

1-1-1926

Upper Mississippi River Wild Life and Fish Refuge

William T. Cox
Iowa State College

Follow this and additional works at: <https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/amesforester>



Part of the [Forest Sciences Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Cox, William T. (1926) "Upper Mississippi River Wild Life and Fish Refuge," *Ames Forester*: Vol. 14 , Article 7.
Available at: <https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/amesforester/vol14/iss1/7>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at Iowa State University Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Ames Forester by an authorized editor of Iowa State University Digital Repository. For more information, please contact digirep@iastate.edu.

Upper Mississippi River Wild Life and Fish Refuge

By William T. Cox

The Upper Mississippi Wild Life Refuge is going to be a great thing. In a few years only Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks will be comparable with it.

It is planned to acquire all of the bottom lands along the Mississippi between Lake Pepin and Rock Island. The average price paid for these lands is \$3.50 an acre. This is so low that it is only after an owner is convinced of the merits of the project that he is willing to sell.

This work of acquiring land is being pushed as rapidly as possible and as soon as it is completed there will be a difficult task of protection to work out, and later a promising and fascinating line of development to undertake.

It is planned to stock parts of the Refuge with beaver this spring and, if enough protection can be given them, there should be a large number of beaver here in the future. The conditions on the Refuge are favorable and suitable food is available for the re-introduction of these animals, which were plentiful here years ago.

Deer, wild turkey and other game, once abundant here, but long since gone, can be successful re-introduced, it is believed.

There is a different attitude towards such things than formerly. Most of the people now believe in giving the wild creatures a chance. About 90 percent of the rural population believe in Forest and Game Conservation at the present time.

Forests are a necessity for the protection and development of game. The forest growth on the Refuge is securing much consideration. Although the timber is not of the best, and the forest lands are not in satisfactory condition, proper management of the forested portions of these bottom lands will result in a good timber crop return, and at the same time not destroy the value of the lands as a game refuge. These forested portions offer exceptional opportunities for the growing of black walnut and other valuable hardwood trees.