

OREGON WILDLIFE

July - August 1986



OREGON WILDLIFE

July - August 1986
Volume 42, No. 4

OREGON FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

R. Gene Morris, Chairman Ashland
William H. Neel, Vice Chairman Eugene
Donald Barth Newport
Jane Capizzi Corvallis
Leonard B. Netzorg Milwaukie
Fred Phillips Baker
Phillip W. Schneider Portland

JOHN R. DONALDSON, Director

Oregon Wildlife (ISSN 0094-7113) is published every other month by the Oregon State Department of Fish and Wildlife at 506 S.W. Mill, Portland, Oregon 97201. Volumes 1 through 28 were entitled Oregon Game Commission Bulletin. Oregon Wildlife is circulated free of charge with second class postage paid at Portland, Oregon. Copyright 1986 by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. All rights reserved. No part of this magazine may be reproduced without written permission of the editor.

Readers and POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
OREGON WILDLIFE
P.O. Box 3349
Portland, OR 97208

When sending address changes, be sure to send in both old and new addresses complete with zip codes.

Jim Gladson, *Editor*
Sandra Duncan, *Editorial Assistant*
Pat Probst, *Graphic Artist*

The Cover

Several thousand elk spend the winter at Bridge Creek Management Area in northeast Oregon. This range and other areas in the state were purchased with funds from an excise tax on firearms and ammunition. Read more about this program on page 4-6.

Photo by Jim Gladson

HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

Months of April and May 1986
Instructors Approved 13
Total Active 1,310
Students Trained 313
Total to Date 320,021
Hunting Casualties 0
(Reported in 1986)

Ron Shay Retires

Ron Shay has retired from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife effective July 1.

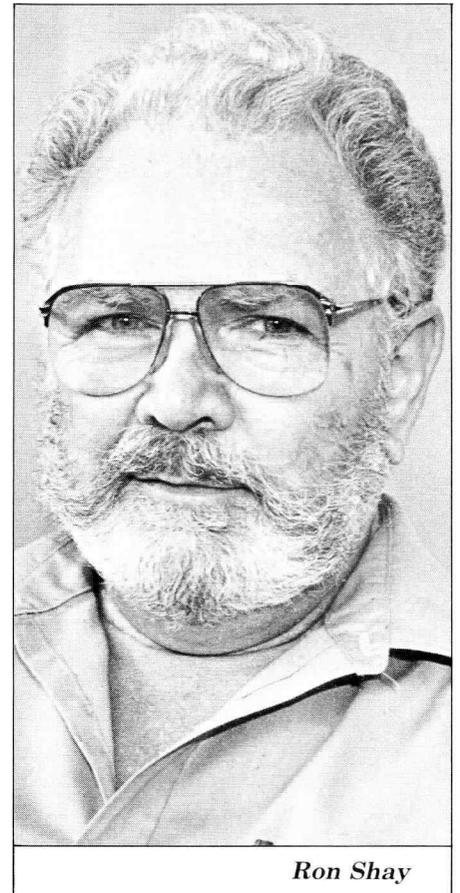
His departure closes almost 35 years of public service as a provider of information about fish and wildlife resources and management.

His regular television appearances, radio broadcasts and writings over the past three decades have made him a well-known advocate for the wise management and use of Oregon's natural resources.

Ron began his career with the Oregon Game Commission in 1951 as a seasonal employee presenting wildlife programs at summer camps around the state. He signed on full time with the Game Commission Information and Education Division (I&E) in 1952.

During his years on the job, Ron has done about every job an information person could do, including: writing news releases and weekly columns; filming and producing several movies; and representing the Game Commission, and later the Department of Fish and Wildlife, within outdoor organizations.

He became editor of *Oregon Wildlife* magazine in 1968. He was appointed as head of the I&E section in 1977.

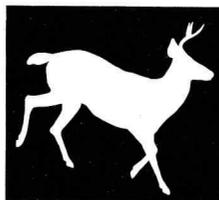


Ron Shay

Ron has retired from state service, but says he does not plan to stop working. Future plans include serving as tour leader for an outdoor excursion to India and Nepal this fall.

Commission Meetings

- July 17-18 Furbearer, Pigeon and Dove Regulations Non-toxic Shot Hearing Baker County Elk Feeding Plan
- August 4 Columbia River Compact-Fall Salmon Seasons, Youngs Bay
- August 22 Upland Bird and Waterfowl Season Regulations Department Budget Hearing



ATTENTION HUNTERS!!

Application deadline for deer and elk controlled hunt permits is July 15. Regulation sheets and application forms are available now at license agencies.



Commission Adopts 1986 Big Game Seasons



Staff proposals for big game hunting seasons in 1986 contained some major changes, including extensive limited entry hunts for elk in northeastern Oregon. However, the final regulations adopted May 31 by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission took a more conservative approach.

General Rocky Mountain bull elk seasons in popular Blue and Wallowa Mountain hunt units were not approved as limited entry areas for this year. These units will remain open to all Rocky Mountain bull tag holders.

Limited entry was approved for areas further south, including the Northside and Murderers Creek units. Hunters planning to hunt these, and other southeast areas, will be required to enter a controlled hunt drawing.

The deadline for submitting applications for all controlled deer and elk hunts will be July 15. Applications received after that date will be ineligible for the computer drawing.

Regulation sheets containing information on controlled hunts and general seasons are available

at license dealer outlets.

The commission has okayed a new general season, bull-elk hunt area comprising the management units along the Cascades. This season will have a single hunt period running from October 18 through October 26.

General Roosevelt elk season in what is now called the "Coast" area will be similar to 1985. The first hunt period will be November 8-11. The second period will run from November 15 through November 21.

Rocky Mountain elk general seasons will be: first period, October 29 through November 2, and second period, November 8-16.

Mule deer hunters will once again see different season lengths of seven or 12 days, depending on hunt unit. The season opens October 4.

There will also be very limited rifle buck hunting allowed in northeastern Oregon units that had been closed since 1984. These tags will be dispensed through the computer or drawing process.

Low buck ratios in the Murderers Creek, Northside, Sumpter and Juniper-North Steens

hunt units prompted the commission to approve permit-entry seasons for those areas. Hunters must enter the drawing to hunt these areas during the regular season.

Murderers Creek and Northside units each received an allotment of 2,500 permits. The Sumpter Unit will have 300 permits, and the Juniper-North Steens unit, 500 permits.

Black-tailed deer season will be similar to 1985. The season will open October 4 and run through November 5. Hunters choice will be in effect again this year in northwestern Oregon during the last five days of the general season. The Willamette Unit hunter choice period was cut back to include only the month of November.

Hunters in that unit will be restricted to bucks only during October.

Southwestern Oregon units will feature antlerless controlled hunts requiring a permit drawing. The commission eliminated a proposed 500-tag antlerless hunt in the Sixes Unit, and cut back the Rogue Unit proposed allocation from 2,000 to 750 tags.



Steelhead Plan Set for Review



A proposed plan that sets a long-term course for statewide and basin-level management of steelhead fish and fisheries will be up for public hearing before the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission July 18.

Presentation of this plan for review and possible adoption culminates a three-year development process.

Preparation of the plan began with a series of public workshops held around the state during April and May of 1983. Comments, ideas and concerns heard at those sessions have been used by the department Steelhead Planning Team to identify important issues, and to get a sense of user priorities

for future steelhead management.

The plan is designed to serve three basic purposes, including: to provide specific interpretations of state Fish Management Policies pertaining to steelhead; to set priorities for funding and implementation of the steelhead program; and to provide the public with a tangible picture of where steelhead management is headed.

Concerns collected at the 1983 workshops are grouped under seven categories. Those are: Habitat; Protection of Wild Fish; Factors Affecting Populations; Harvest; Status of Present Management Programs; Enforcement; and Planning.

The Steelhead Plan proposes a

list of actions necessary for implementation. The proposals cover both concerns raised during the workshops, and concerns of fisheries scientists.

The recommendations address both ongoing programs that should continue, as well as new programs and procedures. Implementation of actions not already in effect would proceed over the next six years. After six years, the plan is scheduled for a comprehensive review and continuation.

Copies of the full plan are available for review at department regional offices around the state, and department headquarters in Portland.

SPORTING GOODS' GREAT PAYOFF



By Jim Gladson

A manufacturers excise tax on fishing gear, sport boats and marine fuels support a nationwide program of fish habitat protection and access development.

Is this grounds for scandal? Should Congress investigate? Hardly. The original idea was approved on Capitol Hill, and it has turned out to be a darn good move.

S BRUCE CRAVEN

Hunters and anglers spend a lot of money in the pursuit of their sports — a 1980 study put that annual total at almost \$26 billion.

A significant portion of that money was spent for sporting equipment such as rifles, ammunition, fishing rods and tackle. That is an impressive fact, especially if you are considering purchase of sporting goods stock.

Another fact — for decades the federal government has been skimming a percentage of the income from equipment sales right off the top, at the manufacturer's level.

Is this grounds for scandal? Should Congress investigate? Hardly. The original idea was approved on Capitol Hill, and it has turned out to be a darn good move.

Let's back up and look at what happened. The year was 1937. FDR was in the White House and the country was in the Great Depression.

Wildlife conservationists throughout the U.S. concluded it was not just the economy that was depressed. Certain wildlife species were not doing well either.

They approached Congress with an idea to devote the federal manufacturer's excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition exclusively to wildlife conservation. The legislators passed the "Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act," sponsored by Senator Key Pittman and Representative A. Willis Robertson.

The law called for apportionment of these excise tax revenues to the states for: purchase of land for wildlife rehabilitation; development of land to make it more suitable for wild mammals and birds; and wildlife research to aid restoration programs.

Over time, the law came to be known simply as the Pittman-Robertson Act, or P-R. The names of these two sponsors thus were immortalized as a program that became the cornerstone of wildlife habitat preservation in Oregon and throughout the U.S.

If it worked for wildlife, why not fish? In 1950, two members of

Congress named John Dingell and Edwin Johnson sponsored a similar bill, using a manufacturer excise tax on angling equipment.

These funds were also assigned to a special fund for apportionment to the states. The money is used by the states for angler access, aquatic habitat protection and restoration, and improvement of fishery management techniques.

Together, P-R, and what came to be known as D-J, have operated for decades under the "user pays" concept without costing the general taxpayer a dime. However, the benefits of these programs are available to all.

Together, P-R and . . . D-J have operated for decades under the "user pays" concept without costing the general taxpayer a dime.

How have these programs affected Oregonians and their wildlife resources?

Dick Scherzinger, head of the Department of Fish and Wildlife Lands Section, says the P-R dollars have provided funds to set aside critical big game winter ranges, wetlands for waterfowl and upland game habitat.

The department has purchased more than 100,000 acres of land and used federal funds to secure easements or use agreements on an additional 26,000 acres.

Dingell-Johnson money has been used to purchase land for, or build, more than 200 boat ramps. The department has bought 140 angler access sites.

The ramps and access points have opened up an estimated 800 miles of river and 30,000 acres of lakes, ponds and reservoirs to boating or angler access since the program began.

Sauvie Island Wildlife Area north of Portland is a product of Pittman-Robertson funds. The area is developed as a waterfowl wintering area, but is also heavily used by picnickers, birdwatchers

and swimmers attracted to sandy beaches along the Columbia River.

Sauvie Island Wildlife area north of Portland is a product of Pittman-Robertson funds.

P-R monies are technically aimed at maintaining game species for expanded hunting opportunities. However, the benefits to nongame animals and birds, and to people in search of an outdoor experience, are a considerable bonus.

Some P-R financed areas, operated by the Department of Fish and Wildlife, include: Bridge Creek elk winter range in northeastern Oregon; White River Wildlife Area on the east slope of Mt. Hood; Klamath Wildlife Area, a waterfowl marsh near Klamath Falls; and Kenneth Denman Wildlife Area, an area developed for upland birds and fishing near Medford.

Pittman-Robertson funds also pay for Oregon's Hunter Education Program. Education of young people in the safe and responsible handling of firearms is a specific goal of the P-R program.

Pittman-Robertson funds also pay for Oregon's Hunter Education Program.

Expanded educational efforts and a variety of other new ventures may be possible through the recent expansion of the Dingell-Johnson program as well.

Congress amended the original act to include the excise taxes on sport boats and boat fuels. This will give a tremendous boost to the fund. Oregon's annual allocation has increased from an annual average of \$600-800,000, to the 1986 allotment of more than \$2.5 million.

Amidst all these silver linings there are some clouds. Expansion of the D-J program brought a name change. The fund is now known as

Dingell-Johnson money has been used to purchase land for, or build, more than 200 boat ramps.

Wallop-Breaux, named for the congressional sponsors that pushed the bill through Congress in 1984.

The money generated by the expansion also drew the immediate attention of the federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB). OMB officials (remember David Stockman?) targeted the expanded program as a handy source of deficit reduction funds, rather than for the intended use.

The department has purchased more than 100,000 acres of land . . .

That attempted raid on the dedicated funds was headed off by

Congress. However, last year, Congress itself passed legislation that could cause more problems for both Wallop-Breaux and Pittman-Robertson.

Amidst all these silver linings are some clouds.

Another hyphenated law is mentioned a lot these days. It is known as the Gramm-Rudman Deficit Reduction Act. This year, both excise tax funds took a 4.3 percent cut mandated by the act. Next year, that cut could go as deep as 20 to 25 percent of the total allocation.

Rod Ingram, assistant chief of the department's wildlife division, says the current situation is already tight with P-R money. In recent years, hunters have purchased fewer firearms and less ammunition. The result, reduced excise tax payments and less money to share with the states.

Now, Gramm-Rudman has taken another bite and promises to consume more in 1987. "That could force some major program cuts," says Ingram.

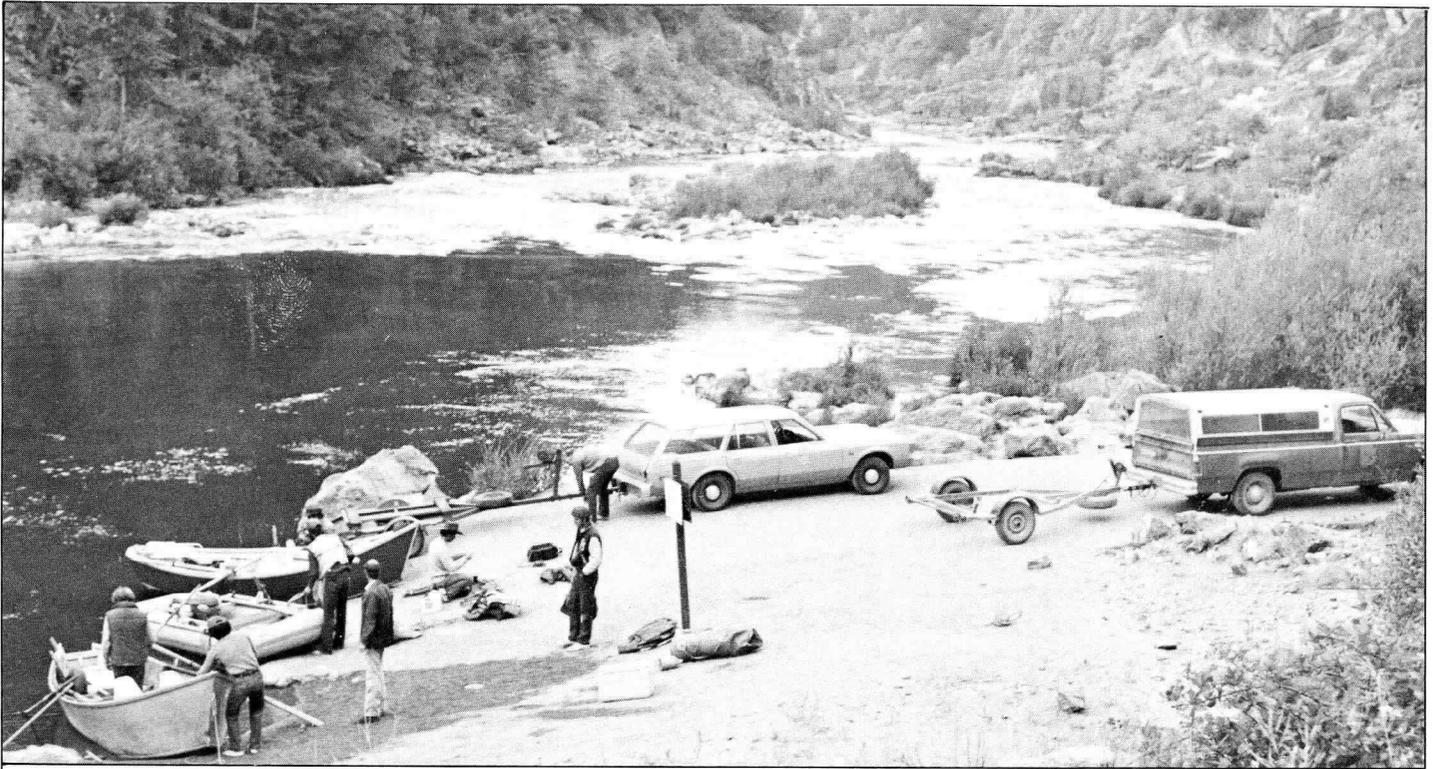
On the fishery side, the recent increase in D-J funds could start to reverse, stalling new programs before they even get underway.

The future is clouded. Opportunities are still there, but so is the budget axe. Kirk Beiningen, a department fisheries biologist, says it is ironic that state programs are under the current budget threat because of federal deficits.

"The funds for these programs come directly from the users. It's the one form of government taxation that allows a person to see a direct return on his or her investment on a statewide scale," he said.



Pittman-Robertson dollars provide habitat for a variety of species, not just big game. This marsh near La Grande supports waterfowl populations as well as several types of nongame birds.



Boat ramps and access sites purchased and developed with Dingell-Johnson funds have opened more than 800 miles of river and 30,000 acres of lakes, ponds and reservoirs to boaters and anglers.

Trooper Tales

For years, game officers have been plagued with the problem of distinguishing between "true piranha" and legal "silver dollars." Recently, a district biologist from ODFW's Springfield office devised a scientific test to establish the true identity of a suspect fish. The biologist has found that a single finger, swung back and forth in water containing the suspect fish, will provoke a response which will provide undisputed proof of a "true piranha."

This test was put to use when a sergeant with the Oregon State Police requested assistance identifying a fish recovered from a Eugene resident. He felt there was a question about it after the owner had reached his hand into the tank, grabbed the fish, and put it into a five-gallon bucket.

The sergeant later persuaded the biologist to perform his new scientific test on the suspect fish. A local doctor was able to verify the

severe bite as that of a true piranha.

Although the test has proven to be accurate, an OSHA directive suggests that future tests be conducted using a hand-held hotdog in place of an actual finger.

The biologist has stated that the test has made him more aware of the aggressive disposition of piranha, and in the future, he will restrict his skinny-dipping to hot tubs and covered swimming pools.

It has been said contact by an Oregon Police Game Trooper has caused people to react in strange ways. One fellow, checked by a Senior Trooper while angling on the Willamette River, aged over eight years in the 10 minutes the Trooper interviewed him. When first contacted, he was 12-years-old and didn't need an angling license. After the interview, he was 20-years-old and didn't have enough money to buy a license.

Tip of the Hat

Our Tip of the Hat this month goes to District Court Judge Allan H. Coon.

A subject involved in Taking Illegal Elk during the 1985 elk season plead guilty to Grants Pass District Court in April. Judge Coon fined the subject \$770.00; required him to pay state restitution for the elk in the amount of \$750.00; pay attorney fees of \$267.00; suspended his hunting privileges for two years; and placed him on probation for five years.

This verdict clears the way for the \$1,000.00 reward, which had been offered by Seibers Sporting Goods, for information leading to the first arrest and conviction of illegally killing an elk in Jackson or Josephine counties during the 1985 general deer season. Two men were being considered for the reward and it may be divided between the two.

A Tip of the Sportsman's Hat to Judge Coon.

FORESTS SHAPE WILDLIFE'S FUTURE

What will Oregon be like in the year 2000? Will there be enough trees to support a healthy timber industry? Will there be enough fish and wildlife habitat to support healthy populations of diverse species?

The shape of the 21st Century is on the drawing boards right now in offices of state and federal land management agencies.

Decisions made by the U.S. Forest Service and the Oregon Department of Forestry over the next year will affect more than 20-million acres of private and publicly-owned forestlands in the state.

Forest Service managers are required to offer varied opportunities for public use of more than 11-million acres of forestlands in Oregon. Timber harvest is one option, but it is only part of the multiple-use regime that includes recreation, watershed and range management, and maintenance of fish and wildlife habitats.

Sorting all of this out requires planning. That is what foresters at 13 national forests around the state are doing now.

Meanwhile, in Salem, the State Department of Forestry (DOF) and its governing board are working on ways to improve regulations, providing protection for fish and wildlife resources on almost 10 million acres of private and state-owned timber lands.

Since 1971, a state law called the Forest Practices Act (FPA) has regulated timber removal, reforestation and chemical use, on non-federal lands. A portion of the act also described logging procedures designed to prevent some types of damage, and to minimize loss of habitat from Oregon's fish-producing streams and rivers.



An agreement with the Department of Forestry is in need of protection. These areas include blue heron and any threatened or endangered species.



stry identifies critical habitat areas nesting sites for osprey, eagles, great erred species.

The shape of the 21st Century is on the drawing boards right now in the offices of state and federal land management agencies.

Diverse forest users, such as timber companies, ranchers, miners, hikers, hunters, anglers, boaters and other recreational users, all have a stake in the outcome of both Forest Service planning and the Forest Practices Act. Future directions in forest management will have direct impact on their livelihoods, their recreation and their concerns about maintaining fragile natural resources.

The Department of Fish and Wildlife has a legal requirement to be involved in forest management decisions. The goal set by the state legislature for the department is to maintain fish and wildlife populations for the economic and recreational benefit of present and future generations of Oregon's citizens. Many of these animal populations are totally dependent upon the habitats provided within the state's public and private forestlands.

While Oregon law gives the responsibility for maintenance of fish and wildlife species to the department, control of the lands that provide fish and wildlife habitats rests with others. And what may be surprising to some people is how little authority the department actually has to enforce its legal mandate.

Department biologist Dan Carleson deals with forest habitat issues full time. He sums the situation up this way. "The final decisions on how the land will be used are almost always in someone else's arena. We can recommend directions. We can advise on likely impacts. But, in general, we do not have the authority to make the final decision or enforce it."

What follows is a brief look at what is happening now and what is yet to be done.

Forest Service Lands

Forest plans for 13 national forests in Oregon are currently under review or development. Michael Weland, chief of the department's Habitat Conservation and Planning Division, thinks this new process can produce real gains for fish and wildlife.

"We have developed good rapport with the Forest Service. There has been excellent sharing of information both ways, at both the staff and field levels, and I think we've done a pretty good job of identifying the issues," he said.

In the past, forest managers have placed the primary emphasis on commodity production, such as grazing and timber harvest, says Weland. He sees that changing now.

"I expect to see more balance among resource uses than in past plans," he said.

"Increased protection of streamside vegetation or riparian zones has been a very positive move benefiting both fish and wildlife," he said.

The focus on public forestlands now, says Weland, must include improved management of wildlife habitats. Maintenance of elk cover in the timberlands of northeast Oregon is a critical concern.

So is maintenance over time of an adequate amount of old growth timber. Loss of these irreplaceable habitats means certain decline for many animal and bird species that depend on the ancient forests.

Additional problems are caused by thousands of miles of logging roads through big game habitat. "It is not unusual to have five or six miles of road for a square mile of forestland," says Weland.

State and Private Lands

The Department of Forestry oversees the forest practices used on private lands and the management of state-owned timberlands in Oregon. Measures to protect fish and wildlife resources on these lands are contained in the Forest Practices Act adopted by the legislature in 1971.

The Forest Practices Program (FPP) developed to administer the Act has been on the books for 15 years. Effectiveness of that program for protecting fish and wildlife is now under review.

Original rules implementing the Act dealt primarily with prevention of stream siltation, control of stream temperatures in fish-bearing streams and prevention of log jams. These rules have had positive results in reducing the loss of certain important habitat components.

However, research findings on the needs of fish and wildlife, and changes in timber harvest technology, have increased dramatically since the Act was originally adopted. ODFW and the DOF staffs have tried to incorporate this evolving knowledge into the way the forests are managed today.

Weland noted progress in this effort. "We have been moving steadily to improve the protection of important fish and wildlife habitats in the Forest Practices Program," he said.

The discussions are making progress. The two departments recently entered into an agreement to protect more than 400 critical wildlife habitat sites located on State Forestry regulated lands.

This agreement identifies areas that provide habitat for osprey, bald eagles, band-tailed pigeons, great blue herons, and any species listed as threatened or endangered. Staffs of both departments are currently developing detailed guidelines to protect these important species during various forest management activities.

The agencies have also jointly published a booklet offering voluntary guidelines to private forest managers on how to protect most wildlife habitats during timber removal operations.

On the fish habitat side, the Board of Forestry has adopted new rules to minimize the occurrence of debris avalanches that can destroy vital spawning grounds. The field staffs from the DOF and the ODFW will be closely monitoring the effectiveness of these new

... the Department of Fish and Wildlife has a legal requirement to be involved in forest management decisions.

... what may be surprising to some people is how little authority the department actually has to enforce its legal mandate.

"We can recommend directions. We can advise on likely impacts. But, in general, we do not have the authority to make the final decision or enforce it."

rules.

In addition, a joint task force of professionals from State Forestry, Fish and Wildlife and Oregon State University, recently recommended the Board of Forestry adopt a buffer strip standard. The standard would require the average width of the strip, on either side of the stream on any harvest operation to be three times the width of the stream, but no less than 25 feet nor more than 100 feet.

"This will also be a positive step toward improving protection of wildlife resources within the riparian corridor," says Weland.

The current program calls for buffer strips to shade fish-bearing streams (Class I streams) and minimize erosion. More attention is now being focused on maintaining instream habitat structure and on water quality in small feeder streams that affect Class I streams. These feeder streams may not have many fish in them. However, excessive warming or turbidity in

some small tributaries directly affects the quality of the habitat in Class I streams.

Dead trees, called snags, are important to about 100 species of wildlife that use them for nesting, perching or feeding. Intensive forest management does not provide for maintaining snag habitat unless the manager chooses to do so. The proposed buffer strip rules would also require leaving all snags that are not safety hazards within buffer strips.

"Current forest practice rules are subject to a wide range of interpretations and do not always give clear enough guidance to foresters and biologists," said Weland. The department is working within the Forestry Department process to develop clearer, more enforceable rules to assure more uniform implementation of the protection standards for fish and wildlife resources.

The Future

Harvest and processing of wood products is a mainstay of Oregon's economy. Shutting down such a valuable industry, or causing severe economic hardship, is neither a requirement nor a necessity to achieve adequate fish and wildlife habitat protection according to Weland.

"Private timber operators, whether they log public or private forestlands, are seeking to generate income for themselves and their workers. These economic objectives can be achieved, while at the same time, maintaining public resources such as fish, wildlife, clean air and clean water that are dependent upon forestlands.

"This is a reasonable expectation. It is the job of fish and wildlife managers to make these needs known to decision-makers and try our best to see the needs are addressed," he said.

There are many public policy decisions to be made in a relatively short time. The Board of Forestry has expressed intent to resolve buffer strip rules by the end of 1986 and the Forest Service plans are due to be finalized by the end of next year.

UPDATE

Big Game Seasons
Set. Application
Deadline July 15

Following public hearings on May 30 and 31, the Fish and Wildlife Commission adopted the 1986 big game mammal hunting regulations. Though earlier proposals suggested some rather major changes, including extensive limited-entry for elk in northeastern Oregon, the commission adopted rules similar to those of last year.

Regulations should be available at license agents currently. Application deadline for the various controlled hunts is July 15.

Bow Tag Sale
Deadline

August 22 is the cutoff date for the purchase of deer and elk bow tags because of the opening of the seasons on August 23. Check the regulations for details.

Seasons Begin

Blue and ruffed grouse seasons statewide and western Oregon mountain quail season begin August 30. Bear season statewide starts August 23 and runs through November 30.

Buoy 10 Salmon
Season Set

The states of Oregon and Washington have agreed to open a sport salmon season in the Buoy 10 area of the Columbia River estuary. The season will likely start with a two coho daily bag limit and barbless hooks will be required.

Quotas of 67,000 coho and 10,000 chinook have been allotted for the season. However, biologists will monitor the ocean chinook take prior to the opening to determine exactly how many of these fish will be available for the in-river fishery.

The fishery will open August 16 in the area between Buoy 10 on the Columbia River bar, and the Astoria-Megler Bridge. There is expected to be plenty of coho available for the opener, but a bag limit on chinook could be delayed or eliminated to keep within the quota set by the Pacific Fishery Management Council.

Willamette
Steelhead Run
A Good One

The run of summer steelhead in the Willamette River will probably be the second best on record and may be the best. As of June 6, 20,814 of these fish had been tallied past the counting station at the falls at Oregon City. On the 6th, 281 fish passed, which was down from the 400 fish per day in late May. The largest run on record was in 1984 when 25,000 fish passed. This run has been created since the 1960's through artificial propagation.

DONALDSON to Retire as Director

John R. "Jack" Donaldson took over as director of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife on July 1, 1976.

The agency he was to manage had been formed officially only one year earlier with merger of the Wildlife Commission and the Fish Commission.

That summer, the sport and commercial ocean fisheries would land the most salmon ever caught off Oregon's coast. The next year, the coho runs would crash.

On the Columbia River, the states and treaty Indian tribes were engaged in court battles over who could harvest how many salmon.

Now, after ten years on the job, Donaldson has announced his retirement — effective in late 1986, or early 1987.

He will leave a unified agency that bears little resemblance to the incompletely merged department he inherited.

The 1986 salmon run promises to be much improved over the low returns of recent years. Even though the bumper year of 1976 is unlikely, runs comparable to the early 1970's appear probable for the future.

Even the Columbia River situation is looking better. The states and treaty tribes are nearing agreement on an historic plan to share harvest and work together to restore fish runs.

His departure has been long planned. "I thought when I started that ten years, or even less, would be the limit. Although that has been the target all along, making the decision to leave was a hard one. Working with the dedicated professionals of this agency has been a rewarding experience. I will miss those associations," Donaldson said.

His ten-year career as director is filled with memories: some good, some not so good. "I'm most proud of the consistent effort this agency has made to stand up for the needs of fish and wildlife in Oregon. We've managed to do this despite heavy criticism and pressure from all sides," he said.

What problem would he rather have skipped if given the choice? "The salmon crisis — there's no doubt that was a real low point."

When coho salmon runs collapsed in 1977, and remained low for years, many frustrated and angry fishermen held Donaldson personally responsible.

"I've never been able to figure out how my appointment as director could have been singled out as the cause for the coho decline. Smolts for the 1977 run were already in the ocean when I took the job," Donaldson said.

Some good did ultimately come from those years of adversity however. "The issue started a process of user/department communication. Nobody was in much of a mood to listen when I first started meeting with users in 1979.

"From that shaky start has come a very good working relationship — not just between the department and uses, but among the sport and commercial fishermen themselves.

"I'm pleased with the way the situation has turned out. I'm especially proud of those people who have put aside their differences and worked together for solutions," he said.

That is not all Donaldson is proud of. The following is a list of actions he feels highlight his tenure as director.



BOB KITHEN

The Siletz Indian

Agreement—"This was a ground-breaking effort to negotiate a new understanding on how fish and wildlife resources should be shared on tribal lands. It will serve as a model for future agreements."

Columbia River Salmon

Harvest—"Court decisions in 1976 made negotiating a salmon harvest agreement with the Columbia River treaty tribes one of my first big challenges."

"The five-year agreement worked out in 1977 was a major change of direction. We were finally on the way to an open sharing of resources without constant litigation."

"We are now renegotiating that original agreement. The end product will make the 1977 plan look primitive by comparison. Getting this job done before I leave is my absolute, number-one objective."

U.S.-Canada Treaty—"This process had dragged on for years. The problems associated with harvesting each others salmon stocks was getting worse."

"It was quite a feeling to be part of the process that should finally accomplish something toward equitable sharing of Northwest salmon stocks."

"A special by-product of those negotiations was the strengthening of relationships between the states and Indian tribes, and between U.S. and Canadian resource users and managers."

Oregon Wildlife Heritage

Foundation—"I'm glad I was able to initiate the setting up of the foundation. Government can only do so much. This private, non-profit foundation gives concerned citizens an outlet that lets them get involved with Oregon's resource future."

"The foundation had only been formed a few months when the challenge to raise funds for the Deschutes River purchase came along. The foundation proved itself immediately. Securing the lower 12 miles of the river for public access would never have happened if the foundation had not been available to get the public involved."

Recently, he announced a major reorganization of the agency.

"Our critics are right—sometimes it is very hard for them to know how we do things."

Donaldson is not coasting through his last months in the head office. Recently he announced a major reorganization of the agency to better meet demands on programs and personnel.

He has split the duties of the department's single deputy director into two separate jobs—deputy for operations, and deputy for programs and policy.

"This change reflects the needs of managing the agency today. In 'the good ole days' the director wasn't out of the office all that much. Now the job requires travel from Anchorage to Albuquerque, and Washington, D.C. to Seattle."

"The load of managing the resource issues and the day to day business of the agency was just too much for one deputy to handle."

The reorganization also elevates the former Environmental Management Section to division status as the Habitat Conservation and Planning Division.

"I want these people to operate at an equal level with the fish and wildlife divisions. We must concentrate more effort on protecting and managing habitats as well as species."

The role of the department Office of Public Affairs is also being given a higher priority in the organization and the budget.

"Many of our past problems came from insufficient public communication. We just haven't been letting people know what we are doing, and why."

"The age of the information revolution is here. People want to know how their resources are managed. We must get with it. We

will already be forced to play catch up."

Donaldson has also initiated a complete internal review of department programs, and the policies and procedures that shape them.

"We must better organize the way we do business. We are too big, and too complex to stick with the traditional way of doing things."

"Our critics are right—sometimes it is very hard for them to know how we do things. Updated policies, procedures and administrative rules may take away some of the traditional management 'flexibility'. However, these changes will also make the decision-making process more fair and consistent."

The current director also has some advice for his successor.

The current director also has some advice for his successor.

"The fight is going to be the maintenance of fish and wildlife habitats. The inroads on these land and water resources will be fierce."

"The battles will be on the estuaries, the rivers, the lakes, forests and ranges. The outcome will decide how much land and water will be left for future fish and wildlife populations."

"Winning some of these fights can't be done by the agency alone. People must be informed about the issues—not just where there are fish or game to take."

The new director will inherit a problem that has plagued the department during Donaldson's administration.

"The department just does not have the financial resources to do all the things we should be doing. The challenge will be to find additional sources of alternative funding to compliment and enhance traditional revenue sources."

"Too much is at stake here. We are vulnerable. At this point, it would not be hard for opponents of our programs to starve us financially, and destroy our effectiveness."

Life in the intertidal zone is definitely a place for the tough guys of the animal world. The mussel is, perhaps, the most tenacious of the lot.

Their tightly packed clusters of blue-black shells cling to rocks pounded by surf. Some areas are alternately submerged or left high and almost dry by the fickle tide.

Human observers, in search of the elite urchins and anenome of the tidepools, sometimes crunch over and across these shellfish while on the way to the more desirable viewing sites.

This member of the mollusk family, which also includes clams and oysters, goes by a variety of names. California mussel is the most common. Scientists know the species as *Mitilus californianus*.

Since these animals prefer shoreline rocks near the high tide line, they are sometimes called surf mussels. A second mussel species, *Mytilus edulis*, also lives along the coast. This less hardy relative prefers quiet bay waters. They typically attach to boulders, dock pilings and floats.

Staying put on rocks constantly pounded by the surf is not an easy task. Mussels begin life as free-swimming larvae discharged from the female. They float with the current before settling on a rock and setting up house.

Then, through a special gland, they discharge strands of thread called byssus or beard. These



THE MUSSEL



anchorlines fix to the rock and hold the mussel in place. Anyone who has ever tried to dislodge a mussel from its rocky niche knows the strength of this beard.

Getting these animals loose and into the cook pot is a favorite activity of people who have discovered mussels are good to eat, and a lot easier to harvest than clams.

Although these bivalves are considered a delicacy throughout the world, a word of caution should also be dropped in here. These shellfish are filter feeders. What is in the water will also be found in the orange mussel meat.

The Oregon Health Division uses the mussel as an indicator species for the presence of a toxin that causes paralytic shellfish poisoning.

This toxic organism is the principal bad guy in the water condition commonly called red tide. Fortunately, Oregon does not have these outbreaks very often. But when they do occur, eating an affected mussel, clam or oyster can be life-threatening.

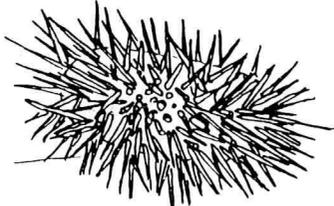
People who take their seafood eating seriously have a real taste for mussels. But they also take precautions, such as avoiding harvest during summer months when the red tides most often occur, and being aware of any health bulletin indicating presence of the shellfish toxin.

Jim Gladson

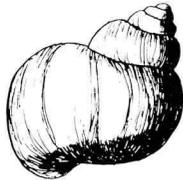




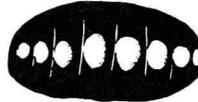
ATOUGH DAY ON THE ROCKY SHORE



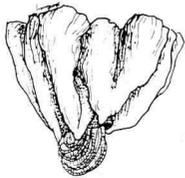
PURPLE URCHIN
(low)



PERIWINKLE SNAIL
(spray)



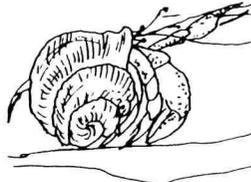
BLACK LEATHER CHITON
(middle)



ACORN BARNACLE
(high)



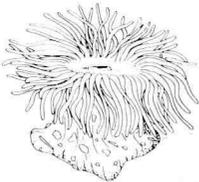
PLATE LIMPETS
(spray, upper high)



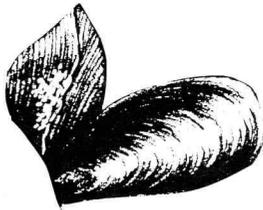
HERMIT CRAB
(middle)



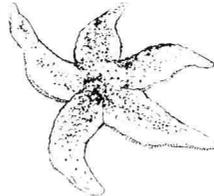
SPLIT KELP
(low)



GREEN ANEMONIE
(lower middle, low)



CALIFORNIA BLUE MUSSEL
(high)



OCHRE SEASTAR
(lower high, upper middle)

Up and down. Up and down. Twice each day the tides rise and fall on our coast. Can you imagine what it would be like to live on our rocky shores and be exposed to all this change?

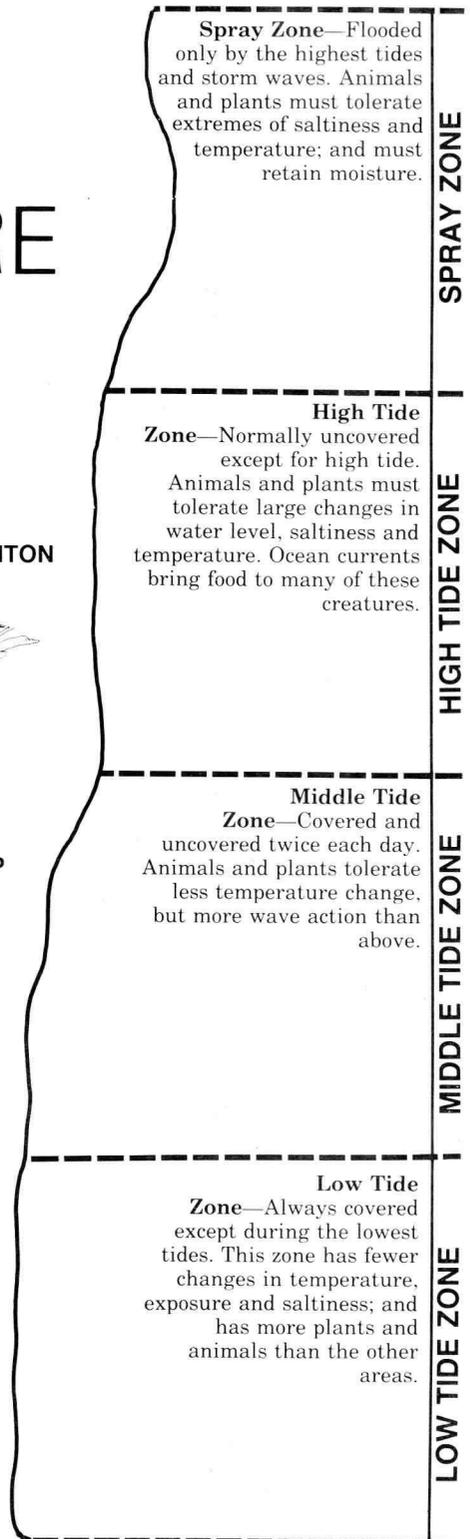
Take hermit crabs. Twice each day, the place they live is covered with seawater. Twice each day, they are exposed to air, rain, or the drying effects of the sun. And always, there are the waves, pushing and pulling with great force.

Animals and plants have to be tough to live along the rocky shore; we can say that they have **ADAPTED** well to this harsh environment. In fact, the rocky shore is one of the most heavily

populated areas on earth! The rocky shore is divided into zones according to the length of time they are covered by water.

The animals and plants distribute themselves in these zones depending on how much exposure to ocean water and waves, air, or sun they can tolerate. When you visit a rocky shore, and you know what to look for, you can easily see "bands" of animals arranged on the rocks.

You can learn to identify these zones by making your own rocky shore diagram. Trace the animals and plants shown on white paper, then color them. You can trace and color as many of each as you want, as long as you make at least two of



each of the animals that live in more than one zone. Then cut out the animals and plants pictured and glue or tape them on the rocky shore diagram in the correct zones. When you've finished, you'll have your own map of rocky shore zonation.

Bill Hastie



CLIFF HAMILTON

Community Service Workers Help Improve Wildlife Area Near Corvallis

Community service workers, provided through Benton County Parks Department, put finishing touches on improvements to a special visitors area at the department's E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area north of Corvallis. The site provides a variety of pheasants and other upland birds for public viewing.

Funds for improvements, including interpretive displays,

landscaping and parking area, were provided from a series of remembrance donations to the Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation.

Development or enhancement of such sites for viewing and photographing fish and wildlife throughout the state, are part of the department's Watchable Wildlife Program.



506 SW Mill Street
PO Box 3349
Portland, OR 97208-3349