

OREGON STATE

# GAME COMMISSION BULLETIN

OCTOBER, 1954





## THIS and THAT

Through agreement between the City of Medford and the Game Commission, Willow Creek Reservoir was made available for angling to the general public. The reservoir, which has an area of approximately 322 acres, was stocked with 150,000 rainbow fry.

\* \* \*

Remaining days of the open pheasant season for juveniles on the E. E. Wilson Management Area are October 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, 24, 30, 31 and November 6 and 7. Bag limit is 2 cocks a day. The area is open only to juvenile hunters from 14 to 17 years. Juveniles must be accompanied by licensed adults over 25 years of age, with one adult in charge of not more than two juveniles. Applications for permits, which are limited to 35 a day, may be made either at the Game Management Area or the Portland office of the Commission.

\* \* \*

Although printing of "No Trespassing" and "No Hunting" signs is part of their business, the Myrtle Creek Mail wrote in for a supply of the Game Commission's "Hunting by Permission" signs. They offered to try to get their customers to take them for free instead of buying the others.

\* \* \*

Oregon's share of the 1955 fiscal year apportionment of Federal Aid funds is \$239,372 for Pittman-Robertson projects (wildlife) and \$94,963 for the Dingell-Johnson program (fishery), or a total of \$334,335. One-third of this amount has to be matched with state game funds. The total federal apportionment for wildlife restoration is \$9,796,800 and for fish restoration, \$4,299,916. Each state's allotment is determined by a formula based upon the area of the state and the number of paid license holders.

\* \* \*

The total release of fish for the 1954 calendar year is expected to be in the neighborhood of 10,945,000 fish, including 2,625,000 of legal length or larger. The total weight of the fish will approximate 540,000 pounds. Hatcheries used approximately 3,100,000 pounds of fish food.

# HUNTING BY PERMISSION

"THOSE pheasants belong to the state and the hunters—what right has any man to stop me from hunting them during the open season if I have a license?" queries an irate hunter following his return from a hunting trip spoiled by the fact that most of the good shooting places were posted against hunting."

"No one is going to hunt on my land without my say-so and after my experience last year with cut fences, gates left open and cattle shot at, my place is just plain going to be closed to all hunters," might be the reply of the landowner when asked to answer the question.

Signs reading "Hunting by Permission" instead of "No Hunting" or "No Trespassing" are being circulated by the Game Commission in an effort to provide you sportsmen more hunting opportunities. But it's up to you as to whether the plan works.

True, the wild game belongs to the people and you, upon buying a license,

are entitled to hunt it when open seasons are provided. Your license, however, does *not* give you the right to hunt any private property without permission. A man out in the wide open spaces has the same right as you in town to say who shall or shall not come upon his land. The thing to do is to pay him the simple courtesy of asking permission to hunt, follow his instructions as to where to hunt, be careful of his property and acknowledge his hospitality as you would that of any other person.

The upland game hunter particularly depends upon private lands for much of his shooting in many sections of the state. A single hunter or group of hunters, by ignoring a landowner's rights and damaging his property, can ruin for all the chances perhaps at some really good shooting. So treat the man, who has helped protect and feed your game throughout the year, as you would expect to be treated at your home.

## Oregon State

### Game Commission Bulletin

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Please report promptly any change of address. Send in both the old and new address with notice of change.

#### COVER

Wagon train plows through a snowstorm with a load of elk on the way to Billy Meadows in Wallowa County in March of 1912. (William L. Finley Photo)

## AUGUST MEETING OF GAME COMMISSION

The last meeting of the Game Commission was on August 20 and among actions taken were the following.

*Waterfowl shooting dates.* Waterfowl shooting dates for shooting grounds were adopted as follows:

Warner Valley and Malheur: Noon  
October 16 to December 5.

Sauvie Island: Noon October 16, 17,  
20, 23, 24, 26, 28, 30, 31.

November 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 13, 14, 16,  
18, 20, 21, 23, 25, 27, 28, 30.

December 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 12, 14, 16,  
18, 19, 21, 23, 26, 28, 30.

January 1, 2, 3.

Regular waterfowl dates from noon October 16 to January 3 will apply at the Summer Lake and Klamath areas.

*Nesting islands.* Authorized expenditure of \$1,500 for construction of waterfowl nesting islands at Summer Lake.

*Option.* Exercised option for 339 acres in Furber Marsh area.

*Capital outlay.* Authorized following capital outlay expenditures:

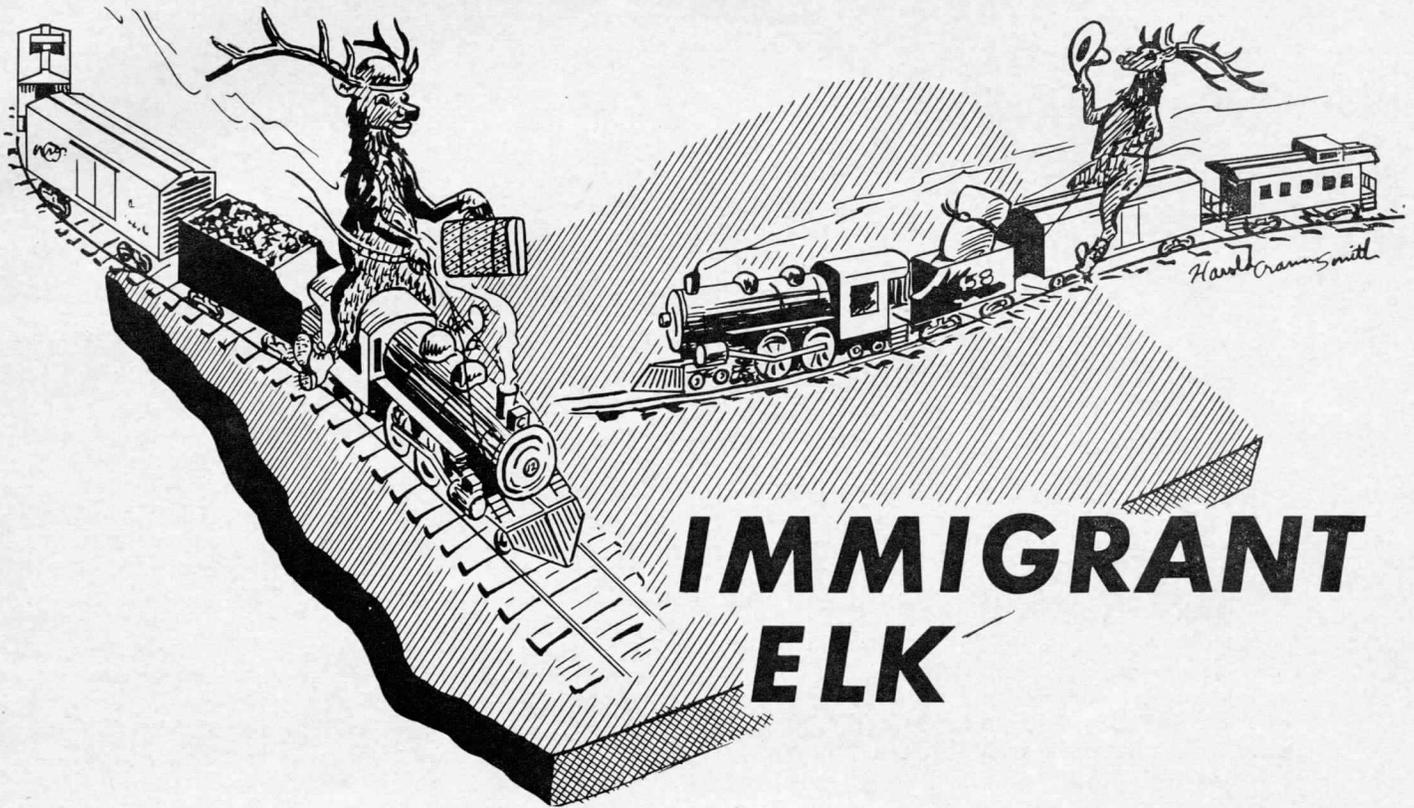
\$3,955 for additional improvements  
at Rock Creek Hatchery

2,000 for Willamette Hatchery domestic water supply

2,250 for sewage disposal system at  
Klamath Hatchery

3,900 for power grinder at Wizard  
Falls Hatchery

(Continued on page 8)



# IMMIGRANT ELK

The story of two early-day elk transplants to Wallowa and Clackamas counties

By RON SHAY, *Information Representative*

THE commendable law prohibiting the killing of elk for ten years is already proving its worth, and a large increase of this grandee of the mountains is predicted, if the vigilance of the past year is maintained. The sale of elk meat has been, I believe, entirely stopped."

So read the first annual report of the Game and Forestry Warden to the Governor of Oregon for the year 1899.

At this time, the reports indicate that the status of the elk here in Oregon was very shaky, and strict enforcement of the protection law was in effect to maintain the few remaining animals.

This article is not designed to give the complete history of the elk in Oregon, but to relate the story of two elk imports that took place as a result of the shortage of the majestic mountain dwellers.

Since the transplants we are covering took place around 40 years ago, the material has been gathered from a variety of sources and some of you readers perhaps have more details on the subject than we do. Anyway, here is what we have gleaned about the Wallowa and Clackamas elk releases.

One of the first transplants was the 1912 import of Rocky Mountain elk from Jackson Hole, Wyoming, to Wal-

lowa county. According to the report of William Finley, then state game biologist, the story went thusly.

"During the year 1907, the United States Bureau of Forestry built a five-foot wire fence around four sections of land known as the Billy Meadows pasture. In the fall of 1911, this pasture was turned over to the Fish and Game Commission to be used as a refuge for elk.

"A herd of 15 wild elk was donated by the Biological Survey of the Department of Agriculture. The herd was captured at Jackson Hole, Wyoming, where a large number of these animals collect each year . . . The bulls were lassoed and thrown and their horns sawed off so they could be hauled in crates.

"The elk were loaded in sleds and the outfit left the corrals at Jackson Hole on March 3rd, 1912. The first difficulty of this experiment was a ninety-mile trip through mountains over the Teton Pass to St. Anthony, Idaho.

"Unfortunately, a heavy snow storm was encountered on the pass and for four days men and teams did little else except buck through big snow drifts . . . One sled was overturned and one of the elk killed and two others injured. On the evening of the sixth day, the

caravan of sleds pulled into St. Anthony. Here the elk were unloaded into a stockyard . . ."

Out of the 23 animals that made the trip, 15 of the strongest were loaded into a box car at St. Anthony and hauled to Joseph, Oregon, arriving on the evening of March 14. At Joseph, the elk were allowed to rest for a while, during which time crates were built on wagon beds. On the morning of March 16, the wagons were loaded and the trip to Billy Meadows, 46 miles away, was begun. Then some of the real difficulties began. The report continues:

"Weather conditions were very much against us. We had expected plenty of snow so the elk could be hauled in sleds, but all the snow had melted in the valley. We could not let the elk stay in Joseph until the roads opened in the spring . . . so it was necessary to get them to permanent pasture as soon as possible.

"In all there were 21 men, 19 teams and 2 saddle horses. From the first day out we encountered snow. We found the roads heavy and almost impassable in places. In two days of hard traveling we did not make over 25 miles. We had to double up eight horses to the wagon

(Continued on page 6)

# Salmon

## OF OREGON

### CHINOOK OR KING SALMON

Truly a king among salmon, this huge fish offers a challenge which tests the skill of the ablest fisherman. His great size and tremendous fighting qualities make him an angler's prize to be valued among the finest.

The chinook is a deep-bodied, robust fish averaging from 10 to 40 pounds, although larger fish are frequently taken. The world's record sport-caught chinook was taken from the Umpqua river, Oregon in 1910 and weighed 83 pounds. A huge commercial-caught king salmon was taken at Petersburg, Alaska and tipped the scales at 126 pounds 8 ounces.

Coloration is greenish along the back blending to silvery along the sides and belly. Black spotting appears on

the back, dorsal fin and both lobes of the caudal fin. As with all Pacific salmon, spawning fish turn darkish, especially the males, which are muddy red, almost black in coloration. The inside of the king's mouth is all black or has a dusky appearance.

In Oregon, the chinook is found in almost every river where he has access to the sea and where environmental conditions are suitable. Many rivers support both spring and fall runs. The largest runs appear in the Columbia river and its tributaries of which the Willamette is well noted. Tremendous runs once used the upper reaches of the Columbia before these spawning areas were blocked by the Grand Coulee Dam.

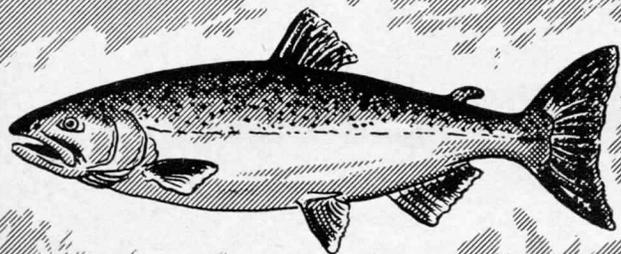
### THE SILVER OR COHO SALMON

The savage striking power of the silver salmon, coupled with his dazzling speed and tremendous jumping qualities, make this fish a favorite among many anglers. During late summer and fall, long after most trout anglers have put away their rods for the season, silver salmon fishermen take up heavier gear and eagerly seek this fish in the coastal streams and bays.

Smaller than the chinook, the silver salmon will average about 8 pounds in weight with the record sport-caught fish reaching 31 pounds. Coloration is a metallic-blue along the back, silvery sides and belly. Distinguishing characteristics are irregular black spotting along the back and the upper half of the caudal fin, and a black or dusky mouth with a white gum or tooth line.

Greatest abundance occurs in the coastal streams, such as the Nehalem, Siletz, Alsea, Umpqua and Rogue. They may be found spawning a few miles from salt water as well as hundreds of miles upstream.

Silvers probably have the greatest chance for survival in our civilization. They are more adaptable to changing conditions than any of the salmon. The greatest obstacle to their survival is their long freshwater existence—up to two years. During this time many are left stranded in potholes because of floods, they are subject to excessive temperature changes and low water levels, and they are extremely vulnerable to trout anglers.



CHINOOK or KING SALMON



COHO or SILVER SALMON

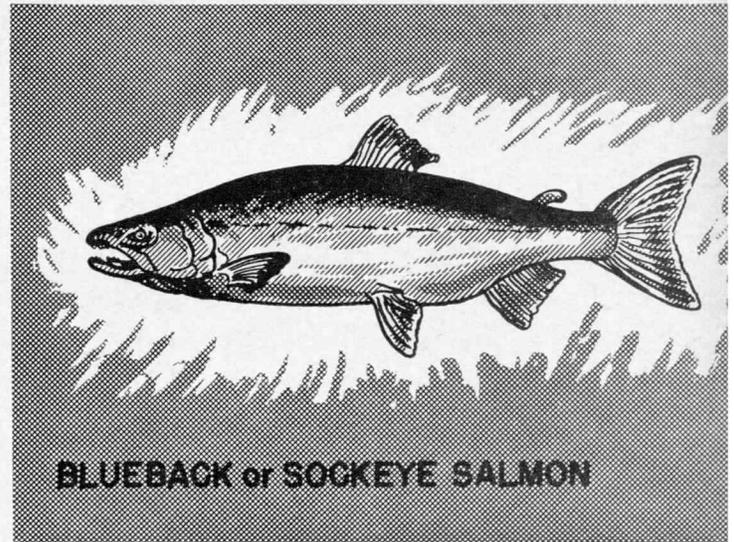
## BLUEBACK OR SOCKEYE SALMON

Here is a salmon with perhaps the most exacting environmental requirements of any, for the blueback spawns only in streams having lakes at the headwaters. Spawning usually occurs in the lake tributary streams. The newly born salmon move immediately into the lake where they spend their developmental stage, which usually takes a full year.

As sea-going fish, the blueback is important to the commercial fishery; rarely is it taken by the sport angler.

It is when this fish has become landlocked or planted in lakes that he becomes important to the sport fishery. Known as kokanee, yanks or bluebacks, this landlocked fish has the same life cycle as its sea-going brothers, except that their full life is spent in the lakes. Their growth is limited by their fresh-water environment, and they rarely reach a length of over 20 inches or 3 pounds in weight. During the summer preceding their maturity they readily strike lures and small baits, and it is at this time they are caught by the angler. To add to the sport fishery, the Oregon Game Commission is making more use of the kokanee in lakes where spawning conditions are suitable and an abundance of plankton food is present. Oregon lakes now well established with kokanee are Wallowa, Davis, Suttle and Odell.

The blueback is a medium-sized salmon weighing up to 12 pounds. The back is greenish-blue with silver sides and belly. The blueback has no black spotting. As with all Pacific salmon, the inside of the mouth is dark or has a dusky appearance.

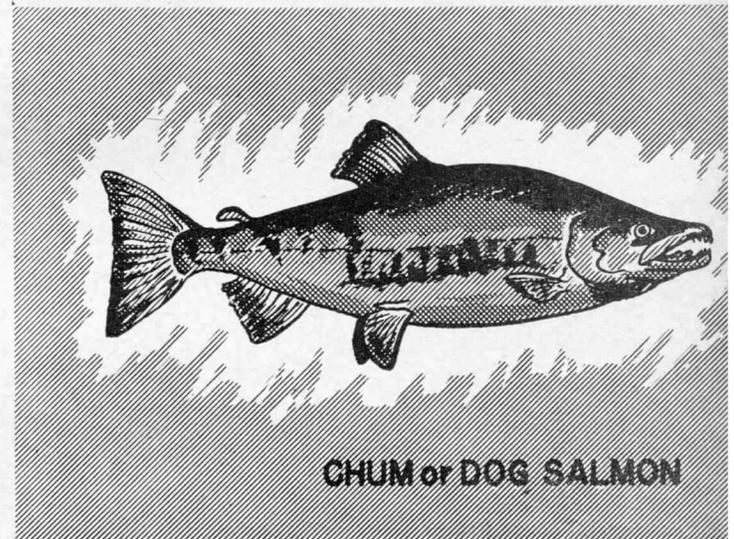


## THE CHUM OR DOG SALMON

The chum salmon is a medium-sized salmon averaging about 10 pounds in weight but has been caught up to 20 pounds. Coloration is a metallic-blue along the back which has a slight purplish sheen. The belly and sides are silvery. A black tinge appears on the lower fins. Spawning fish develop blackish to reddish streaks or bands across the sides. In salt water the chum closely resembles the blueback.

Although widely distributed, the chums greatest abundance extends from Puget Sound northward. The runs are spotty south of the Columbia river.

The chum salmon is seldom caught on sport tackle.

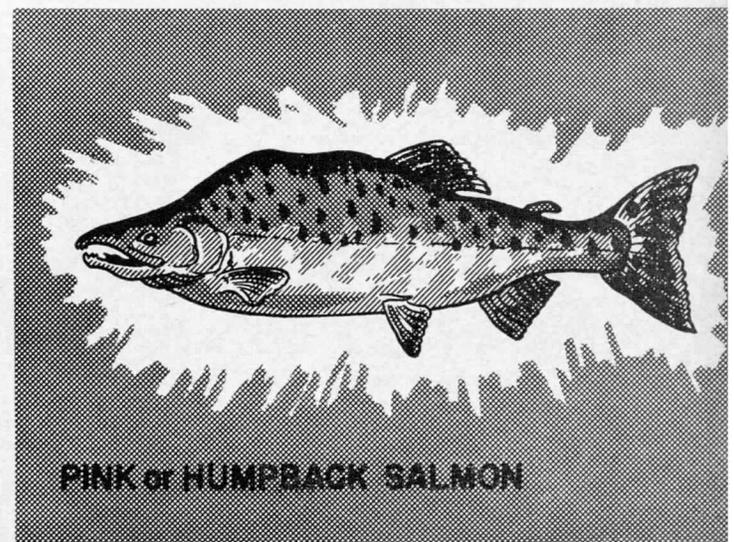


## THE PINK OR HUMPBACK SALMON

Smallest of the Pacific salmon group, the pink salmon will average about three pounds in weight, seldom over 10 pounds. The back is bluish-green blending to silvery below. Large black spots, very numerous, appear on the back, sides and both lobes of the caudal fin. The scales are extremely small. They develop a prominent hump on the back with the approach of the spawning season, especially the males, and a pronounced hook to the snout.

Range of the pink salmon extends from southern California to northwestern Alaska, with the greatest abundance from Puget Sound northward. Very few pinks enter Oregon streams.

Since the pink salmon does not readily strike a lure, they are of little importance to the sport fishery.



## IMMIGRANT ELK

(Continued from page 3)

in some places and in others all hands had to help out of a hole or prevent a wagon from tipping over.

"At the end of three days we were still some 12 or 15 miles from the pasture . . . It was impossible to go further in wagons. A number of rough sleds or 'go-Devils' as they were called were constructed to use for the remaining part of the journey. It was impossible to take the elk out of the crates so as to change them from wagon to sled. We pulled in under a pine and with block and tackle hooked to a big limb . . . hoisted the crates and lowered them down on the sleds."

The pasture was reached on the 19th of March and a later report told that during the spring one bull and four cows died; however, one calf was born. This transplant was financed by funds raised by subscriptions from the various Elk Lodges in the state and donations from the residents of Wallowa county.

The following year, another carload of elk was released in the area with much the same procedure used. By 1916 the herd had increased to 56 animals. Part of these animals were held in the big pasture at Billy Meadows for many years to serve as brood stock for other parts of the state. On February 1, 1917, the Enterprise Record Chieftain published a story regarding a shipment of elk out of Billy Meadows.

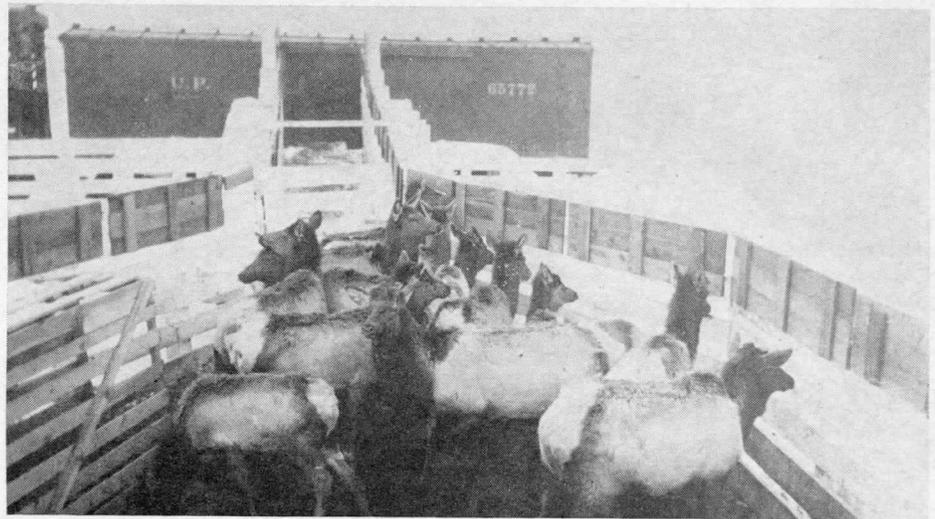
According to the Chieftain, "Without mishap or delay, the elk were brought in from Billy Meadows pasture last week, the teams arriving Friday evening. The roads were heavy part of the way to the pasture, but were excellent all the way on the return trip and so good time was made. Eighteen young elk were brought in, but one of the calves became sick the second day after delivery in town, perhaps with pneumonia and it died Tuesday night.

"The remaining 17 head were shipped today, two going to Salem and the others to Crater Lake National Park in southern Oregon.

"The expense of bringing the 18 elk in was not a fifth of the cost of taking the first 15 to the pasture 5 years ago. The sleighing was as good as could be expected, and the teams made wonderfully good time both ways."

Not much more is mentioned regarding these elk in later reports; however, in 1918 it was stated that they came through the winter in good condition

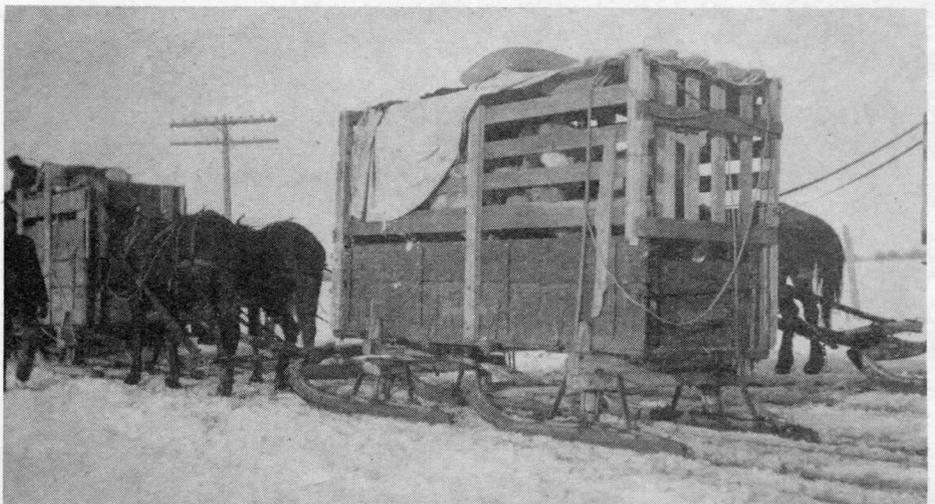
(Continued on page 8)



Elk from Jackson Hole are unloaded from train after its arrival at Joseph.



Elk were loaded into five wagons for the long trek from Joseph to Billy Meadows.



Elk crates had to be hauled by sleds the remainder of the way after road became impassable by wagons.

# International Conference Has Record Attendance

Seattle, Washington last month was the scene of one of the best attended conferences of the American Fisheries Society and the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners. Forty-two states, five Canadian provinces, Hawaii and Alaska were represented. Host departments were the Washington Department of Game and the Department of Fisheries.

The American Fisheries Society, holding its 84th annual meeting on September 13, 14 and 15, had as its presiding officer Fred Thompson of New Mexico. The program included two panel discussions on "Various Aspects of Commercial Fishing" and "Progress Toward Productive Fish Management" as well as numerous technical papers on fishery problems.

The International Association held its 44th annual conference on September 15, 16 and 17. President of the session was Harry D. Ruhl of Michigan. This conference was attended by commissioners and administrators of state and provincial game, fish and conservation departments.

Program chairman for the International was P. W. Schneider. Several outstanding speakers as well as two panel discussions were heard.

The theme of the first day's panel session was "Interrelated Character of Natural Resource Problems Confronted by Conservation Commissioners." Three papers presented for discussion were "Relationship between Forest and Game Management"; "Commercial and Game Fishing"; and "Conflicting Water Uses." In the first paper, George A. Griffiths, Michigan Conservation Commissioner, pointed out that the policy in Michigan was to recognize all the component parts of typical forest lands and not consider trees the only product. As an example, big game is an essential element or product of the forests just the same as saw logs.

The second panel was on "The Role of Commissions in Establishing Fish, Game and Conservation Policies and Programs." Three commissioners presented papers on the western, midwestern and southeastern viewpoints.

"Landowner - Sportsmen Relationships" was the title of paper by Charles E. Greenlay, Minister of the Manitoba

Department of Mines and Natural Resources. Posting of lands against hunting as a result of poor landowner-sportsman relationships is of very recent origin in Manitoba and it was the aim of the Department to try to maintain as much as possible the principle and tradition of free hunting for all the people. Suggested procedure included education of both the hunters and the landowners to their mutual need of the other as well as to the current game situation and management needs; and acquisition where necessary of marginal, unproductive or forest lands as public hunting grounds.

W. Winston Mair, Chief of the Canadian Wildlife Service, gave a talk on "The Canadian Waterfowl Situation," which reviewed the mechanisms involved in the regulation and management of waterfowl in Canada today. Some of his concluding remarks were:

"In the long run, in fact, the efficacy of all game regulations in democratic countries such as ours depends on the cooperation of an intelligent and enlightened hunting public . . . the law-abiding hunter is not so much obedient as cooperative."

Assistant Secretary of the Interior Orme Lewis talked on the "Reorganization of the United States Department of the Interior in Relation to Conservation." He analyzed the department's plan for reorganization in relation to recommendations made by the Survey Team, which was appointed by the Secretary of the Interior McKay to study the operations of the Department. Questioned during the following discussion period, Mr. Lewis also implied that there would be a reduction in the department's rearing operations of resident forms of fish such as trout and the warm water species. This would not affect anadromous species such as salmon which involved interstate or international problems.



"A Review of Housekeeping Functions in Conservation Departments" was the title of a constructive paper given by Dr. I. N. Gabrielson, president of the Wildlife Management Institute.

"National Picture in the Field of Pollution Abatement" was the subject of a paper prepared by Carl Schwob, Chief of Water Pollution Control for the U. S. Public Health Service.

Members of the Western Association of State Game and Fish Commissioners held a brief meeting to discuss public lands questions related to federal legislation. It was decided to have a subcommittee work closely with the legislative committee of the International Association.

John L. Farley, Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, talked on "A Long Range Migratory Waterfowl Refuge Program." Besides outlining future plans, he explained the use made of duck stamp funds collected from duck hunters since 1935. As of May, 1954, the expenditures were broken down as follows:

Post Office Department—	
printing & distribution	\$ 578,515.16
Land acquisition — appraisals, purchases, surveys, title clearance	5,901,715.77
Enforcement of migratory waterfowl regulations & waterfowl surveys	3,495,512.96
Investigations & research pertaining to waterfowl	2,836,403.25
Development and maintenance of refuges*	21,744,386.28

Total \$34,556,533.42

Mr. Farley stated that because of lack of regular appropriations, the Service was forced to take steps which resulted in the present waterfowl program being carried practically in its entirety from duck stamp revenues, refuge receipts and reversions from unexpended Pittman-Robertson monies.

At present there are 205 waterfowl refuge areas, totaling 3,269,549 acres, under federal management. It was felt that the government should have at least 7,500,000 acres under its control and the states together about 5,000,000 acres. This total of 12,500,000 acres of land for waterfowl use is considered to be the minimum acreage needed to carry the present waterfowl population and permit a reasonable increase for future hunting. Such acquisition should be carried out within the next

\*Includes development of all waterfowl refuges whether or not acquired by duck stamp funds.

(Continued on page 8)

**IMMIGRANT ELK***(Continued from page 6)*

and were doing well. In the 1925-26 biennial report the elk population of Willowa county, including remnants of the native herd and the new stock, was estimated at from 500 to 600 animals.

In the same report, Klamath county is mentioned as one of the places in the state where elk were on the increase. Apparently the increase continued until the thirties when they finally became a problem and a limited kill was authorized. After the peak of the thirties, the population numbers declined somewhat and stabilized. At present, there are light populations of elk in the area around Crater Lake and south to several miles from the California border.

Of course, the small transplant from Jackson Hole did not supply the stock for all of the present animals, but it did introduce some new blood into the herds and created public interest for the protection of elk in the state.

One other transplant took place during the period we have been covering, but was a somewhat different type of operation. Harry Stokes, now a conservation aide for the Game Commission, filled us in on the details of an elk release on the Clackamas River. However, the reason behind the movement of the animals was supplied by Mr. C. P. Keyser, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation in Portland.

The story of the Clackamas elk began in 1905, the year that Portland had the great Lewis and Clark Exposition. Many animals were imported to be put on display during the show, and amongst them were a group of Olympic elk. At the close of the exposition, the majority of the animals were donated to the struggling Portland zoo. At that time, the zoo had orders from the Mayor not to increase its supply of animals, but apparently the animals themselves were not thoroughly impressed with the edict and continued to multiply.

By the time of World War I the zoo had quite a large herd of elk on hand and in order to cut down on the amount of food being fed, it was decided some of them must go. Since there were already some elk in the Big Bottom of the Clackamas River, it was selected as the logical place to take the surplus



**Block and tackle hooked to a big limb was used to transfer elk crates from wagons to sleds.**

from the zoo. Seventeen head were to be moved and in June of 1917 the project took place.

As in many of the other transplants, the elk started their journey by train, going to Estacada by riding the rails. Some of the animals were hauled part of the trip by truck also.

Then the fun began! The cantankerous critters were haltered and the plan was to lead them on horseback to their point of release about 20 miles above Estacada. In theory, the idea was fine, but in practice, the elk had other ideas. Being a long-necked type of animal and not especially born with an instinct to lead, the elk did everything imaginable to foul up their human leaders. Every tree, log, bush, rock and other protrusion was the target for tanglement. By the end of the first day, the caravan had traveled about nine miles to the top of the North Fork of the Roaring River hill.

The next day things proceeded in a like manner with the elk taking advantage of every opportunity to hinder the men on horseback. There was one exception to the rule though, according to Harry. One of the bulls, a two-year old finally learned to lead and went along quite nicely. However, in Harry's words, the rest of the elk "had the disposition of a mean horse and a

cow brute mixed together."

Finally, on the second day after a continuous battle between cowboys (or perhaps it should be elkboys) and the irritable itinerants, the destination was reached. And thus ended another importation of elk into the Oregon country.

As mentioned before, it is doubtful that these small groups of elk had much effect on the population as a whole other than bringing in some new blood. The big effect on the elk populations was the publicity created and an aroused public interest in protection and management of our big game resource.

At present, the elk herds of the state are in good condition and it is extremely doubtful that any further importations of elk will be made. Nevertheless, whenever tales are being told about hunting and fishing in the state, Oregon's Immigrant Elk will be subject of speculation and reminiscence. They will thus serve as a factor in reminding people of today of the value of our renewable resources — Oregon's fish and wildlife.

**AUGUST MEETING***(Continued from page 2)*

1,200 for furnace at Willamette Hatchery residence

1,800 for quail holding pen at Wilson Management area.

*Klamath Management Area.* Authorized activation of Klamath Management Area. A game manager will be placed in charge of Game Commission lands in the Lower and Upper Klamath areas, as well as the Rogue Valley Management Area (former Camp White).

*Next meeting.* The next meeting of the Commission will be on October 22.

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE HAS RECORD ATTENDANCE***(Continued from page 7)*

25 years as much of the land will not continue to be available by reason of competing forces in the nation's economic life. Duck stamp income, of course, cannot support such a program by itself. In addition to the continental United States program, approximately 25,000 square miles of public lands in Alaska should be designated for waterfowl management because of their importance as breeding grounds for the Pacific Flyway.

**Oregon State Game Commission Bulletin**

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