

## Concluding Remarks of the Co-Chairman (*Application Section*)

WALTER S. PHILLIPS, CO-CHAIRMAN  
*University of Arizona*

TO BE appointed Co-Chairman of this two day Conference was an honor for which I am grateful. To show my appreciation I, along with the rest of the Arizona delegation, took the occasion to arrive late so that we missed the first five papers. The dried-out desert-rats did appreciate the cause of the delay and took the occasion to soak up some moisture that we seldom see in our homeland. We appreciate this fog, more than you who live in it, and the chance to be here with humidity in the upper range is a change at least from our habitat. A week or so after we came back to Arizona the official humidity was given as less than 1% on an official forecast. To show that we were not selective and in a hurry to get back to the land of low moisture, we were also delayed in taking off at the end of the Conference by fog.

Ed Komarek was kind enough to send me the papers that I missed and after careful perusal I have set down these few remarks.

A phrase used in one of the papers at this Conference was "an Arizona-type woodland" by my fellow Arizonian, Dr. Marshall. Here was something to catch my ear, but I could hardly burst with pride at the context in which he used it. He used it in the sense that many of you became familiar with during the course of this Conference, a woodland gone "to pot" by improper use. Read over this paper of Dr. Marshall's and see if you cannot fit in types of this sort from your part of this continent.

The papers presented in this part of the Conference touched on several types of vegetation, mixed-fir, Douglas-fir, Ponderosa Pine, Longleaf Pine, pinyon-juniper, chaparral, and desert-grassland. Pa-

WALTER S. PHILLIPS

pers relating to fires in the Southeast and those relating to the Northwest and California bring in many specifics, and have placed the value of fire, as a tool in the management of the vegetational cover, on a very firm basis. I note, however, that there is still a note of caution apparent and this note of caution seems heavy when one considers that clear-cutting, windstorms, insect damage, and floods are just as disastrous to vegetation. Rather than caution I would like to substitute more research.

Isaac's paper on fires in the Douglas-fir forests shows that this valuable timber species is related to a fire factor. One who has seen the new forest developing on the old Tillamook burn will agree that the forest recovery, even from a very serious burn, can be beneficial.

California workers have been leaders in the use of fire as a tool in the management of vegetative types. Biswell, a leader in this state, presents a good summary of the effects of fires in chaparral, woodland-grass and Ponderosa Pine. One interested in the use of fire as a tool in management would do well to pursue the literature by various workers from California.

Cooper states "very few perfect burning days occur in any season." He was making this statement in his discussion of fires in the Southeast. If there are *very few* perfect days in the Southeast, how many would one expect in the low humidities of the Southwest arid regions?

The part that vegetation changes caused by fires play on the changes in the animal populations of the various areas, is a point that nature lovers use much to damn all fires. Yet the papers by Miller and Roy Komarek point out that without fires animal populations, and especially game animals, would soon be completely upset. One of the most striking features brought out by these Conferences in the Southeast is the manner in which the vegetation can and is manipulated by the use of fires for the benefit of various types of game animals.

The part that fires play in the more arid regions of the world is less known. Where vegetation is sparse fires seldom occur but given a good vegetational cover fires do occur occasionally. Dr. Humphrey makes a strong case for the brush versus grassland of the Southwest. In his recent textbook he has included one of the few chapters on the effect of fires on vegetation to be found in any textbook. While he is criticized for including this in a textbook he, at least, is one who rec-

REMARKS OF THE CO-CHAIRMAN

ognizes that fires do affect vegetation and attention should be given to this fact (an obvious, but often ignored item).

Dr. Humphrey, along with Mr. Arnold are a couple of Arizona mavericks. Both of these people have had years of experience in the semi-arid Southwest, and while their observations are critical and to the point they have been criticized for even bringing up the subject. Mr. Arnold's paper shows, that finally, we are getting applications of fire systematically applied to this semi-arid vegetation and the results are proving to be positive.

In conclusion, may I point out that Smokey Bear must have panicked during his fire. If he had taken the time to think things over, in his cave, before he went to Washington, he might have realized that an aftermath of his fire might have been more berry patches in the years following. If you play with fire you can get burned, but with care fire is a friend, not an enemy.