

Ottumwa, Iowa.
March 4, 1935.

Mr. Aldo Leopold, In Charge,
Game Research,
University Wisconsin,
Madison, Wisconsin.

My dear Leopold:

Thanks for the comments in your letter
of March 1st.

To adopt a policy to spend public funds
on private land for the improvement of game cover even
though it is a rather permanent betterment is a policy
that I have been thinking about for a good while, and
am sure it is one that Schuenke and Rode have been long
considering. And I am glad they have come to an independ-
ent conclusion with reference to it. Schuenke is now pro-
posing that we make these improvements with public funds.
I am perfectly satisfied that this is the only way that
we can induce farmers to do this job where the public will
have an opportunity at the take of game.

This will eventually largely solve
the game production and that is as far as I think the
State should go. The arrangement for the take and com-
pensation to the farmers should be left for the private
arrangement of individuals or groups of sportsmen with
the farmer subject to State regulation.

The "Private Shooting Preserve Plan"
that you have worked out will no doubt have a limited
application in Iowa., so your expression of the adoption
of this policy is most welcome and is added assurance
that we are not a tangent. If it is not too much trouble
I would be glad to see the forms and contracts for arrange-
ment that you are using between your farmers and groups.

Some months ago we submitted to the Sub-
marginal Land Division of the AAA a proposal for the use
of some 100,000 acres in Davis County for an attempt at a
maximum game production, both fur and feather. And surveyed
in much detail one 5,000 acre unit with our proposed plan

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for game management. It has just been accepted. In the meantime National Forestry has established headquarters in Southern Iowa with orders to buy 829,000 acres which will likely expand to twice this amount. Everybody connected with the movement from the local Superintendent to Silcox are quite committed to the use of this land for the purpose that we have outlined in our proposal.

~~He~~ are about to abandon our project in favor of the Forestry set up. I am quite sure they will be glad to set aside 5,000 or 10,000 acres for demonstration and experimental purposes. It is an opportunity to carry on further biological studies as well as game management practices.

Forestry has some game technicians. I am hoping that it is possible that either additional funds may be had that Errington could extend his program or that we could get a cooperative arrangement with the State Bureau of Forestry and the Biological Survey. Have you any suggestions? I am sending a copy of this letter to Paul and Bode.

If you will recall while in New York I told you that with a worth while program set up I knew two or three sources from which I might be able to get funds anywhere from \$3,000 to \$9,000 a year. I think this is a great opportunity as the Forestry people tells me they would be interested in any kind of game that would be adapted to the region. And would also develop the water courses for fur.

With very best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

WUB:M

W. C. Boone, Chairman,
Fish and Game Commission.