

PLANS EXTENSIVE PROGRAM FOR THE YEAR 1937

By H. BRUCE ETHERIDGE
 Department of Conservation and Development Director
 (Written for The United Press)
 RALEIGH, N. C., Dec. 24 — (UP)—Spotlighted against the work of nature, the North Carolina Department of Conservation and Development turned its forces into an extensive program during 1936 with plans bigger and broader for 1937.

To promote and encourage such use of the natural resources of the state as to obtain the maximum service for the people of N. Carolina was and is the major purpose of the department. Toward this objective there has been a decided advancement during 1936, but a measurement of the relative value of the various accomplishments depends upon the point of view of the individual. Some are more concerned that the wildlife of the state be adequately protected, others are more interested in the development of the mineral resources, and still others center their attention on forestry, industrial development, the fisheries, or water resources.

During the year there has been a remarkable increase in the mineral deposits of the state. Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been invested in prospecting and investigating the gold-bearing deposits of North Carolina. Investments in these investigations and the construction of plants for the recovery of the precious metals will probably reach a million dollars this year.

As the result of tests conducted by the Tennessee Valley Authority and the U. S. Bureau of Mines, with the cooperation of the department, is the possible establishment of an important porcelain or white ware industry in North Carolina. These tests have shown clays of this state to be suited for such an industry, and the pre-type of manufacturing for North Carolina of all other materials needed in the mix for such a product strengthens the possibility of this Carolina.

Development of State parks has continued through the year, and the Federal government, through the Emergency Conservation Works Program has expended more than \$1,000,000 toward giving North Carolina an outstanding system of recreational and scenic areas.

Within the year, the major development at Fort Macon State Park in Carteret county was completed and officially opened. The department was able to obtain a CCC camp for the improvement of Mount Mitchell in Yancey county during the summer months and it is anticipated that the camp will be reoccupied next summer.

Other state parks on which considerable work was done during the year include Morrow Mountain in Surry county, Hanging Rock in Stokes, and Cape Hatteras in Dare.

In addition to the regular administrative duties connected with game and inland fisheries law enforcement, the department has instituted several innovations in the

state's wildlife program. One of these was the establishment of natural fish hatcheries along about 75 miles of some of the best game fish streams in the state. This was accomplished by closing these streams to all fishing over a period of several months.

The department is preparing to carry out an extensive program for the restoration of wild turkeys on much of their former range in this state. A close study of methods employed in other states has been made and the most effective measures will be applied in this project. A fund of \$10,000 has been set aside for carrying out this program.

Two new federal fish hatcheries, one in the Great Smoky Mountain National Park in Swain county and the other in the Resettlement area in Richmond county, have been constructed during the year. These stations were recommended by the department which also cooperated actively in their establishment. The output of game fish from the hatcheries will help to restore better fishing in the waters of the state.

In cooperation with the State Historical Commission and the State Highway and Public Works Commission, the department continued the program of establishing markers along the state highways to designate places of particular historical significance. Ninety-eight legends had been prepared by the end of the year, and 95 markers completed. Most of the latter were in place before the close of the 12-month period. It is hoped that as many as 200 of the markers may be completed from the two-year appropriation of \$100,000.

The State forestry program advanced steadily during the last year, substantial progress being evident in every phase of the work particularly in forest fire protection and reforestation.

Fifty-nine counties, the largest number since the inception of forestry work in the state, were cooperating with the department in the protection of forests against their greatest enemy—fire—at the close of the year. This is again about four over the previous high of 54 in 1935.

Rehabilitation of the oyster grounds of North Carolina, started about three years ago under sponsorship of the department by the former Civil Works Administration and continued by the Emergency Relief Administration

has been carried out during the past year by the Works Progress Administration. More than 2,000,000 bushels of oysters and shells have been planted since the beginning of the program. A harvest of millions of bushels of oysters is expected from the newly planted beds.

Faced with an evident depletion of the valuable shad fishery unless positive measures are pursued, the department has initiated a program with this idea in view. Practical means are being worked out to permit a larger number of spawning shad to reach their breeding grounds and thus increase the future crop of the fish. These measures will be supplemented, insofar as means are available, by artificial hatching and restocking. Active cooperation of the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries in this plan has already been assured.

One of the most important departmental undertakings of the year was a survey of the natural resources and industries of the state. This inventory was initiated at the request of Gov. J. C. B. Ehringhaus, and is expected to serve as a guide to more effective use of North Carolina in future development.

Measures designed to check the erosion along sections of our coast subject to the most pronounced shifting of sands have been increased during the year. The work is being carried on along almost 100 miles of the "banks" under the supervision of the National Park Service which is sponsoring the project with the Department of Conservation and Development.

Swine Erysipelas Is Found In This State

Swine erysipelas, or diamond skin disease, is spreading in North Carolina, according to reports received by Dr. C. D. Grinnells, veterinarian at the N. C. Agricultural Experiment Station.

This acute, infectious skin disease which also affects the intestinal tract, kidneys, spleen, liver heart, and other muscular tissue is caused by a germ that is hard to control, Dr. Grinnells stated.

It may result in lameness, enlarged joints, sloughing off of the skin, and a general unthriftiness. In ways, it is similar to cholera, swine flu, swine plague, and other associated diseases, he added.

The disease is not restricted to hogs. Where it has gained a firm foothold, and the soil has been polluted by infected animals, it may also attack sheep, cattle, and human beings.

Vaccination will protect hogs against erysipelas, Dr. Grinnells

pointed out, and in early stages of infection the serum treatment will also give good results in curing the disease.

Dr. Grinnells and Dr. William Moore, State veterinarian, recommend the following precautions for checking swine erysipelas:

Quarantine all animals affected. Keep healthy animals out of buildings, lots, and pastures where infected swine have been.

Traffic in swine should be restricted and placed under more rigid supervision to prevent the shipment of diseased animals which will spread the disease germs.

Where the disease is prevalent, hogs should be vaccinated.

Keep hogs and hog lots clean. Feed the swine an adequate, balanced diet to maintain the animals' natural resistance.

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