

INFORMATION FOR THE PRESS



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF INFORMATION  
PRESS SERVICE



WASHINGTON, D. C

RELEASE FOR PUBLICATION  
APRIL 19, 1934 (THURSDAY)

NEW WILDLIFE REGULATIONS  
ISSUED BY SECRETARY WALLACE

---  
Order to Promote Management of Fish  
and Game Resources of National Forests  
----

Secretary Wallace announced two new regulations today for the control of hunting and fishing in the national forests. Under these regulations it will be possible to extend or to shorten hunting and fishing seasons in the national forests with a view to managing the wildlife resources of these Federal properties to conserve both the timber and soils of the forests and the animals, birds, and fish.

In announcing the regulations, Secretary Wallace pointed out that in some instances they may lead to long seasons and heavy bag limits for hunters of certain animals in areas where natural multiplication has led to overstocking of the forest resources. In some areas deer have multiplied beyond the capacity of the range to such an extent that they not only are injuring young trees and soil, because of overgrazing, but many deer have actually died of starvation. In such instances seasons and bag limits may be increased until the number of deer is reduced to the stable carrying capacity of the forest.

In other areas, he said, the lands in Government ownership are not now producing as much wildlife as would be possible under wise management, and the new regulations will enable the Secretary--acting after investigation by the Forest Service--to restrict hunting and fishing until game or fish have multiplied to a degree where they are making effective use of the property. The new regulations look toward the management of the wildlife crop on a sustained production basis, coordinated with other essential uses of the forest areas.

2371-34

The Forest Service plans to apply the new regulations only where present cooperative arrangements for managing the wildlife have proved inadequate.

The National Forests, with 162,009,145 acres of Federal land, are the principal ranges for the big game animals of the West, especially during the summer period. The enlarged program for the purchase of forest and mountainous lands for National Forest purposes east of the Great Plains will make these properties also important aids in wildlife development and management. That all land should be devoted to its most productive use is a principle that has guided Forest Service policy for 29 years. This principle has been applied to range primarily adapted to wildlife, and land use plans have been developed accordingly. Although its application has resulted in a great increase in big game animals on the National Forests in the last 10 years, the Forest Service realizes there is a need for more intensive game management. This is indicated by the fact that many areas still support only a relatively small fraction of the wildlife they might support, and on other large areas there is more wildlife than the land can carry.

"Regulation G-20 A is designed solely to provide such wildlife management on National Forest areas or streams as will secure adequate protection, development, and utilization of all resources," said F. A. Silcox, Chief Forester.

"It is hoped it will promote closer cooperation and aid in the application of practical plans which have been developed by the Forest Service and cooperating agencies. It will be applied only where cooperative efforts have proved inadequate."

The order signed by Secretary Wallace follows:

WHEREAS, wild life is one of the major resources of the National Forest land and water, and its management and development are an essential part of the administration of the National Forests; and

WHEREAS, the prevention of overgrazing and erosion and the protection of watersheds, timber, and other resources are dependent upon the regulation of wild life population to the carrying capacity of the land or water, and such regulation is also essential to maintain the productivity of such land and water for wild life; and

WHEREAS, the regulation of wild life population by hunting and fishing is the most effective means of limiting the population to the carrying capacity of the range or water and of disposing of any excessive numbers; and

WHEREAS, the regulation of hunting and fishing on the National Forests is effective in reducing the fire hazard and in promoting the conservation, development, and proper utilization of National Forest resources; and

WHEREAS, plans for the development of the wild life resources, including the regulation of hunting and fishing, should be closely harmonized with the plans and objectives for the management of other National Forest resources to insure the maximum public benefits;

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in the Secretary of Agriculture by the Act of Congress of February 1, 1905 (33 Stat. 628), amendatory of the Act of June 4, 1897 (30 Stat., 11), I, H. A. Wallace, Secretary of Agriculture, do hereby make and publish the following regulations for the occupancy, use, protection, and administration of the National Forests:

REG. G-20 A. When the Secretary shall determine upon consideration of data and recommendations of the Forester that the regulation or the prohibition for a specified period of hunting and fishing upon any National Forest or portion thereof is necessary for the accomplishment of the purposes above set forth, he shall designate such National Forest or portion thereof, establish hunting and fishing seasons therefor, fix bag and creel limits, specify the sex of animals to be killed, fix the fees to be paid for permits, designate the authorized official to whom application for permit shall be made, and describe the terms and conditions under which hunting and fishing shall be conducted with a view of carrying out the purpose of this regulation. Public notice of such designation shall be given by such means as the Forester shall deem adequate for the purpose. Carcasses of animals or fish taken under permit shall be marked or tagged for identification as directed by the Forester.

REG. T-8½. Upon National Forest lands designated under Reg. G-20 A the following acts are prohibited:

Hunting, trapping, catching, disturbing, or killing any kind of game or non-game animal, or game or non-game bird, or taking the eggs of any such bird, except during hunting and fishing seasons established by the Secretary, and in accordance with the terms and conditions of a permit issued by a duly authorized officer which is valid and subsisting at the time.

\*\*\*\*\*