



Patchwork Forests Best

WILD animals that live in the woods don't like their woods too complete. Not the "deep tangled wildwood" of oldtime poetic fancy, but a mixture of old and young trees, full-grown timber and open spaces with plenty of brush, makes up the ideal forest from the wildlife standpoint, Ira N. Gabrielson, chief of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, points out in a new book, *Wildlife Conservation* (Reviewed, SNL, this issue).

This seeming paradox is easy to explain. Tall trees in completely closed ranks, such as one finds in a mature virgin forest, bear their leafy canopy high in air, where not even a giraffe, let alone a deer or moose, can browse on the foliage. Furthermore, the tops are so tightly interlaced that very little light can seep through to support a ground population of herbs and shrubs that would afford food to game.

The ideal situation, where profitable timber yield and support of wildlife are sought simultaneously, can be achieved either by selective cutting, where only chosen trees, ripe for the ax, are taken out each year, or by clean cutting of quite small blocks of timber distributed through the forest. Either method provides a constant succession of well scattered spots where young trees and underbrush provide browse and shelter. The Forest Service even instructs its men not to plant in certain limited acreages that appear to be more useful as homes for wildlife than as fields for timber.

Mr. Gabrielson of course does not confine his attention to problems of wildlife in the forest. His book is a comprehensive and well-balanced study of what is to be done with America's outdoor resources—grasslands, deserts, mountains, streams and lakes, as well as woods. He reviews abuses of the past, and tells how

they can best be remedied—are already being remedied in many places.

It isn't just a matter of providing picnic grounds for vacationers, game to hunt and fish to catch for sportsmen. There are potential cold cash values of major proportions in wildlife restoration. The raw fur take in the United States was once worth a hundred million dollars

a year. What the meat might have been worth, in the days of game abundance, there is no way of estimating. But if we could restore even a fraction of the venison and wildfowl and fish that the early settlers knew—and wasted—there can be no doubt that there would be eager and profitable markets for them.

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ARCHAEOLOGY

Oldest Home in East Found In Blue Ridge Mountains

THE OLDEST known home in eastern United States, an "ideal" camp site occupied by American tenants probably 10,000 years ago, has been discovered in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia by David I. Bushnell, Jr., Smithsonian Institution archaeologist.

Indicating extreme age of the aboriginal home are two Folsom dart points, clues to presence of America's very ancient big game Folsom hunters, who roamed the wilderness near the end of the Ice Age. These two points have been picked out of debris of the Virginia camp. That the place may have been a Folsom hunters' workshop is inferred from finding other man-made tools in the debris, some resembling Folsom work, and also from finding many small flakes of the same stone as the points.

Workmen engaged on picturesque Skyline Drive in Shenandoah National Park attracted attention to the important site, when they struck Indian relics in their digging. Mr. Bushnell, called to investigate, found and expertly sorted out a mixture of objects obviously left by prehistoric tenants of different cultures.

When North America was being settled by Europeans, the Cherokee and Siouan Indians had a village at the desirable site, which is in a mountain valley overlooking lofty Peaks of Otter. Far older than these Indians, revealed by artifacts at the site, were mysterious "Round Grave People," whom archaeologists in Kentucky have called the oldest inhabitants ever detected there.

Folsom Men in the West, named from the place in New Mexico where their distinctive, grooved, stone weapon points first came to light, are assigned an antiquity of at least 20,000 years by some geologists. In the East, antiquity of weapons is not yet determined, because Folsom points found in the East have been solitary objects dropped by some hunter.

The Virginia camp site, which is to be studied intensively by Mr. Bushnell and Dr. Frank H. H. Roberts, Jr., of the Smithsonian staff, may yield the long hoped for evidence of Folsom points buried under layers of earth which would give geologists a clue to their eastern age.

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