

INFORMATION FOR THE PRESS

United States Department of Agriculture

Release - Immediate

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 25, 1938

WILDLIFE BUREAU IS REORGANIZED

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Extensive organizational changes within the Federal Government's wildlife bureau will take effect on February 1, says the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

"With a view to economy of operation, increased efficiency, and a better coordination of activities," Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, Chief of the Biological Survey, is replacing the Bureau's two present Divisions of Game Management and Migratory Waterfowl, with four divisions -- Predator and Rodent Control, Game Management, Wildlife Refuges, and Construction and C.C.C. Operations. They will constitute the Bureau's Washington office along with the Divisions of Wildlife Research, Land Acquisition, Administration, and Public Relations, which remain unchanged.

The changes have been brought about because of greatly increased responsibilities and activities in Federal wildlife administration. They are the first to be made in the Washington office since Doctor Gabrielson became Chief on November 16, 1935, and are based on his 20 years experience in various lines of the Bureau's work as well as on his administrative observations as Chief. They follow a recent decentralization of Federal wildlife work that increased the responsibilities of the Biological Survey's ten regional directors, in Portland, Oreg.; Denver, Colo.; Albuquerque, N. Mex.; Des Moines, Iowa; State College, Miss.; Milwaukee, Wis.; Atlanta, Ga.; Portland, Maine; Omaha, Nebr.; and Juneau, Alaska.

NOTE TO EDITORS: Details of the reorganization and its objectives are in the following paragraphs.

Stanley P. Young will head the new Division of Predator and Rodent Control. Federal funds for this work have been increased by Congress in recent years, and

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cooperative and emergency funds have added other large amounts for control work for which the Biological Survey is responsible. Mr. Young, who during the past three years has been Chief of the Division of Game Management, which included control activities, has been in charge of the Bureau's control work since 1927. Before coming to Washington he was engaged in this same work in the West. He is the author of several Government publications on control methods and has for many years been a leader in devising effective methods that minimize hazards for harmless and beneficial species.

Albert M. Day, who for the past three years has been in direct charge of predator and rodent control, will assist in preliminary work pertaining to the administration of the recent Act authorizing Federal aid to States in wildlife restoration. He has been assigned temporarily to the Office of the Chief.

J. Clark Salyer, chief of the Division of Migratory Waterfowl, will head the new Division of Wildlife Refuges, which will administer the big-game preserves and wildlife ranges formerly under the Division of Game Management, as well as the waterfowl and other bird refuges already under Mr. Salyer's supervision.

The new Division of Construction and C.C.C. Operations, in charge of Hugh W. Terhune, one-time representative of the Bureau in Alaska and member of the Alaska Game Commission and recently superintendent of the White River Refuge in Arkansas, will handle work now largely in charge of Mr. Salyer. In the interests of standardization and economy, this Division will visa all Bureau plans for construction work. It will be the Bureau's service agency in carrying out, through the medium of C.C.C. camps, the general plans of construction proposed by other Divisions, and will also supervise construction work under other funds.

Under the direction of W. E. Crouch, formerly in charge of big-game refuges and game-management agents, the Division of Game Management will continue to con-

duct all activities in administering the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the Lacey Act, and the Alaska Game Law, and all activities under the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act except those relating to research and refuge maintenance and development. It will handle cases resulting from violations of laws protecting Federal wildlife refuges. Other activities will include issuing permits for importations of foreign birds and mammals and for the scientific collecting, propagating, and banding of migratory birds.

Chiefs of Divisions not involved in the reorganization are: Dr. W. B. Bell, Wildlife Research; Rudolph Dieffenbach, Land Acquisition; W. Roy Dillon, Administration; and H. P. Sheldon, Public Relations.

Commenting on the reorganization, Doctor Gabrielson pointed out not only the diversity of the Bureau's work but also its rapid increase in recent years. His statement follows:

"The activities assigned by Congress and the Secretary of Agriculture to the Biological Survey for prosecution cover a wide scope of objectives. We have fundamental scientific research on the one hand, and the practical application of the results of such studies and experiments on the other. Ours is the responsibility for assisting stockmen and farmers in controlling the numbers of predators and injurious rodents. The function of game-law enforcement, with its multiplicity of complicated situations, is highly important to the present and future welfare of the nation's wildlife, both game and nongame. We have an important responsibility for the wildlife resources of Alaska. We are responsible for the acquisition of land and water for wildlife refuges and for the development and proper maintenance of such areas in the interests of the greatest benefit to wildlife.

"During the past three and a half years millions of acres have been added to the Federal wildlife refuge system, and development of both old and newly acquired areas has progressed rapidly. The Bureau's refuges now number 233 and

include about 11,500,000 acres in the United States, Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico. The game-law enforcement activities have nearly doubled in volume, as well as the number of full-time personnel actively prosecuting this work. Closer cooperation with the Alaska Game Commission together with larger appropriations for the Alaska work has resulted in greater responsibility by the Bureau's Washington office. Cooperative and emergency funds and increased appropriations have added to our responsibilities for controlling harmful species. Considerable new legislation for wildlife benefits has been enacted by Congress.

"This reorganization coordinates related activities and provides competent individual administration for each natural unit of the work. Administering the nation's wildlife resource is such an important trust that no measures should be overlooked to increase efficiency and promote economy, of effort as well as of funds."