

Although we are one of the smaller pulp and paper companies of the South, an effective public recreation program has been developed. At this time relatively few companies have developed such programs, but stand by, times are changing, the economic potentials of outdoor recreation are being recognized by others, particularly in hunting and fishing fees. If this potential will be incentive enough to create expanded recreational programs by others, the ever increasing demands of these recreationists can possibly be met in a much simpler way. We at Gulf States Paper are attempting to meet these demands in the ways that have been described in this paper. We have shown that outdoor recreation and pulp wood production definitely are compatible on the same lands.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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#### COOPERATION—THE KEY TO GAME MANAGEMENT

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The combined efforts of the Ouachita National Forest and the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation have greatly enhanced the huntable population of wildlife in southeastern Oklahoma. This is truly a cooperative effort and we believe the Key to Game Management. With a continuing program, southeastern Oklahoma should become a Sportsmen's Mecca, and not only will the sportsmen benefit, but people who enjoy watching and photographing wild animals and birds will have an area where they can pursue these pastimes. Also, the economic benefits to the surrounding area will be substantial.

The area included comprises 3 Districts of the Ouachita National Forest—Choctaw, Kiamichi, and Tiak—totaling approximately 238,000 acres. The Choctaw and Kiamichi Districts are typical mountain districts. The elevation varies from 2,660 feet on Rich Mountain to about 700 feet in the valleys. The Tiak is typical coastal plain with elevations running from 350 to 525 feet.

The deer population was sparse and illegal hunting was prevalent in southeastern Oklahoma. In view of this, in 1952 a cooperative agreement was signed by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation and the Ouachita National Forest. This was the first step in bringing back the wildlife population of southeastern Oklahoma. An I&E program was developed to inform the public as to the value of wildlife. This was followed by setting up an intensive management area in 1956 called the Choctaw Game Management Area. This area totaled approximately 13,000 acres on the Choctaw District. The Department did development work such as ponds and openings with Pittman-Robertson Funds. The area was stocked with 347 deer during the period 1956 to 1963. In 1958, two additional areas were set aside and called the Rich Mountain Game Management Area on the Kiamichi District, containing approximately 12,960 acres, and the McCurtain County Deer Management Area of about 6,700 acres was set aside on the Tiak. The Rich Mountain Area was stocked with 373 deer from 1958 to 1963. Another 160 deer were released in the surrounding Forest area. On the Tiak, 404 deer were

released from 1958 to 1963. The herd in LeFlore County has been built up from an estimated 390 in LeFlore County in 1957 with the herd estimated at 3,550<sup>1</sup> at the present. We do not have estimated numbers for McCurtain County.

The kill in LeFlore County during 1966 was 201—135 were killed on the Forest. The deer kill in McCurtain County was 430<sup>1</sup>. The majority of these animals were killed in the northern part of McCurtain County off the Forest.

In 1960, the Cooperative Agreement was revised and efforts were to intensify the game management practices over the total National Forest area.

The rainfall on the Forest area is approximately 50 inches a year with frequent periods of drought. With this in mind, the Forest in cooperation with the Department has built 97 ponds on the Choctaw and Kiamichi Districts and 40 on the Tiak. These ponds have been built with funds from the Department, boys and equipment from Job Corps, APW funds, and regular Forest Service Wildlife and Range funds. The State, and recently boys and equipment from Job Corps and wildlife funds have built 120 acres of openings. The first openings were built by the Department and were seeded with wheat, rye grass, Korean Lespedeza in an effort to keep the deer within the area until the herd built up. We are continuing to construct openings of the non-agricultural type, but we do seed the new areas to prevent erosion and let it come back in native vegetation. These need to be maintained about every three years either by prescribed burning or bush hogging. These openings are from 2-3 acres in size. Also, the pond dikes are seeded as the ponds are completed.

So you see, it is not just a cooperative effort between the Department and the Ouachita National Forest but use of all available sources. Most of you know that wildlife funds are hard to come by.

The three management areas were opened along with the rest of the Counties in 1965 and 1966. The Holson Valley Area was the only one controlled as to the number of hunters. At the present time, we are experimenting to see how many hunters the area can hold and still have a high degree of safety. The Rich Mountain area is rugged and the pressure in the McCurtain County Game Area is light due to the number of hunters that hunt in the northern part of the County. We are now planning a layout of trails to provide access in the more rugged areas.

One of the tough problems faced in the area competitive to wildlife was the feral hog and the domestic hog. There were great numbers of these on the Forest. In 1960 to 1963, an effort was made to eliminate the source of competition to wildlife and the detrimental effect to other land uses. A trapping program was initiated in 1963 and was highly successful. At the present time there is just a small remnant of wild hogs left on the Forest. In 1964, the cattle were put under permit and a 7-month grazing season was instituted. This eliminated the overgrazing and the competition to wildlife during the winter months.

We have not forgotten the fishermen in our efforts. The State, under the APW program, in 1963 placed approximately 70 structures in Holson Creek and Big Creek in an effort to create holes for fish. At the present time these have proved effective. This type of stream fishing is slowly going out of existence, and if we can do anything to enhance this resource, we will do it through a cooperative effort.

We are also in the process of getting turkey established, and in the near future hope to establish a huntable population. The Forest has been stocked with several flocks. There is a huntable population of squirrel and quail in the area, furnishing many hours of hunting pleasure.

In conjunction with the State, the Forest personnel determine the needs of wildlife and incorporate the wildlife needs in our timber management practices.

All the programs are going programs, and this is due to the close cooperative spirit between the men on the ground up through the Di-

<sup>1</sup> Deer Season Report, 1966, Department of Wildlife Conservation, Game Division, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

rector of the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation and the Ouachita National Forest. As the title of this paper states, Cooperation is the Key to Game Management. This we believe. For example, we hold annual 2-day meetings. These are informal meetings with a field trip to actually see wildlife work on the ground. Field trips may be considered looking over some new territory such as we did this year on a trip to the Wichita Wildlife Refuge or two years ago we went on a trip to the Panhandle Grasslands. These meetings are either started with or followed with an indoor session on plans and programs for the coming year and the review of the progress made to date.

These meetings are extremely beneficial and with the fine cooperative effort that has been shown in the past and will continue in the future, the National Forest in Oklahoma will provide an area where wildlife will abound.

## A BRIEF STUDY OF HUNTERS AND THE OWNERS OF THE LAND ON WHICH THEY HUNT

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For 20 years or more, there has been concern about increasing hunting pressure and decreasing hunting land. The U. S. Department of Agriculture has attempted to lessen this problem and decrease surpluses of farm products at the same time by subsidizing conversion of agricultural land to recreation land.

Recreation is booming. Boaters, fishermen and water skiers are crowding lakes faster than the Corps of Engineers can build them. New bowling alleys were built in nearly every town of any size, and cowpastures are being turned into golf courses every month.

Hunters, though, are decreasing. After the first few days of the season, it is hard to find enough hunters for our biological samples in Kentucky. Even the public hunting areas are often deserted. We have fewer hunters than we had nine years ago. Our income from game is only about five percent higher than it was in 1957.

Since the wildlife profession exists primarily to serve hunters, this is a disturbing situation. The status of hunting is becoming more and more like that of the whooping crane. It's being crowded onto special reservations.

### OBJECTIVES AND METHODS

The basic objective of this paper is to contribute to the preservation and expansion of the sport of hunting. The wildlife profession needs more hunters if it is to survive as a profession. As a nation, we need the physical exercise of hunting to help balance the emphasis on playground and picnic table recreation.

For high school boys, recreation too often means a fast jalopy and a cooler full of beer. If hunting could replace some of this type of activity, it might decrease the rate of physical unfitness encountered by the armed services.

Too many boys are growing up without the moral guidance their parents should provide. Hunting is one of the activities a father and son can enjoy together. It should provide more opportunity for character building than is provided by Little League baseball and other city recreation projects.

Hunters are paying people like you and me to provide worthwhile hunting opportunities for them. It's high time we made some effort to find out what opportunities the majority of license buyers consider worthwhile.

To determine where people find hunting privileges, a one percent sample of Kentucky hunting licenses was taken systematically with a