

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
MADISON

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

September 19, 1933

Dr. Paul L. Errington
Director of Game Research
Iowa State College
Ames, Iowa

Dear Paul:

I have been doing a lot of thinking on your question of where to look for Biological Survey timber. I regret to admit that I have arrived at the conclusion in my own mind that the present circle of game officials, game researchers, and biologists active in game does not include anybody of sufficient size. Moreover those who might come somewhere near fitting the job have probably already developed mental grooves in which they are inclined to run, which is exactly what the position we are talking about should be free from.

The more I think about it, the more I am inclined to favor an organized man hunt entirely outside the present circle, to be made quietly by a very small and rigidly selected group with funds enough to actually meet and thresh over the field until they have found something. This selection is the most important step to be made during this decade in American conservation. It does not stand to reason that all the good timber is in the ranks of those already connected with the subject. There must be biologically minded men with an understanding of sport, land, esthetics and statecraft whose name has never been signed to petitions on baiting or duck seasons or poisoning coyotes. The cat-and-dog fight which now prevails within the ranks might actually cease if there were found from outside the ranks a new leader not at all interested in cat-and-dog fights, but only in birds and mammals and the human satisfactions to be derived therefrom. I am much inclined to suspect that cat-and-dog fights are merely a symptom of closed groups suffering from mental impoverishment.

If you are discussing this question with Mr. Darling, you might hand him this thought. I inclose an extra copy for this purpose should you decide to use it.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

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ALDO LEOPOLD
Game Manager

AL/vh
Incl.