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Institute for Fisheries Research

**INSTITUTE FOR FISHERIES RESEARCH** B. V. Hughes (for Rifle River  
Area file)

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**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION**

COOPERATING WITH THE

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REPORT NO. 1032

THE USE BY THE PUBLIC, AND THE GAME  
AND FISH TAKEN FROM THE RIFLE RIVER  
AREA (GROUSEHAVEN) DURING 1945

by

David S. Shetter

For approximately 20 years previous to 1945, the Jewett estate, comprised of some 4,200 acres of wild land lying 4 miles east of Rose City in Ogemaw County, was hunted and fished over by a comparative handful of sportsmen. This property was purchased for \$75,000 by the Department of Conservation in March, 1945, to provide additional public fishing and hunting ground relatively close to large centers of population, and also to provide complete ownership on several lakes and on both banks of about nine miles of trout streams, all of which could be treated in various manners for experimentation in fisheries research. Another feature of the Rifle River Area is the one-way road pattern which makes possible a complete check on all activity in the area.

The public was able to enter the tract legally for the first time in two decades on April 28, 1945, at the opening of the trout season. This report will present the statistics describing the use made of the Rifle River Area during the last eight months of 1945, and will list the amount of game and fish taken by fishermen and hunters.

Rules and Regulations, Mode of Operation

Previous to the opening of the area, the boundaries were posted, and directional signs placed along roads and at intersections to keep the automobile traffic moving in the proper direction (see map, figure 1). About 300 yards from the main entrance gate, all persons entering the area were registered, and a carbon copy of their registration form was kept. This permit form indicated the type of activity they desired to pursue while on the area (fishing, hunting, trapping, picnicking, sight-seeing, -- see attached form). On this form the names and addresses were written. On the reverse side were printed the rules and regulations governing the use of the area. These did not differ greatly from the rules in force on other public lands under Department administration except that all persons entering the area were required to register; camping was not permitted, nor was the use of motor boats or outboard motors allowed.

The checking station was kept open daily during the fishing season from 6 A.M. to 10 P.M. during most of the summer; later from 6 A.M. to 9 P.M. During the hunting season the hours of operation were from 5 A.M. to 5 or 6 P.M., and after the deer season the area was open from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. except Wednesdays. Registrants were given permits on entering the area, and if they had hunted or fished, reported their success on leaving, allowing the census clerks to examine, weigh or measure the contents of their game or fish bags.

Mr. Basil V. Hughes was in charge of the area, and operated the creel census under the direction of the author and census takers working under him were Robert Barber and Tom Brooke. Rhyner Scholma assisted in taking

creel census until June 20. Arthur De Claire replaced Tom Brooke in mid-summer when the latter was transferred to the position of Trapper-Instructor. Since the close of the deer season, C. J. Kohn has issued permits and checked the fish and game bag. Maintenance of roads, bridges and buildings was directed by F. <sup>G</sup> Fanselow, Fish Division Engineer, and was carried out by Grant Thompson, Al Moore, C. J. Kohn, and Mason Whitney, with assistance from the creel census clerks.

#### Use of the Area

A total of 16,370 persons registered during the period April 28 - December 31, 1945. The number of people entering the area two or more times is not known, but it is estimated that probably 10,000 different individuals traveled through the former Jewett property. These people came from 56 counties in the lower peninsula of Michigan, 12 other states, and Canada.

The number of people registering for the various activities is presented in Table 1, summarized by two-week periods. Sightseers and picnickers were grouped under one heading, since less than one per cent indicated picnicking as their desired activity. Sightseeing was the predominant activity in 11 of the periods, fishing in 3 of the periods, and hunting in 4 periods. The largest number of registrants were listed for the period June 23 - July 6, when 2,695 people visited the Rifle River Area. Other peaks of activity were during the first two weeks (April 25 - May 11) when 1,027 fishermen and sightseers entered; shortly after V-J day and the end of gasoline rationing (August 18 - September 1) the number of registrants jumped from 1,600 to 1,984.

Public use of the area was limited during late September and early October because of repairs to the roads and bridges. Another peak

occurred during the rifle season for deer when 1,908 people used the Rifle River Area, most of them for hunting.

Of the 16,370 registrants, 9,784 of them were sightseers and picnickers (59.8 per cent), 4,339 registered for fishing (26.5 per cent), 2,207 listed hunting as their activity (13.5 per cent), and 40 (0.2 per cent) registered for trapping. The fact that over half of the registrants came only to "look at the country" would indicate that there is a large segment of the population which enjoys just getting out into relatively wild land and viewing the country-side from a back road. The percentage registered during 1945 may be somewhat higher than normal, perhaps influenced by understandable curiosity in the haunts of a former millionaire.

The residents of Ogemaw County (4,068) used the area more than any other (Table 2) followed by residents of Wayne County (3,030), Genesee County (1,924), Saginaw County (1,652), Oakland County (904), Bay County (781), Macomb County (392), Tuscola County (316), Iosco County (313), and Ingham County (278). Ogemaw County residents outnumbered all other counties among the sightseers, fishermen and trappers, while Genesee County residents were slightly ahead in the hunter tally.

Among the non-resident registrants, Ohio led with 585, followed by Indiana with 43, Illinois with 36, and Pennsylvania with 14. Registrants from additional states were as follows: Washington, 8; New York, 5; and Maryland  
Iowa, New Mexico, and Oklahoma, 4 each; Kentucky, 2; and Wisconsin and Canada, 1 each. The residence of 137 permit-holders was not available, apparently because the carbon paper failed to function.

In addition to those people registered by permit, the Rifle River Area was visited by the Michigan Outdoor Writers' Association on May 12, and 29 of its members inspected the project. The University of Michigan

Geography Department Summer Session occupied a part of the lodge as headquarters for its operations during the period August 28 - October 5.

Fourteen individuals were housed, and used the area for part of their field work.

Outside of the comments directed to the census clerks there is no measure of the enjoyment and pleasure that was had by the sightseers who visited the area. It was gratifying to all connected with the operation of the project that the overwhelming majority approved of the purchase, and the regulations under which the public was permitted to use the area.

Although it is not now possible to evaluate the "aesthetic creel or game bag," the regulations and mode of operation permit of a close tally of the fish and game removed from the Rifle River Area.

#### Fish Taken

During the 1945 trout season (April 28 - September 3), a total of 1,476 trout fishermen, 88 per cent of whom were unsuccessful, fished for a total of 3,397.50 hours on the streams within the area. In that time they caught 418 trout (25 brook trout, 381 brown trout, and 12 rainbow trout) weighing 195.56 pounds, for a catch per hour of 0.12 legal trout or 0.057 pounds of legal trout. The majority of the fishing was done on the Rifle River. In addition, the trout fishermen also captured 28 pike, bass and other warm-water fish weighing 26.36 pounds from the Rifle River.

A total of 2,608 lake fishermen (~~Table 3~~) were registered on the creel cards after North, Devoe and Teal lakes were opened for pike fishing on May 15. The other lakes were opened on June 25 and all were open to December 31. Of the total number of anglers 1,756 (67 per cent) reported no success. A total of 9,304.00 hours was spent in fishing the lakes,

and this amount of effort produced a total catch as follows: 140 small-mouth bass, 254 largemouth bass, 2,863 bluegills, 918 yellow perch, 184 rock bass, 1,070 pumpkinseeds, 67 northern pike, 25 brown trout, 43 bullheads, 600 crappies, and 28 common suckers -- a total of 6,192 legal fish, or 0.74 legal fish per hour.

From weights on about 98 per cent of the take, it may be estimated that the weight of fish removed from the various lakes was as follows: Devoe Lake, 798.2 pounds; North Lake, 361.6 pounds; Dollar Lake, 1,071.5 pounds; Teal Lake, 2.4 pounds; South Pond, 5.5 pounds; Devil's Wash Basin, 7.9 pounds; total weight of fish removed from lakes, 2,247.1 pounds or 0.241 pounds of legal fish per hour. If the weight of trout and warm-water fish removed from the trout streams is added to this, the total weight of fish removed from the area is found to be 2,469.0 pounds.

Over 99 per cent of all the lake fishing was done on Devoe, Dollar and North Lakes, and a comparable amount of the take was from these waters (~~Table 3~~). Almost all fishing was done between May 15 and September 15. Ice fishing was possible by December 15 and eleven individuals tried it before the close of the year.

*(Insert)*  
Hunting Results

The statistics for all hunting (except the rifle deer season) and trapping are summarized in Table 4. [Duck season opened September 20 and closed December 8; grouse and rabbits became legal game on October 15 and were hunted until November 5; woodcock were open to hunting during October 15 - October 29; it was legal to take one male deer with 3 inch spikes or larger with bow and arrow between October 1 and November 14; and bear are legal game at any time in Ogemaw County.]

According to the hunters' report cards, grouse hunting was the preferred sport among the fall users of the area, some 208 hunters expending 484.5 hours of hunting effort. They killed 50 ruffed grouse weighing 56 pounds, 11 ounces; 8 woodcocks weighing 4 pounds, 4 ounces; 1 black duck weighing 3 pounds, 4 ounces; 1 cottontail rabbit weighing 2 pounds, 8 ounces; 1 fox squirrel weighing 1 pound, 13 ounces; and one raccoon weighing 11 pounds; or 62 pieces of game with a total weight of 79 pounds, 8 ounces or 0.16 pounds of game per hour. Grouse hunters reported observing an average of 1.9 other game birds or animals per hour in their hunting.

About one-fifth as many duck hunters came to the Rifle River Area. Forty hunter-days involving 71.5 hours were spent in pursuit of their quacking prey. In that time they bagged 24 ducks (3 mallards, 18 black ducks, 1 green-winged teal and 2 hooded mergansers) with a total weight of 56 pounds, and one ruffed grouse weighing 1 pound, 8 ounces. The total bag amounted to 25 pieces of game weighing 57 pounds, 8 ounces, or a kill per hour of 0.80 pounds. Duck hunters reported seeing an average of 6.8 other game birds or animals per hour of hunting.

Thirty-two rabbit hunters spent 68.0 hours chasing the few nimble cottontails resident on the area. Two cottontails with an estimated weight of 5 pounds were killed, or 0.07 pounds per hour. Rabbit hunters saw very little other game, reporting an average of only 0.3 game birds and animals per hour of their hunting.

Nine bow-and-arrow deer hunters spent 20.5 hours stalking the deer between October 1 and November 5. One expert archer filled his license in less than one hour of hunting, killing a spike-horn which dressed at an estimated 160 pounds, making the weight of game killed per hour 7.80 pounds for archers. Game seen by archers consisted solely of deer (2 bucks, 9 does and 4 fawns) or 0.7 deer per hour of hunting.

Three bear hunters and two squirrel hunters spent 12.0 and 6.0 hours respectively pursuing those species but were unsuccessful.

Thirty-one trapping days were spent by four individuals on the area from November 15 to December 15. Their total take amounted to 2 raccoons (estimated weight 22 pounds), 2 mink (estimated weight 4 pounds) and 10 muskrat (estimated weight 16 pounds), or a total of 42 pounds.

The rifle season for deer provided the high point of the hunting season on the Rifle River Area. A total of 1,923 hunting days amounting to 9,346.0 hours was spent by 1,127 individuals in hunting bucks. They killed a total of 54 legal deer (or 8.4 per square mile) which had a dressed weight of 6,912 pounds, an average weight of 128 pounds. A graphical summary of the kill and hunting pressure by days will be found in Figure 2. The average number of hunters per day was 120, the highest number on any day was 262, the least, 38. The hunting pressure averaged 19 hunters per square mile during the season.

as they were weighed and checked out  
Examination of the deer by Game Division technicians indicated the age composition of the kill to be as follows:

- 1 1/2 yrs.....29 deer, or 55 per cent;
- 2 1/2 yrs.....12 deer, or 23 per cent;
- 3 1/2 to 4 1/2 yrs...11 deer, or 20 per cent;
- 5 1/2 yrs. and older..2 deer, or 2 per cent;

Spike-horns (34 per cent) and eight-point racks (26 per cent) made up 60 per cent of the deer kill. The remainder, except for two nine-point racks, consisted of 3-to 6-point heads.

In addition to the legal kill by rifle hunters, a total of 15 does and "button" bucks were found on the area killed by "mistake." The



majority of these were salvaged and delivered to charitable organizations by the Field Administration Division.

There was one minor gun accident reported during the rifle season for deer.

Summary of Creel and Game Bag Take

The game and fish take is summarized in the following table; and amounted to a combined total of 6,796 individuals and over 4.8 tons of fish and game:

Table 5

Summary of Numbers and Weight of Fish and Game  
Taken from Rifle River Area (Grousehaven), 1945

| <u>Item</u>                 | <u>No. of Individuals</u> | <u>Weight (lbs.)</u> |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Fish - (from trout streams) | 446                       | 221.90               |
| Fish - (from lakes)         | 6,192                     | 2,247.10             |
| Deer - (rifle season)       | 54                        | 6,912.00             |
| Grouse                      | 51                        | 58.10                |
| Woodcock                    | 8                         | 4.30                 |
| Ducks                       | 25                        | 59.20                |
| Cottontail                  | 3                         | 7.50                 |
| Fox Squirrel                | 1                         | 1.80                 |
| Raccoon                     | 3                         | 33.00                |
| Deer (Bow-and-Arrow)        | 1                         | 160.00               |
| Muskrat                     | 10                        | 16.00                |
| Mink                        | 2                         | 4.00                 |
| <u>TOTALS</u>               | <u>6,796</u>              | <u>9,724.90</u>      |

Depending on what the individual may estimate as the proper value per pound of game or fish, the economic value of the fish and game take may be estimated to be worth somewhere between \$3890 and \$9725 (from 40 cents to \$1.00 per pound). This does not include the aesthetic values inherent in the pursuit of the various species.

The sporting qualities of the Rifle River Area, as brought out by a check of the game and fish bags, might be summed up as follows:

Trout fishing - very poor for the average fisherman, fair to good for the more expert at certain times of the season;

Lake fishing - fair to excellent on Dollar Lake, only poor to fair on the other lakes;

Grouse hunting - poor in 1945, but the number of birds seen during and after the season indicate a possibility for improvement;

Duck hunting - could be classed as fair; more duck hunters should have worked on the midseason flights;

Squirrel and rabbit hunting - almost non-existent because of low populations of those species;

Deer hunting - could be classed as good; hunting pressure was slightly higher than for Ogemaw County in 1944, but the kill was much higher on the Rifle River Area (8.4 deer per square mile as compared with 5.5 for Ogemaw County in 1944).

#### Acknowledgements

Operation of a project of this type was a new experience for the Fish Division, and we are grateful for considerable assistance from the other divisions of the Department. District Supervisor of the Division of

Field Administration Hans L. Winton and his staff, gave much advice, and assisted in preparing the roads for the opening of the area. The author wishes to express his appreciation to Game Division biologists Donald W. Douglass, Ben C. Jenkins and C. T. Black who organized and supervised collection of game kill data and for assistance at the checking station during the peaks of the various game seasons. Mr. Jenkins compiled the data obtained from hunters during the rifle deer season and prepared the accompanying chart (Figure 2). Lastly, of primary importance in the operation of such a project, should be cited the excellent cooperation given Department employees working on the area by the general public.

Literature Cited

Seton, Ernest Thompson.

1929. Lives of Game Animals, Vol. 2, Part 2, Life XXXIV, p. 519,  
Vol. 4, Part 2, Life LXXXIX, p. 569.

INSTITUTE FOR FISHERIES RESEARCH

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Report approved by A. S. Hazzard

Report typed by E. F. Livingston

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Addenda to Institute for Fisheries Report No. 1032 (The use by the public,  
and the game and fish taken from the Rifle River Area (Grousehaven) during  
1945)

Insert on Page 6 at end of section on Fish Taken

The total number of people registering for fishing on the area was 4,339, as determined from the permits issued at the gate. However, if the totals as determined from the creel census cards for the lakes and trout streams are added up, we find that only 4,084 anglers used the area (1,476 trout fishermen and 2,608 lake fishermen).

This discrepancy of 255 results from permit holders registering for fishing and then not fishing, and either failing to report this fact to the clerks, or failure on the part of the clerks to change the permit copy in our files. Thus the number of entrants registered for fishing, as determined from permits, exceeds the actual number of anglers, as determined from the totalling of the creel census blanks. It is hoped that this point of discrepancy can be corrected in 1946 by closer questioning of the sportsmen and tourists using the area.

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TABLE 1

NUMBER OF PERMITS ISSUED FOR VARIOUS ACTIVITIES  
ON THE RIFLE RIVER AREA (GROUSEHAVEN),  
APRIL 28-DECEMBER 31, 1945, BY TWO-WEEK  
PERIODS (EXCEPT DECEMBER 23-31)

| Time Period                 | Activity for which registered |              |              |           | Total registered |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|------------------|
|                             | Sightseeing-picnicking        | Fishing      | Hunting      | Trapping  |                  |
| April 28 - May 11           | 496                           | 531          | ...          | ...       | 1,027            |
| May 12 - May 25             | 430                           | 554          | ...          | ...       | 984              |
| May 26 - June 8             | 331                           | 291          | ...          | ...       | 622              |
| June 9 - June 22            | 389                           | 264          | ...          | ...       | 653              |
| June 23 - July 6            | 1,465                         | 1,230        | ...          | ...       | 2,695            |
| July 7 - July 20            | 1,042                         | 445          | ...          | ...       | 1,487            |
| July 21 - August 3          | 1,155                         | 294          | ...          | ...       | 1,449            |
| August 4 - August 17        | 1,376                         | 269          | ...          | ...       | 1,645            |
| August 18 - September 1     | 1,711                         | 273          | ...          | ...       | 1,984            |
| September 2 - September 15  | 787                           | 169          | ...          | ...       | 956              |
| September 16 - September 29 | 8                             | 7            | 17           | ...       | 32               |
| September 30 - October 13   | 8                             | ...          | ...          | ...       | 8                |
| October 14 - October 27     | 142                           | 1            | 183          | ...       | 326              |
| October 28 - November 10    | 84                            | ...          | 36           | ...       | 120              |
| November 11 - November 24   | 308                           | ...          | 1,592        | 8         | 1,908            |
| November 25 - December 8    | 40                            | ...          | 370          | 27        | 437              |
| December 9 - December 22    | 12                            | 2            | 9            | 5         | 28               |
| December 23 - December 31   | ...                           | 9            | ...          | ...       | 9                |
| <b>GRAND TOTALS</b>         | <b>9,784</b>                  | <b>4,339</b> | <b>2,207</b> | <b>40</b> | <b>16,370</b>    |

TABLE 2

## RESIDENCE OF PERMIT-HOLDERS FOR VARIOUS ACTIVITIES

ON THE RIFLE RIVER AREA (GROUSEHAVEN), 1945

| County or State     | Sightseeing<br>and<br>Picnicking | Fishing | Hunting | Trapping | Total<br>for<br>County |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|---------|---------|----------|------------------------|
| Alcona              | 5                                | 5       | 3       | ...      | 13                     |
| Allegan             | ...                              | ...     | 3       | 1        | 4                      |
| Alpena              | 3                                | ...     | ...     | ...      | 3                      |
| Antrim              | ...                              | ...     | 1       | ...      | 1                      |
| Arenac              | 115                              | 46      | 15      | ...      | 176                    |
| Barry               | 3                                | ...     | ...     | ...      | 3                      |
| Bay                 | 508                              | 201     | 72      | ...      | 781                    |
| Benzie              | 2                                | 2       | ...     | ...      | 4                      |
| Berrien             | 11                               | 2       | 2       | ...      | 15                     |
| Branch              | 11                               | 4       | ...     | ...      | 15                     |
| Calhoun             | 50                               | 2       | 11      | ...      | 63                     |
| Cass                | 4                                | ...     | ...     | ...      | 4                      |
| Charlevoix          | ...                              | 2       | ...     | ...      | 2                      |
| Clare               | 3                                | ...     | ...     | ...      | 3                      |
| Clinton             | 9                                | 7       | 7       | ...      | 23                     |
| Crawford            | 4                                | ...     | ...     | ...      | 4                      |
| Eaton               | 51                               | 2       | 3       | ...      | 56                     |
| Genesee             | 1,117                            | 400     | 406     | 1        | 1,924                  |
| Gladwin             | 4                                | 11      | 2       | ...      | 17                     |
| Grand Traverse      | 21                               | ...     | 3       | ...      | 24                     |
| Gratiot             | 1                                | ...     | 6       | ...      | 7                      |
| Hillsdale           | 16                               | ...     | 1       | ...      | 17                     |
| Huron               | 25                               | 1       | 22      | ...      | 48                     |
| Ingham              | 156                              | 47      | 75      | ...      | 278                    |
| Ionia               | 5                                | 3       | ...     | ...      | 8                      |
| Iosco               | 196                              | 72      | 41      | 4        | 313                    |
| Isabella            | 4                                | 1       | 1       | ...      | 6                      |
| Jackson             | 51                               | 10      | 11      | ...      | 72                     |
| Kalamazoo           | 4                                | 6       | ...     | ...      | 10                     |
| Kent                | 51                               | 9       | 37      | 1        | 98                     |
| Lapeer              | 86                               | 28      | 48      | ...      | 162                    |
| Lenawee             | 79                               | 24      | 7       | ...      | 110                    |
| Livingston          | 16                               | 18      | 7       | ...      | 41                     |
| Macomb              | 243                              | 82      | 67      | ...      | 392                    |
| Mason               | ...                              | ...     | 3       | ...      | 3                      |
| Midland             | 76                               | 35      | 6       | ...      | 117                    |
| Monroe              | 36                               | 10      | 42      | ...      | 88                     |
| Montcalm            | ...                              | ...     | 1       | ...      | 1                      |
| Montmorency         | ...                              | 5       | 2       | ...      | 7                      |
| Muskegon            | 2                                | ...     | 7       | ...      | 9                      |
| Nevaygo             | ...                              | ...     | 1       | ...      | 1                      |
| Oakland             | 531                              | 261     | 112     | ...      | 904                    |
| Ogemaw              | 2,053                            | 1,590   | 392     | 33       | 4,068                  |
| Osceola             | 3                                | ...     | 1       | ...      | 4                      |
| Oscoda              | 39                               | 26      | 4       | ...      | 69                     |
| Otsego              | 4                                | ...     | ...     | ...      | 4                      |
| Roscommon           | 37                               | 1       | 2       | ...      | 40                     |
| St. Clair           | 50                               | 10      | 13      | ...      | 73                     |
| Saginaw             | 1,137                            | 378     | 137     | ...      | 1,652                  |
| Sanilac             | 35                               | 16      | 13      | ...      | 64                     |
| Shiawassee          | 170                              | 52      | 37      | ...      | 259                    |
| Tuscola             | 176                              | 38      | 102     | ...      | 316                    |
| Van Buren           | ...                              | ...     | 1       | ...      | 1                      |
| Washtenaw           | 59                               | 30      | 25      | ...      | 114                    |
| Wayne               | 1,923                            | 711     | 396     | ...      | 3,030                  |
| Wexford             | ...                              | 3       | ...     | ...      | 3                      |
| Resident Totals     | 9,185                            | 4,151   | 2,148   | 40       | 15,524                 |
| Ohio                | 396                              | 148     | 41      | ...      | 585                    |
| Oklahoma            | 4                                | ...     | ...     | ...      | 4                      |
| Wisconsin           | ...                              | 1       | ...     | ...      | 1                      |
| Indiana             | 24                               | 14      | 5       | ...      | 43                     |
| Kentucky            | ...                              | 2       | ...     | ...      | 2                      |
| Illinois            | 29                               | 6       | 1       | ...      | 36                     |
| Maryland            | ...                              | 2       | ...     | ...      | 2                      |
| New Mexico          | 4                                | ...     | ...     | ...      | 4                      |
| Iowa                | 4                                | ...     | ...     | ...      | 4                      |
| Pennsylvania        | 12                               | ...     | 2       | ...      | 14                     |
| Washington          | 8                                | ...     | ...     | ...      | 8                      |
| New York            | ...                              | 5       | ...     | ...      | 5                      |
| Canada              | ...                              | 1       | ...     | ...      | 1                      |
| Non-resident Totals | 481                              | 179     | 49      | ...      | 709                    |
| Unknown Residence   | 118                              | 9       | 10      | ...      | 137                    |
| GRAND TOTALS        | 9,784                            | 4,339   | 2,207   | 40       | 16,370                 |

TABLE 3

SUMMARY OF THE ANGLING STATISTICS ON THE LAKES OF  
THE RIFLE RIVER AREA (GROUSEHAVEN), 1945 SEASON

| Lake               | No. of anglers |      |       | Number of<br>unsuccessful<br>anglers | Total hours<br>of<br>angling | Number of legal fish captured |                    |           |              |           |             |               |             |           |          | Total<br>fish<br>caught | Total weight<br>removed<br>(pounds) |         |
|--------------------|----------------|------|-------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|-------------|---------------|-------------|-----------|----------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------|
|                    | Male           | Fem. | Total |                                      |                              | Smallmouth<br>Bass            | Largemouth<br>Bass | Bluegills | Yellow Perch | Rock Bass | Pumpkinseed | Northern Pike | Brown Trout | Bullheads | Crappies |                         |                                     | Suckers |
| Devoe              | 1,294          | 191  | 1,485 | 1,197                                | 5,676.50                     | 90                            | 71                 | 92        | 214          | 120       | 48          | 65            | 25          | ...       | 4        | 24                      | 753                                 | 798.2   |
| North              | 464            | 99   | 563   | 376                                  | 1,661.50                     | 48                            | 82                 | 70        | 339          | 21        | 7           | 2             | ...         | 2         | ...      | 4                       | 575                                 | 361.6   |
| Dollar             | 406            | 119  | 525   | 160                                  | 1,894.00                     | ...                           | 99                 | 2,700     | 315          | 43        | 1,011       | ...           | ...         | 40        | 591      | ...                     | 4,799                               | 1,071.5 |
| Spring             | 7              | 0    | 7     | 7                                    | 8.00                         | ...                           | ...                | ...       | ...          | ...       | ...         | ...           | ...         | ...       | ...      | ...                     | 0                                   | 0.0     |
| Loon               | 3              | 0    | 3     | 3                                    | 1.50                         | ...                           | ...                | ...       | ...          | ...       | ...         | ...           | ...         | ...       | ...      | ...                     | 0                                   | 0.0     |
| Teal               | 4              | 0    | 4     | 3                                    | 5.00                         | ...                           | 2                  | ...       | ...          | ...       | ...         | ...           | ...         | ...       | ...      | ...                     | 2                                   | 2.4     |
| South Pond         | 4              | 0    | 4     | 0                                    | 32.00                        | 2                             | ...                | 1         | 6            | ...       | 4           | ...           | ...         | ...       | ...      | ...                     | 13                                  | 5.5     |
| Devil's Wash-Basin | 15             | 2    | 17    | 10                                   | 25.50                        | ...                           | ...                | ...       | 44           | ...       | ...         | ...           | ...         | 1         | 5        | ...                     | 50                                  | 7.9     |
| TOTALS             | 2,197          | 411  | 2,608 | 1,756                                | 9,304.00                     | 140                           | 254                | 2,863     | 918          | 184       | 1,070       | 67            | 25          | 43        | 600      | 28                      | 6,192                               | 2,247.1 |

TABLE 4

GAME KILLED AND SEEN, RIVLE RIVER AREA,  
1945 SEASON, EXCEPT RIFLE SEASON FOR DEER

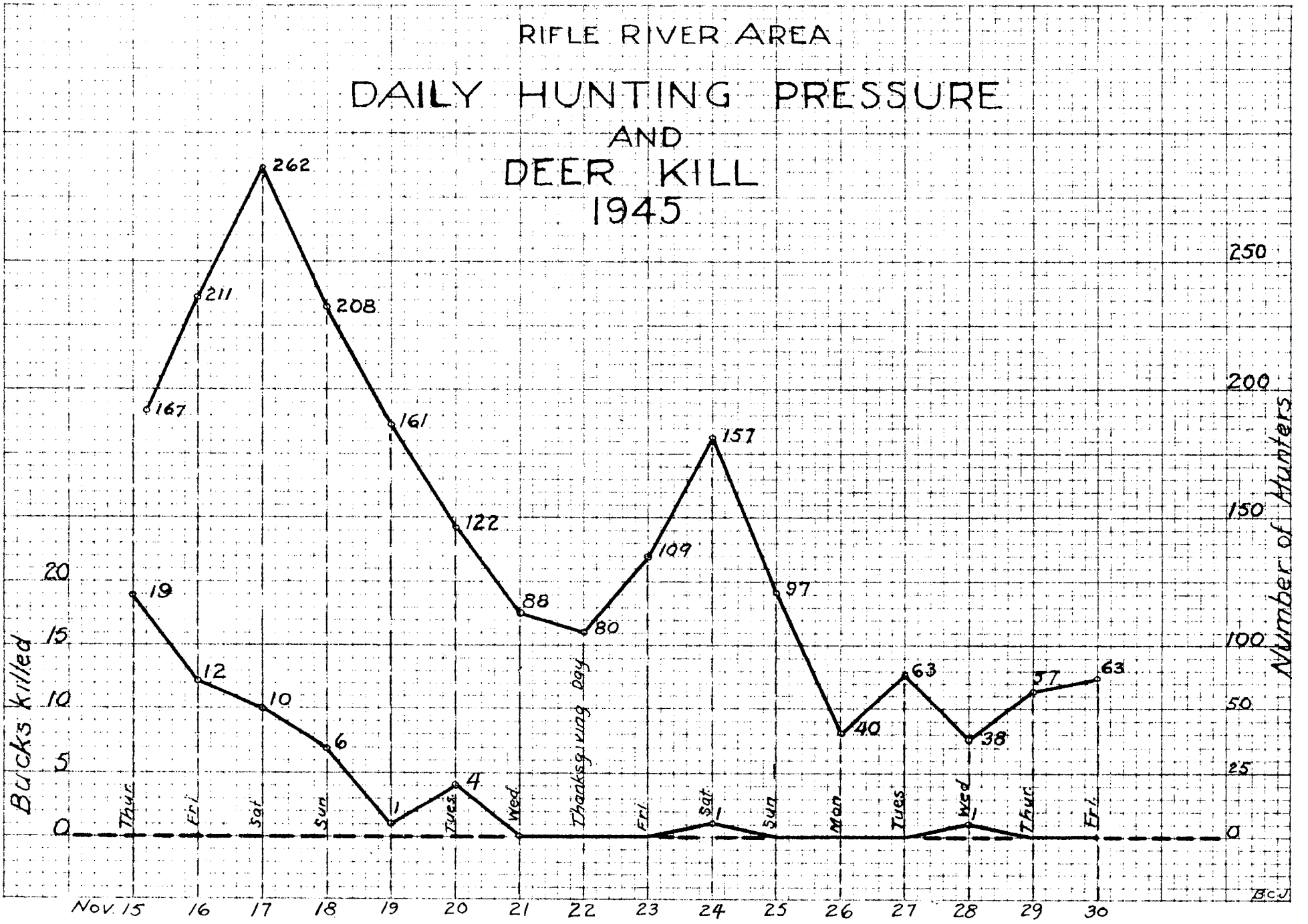
| Item                        | Duck hunting  | Grouse hunting | Rabbit hunting | Deer (Bow and Arrow) hunting | Bear hunting | Squirrel hunting | rapping     | Totals       | Remarks                             |
|-----------------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|------------------------------|--------------|------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| Number of hunter-days       | 40            | 208            | 32             | 9                            | 3            | 2                | 31          | 325          |                                     |
| Total hours expended        | 71.5          | 484.5          | 68.0           | 20.5                         | 12.0         | 0.0              | ...         | 662.5        |                                     |
| Number of days no kill      | 13            | 161            | 30             | 8                            | 3            | 2                | 23          | 240          |                                     |
| Game Killed:                |               |                |                |                              |              |                  |             |              |                                     |
| Ruffed Grouse               | 1             | 50             | ...            | ...                          | ...          | ...              | ...         | 51           | (Av. wt. given to 6 specimens)      |
| Weight                      | 1 lb., 8 oz.  | 56 lb., 11oz.  | ...            | ...                          | ...          | ...              | ...         | 58 lb., 2oz. | (Av. wt. given to 2 specimens)      |
| Woodcock                    | ...           | 8              | ...            | ...                          | ...          | ...              | ...         | 8            | (Av. wt. given to 2 specimens)      |
| Weight                      | ...           | 4 lb., 4oz.    | ...            | ...                          | ...          | ...              | ...         | 4 lb., 4oz.  | (Av. wt. given to 4 specimens)      |
| Ducks                       | 24            | 1              | ...            | ...                          | ...          | ...              | ...         | 25           | (Av. wt. given to 4 specimens)      |
| Weight                      | 56 lb.        | 3 lb., 4oz.    | ...            | ...                          | ...          | ...              | ...         | 59 lb., 4oz. | (Av. wt. given to 2 specimens)      |
| Cottontail                  | ...           | 1              | 2              | ...                          | ...          | ...              | ...         | 3            | (Av. wt. given to 2 specimens)      |
| Weight                      | ...           | 2 lb., 8oz.    | 5 lb.(est)     | ...                          | ...          | ...              | ...         | 7 lb., 8oz.  |                                     |
| Fox Squirrel                | ...           | 1              | ...            | ...                          | ...          | ...              | ...         | 1            |                                     |
| Weight                      | ...           | 1 lb., 13oz.   | ...            | ...                          | ...          | ...              | ...         | 1 lb., 13oz. |                                     |
| Raccoon                     | ...           | 1              | ...            | ...                          | ...          | ...              | ...         | 3            | (Av. wt. given to 2 specimens)      |
| Weight                      | ...           | 11 lb.         | ...            | ...                          | ...          | ...              | 22 lb.(est) | 33 lb.       | (Estimated)                         |
| Deer                        | ...           | ...            | ...            | 1                            | ...          | ...              | ...         | 1            |                                     |
| Weight                      | ...           | ...            | ...            | 160 lb.                      | ...          | ...              | ...         | 160 lb.      |                                     |
| Muskrat                     | ...           | ...            | ...            | ...                          | ...          | ...              | 10          | 10           | Wts. est. from data in Seton (1929) |
| Weight                      | ...           | ...            | ...            | ...                          | ...          | ...              | 16 lb.(est) | 16 lb.       | Wts. est. from data in Seton (1929) |
| Mink                        | ...           | ...            | ...            | ...                          | ...          | ...              | 2           | 2            |                                     |
| Weight                      | ...           | ...            | ...            | ...                          | ...          | ...              | 4 lb.(est)  | 4 lb.        |                                     |
| Total pieces of game killed | 25            | 62             | 2              | 1                            | 0            | 0                | 12          | 101          |                                     |
| Weight                      | 57 lb., 8 oz. | 79 lb., 8oz.   | 5 lb.          | 160 lb.                      | ...          | ...              | 42 lbs.     | 344 lb. ↓    |                                     |
| Weight of game per hour     | 0.80          | 0.16           | 0.07           | 7.80                         | 0.00         | 0.00             | ...         | 0.45 ↓       |                                     |
| Game Seen:                  |               |                |                |                              |              |                  |             |              |                                     |
| Ruffed Grouse               | 34            | 381            | 3              | ...                          | ...          | 4                | ...         | 422          |                                     |
| Woodcock                    | 7             | 39             | ...            | ...                          | ...          | ...              | ...         | 46           |                                     |
| Ducks                       | 367           | 307            | ...            | ...                          | ...          | ...              | ...         | 674          |                                     |
| Pheasant hens               | 3             | ...            | ...            | ...                          | ...          | ...              | ...         | 3            |                                     |
| Snowshoe hare               | ...           | 9              | 1              | ...                          | ...          | ...              | ...         | 10           |                                     |
| Cottontail                  | ...           | 13             | 5              | ...                          | ...          | ...              | ...         | 18           |                                     |
| Fox Squirrel                | ...           | 2              | ...            | ...                          | ...          | 1                | ...         | 3            |                                     |
| Red Fox                     | ...           | 2              | ...            | ...                          | ...          | ...              | ...         | 2            |                                     |
| Deer - Buck                 | 4             | 26             | 2              | 2                            | ...          | ...              | ...         | 34           |                                     |
| Doe                         | 26            | 150            | 11             | 9                            | 2            | ...              | ...         | 198          |                                     |
| Fawn                        | 3             | 9              | ...            | 4                            | ...          | ...              | ...         | 16           |                                     |
| Game birds or animals seen  | 444           | 938            | 22             | 15                           | 2            | 5                | ...         | 1,426        |                                     |
| Numbers seen per hour       | 6.2           | 1.9            | 0.3            | 0.7                          | 0.2          | 0.8              | ...         | 2.1          |                                     |

↓ - Excludes animals taken by trapping.



FIGURE 2

# RIFLE RIVER AREA DAILY HUNTING PRESSURE AND DEER KILL 1945



REGISTRATION  
RIFLE RIVER AREA  
"Grousehaven"

Register No. \_\_\_\_\_

Checker \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_, 194

Registrant has entered this area for the following reasons and is hereby given permission to:

Fish \_\_\_\_\_ Hunt \_\_\_\_\_ Picnic \_\_\_\_\_ Trap \_\_\_\_\_

Registrant agrees to abide by the State and Federal laws and regulations pertaining to these activities.

Registrant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

Number in Party \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

RESULTS OF YOUR HUNTING, FISHING OR TRAPPING MUST BE  
REPORTED BEFORE LEAVING THE AREA EVEN THOUGH NO GAME  
OR FISH ARE TAKEN--BE CAREFUL WITH FIRES--

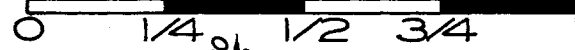
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
Fisheries Division

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
FISHERIES DIVISION  
**RIFLE RIVER AREA**

"GROUSEHAVEN"

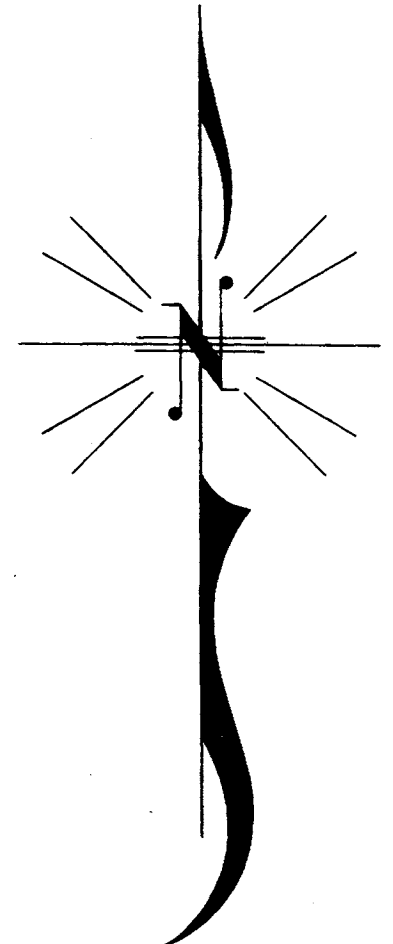
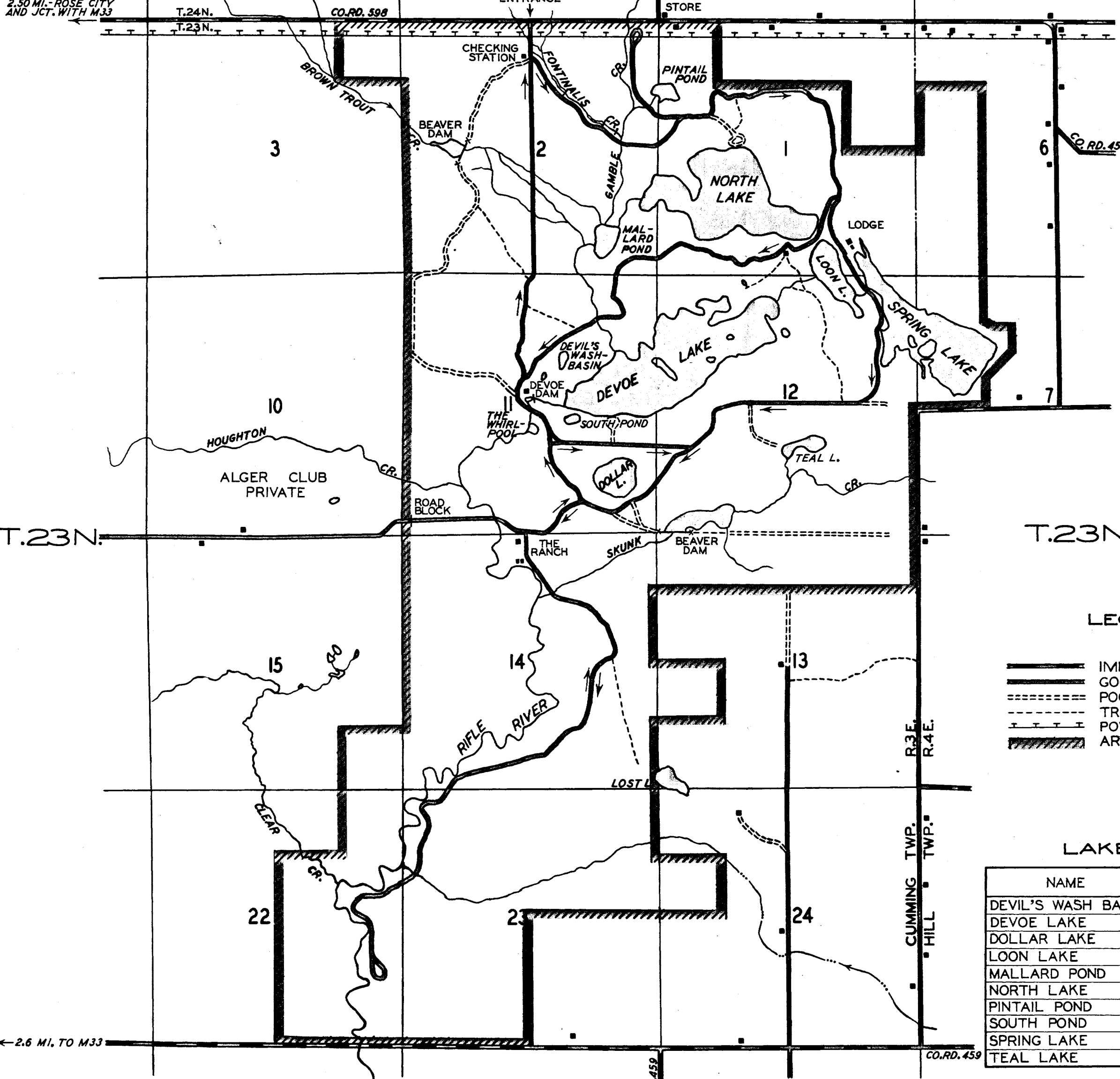
OGEMAW COUNTY

SCALE OF MILES



R.3E.

2.50 MI. - ROSE CITY  
AND JCT. WITH M33



**LEGEND**

- IMPROVED ROADS
- GOOD DIRT ROADS
- POOR DIRT ROADS
- TRAILS
- POWER LINES
- AREA BOUNDARY

**LAKE DATA**

| NAME               | MAX. DEPTH (FEET) | AREA (ACRES) |
|--------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| DEVIL'S WASH BASIN | 15                | 1.5          |
| DEVOE LAKE         | 52                | 124.7        |
| DOLLAR LAKE        | 18                | 13.1         |
| LOON LAKE          | 20                | 19.9         |
| MALLARD POND       | 5                 | 3.8          |
| NORTH LAKE         | 52                | 87.6         |
| PINTAIL POND       | 5                 | 3.0          |
| SOUTH POND         | 15                | 1.2          |
| SPRING LAKE        | 18                | 58.2         |
| TEAL LAKE          | 14                | 6.1          |

← 2.6 MI. TO M33

R.3E.

**HISTORY** This 4288 acre tract, formerly known as "Grousehaven", was owned for many years by the late H. M. Jewett, one of the pioneer automobile manufacturers of Michigan. Under his ownership the area was used solely for recreational purposes. He engaged in the breeding of pheasants and other game birds to be later liberated for hunting. Mr. Jewett also maintained small trout rearing ponds along Fontinalis Creek and planted numerous fry and fingerlings in streams on the tract. After his death in 1933 the family offered the property for sale. It was purchased in 1945 by the Department of Conservation with moneys derived from the sale of fishing and hunting licenses.

**REASONS FOR PURCHASE** This area includes ten lakes of varying sizes and seven miles of trout streams comprising the headwaters of the Rifle River. The fact that these waters are included in one solid block of land under state ownership and administration will make possible certain types of research in lake and stream management which cannot be undertaken on waters where part of the shoreline is in private ownership. The extensive game cover on the area will provide a good opportunity for working out game management problems through definite control of the entire area by the Conservation Department. The hunting, fishing and scenic values of the area make it particularly well suited to varied recreational uses by the general public. It is in close proximity to the large centers of population of the state and is easily accessible by trunk line highways.


**ADMINISTRATION** The State Department of Conservation, Fish Division, has jurisdiction over the area because of the predominance of fishing values. In general, the area will be open to the public for hunting and fishing during the regular seasons. Some special rules and regulations may be imposed on certain portions of the area to implement the various research problems.

Everyone must register upon entering and leaving the area. This requirement simplifies the supervision of the area and provides a means of securing data on the fish and game kill. These data will be invaluable to the department in formulating future fish and game management policies particularly because of the fact that the area was closed to the public for many years and fishing and hunting has therefore been relatively light.

Picnicking is permitted but no particular sites are set aside or developed for this purpose at the present time. Boat landings, water and sanitary facilities and other necessary developments will be constructed as labor and materials become available and their need is justified.

The general policy of the department is to maintain the natural conditions of the area, insofar as is practicable, under accepted fish and game programs and good recreational uses.

**BE CAREFUL WITH FIRES**

 **OBSERVE THE RULES AND REGULATIONS**

OFFICIAL MAP OF  
**RIFLE RIVER AREA**  
 "Grousehaven"  
 OGEMAW COUNTY  
 MICHIGAN  
 1945



Issued by  
 MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
 FISHERIES DIVISION  
 Lansing, Michigan

