

Brief History of FWCB by Francie Cuthbert (2010)

Since its earliest inception, just before the Great Depression, the Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation Biology has undergone many name changes and administrative homes. In his 1976 Agricultural Experiment Station publication, "The Department of Entomology, Fisheries, and Wildlife 1888-1974," the late A.C. Hodson provided an excellent summary of our Department's history. In 1928, a game management research and teaching program was established in the Division of Entomology and Economic Zoology at the University of Minnesota. Development of this program was stimulated by a proposal from Aldo Leopold to then President Coffman.

Professor Ralph King was the first formal wildlife faculty member. By 1935, he taught the course, Principles of Wildlife Conservation, at the Forestry and Biological Station at Itasca State Park. In 1946, a research and teaching program in fish culture and management was approved by the University. Dr. Lloyd Smith was the first fisheries faculty member. One justification for this new program was that it would strengthen the offerings in game management and wildlife, and promote a more harmonious and cooperative relationship between the University and the then State Department of Conservation. In 1962, the name of the Division was changed to the Department of Entomology, Fisheries, and Wildlife to better reflect the nature of the disciplines embraced by the Department. Three years later, the Department moved into the newly constructed Hodson Hall. In 1982, the departments split into separate entities, and Fisheries and Wildlife joined the College of Forestry; the College name was changed to the College of Natural Resources in 1987. In 2001, the Department changed its name to Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation biology (FWCB) to communicate current research and teaching expertise. Finally, in 2006, two colleges merged to create the [College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences](#) (CFANS) where our Department resides today.