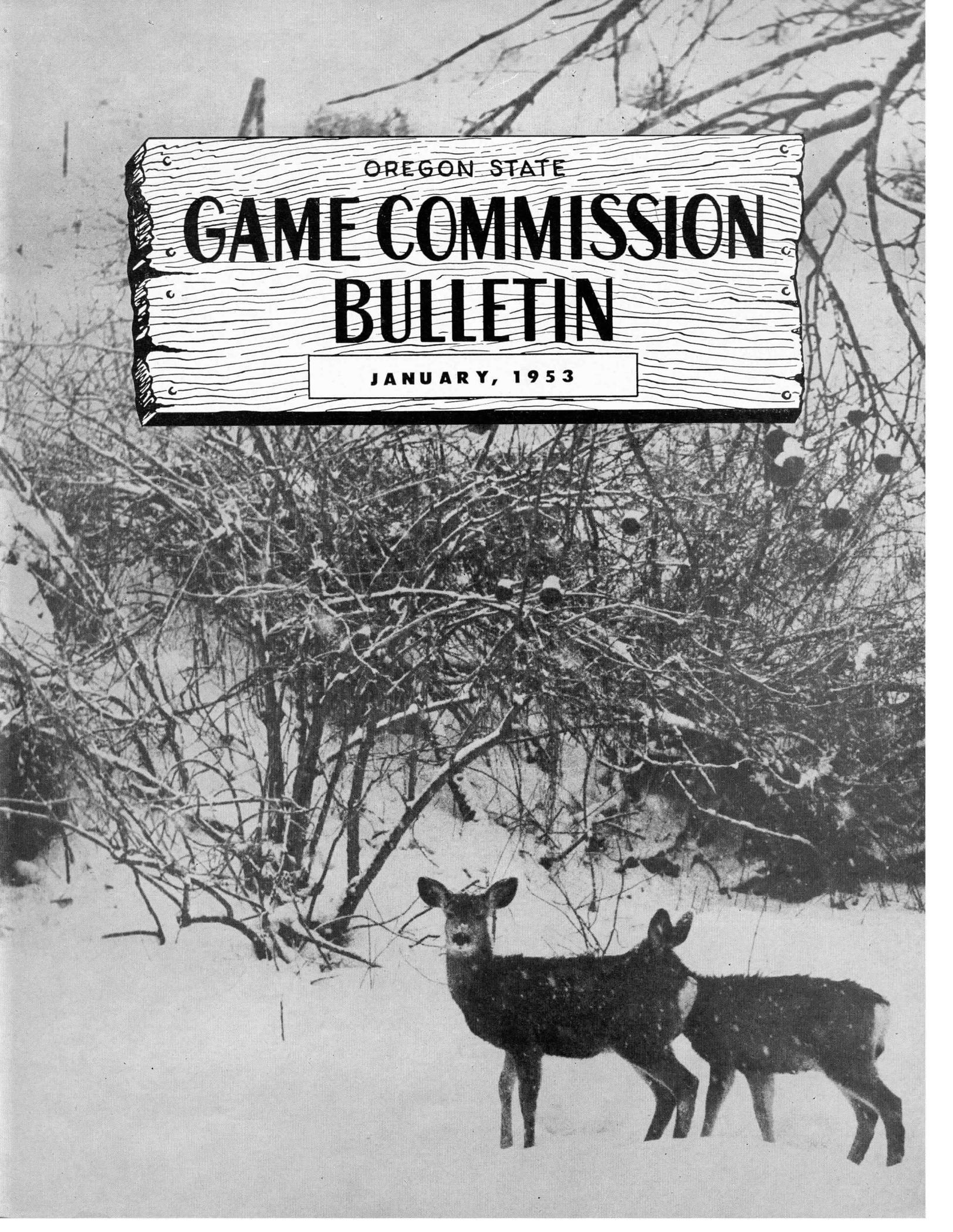


OREGON STATE

# GAME COMMISSION BULLETIN

JANUARY, 1953





Excellent waterfowl hunting was experienced in the major waterfowl areas this fall despite so much bluebird weather. Ducks and geese were more plentiful than they have been for a number of years. Although the coastal area, Willamette Valley and northeastern Oregon did not have any major influx of migratory birds, the Klamath area, Warner Valley, Summer Lake, central Oregon, and Sauvie Island during part of the season had a record number of ducks and geese.

\* \* \*

The habitat improvement section reports receiving its fall shipment of woody planting stock and planting this season is expected to total as follows: South Willamette, 70,000; Columbia District 22,000; Umatilla District, 22,000, if freezing weather does not force curtailment of this schedule.

The East Lake egg-take, terminated in November, yielded 2,956,414 eastern brook eggs which were taken to Fall River hatchery for eyeing and hatching. There were also 166,566 brown eggs taken and sent to Wizard Falls hatchery.

\* \* \*

Morrison Pond, located within the city of Burns, was chemically treated on November 4 to destroy the rough fish introduced into the pond through flood action from the Silvies River. The pond covers an area of about five acres, and will provide a readily accessible angling location for residents of Burns. An easement for public access to the pond was obtained from the owner before treatment plans were made. Local sportsmen will provide equipment and labor for construction of a dike to prohibit flood waters from the Silvies from re-entering the pond. Restocking of the pond will be done next spring.

\* \* \*

Fingerlings planted in Malheur Reservoir in 1951 have made a remarkable growth and were averaging 13½ inches in length on October 30 this year. Fry plant of this year averaged 6.5 inches. Angling this season was excellent at the Reservoir which was chemically treated in 1950 for removal of scrap fish.

#### COVER PICTURE

A winter scene along Goose Creek in Baker county. (Photo by Austin Hamer)

## Oregon State Game Commission Bulletin

VOLUME VIII JANUARY, 1953 NUMBER 1

Published Monthly by the  
OREGON STATE GAME COMMISSION  
1634 S. W. Alder Street—P. O. Box 4136  
Portland 8, Oregon

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Entered as second-class matter September 30, 1947, at the post office at Portland, Oregon, under the act of August 24, 1912.

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## Learning

At college our professors insisted that what we learn may influence our way of life. Now, years later, I'm beginning to suspect that they may have been right.

If you call a fisheries worker at 7 p.m. there will be a slight delay in reaching him. He will need time to dry his hands before answering. He's washing dishes. Call a game man at that hour and there's a slight delay too. It takes time to walk from the easy chair in the living room to the phone. The fish man has learned that the male bass builds the nest, guards the eggs, and does all the other housework. The game man has learned that the mallard drake sits peacefully at his waiting-post while the hen builds her nest and deposits her eggs.

O.K., bring on the dish rag...

R. W. Eschmeyer  
Sport Fishing Institute Bulletin

## December Meeting of the Game Commission

The Oregon State Game Commission met in Portland on December 11 and 12 and considered the following matters.

With reference to request previously made that a tract of land at Eel Lake be conveyed to the Oregon Society for Crippled Children and Adults for use as a summer camp and convalescent home, the Commission was advised by the Assistant Attorney General that it had no legal right to give away land as a gift nor to lease it except for game management purposes; and that the land, if determination was made that it was of no further use for game management purposes, could be sold only by advertising for bids as provided by law. The Director was instructed to convey this information to the Society.

The bid of Lewiston Refrigeration Sales in the amount of \$1,644.50 was accepted for remodeling of cooling room at the Wallowa hatchery.

The Director reported that an inquiry had been received regarding filing of mining claims on the Fort Stevens property conveyed to the Commission by the government. The Commission went on record as being opposed to proposed dredging operations in the Fort Stevens area of Clatsop county.

A delegation from the Oregon Cattle-men's Association appeared before the Commission to discuss the "Uniform Federal Grazing Land Tenancy Act", proposed for introduction in Congress this coming season.

## Fishery Conference

Game Commission fish hatchery men and fishery agents last month held their three-day annual conference in Portland on fish culture and management.

Control of trout and salmon diseases in hatcheries, requirements for a good hatchery water supply, and fish food preparation were topics covered under fish culture. Utilization of trash fish seined from lakes as a cheap source of fish food was discussed.

A fish grader that sorts thousands of hatchery trout into size groups within minutes was demonstrated by Wizard Falls Hatchery Superintendent Gene Morton who designed and built the fish grader. Alsea Hatchery Superintendent Glauco Webb described a system for utilizing a stream section to rear trout in place of hatchery ponds.

Fishery agents wrestled with the problem of properly sampling fish losses in stream diversions for power and irrigation to determine the necessity for screening. Management of treated and restocked lakes and reservoirs, fish marking and subsequent recovery, and methods of holding trapped adult salmon and steelhead for long periods without injury or loss were covered.

# 1952 In Review

By P. W. SCHNEIDER, Director

The purpose of this article is to review briefly some of the major activities and program of the Oregon State Game Commission during the past year.

As has been stated in previous articles, a review of a single year's activities means little unless correlated with longer range objectives. Successful fishery and game management and utilization means in part adherence to orderly and systematic programing of many details closely tuned to other major land and water use activities on a long range basis. A program of the magnitude under way by the Oregon State Game Commission is not formulated and executed in one twelve-month period. It constitutes but a single unit of effort in a continuous operation.

Direct utilization of the fishery and wildlife resources again continued over an extended period of the year. It was possible to participate in hunting for one or more species of game for a period of 139 days during the calendar year 1952 compared to 136 days in 1951. The Oregon angler had available from one to several major fisheries which he utilized throughout the entire year. This point is frequently overlooked in relation to the fact this has been possible in the face of an ever increasing stress on our fisheries.

The year 1952 has witnessed the highest ratio of our total population using the fishery and game resources. There is now one out of every four Oregonians licensed to hunt, angle or both as reflected in terms of individual licenses issued. This fundamental consideration must be recognized carefully in relation to a department's program and to the future problems facing the Commission.

All major activities of the Commission have continued during 1952. There has been no curtailment of major functions and the department has expanded in several respects.

In order that the year-to-year status of our basic stocks of fisheries and game may be known for regulatory purposes, the methods of state-wide inventory have been continued and, where necessary, expanded. A knowledge of the factors of distribution, densities and responses to activities either favorable or detrimental to populations of fish and game must at all times be maintained if regulations can be expected to provide for a sustained and safe program of harvest.

In handling a business the size of

the present Game Commission activities, many of the important considerations are of an administrative nature. To the end that maximum efficiency will be secured through proper organization, emphasis has been placed in further decentralizing our operations through the five regional offices. Many of the day-to-day affairs of the Commission previously handled from the Central office are now carried out from the appropriate field office. A number of improvements and modifications of the fiscal and business aspects of the Commission's responsibilities have been made during the year through the employment of better equipment and methods. Cost analyses and pertinent statistical data not heretofore available have been assembled and used with programing and budgeting.

## Fisheries

The Fishery Division, in addition to continuing the basic program previously formulated, has directed attention and effort at several major factors important to the varied sports fisheries of the state. An effort was made to secure uniformity of sports fisheries regulations of the Columbia River. Through the help and cooperation of the Washington state officials, major differences existing in the regulations and not requiring legislative action were standardized during the critical period of the year. Several successful salvage operations of downstream migrant salmon, steelhead and trout were carried out on an emergency basis. The first angling access program inaugurated was designed to provide, on a long range basis, points of access to major fishing streams of the state. The Game Commission secured, through negotiations with the federal government, its first appropriation for fisheries rehabilitation as a part of the Lower Columbia River Fishery Development program. The first segment of this program in which the Commission will participate will embrace the John Day watershed. The examination of all major hydro-power diversions was continued during the year and extensive negotiations with several private utilities and irrigation companies have been carried out to secure the installation of adequate fishery protective facilities in structures now destroying fishery resources. Examinations of applications for the appropriation of public waters of the state have been made by the score and efforts have been directed at

(Continued on Page Seven)

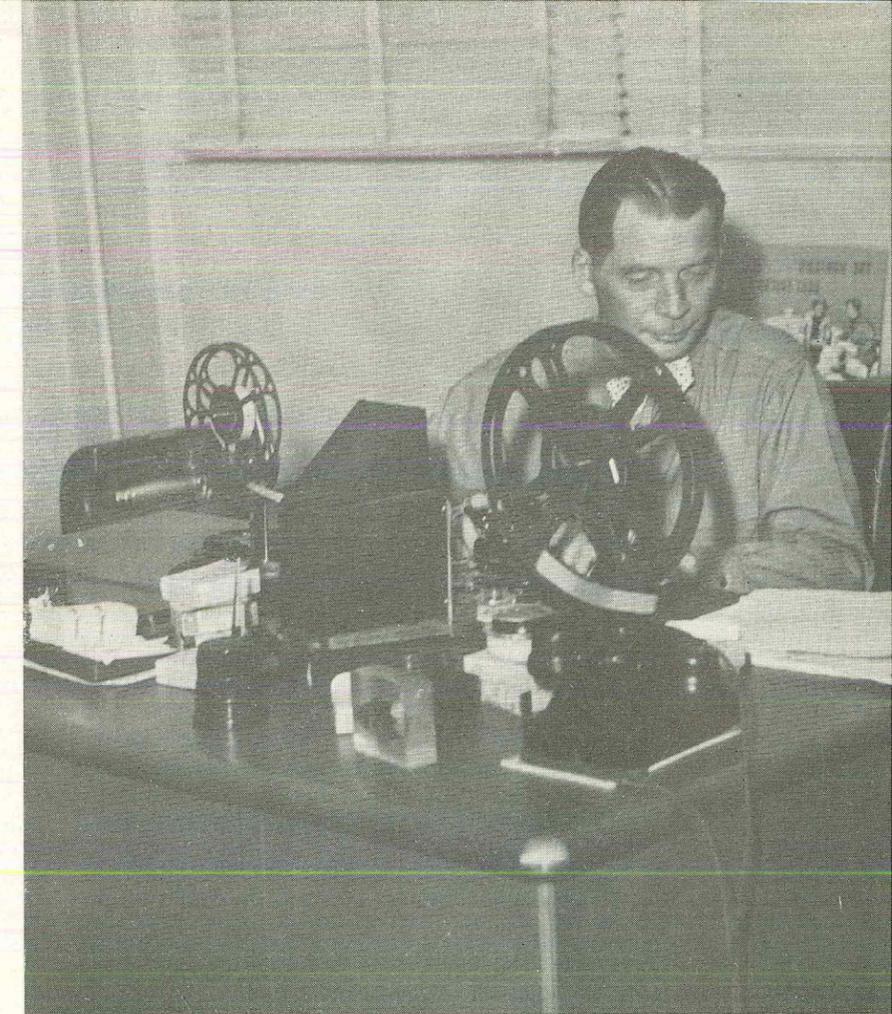




Bob Mace in action. The camera gun in this picture was used extensively for the big game shots. The gun was built by Mace from an old gun stock and some scrap metal.



Ivan Jones of KEX sneaking up on a bugling bull elk to get a sound recording. This is exciting work as these elk have no fear of man during the rutting season.

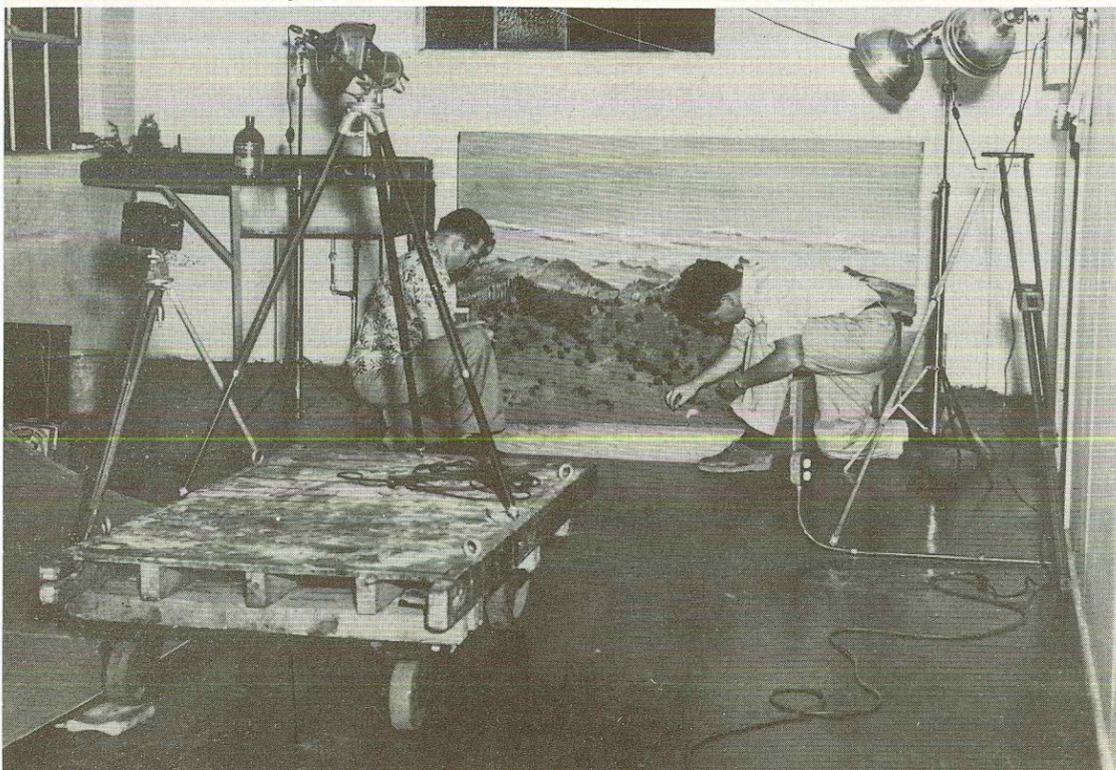


Editing a moving picture is no small job in itself. First the best of the original film must be selected, then a work print is made, then final editing for continuity and optical effects.

## "Behind the Trophy"

### How a Wildlife Motion Picture is Made

Although most of the scenes for "Behind the Trophy" were shot in the field, a small part of the picture was made in one of the back rooms of the Portland office.



Harold Smith at work on a model winter deer range. Smith built this for a section of the picture that shows the way a deer census route is laid out.



The final work is now being done in the Game Commission's second sound, color motion picture. The new picture is entitled "Behind The Trophy" and deals with one of the many activities of district game agents. This activity is the gathering of factual information concerning Oregon's big game animals. It is hoped to have the picture finished so that bookings for showing before organizations can be made starting sometime near the middle of February.

This picture, like "Trout Story," the first sound, color picture made by the Commission, has been done entirely by Game Commission personnel with the exception of the laboratory work. The Commission program calls for the production of one picture a year but due to the fact that a very limited amount of money can be ear-marked for this purpose, the pictures are not made by a commercial producer.

Bob Mace, big game chief for the Commission, did the photography mainly in his spare time. He was able to get some outstanding big game shots that are being worked into the picture. Editing, special effects and the writing of the narration were done mainly at night after the close of the regular working day to cut the costs of production.

Ivan Jones of the KEX staff also assisted the Commission in recording the actual sounds of elk bugling and barking during their rutting season. This on the spot recording is also being worked into the picture.

We hope you like this picture but we also hope that you will remember that it will be impossible for everyone to see it at once. Try to plan your programs a long way in advance and avoid disappointments.

# The Southeast Region

By W. C. LIGHTFOOT, Supervisor

Region 5, the Southeast Region, was established in December, 1950, being the last of the five Game Commission administrative regions to be organized. While Region 5 is the largest of the five regions in land area, containing some 28,500 square miles or roughly 29 per cent of the land area of the state, it also supports the smallest human population, 35,985 people or 2.4 per cent of the population of the state of Oregon. This region includes the large open range counties of Lake, Harney, and Malheur, where livestock and timber are the principal industries. Portions of Klamath, Crook, Grant and Baker counties are also included in the region.

Headquarters for the ten permanent employees of the region is located in the Hines City Hall building in Hines, Oregon. The region is divided into three districts: Lake under District Game Agent A. Boyd Claggett at Lakeview; Harney under District Game Agent G. Ellis Mason at Burns; and Malheur under District Game Agent Cecil Langdon at Ontario. Other Game Commission activities within the region are the Ontario Game Farm under Superintendent George Maddux at Ontario; the Summer Lake Game Management Area under Hugo (Pop) Leyva at Summer Lake; and the still tentative Warner Valley Game Management Area planned for Warner Valley of which Game Agent Norman Minnick is in charge.

## Big Game

In the past four years (1948-1951) 25 per cent of the deer hunters of the state have hunted within the Southeast Region during the regular deer season to harvest 20 per cent of the deer taken in the state with an average success ratio of 36.8 per cent. Besides the 40,745 buck deer cropped during these regular seasons, an additional 7,314 antlerless deer have been bagged in five special seasons. Despite this total harvest of 48,059 deer in four years, the necessity of keeping deer numbers in balance with their forage supply remains one of the most important and difficult management jobs.

To keep abreast of the deer situation within the region, game agents have established 739 miles of population trend census strips. These strips, laid out over winter concentration areas, are counted annually to determine the population trend of the various deer herds within the region. In traversing these census routes last winter, game agents tallied 10,284 deer, or an average of 13.9 deer per mile.

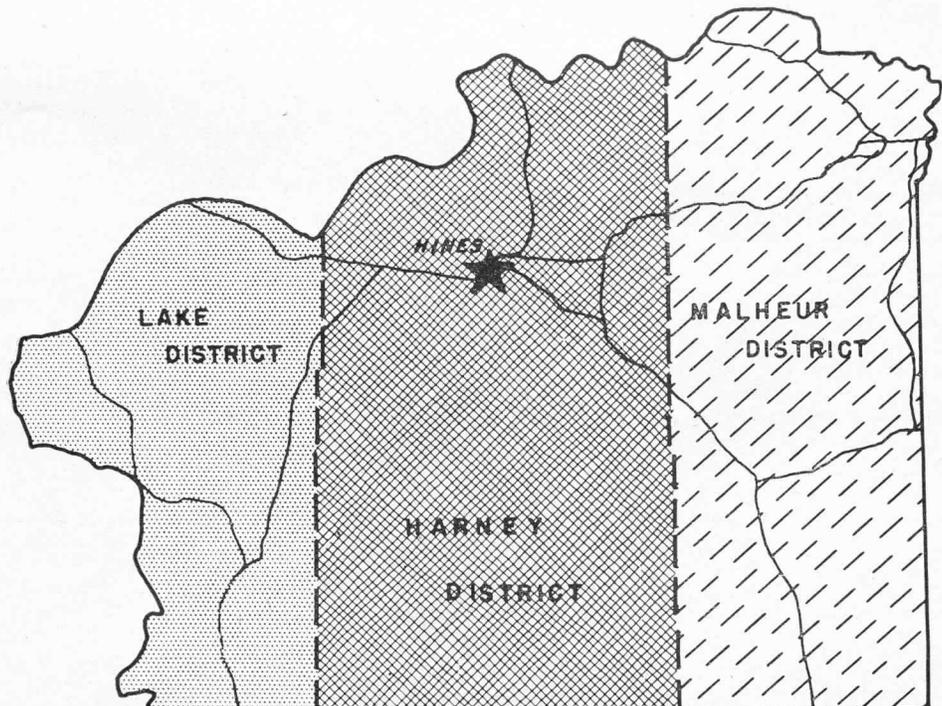
A total of 4,507 deer were classified in the fall of 1951 by the game agents of the region to determine the buck-doe and fawn-doe ratios within the herds. This data is important in determining the composition and annual productivity of the several deer herds from year to year. Winter mortality checks are made each spring and compared with previous years to determine the severity and extent of the winter mortality. Carcasses are also classified as to age and sex, and bone marrow tests are made to determine if malnutrition was the basic cause of death. Summer range strips have also been established to determine the distribution and density of summer deer populations.

Perhaps the most important phase of deer management is the attempt to maintain deer herds in balance with the available forage on the winter ranges. All of the deer herds of the region migrate in the winter to ranges at lower elevations. As most winter ranges are smaller than the summer ranges and have less precipitation, they are not as productive. The winter ranges and their forage resources are the bottlenecks controlling deer herd numbers. It is essential, if deer herds are to be maintained perpetually, that the forage resource of these key winter ranges be maintained in as thrifty and productive a condition as possible.

To keep informed of forage conditions in the region, game agents have set up some 70 forage study transects on Oregon ranges. In cooperation with the California Department of Game and the U. S. Forest Service, 94 more forage plots have been established on the interstate deer herd winter range in California. Miles Langdon, Game Agent of Burns, has recently been assigned to handle all of the range forage work within the region. Forage plots in use are of two types. One type is confined to key forage species, such as bitterbrush and sage, and determines the annual growth of and use on these plants. The second type determines the trend in abundance of the various species of plants present.

Region 5 contains the bulk of the antelope found in the state of Oregon. Special seasons on adult buck antelope have been held annually since 1949. These three seasons have resulted in a total harvest of 1,865 buck antelope by 3,484 hunters for an average success of 54 per cent. Antelope population trends are measured by aerial census. Last year 7,030 antelope were tallied by game agents. Although antelope have a very high reproductive potential, the antelope herds of Oregon have shown no marked increase for a number of years. As the principal check to an increase in antelope numbers, evidence points to an early fawn loss caused by as yet an undetermined factor. It is hoped that this factor may be determined and possible remedial measures taken in the near future.

(Continued on Page Eight)



The Southeast Region (No. V)

## 1952 In Review

(Continued from Page Three)

securing consideration of fishery resources in those streams reaching over-appropriation of water during periods of low flow. The steady increase in the use of water for power, irrigation and industry imposes an ever increasing hazard to the maintenance of the fishery resource and it is imperative that some method be devised for safeguarding the future of our fisheries in the utilization program for water now under way.

Stream clearance work has been continued both independently and in cooperation with many logging operators, particularly in the numerous coastal streams where blockages to fish movements had become serious. The Commission has received excellent cooperation from many of the logging industry in eliminating such hazards to the state's fisheries. The 1952 hatchery releases of trout, steelhead and salmon totaled 541,718 pounds. This constitutes the highest production record yet achieved by our hatchery system. The first liberation of Atlantic salmon was made during the summer from stock reared to two years of age in our hatcheries. Lake and reservoir rehabilitation, improved stocking methods and the numerous and varied details of a modern fishery management program were prosecuted on all of the many fish producing waters of the state.

### Basin Investigations

As a result of the many agencies, both public and private, engaged in water development programs through the state, it is necessary to maintain one department directing full-time attention to matters of fisheries and game in connection with such programs. The Commission has negotiated continuously throughout the past year with both public and private agencies engaged in the construction of projects which will in one way or another affect the public resources of fish and game. In cooperation with the Game Commission, the U. S. Corps of Engineers started construction during the summer on Leaburg hatchery on the McKenzie River for the production of trout as partial restitution for fishery losses sustained in one segment of the Willamette Basin Project.

In many projects, it is possible if considered during the earliest planning stages, to accommodate a balanced program of development wherein fishery considerations will avoid serious losses. In other instances the proposed location of such projects would result in one thing—the complete destruction of a public property because of the biological and physical impossibility of avoiding such losses. It has been our position that when such insurmountable problems are involved, it is best in the long range development picture

of the state to adjust or modify such plans to avoid destruction of a value now present.

### Game and Fur

Game and fur production has continued at a stabilized level during the past year. During early 1952 extreme weather conditions in the southeastern part of the state caused some winter loss of both big game and upland game, but there have been no spectacular gains or losses throughout the state as a whole during the year. The first general hunter's choice deer season held in Oregon during 1952 was designed to provide for a greater ratio of use of the deer herds, secure better distribution and to alleviate conflict with other land uses. The serious fire hazard requiring the closure of many areas to access prevented the proper execution of this season because of poor hunter distribution. However, such seasons under appropriate conditions of game densities and hunter distribution can offer an opportunity for more efficient use of the state's deer resource. Harvest data for the 1952 season is not yet available, but it is expected to equal or exceed the estimated combined kill of 1951 totaling 1,276,257 units of game of which 68,661 were big game.

The Game Commission is now operating or developing either independently or cooperatively 10 major land areas on which primary consideration is given to the game resource. In all instances where land is suitable, the lands operated primarily for game resources also provide for other agricultural production under a balanced program of management. Special attention has been directed during the year to the Klamath Basin, focal point for waterfowl using the Pacific Flyway.

Following the development of suitable brood stock, a major effort in the establishment of an additional upland bird resource was made last summer through extensive stocking of 9,453 Chukar partridges in eastern Oregon habitat not now supporting an upland bird population. The sale of the Corvallis Game Farm during the year marked the end of pheasant production at one of the oldest game farms in the United States. The Commission's entire western Oregon bird rearing program was transferred to the Wilson Management Area. A greater emphasis was placed during the year on physical work on the land, both independently and in joining with other land management agencies and private landowners in cooperative endeavors. Plans were formulated during the year for the development of the Commission's own nursery for planting stock for the habitat improvement program now well under way. This stock will supplement planting materials available from outside sources. Over 160 miles of fence row plantings have been completed

to date. The Commission participated actively both in the Pacific Flyway Technical Committee and Flyway Council in connection with cooperative management of the waterfowl resource of the Pacific Flyway. The first open season on beaver held since 1932 was concluded early in 1952 with a harvest of 15,257 pelts providing a cash crop worth over \$148,000 to the private trappers of the state. The Game Division program was continued essentially as developed over the past several years with greater emphasis on land development and habitat improvement.

The Engineering Department completed a number of necessary land surveys during the year as well as capital improvements at 7 of the 14 hatcheries. The Oakridge hatchery was placed into increased production following one year of curtailed operations for the construction of new ponds and a new cold storage unit. The fish screen installation program was continued following biological determinations of the necessity for such facilities. Plan designs were made on major fishery protective facilities.

In Information and Education, emphasis was placed during the year on adequately informing the public of all developments pertaining to the Commission's activities and assisting the youth of the state in a better understanding and appreciation of the non-domestic resources of Oregon. During 1952 the conservation education program emerged into a full-fledged program. Programs were presented to 105 summer camp sessions attended by over 7,000 youth of the state, and the winter school program of 1951-52 was presented to over 40,000 school children. The current winter's school schedule will represent the largest effort so far reached in this activity by the Commission. One new movie concerning the big game resources of Oregon has been completed during the year and a wider distribution of the Game Commission Bulletin achieved through continued requests for this publication.

In the field of research, seven major projects concerning fundamental problems in either fisheries or game have been carried out through the Wildlife Research Unit at Oregon State College.

It is possible to do little more than make a hasty sketch of a few of the activities carried out by the Commission during the year in a brief article. All departments, however, render detailed annual reports, which are available for the use of interested individuals.

During the course of the past year a factor not directly related to our operations has been called to the Commission's attention to a greater extent than heretofore and which gives cause for alarm. Many complaints have been received by landowners regarding hunter

(Continued on Page Eight)

## 1952 In Review

(Continued from Page Seven)

and angler abuse of private property rights. More and more users of fish and game report an increasing problem of entry to private land for the purpose of hunting and fishing. If the users of fish and game are to maintain access to private property for the purpose of cropping these resources, there must be exercised a higher degree of self-discipline with respect to property owners' rights than has been manifest by the occasional individual who abuses the privilege by entering upon and even in some instances destroying private property. Although such conduct is probably by the rare individual, such acts reflect upon every other license holder. A hunting license grants no right of trespass. The right of trespass is a civil matter unrelated legally to the bearing of a license to crop fish or game. Respect for such a privilege on private property will engender an alleviation of this growing problem.

There are other factors related to the future of the fishery and game resources of Oregon, although essentially beyond the purview of the Commission. Those broad land and water use policies and practices which tend to set the pattern of our future resource base bear a fundamental importance to every citizen interested in the resources of fish and game. The unavoidable interrelationships existing between all renewable resources should not exclude the existence of values inherent in the public resources of fish and game as development programs which alter our land and water areas are carried out.

The magnificent endowment of renewable resources is a priceless heritage of every Oregonian. It is one which should be used prudently, respected and handled carefully and guarded zealously in all its respects. There is a solemn obligation not only to government agencies but to all citizens deriving some value from such resources to use wisely this privilege.

Korean hunting licenses, peace time, that is, carry the following: "Hunting in public streets, shrines and temples is not permitted. Firing at buildings, people, cattle and street cars is not permitted."

## The Southeast Region

(Continued from Page Six)

Some of the principal waterfowl areas in the state are located within the Southeast Region. Malheur, Summer Lake, and Warner Valley are all important waterfowl areas both as production units and for the fine hunting they afford. Public hunting grounds located in these areas last year produced a total bag of 6,742 ducks and 4,148 geese in 4,798 hunter days.

Long popular among Oregon sportsmen, the Ontario basin still remains as the most productive pheasant hunting area in the state. Good pheasant populations are also present in Jordan and Harney Valleys.

Valley quail, mountain quail, bob-white quail, Hungarian partridge, and mourning dove are all found within the region.

A considerable part of the game agent's time is spent on game damage control work. With the increase in human population and the advent of high crop prices and more intensive agricultural practice, conflicts between agriculture and wildlife are inevitable. Nearly all species of game become involved at one time or another. The game agent first determines the extent of the damage and the causes and then attempts to recommend or apply remedial measures if justifiable and practical.

In an endeavor to obtain wide dispersal of antelope and sage hen over the unutilized arid portions of their ranges, the development of permanent water sources has been undertaken. These habitat development projects are the result of cooperative agreements between the State Game Commission and the U. S. Bureau of Land Management. To date 16 large water holes have been developed under this program.

Other habitat development work carried out within the region includes willow plantings for beaver food and stream erosion control purposes, and shrub plantings for game bird cover and winter food supply.

### Fishery

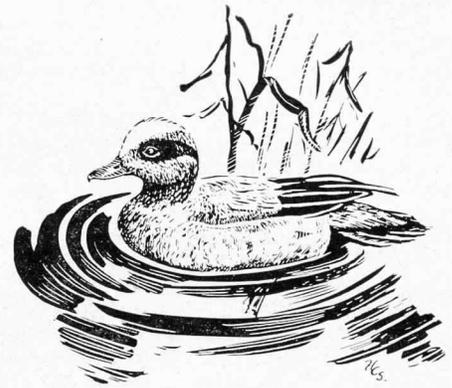
Under the direction of Fishery Agent Allen Lichens of Hines, the fishery activities of the Southeast Region have been directed along three channels: (1) Obtaining basic knowledge of the fishery resources of the region, (2) A more efficient stocking program to improve and maintain the fishery in the larger streams of the area, (3) The re-

habilitation, development, and improvement of the lakes and impoundments within the region.

The arid nature of much of Region 5 and the dearth of permanent waters precludes the presence of as important a fishery resource as is available in the other four regions of the state. This same situation also enhances the importance of the present fishery resource and necessitates its fullest development. Prior to the inception of the region in 1950, little fishery work has been done on the waters of the area, so that much time is now being devoted to obtaining a basic knowledge of the fishery resources of the region. Last year over 70,000 legal and some 295,000 fingerling trout were planted in the streams and lakes. Field Agent Walter Cavanaugh of Lakeview is in charge of screening operations in Lake county where currently some 20 fish screens are in operation on irrigation diversion ditches.

Strange to say some of the waters of the region are underfished. The great Owyhee Reservoir, one of the largest bodies of water in the state, offers unparalleled spiny-rayed fishing, as well as some of the most fascinating scenery in the state, to those visiting her vast reaches. Some of the smaller trout streams, due to inaccessibility, offer almost virgin fishing to the few intrepid anglers who seek them out.

The function of the regional office is primarily twofold: administration and public service. One of its principal purposes is to provide a source of local contact between the State Game Commission and the citizenry of that section of the state in which it is located so that quicker action may be taken on the requests and problems of the public. You are invited to avail yourself of our facilities.



## Oregon State Game Commission Bulletin

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