

Martin Urges Co-operation On Wild Life

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Oregon State College, Corvallis, Nov. 20.—Oregon's wild life, if managed in harmony with, rather than in competition with, other major land usages, may in time become the most valuable single resource in the state. Governor Martin told an enthusiastic group of representatives of federal, state and private agencies interested in wild life problems here Thursday night.

Governor Martin spoke at an elk dinner which climaxed the opening day's program of the Oregon wild life conference, which was called by the executive in an effort to outline a co-ordinated program for this development in this state. The elk was purchased from the Oregon game commission.

Value Rated High

While appeals for a unified program of development of Oregon's wild life resources with close co-operation of the various agencies concerned provided the keynote of the conference, various technical phases of the present situation were explained by the speakers on the full day's program.

Governor Martin pointed out that some five years ago the United States biological survey estimated that the wild life of Oregon produces an annual value of more than \$30,000,000, which included such elements as tourist attraction, the commercial fishing industry and probably assistance in insect control.

"The actual value of the state's wild life now has not, and probably cannot be definitely estimated," the governor declared, "but it is certainly very high and is considered by many to rank third in all the state's economic resources, being surpassed only by agriculture and its various phases and by forestry."

Urges Co-operation

Referring to the correlation of wild life resources with other industries, the speaker stressed the importance of making wild life development contribute to agriculture rather than take from it.

"I am informed by those who are in position to know," he added, "that that is not only entirely possible, but that it is an accomplished fact already in many instances. There is so much common ground on which all of the various interests can meet for their mutual benefit that it is a sad commentary on our statesmanship that we allow valuable energies to be dissipated in useless strife. If the commercial fishermen and the anglers do not get together and unitedly attack the problem of pollution, for example, they will not have anything worth while to fight about among themselves."

Cites Various Agencies

Governor Martin called particular attention to the various agencies vitally concerned in wild life problems and urged all interests to make use of all of them and help them to function in the best possible way. Among those mentioned were the state game commission, the well organized groups of sportsmen, commercial organizations, numerous federal and state agencies and the newly organized wild life unit at Oregon State college.

"We have no time to lose for the same forces which dissipated the game and the fish in our older centers are at work here," the governor concluded. "If we take intelligent action at once, we will not need to follow a harsh, repressive policy but a broad development policy which will permit our use and enjoyment of our recreational and commercial wild life facilities while they are being husbanded for oncoming generations."

Survey Interested

The U. S. Biological survey is keenly interested in every phase of the wild life situation in the United States, particularly in seeing that the various agencies concerned are merged into one strong central organization which will give wild life the important place it deserves. W. M. Bush of Portland, regional director of the Biological survey, declared in explaining the relation of his work to wild life.

The net results of the work over the last half century, he said, have been reflected in an increasingly conservation-minded public, in the building up of a public sentiment that has made possible the necessary but heretofore unheard-of restrictions on hunting of wild fowl and the taking of other game and fur animals, in the service to agriculture and forestry worth millions of dollars, and in establishment of bird refuges and big-game preserves.

Could Stage Comeback

Contributions of the national parks to conservation were outlined by David H. Canfield, superintendent of Crater Lake national park, who said the parks have been a large factor in making the nation conservation-conscious and are in a strategic position to do important contact work with the public.

The Northwest is in perhaps the best position of any section of the country to stage a "comeback" in saving and bringing back most of its natural resources, including conditions similar to its virgin growth. W. A. Rockie, regional conservator of the soil conservation service, pointed out. He explained how plowing, harrowing and other forms of cultivation have damaged absorptive characteristics of much of the soil, and the necessity for bringing back a covering in the Northwest.

Urges Protection

A warning that some form of con-

trol of catches of fish off the Oregon coast must be provided through treaties between this country and those of the Orient was sounded by John C. Veatch, chairman of the Oregon fish commission. Unless the salmon runs are protected off-shore, it is only a question of time until commercial fishing of the Northwest will be virtually eliminated, he said.

Pointing out that fees charged commercial fishermen provide the only means of financing hatcheries, Veatch said that halting commercial fishing would automatically cut off the funds and there would be no fish to stock streams.

"If the state of Oregon cannot provide some other means for financing the hatcheries, it would be absolutely fatal to eliminate commercial fishing," he added.

Others Make Talks

Other speakers on the first day's program included Ed F. Averill of the Oregon Wildlife council; Dean W. A. Schoenfeld of O. S. C.; William Graf, president of the O. S. C. Ding Darling Wildlife club; E. E. Wilson and Lew Wallace, members of state game commission; J. W. Biggs, chairman of the Eastern Oregon public land use committee; Fred J. Foster, regional director of the bureau of fisheries; O. D. Molohon, chief of range surveys of the division of grazin, U. S. department of interior; V. L. Sexton, forest economist, state planning board, and Stanley G. Jewett, superintendent Malheur bird refuge.

Dr. W. L. Finley, nationally known conservationist and naturalist, entertained the delegates with an illustrated lecture on "Woods, Water and Wildlife" following Governor Martin's talk Thursday night.

The conference will close this afternoon with formal organization and election of officers.