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March-26, 1938

For many years I have been convinced that Oregon
State College should have a department of
propagation and distribution and that
\$200,000 has been spent in Oregon in
the last few years to show that
there has been a decline in
game resources that private business
approximately \$400,000 per year has been
contributed annually for many years to the
Oregon Game Protection Fund by those who
take out fishing and hunting licenses.
Amounts smaller and larger than
this are paid in annually by sportsmen
every state in the Union.

I must say that I have wondered a bit
why last season in addition to this, some
\$700,000 was paid in various parts of the country
by those who hunt migratory water fowl to conserve
the birds. In the above I mentioned in
preparation for the above, I should establish
some. Many millions of dollars are spent annually in the
attempts to increase fish, game and fur-bearing ani-
mal populations. It is a scientific and
educational problem that requires the services of
experts. In Oregon the federal government has
recently expended \$700,000 and I am certain
that Oregon has spent a very large sum of money and at
present spends \$300,000 to \$400,000 annually to
protect and increase her game resources. Of this
amount, in round numbers about one third is spent
in the service for the enforcement of game laws.
The other two thirds is spent in propagation and distribution
of game fish and game birds.

A large proportion of this latter amount has been
spent in a haphazard, unscientific way so that much
of the money has been wasted.

The main reason for this waste is that the employ-
ees expending this money have had no real training.
They do not know the basic facts of game management.
They know nothing of the underlying causes which
contribute to the increase or decrease of various
species of game. As a rule, they hold positions be-
cause they have some local reputation for an ability
to catch fish or to shoot birds on the wing.

W. J. ...

For many years, I have been convinced that Oregon State College should handle our funds relating to the propagation and distribution of game. When such a sum as \$200,000 has been spent in any given year, we should be able to furnish proof to show that adequate results have been achieved or reasons why they are not achieved. Anyone knows that a private business could not exist if it spent large sums of money and yet had no figures to show return on the investment. If you can give me the name of any other department in the state of Oregon that expends such a large amount of public money in such a haphazard way, I should like to have it.

I must say that I have wandered a bit from the purpose of my letter as the above relates to a problem that has yet to be worked out. It is not \$200,000 but \$700,000.

In preparation for the above, I feel that Oregon State College should take the lead and should establish some kind of a department of fish and game management such as public institutions have established. The conservation of our game resources is a problem of public importance. You, of course, are familiar with the fact that in southeastern Oregon the federal government has recently expended \$700,000 and I am satisfied will spend several hundred thousand more in the creation of what will be the greatest wild life refuge in the United States. Oregon is strategically located to build and capitalize on her game resources. I believe that the time to do this is now. I feel it is the duty of Oregon State College to lead the way.

Will you kindly let me know what your reaction is regarding this problem. The money has been

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WLF:pf