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State Wildlife Management and Conservation [book review]

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A first of its kind, this unique book details state wildlife agencies' contributions to wildlife conservation and management. Edited by Thomas Ryder, and authored by numerous wildlife professionals, this book examines the history and current structure of state wildlife agencies; issues involved with law enforcement, game management, and human-wildlife conflict; efforts to manage wildlife diseases; the role of field wildlife research in state wildlife management; future needs and challenges; and issues involved in balancing the needs of hunters, nonhunters, and animal right advocates. Each chapter varies from 15-20 pages in length, and the overall book has more of an academic tone and approach. Bibliographies of source material conclude most chapters, but are variable in length. Some have very few references, while others cover several pages. Some chapters include black and white photographs and figures, but most of the book is text based. Obviously, as this book is attempting to address state wildlife agencies as a whole, its approach is very broad. For example in State Management of Big Game and the separate chapter on Furbearers, much of the discussion is on data collection techniques used to assess populations. In some instances, case studies are included to provide more specific, state level examples. Overall, this is a useful book, particularly the chapters on the history and legal basis for state wildlife management agencies. The tone makes this work more suitable to academic than public libraries.