



WOMEN...
Your Challenging Role in Forest Conservation

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INTRODUCTION

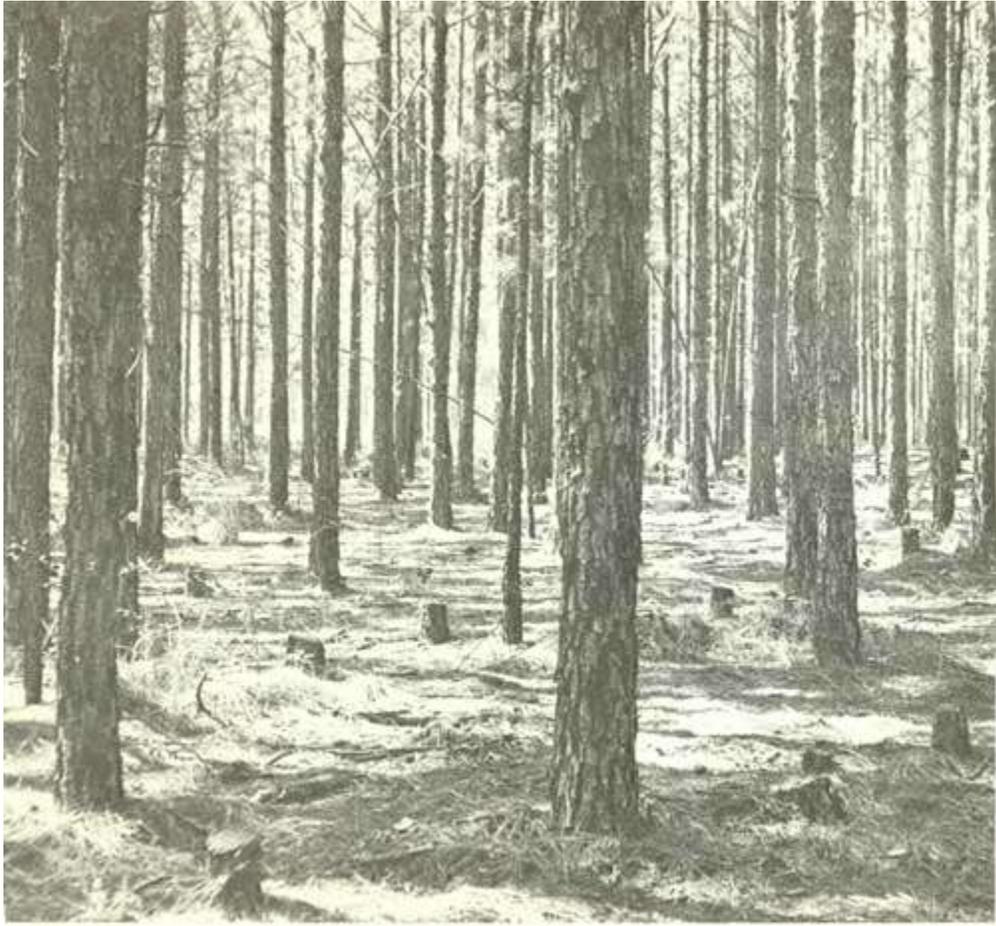
The pioneer woman had to put in long hours caring for her family almost everything was done by hand. Just to keep her loved ones fed and clothed required working from dawn to dusk, and often beyond that. Today the lady of the house presses buttons, pushes levers, or uses the telephone to accomplish — in a comparatively short part of the day — what used to fill the housewife's total waking hours.

Did you ever stop to wonder how all this came about? It took the industry and ingenuity of man, to be sure, but something more — without which all ingenuity and industry would go for naught — the God-given resources which bless this land. Through the use and development of these we have reached the highest standard of living of any country.

These natural resources are in two categories: renewable and nonrenewable. Nonrenewable resources, as the name implies, are ours to use only as long as present supplies last. We can conserve them by eliminating waste and speeding up research for substitutes. The renewable resources, however, we can manage so that they will continue to care for us through the years, but only if we first care for them. This, then, is the true meaning of conservation — wise use of our natural resources. Much depends, not only upon our having a knowledge of this, but in using it effectively.

Yes, we need our natural resources, whether we live and work in the steel and concrete canyons of the city or are greeted each new day with the lowing of cattle in the distance and farm chores to be done. Demands on these resources are increasing in proportion to our population, which is booming along adding three million citizens each year. Since this is so, let us consider the resources and our role in safeguarding them.





WATER

Let's start with water — frequently called the lifeblood of the land, and rightly so. Without water there could be no life, human or otherwise. This precious liquid has been constant in quantity since the world began, the cycle of precipitation-evaporation-transpiration-condensation never-changing. What must change, then — in view of greater need — is the handling of our water resource. The problem of conservation here is not just a matter of being careful to turn off the faucet when we're through using the water — it is keeping the water in a reusable state. Through pollution, water can be lost to us just as surely as though it had run down the drain. Sewage disposal in our town must be adequate to care for waste, and no industry should be allowed to contaminate the water so that it cannot be reused. Erosion also adds to water pollution. Bad farming practices, improper logging, overgrazing, and poor road construction are contributing factors. Erosion takes the topsoil from where it is valuable and deposits it as just another form of pollution in our streams. Proper vegetative cover is necessary on our watersheds — the sloping areas which drain into our streams — and cover plays a major role in the quality of our water. Many acres of Eastern mountain land, vital to our water supply, are in National Forests, administered by the U.S. Forest Service. In fact, that was the reason for their becoming public lands — to insure protection through proper management. Water is one of the multiple uses on National Forest land.

Questions: Do roadbanks in my State have a vegetative cover? Do the watershed areas near my community have a proper cover? Is sewage disposal adequate for my town? Are new industries taking the responsibility for removing pollutants before discharging their waste in streams?





RECREATION

The word "recreation" stems from the Latin word "recreate," to create anew — what better conservation than that! The human machine is such that release from tension is necessary; outdoor recreation gives that release. Picnicking, camping, trail riding, fishing, canoeing, swimming, and hiking are wonderful outlets for nerve coils tightened to the breaking point. An added attraction of leisure in the out-of-doors is that it satisfies the varied interests of a family group. There is something for everyone in nature's living room, and playing together is every bit as important as working together in keeping the family unit strong. Recreation areas on the National Forests provide a variety of healthful activities, as does the forest itself — recreation is another one of the multiple uses. Our expanding population increases the demands on recreation areas, but there are other contributing factors — greater public mobility, more leisure time, and increasing buying power. Over 100 million visits are made annually to the National Forests. The U.S. Forest Service is expanding present areas, and adding new ones. The expense of keeping recreation areas litter-free, and protected from fires and vandalism poses a big problem in outdoor recreation. This expense cuts into the building of new areas which are badly needed in many sections. Every citizen and user must help keep camping and picnicking areas ready for the next person.

Questions: What recreation areas are near me? Are they receiving the help of a litter-conscious public? What is my club doing in this respect? Are the children being taught that "Every Litter Bit Hurts"? If there are no recreation areas nearby, is there a chance there could be one through citizen participation?

What is the function of the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, Department of Interior? What will it mean to my area — to my State?

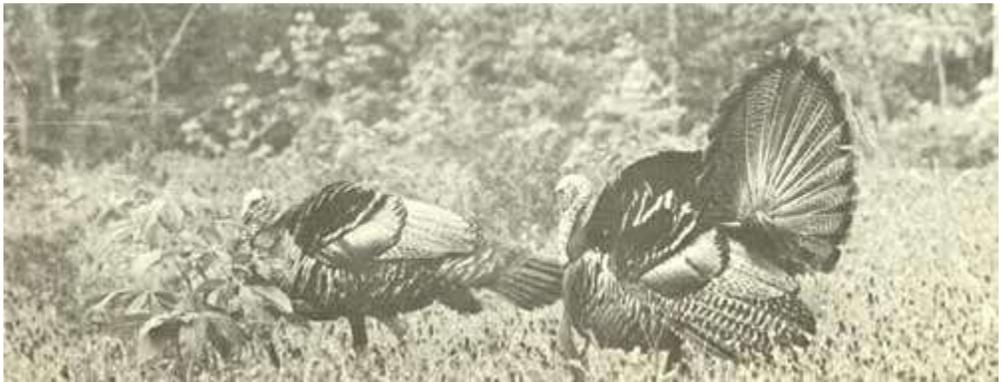




WILDLIFE

Forests enter into another form of recreation too, for they provide food, cover, and water for wildlife. Our forefathers hunted for food for the family table. In those early days when our country was not heavily populated, nature kept a good balance in her household of resources. As man increased in number, however, he upset that balance — hence the responsibility of righting it is his. Our wildlife must be protected by laws providing for their adequate harvest. Public lands must be managed so that there is sufficient food, water, and cover for the creatures of the wild. Many people like to watch wildlife or hunt with a camera. Whatever category is yours — hunter, fisherman, viewer, picture-taker — realize that wildlife is a resource that requires management. While habitat improvement on the National Forests is a function of the Forest Service, hunting seasons and bag limits are set by the State Game Departments. Improvement of habitat and harvest go hand-in-hand. Fishing and hunting are part of the multiple uses of our forest land.

Questions: Is thought given to wildlife needs in my area? Is there a law covering air rifle use in my State — are children taught the proper use of firearms (guns)? Do we back the State Game Department's wildlife biologists' recommendations? Are deer facing disease and starvation because of too many mouths to feed in my State?



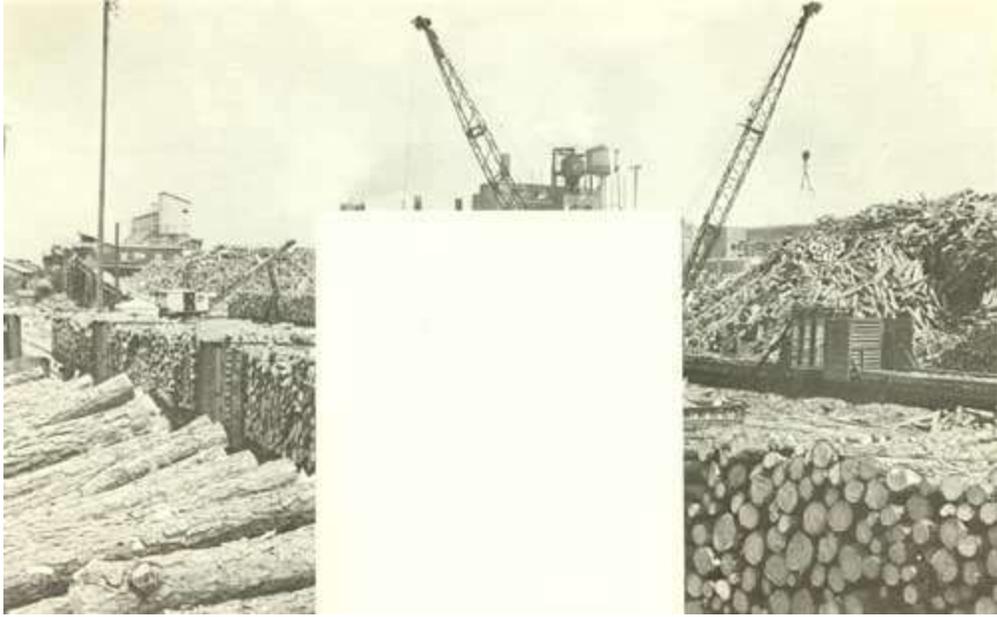
TIMBER

All resources are interdependent — thus you see trees affecting wildlife, water, and recreation as well as providing the timber we need for building, furniture, poles, pulpwood, and an endless number of things! Forests managed properly will continue to serve us and future generations — this we call sustained yield, and it governs the multiple use management of timber on the National Forests. You see, conservation means wise use — *not* preservation, and the all-important word in that definition is the qualifying "wise." Because of expected future demands on our timber resources, we need to know where we can increase the supply. A survey of our nation's forests shows that privately owned (exclusive of industry) forest land can provide much more timber if properly managed. Trees managed as a crop increase timber quantity and quality, thereby changing land from an idle to a productive status — surely this transformation would appeal to anyone! Good management involves elimination of weed tree growth, harvesting mature trees, and fire protection, as well as proper thinning for growing room. As pressures on our resources build up, this improved management on private woodland looms with even greater importance. Help in planning the management of your forest is available from your State Forester's office, or you can retain a consulting forester for the purpose.

Questions: Will the Extension Forester furnish information on managing private forest land?

Do I know what help is available to the small woodland owner on managing his woodlands?

Is my club supporting the State Foresters' reforestation program?

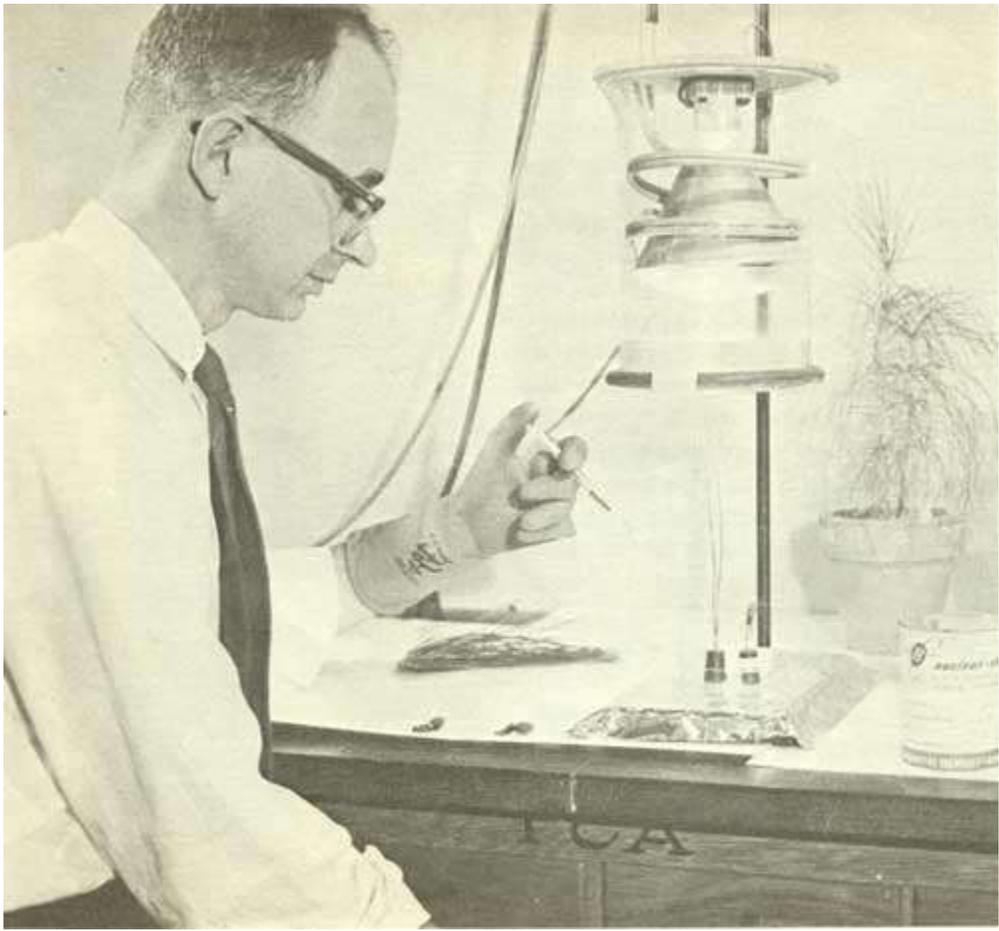


RESEARCH

Yes, better management helps immeasurably in increasing the quality and amount of timber, but efforts are not stopping there. Luther Burbank made history with his hybridization work, giving us new varieties of flowers and fruits. Today many potential Burbanks are experimenting in the field of forest genetics — trying to produce a stronger, more disease-resistant tree of greater commercial value. Forest Service Experiment Stations cooperating with State agencies and forest industries are searching for superior trees, using all their ingenuity in working with nature to produce them. Seed from the best trees are selected and even super-seeds are provided by artificial cross-pollination of better parent trees. This conservation effort has fascinating facets and all the challenges of a mystery story asking to be solved. In this field of research the Forest Service strives to find more and better ways to use our timber, manage our forests, cure diseases, stop forest fires, and halt epidemics of forest pests — eliminating wastes. Many products depend on trees — some we'd never think of associating with them. Through the medium of research new uses are constantly being found — not only for the wood itself, but its derivatives as well. Such diverse things as vanillin (artificial vanilla flavoring), a drug for skin fungus infections, an important photographic chemical, ingredients for perfumes and cosmetics, a suntan screen, and bases for plastics all come from lignin, the material that holds wood fibers together. The mysteries of the complex chemical makeup of lignin are not yet completely solved, but progress is being made. Who knows what wonders may yet unfold? At this time the world's chemical industry depends mainly on the nonrenewable resources of coal and petroleum — supplementing them with a renewable resource would be a tremendous help to the world's future.

Questions: What kind of forest research is going on in my State? Working through my club, how can I strengthen the work of the research agencies? How can I keep conversant with new research developments?





STEWARDSHIP

We want to receive the full benefits from the timber, water, wildlife, forage, and recreation resources during our life span. We are concerned, also, with our children's heritage. Not only what we leave them resource-wise is important, but also how well we prepare them for their task of stewardship of these resources. Conservation should be part of the school curriculum whether as a separate subject or integrated into the major areas of education. In addition to the school work, though, we need to instill in our children a love for nature and respect for her laws — by example, as well as precept.

Questions: Is conservation taught in our schools? Are there conservation workshops available to teachers in my State? Does my club contribute toward any conservation workshops? Does my club have a conservation committee? Does my State have a Conservation Council?





Many different people own our National resources — nearly 3/4 (73 percent) of our commercial forest land is privately owned — by individuals or by industries. The remainder is in public ownership — local, State, or Federal, and these lands belong to all of us. Familiarize yourselves with the agencies that manage these resources. One of them — the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service — administers 186 million acres of land in the National Forest System. The timber, water, wildlife, recreation, and forage resources of the National Forests are developed to provide the greatest good for the greatest number of people in the long run. Twenty-five percent of the income from each National Forest is returned to the counties in which it is located for use in schools and roads. This is a monetary return to the counties that complements the many intangible returns and benefits obtained from the sound management of the timber, water, recreation, wildlife, and forage resources. State and Federal agencies charged with developing and protecting the natural resources of the land are responsible to you for the quality of this management. You too, however, have a responsibility — that of being informed so that you give effective backing when single purpose and sometimes selfish interests threaten to misuse those resources.

Questions: Am I alert to legislation concerning natural resources? Where can I get conservation material? Where can I get Smokey Bear and "Don't Be a Litterbug" material? What are the State and Federal agencies handling resources? Where are the offices representing those agencies in my area?



**PRIVATE
73%**

**COMMERCIAL
FOREST LAND**

**PUBLIC
27%**



NATIONAL FORESTS OF THE UNITED STATES

THE CHALLENGE

Informing yourself is a necessary first step in conservation. Being for something without understanding it is pointless, fruitless, and downright dangerous. Dangerous because you can be misled — perhaps into backing a conservation (so-called) project which has no greater merit than personal gain. Women's organizations do invaluable work in conservation. One reason for this is that, through the efforts of the Conservation Chairman, the members have an opportunity of informing themselves. She provides material and programs to further expand their knowledge. Once you have the conservation knowledge, you and your club have an effective way of making your desires known — through resolutions reflecting the view of the organization. See that the people concerned have copies of that resolution and are free to quote it — in fact, encourage them to do so. Only through use can it serve to the maximum.

Challenges are part of our lives! They inspire us to step up our efforts and help keep our country strong. Rapidly increasing population and diminishing natural resources pose one of the greatest challenges to man's survival. He can destroy the earth just as surely and completely through misuse and abuse of natural resources as by bombs — with more far-reaching results. The challenge is clear: be informed — be alert — be concerned — act!





[Ed. – The box over these two photos are in the original scan that was copied over into this document.]