



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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DAY ASKS SUPPORT FOR WILDLIFE
WEEK, CITES CONSERVATION PROBLEMS

The problems of wildlife conservation are "as varied and as changing as the resources we seek to conserve," Fish and Wildlife Service Director Albert M. Day declared today, calling for wide public observance of National Wildlife Restoration Week, March 20-26.

"Yet basically," he said, "the problem is ever the same: how to keep the level of the wildlife populations high enough to satisfy the demands of modern civilization, a civilization that wants more and more benefits from this resource, yet by almost every act impairs or destroys the conditions that wildlife needs in order to survive."

Mr. Day said that Americans look to the wildlife resources for many things. In a broad sense, he explained, the wild animals, birds, and fishes of the land and inland waters are a recreational resource, although large economic values are involved in the pursuit of hunting and fishing.

"The marine fishes, on the other hand, are primarily a commercial resource, to which we look for several billion pounds of food and related products each year," the Fish and Wildlife Service Director said. "I doubt if there has ever been a time when our country has consciously demanded more of both groups of wildlife than the present."

There are many pressures on wildlife besides hunting and fishing, Mr. Day pointed out. He described them as "pressures exerted by an unfavorable environment"

Such activities as marsh drainage, admission of salt water into fresh-water marshes, diversion of rivers, pollution of streams, and the general advance of industrial and urban settlements into wilderness areas constantly reduce the amount of land suitable for wildlife occupancy, he asserted.

"Our efforts to oppose these unfavorable influences are continuing without abatement," he said. "A wide sympathy towards the conservation philosophy by our citizens, who investigate for themselves the relationship between the wise use of soil, water, and plant life and the national welfare, will make our task easier."

National Wildlife Restoration Week is sponsored each year by the National Wildlife Federation, an educational, non-profit organization, to make Americans conservation-conscious.

This is its 12th annual observance, and coincides this year with the Department of the Interior's centennial anniversary, which marks the end of the first century of conservation in the United States.