

New Soils Building  
December 26, 1933

Mr. W. C. Buford  
State Game Commissioner  
Jefferson City, Missouri

Dear Mr. Buford:

Prof. Rudolf Bennett of the University of Missouri has told me that you are interested in undertaking some game research work and that you might be interested in my opinion as to the opportunities for such work in Missouri.

I have no hesitation in saying that Missouri is the most favorable place I know of for at least two projects, a quail investigation and a wild turkey investigation.

The quail investigation would consist essentially of finding out the extent to which Stoddard's findings in Georgia are applicable to Missouri conditions. Iowa and Wisconsin are already engaged in similar undertakings, the work in each case being done through the University or Agricultural College. Missouri, however, surpasses either of these states in opportunities to make quail a farm crop. If you undertake this work, I advise putting your man in touch with Dr. Paul Errington, State Agricultural College, Ames, Iowa, who is in charge of the game for that state, and with Mr. Ernest Holt, Coon Valley Erosion Project, LaCrosse, Wisconsin, who is in charge of the work for this state.

The wild turkey investigation is a virgin field in which Missouri might very easily take the lead. There are, however, very few men who know anything about wild turkeys to begin with. I would suggest that you retain H. L. Stoddard, Thomasville, Georgia, for a month or two to select a man, train him, and start him out on this work. Missouri has a unique advantage in being able to produce wild turkeys within reach of the northern population centers. I need not tell you that an abundant crop of turkeys would attract thousands of people.

It goes without saying that these projects might amount to nothing without the proper personnel for executing them. Men already trained are practically non-existent, but good material with the needed basic education is easier to get now than in any years past. It would be economy in the long run to retain a man like Stoddard to start the work right, and I would rather see you start one project right than two of them poorly.

Yours sincerely,

ALDO LEOPOLD  
Game Manager

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