

OREGON WILDLIFE

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 1987



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Volume 43, No. 4

OREGON FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

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The Cover

Salmon fishing at its most intense occurs during August and September at Buoy 10 on the Columbia River Bar.

Photo by S. Bruce Craven

Hunter Education Program

Months of June - July 1987

Instructors Approved	34
Total Active	1,103
Students Trained	855
Total to Date	328,884
Hunting Casualties Reported in 1987	
Nonfatal	4
Fatal	1

We love to hear from you.

Readers are encouraged to comment. Address letters to EDITOR, Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife P.O. Box 59 Portland, OR 97207

LOOK Before You Leap

We live in a time of tremendous social change. So what? Big deal! Everybody knows that, right?

Right. The concept of change has become such common knowledge that it's a cliché. Despite that, an amazing number of people and organizations overlook the factor of changing conditions when planning for the future. How valid can a long-range plan be if all assumptions about the future are based strictly on present circumstances?

The easiest way to make a plan is to assume everything that is true now will still be true 10 or 20 years from now. That is also the best way to end up with a useless plan.

At the Department of Fish and Wildlife, we are beginning a process that will set future directions for the agency. As part of this process, we are doing our best to avoid the pitfall of short-sighted thinking. We are looking ahead.

Our goal is not to produce an impressive document with an attractive cover destined for life on a shelf. What we seek is a dynamic and flexible process that will fit the future needs of Oregon's fish and wildlife resources, and the people who depend on these resources for recreation and business.

This issue of Oregon Wildlife contains an outline of things we know about the present and project for the future. Cliff Hamilton's article "Changing Times" gives an overview of social trends that will have clear impact on fish and wildlife resources, and management of those species.

There is also a story about what the top managers of the department think the future will look like in the year 2000 for the resource and its managers. Granted, some of this is guesswork. Nobody knows for certain what truly lies ahead. But the collective knowledge of these skilled professionals, and considerable help from interested citizens, can be used to put this agency on a footing to deal with the problems and opportunities that come along.

We do make one major assumption about the future based on present knowledge. Oregonians are vitally concerned about maintaining our fish and wildlife resources, and will remain so. If that is the case, then this department will continue to play a critical role in preserving and protecting our natural assets.



Randy Fisher
Director

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Oregon Wildlife has been a free subscription publication for more than forty years. We hope to keep it that way. Rising costs and tight budgets are making this harder and harder.

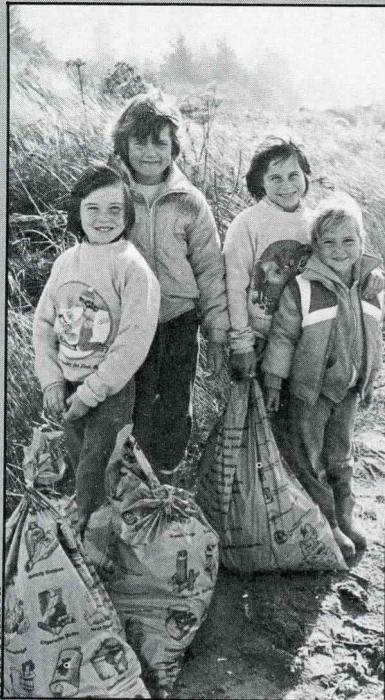
We are asking you, our readers, to help us in this effort with your voluntary donations. We will continue to send the magazine free of charge, even if you do not donate. But every dollar you send will help assure that Oregon Wildlife will continue to keep you informed about Oregon's fish and wildlife resources and management programs.

See page 15 for instructions on how you can help, and for other important information about your subscription.





UPDATE

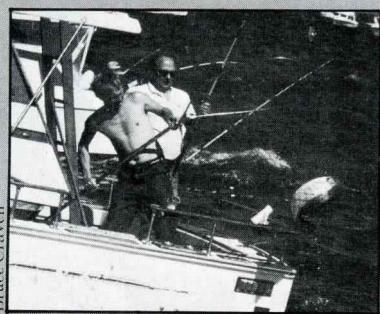


Bruce Jackson

Beach Cleanup
October 10



Be Careful
With Fire



Bruce Craven

Good Chinook
Fishing to Come

Has the sight of monofilament line, styrofoam, or other plastic in the natural environment ever raised your hackles? If so, you are invited to join in a coastwide effort to collect accumulated "floatable trash" from Oregon's beaches.

The fourth annual "Get the Drift--And Bag It" beach cleanup is set for Saturday, October 10. Last year, 1,400 volunteers collected more than 14 tons of debris from the beaches in just three hours.

Collecting this trash saves wildlife. Every year thousands of birds, mammals and fish die because they mistake plastic for food, or become entangled in such things as plastic six-pack yokes, fishing line and strapping bands.

As in many things related to environmental protection, Oregon is in the forefront of what has become a national effort to clean up our coastlines. The first Oregon cleanup in 1984 caught the attention of other states. This year, 21 other coastal states will join in the effort during a September 19 - October 10 national beach cleanup campaign.

If you want to get involved in this important project, write to Judie Neilson, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, PO Box 59, Portland, OR 97207.

September began the way August ended--hot and dry. As this issue of Oregon Wildlife goes to press, more than 200,000 acres of Oregon's forests are burning. Fall is the time for most hunters and many anglers to pursue their favorite sports. It is also a time when fire danger is often at its highest level.

This time to enjoy the outdoors can quickly become a time of danger and destruction if people forget to follow some simple rules. Observe all fire regulations; many forests may ban open fires of any kind, or confine them to campground fireplaces. If you do have a campfire, don't leave it until it is out cold. Remember also that a cigarette or match tossed out a vehicle window can leave a trail of destruction in your wake. If a fire does start, be prepared to fight it. Always carry an axe, shovel and bucket in your vehicle or with your pack string.

September 13 was the last day for sport ocean salmon fishing in most areas, but then the action shifts to coastal bays. Biologists expect a record fall chinook return to the Rogue River, and big chinook will also be available at such popular spots as Tillamook Bay and the Alsea River estuary. By Labor Day weekend, anglers on the lower Columbia River at Buoy 10 had already landed almost 40,000 chinook with more still to come.

In addition to action in the inland waters, there will also be extended ocean seasons off Tillamook Bay, Brookings and Gold Beach. All will be confined to relatively small areas inside three miles, but chinook catches should remain strong. Check regulations in those areas for dates and open areas.



CHANGING TIMES

Cliff Hamilton

Office of Public Affairs

Stop for a moment and think about your job, your family and your lifestyle. Has it changed over the past decade? Are you busier than you used to be? Do you have as much time to fish, camp, hunt, backpack or enjoy the outdoors like you once did? If you feel you've run out of time, you have a lot of company. Recent studies confirm people today work longer hours and have much less leisure time than they used to.

Today we live at a fast pace on fast food. We expect fast results, fast service and fast fixes to problems. An exploding array of options occupy what little time we do find for ourselves. Since the early 1970's, we have added many new time-consumers to our lives such as cable TV, VCR's, home computers, computer games, health clubs, and numerous spectator entertainments. When we turned to jogging, racquetball, aerobics, and other "wellness" exercise programs to combat our stress, we found they too gobbled up more of our time.

Time is a fixed quantity. No one gets any more than anyone else. As the options for using time increase, traditional leisure activities can expect a smaller and smaller slice.

Fishing and hunting were recreational mainstays in the first half of this century. Today, they are just another of many time-use options. Time is running out on hunting and fishing. Dollars for these traditional management programs are going with it. In the face of many alternatives, it is clear that agencies can require people to buy licenses and tags, but they cannot require people to make hunting and fishing their recreational choice.

Some Sobering Statistics

The number of two-career families, already at 60 to 70 percent, will increase in the next decade, further reducing family recreation time. High-tech, pleasure-time options will increase. Employment trends will continue to shift from higher paid, blue-collar industrial jobs to white-collar and lower-paid service industry work. White-collar work and lowered economic status correlate directly with reduced hunting and fishing activity. Baby boomers are also hitting 40. This oversized generation is aging past prime ages for hunting and fishing. They are switching to other recreation and

their children are not taking up hunting or fishing like they once did.

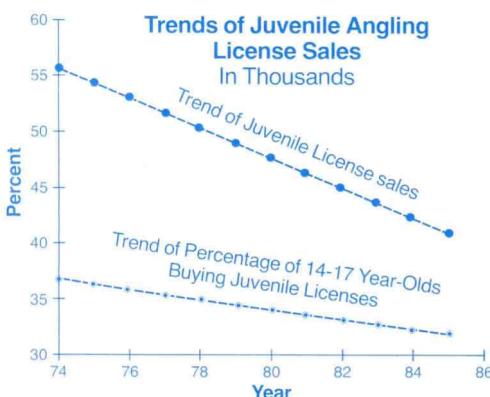
Children today have access to the same video/high-tech recreation as their parents. Girls now spend equal time in sport activities that were once for boys only. Parents are busy hauling youngsters to all kinds of new activities. One quarter of the children under 18 are living with only one parent. Half of all children will live in a single-parent family before age 18. Most of these families are headed by women. Single women generally do not hunt or fish and their children are seldom intro-



To-Ro Enterprises

In today's urbanized society, a child's first fishing trip may be to an artificial pond.

duced to these activities. People who do not begin hunting or fishing by age 18 probably never will. If they do take up these activities at a later age, they show far less commitment to this form of recreation. The cherished picture of a child's first fish or first hunting trip is truly a vanishing image.



Changes Affect License Sales

In Oregon, recruitment of new hunters and fishermen, as measured by juvenile fishing license sales and hunter education student numbers, has been declining for many years. The percentage of young people in the population that take up hunting and fishing is declining as well.

Adult participation in hunting and fishing activities is also changing. Nationally, sales of hunting licenses leveled off in the mid-70's and have now begun to decline. Although still increasing, the sale of fishing licenses slowed in the mid-70's as well. One reason is competition from many other types of well-advertised recreation and time-consuming demands. The increasing number of urban dwellers, greater travel distances to recreation areas, loss of habitat and attitude differences between rural and urban cultures are also involved.

In Oregon, fishing and hunting license sales increased at a steady rate from the end of World War II

until the mid-70's. This period of thirty years was one of stability and reliability. It was during this time that the whole structure and funding method of the Department of Fish and Wildlife was created.

Paying for management activities through licenses, tag fees and a tax on equipment worked well. The increasing number of participants and several fee increases kept pace with inflation and allowed agency growth to meet increased pressures on the resource. This positive trend changed about 1975. In Oregon, its effects are being strongly felt in the 1980's.

Perhaps the gas shortage that hit Oregon so hard triggered it. Maybe it was the cumulative pressure of new, time-use options, urbanization, changing attitudes, economic conditions and demographics. In any event, since the mid-70's, Oregonian's participation level in hunting and fishing has shown a much less stable, more erratic behavior. In some cases, there has been a clear decline.

Despite changes in adult participation, the steady drop in recruitment of young hunters and fishermen is a more disturbing trend. Long-term implications for traditional management and funding mechanisms are enormous.



*Does not include Pioneer, Sr. Citizen or Disabled Vets.
After a long period of stability, sale of hunting licenses has become erratic since about 1975.

A New View

Social change is not the only weight pulling down traditional user numbers. The whole public

attitude and value system about fish and wildlife is also shifting. There is a clear movement toward more appreciative values and non-consumptive uses. Variables such as economic conditions, resource abundance, weather, gas prices and license costs may affect participation from year-to-year. But factors such as increasing urbanization, habitat loss, an aging population and less leisure time, reflect an ominous long-term trend.

So, are people losing their interest in fish and wildlife? Not at all! They *are* changing what they seem to want from wildlife programs, however. Quality rather than quantity is an emerging trend. A broader emphasis on all fish and wildlife, not just game species, is another.

A U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service nationwide survey verifies the continued shift away from consumptive activities, especially hunting, and into non-consumptive wildlife recreation. More people are out looking instead of hooking. They are shooting with a camera rather than a gun. In an aging, urbanizing population, we can expect this shift to continue.

Change is everywhere. It has become as much a certainty as "death and taxes". Change affects family life, economic conditions, employment, social issues, involvement in government, living space and lifestyles. In the face of change, fish and wildlife agencies across the country are re-examining their programs, funding bases and constituents.

Oregon is also looking to the future. In another article this month, Randy Fisher, Oregon Fish and Wildlife Director, describes the beginnings of this effort. The department is taking clear steps to meet changing conditions, pressures on the resource and its habitat, along with shifting attitudes and values. We hope you will join us on this march.



Oregon's Trout Plan is part of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife planning program to provide a comprehensive, systematic, and long-term approach to management of diverse trout resources within the state.

This plan is an umbrella-type document that focuses on broad guidelines and statewide directions for trout management. It does not contain details of individual management plans for specific waters.

Copies of the full plan are available through department headquarters in Portland and regional offices around the state.

The Fish and Wildlife Commission will hold a public hearing to review the Trout Plan October 16 at the department's Portland headquarters.

Components of the plan include: statewide management objectives; management alternatives; a section dealing with resources (waters, fishes, anglers and economics); and an overview of habitat, biological and regulatory constraints.

Management Policies

State policy says that trout shall be managed to provide optimum recreational and aesthetic benefits for present and future generations of Oregonians.

In addition, the Fish and Wildlife Commission has adopted a Wild Fish Management Policy stating: "The protection and enhancement of wild stocks will be given first and highest consideration. Hatchery stocks of fish may be released where necessary to provide optimum benefits from the resource."

Based on the Wild Fish Policy, management options governing harvest strategies and other constraints, in priority order, will be:

Wild Fish

Wild plus Hatchery Fish
Hatchery Fish

Management Alternatives

The Trout and Wild Fish policies serve as useful guides to Oregon fish managers. However, more specific criteria and guidelines are needed to both conserve wild trout stocks while also providing optimal recreational and aesthetic benefits.

The plan proposes to meet this challenge by relying on six distinct management alternatives. The guidelines and criteria within these alternatives will allow fish managers to classify their trout waters so that wild fish and their habitats can be protected, while also providing diverse fisheries for consumptive, and non-consumptive users.

Alternatives

1. Wild Fish
2. Featured Species/Waters
3. Trophy Fish
4. Basic Yield
5. Intensive Use
6. Private Waters/Reservations

Management Objectives

The plan proposes five, fundamental management objectives. Each of these objectives lists potential implementation strategies.

1. Maintain genetic diversity and integrity of wild trout stocks, and determine management needs.
2. Protect, restore and enhance trout habitat.
3. Provide angling diversity.
4. Determine management needs for hatchery trout.
5. Enhance public awareness of Oregon's trout resources. ☺

The Fish & Wildlife Commission will hold a public hearing, to review the TROUT PLAN, October 16, 1987, at the department's Portland office.

Outlook Much Improved For Upland Bird Hunters

By Ken Durbin

An exceptionally mild winter throughout Oregon, followed by an early-breaking spring and dry weather through May, all add up to good news for those whose autumn days focus on bird dogs, shotguns and swift-flying birds.

Perhaps the best news is another improvement in chukar populations throughout eastern Oregon. After several years of poor winter survival and reduced nesting success, biologists saw major improvements last fall.

This year, conditions improved again with a 57 percent increase in chukar numbers along more than 1,200 miles of survey routes. Overall, the trend is up more than 100 percent from the average of the last ten years.

Hungarian partridge populations have also shown improvements this year with an 86 percent increase measured on production surveys.

Forest grouse have also responded well to favorable conditions the last two years, and although blue grouse in western Oregon have apparently declined this year, ruffed grouse had a very good production year. In eastern Oregon, populations of both species have shown improvement over last year and are well above long-term averages.

The grouse has been a generally neglected game bird in the west, but the popularity of grouse hunting seems to be growing in this state as more and more hun-

ters discover the opportunities to be had in the forested habitats on both sides of the Cascades.

In western Oregon, the outlook for public pheasant hunting continues to decline. Production surveys show a population decline from last year, although there are reports of localized good production on some pockets of remaining good habitat in the Willamette Valley and elsewhere. Changing land-use practices in western Oregon do not bode well, however, for long-term improvements in pheasant populations or hunting opportunities.

In eastern Oregon, the pheasant outlook is brighter. Overall, pheasant populations are about the same as last year, although declines in production were seen from last year's good levels in

Malheur County. In Columbia Basin counties, production has improved this year, especially in some areas where circle irrigation has turned desert into farm land.

Valley quail populations in eastern Oregon have shown good improvement this year, especially in the non-agricultural stream bottom areas that were so severely affected by harsh winter conditions a few years past.

In western Oregon, valley quail populations are on par with last year, while mountain quail have shown a decline after several years of exceptionally high populations.

All in all, the upland hunter who works at his sport should find plenty of reason to anger the boss and strain family relationships. 

Game Farm Sets New Course

A change in direction at the state game farm will mean that stocking of pheasants for the gun has ended for the most part. Although pheasants are being held at satellite pens on several eastern Oregon management areas for release this fall, there will be no releases in western Oregon this year. Experience has proven that the release of pheasants in areas where the habitat is no longer suitable is not a good use of tight propagation dollars, and that in areas where habitat is still satisfactory, releases of game farm birds is not necessary.

The "put and take" program, while popular with hunters who live in an area where they can benefit from it, had simply reached a point where the costs of providing a stocked-bird hunting opportunity had become unacceptable.

In the future, the game farm will focus on birds that have a better potential to fill habitat niches in Oregon where few or no game birds are now available.

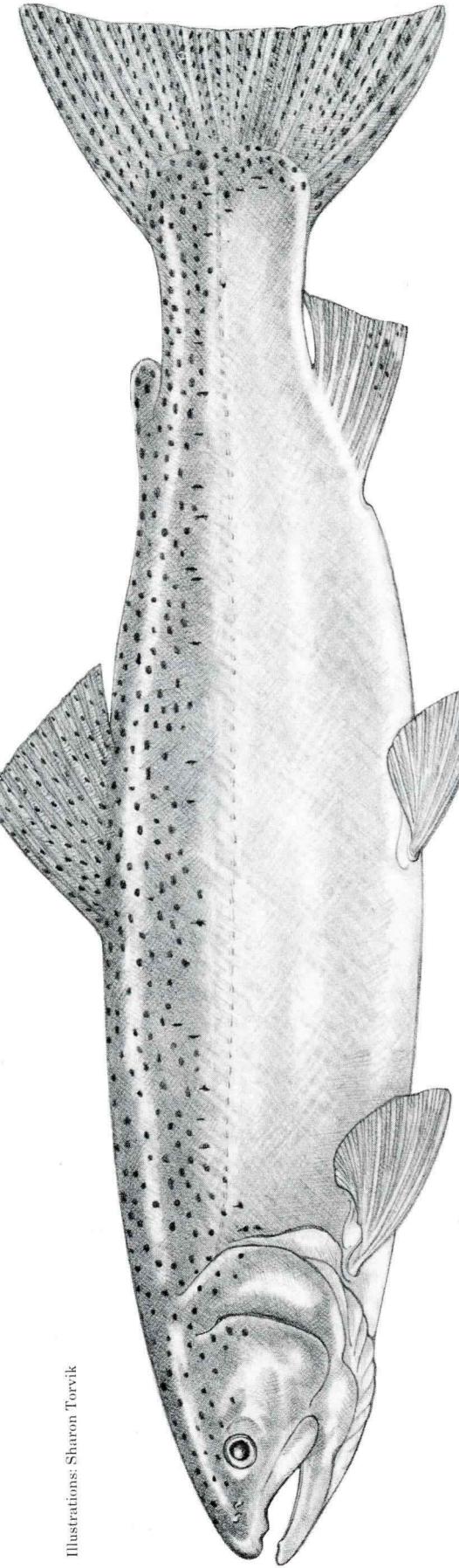
Work is currently focused on the French red-legged partridge. This close relative of the chukar prefers a gentler terrain with a mix of grassland and brushy cover. The department released the first redlegs this spring, and a second year of production is underway at the game farm for release next spring.

On four, 1987 release sites, evaluation is currently in progress. After initial release in March, birds dispersed widely and were shortly seen in pairs. During the summer, biologists spotted a number of broods. It will remain to be seen which sites in Oregon will be preferred by redlegs since they have not been tried here before. 



Bob Kuhn

Twenty-five years ago, an entire issue of the Oregon Bulletin was dedicated to this fish. Now Oregon Wilc



STEELHEAD are "designed" for their survival and for our recreation. By virtue of the variety of life history patterns they express, they can dampen the effects of harsh elements of nature that may plague one-year-class by filling in with another year-class. As they leave fresh-

by Nancy MacHugh
Steelhead Program
Coordinator



water for the ocean, steelhead smolts may contain from one to four-year-old juveniles in their ranks. They are also capable of using a wide variety of habitat types and subsequently are widely distributed within basins.

Observations in recent years have opened our eyes to the fact that instead of spending all their freshwater life in the spawning tributaries, many young steelhead move to mainstem areas or larger tributaries to complete their freshwater rearing. Therefore, more habitats are important to steelhead production than thought 25 years ago.

Variation in ocean survival can also be dampened by adults returning after a few months to four years at sea. The ability of some (although a small proportion of a year-class) to survive migration and spawning more than once is a unique feature to steelhead that also tends to stabilize run levels between years.

Wild stocks of steelhead are limited by the habitat available which they share with other species. Quantity and quality of habitat affects numbers produced. But

because the steelhead is such a strategist of survival, their numbers are more stable year-to-year, and their river migration timing more spread out than "peaking" fish like coho salmon.

Hatchery-reared steelhead have only one freshwater life history (almost all hatchery programs release yearling smolts) and therefore, can only use ocean age to stabilize runs. As a result,

STEELHE

hatchery-dominated runs have increased the number of steelhead available to anglers (beyond the capacity of today's habitats), but more severe annual variation in numbers has come hand-in-hand with increased run sizes.

For example, most of us remember the winter of 1983 as an extremely poor fishery for steelhead; yet some streams with predominantly wild steelhead had runs approximately 30 percent under the 10-year average, while predominantly hatchery streams had runs more than 60 percent lower. Increased peaks in abundance have *not* led to increased stability in fisheries.

Over the past 25 years, we have put a tremendous amount of knowledge to use in improving the survival of hatchery-reared steelhead. The challenge still remains, however, to continue taking other lessons from wild stocks, and indeed the wild stocks themselves as broodstocks. Then we can put both to use in reducing the variation in survival between years and improving the availability of hatchery fish.

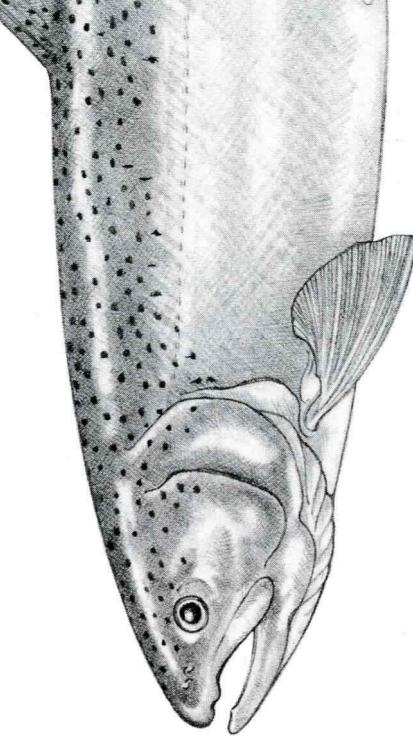
The differing migration pat-

State Game Commission

"life takes another look at . . ."

terns of various steelhead stocks have made them an excellent recreational resource, even if that recreation does not meet with consistent success. (what recreation does?)

Steelhead have acquired common names, such as "summer" or "winter" runs, based on when fish enter the rivers. Because of these variations in run timing, steelhead provide year-round angling



A D

DESIGNED FOR SURVIVAL . . .

DESIGNED FOR RECREATION

opportunity somewhere in the state.

Prior to the 1960's, steelheaders were limited to returns of winter steelhead to some coastal rivers and the Columbia Basin, and summer-run fish to the Columbia Basin as well as the Rogue, Umpqua and Siletz River systems.

Since then, introduced Siletz stocks have brought summer fisheries to the Nestucca River and Tillamook Bay streams. Nearly 100,000 summer steelhead returned to the Willamette River system last year where no summer fish were stocked prior to 1970.

Native stocks provided a lot of opportunity, but the recent changes in population structure within the state have shown the fortuitous wisdom of expanding opportunities to population centers in the Willamette Valley.

Now, biologists are looking at some of the assumptions of the introductions, mainly if the summer steelhead in the Sandy River and Willamette Valley streams can be kept from adapting to the basin and replacing native winter steelhead. After many years, opportu-

nities are also expanding for residents of northeast Oregon. This spring's extended season in the Grande Ronde River, and counts of A and B summer-run steelhead to the upper Columbia and Snake rivers the past three years, give tribute to the rebuilding program so many are working so hard to achieve.

While some of you may not want to believe this, or know an exception, (remember, anything said about steelhead has at least two exceptions) a review of the catch rates (hours per landed steelhead), recorded by district biologists and Oregon State Police in the 1940's and 50's, compared with today's catch rates for steelhead, shows WE ARE IN THE GOOD DAYS! For example, today's steelhead catch rates in Tillamook County streams are equal to or greater than catch rates recorded 35 years ago.

Addition of hatchery fish has made it harder to monitor wild stocks in streams, but with programs like the Volunteer Scale Program (where anglers take scale samples from steelhead they catch and keep, then turn the samples

in to ODFW), monitoring is improving. The scale program is providing hatchery-to-wild ratios in the catch from major stream systems. Happily, in many coastal streams, the emerging picture is that the level of wild catch is the same as 20 years ago, and hatchery fish are providing additional catch.

Management Tools

Over the past 25 years, our knowledge of steelhead habitat requirements, life history strategies and hatchery techniques, has improved dramatically. Our steelhead management program will continue to advance in these areas, as well as turn attention to technological advances for gathering information on run strength; carrying capacity of existing and rehabilitated habitats; genetics and management of hatchery programs to be compatible with wild stocks; catch and effort; and recreational management of this important biological and economic resource of Oregon.

NEW THINGS to watch for soon include:

- A pre-season (summer and winter) steelhead outlook and latest catch estimates for major stream systems
- Your 1988 angling license and salmon-steelhead and sturgeon tags will ask for your phone number so we can conduct surveys of anglers for determining economic data, species use, and answering other important resource management questions.

**REMEMBER TO
TURN IN YOUR 1987
TAG WHEN YOU BUY
YOUR 1988 LICENSE.**



WILD

Think about the year 2000. What comes to mind? For many people it is the vision of orbiting space stations, domed cities and the other futuristic trappings associated largely with science fiction novels.

It is good that some can dream of or plan for space voyages and cities in the sky. Meanwhile, others must focus on more down-to-earth possibilities.

For fish and wildlife resource managers, thoughts about the future are about as down-to-earth as you can get. How will human population growth affect natural resources? How can new technologies be used? What social and demographic changes are likely to affect operation of fish and wildlife agencies?

There may well be space stations, but will there be enough water for spawning salmon? Every kid may have their own computer, but will they also have a fishing pole, or even a place to fish? Can wildlife habitats be adequately protected in the face of expanding human populations?

When Randy Fisher was hired as director for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife last fall, he was expected to set a future course for the agency. And so he is.

His early months with the department were spent learning about resource issues and agency operations. The first six months of 1987 were dominated by the state legislative session. By June, his focus turned to developing agency programs for the future.

He decided to call together top department administrators and field supervisors to reach a collective consensus on what



In The Third MILLENNIUM

A look at the not-so-distant future

resource management issues and concerns would be paramount in the year 2000.

These managers met three times during June for a total of more than six days. Their aim, identify the biggest single factors that will be influencing fish and wildlife management programs by the end of the century.

The product of those work sessions is summarized here. Fisher expands on these conclusions and how they will be used in an interview beginning on the next page.

CHANGING CONSTITUENCY

*Expanded public interest in non-hunted species management and protection

*Expanded role of wildlife viewing as co-equal use of fish and wildlife resources alongside consumptive uses

GREATER LEVEL OF PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

*Increased public demand to have a hand in resource management decision-making processes

*Increased public willingness to donate time, materials and money for management efforts

EXPANDED NEED FOR SOLID, SCIENTIFIC DATA BASES

*More environmental and land use court cases involving legal

LIFE

challenges to department information

*Accelerated land and water development requiring more department input in greater detail

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

*Shift to promoting use of under-utilized and abundant species
*Increasing pressure to gear resource harvest for maximum economic return to local economies

HABITAT LOSS

*Increased pressure on the habitat base that supports fish & wildlife
*Increased federal dollars for fisheries habitat enhancement, and increased fish production
*Declining federal dollars for wildlife habitat work

INCREASED ENFORCEMENT

*Public concern for resource will demand expanded enforcement of fish and wildlife laws

FUNDING

*Traditional funding sources (Licenses) will not provide enough revenue to keep up with inflation
*Programs will undergo creeping reductions
*New funding sources will be developed
*New monies will be dedicated to specific program uses

CONSUMPTIVE USE

*Increased demand for limited entry hunts
*Recreational access fees on large, private landholdings and federal lands
*Pressure to reduce consumptive use
*Increased competition for use of resource



Why did you choose now to stop and look ahead at the state of wildlife management in the year 2000?

A. We did it for three, basic reasons. First, we are considering some organizational changes that will make the agency more effective. The best way I could think of to make that work was to look ahead, try to define what changes there would be, then let the future set the stage for what we should do now internally.

Second, I think the agency needs to be ahead of events, more proactive. There are a lot of changes going on in Oregon right now. I feel we can be part of the "Oregon Comeback." By looking to the future, we can get a better idea of what sort of role we can play.

Finally, I think it is good for the public to know the agency is looking at the future, and not just operating from day to day with no clear sense of direction.

 **Department administrators clearly believe there will be some major changes in public interests and attitudes regarding fish and wildlife resources in the future, particularly in the areas of nongame management and wildlife viewing. How did you reach this conclusion?**

A. Let me give some background. We looked at the demographics of the state, and all the information we had regarding our license sales, age composition of license buyers, and those sorts of things.

We also looked at similar information from several other western states.

With this in hand, we discussed what it meant and made some conclusions. Based on those conclusions, we came up with likely changes in three, general areas that will affect the agency.

First, nongame management activities will become a bigger portion of what we do, and more important to the public.

The important thing here is that we find a funding source. So, one of the things we will do immediately is to explore methods to support this increased demand for nongame management and non-consumptive uses of fish and wildlife.

Internally, we will probably need to assign more people to work on nongame-type activities.

Second, public involvement in the agency decision-making process will be increasing.

And the last point is that volunteerism will become increasingly important in the future.

For both of those last two points we will, once again, be looking at being pro-active. It is important to us that

Q&A

Questions

Answers

we involve the public in the decisions we make, because all the decisions we make affect the public.

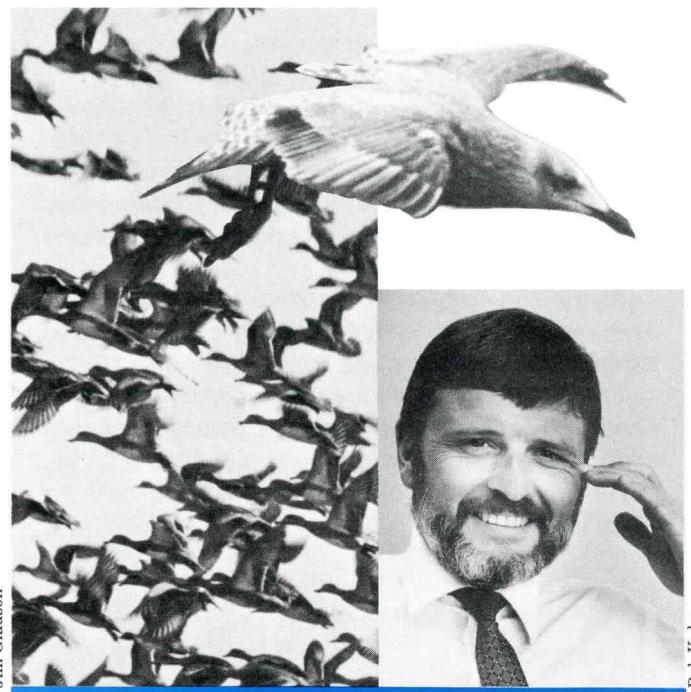
We will be increasing our activities in such areas as public information, public meetings and surveys. These will, in turn, indicate to us what people really want and expect from the agency and the resource.



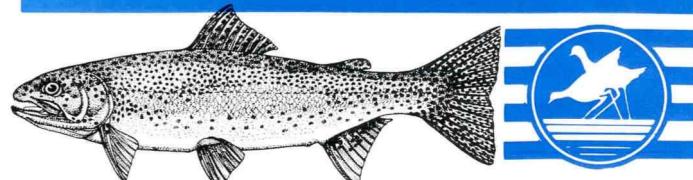
You talk about "nongame" management and "non-consumptive" uses. Those are fairly new terms that might be unfamiliar to some people.

A. Those terms can be confusing. I wish we could come up with some better words or phrases to describe these areas. I don't like describing something by saying what it is not, but we use those negative terms for lack of a better alternative. When I talk about "nongame" I am referring to management programs where we work with non-hunted species, such as eagles or falcons.

Non-consumptive use refers to those activities where people go out to view wildlife or take photographs rather than hunt the animals.



Bob Kuhn





You also mentioned volunteerism. How does that fit with the future as you see it?

A. It fits in the sense that there are a lot of people who want to be involved in volunteering with the agency. We have had some great success stories, such as STEP, and other smaller-scale projects like the volunteer fish liberation program in the Willamette Valley this year.

This interest will benefit the agency in two ways. One is that volunteer involvement is a marvelous way of getting the word around as to what our agency does. And second, these people can really help us do what we need to do.

So, it's an educational program, but it's also a program where we can benefit from having other people pitch in.

We are looking at the possibility of having an increased volunteer program within the agency that would be coordinated. In other words, the volunteer programs now working separately within the agency could be consolidated under one person who would coordinate volunteer programs statewide.



Department managers have identified a need for more, high-quality data about Oregon's fish and wildlife resources. What is it you see down the road that will require this improved information base?

A. This reason that was discussed was two-fold. One is a little reflection on the past. The instance that I think of is the recent change to riparian protection standards on forestland administered under the state Forest Protection Act. Hardcore, scientific data was required to figure out how many trees needed to be left along forest streams and rivers. We see those kinds of questions increasing.

As the population grows and development increases, the need for better scientific data to support habitat protection decisions is absolutely critical.

The increased need for water, for instance, will demand that we be able to provide detailed biological information on alternatives if someone does want to put in a dam or some other development that will affect fish and wildlife.



Getting that information sounds very labor-intensive?

A. It is. We looked at this two ways. One is that in the future we need to have some very specialized people with certain areas of expertise. Also, we need to have the tools to work with that information.

That includes high technology equipment such as computers, and the ability to use satellites for habitat

mapping and other information needs.

So, the need for the information is there, as well as the need for people and tools that will gather and interpret that information.



Economic impacts and contributions related to fish and wildlife management have gotten much more attention in recent years. How will the department be functioning in the economic development arena in years to come?

A. It's becoming quite evident that we are involved in big business. About 1.7 million Oregonians are involved in hunting, fishing or some form of non-consumptive use. In 1987, those activities could generate close to \$1 billion in personal income for the state.

The recognition of that by the agency, and by the folks that are using the resources, will continue to grow. In the legislative arena, there will be more discussion of the recreational versus commercial uses of fisheries. For hunting, the issue could be fee-hunting versus free access.

In the nongame management area, it could be land purchases to protect endangered species.

Each of those issues were dealt with in some way during this last legislative session. I believe that will continue in the future.



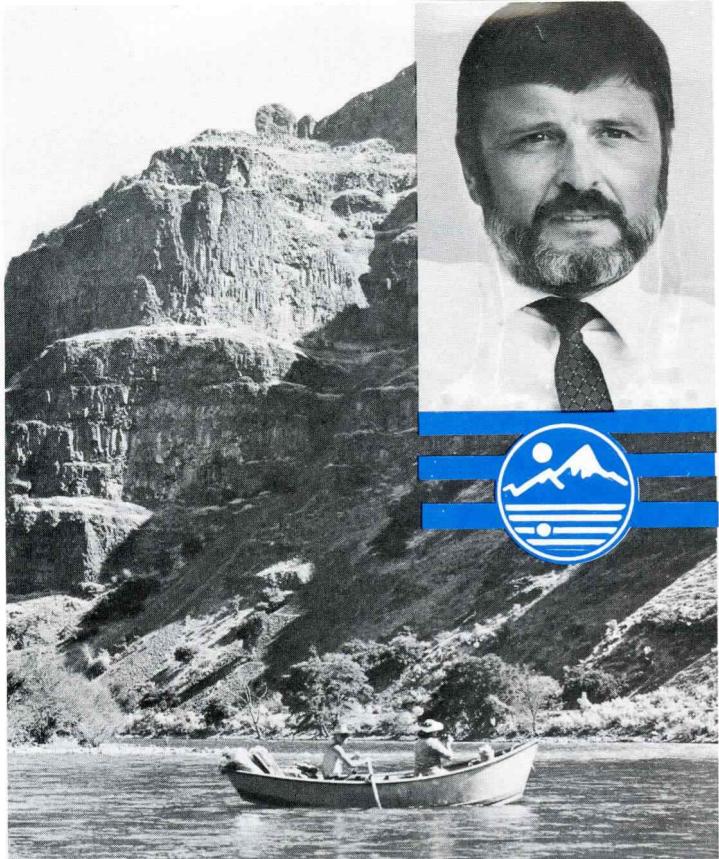
How will the department be involved with economic development activities?

A. We can assist by providing information we have that communities can use to attract tourists. Where it is feasible, we can also be involved in projects that serve as community attractions. A good example is our work with the people in Reedsport to develop an elk viewing area at Dean's Creek.

I do not know if you can say we will be more active economically in the future. What we will be is more information-oriented to insure people recognize that commercial and sport fishing, hunting and non-consumptive uses provide the state's economy with a large sum of money.

For instance, this year in Michigan, fishing became the single most important money generator in that state; even over the automobile industry. They have been working on that for fifteen years.

Our primary legal mandate is to protect and enhance fish and wildlife resources for use now and for future generations. While doing that, we can also seek out opportunities for these resources to provide economic benefits. Helping people recognize the value of fish and wildlife also leads them to see the need for preserving these resources.



Bob Kuhn

Ken Durbin



Speaking of preserving resources, how will the department deal with escalating pressure on fish and wildlife habitats?

A. There is an assumption that human demands on fish and wildlife habitats will increase. We are not land managers, however, and can address the situation only within our legislative authority. We do not have a magic formula that will allow expansion of human development without some impact on wild species and their habitats.

We will continue, as we have in the past, to do all we can to preserve and enhance these fish and wildlife populations. People are realizing that to do this, we must also protect and enhance habitats.

This goes back to an earlier point about the need for quality scientific data about species, and particularly their habitat requirements. We need to learn a lot more over the next ten years about those habitat requirements to insure that we recommend effective habitat protection measures to land managers.

The department also protects fish and wildlife directly through the Game Division of the Oregon State Police. What will pressures on enforcement of game laws be like in 2000?

A. The public wants, in fact expects, strict enforcement of game laws. People do not like poachers. They do not like people who exceed bag limits. More than 5,000 hunters attended the elk workshops a few years ago. One of the major priorities was expanded game law enforcement. That desire will continue, even increase, as other pressures on these resources grow.

OREGON WILDLIFE

The 1987 State Legislature has given the department \$100,000 to study the effectiveness of Oregon's game law enforcement. We will look at the system, and seek ways to improve where we can. We know that more officers would help. So would more airplanes, more equipment, tougher penalties for violations and, of course, more money to pay for the expansion. But it is like all of our other programs, you can theorize what the ideal situation might be, but you implement what you can afford.



Much of what you have talked about so far points to the need for more money, yet current department revenues are flat or declining in some cases. How can we deal with this? Are department programs going to be gradually starved out for lack of funds?

A. There are several problem areas. One of the big ones is the hatchery program. If we are going to be in the fish business, we must be able to operate and maintain our facilities at an efficient and productive level.

Another important area is nongame management, and wildlife viewing to a lesser extent. The legislature this session gave us about \$390,000 in general fund money for the first time to support the nongame program. Legislators also allowed us to fund a habitat restoration program and a manager position at Dean's Creek.

The funding question here is two-fold. One is our expectation that there could be even more demand for nongame and non-consumptive programs, but also that hunting and fishing licenses should not support those programs.

So, attention must turn to alternative funding sources for those programs that serve all Oregonians, not just consumptive users who hunt and fish.



There seems to be some discomfort about other existing funding sources as well. Is this correct?

A. One of my concerns is that we have become very dependent on federal funds, especially in fisheries. In some cases, that's nice, but it can backfire very quickly.

We need to establish more stable funding sources that will insure we treat the resource similarly from year to year. Right now, there is a high level of uncertainty how programs will be funded from year to year, or at what level.

I hope as fish and wildlife economic values become better known, the public will want the legislature to step up to the line and fund additional programs through the general fund.

Another possibility is to set up alternative funds for some of our programs.



You have talked about an expanding role for nongame programs, greater recognition of wildlife viewing values, and other new directions. How does this affect Oregon hunters?

A. I do not think all this implies that our resources will be drained away from game resources to nongame or non-consumptive programs. What we are saying is that nongame will stand on its own, and game management will stand on its own.

Still, a lot of information points to a future where fewer and fewer people will hunt. That decrease is not so much related to a resource decline as it is to changing attitudes of people who live in Oregon.

We also looked at what sort of options would be available to hunters in the future. Expanded limited-entry hunting for elk would reduce overall opportunity, but would improve hunt quality.

Availability of land to hunt on is a question. The possibility that many private landowners may charge for hunting access is high. Even public lands may carry some sort of fee.

At least for the limited-entry question, the future will be what the public wants it to be. We are not the only state wrestling with these concerns. Like those other states, we are trying to get a sense through our expanded public involvement program of just what that public desire is.

We want to provide as much opportunity to as many people of diverse interests as we can. This is not just a ploy on our part for continued funding forever.



Last question . . . Now that this outline of the future is out, what is the department going to do with it?

A. We are developing action plans on some of the things immediately. These will include several internal matters we have not discussed here, such as affirmative action and budget controls.

On these other issues, those that extend over a longer period of time, I visualize working with various interest groups, legislators and the governor's office during the off-legislative period to figure out what we can do.

I want to make sure everyone is operating off the same numbers, and to see what the possibilities are. Needless to say, many of these questions are legislative questions.

We will be putting together task forces to look at alternative funding solutions. There will also be a task force to study the fee hunting issue, and another to look at the entire question of coastal fishing. Those sorts of things will be happening in the very near future. ■



Fish Commission File

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1. Please tell us about your fish and wildlife-related activities by checking the appropriate boxes.

I Hunt: (days per year) 0 1-5 6-10 11-15 16-20 more than 20

If You Hunt, what species?: Big game Upland birds Waterfowl Other

I Fish for sport: (days per year) 0 1-5 6-10 11-15 16-20 more than 20

If You Fish, what species?: Salmon/Steelhead Warmwater Trout

I Fish Commercially: Fulltime occupation Parttime

I View or Photograph fish or wildlife: (days per year) 0 1-5 6-10 11-15 16-20 more than 20

2. What category best describes your occupation:

Manufacturing Agriculture Service Education Professional

3. Subscriber's age: under 16 17-25 26-35 36-45 46-55 56-65 over 65

4. Average annual family income: under \$12,000 13-20,000 21-30,000 31-40,000 more than 40,000

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- | | |
|---|-------------------|
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| • Recreational opportunities | 5 4 3 2 1 |
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