

Sportsmen Must Police Own Ranks If They Are To Keep Privilege Of Open Hunting

from American Forest Products Industries, Inc.

At the annual meeting of the American Pulpwood Association in New York late in February, the industrialists who are charged with meeting payrolls and making a profit for their stockholders, took time out to listen to a panel on the "Impact of Recreation on Privately Owned Lands."

The discussion centered primarily around hunting and fishing on lands held in sizeable blocks for industrial forestry.

A year or two ago, because of constant but rather vague complaints regarding closure of extensive forest lands to recreation by private industry, the American Forest Products Industries, Inc. conducted some careful research on the subject. They found that 92.4 per cent of the large private holdings were open to hunting and fishing.

It was further established that a number of timber companies had already initiated their own programs of dealing with this problem on a more or less localized basis. Industrial forest companies from Washington and Oregon to Virginia, and from Michi-

gan to Alabama, have concerned themselves to the point of placing forest and wildlife ecologists on their payrolls.

The fact that these leaders of forest industry would listen to a panel on the subject of recreation as it affects their holdings shows they recognize it as a problem and are willing to evaluate it in relation to their primary business of producing timber.

Just why should forest owners have any doubts regarding the use of their lands for hunting? What can they lose and what can they gain?

The issue has its starting point with the fact that the public has an equity in all wild game regardless of where it may roam.

Based on this ownership certain segments of the public assume they have certain legal rights of trespass, for which there is no substance, or that continuing privileges become a pre-empted right.

A substantial portion of the public has a built-in conviction that they have certain preferential rights on wild, unfenced private forest land.

Possibly the forest atmosphere unconsciously stimulates the pretense of emulating the pioneer tra-

ditions. Further the average hunter sees no harm in his trespass, and private and public lands are often intermingled. The least valid reason is based on a belligerence toward extensive forest land ownership and big industry in general, with the additional fact that publicly owned game uses the land. This is all associated with a defensive attitude that trespass to hunt public game is justifiable.

But, in dealing with people en masse, many an individual wears two hats, though his station in life may not be indicative of attitudes. He may be a fence cutter, or with a million Christmas trees surrounding him he may sneak one home in the trunk of his car; or he may suddenly get the urge to use the carburetor of a bulldozer as a target for his .30-06.

The forest owner also has the constant fear of fire. Whether incendiary or through carelessness, fire can be equally damaging. A fire can upset a program of sustained yield or block cutting and put the company in the red.

If the public is going to continue to hunt on private lands, then by all justice the hunters should help police themselves.

One company that has spearheaded hunter-company relations recently reported with regard to the use of these lands: "generally the hunters, during the 1958 buck season, were reported to be safer with firearms and less inclined to vandalism."

The conclusion that over-all hunting behavior is improving was made in spite of evidence that hunters in 1958 caused more fire damage, stole more equipment, disobeyed more signs and got lost more often.

"The number and size of hunter-caused fires noted was nearly double the 1954 record."

"Asserting that the first obligation of tree farmers and forest management agencies is to protect the woods from fire," the report warned that "threat of fire is the most important single factor affecting the hunter's future recreational opportunities in the woods."

"Theft of company property and equipment was higher than in 1954. Tools of all types, gasoline, antifreeze, oil, blasting powder and caps were stolen. Twenty-three blankets and first aid kits, two stretchers and three fire extinguishers."

The vast army of sportsmen, "the good guys," are allowing a small minority of cheap, petty larcenists, "the bad guys," to de-

stroy a highly valued American tradition.

The "good guys" in every community should have sufficient backbone to organize and make life miserable for any hunter who will not respect private property and the game laws as well. In many regions where big game is common, especially deer, the forest landowner needs the hunter as one tool of game management.

The public will always be the public, sometimes critical and sometimes emotional, but the stakes are too high for them to lose their privileges.

The conference table has not been used enough by those representing the public, industry and the state conservation agencies in improving the situation.

Too prevalent is the fact that foresters talk to themselves and not the opposition, hunters talk to each other and not the forester, and to further stir the pot the resort interests in some areas who capitalize on public property as well as the misguided purists develop astonishing techniques to cloud the basic issue of deer management.

With 92.4 per cent of the industrial forest lands open to hunting and fishing the hunter will

Preliminary Figures See Big Fire Protection Cost

SALEM—Preliminary figures indicate that upwards of six million dollars will be spent during the coming fire season on the 15 million acres of forest land coming under the jurisdiction of the state forestry department and its co-

operating forest protective associations, according to Theodore W. Maul, protective assistant.

The state will administer nearly three million dollars of this amount while private industry expends a corresponding amount on the protection of Oregon's timberlands.

The state protection districts will spend one million dollars on five protection activities while an additional \$750,000 will be contracted to the private fire patrol associations and the federal forest service for the protection of private and state lands within their boundaries that are not members of private associations. Some \$1,333,000 of this will be contributed by forest landowners in payment of their fire patrol assessment through the taxroll.

An expenditure of \$415,000 is scheduled for administrative expenses such as the tremendously important radio communication system, central dispatching, fire cache, personnel training and the two 20-man emergency fire fighting crews.

Maul pointed out that the general public will contribute \$1,342,000 toward the protection of Oregon's forest lands. Of this, approximately \$582,000 will come from the state general fund for the conservation activities of the department and the fire protection administrators in the field. Another \$200,000, financed through a bond issue, will be spent in fireproofing the state forest land under the rehabilitation project. The balance will come from federal funds in the amount of \$560,000 which are allotted under the Clarke-McNary act, the forester added.

The private timberland owners will expend the other three million dollars on their forest acreage. This will include \$600,000 spent by their private forest protective associations and \$2,400,000 that will be expended on snag falling, slash disposal and additional fire fighting, patrol and equipment needed for extra hazardous conditions.

Maul stated that the emergency fire fighting funds are available for a total of \$1,229,000 should project fires occur demanding expenditures of large sums of money. One fund that now stands at \$989,000 is made up through a severance tax on all timber harvested from lands within the boundaries of the forest protection units in western Oregon. The other is a fund of \$300,000 which has been set aside for a similar purpose where fires break out on state-owned land.

R 'n R Hits Dublin, Too

NEW YORK (UPI)—Question: What kind of music do the teenagers in Ireland dig?

Answer: The same kind American teen-agers dig. Our authority are the eight members of an Irish dance band, the Clipper Carltons, who recently visited New York and Chicago to play at dances that preceded the St. Patrick's Day festivities and, in passing, to catch up on some of the sounds that are currently popular.

"The surprising thing about it," said Hugo Quinn, a trumpet player and spokesman for the Clippers, "is that the youngsters over here are so much like the ones we play for at home."

Quinn said the band, basically a Dixieland group, has kept up with rock 'n' roll, calypso, cha-cha, skiffle music and "cool" jazz.

"Whatever trend is popular in America becomes popular in Ireland, so we've been through all the trends," said Quinn, a stocky, 30-year-old crew-cut laddy from Strabane in County Tyrone. "Right now," he added, "there's no real definite craze over there. We've found out that it's the same way over here."

The Clippers also reported that similarities in the musical tastes of the Irish and Americans extend even to language. "We use the word 'dig' a lot, just like musicians over here," Quinn said.

"There are only two differences in our five talk. We call people 'heads' instead of 'cats.' In Ireland, we use 'cat' as an adjective meaning 'bad.' If something is 'cat,' it's bad.

"In New York the other night, we played 'Bird Dog' and at the end, we sing as the tag line, 'And that's cat.' Nobody knew what we were talking about. At home, it always gets a laugh."

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