for fox squirrel management] generally must be devoted to the integrated development of the forest property as a whole rather than any single aspect of it." (p. 139)

"Publicly owned land should be classified and managed according to its highest use, regardless of whether the emphasis is on timber, wildlife, or some other use." (p. 145).

"Much of the game now harvested in the United States must be produced as a secondary product of the land along with other products such as timber or agricultural products." (p. 440)

As with any young field, differences of opinion will exist as to what might be included or omitted from a book which summarizes the subject. If the book is judged in the light of the author's objective—"A starting point from which corrections can be made"—there are few serious shortcomings.

As a title, *Game Management* would probably have been more appropriate than *Wildlife Management*. With but few exceptions, discussions are confined to upland and big game species. Other important phases of wildlife management

such as predators and rodent control, furbearer, fish, and waterfowl management are not included.

Western wild land managers will be disappointed in the lack of information concerning conditions and practices applicable to the arid West. Perhaps unconsciously, the author draws most of his conclusions and examples from experience in the more humid eastern states. These recommended eastern techniques are much too intensive to be practical at the present time on large tracts of western wildlife ranges. Land managers in most of the latter region are more concerned about what will happen to wildlife if certain silvicultural and range management practices are employed rather than with what techniques can be employed to benefit these animals. In this regard, many western foresters will appreciate the statement, "Fortunately, proper forest management is also good deer management." For the most part, managers of western wild lands are still forced to do as much as possible but as little as is necessary to benefit wildlife.

Wildlife knowledge has expanded so greatly in the past decade that to crowd all available information into one small volume would be impossible. Some westerners, at least, will wonder why in screening information the author devoted so much space to farm game and life histories of various game animals. By and large these latter considerations are more of concern to the wildlife specialist than to the individual who manages game as a part of full land use. Moreover, there are a number of excellent monographs on farm game, and several volumes which give more detailed life histories than could be crowded into this one book. At the

same time, the land manager will search in vain for some mention of the general relation of rodents and rabbits to range, forest, and watersheds; some general suggestions as to how forest and range management practices affect the fish of streams and lakes; and some idea as to whether the land management practices which he is following will destroy the habitat of the furbearing animals of which he is custodian.

Individuals familiar with particular regions will doubtless point out detailed errors and omissions. With regard to the arid southwestern United States, many natives who have killed deer on the North Kaibab will challenge the statement that the largest mule deer in the United States come from northern California. Moreover, the Kaibab deer herd might have been given more than incidental mention if only for the notoriety attached thereto in the problem of keeping game herds and available forage in balance. As to omissions, it was disappointing to find no mention of the Abert tree squirrel (*Sciurus aberti subspp.*), the western (*Sylvilagus auduboni subspp.*), and Rocky

mountain cottontails (*S. nuttalli subspp.*). The tree squirrel is probably too scarce to ever become an important game species, but the cottontails will doubtless become increasingly important to resident hunters as hunting pressure becomes more intense in the Southwest. As to minute details, the ranges for sharptails and turkeys could be more extensive for Arizona and New Mexico. Also, though the pronghorn may prefer grasses elsewhere, in the Southwest he seems to relish weeds, and finds better forage on ranges grazed by cattle rather than sheep.

In spite of what might be said in criticism of the book, if it is accepted for what it is—a milestone on the road to the intelligent management of wildlife as a part of full and permanent land use—it should serve efficiently and satisfactorily on the desk of every individual concerned with the problems of wild lands in teaching, administration, or research—*Hudson G. Reynolds*, Southwestern Forest and Range Experiment Station, U. S. Forest Service, Tucson, Arizona.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE ON CONSERVATION OF RENEWABLE NATURAL RESOURCES

Department of State Publication 3382, International Organization and Conference Series II, American Republics 4. 782 pages, several maps and figures.

It was previously reported in the *Journal of Range Management* that the Inter-American Conference on Conservation of Renewable Natural Resources was held in Denver, Colorado September 7-20, 1948. The wide interests of the delegates who were invited to attend this conference is shown by the diversity of subject matter reported in the papers of these Proceedings. Certainly they reflect

a broad interest and serious consideration of the range of conservation problems.

This neatly bound volume is divided into six Sections as follows:

Section I.—Human Populations and Productive Capacity of the Land.

Section II.—Renewable Resources and International Relations.

Section III.—Land Use and the Social Sciences.

Section IV.—The Dynamics of Renewable Resources.

Section V.—Education in Conservation Dynamics.