

OREGON STATE
GAME COMMISSION

BULLETIN

JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 1965



OREGON STATE GAME COMMISSION BULLETIN

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The Cover

The east side checking station on the Sauvie Island Game Management Area. Line of poles angling away diagonally in right center of picture is along the road leading to the Columbia Drainage District Dike. Dike gave way during the high water which was about three feet up on the building at peak.
Photo by Ron Shay

BULLETIN HUNTER SAFETY TRAINING PROGRAM

Instructors Approved

Month of November	11
Month of December	14
Total to Date	3,309

Students Trained

Month of November	663
Month of December	323
Total to Date	77,025

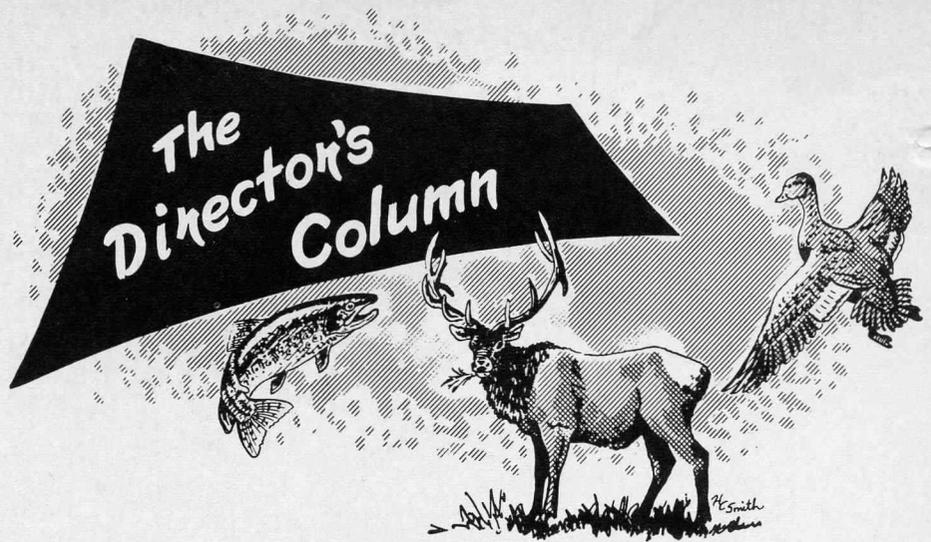
Firearms Casualties Reported 1964

Fatal	9
Nonfatal (Not Complete)	51

REPORTS ON TAGGED DEER OR ELK SIGHTINGS WANTED

Did you see or kill a tagged or belled deer or elk this past fall? If so, please let the Game Commission know the location, color of streamer or neck band, and the number if identifiable. Deer have been tagged in the Silver Lake, Fort Rock, Interstate, Steens, White River, and Northside John Day area. Elk have been tagged and belled in the Troy area in northeastern Oregon and the Millicoma Tree Farm in Coos County.

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This issue of the Game Commission Bulletin carries two separate but related articles. The subject of revenue needs for the continuation and updating of the Commission's program represents a problem which has been before us for some time. The article reciting the losses, both of a direct economic nature and the more obscure and longer-lasting natural losses arising from the December flood, aggravate those outlined in the financial picture. At this writing it appears that an already existing and predictable problem dealing with the question of carrying forward the type of program abundantly needed will now, in certain of its aspects, be more serious because of flood damage costs to the existing physical plant of the Commission. The costs associated with aiding nature in restoring certain losses, particularly in the aquatic environments of the State's fishery resources, are not at this point fully identified. Suffice it to say that we can reasonably assume they exist and there will be certain added efforts which can and should be carried out.

The purpose in mentioning these two subjects is to point up the importance and the difficulty in predicting financial needs in this area of natural resource management and, more importantly, to

emphasize the dominant influence that vagaries of nature play in the abundance of fish and wildlife. Whether these factors occur in the nature of extraordinary floods, prolonged low temperatures with deep snows, heavy late spring rains, or drought, each has an influence on wild populations of fish or game or both. The response of a big game herd, upland game populations, or fish stocks reflects essentially a favorable or unfavorable incident or series of incidents in its environment. These can and do arise either from natural processes or from activities of man, or from both. The monitoring of these influences, either directly or indirectly and then when possible doing something about them, is one of the tasks with which the Commission must continually deal.

Unfortunately, all of these problems occasion the expenditure of money. We would be remiss in our duty if we refrained from expressing our best judgment on this matter. Suffice it to say that these are matters of direct concern to everyone interested in the future welfare of this splendid resource. It is for this reason we regard the two articles carried in this issue of the Bulletin of significance to the future of Oregon's fish and game affairs.

P. W. Schneider

GAME COMMISSION ON TV

"Outdoor Almanac," a new show featuring a close look at Oregon's fish and game, can be seen each Tuesday evening at 8:00 p.m. on Oregon's educational TV channels 10 and 7. Ron Shay will host the show being presented by the Game Commission in cooperation with the State Division of Continuing Education.

The 11-week series will use film, slides, and mounted specimens to cover the identification of fish and wildlife in

Oregon and to give some insight into their scientific management.

A program supplement in the form of a bound booklet containing pictures and information about the animals being discussed will be offered to viewers free of charge.

During the course of the programs, various specialists will appear with Shay to discuss specific subjects and techniques of management being used to provide a continuing supply of fish and game.

JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 1965

DELUGE

1964!



By William C. Hall, Land Agent

THE CHRISTMAS FLOOD caused heavy damage to many of the Game Commission installations. The greatest amount occurred in the western part of the state but there were losses east of the Cascades also. Facilities affected included rotary fish screens, hatcheries, fishways, dikes and miscellaneous buildings. Losses of wild stocks of fish and game are difficult to assess at this time. Fish losses at most hatcheries have now been determined and in most instances are irreplaceable.

Cost of damage to physical facilities ranging all the way from fish ladders to buildings, coupled with the estimated restoration and cleanup, approximates \$550,000 at this writing. In addition, hatchery production and standing crops on game management lands of the Commission will result in an economic loss of around \$165,000. There is likewise the effect on scheduled operations, many of which were neglected while department personnel throughout the state attended to flood prevention and salvage activities wherever this was possible.

Fish Hatcheries

Normal operations went out the window during the Christmas flood at most Game Commission hatcheries. Loss to property and equipment was heavy although not as high as early reports indicated. Hatchery employees continued around the clock surveillance to save

fish and keep down losses. Efforts to control flood waters materially aided in the reduction of damage and fish loss. Losses of fish and eggs at hatcheries were as follows: 30,000 spring chinook (4-6 inches), Rock Creek; 35,000 fall chinook eggs, Gnat Creek; 30,000 fall chinook eggs, Cedar Creek; 216,000 yearling rainbow (7-9 inches), Willamette; 1,300,000 fall rainbow eggs, Hood River; and 82 summer steelhead adult brood fish, Hood River. In the case of yearling and adult stock, this meant earlier release of the fish than desired but not necessarily their complete loss.

Additional destruction to fish stocks was prevented by transporting eggs and fish to other hatcheries. Kokanee and adult brood rainbow were moved to Leaburg and Wizard Falls Hatcheries when the Willamette station lost its water supply because of a huge landslide.

The Rock Creek Hatchery near Roseburg was the hardest hit by the surging flood waters. Damage to buildings, roads and water system head-pipe is estimated at \$105,000.

Public Fishing Access

Extent of damage to access sites, especially boat launching ramps, is not fully known as this is written but it appears to be extensive to Game Commission facilities on the Rogue and Umpqua Rivers. Early information indicated severe erosion to all boat ramps on the two streams.

Other agencies with developed access sites along these streams reported similar losses.

Flood damage along the upper coastal and Willamette Valley areas has not been fully evaluated. From reports received the damage to access sites does not appear to be as great as in the southern portion of the state. Damage to angler access sites over the entire state is estimated at \$62,250.

Rotary Fish Screens

Losses to rotary fish screens are known to be substantial. Complete evaluation will not be known for some time, but estimates place the damage at \$140,000. The John Day and Rogue River screens appear to be the most severely impaired by the turbulent waters.

Spawning Channels

Artificial incubation and fish rearing channels recently constructed in Eastern Oregon will require repairing. The channel near the Wallowa Hatchery and the two channels in the John Day area are known to be affected. None of the sites had been placed in operation prior to the floods.

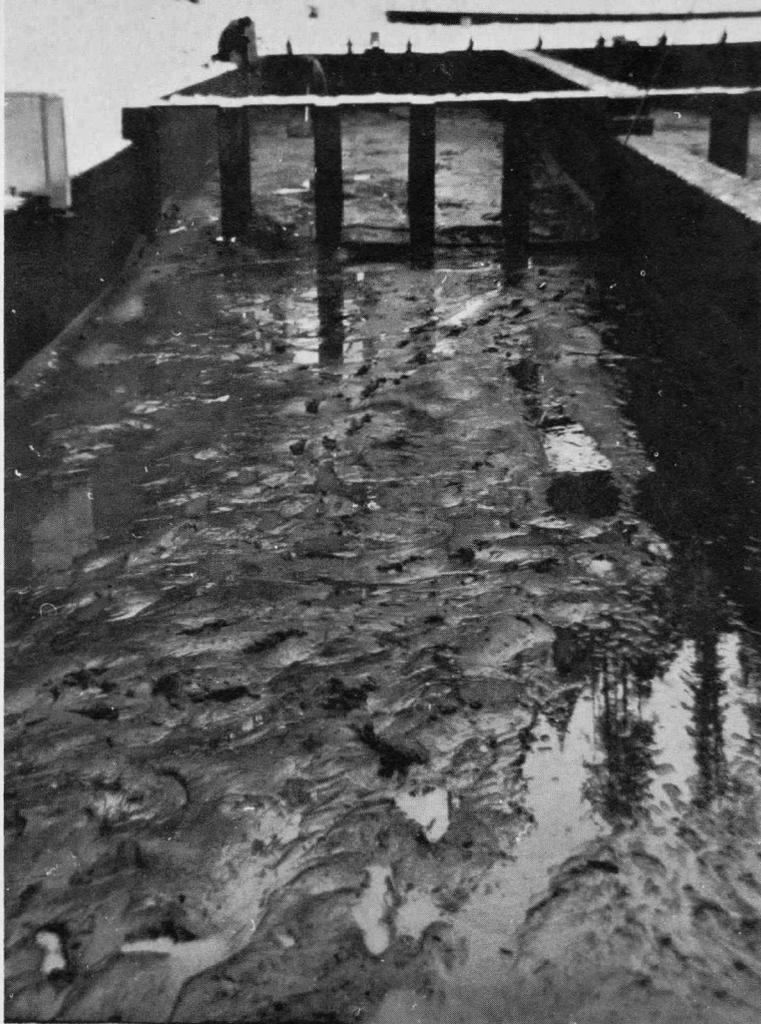
Stream Clearance Work in Vain

Recent stream clearance work concentrated on the Umpqua and Smith River drainages is considered a total loss. The more than 59 miles of spawning areas opened up in these streams are again
(Continued on Page 8)



Modern design on the gate stem at the water intake at the Alsea Hatchery. The "S" shaped rod running toward the left of the photo was straight and attached to the shut off gate below . . . before the waters came.

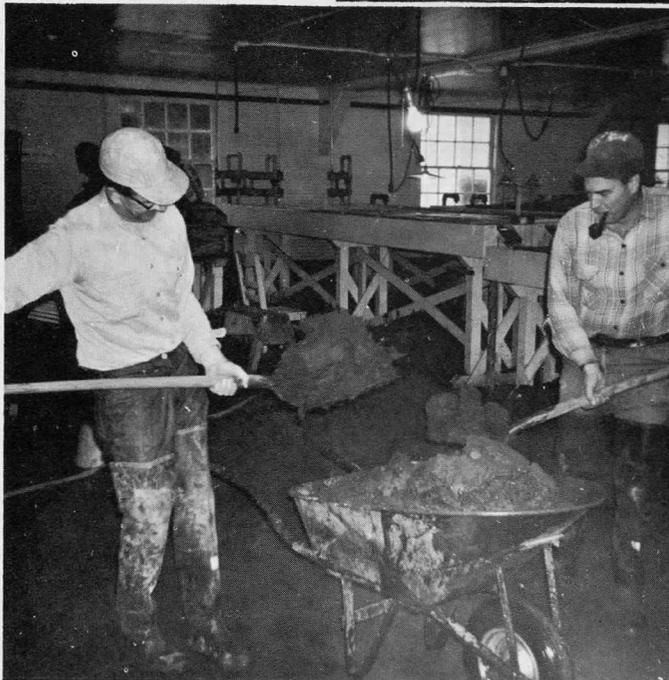
Photo by Jim Polley



Sauvie Island station and a mile from the brush. We area where th



The sp hatch distance the right mal wo



Silt inside and outside at Rock Creek Hatchery on the North Umpqua River. This was one of the hardest hit hatcheries and the future of the water supply still is in doubt. Much hand shoveling was needed at many of the hatcheries to clean out the silt and debris left by the runaway waters.

Photos by Ray Culver

DELUGE 1

Various northeastern Oregon rotary screens in many stages of disrepair. Approximately one-half of the screens in northeastern Oregon and the Rogue River drainage were damaged according to an early estimate. The paddle wheels shown are supposed to be free running and area below open for water passage. The complete damage picture on the screens is still not known.

Photos by Dave Heckerth and Bryce Powell





Management Area. The west side checking company friend floated over one-fourth of location and ended up somewhat askew in was 10-15 feet deep and running fast in the checking station is normally located.

Photo by Ron Shay



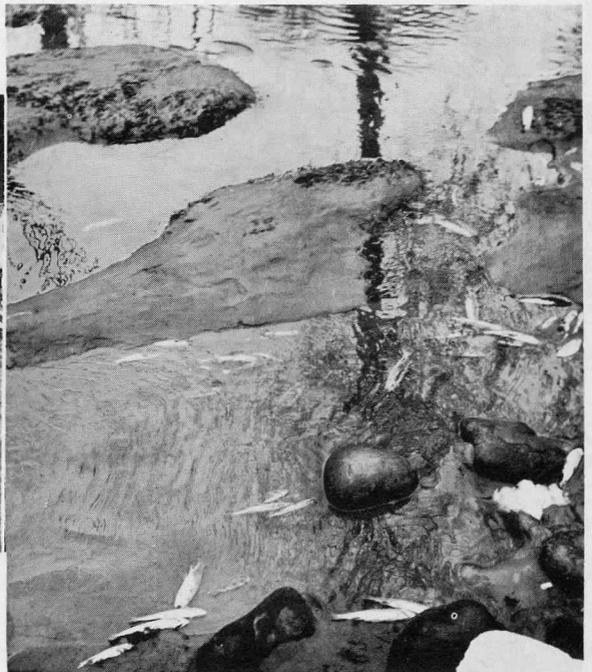
Rather thick water for hatching trout eggs! This scene at Leaburg hatchery shows the deposit of three to four inches of silt that came through the water system into the hatching trays. When the silt couldn't be flushed out quickly, the eggs were lost because of suffocation. Photo by Harold Smith



ing shed at the Hood River the shed usually is a good from the creek that runs along le of the photo during nor-flows. Photo by Paul Ebert

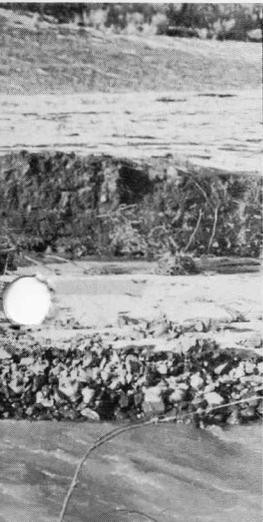


Bridge under water on the Metolius River at the Wizard Falls Hatchery. Normal water flow is several feet below the bridge. Though there was no damage at the hatchery, it was feared the bridge would go because of the accumulation of debris, but it held! Photo by Len Mathisen



Dead fish and silt in a natural type pond at Willamette Hatchery. This station at Oakridge was also hard hit by the high waters, silt and a sliding hillside. The pond water supply was lost temporarily and it was necessary to release a large number of legal rainbows ahead of schedule. As the scene shows, not all of them made it out, some being left behind with the deposited silt layer. Photo by Harold Smith

964





Production of catchable size trout was reduced by 20 per cent because of lack of funds.

REVENUE vs. NEEDS

By R. C. Holloway, Chief, Information & Education

OREGON IS RECOGNIZED as a leader among the states in management of its fish and game resource. The Game Commission is justifiably proud of this recognition and of the many accomplishments that have been made in the past 10 to 15 years. To name a few, the number of deer taken annually by hunters has almost tripled, the elk kill has more than doubled, and species such as mountain sheep, chukar partridge, wild turkey, Atlantic salmon, golden trout, and fisher have been added to the resource base. Some of these introductions have already met with spectacular success. Much progress has been made in developing public access to lakes and streams. Thousands of acres of water have been chemically treated to achieve higher production of desirable species. A startling example of this is Diamond Lake which was treated in 1954 and this year produced in excess of 400,000 fish. Game management areas and public shooting grounds have been acquired and developed. Rapid advances in fish rearing techniques have been made resulting in lower unit costs and a more desirable hatchery product. These developments and others are characteristic of an unprecedented growth in almost all phases of fish and game management that has taken place in the last decade. The results are a matter of record. It can be said truthfully that at no time in history has a greater variety of fishing and hunting opportunities been available in this State.

But this State can quickly lose its position of leadership and these opportunities can dwindle away unless we wake up—wake up to the realization that the resource is in jeopardy because of failure to provide funds to do an adequate job. The Game Commission cannot continue to operate effectively and in the public interest on the same revenue base that may have been adequate 15 years ago. All of the corners have been cut, all of the trimming has been done, there are not any more short cuts in sight. Programs designed to meet the pressures and demands of the past decade cannot accommodate those of the years immediately ahead. Population growth, further industrialization, urban sprawl, increasing demands on our water resource—these and other factors will compound the problems faced by the Commission. It is absolutely essential that more intensive management be practiced on each acre of available habitat to produce the fish and game that will be needed. The demand will be there and it must be met.

Prior to the 1963 session of the legislature, the Commission developed what was then referred to as a Ten-Year Program which included projected program needs through the 1971-73 biennium. Developments in the ensuing two years have not changed the Commission's position. The needs remain and they are more critical now than they were then. Listed below are some of the program projec-

tions proposed by the Commission at that time.

1. Construction of lakes to provide more fishing for resident species.
2. More public shooting grounds.
3. Increased fish hatchery production.
4. Acquisition and development of additional big game winter ranges.
5. An increase in game law enforcement personnel.
6. Accelerated development of public access and boat launching sites.
7. Increased assistance to landowners to control damage to property by wildlife and recreationists.
8. A reduction in the size of fish and game management districts, requiring additional personnel and permitting more intensive management.
9. Expansion of habitat development programs on private as well as public lands.
10. Development of wetlands for waterfowl production.

The Commission attempted to obtain a license fee increase in the 1963 session of the legislature. This effort did not meet with success and as a result some rather severe program curtailments were made in this biennium. Among these were substantial cutbacks in legal size fish production, lake reclamation, access projects, and habitat improvement work such as stream clearance. The Bulletin in which this article appears is now published every other month rather than once a month as it had been for years. These are extremely unfortunate developments at a time when more, not less, is needed.

What does the Commission propose to do about this? It is seeking the introduction of a bill in this session of the legislature to increase certain angling and hunting license fees. The following table shows the present fees and the changes proposed by the Commission.

	Present	Proposed
Combination	\$ 7.00	\$10.00
Resident Angling	4.00	6.00
Resident Hunting	4.00	5.00
Nonresident Angling	10.00	15.00
7-Day Angling		
(Nonresident)	5.00	7.00
Daily Angling	1.00	2.00
Resident Deer Tag	1.00	2.50
Resident Elk Tag	7.50	10.00

If the legislature should approve the proposed increases, the Commission would have available to it some \$2,200,000 in additional revenue in the 1965-1967 biennium and somewhat over \$3,100,000 (Continued on Page 7)

Revenue vs. Needs

(Continued from Page 6)

in additional funds in the succeeding biennium. Figures can become wearying but it should be pointed out that neither of these sums approaches revenue needs as projected for each biennium through 1971-73. For example, in the 1965-67 biennium, the Ten-Year Program called for an expenditure of almost 14 million dollars. Even with the increases proposed, the Commission would fall short of this figure by about 2 million dollars. In other words, to accommodate what the Commission feels to be realistic program needs in the next decade, the suggested increases will not do the job.

Where does the Commission get its money now? Anglers and hunters foot most of the bill. They do so through the purchase of licenses and tags and also through payment of a federal excise tax on fishing and hunting equipment. The license revenue makes up about 85 percent of Commission income and thus represents the backbone of the Commission's financial structure. Most of the remaining 15 percent is composed of federal aid and other federal funds. The Game Commission does not receive any money from general taxation.

The present license fee schedule went into effect in 1950 to implement a farsighted management program developed following a study by a legislative interim committee in 1948 and 1949. This is the only upward revision in fees that has taken place in the last 40 years. The only

new license from which the Commission has realized additional income is that for salmon and steelhead. Some of the changes that have occurred since 1950 have had an adverse effect on income. An example of this is the daily angling license. This may have been a boon to the tourist trade but it had the opposite effect on Game Commission finances. It was determined that more than \$45,000 in income was lost in the first year from this reduced fee license.

There are those who feel that the sportsman is being taxed to the limit now and that he should not be asked to carry this additional burden. When you get right down to it the cost of a license, or several licenses for that matter, represents only a fraction of what the average sportsman spends in fishing or hunting. Perhaps the figure would lie somewhere between two and five percent. And to look at it another way, the fee for a fishing license, for example, is less than one pays for a reserved seat at a football game. You can fish all year on your angling license but the license you buy to attend a football game expires after about two and a half hours. And you have to buy a new one the following weekend. Take a look at any other kind of recreation—entrance fees, admission tickets, greens fees, licenses—call them what you will, they can make a fishing or hunting license look like a bargain in a hurry.

Fishing and hunting licenses really don't cost very much when you stop to think about it. And if you think Oregon

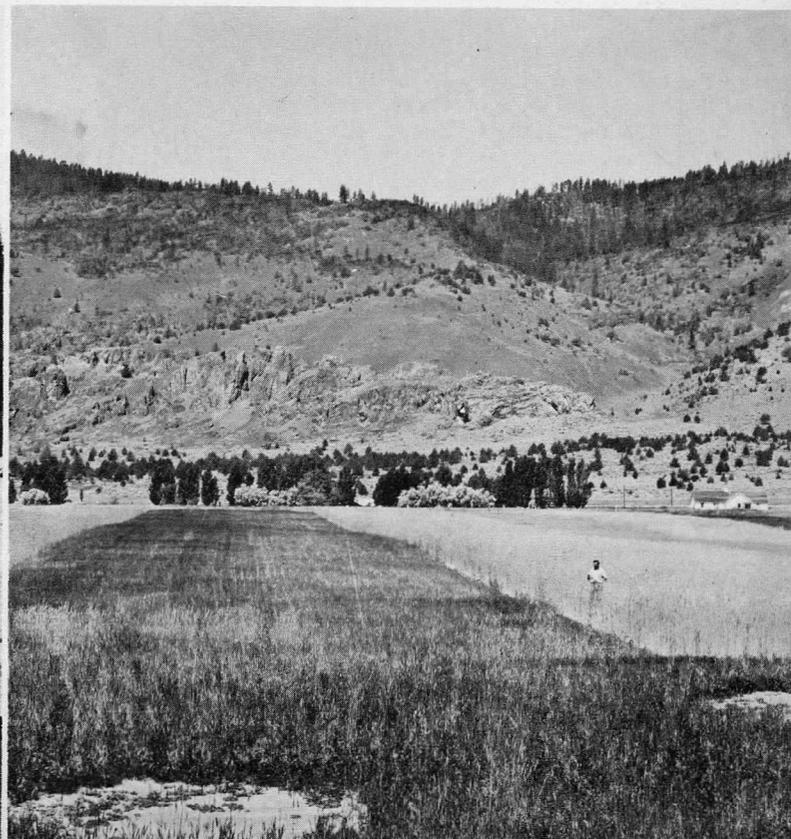
is at the top of the list in fees, you are wrong. A survey of the eleven western states last year revealed that only three other states rank below Oregon in total license fees. For example, it would cost an Oregon sportsman \$16.50 in State license fees to "shoot the works" so to speak. The majority of other western states go from this up to more than \$40 in fees for the same privileges but not the same success. Have you ever stopped to figure out what you could actually take in kinds and numbers of fish and game if you earnestly took advantage of all the opportunities available to you? I started to figure it out and it goes something like this—1 elk, 1 deer, 40 salmon and steelhead, 700 upland game birds, 600 trout, untold numbers of warm-water game fish, and more, and more. All of this for an expenditure of \$16.50 in licenses. What would the value be if purchased on the market at commercial rates? I tried to figure that out too and when I went past the \$1,000 figure I quit. It's almost pure heresy to talk about fishing and hunting in dollars and cents terms or in material gains but it has to be done once in awhile to make a point.

As a license buyer you should think of your purchase as more than just a piece of paper which the law requires you to have. Think of it in terms of what your dollars have done and will do for the resource. Think of it in terms of fish screens, new lakes, big game water hole developments, public shooting grounds,

(Continued on Page 8)

The need for public boat launching sites and streamside fishing access will continue to grow.

Crops planted for waterfowl production on the Summer Lake Game Management Area. More such areas are needed.





More game must be produced per acre of habitat. This water development in the desert country helps.

Revenue vs. Needs

(Continued from Page 7)

new game species. When you think of it that way, your purchase takes on more meaning and you will be less reluctant to part with the few dollars that you and thousands of others put in the kitty to keep Oregon the finest fishing and hunting State in the nation.

But let's examine other possible sources of revenue. What are the chances of obtaining additional financing from other sources? Many people suggest the general fund. They contend that because fishing and hunting make such a substantial economic contribution to the State—estimated to be in excess of \$80,000,000 annually—financial support to maintain the resource should be more broadly based. With the varied and many demands on the general fund, financing from this source seems a remote possibility.

Some states have voted special bond issues to finance needed fish and game developments. This practice is growing. In California, racing revenue money has been used for years for this purpose. In another state cigarette tax money is used. These approaches offer possibilities but again they seem relatively remote. None of these would be as stable or as dependable as revenue derived from the sale of licenses and tags.

So we come back to the sportsman, the user so to speak. How much is he willing to pay to continue to enjoy the privileges and opportunities now available to him? I don't have the answer to

that but I would like to examine another point that is brought up frequently in a discussion of license fee increases. Some argue that the Commission has been selling more licenses every year, its income has increased correspondingly, so why should any more money be needed. Upon careful examination, this reasoning will reveal numerous frailties. The Commission has actually reached the point at which the more licenses that are sold the worse shape it is in. How can that be? Here's how it works. Each new angler and hunter must be serviced. He purchases a license with the natural expectation of bagging some game or catching some fish, and usually both. He doesn't want to troll a lure around a lake just for the exercise. And although he probably enjoys a hike in the out-of-doors, he'd like to connect with a bird or two if he has his shotgun along. So each new customer increases the pressure on what is available. The supply, if it remains static, must be divided among an ever increasing number of people until the point of diminishing returns is reached.

This brings me to a major point of consideration. It costs a lot more to do things today than it did 15 years ago. It costs you more and it costs the Game Commission more. Check out what you paid for a quart of milk or a loaf of bread or a house in 1950 and compare the prices with what you pay today. All of us are painfully aware of how much living costs have increased. The Commission's operational expenses have gone up more than 20 percent since 1950 simply because of the rise in living costs.

And yet the Commission has continued to struggle along on a license fee schedule that was geared to 1950 costs. Let me cite a spectacular example of increased operational costs. In fiscal year 1950-51 the cost of game law enforcement, which incidentally is charged to the game fund, was in round figures \$387,000. In the 1963-64 fiscal year the cost was \$877,000. This increased cost has not been matched by increased income. There are other equally vivid examples of what the cost of living rise has done to Commission finances.

But that is only part of the problem. The task which confronts the Commission is much greater than it was 15 years ago. There will be a million hunters and anglers within the next 10 years. More land and water will be taken out of fish and wildlife production as housing developments, freeway construction, increased competition for water, and other inevitable developments that will accompany the growth of this State take their toll. Only with vision and careful planning can the challenges be met. And in planning, adequate financing is most important.

It is imperative that action be taken. Any further delay can only hasten the depletion of this valuable resource and Oregon will be a less pleasant place in which to live.

Deluge 1964

(Continued from Page 3)

debris-filled. How much damage was done in other streams cleared before the flood is still uncertain.

Hunters Affected by Flooding

Hunters participating in the late archery seasons on deer and the permit elk hunts were confronted with rough and, in many cases, impassable roads. In most hunting areas the roads were either washed out or limited to four-wheel drive vehicles.

Duck hunters desiring to hunt the Sauvie Island Game Management area over the Christmas holidays discovered that flooding had forced the closure of the area. The west side checking station was floating somewhere in the middle of Sturgeon Lake. The east side area also was flooded when a dike broke near the checking station. Property losses are estimated at \$81,000 for the entire area.

Oregon State Game Commission Bulletin

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