

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE  
MADISON, WISCONSIN

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

424 University Farm Place  
September 18, 1941

Mr. Joe Hickey  
132-24 Maple Avenue  
Flushing, New York

Dear Joe:

If you happen to know something about forestry and erosion, I have a very good opening described on the attached sheet. I know this is not what you are looking for, but it is my only financial berth. I hadn't thought of you for the place because I had you mentally classified as interested in ecological ornithology. I suspect we could sneak in some ecological research in the course of the travel which the position would entail, but the job would bore you unless you want to expand along the line of land problems. But if you are interested, I would rather have your intelligence than most people's training.

The only other opening I know of is a possible one at the University of Missouri. I am writing Rudolph Bennett telling him that if he still has an opening, he might want to get in touch with you. The probabilities are that his openings are filled by this time. My son Carl is in one of the openings, of which there were three some time ago. The particular research work which might be open now is unknown to me.

With best regards,

*Aldo Leopold*

Aldo Leopold  
Professor of Wildlife Management

cc Bennett

WISCONSIN HEADWATER SURVEY

I am looking for a graduate student to make a survey of eroding headwater areas in southwestern Wisconsin and lay out a plan for their conservation, either as county forests or by means of some new administrative device. The survey is to be made by the University for the Soil Conservation District Committee.

The job will carry a stipend of \$1,000 per year, plus travel expense, and will probably run for two years. One semester per year may be spent in course work. Resident tuition status is assured. ~~Work should begin as soon after July 1 as a suitable man can be located.~~

A parallel project on land economic questions involved in headwater areas is already started.

Qualifications desired: Knowledge of forestry, erosion, farming, wildlife, recreation. Ability to deal with farmers, officials of cooperating agencies, consultants on campus. Deferred status as to military service. Previous field experience of some kind.

The assignment presents a chance for some mature student of outstanding ability and versatility to take a Master's Degree in wildlife. Some man who already has a job in this or some allied field, and who desires educational leave for advanced work, might fit the requirements best. The most promising candidates may be called here, on expense, for personal interview, before a final selection is made.

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
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MADISON, WISCONSIN

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

424 University Farm Place  
October 1, 1941

Mr. Joe Hickey  
132-24 Maple Avenue  
Flushing, New York

Dear Joe:

Since writing you about the headwater survey, a last minute opportunity has come up for a scholarship under which we could select our own research rather than have it prescribed, as in the headwater survey.

Such a scholarship carries only \$400 plus resident tuition, but I assume that despite this difference in stipend you would prefer it. I would, of course, prefer not to change your field of specialization too violently.

On the chance that such a scholarship might appeal to you, I have just wired you as follows: "Wire me your grade-point average senior year and previous years, specify what institutions. Letter". I need these grade points in order to file a tentative application for you before the committee meets on Friday, October 3. Your regular application blank, which is enclosed, should be filed with the committee as soon as possible.

As soon as you get this letter, please send me a night wire stating whether such a scholarship, if offered, would be acceptable. Of course, if not acceptable, you needn't bother to follow up with the application. What I must avoid is a declination after the scholarship has been awarded.

Should we fail to get the scholarship, or if it is not acceptable to you, the headwater survey is still open. I am interviewing two new men within the next week. There is not the same rush in this case because no courses are involved this semester. I would naturally prefer to get a man with forestry and agricultural training. I will not attempt to say anything more until your attitude on the scholarship has been determined and until after I have interviewed these two men.

My mental picture is that if we get the scholarship, you would take course work the first semester, probably taking a light load because of the late start. This would give us the semester to develop future plans.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

*Aldo Leopold*

Aldo Leopold  
Professor of Wildlife Management

P.S. As to question 17 on the application, I will file one letter for you at once, but the other two you should arrange for. Dick Pough would be good for one, but I would suggest a university man for the other.

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
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MADISON, WISCONSIN

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

424 University Farm Place  
October 7, 1941

Mr. Joe Hickey  
132-24 Maple Avenue  
Flushing, New York

Dear Joe:

I have just talked to Noble Clark, Director of our Station and member of the Soil Conservation Committee.

I was glad to get your letter of October 3, which clears me up on a good many points as to your own limitations and preferences.

The question in your case is whether your lack of previous experience in the various fields affecting land-use would be overcome rapidly or slowly. There is no way for either you or me to judge this question. Moreover, the fact that you would be obliged to move your father adds a sort of finality to a move, and I assume you would have to weigh this in the balance.

Would you be willing to come out here on a six-months trial period basis without commitment beyond that period, it being understood that the project would go ahead through the two years, if we were in full stride by that time?

Also what degree of assurance have you that the venture would not be interrupted by military duties?

If we are in the clear on both these points, then I am ready to recommend you to the committee. I hope you will understand that if these funds were my own, I would probably not suggest the trial period device, but it is my first undertaking for this committee, and I will naturally be asked about your training. I will have to make a case for the assertion that you have the extra brains to make up for the lack of special training.

With best regards,

*Aldo Leopold*

Aldo Leopold  
Professor of Wildlife Management

Dear Prof. Leopold -

The six-months trial period is acceptable to me.

On Oct. 4, 1941 I was classified as 1-H by my local board. As I am 34 years of age, I will ~~can~~ not be called up for military duty unless the present law is changed by a new act of congress.

At the present time I am endeavoring to place my Dad in some employment which will ~~keep~~ <sup>as and if</sup> keep him busy in N.Y. when I go to Wisconsin. Should the committee decide to appoint me to the position, would you please advise me what kind of a time-limited appointment carries. At the moment I am still ~~am~~ uncertain just how quickly my personal affairs will be cleared up here.

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE  
MADISON, WISCONSIN

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

424 University Farm Place  
October 17, 1941

Mr. Joseph J. Hickey  
132-24 Maple Avenue  
Flushing, New York

Dear Joe:

Your letter pleases me. I now have everything lined up for a consultation with the committee, during which I can say that you are (now) the only available candidate, that I have confidence in your ability to overcome the lack of previous familiarity with the question, and that, as evidence of your own confidence, you have agreed to a probationary period.

If, then, they will gamble with me, we can go ahead. If not, I will notify you promptly.

I can't well guess when work should begin, assuming an o.k. on the part of the committee. I think we could allow you at least a month to wind up matters at home.

With best regards,

*Aldo Leopold*

Aldo Leopold  
Professor of Wildlife Management

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
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DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

424 University Farm Place  
November 6, 1941

Mr. Joseph J. Hickey  
132-24 Maple Avenue  
Flushing, New York

Dear Joe:

The State Civil Service crowd has been making us jump through the hoops explaining why we are selecting a wildlifer to do a soil conservation job. The available members, however, have now agreed that they will vote yes, but that the matter must await formal action at the Board meeting November 18. They have promised a yes or no on that date, and I shall wire you.

Are you hooked up so that you could come out immediately after November 18? What I have in mind is-- you ought to get a look at your region before travel is impeded by snow.

With best regards,

*Aldo Leopold*

Aldo Leopold  
Professor of Wildlife Management