

# OREGON WILDLIFE

OCTOBER 1974

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#### The Cover

Pronghorn Buck

Photo by William Finley

#### HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

##### Instructors Approved

Month of August ..... 28  
Total to Date ..... 3,446

##### Students Trained

Month of August ..... 1,028  
Total to Date ..... 210,183

##### Firearms Hunting Casualties Reported in 1974

Fatal ..... 0  
Nonfatal ..... 7

## FISH HATCHERIES

Did you know that the Bandon Fish Hatchery in Coos County has been operated by the Commission since 1923 or that the Rock Creek Hatchery on the North Umpqua River has an even longer life history? Among other hatcheries now in operation that date back to the same era but which, fortunately, are enjoying better health in their golden years are Alsea, Butte Falls, Klamath, Oak Springs, Wallowa, and Willamette. There are operational problems at some of these associated with inadequate space and water but they are not as critical as at Rock Creek and Bandon.

It is the Commission's intent, providing sufficient funds are made available and legislative approval is granted, to replace the Rock Creek and Bandon Hatcheries with a new modern plant on a yet to be selected site in the southwestern part of the state. The intent can only be translated into a reality if additional funding through an increase in license and tag fees or from some other source is available. The new hatchery cannot be constructed with funds currently available to the Commission. But this is only a part of a rather somber picture with respect to fish culture operations. In recent years, financial limitations have precluded all but absolutely essential maintenance and renovative work at all of the fish hatcheries. Physical facilities have deteriorated and further deterioration cannot be tolerated. In addition, it will be necessary to install waste treatment facilities at all of the hatcheries to meet established water quality standards. It has been estimated that the cost of such treatment works could exceed a million dollars.

In previous issues of the magazine we have pointed out the need to acquire additional streamside access for angling, to do a more effective job of monitoring the impact on wildlife of a multitude of land and water development projects, and to beef up the wildlife enforcement arm of the Oregon State Police. Modernization of the fish hatchery system so that its full potential can be realized is an equally important need. Through a great deal of ingenuity and hard work and in spite of the hatchery aging problem, fish hatchery personnel have managed to keep production at a highly respectable level. But production levels can be increased and more efficiencies realized if an additional investment is made in the physical plants.

Fish hatcheries will always play an important role in maintaining recreational angling opportunities. We cannot afford to diminish their role through neglect. A wise investment now will pay dividends in the future.

R. C. Holloway

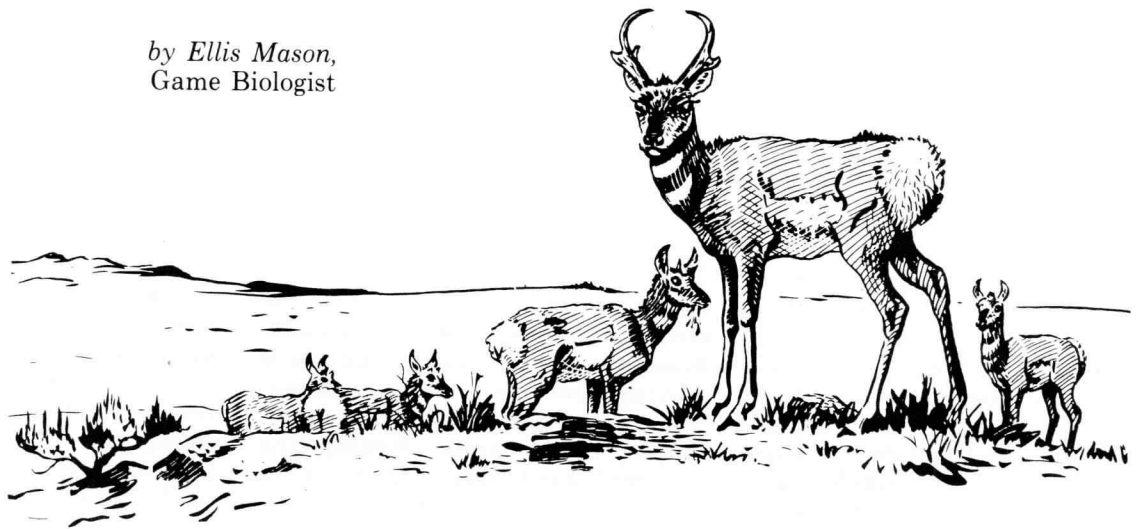
## ANGLING REGULATIONS HEARING

On November 2 at 10 a.m. a public hearing will be held in Room 338, Smith Memorial Center at Portland State University to consider the 1975

sport fishing regulations. Interested persons may submit their suggestions prior to that time in writing or may express them orally at the hearing.

# OREGON'S PRONGHORN ANTELOPE

by *Ellis Mason*,  
Game Biologist



The American antelope or pronghorn is of American origin and has the distinction of being the only antelope-like species existing in the New World at the time of its discovery by the Europeans. It differs so widely from the many Old World species that it is classified in a separate family and is not considered a true antelope. The first records of the pronghorn were published in 1723 relating to a hunt in Mexico. Historical records indicate that pronghorns originally ranged over the western half of the United States from Mexico to Canada, including all of the open sagebrush country of eastern Oregon. Oregon's antelope inhabited not only the valleys and plains areas, but the open mesas of the central Cascade Range. A few were found in the Rogue River Valley by early explorers. Records are few concerning the immediate valley of the Columbia River but it seems

possible that they were kept out of this valley even in prehistoric times by the numerous Indians living along the river.

Early expeditions into what is now Oregon made little mention of the pronghorn, mainly because the explorers rarely entered the open plains country where these animals were most abundant. On December 5, 1825, Peter Skene Ogden, while traveling up the west side of the Deschutes River, mentioned in his journal an antelope killed by an Indian about a day's journey south of the present town of The Dalles. Again, on January 24, 1826, Ogden records two antelope killed as his party of trappers proceeded up the North Fork of the John Day River. In several trapping expeditions during the following years through the Blue Mountains country to Snake River, along the Malheur and Owyhee Valleys, and in the Malheur and

Klamath Lake section, Ogden rarely mentions antelope. As beaver were his principal quest, this may have been only from lack of interest in other game.

In 1915 Stanley Jewett made a careful survey of the antelope in eastern Oregon and sent a full report to the U.S. Biological Survey. In Lake County east of Warner Lakes and south to the Nevada line, he estimated approximately 1,000 head of antelope; in Malheur County, 500; Harney County, 300; Crook County, 30; and Klamath County, 10, for a total of 1,840 in the state.

Estimates of antelope numbers in 1940 set the Oregon population at about 20,000 animals. For the last 29 years, Wildlife Commission personnel have conducted aerial surveys of the more important antelope ranges in Harney, Malheur, and Lake Counties supporting about 90 percent of the total population. Results of obser-



vations made on recent surveys indicate there are about 10,000 antelope in the state at present.

### Description and Life History

There are four subspecies of the pronghorn antelope found in America. All belong to the family *Antilocapridae* and are the only members of this family in the world. All four subspecies belong to the genus *Antilocapra* and the species *americana*. The Oregon variety is subspecies *oregonus*, making his official scientific name *Antilocapra americana oregona*. It is not a true antelope, as was previously mentioned, and should actually be referred to as a pronghorn.

The antelope is about the size of a small deer and mature bucks average about 126 pounds in weight. Height at the shoulders averages 37 inches, the tail is 4 inches long, and the horns measure about 12.5 inches in length. Males and females are similar in color, being mostly cinnamon buff or rich tan with strongly contrasted black and white markings on the head and neck. The sides of the face, base of neck and ears, breast, stomach, inside fore legs, rump, and the two bars on the throat are white. Antelope are remarkable for the flashing display of the white rosette of long hairs covering the rump. These hairs can be raised at will to be very conspicuous or relaxed to be scarcely noticeable at a distance. In the very young the white hairs of the rump are concealed by a thin layer of fine brown hairs which disappear within a few weeks when the youngsters start running with

their mother. Few animals afford such contrasts in protective colorations or such adaptation to the open country.

Both males and females have horns. Horn sheaths, which are shed each year, grow over a permanent bony core. Bucks shed the horn sheaths soon after the rutting season but does shed later. A new skin begins forming over the flattened bony core, forcing off the hard outer shell. The new hairy black tissue continues to grow, thickening and hardening first at the tip, then gradually downward until new sheaths cover the entire horn core by the following spring. Oddly enough, the prong that forms on the horn sheath is not present on the core beneath. Horns of the female are usually short stubs scarcely noticeable at a distance.

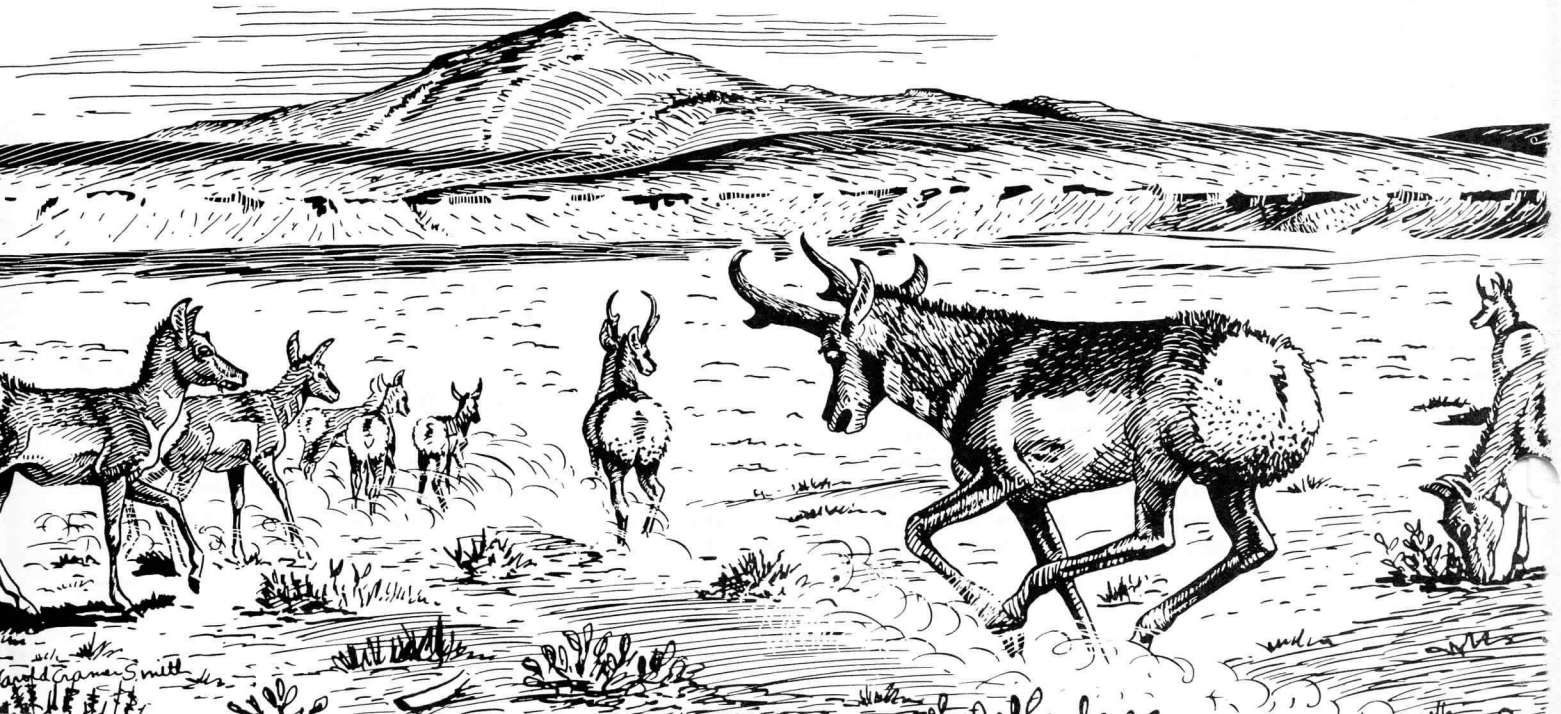
Rutting or breeding season usually begins about the middle of September with activity reaching a peak between September 20 and 30. Antelope are similar to deer in that the strongest, most vigorous male usually dominates a herd of does and fawns varying from one to ten in number. The dominant buck attempts to fight off all other males, forcing the younger bucks to stay on the outskirts or wander from one herd to another. The does mate during the second fall after birth and have a gestation period of about 240 days. Antelope differ from other big game animals in that most fawns are dropped during a short period of about two weeks time. This period is generally from May 20 to 30 in Oregon. Adult females almost always bear twins and the young are

usually weaned by the first of September.

The pronghorn is the fastest hoofed animal in North America and can run at speeds of 35 to 40 miles an hour. Reports of animals being clocked at 60 miles an hour are common and may be true for a short distance but I have never checked one that traveled over 40 miles an hour.

The antelope is by choice a creature of the high open plains, depending for protection on remarkable vision and speed. The large prominent eyes provide a view over a wide arc and are capable of detecting the slightest motion on the horizon. Antelope reside in a small area when climatic conditions and food supplies permit, as is the case over most of the southern part of their range. In the colder regions they are driven to journey in search of better conditions. Such movements are seasonal, somewhat regular, and in any direction. Throughout most of southeastern Oregon, antelope merely journey back and forth from high to low elevations between seasons. The animals usually migrate in large herds and remain grouped until the following spring. After the large herds break up in the spring, the does generally remain together in small herds of 2 to 15. Each doe goes off by herself as the birth time approaches. A few weeks after the birth of the fawns, does begin to socialize and are soon in small herds again.

During the summer it is common to find a mature buck with each herd of does and fawns. The buck appears to do considerable herding of the company. In winter the bucks and does



intermingle in various proportions, with the herds frequently breaking up and regrouping.

Pronghorns consume a wide variety of food plants. Sagebrush makes up about 60 percent of the year-round diet. In Oregon it is eaten at all seasons of the year and is particularly important during the winter when forage is scarce. Phlox is the next most important plant used by the animals. Other plants utilized include various species of forbs, poverty weed, English plantain, sticky-flowered rabbitbrush, clover, and grasses. Studies indicate that green grass represents slightly over 1 percent of the diet while dry grasses make up about .5 percent. The total consumption of grasses and forbs that are preferred by domestic livestock is extremely limited and direct competition is not serious on the desert ranges. Although antelope drink regularly when water is available, especially the does at fawning time, it appears they can subsist and reproduce on succulent forage alone when necessary.

### Management

The success of antelope management depends primarily on suitability of the habitat, with food and water supplies the most important factors. There should be sufficient numbers of animals present to adequately utilize the available range and limiting factors must be controlled to encourage a high rate of productivity. In measuring productivity, information on breeding habits and survival of the young must be obtained. The reproductive potential of antelope is high compared with other big game animals since pronghorns breed at an early age, normally bear twins, and reproduce every year.

We know that animals do not increase at their greatest potential rate because perfect conditions never exist. Limiting factors — things that tend to pull the population down — must be considered in any management plan. Factors such as predators, diseases and parasites, starvation, illegal kill, and accidents are all drains which could be limiting the antelope numbers.

Little is known of the diseases affecting antelope and autopsies have revealed few parasites. Some cases of Keratitis, a disease similar to pinkeye



in cattle, have been verified but the condition is apparently not fatal.

The coyote appears to be the most significant predator of antelope fawns. Rodents have been extremely scarce in recent years, causing coyotes to rely more on young antelope as a source of food. During the fawning season coyotes are also raising young and require more food.

Sound hunting regulations are important in management. Since antelope are polygamous with one buck serving several does, surplus males can be taken without affecting population increases. At the same time, hunting may encourage a more uniform distribution of the herds. Emphasis is placed on rules designed to improve the quality of hunting since opportunities are limited.

Live-trapping and transplanting is an effective management tool where a surplus of animals exists and suitable habitat elsewhere is unstocked.

The use of light single-engine airplanes has proven to be the most efficient method to determine population trends, herd composition, and distribution of antelope in southeastern Oregon. Herds can be located while flying at an altitude of about 500 feet and, once located, can be observed more closely from a lower altitude.

The antelope fawn survival has been low in Oregon since 1946, considering the high potential that is present. Herd composition is gathered each year about the middle of August and the average survival at this time has been 59 fawns per 100 does. There are apparently a number of factors causing this loss. It is believed predation is serious during years when rodent populations are low.

In summary, the pronghorn antelope is one of Oregon's most fascinating big game animals. The opportunity to view, study, or photograph this graceful animal of the high desert is a priceless experience. A wary pronghorn buck offers the sportsman a tremendous challenge. Locating and stalking a trophy requires patience, ability, and endurance. The Wildlife Commission's management program for the antelope provides it every chance to increase and spread its range and assures the species a permanent place on the Oregon scene. □

# This and that

compiled by Ken Durbin

## ORGANIC FOOD

A couple of arguments in favor of organically grown foods: In Michigan, a toxic flame retardant was mistakenly added to cattle and chicken feed instead of a mineral supplement. The substance stayed in the animals' fatty tissues, like DDT, and the State Department of Agriculture quarantined 115,000 laying hens, 3,000 dairy and beef cattle, and 150 pigs. Several tons of cheese and butter containing 5 to 7 parts per million of the substance were seized by the state, but milk and dairy products containing lesser traces of the flame retardant were allowed to be marketed. In Europe, a Dutch company was given a mercury compound instead of a starch to be added to powdered milk destined to be fed to calves. The error was discovered when calves in Italy, the Netherlands, and France began to die of mercury poisoning; 80,000 animals known to have been fed the product were rounded up.

*Audubon econotes*  
\*

## PIRANHAS SPREAD

One of the most dreaded fishes in the world, the piranha, is rapidly spreading throughout previously uninhabited rivers of Brazil. Reportedly, various hydroelectric dams have reduced the current and lowered oxygen content in some of the major waterways. In a classic ecological turn of events, this has made survival difficult for the dorado, a fish which normally preys on the piranha. Without the natural controls of the dorado and aided by certain natural factors, the piranha is moving into new Brazilian waters.

*Conservation News—*  
National Wildlife Federation  
\*

## PELICANS RETURN

Louisiana wildlife agents report that a colony of brown pelicans was nesting again in Barataria Bay about 70 miles south of New Orleans where pesticides had wiped out the state bird in the early 1960s. For six years the only brown pelican in Louisiana was on its state seal. But Florida donated more than 200 of its own brown pelicans to Louisiana and now some 450 of the rare birds are nesting in the area. The Environmental Protection Agency banned the use of DDT in 1972.

*Conservation News*  
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## EXTINCT MAMMALS

The International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources recently published as Occasional Paper No. 8 a list of mammals which have become extinct or are believed to be extinct since 1600. Compiled from many sources by H. A. and J. M. Goodwin, the list contains 112 mammals whose disappearance can be dated, and 5 animals thought to be extinct but about which some doubt exists.

An analysis of the 112 dates of disappearance, set out as a table, clearly shows the rise of man's impact on the natural world:

Extinction of Mammal Taxa	
17th Century .....	7
18th Century .....	11
19th Century .....	27
20th Century .....	67

However, the rise of man's concern for nature is also shown by a breakdown of the 20th Century losses, by 20-year periods:

1900-1919 .....	23
1920-1939 .....	27
1940-1959 .....	14
1960- .....	3

—  
67

## TIPSY ELEPHANTS KILL FIVE

Calcutta, India — A herd of drunken elephants killed five persons and injured 12 others across West Bengal after breaking into an illegal still and drinking moonshine liquor, state government officials said.

The officials said the 150 elephants demolished seven concrete buildings and trampled 20 village huts in the area around the still.

They said some of the elephants destroyed several acres of a nearby corn crop.

*The Powder River Sportsmen*  
\*

## LITTER PROBLEM REDUCED

While debates rage concerning the effectiveness of the Oregon Bottle Deposit Law in reducing the state's litter problem, there is at least one man who is convinced it has done a job for him.

Frank Newton, manager of the Oregon Wildlife Commission's Sauvie Island Management Area, says the bottle and can litter problem in his bailiwick has been reduced by at least 60 percent since the law went into effect.

The 12,000-acre area only 10 miles from Portland provides more than 325,000 man-days of recreation a year, a lot of it by hunters and fishermen but at least 45 percent by picnickers, boaters, swimmers, sunbathers, and others pursuing nonwildlife-related activities.

Newton has litter disposal barrels conveniently distributed in most of the heavily used areas. Before the bottle bill took effect it was necessary to empty most of them at least twice a week, with a large part of the load made up of bottles and cans. Now it is seldom necessary to service them more than once a week, and sometimes only once every two weeks.

Litter on the ground has also been greatly reduced, Newton says, although he still sees a fair number of snap-tab, no-deposit cans which can still be purchased in Washington.

"The biggest litter problem used to be with bottles, cans, and disposable diapers," he said. "Now we just have the disposable diapers, and they are more disgusting than the bottles and cans," he added.

Has anyone considered a nickle deposit on disposable diapers? □



# MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE

*by Jim Gladson*

The tussock moth and its destruction of timber in northeastern Oregon is now almost a memory. Unfortunately, the wholesale defoliation of timber lands in that corner of the state is continuing, but the damage is being caused by a different bug — the mountain pine beetle.

The pine beetle is a member of the bark beetle family that thrives in the inner bark or cambium layer of pine trees. So far this small creature with a big appetite has left over 300,000 acres of lodgepole and ponderosa pine dead or dying in the Wallowa-Whitman and Umatilla National Forests west of La Grande and Baker. Timber experts expect the infestation to hit almost one million acres before it runs its course.

Hunters in the Grande Ronde and North Fork John Day drainages can expect to see a lot of dead trees this year. Hardest hit areas include the Vey Meadows area along the upper Grande Ronde River and the Fly Creek drainage. The beetle attack began in these areas in the 1960s.

The view across these valleys presents almost a New England-type fall scene with the red and brown of dead lodgepole standing in contrast to the green of remaining live timber. Reddish colored trees have been dead one year, the brown timber was killed two years ago, and the needleless trees have been dead three years or more.

The beetle is a very efficient tree killer. It sweeps over an area from tree to tree rather than making spot attacks like the tussock moth. Pine beetles prefer trees 80 years old or more, but the infestation is now so heavy that the bug is striking trees as



The tiny pine beetle shown above by a ballpoint pen may have serious effects on the future of Oregon's biggest game animal, the elk.





**Elk use mountain meadows but also need the dense escape cover nearby for protection from the weather and seclusion from harassment. The pine beetle is killing many acres of lodgepole pine used by the elk.**

young as 40 years and as small as 4 inches at the base.

The female beetle is the first to strike the tree. Although slightly smaller than a match head, the bug bores easily through the lodgepole outer bark to the cambium layer where she tunnels up and down the tree under the bark. In these canals she plants her eggs. The male beetle follows and fertilizes the egg deposits.

It is the hatched larvae that actually kill the tree. They feed around the tree rather than up and down. When present in sufficient numbers, their channels meet and girdle the trunk, thus killing the tree. There is no chance of recovery.

This infestation of the pine beetle has been spreading since the mid-1960s with a more rapid increase in the last three years. Yet little has been said about the problem outside the immediate area. U.S. Forest Service officials feel the publicity and controversy surrounding the tussock moth overshadowed the pine beetle's activities. While the problem lacks the news value of DDT use or loss of valuable commercial timber, it is con-

sidered much more damaging in terms of lost wildlife habitat.

Over 300,000 acres of pure lodgepole stands and an additional 700,000 acres of lodgepoles scattered through stands of other species are expected to be lost. Little can be done to stop the beetle other than letting it run out of food.

The result will be a largely denuded forest of matchstick trees. While people may be able to live without the lodgepole, many animals can not. The cover provided by this seemingly insignificant tree is essential for the maintenance of healthy populations of Rocky Mountain elk and mule deer.

The Grande Ronde country and the John Day drainage have been strongholds of the elk for many years. It was here that the elk staged one of its more dramatic comebacks after being nearly exterminated from the state in the late 1800s. It is also here that hunters now have better success than almost anywhere else in the state. The hardest hit game management units will be the Baker, Ukiah, Starkey, and Desolation areas. In

1973 these four units together yielded over 3,500 elk to hunters.

While the immediate effect of the infestation is slight as far as the animals are concerned, the long-range results could be disastrous. Without careful management planning by forestry and wildlife personnel, several hundred thousand acres of prime elk summer range could be lost.

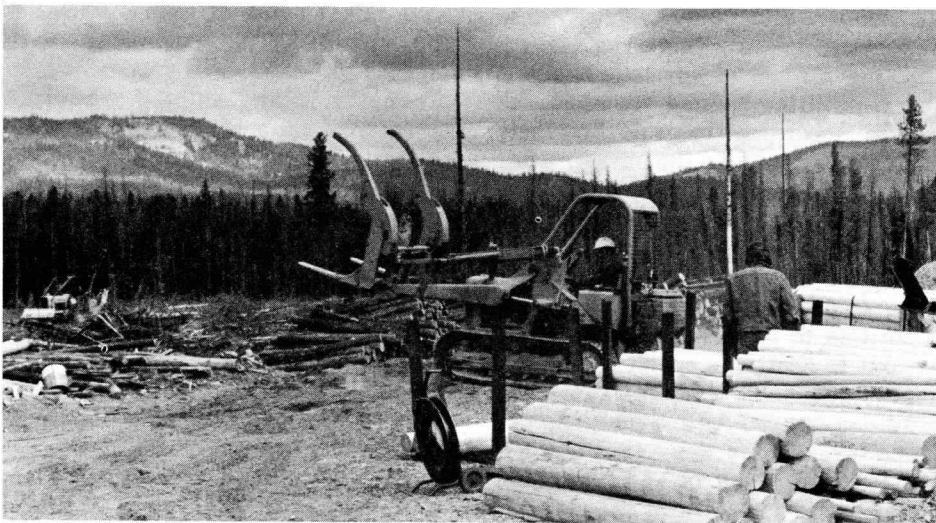
Elk have extremely thick hides. During the cold eastern Oregon winters this insulation is a blessing, but during the hot summer this heavy skin could be a killer unless the animal can find shade. At present this cool cover is provided by the lodgepole pine but, as the trees fall, more and more pressure will be placed on the elk to find cover elsewhere.

Loss of cover could also make the elk and deer more vulnerable to hunters in the short term, but in the long run, excessive hunting pressure could not be tolerated either by the elk and deer or the Wildlife Commission. Some steps would be required to protect the resource.





**Dead lodgepole pine trees killed by the beetle and salvage logging that follows could have an important long-range effect on elk habitat in northeastern Oregon.**



It is not known now how the loss of the timber will really affect the wildlife of the area. Perhaps more cover will be available than is now expected. Between 20 and 30 percent of the lodgepole will survive the onslaught, but it will be small trees. Whether this is enough to provide adequate habitat for the present forest inhabitants is not known. The only certainty of the situation is that whatever happens, it will do the animals no good.

The large game animals are not the only species that may have troubles. Many smaller mammals depend on the forest for their food and cover. Some depend almost exclusively on the lodgepole. An example would be the great gray owl, the largest owl found in Oregon. Another would be the three-toed woodpecker.

Fish populations could also take a beating. The upper Grande Ronde and John Day Rivers and tributaries are excellent rearing and resting areas for salmon and steelhead. Loss of streamside shade and the resulting rise in water temperature could eliminate or severely reduce fish populations.

Of possible detriment to all animals and fish of the lodgepole forests is the disturbance created by man's attempts to deal with the large volume of dead timber. Although the Forest Service has not completed any plans on how to deal with the dead growth, the dictates of fire protection would seem to require some logging. Some salvage of marketable timber has not been ruled out. The new roads and logging operations can be expected to cause harassment to elk and deer herds remaining in the area.

Rocky Mountain elk are especially sensitive to disturbance. Compared with the Roosevelt elk of western Oregon, the eastern Oregon animal requires more solitude. This could become a rare commodity with new roads and vastly expanded open spaces.

There seems little doubt that preservation of wildlife habitat is the foremost problem to face as the beetle expands its territory. While many questions are far from being answered, the commitment to obtain the best possible results from a bad situation are nonetheless firm. □

*Fall hunting seasons often bring out the wrath of nonhunters. Since we are entering the time of greatest hunting activity for the year, we thought perhaps the following article might be timely and offer some food for thought.*

# HUNTERS and PRESERVATIONISTS

*by James P. Jackson*

President, The Audubon Society of Missouri

(From: Missouri Conservationist, Feb. 1974)

One of the oldest and thorniest conflicts in conservation is what might be referred to as the Users *versus* the Savers. As regards wildlife the issue often turns out as uncompromising as the good guys versus the bad guys; in other words, to hunt or not to hunt.

Thus, we all know hunters who view preservationist groups as threats to their hunting pleasures. We also know of nature buffs who think of hunters as threats to our endangered wildlife. Both viewpoints are totally unfair. They are extremist. Neither is true and neither can ever help the cause of conservation. What is needed, of course, is better understanding on both sides.

We can't deny there is currently a movement, perhaps sincere but also misguided, against all forms of gun hunting. Yet for anyone to blame this on preservationist groups is not fair either. Speaking for Audubon members, I know of only a small minority who really oppose hunting; and I know that the same can be said about members of similar groups. So where does the antihunting movement come from?

It comes from that large segment of our highly urbanized society which longs for, but does not really understand the beautiful world of the outdoors. Many people—especially those feeling hemmed-in by city life—consider all of nature's haunts as sort of sacred refuges. They are totally insulated from the ancient requisite

to kill meat for the table and the idea of hunting for sport is also alien to them. Thus many of them feel that killing wildlife somehow degrades the experience—the sacredness—of the wild places they seek. Though surely entitled to their private views, such people also need to recognize some basic facts about hunting.

First, the sport of hunting means much more than just killing. It means taking home meat which—except for the occasional vegetarian—is a universal practice. Hunters who leave their game out in the field, and there are a few such slobs, cannot be considered sportsmen. One difference, then, between a hunter and a non-hunter is that the latter never kills his own meat.

Also involved in hunting is skill and the challenge of pursuit; when these factors are missing there is no sport. One big reward of sportsmanship is the admiration gained for creatures which, according to their instincts and their wits, make the pursuit a fair deal. Anti-hunters have difficulty understanding this; they often view it as a contradiction. But the hunter—who he is a true sportsman—feels no guilt in pursuing what he admires. He, too, is entitled to his private views. He is not out to destroy a species, but only hopes to harvest a share before the predators do. And speaking of predators, can we deny that sudden death by gun may be more humane than death from natural causes?

So much for the personal views, those gut feelings which often stir a conflict between hunters and preservationists. When it comes to biological facts, there should be no conflict. It can honestly be stated that no endangered wildlife is today threatened by legal hunting. Look at any list of game species—the *Wildlife Code of Missouri*, for instance. All species so listed have two things in their favor: they have natural predatory enemies and they have breeding potentials which are more than adequate in good habitat. Hunters thus harvest a surplus, what would otherwise be part of the natural kill. And while the trained biologists who work for wildlife agencies can and do adjust hunting seasons and limits—that is, the harvest—they have no way to halt man's abuses of the wildlife environment. So with regards to endangered species, which are never legally hunted, they are threatened far more by environmental abuses than by hunting.

One of the biggest mistakes made by anti-hunters is criticizing the rights of those who legally harvest the wildlife. This is when hunters lash back. This is when they pose a jabbing question: "Who pays for wildlife conservation, anyway?"

We all know the answer. Hunters and fishermen pay most of the costs of wildlife conservation, by means of licenses and related charges. They also contribute to the federal

# Environmental Events

Recommendations were made to the State Nuclear and Thermal Energy Council concerning the construction and operation of two nuclear power plants at Pebble Springs. Portland General Electric Company is seeking permission to use the Gilliam County site. The recommendations combined with other required safeguards are to protect the fish and wildlife resources.

A preliminary fish and wildlife report was sent to Pacific Power & Light Company on the proposed

Calapooya nuclear power plant. That Douglas County site is near the junction of Calapooya Creek with the Umpqua River.

The fish and wildlife status, critical habitat protection needs, and water quality maintenance requirements for Warner Valley geo-thermal energy exploration were reported to the Department of Geology and Mineral Industries. Gulf Research and Development Company has applied for exploratory drilling rights.

Representatives of the natural resource agencies and the gravel supply industries agreed that a stream hydrology specialist should examine the potential effects of continued gravel removal on the lower Willamette River flow patterns. Information is required to plan future gravel removal between Sellwood Bridge and Newberg to avoid undesirable erosion and fish habitat losses.

State and federal highway officials have agreed to studies of road construction impacts on fish and the stream habitat. The reconstruction of Interstate-5 between Divide and Anlauf in northern Douglas County is being considered as a possible study site.

The Port of Astoria is planning to develop a coal unloading facility at Tansy Point on the lower Columbia River. The natural resource agencies are taking part in the planning to protect the Columbia estuary.

A total of 162 stream filling and gravel removal permit applications were received in August. So far this year 739 permit applications have been reviewed, while at the same point last year, 477 were handled. In all of 1973 there were 672 applications, and 666 were received in 1972. The law requires that stream channel changes be compatible with resource protection. □

## HUNTERS AND PRESERVATIONISTS

(Continued from page 10)

government's share by purchasing duck stamps and paying hidden taxes on their sporting equipment. As a logical result of these facts, wildlife agencies invariably devote most of their efforts to game species. In Missouri this has included bringing back the deer and wild turkey from near-extinction. Some non-game species also benefit in habitat improvement from this arrangement, while others do not.

Quite a few non-game species have received help from such groups as the Audubon Society; included are the bald eagle and other birds of prey, the herons and egrets, and many highly specialized songbirds. Most wildlife agencies realize they should do more for nonharvestable wildlife. The point is, however, that wildlife — and especially its environment — needs all the help it can get these days, from groups and agencies that can work together.

Some anti-hunters might see things differently if they would get personally involved with wildlife. I don't mean by taking up guns. But many people who take up hunting with binoculars and cameras also know the challenge; they thrill in the pursuit just as does the man with the gun. And as they learn first-hand about wildlife and its problems, they are also likely to take a positive approach. They might even join hunters in buying a license and, in this way, do their bit to improve the total environment for the wildlife we all admire. □

## NEW ELK RULE THIS FALL

During the general elk seasons a new regulation will be in effect this fall. For the first time, all areas open to elk hunting will be closed to all other rifle hunting during authorized elk seasons.

There are two exceptions. A hunter with a valid, unused elk tag for the area he is hunting, who also possesses a valid bear tag, may take a bear if the opportunity presents. The other exception is that landowners may still use a rifle for predator control.

A number of people have asked, "So how come?" The regulation was adopted by the Commission this year to stop what has become a rather heavy incidence of persons hunting elk without a tag. State Police and Wildlife Commission personnel have found that an increasing number of elk hunters checked in recent years have not purchased tags. Most claim they are hunting coyotes or bear, but law enforcement officers say they only encounter this rather large number of bear and coyote hunters afield during the elk season.

Elk hunting pressure has increased sharply in the last several years, a condition of concern to both elk hunters and the Commission. In view

of the substantial increase in hunters last season, the Commission began considering steps that could be taken to reduce hunting pressure. The new regulation is a first step in that direction and is aimed at eliminating the free-loaders from the elk hunting woods.

Basically, this no-tag ploy has been working two ways. One is that a party of several hunters will buy one tag and all hunt together trying to fill it. The other is that Rocky Mountain elk hunters participate in the Roosevelt elk season which is held later, but do so without a tag since they are only entitled to purchase one a year.

In effect these hunters are cheating the hunter who buys a tag because his \$10 pays for a variety of elk management programs while the nontag-buyer simply skips this obligation.

One question which has been asked is, "If I fill my elk tag early in the season, does this mean I have to stay in camp while the rest of my party hunts?" The answer is no. Nothing in the law prevents a hunter who has taken his elk from joining the rest of his party afield *as long as he does not carry a rifle for hunting*. □



## HELP WILDLIFE

If every sportsman in Oregon who witnesses a violation of the wildlife laws would jot down certain information, turn it in to a law enforcement officer, and take the time and trouble to testify in court, it would make life pretty tough for the small group of slobs who purposely break the law, who leave a trail of litter and vandalism behind, and who reflect badly on honest and reputable outdoorsmen.

Many times these acts of disregard are witnessed by someone and that someone can often spell the difference between a conviction for the crime or another instance when the culprit gets off scot-free.

The Oregon Wildlife Commission and Oregon State Police are cooperating with the National Rifle Association in promoting the **HELP OUR WILDLIFE (HOW)** program. HOW is designed to encourage sportsmen to assume greater responsibility in reporting wildlife law violations to the proper authorities.

Wallet-sized cards have been printed and are now available from all offices of the Wildlife Commission and from game officers of the State Police which will help an individual accurately record the details of any violation he sees so the information can be given to local enforcement officers or mailed to the State Police.

In essence, it is a fill-in-the-blank report form with a list of the details needed by a law enforcement officer. The card bears a check-list of those features which should be noted in writing a personal description. It has space for noting license number, make, model, and other features of a vehicle. There is room for noting other details and the location of a violation.

With this kind of information a police officer can be well on his way toward issuing a citation. If it is further supported by a willingness on the part of an honest sportsman to testify in court, the case is strengthened even more. □

## AN AUTUMN SAGA

by Cliff Hamilton

We have eight as of this writing but there will be more. As sure as short days, crisp mornings, and football, they come along in increasing numbers at this time of year. They *will* come, too! One every few days, in almost faithful fashion, until by late December there will probably be about sixty. That leaves fifty or so still on the way. We're not talking about flocks of geese winging their way southward or groups of sandpipers drifting in to spend the winter on our coast. We are talking about *hunting accidents!*

We cannot change the frosty mornings or shortening days but people *could* change some of the things that happen when they get careless with their hunting equipment. Changes will come, though, only when each individual who goes afield realizes that an accident *can* happen to him, even if he is a veteran hunter with a number of seasons under his belt.

Each year reminders to be careful go out in this magazine, in posters and displays, in newspaper articles, on radio and television, and by word of mouth. Each year the reports come back in on those who didn't heed. Last season there were 38 of the 62 total accidents directly attributed to carelessness. Most of these were self-inflicted. Next time you stand in front of the mirror to comb your hair, shave, or brush your teeth, that person looking back at you will be the most dangerous one around when you go out hunting. How about looking him square in the eye and telling him to "watch it" this fall.

Each year the phone calls come in



asking about dates for hunting seasons. Some are not from sportsmen wishing to be legal in their pursuit of game. They are from concerned nonhunters who are afraid of being injured or killed by a careless shot if they venture into the outdoors during the season. Publicity about accidents from past seasons has made them that way. We tell them they really have little to worry about since, next to yourself, your biggest worry is your hunting companion. With over two-thirds of the accidents happening at less than three yards each year and less than 10 percent in the "mistaken for game" category, we have the figures to back up our words. "But I keep hearing . . ." they say, and we again try to explain.

Deer season is upon us and, because of sheer numbers of hunters involved, this is when most of the casualties happen. That doesn't mean elk hunters, rabbit hunters, or shotgunners are safe. They all suffered last season, too, and each year before that.

Guns don't cause accidents. Guns are only pieces of steel and wood or plastic. Not until someone picks up a gun, loads it, drops it, pulls it from a car or boat, falls with it, plays with it, or otherwise handles it does an accident occur.

Fall will become a full-fledged winter and the days will grow shorter yet. That's sort of inevitable like the old cliché about death and taxes. Hunting accidents do not have to come with the seasons. Think about that next time you head out on a nice fall day. □



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