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“Hopefully, we all recognized that the habitats on which deer depend in California, are most of the same habitats on which much of the more recent focus--on ecosystem management and biodiversity--also depend.”

“We’re talking about a process called “succession”-- the seemingly orderly replacement of plant communities, and the animals which depend on them, through a progression to a stable state. Deer and possibly many other unmonitored species are being orderly “replaced out” by the decline of significant, large-scale disturbances to California’s forestlands. Reduced biological diversity cannot help but be a consequence of this progression away from a diversity of successional communities.”

“More sunlight hitting the ground is in order, as Smokey himself would likely find today’s forests less habitable than when he was born.”

“Livestock can be fed on valley ranches, but deer and elk must find food in the foothills or starve. The habitable wintering belt is narrow, ... these scattering foothill clumps of bitterbrush, sage, and oak, now fast shrinking under the onslaught of cheat fires, are the key to wildlife survival in the whole region. Besides, these scattered bushes often harbor, under their mechanical protection, remnants of native perennial grasses.... While the sportsmen and stockmen wrangle over who should move first in easing the burden on the winter range, cheat grass is leaving less and less winter range to wrangle about.” --A. Leopold, A Sand County Almanac. 1949.

“You in America have a great faith in research, statistics, surveys, and conferences. Words, theories and oratory will never raise one head of game. The chance for improvement lies in action and work.” from: Rambling thoughts from a perverted Britisher--Capt. Percy R. Creed, reprinted in California Fish and Game (1930, p314).