

Wisconsin Alerted To Guard 10,000 Miles Of Streams

MADISON, Wis. (Special)—Recreation is increasingly big business but many a state is threatened with running out of saleable land attractions while it continues to advertise its declining assets.

Big advertising budgets are an important item in building a state's income from recreation but the leading tourist states are those with something to sell and the top tourist states in the decades ahead will not be living on their past history.

Short range programs are popular while a program geared for the future is considered to have little political value.

Groundwork Laid

Wisconsin laid the groundwork for its tourist industry by fire protection and its general reforestation program. The Conservation Department has found that while its watershed program is aimed at the future, there are short-range benefits that attract considerable current interest. The public sees the watershed program in terms of trout.

For several years the Conservation Department has been gathering data to save its remaining natural rivers and smaller streams. There are 1,100 dams holding up river flow in Wisconsin now and there are only a few important streams, such as Douglas County's Brule, that have escaped being dammed.

The Conservation Department's Lewis Posekany, in a preliminary report to the commission, lists 772 miles of streams for top priority protection. A thousand miles more are given secondary priority and another 1,500 miles are placed in a third class.

In all, Posekany says, the state should be alert to protect some 10,000 miles of streams.

Laying the groundwork for stream protection is a huge job. Whoever applies to the Public Service Commission or the courts for the right to subject a stream to some form of development has specific reasons. Wherever the Conservation Commission wants to block stream manipulation it must have specific data to show that the public interests are best served by leaving the stream as it is.

Information Gathered

The Conservation Department is continuing to develop a great volume of such information.

Most of the waterways slated for priority saving are in the upper two-thirds of the state. The list carries names that are closely in-

terwoven with the history of Wisconsin. They include part or all of the bigger rivers as well as countless trout stream tributaries.

Included are parts of the Chipewewa, Flambeau, Namekagon, Totogatic, the Wisconsin River at and above the Dells and from the Dells dam to Lake Wisconsin, the Flag, Iron, Marengo, Brunsweller, Ounce, Pike, Sioux, White, Eau Claire, Black, Clam, Yellow, Brule, Pemebonwan, Pine, Popple, Wolf, Oconto, Peshtigo, Evergreen, Prairie, Newood, Spirit, Wausaukee, Menominee, Miscauno, Plover, Kinnickinnic, Willow, Eau Galle, Fox, Mecan, Willow, Bad, Potato, Red Cedar, Tomorrow, Embarass, Bear, Deerskin, Manitowish, Mishonagon, Ontanagan, Trout, Spirit, Rib and Pidgeon.

A river system may be dammed for power, or more likely on the small streams in some areas they may be dammed to create a recreational Lake. In other cases dams are built to hold up or raise water levels. The Conservation Department has no general policy of opposing such developments where it figures there is no great loss in recreational values.

Purpose In Mind

But on the streams it is listing it feels that the highest public purpose will be served by leaving them as they are.

There are a lot of flowages and big drainage canals about the country but they fall short of the services of some of the natural river courses. Higher water affects water vegetation, fish and general wildlife. Many of the streams slated for saving have a distinct scenic value.

The Conservation Department hopes to bank the best of its remaining streams so that they can continue to pay out in recreational revenue through the many years ahead.

Watch State Beaver

MADISON, Wis. (Special)—Game managers in the northwest area are keeping a close watch on the beaver population with the possibility of a serious outbreak of tularemia. Eleven diseased beaver were found in Sawyer County. Three carcasses were sent to Madison for autopsy and they were tentatively identified as victims of tularemia.

All logging roads in the area have been examined as to developments for better wildlife food, Game Manager B. L. Dahlberg reports. Where advisable and possible they are being seeded to clover.

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