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INSTITUTE FOR FISHERIES RESEARCH
UNIVERSITY MUSEUMS
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

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FISH DIVISION

Report 235

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PROPOSAL FOR CONSERVATION WORK ON AND ABOUT THE " INLAND
WATERWAY" AND THE BOGARDUS TRACT IN CHEBOYGAN AND EMMET
COUNTIES

We have become acquainted with a considerable number of conservation projects centering along the "Inland Waterway" of Cheboygan and Emmet counties. These projects cover improvement proposals which have originated from several sources, including local residents, cottage owners, Mr. H. F. Harper, the University Biological Station (in charge of the Bogardus Tract) and the Institute for Fisheries Research. The projects as a whole are of such a magnitude as to call for the services of a full camp, which would be most centrally located near Alanson, preferably on the Crooked River. We recommend that plans be made for moving an old camp to this location, or for establishing a new one there.

The projects are too extensive to be worked effectively by crews moved in from rather distant camps, via trail. They involve major operations especially on the large lakes, using a dredge, one or several small barges, a tug or large launch, etc. The nature of the several projects calls for summer work, and we recommend that the whole six month's period from April 15 to October 15, 1934,

be allotted. No provision for these projects has been included in the winter project estimates recently submitted.

It is suggested that the men of this camp, if established, be assigned approximately equally to two sets of projects, one on and about the Inland Waterway and the other on and about the Bogardus Tract. The details of the projects could be prepared respectively by the Institute staff and by Dr. Ramsdell.

PROJECTS FOR THE INLAND WATERWAY AND ADJACENT REGION

1. Dredging out the channel of the Crooked, Indian and Cheboygan rivers so as to reopen them for navigation by launches. This is a desirable and much discussed project. It has been suggested that it be proposed for inclusion in the Public Works program, but it would seem more desirable to do this under the E.C.W. Unless the dredging be done under the control of one knowing and concerned with fish life, much harm to fish conditions might be done, such as the smothering of weed beds or spawning grounds. The fishing interests on these waters are paramount. Mr. H. F. Harper has been furthering this project, and has suggested to us that it be done under the E.C.W. He has been working with the Cheboygan people for the securing of a suitable dredge for this work. It is thought that a dredge owned by Emmet County would do the work. No doubt Mr. Harper would be glad to consult with the Department on this particular project, and on the project as a whole. We favor this project, as making the waters of Crooked, Pickerel, Burt and Mullet lakes, and connecting waters, more accessible to fishing and other recreational

interests. The channel would be comparable to a wild-land trail.

2. Lake Improvement work.--These large lakes are in especial need of the improvement of fish and fishing conditions, and are of the class for which such work is particularly successful and beneficial. The opportunity of tackling a major lake improvement project on a proper scale is alluring.

3. Stream improvement work in the general region.--There are a considerable number of trout streams within much more convenient reach of the proposed camp site, than of any of the existent camps. These include Maple River, the lower stretches of the Sturgeon and the Pigeon, Carp River, and some creeks (Minnehaha, Nigger, etc.). While a lay-out of this stream improvement work would call for a preliminary survey, we know these streams well enough to be sure that a considerable amount of stream improvement work would materially aid the trout fishing, which is a matter of great importance for the region.

4. Hatchery and rearing station improvements.--Oden Hatchery and its subsidiary rearing station at Wolverine would be within convenient reach of proposed camp site, and we suppose that projects for work at these stations will be considered for next summer.

PROJECTS FOR THE BOGARDUS TRACT AND ADJACENT REGION

Prof. Ramsdell, who supervised the M.E. C. W. work on this state-owned tract in 1933 suggests that further work is called for in 1934, and that such work would be greatly facilitated if done from

a nearby camp. The University of Michigan Biological Station (located on the Tract) and the Institute for Fisheries Research wish to suggest some additional projects for this tract, each to involve only a small share of the men of the camp. These several projects include the following items, which will be elaborated upon and perhaps increased by Dr. Ramsdell:

5. Additional fire protection.--Especially cleaning debris along sides of roads within the tract, constructing a two-mile fire line, across state land, parallel with the west boundary of the Tract, etc.

6. Road improvement and construction on tract.

7. Tree planting and timber culture work on the Bogardus Tract.

8. Construction of dam in outlet of Douglas Lake.--This project for maintaining a more nearly constant lake level is desirable from the standpoint of fish conditions, of cottage and dock development and of the University Biological Station. The local residents and resorters have been asking for a dam for years.

9. Experimental lake improvements.--It is very desirable that experimental lake improvements, such as construction of fish shelters, and planting of vegetation be carried out in Douglas Lake, where these may be kept under observation by the biologists at the University Station. These should not only improve fishing in Douglas Lake, but should also lead to improvements in the technique of lake improvement work.

10. Miscellaneous small-scale work to improve conditions in and about Douglas Lake for the work of the Biological Station: such as regaining towers ~~an~~ used in surveying the lake, modifying the pools being studied by the biologists of the station, etc. Such work would involve the services of only a few men for short periods.

This report is respectfully submitted for consideration by the Department of Conservation. Project estimates will be prepared if these are desired.

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