

Madison, Wisconsin.
Soils Building
March 11, 1933.

I. T. Bode,
State Game Warden,
Des Moines, Iowa.

Dear Irwin:

To bring northern Missouri into conformity with southern Iowa would require the closure of the northern Missouri counties, and then the regulated reopening of permitted areas, under inspection. Such an arrangement would be ideal, since there is no doubt that these counties particularly the northwestern ones, have been weakened by overgrazing to the same extent as the adjacent Iowa counties. There is a fairly complete size-up of this situation in my MSS Missouri Report. If the matter is of sufficient interest, I will be glad to loan you my file copy, or you might get the Institute to dig up a copy from one of their members for your library.

There are however these practical pros and cons to be considered:

(1) The Missouri administration is still very political, and this makes regulatory powers risky. If Wielandy has been appointed Commissioner, this objection would be temporarily overcome. There is a slight danger, though, that the whole idea might be "queered" by abuses arising on the Missouri side.

(2) The northern Missouri farmers occasionally have a wave of indignation, of the same sort as originally closed Iowa, which results in the closure, temporary or permanent, of certain counties under their "local option" law. There are several such counties near Kansas City, and some scattered elsewhere. The Iowa plan would be a compromise, much superior from every angle, wherewith to meet the next "wave".

(3) Southern Missouri, by and large, does not yet need such measures. What I mean is that it needs them, but there are still enough quail per hunter to make it improbable that the average hunter could be persuaded to make a change. Keith McGanee found this out when he started a paid shooting scheme in 1929, but found no patronage because even St. Louis hunters could still get plenty of shooting free. Hence Dr. Boone's scheme would mean a dual system within Missouri.

I would say that the first move to feel out this proposition would be you, Bill Schuenke, or Errington to get acquainted with Blakey, the quail research man from the University, and for you or Dr. Boone to meet Mr. Wielandy or whoever has been appointed Commissioner, to compare notes and plans. It would then be clearer whether any immediate move toward this end is in order.

Would you mind sending copies of this to Dr. Boone, Bill, and Paul? My steno is not good at carbons.

Yours sincerely,

Aldo Leopold (signed)