

OREGON WILDLIFE

MAY 1978

OREGON WILDLIFE

May 1978
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OREGON FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

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The Cover

This magnificent bull elk was recorded by Corvallis wildlife photographer Robert B. Smith. A display of Smith's wildlife photography is on view in the lobby of the Fish and Wildlife Department's Portland headquarters through the end of May.

HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM INSTRUCTORS APPROVED

Month of March 22
Total Active 1,682

STUDENTS TRAINED

Month of March 407
Total to Date 252,587

HUNTING CASUALTIES REPORTED IN 1978

Fatal 1
Nonfatal 5

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GUEST EDITORIAL

Editor's note: This is the third in a series of guest editorials wherein Oregon's Fish and Wildlife Commissioners have the opportunity to express their views on a subject of their choosing. Jack Steiwer is an eastern Oregon rancher and the problems and concerns of landowners are close to his heart. □

The Landowner's Viewpoint

by Commissioner Jack Steiwer
Fossil, Oregon

Last month Commissioner Boyer made some interesting comments in this column concerning the future of elk herds and elk hunting. I would also like to discuss big game management from a different point of view — its effect upon landowners — both public and private.

First let me remind you of one basic fact — that approximately one-half of the land base in the State of Oregon is privately owned, while the other half is owned by government. Even on public lands, silvacultural and agricultural private landowners, commercial recreationists, and sportsmen are the primary groups that contribute directly through timber sales, grazing fees and licenses for the use of this public property. So, private landowners do provide a substantial contribution to the big game resource that we as commissioners are called upon to regulate.

It is incomprehensible to me that there is criticism of private and public land managers when these people are supplying the basic forage for our game animals. Ranchers are *sharing* their crops with our big game animals. Timber interests spend enormous sums of money to protect small trees from game animals. Ask yourself — why do these two industries share their resource at considerable financial sacrifice? The obvious answer is that they have the same concern for and appreciation of game animals that we all have.

During the next few weeks our Commission will be touring the state in a series of town hall meetings. We hope they will be well attended and that many new ideas will be brought out and discussed. We need your voice and opinions as to the future of big game management in Oregon.

By the time this is published our Commission will have met with representatives of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association and western timber interests to discuss big game numbers and will have hopefully arrived at a level of tolerance on elk and deer numbers on private lands throughout the state. I am confident that these discussions and town meetings will help bring out the contribution that private landowners are making to our resource. I am also confident we will approach this year's regulations with cool heads arriving at decisions which will be acceptable to the farming interests, timber interests and the hunting public of the State of Oregon. □

Regrets

Last month's issue of OREGON WILDLIFE carried the dates of the big game town hall meetings. Unfortunately, the first two dates and locations (Salem and Astoria) were reversed. This caused inconvenience to a number of people, and we sincerely apologize. The error was one of scheduling, not one produced by the magazine. We hope those of you who missed one of the meetings will take time to write in your views on the big game seasons prior to the May 27 hearing, or attend the May 26 or 27 hearing in Portland. □

Bob Stein, Assistant Director
Wildlife Division

Commission Meetings

The Fish and Wildlife Commission will conduct a general business meeting on Thursday, May 25. A proposed wild fish policy, a review of the status of razor clams, and other business will be considered.

On May 26 a public hearing will be conducted to receive public testimony on 1978 big game regulations. The following day, Saturday, May 27, the meeting will be continued and 1978 big game regulations will be adopted.

All three meetings will begin at 9 a.m. at Department headquarters, 506 SW Mill in Portland. □

MAY 1978



1977 Big Game Seasons

*by Paul Ebert
Staff Big Game Biologist*

Improved hunting prospects for both deer and elk drew a record number of elk hunters and a near record number of deer hunters during the 1977 hunting seasons. Although drought conditions plagued eastern Oregon throughout the summer and early fall months, favorable conditions prevailed during the general hunting seasons. This resulted in a record harvest of elk and the highest harvest of deer since 1968. Results from the annual questionnaire survey sent to a random sample of the 412,100 individuals who purchased 1977 hunting licenses indicated that Oregon's big game hunters spent 2,620,-

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504 days afield and bagged 129,120 deer, 17,770 elk, 920 bear, 976 antelope, 27 cougar, and 13 bighorn sheep.

Deer

Deer hunters for the second year had to choose between hunting in western or eastern Oregon and 52 percent purchased a blacktail tag while 48 percent bought a mule deer tag. A total of 292,470 reported hunting deer and taking 129,120 animals during all of the seasons. Conditions during the general season favored the hunter and, combined with the availability of more bucks and an increase in hunters, produced a harvest of

100,360 bucks compared with 68,460 in 1976. The major increase came from eastern Oregon.

Mule deer hunters were again allowed a 12-day season except in six units where post-season buck ratios were below management objective levels. In these units the season was reduced to seven days. The bag limit remained one buck with forked antlers except in three southeastern Oregon units where the buck had to be at least a four-point. Adequate moisture fell prior to the season, reducing the fire hazard and providing favorable hunting conditions. An estimated 141,740 hunters took 69,510 mule deer bucks during the general season and averaged 49 percent success. This was a substantial increase over the 116,980 hunters and 39,720 bucks reported in 1976.

Individuals interested in applying for antlerless mule deer permits were not required to have a deer tag. If successful in the drawings, the hunter was required to submit a \$5 fee for a controlled tag that was valid only for the area and time specified. The same hunter could also purchase a general deer tag and hunt during the appropriate general season. A total of 11,600 tags was issued and hunters reported taking 8,880 deer during the early and late controlled seasons.

Black-tailed deer hunters enjoyed a 37-day general buck season in northwestern Oregon and 30 days in southwestern Oregon with a bag limit of one buck with at least forked antlers. Moisture off and on during the season provided favorable hunting conditions. A total of 127,460 hunters reported taking 30,850 bucks during the general season, an average of 24 percent success. This was only a slight increase over the 122,100 hunters and 28,740 bucks reported in 1976.

Hunters successful in drawing unit permits for western Oregon were required to have an unused black-tailed deer tag to use the permit. Although 29,850 permits were authorized, only 26,541 permits were requested by hunters and they reported taking 10,740 deer. Hunters with an unused black-tailed deer tag could also hunt during a nine-day extended season in portions of eight units in or bordering the Willamette Valley where agricultural damage was a serious problem.

1977 DEER SEASON

Units by Region	GENERAL DEER SEASON					ADDITIONAL DEER HARVEST		ALL SEASONS	
	Number of Hunters	Bucks	Unit Permit Harvest	General Season Total	Percent Hunter Success	Early Seasons	Late Seasons	Total Harvest	Total Hunter Days
Alsea	16,960	3,470	2,430	5,900	35	190	1,070	7,160	134,010
Clatsop	6,310	1,600	0	1,600	25	0	0	1,600	47,540
McKenzie	17,990	3,330	1,280	4,610	26	40	1,820	6,470	135,100
Nestucca	2,530	500	80	580	23	0	0	580	16,310
Polk	5,500	950	310	1,260	23	0	230	1,490	32,410
Santiam	15,630	2,210	1,170	3,380	22	60	760	4,200	106,880
Scappoose	3,410	650	230	880	26	0	450	1,330	25,260
Siuslaw	6,820	670	530	1,200	18	0	420	1,620	40,010
Trask	9,360	1,390	780	2,170	23	0	640	2,810	60,010
Willamette	11,350	1,060	810	1,870	16	30	1,050	2,950	69,250
Wilson	4,430	660	0	660	15	140	0	800	32,380
NW REGION TOTALS	80,820*	16,490	7,620	24,110	30	460	6,440	31,010	699,160
Applegate	6,050	960	530	1,490	25	0	0	1,490	33,630
Chetco	3,250	730	0	730	23	0	0	730	18,050
Dixon	13,030	3,060	460	3,520	27	560	0	4,080	81,600
Elkton	4,410	820	270	1,090	25	0	0	1,090	24,480
Evans Creek	4,150	520	240	760	18	0	0	760	22,090
Melrose	10,070	1,920	680	2,600	26	40	140	2,780	63,950
Powers	4,210	1,270	70	1,340	32	0	0	1,340	26,210
Rogue	13,040	2,750	660	3,410	26	40	80	3,530	106,110
Sixes	4,810	1,260	0	1,260	26	40	80	1,380	41,640
Tioga	4,510	1,070	210	1,280	28	0	0	1,280	21,840
SW REGION TOTALS	51,260*	14,360	3,120	17,480	34	680	300	18,460	439,600
BLACK-TAILED DEER TOTALS	127,460*	30,850	10,740	41,590	33	1,140	6,740	49,470	1,138,760
Deschutes	7,650	1,840	0	1,840	24	230	60	2,130	46,430
Grizzly	4,330	1,490	0	1,490	34	0	130	1,620	15,030
Hood River	1,160	280	0	280	24	0	70	350	4,960
Keno	1,790	450	0	450	25	0	100	550	9,790
Klamath	5,990	2,350	0	2,350	39	0	0	2,350	22,920
Maupin	870	270	0	270	31	0	0	270	2,300
Maury	1,690	1,110	0	1,110	65	70	0	1,180	9,710
Metolius	2,670	680	0	680	25	0	300	980	10,160
Ochoco	12,260	5,180	0	5,180	42	0	260	5,440	43,230
Paulina	7,660	2,480	0	2,480	32	0	390	2,870	29,180
Sherman	2,180	630	0	630	29	0	160	790	8,210
Sprague	2,140	370	0	370	17	0	0	370	8,720
Wasco	6,790	1,900	0	1,900	28	150	450	2,500	40,980
CENTRAL REGION TOTALS	51,080*	19,030	0	19,030	37	450	1,920	21,400	251,620
Baker	6,340	3,040	0	3,040	48	190	0	3,230	28,540
Catherine Cr.	3,040	940	0	940	31	0	350	1,290	11,740
Chesimnus	1,250	610	0	610	49	0	0	610	3,970
Columbia Basin	860	290	0	290	33	0	120	410	2,590
Desolation	3,700	1,620	0	1,620	44	250	50	1,920	18,660
Heppner	10,160	4,110	0	4,110	40	340	1,540	5,990	40,750
Imnaha	1,770	950	0	950	54	0	0	950	5,490
Keating	3,620	1,490	0	1,490	41	60	370	1,920	15,630
Lookout Mt.	1,500	590	0	590	39	50	200	840	3,800
Minam	2,240	1,040	0	1,040	46	140	330	1,510	13,500
Murderer's Cr.	6,600	3,040	0	3,040	46	0	940	3,980	32,870
Northside	5,270	2,780	0	2,780	53	0	1,030	3,810	25,290
Pine Creek	1,280	690	0	690	54	0	0	690	5,790
Sled Springs	3,320	1,620	0	1,620	49	0	360	1,980	13,140
Snake River	470	230	0	230	49	0	0	230	1,950
Starkey	3,080	970	0	970	32	120	0	1,090	14,120
Ukiah	4,070	1,310	0	1,310	32	0	270	1,580	15,460
Umatilla	5,180	1,690	0	1,690	33	0	190	1,880	23,580
Walla Walla	940	330	0	330	35	0	0	330	3,360
Wenaha	1,190	440	0	440	37	0	110	550	4,380
Wheeler	7,490	4,010	0	4,010	54	0	720	4,730	25,460
NE REGION TOTALS	63,710*	31,790	0	31,790	50	1,150	6,580	39,520	310,070
Beaty's Butte	610	210	0	210	35	40	0	250	4,030
Beulah	4,040	2,700	0	2,700	67	0	0	2,700	13,300
Fort Rock	4,620	1,930	0	1,930	42	0	0	1,930	22,670
Interstate	5,300	2,550	0	2,550	48	0	0	2,550	18,220
Juniper	170	60	0	60	38	0	0	60	640
Malheur River	4,930	2,590	0	2,590	52	0	0	2,590	18,260
Owyhee	2,020	1,070	0	1,070	53	0	0	1,070	6,920
Silver Lake	5,120	2,460	0	2,460	48	0	0	2,460	22,290
Silvies	5,200	2,780	0	2,780	54	0	0	2,780	17,720
Steens Mt.	1,600	670	0	670	42	0	0	670	5,710
Wagontire	940	350	0	350	38	0	0	350	2,520
Warner	2,550	1,030	0	1,030	40	0	0	1,030	9,630
Whitehorse	700	290	0	290	41	0	0	290	2,800
SE REGION TOTALS	35,150*	18,690	0	18,690	53	40	0	18,730	144,710
MULE DEER TOTALS	141,740*	69,510	0	69,510	49	1,640	8,500	79,650	706,400
GENERAL SEASON TOTALS	269,200*	100,360	10,740	111,100	41				
EARLY SEASON TOTALS	22,230*					2,780			
LATE SEASON TOTALS	26,400*						15,240		
GRAND TOTALS	292,470*							129,120	1,845,160

*Total omits duplication of hunters participating in more than one unit or region or species or season.

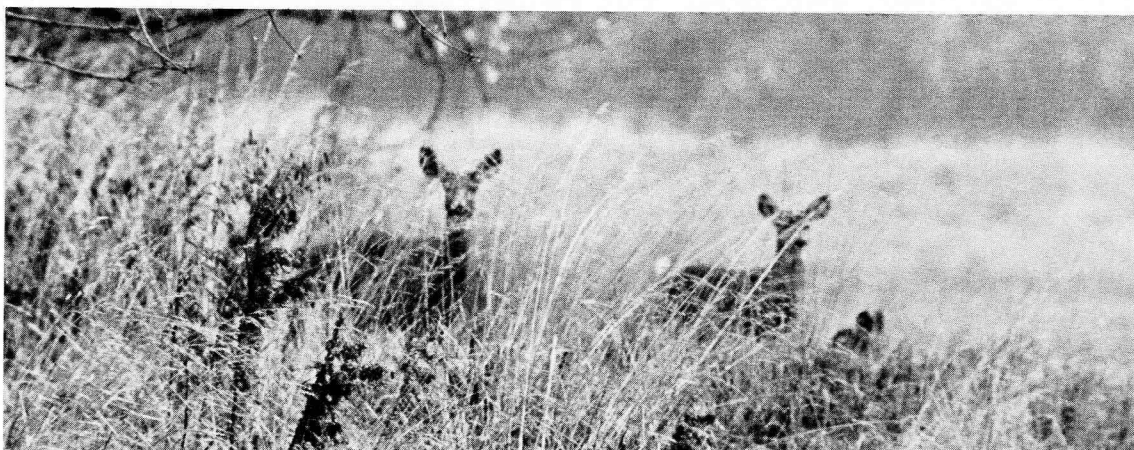
1977 ELK SEASON

Units by Region	Number of Hunters	Hunter Days	Bulls	Elk Harvest Antlerless	Total	Percent Hunter Success	Percent Yearling Bulls
Alsea	2,120	9,420	233	0	233	11	70
Clatsop	8,580	39,040	974	378	1,352	16	73
McKenzie	2,780	13,150	259	0	259	9	62
Nestucca	860	2,080	47	0	47	5	62
Polk	870	2,840	55	0	55	6	80
Santiam	2,200	8,680	128	0	128	6	60
Scappoose	1,070	6,840	62	38	100	9	59
Siuslaw	710	1,880	36	0	36	5	60
Trask	2,670	9,920	233	18	251	9	64
Willamette	550	2,270	4	0	4	1	100
Wilson	5,940	27,120	500	194	694	12	79
NW REGION TOTALS	25,210*	123,240	2,531	628	3,159	13	71
Applegate	30	130	0	0	0	0	0
Chetco	500	1,450	22	0	22	4	0
Dixon	1,860	7,210	88	6	94	5	0
Elkton	2,500	10,740	241	45	286	11	68
Evans Creek	0	0	4	0	4		100
Melrose	2,600	9,560	157	0	157	6	79
Powers	1,310	5,730	106	0	106	8	59
Rogue	1,920	8,850	150	0	150	8	54
Sixes	460	1,400	51	0	51	11	29
Tioga	4,920	21,230	587	128	715	15	69
SW REGION TOTALS	13,540*	66,300	1,406	179	1,585	12	62
Deschutes	360	1,960	11	0	11	3	67
Keno	300	1,200	4	0	4	1	0
W. CENTRAL REGION TOTALS	660*	3,160	15	0	15	2	50
ROOSEVELT ELK TOTALS	38,760*	192,700	3,952	807	4,759	12	68
Baker	5,820	30,820	546	164	710	12	56
Catherine Cr.	2,780	12,210	159	102	261	9	33
Chesnimnus	2,520	14,380	658	160	818	32	89
Columbia Basin	160	620	0	0	0	0	0
Desolation	6,040	30,930	794	321	1,115	18	64
Heppner	7,600	36,420	705	423	1,128	15	82
Imnaha	3,260	15,850	306	95	401	12	72
Keating	1,370	6,760	137	61	198	14	59
Lookout Mt.	280	780	11	10	21	8	0
Minam	3,960	23,890	443	191	634	16	59
Murderer's Cr.	1,310	6,780	63	14	77	6	29
Northside	1,310	5,320	137	41	178	14	41
Pine Creek	1,140	5,210	133	17	150	13	72
Sled Springs	3,480	24,750	655	375	1,030	30	91
Snake River	1,050	5,440	77	0	77	7	5
Starkey	9,970	47,290	1,235	452	1,687	17	77
Ukiah	9,500	51,460	903	565	1,468	15	74
Umatilla	9,800	48,490	872	259	1,131	12	83
Walla Walla	2,640	13,180	214	157	371	14	78
Wenaha	6,050	28,210	930	170	1,100	18	86
Wheeler	1,120	4,720	37	14	51	5	20
NE REGION TOTALS	71,580*	413,510	9,015	3,591	12,606	18	73
Grizzly	110	510	0	0	0	0	0
Hood River	670	3,900	15	7	22	3	75
Maury	260	2,900	0	0	0	0	0
Metolius	30	30	0	0	0	0	0
Ochoco	800	3,290	44	7	51	6	17
Wasco	2,230	11,250	100	91	191	9	63
E. CENTRAL REGION TOTALS	3,910*	21,880	159	105	264	7	51
Beulah	600	2,780	59	0	59	10	31
Malheur River	800	4,430	55	0	55	7	33
Silvies	460	2,060	30	0	30	6	62
SE REGION TOTALS	1,690*	9,270	144	0	144	9	38
ROCKY MT. ELK TOTALS	73,580*	444,660	9,318	3,696	13,014	18	72
STATE TOTALS	112,340	637,360	13,270	4,503	17,773	16	70

*Total omits duplication of hunters participating in more than one unit or region or species.

DEER HUNTING TRENDS 1952-1977

STATE TOTALS				MULE DEER						BLACK TAILED DEER					
Year	Hunters	Deer Harvested	Percent Hunter Success	General Season Hunters	Number Harvested	Percent Hunter Success	Percent of Total	Antler-less Harvest	Percent Antler-less	General Season Hunters	Number Harvested	Percent Hunter Success	Percent of Total	Antler-less Harvest	Percent Antler-less
1952	188,250	77,897	41	126,719	53,030	61	68	20,570	39	61,531	24,867	40	32	5,210	21
1953	204,808	105,275	51	121,356	64,607	53	61	24,652	38	83,552	40,668	49	39	13,045	32
1954	215,047	112,622	52	134,617	76,877	57	68	22,410	29	80,430	35,745	44	32	8,043	22
1955	230,585	133,834	58	148,566	90,126	61	67	37,752	42	81,919	43,708	53	33	13,446	31
1956	233,842	146,568	54	146,568	85,394	58	68	37,978	44	87,274	40,277	46	32	13,340	33
1957	221,960	116,409	52	140,627	81,873	58	70	26,853	33	81,333	34,626	43	30	8,877	26
1958	233,885	116,251	50	139,183	71,250	51	61	19,308	27	94,702	45,001	47	39	15,251	34
1959	248,701	146,003	59	138,856	88,261	64	61	23,685	27	104,750	56,670	54	39	20,108	35
1960	259,739	157,504	61	141,102	96,122	68	61	28,254	29	110,725	61,382	55	39	20,133	33
1961	265,326	163,939	62	147,597	97,951	66	60	30,538	31	101,971	65,988	65	40	24,529	37
1962	263,838	139,712	53	143,580	76,776	53	55	24,977	32	108,343	62,936	58	45	21,932	35
1963	258,375	117,619	45	136,676	64,678	47	55	15,403	24	105,603	52,941	50	45	16,754	32
1964	249,080	143,023	57	148,215	84,665	57	59	19,931	23	110,555	58,358	53	41	18,807	32
1965	267,840	119,369	45	143,618	71,637	50	60	19,242	27	108,281	47,732	44	40	13,348	27
1966	270,770	147,975	55	147,975	88,516	56	60	22,821	26	110,384	59,459	52	40	14,687	25
1967	272,150	142,000	52	153,950	87,180	57	61	29,518	34	109,250	54,820	50	39	15,089	27
1968	284,600	151,380	53	163,260	89,020	55	59	23,374	26	111,940	62,360	56	41	16,586	27
1969	264,900	101,500	38	166,350	68,860	41	68	14,265	21	88,850	32,640	37	32	5,757	18
1970	282,000	101,600	36	180,150	72,200	40	71	14,453	20	92,050	29,400	32	29	4,347	15
1971	279,220	87,800	31	162,180	47,240	29	54	7,840	17	109,120	40,560	37	46	7,990	20
1972	245,770	73,400	30	110,700	29,380	27	40	95	0	127,200	44,020	35	60	7,970	18
1973	296,290	103,470	35	124,040	41,340	33	40	62	1	153,360	62,130	41	60	19,099	31
1974	286,560	76,400	27	118,980	30,960	26	41	1,018	3	155,420	45,440	29	59	10,511	23
1975	251,930	54,980	22	112,430	23,620	21	43	390	2	151,430	31,360	21	57	2,230	7
1976	246,850	80,700	33	116,980	44,030	38	55	3,630	8	122,000	36,670	30	45	4,530	12
1977	292,470	129,120	44	141,740	79,650	56	62	9,400	12	127,460	49,470	39	38	10,844	22



Black-tailed deer

ELK HUNTING TRENDS 1933-1977

STATE TOTAL						ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK					ROOSEVELT ELK				
Year	Hunters	Bulls	Antlerless	Total Harvest	Percent Hunter Success	Hunters	Bulls	Antlerless	Number Harvested	Percent Hunter Success	Hunters	Bulls	Antlerless	Number Harvested	Percent Hunter Success
1933	2,440	579	0	579	24	2,440	579	0	579	24	No Open Season				
1940	6,152	1,350	1,179	2,529	41	4,809	1,152	1,179	2,331	48	1,343	198	0	198	15
1945	8,597	2,398	67	2,465	29	7,270	2,176	67	2,243	31	1,327	222	0	222	17
1950	22,802	3,157	2,234	5,391	24	16,726	2,210	1,234	3,444	21	6,076	947	1,000	1,947	32
1955	27,709	4,228	1,855	6,083	22	21,504	3,361	1,749	5,110	24	6,205	867	106	973	16
1961	51,349	9,707	2,384	12,091	24	36,514	7,098	1,863	8,961	25	14,835	2,609	521	3,130	21
1962	52,991	7,998	2,178	10,176	19	39,432	6,460	1,925	8,385	21	13,559	1,538	253	1,791	13
1963	54,724	10,082	3,606	13,688	25	41,216	6,959	3,606	10,565	26	13,508	3,125	0	3,123	23
1964	62,898	11,846	5,311	17,157	27	41,010	7,576	4,879	12,455	30	21,888	4,270	432	4,702	21
1965	67,387	8,066	4,200	12,266	18	47,651	5,768	3,594	9,362	20	19,736	2,298	606	2,904	15
1966	68,178	8,030	3,372	11,402	17	49,504	5,529	3,189	8,718	18	18,674	2,501	183	2,684	14
1967	64,200	7,660	2,870	10,530	16	46,100	5,220	2,690	7,910	17	18,100	2,440	180	2,620	14
1968	65,900	7,160	2,250	9,410	14	45,600	4,170	1,980	6,150	13	20,300	2,990	270	3,260	16
1969	66,000	7,800	2,118	9,918	15	46,300	5,800	2,080	7,880	17	19,700	2,000	38	2,038	10
1970	73,560	10,150	2,530	12,680	17	52,190	6,920	2,420	9,340	18	21,370	3,230	110	3,340	16
1971	74,550	7,830	2,440	10,270	14	51,640	5,330	2,260	7,590	15	22,910	2,500	180	2,680	12
1972	79,100	8,075	2,235	10,310	13	53,700	5,742	2,188	7,930	15	25,400	2,333	47	2,380	9
1973	98,300	11,087	2,913	14,001	14	65,100	7,626	2,735	10,361	16	33,200	3,461	178	3,640	11
1974	106,200	9,527	4,543	14,070	13	69,100	6,628	4,036	10,664	15	37,600	2,899	507	3,406	9
1975	110,830	11,481	3,870	15,351	14	73,280	7,393	3,476	10,869	15	37,550	4,087	395	4,482	12
1976	98,510	9,767	3,423	13,190	13	64,970	7,389	2,838	10,227	16	33,800	2,378	585	2,963	9
1977	112,340	13,270	4,503	17,773	16	73,580	9,318	3,696	13,014	18	38,760	3,952	807	4,759	12

Hunters during these extended seasons, during the High Cascade buck season, and during early and late bow seasons took an additional 7,880 deer.

Elk

Elk hunters surged back from the temporary decline reported in 1976 to a record number of 112,520 hunters in 1977. Sixty-three percent of the hunters purchased Rocky Mountain elk tags, 33 percent Roosevelt elk tags, and 4 percent elk bow tags. Climatic conditions favored the hunters and they reported taking a record number of 13,270 bulls during the general seasons. A total of 4,503 antlerless elk was taken through controlled and bow seasons making a total of 17,773 elk harvested, an average hunter success of 16 percent.

Rocky Mountain elk hunters had a 16-day general bull season except in five units where the season was reduced to nine days. The bag limit was one bull with antlers longer than its ears except in the Snake River Unit where the bull had to be at least a three-point. The 67,100 general season hunters reported taking 9,318

bulls, an average of 14 percent success. This was an increase over the 55,610 hunters and 7,389 bulls reported in 1976. Antlerless hunters were again required to give up their bull hunting privilege and hunt during a separate period. A total of 6,491 controlled antlerless permits was issued and those hunters reported taking 3,696 elk.

Roosevelt elk hunters had a nine-day general season with a bag limit of one bull with antlers longer than its ears except in the Chetco and Dixon Units where only three-points or better were legal. A total of 37,400 hunters reported taking 3,952 bulls and averaged 11 percent success. This was an increase over the 32,620 hunters and 2,378 bulls reported in 1976. A total of 1,362 permits was issued and these hunters reported taking 807 antlerless elk.

Antelope

The hunting of buck antelope with horns longer than the ears was allowed in 20 areas of southeastern Oregon with 1,400 controlled tags au-

thorized. Report card returns indicated that 1,349 individuals hunted and took 890 antelope for a 66 percent success. Harvest of doe antelope was allowed in two problem areas and 115 hunters reported taking 85 animals.

Bear

A five-month bear season was allowed in the Coast Range and north-eastern Oregon but a month shorter season was permitted in the Cascade Range and central Oregon. The 12,830 bear hunters reported taking 920 bear. This was an increase in hunters over the 11,040 reported in 1976 but a drop in harvest from 1,070 bear that year.

Cougar

One hundred fifteen cougar tags were allowed in five areas of north-eastern Oregon and 25 in two areas of western Oregon. Only 70 tag holders reported hunting and taking 25 cougar in northeastern Oregon and two cougar in western Oregon. Reporting hunters averaged 39 percent success.

Continued on p. 12

1977 BUCK ANTELOPE SEASON (79% Report Card Return)

Hunt Number	Name of Area	Tags Issued	Report Cards Received	Number Did Not Hunt	Number Hunted	Reported Harvest	Percent Success	Hunter Days
435A	Part Paulina & Wagontire Units	50	43	1	42	28	67	101
436	Maury Unit	50	47	1	46	32	70	120
437	Ochoco Unit	70	58	2	56	52	93	112
438	Grizzly Unit	10	9	0	9	6	67	19
446	Murderer's Creek Unit	25	22	0	22	22	100	24
451A	N. Part Baker Unit	10	8	1	7	6	86	8
451B	S. Part Baker Unit	10	9	0	9	8	89	17
464	Lookout Mountain Unit	10	8	0	8	7	88	14
465	Beulah Unit	75	58	4	54	47	87	104
466	Malheur River Unit	150	109	5	104	85	82	212
467	Owyhee Unit	125	91	1	90	70	78	225
468	Whitehorse Unit	200	156	8	148	97	66	398
469	Steens Mountain Unit	160	130	5	125	85	68	305
470	Beatys Butte	160	129	0	129	110	85	265
470A	National Antelope Refuge	15	15	0	15	14	93	28
471	Juniper Unit	125	88	1	87	60	69	189
472	Silvies Unit	50	44	0	44	37	84	98
473A	S. Part Wagontire Unit	35	27	0	27	13	48	77
475A	E. Part Interstate Unit	50	39	2	37	19	51	105
476A	Fort Rock-Silver Lake Units	20	18	0	18	11	61	46
TOTALS		1,400	1,108	31	1,077	809	75	2,467

1977 DOE ANTELOPE SEASON

437A	Portion Ochoco Unit	20	14	2	12	5	42	17
446A	Murderer's Creek Unit	50	39	1	38	34	89	58
446B	Murderer's Creek Unit	50	41	1	40	38	95	65
TOTALS		120	94	4	90	77	86	140

1977 ANTELOPE BOW SEASON

475B	Gerber Reservoir Area	200	94	4	90	1	01	443
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ESTIMATED TOTAL HARVEST: 976

OREGON WILDLIFE

1977 Game Bird Seasons

by Chester E. Kebbe
Staff Biologist, Small Game Management



Ruff in the bag

Upland game bird and waterfowl hunters enjoyed good hunting in 1977 but with a harvest of birds slightly below the take of 1976. This was confirmed by an annual questionnaire survey which randomly sampled Oregon's 412,097 licensed hunters. Results of the survey indicate that 90,300 upland bird hunters spent 683,000 days afield and bagged 932,800 birds while 57,300 waterfowl hunters took 619,000 ducks, geese, coots, and snipe in 587,100 man-days of recreation.

An accompanying table presents the harvest figures and the number of hunters by county on the major species of Oregon game birds.

Upland Game

Pheasant hunting success and hunting pressure show a direct correlation with the success of the spring

nesting season and the availability of cocks in the fall population. In 1977 pheasant production was down slightly from the previous year and this decline was reflected in lower fall hunting success. The number of hunters remained the same as in 1976 but the total take was down 9,000 birds. Malheur and Umatilla Counties held the largest populations and provided 47 percent of the harvest.

Valley quail experienced a good nesting season and, as a result, broods were large and coveys numerous. Because of the high population, long seasons and large bag limits were again authorized. Hunter participation was up slightly from 1976 while the harvest rose from 208,800 to 243,200 birds.

Chukar partridge production in 1977 was down sharply throughout much of its range and, as a result,

fewer birds were available for the fall hunting season. Chukar hunter numbers dropped by about 4,000 to 19,000 but individually they put in more effort so hunting pressure overall remained about the same as in 1976. The harvest dropped from nearly 140,000 in 1976, however, to 99,900 last year.

High populations of blue and ruffed grouse throughout forested regions in Oregon in recent years have stimulated considerable interest in hunting this forest dweller. A record of 31,200 hunters took 118,400 grouse in 1977 compared with a good harvest of 80,900 grouse by 26,700 hunters the previous year.

Cool night weather in late August triggered an early migration of doves and band-tailed pigeons from Oregon and when the season opened on September 1, the summer populations had dwindled sharply. Two hundred six thousand doves and 66,300 pigeons were bagged before the birds migrated south. In 1976, 179,800 doves and 50,000 pigeons were taken.

Waterfowl

The forecast of a small decrease in the size of the fall flight of ducks from Canada was quite apparent in Oregon as hunters reported poorer hunting and fewer birds taken last winter than during the 1976 season. Poor hunting weather along with a recorded 20 percent decline in wintering birds resulted in a drop in the duck harvest from 634,000 to 529,000.

Production of most species of arctic nesting geese, primarily snows, cacklers, and white-fronts, was significantly reduced and this decrease was reflected in much lower hunter success. Only the dusky Canada goose, which breeds in southeastern Alaska and winters in western Oregon, had above normal production. Hunters enjoyed fair hunting in spite of lower populations and poor hunting weather and bagged 51,500 geese. In 1976, which was one of the two best goose hunting seasons on record, hunters bagged 70,900 geese. □

MAY 1978

1977 GAME BIRD HARVEST

OREGON WILDLIFE

Counties By Region	Pheasants		Mt. & Valley Quail		Chukar Partridge		Blue & Ruffed Grouse		Mourning Dove		Band-tailed Pigeon		Hunters		Waterfowl Duck		Goose	
	Hunters	Harvest	Hunters	Harvest	Hunters	Harvest	Hunters	Harvest	Hunters	Harvest	Hunters	Harvest	Hunters	Harvest	Hunters	Harvest	Hunters	Harvest
Benton.....	1,447	2,426	807	3,009			572	1,336	433	2,791	345	1,667	2,828	16,263	1,336			
Clackamas.....	2,515	6,254	1,214	9,504			1,661	3,806	703	5,302	452	910	1,469	9,905	0			
Clatsop.....	88	0	44	132			787	2,294	75	0	634	4,361	1,213	14,401	199			
Columbia.....	454	890	271	1,420			1,176	5,592	258	793	587	2,581	3,069	56,918	3,975			
Lane.....	3,032	5,973	3,188	18,014	122	154	4,412	18,512	1,194	12,969	943	5,813	4,115	22,300	1,068			
Lincoln.....	0	0	445	3,021			663	4,978	0	0	733	8,722	959	6,649	86			
Linn.....	2,257	3,148	1,835	9,293			1,680	4,535	1,075	11,641	503	2,881	2,252	15,106	243			
Marion.....	3,538	6,557	1,182	6,545			1,310	2,866	1,023	8,682	301	588	3,346	21,305	1,590			
Multnomah.....	517	721	151	454			107	107	333	2,784	119	195	3,296	25,580	2,984			
Polk.....	2,220	4,090	1,327	5,321			790	2,353	784	5,771	435	4,023	3,733	14,524	6,657			
Tillamook.....	0	0	195	837			843	2,667	32	63	654	4,870	1,720	19,689	0			
Washington.....	2,229	3,128	756	3,446			650	3,215	955	4,902	702	2,902	1,804	18,186	193			
Yamhill.....	1,593	2,920	1,282	6,193			917	2,111	496	2,357	170	1,079	1,422	4,769	108			
NORTHWEST.....	36,107		67,189		154		54,372		58,055		40,592			245,595	18,439			
Coos.....	111	164	763	4,554			587	2,049	75	251	994	8,907	2,201	22,464	0			
Curry.....	76	0	366	1,657			421	1,285	0	0	352	2,325	515	6,810	108			
Douglas.....	851	1,743	2,972	22,450			3,365	10,187	608	6,164	1,267	6,570	2,367	23,544	72			
Jackson.....	3,988	9,044	2,712	17,921	202	463	1,943	4,613	1,940	32,028	515	2,557	2,096	9,270	135			
Josephine.....	410	704	637	5,758			326	315	270	3,295	527	2,788	408	1,790	0			
SOUTHWEST.....	11,655		52,340		463		18,449		41,738		23,147			63,878	315			
Crook.....	554	1,278	629	3,851			302	1,114	421	1,830			1,075	8,360	221			
Deschutes.....	215	120	743	9,032	354	650	183	164	936	11,840			2,143	4,072	405			
Hood River.....	183	222	132	351	0	0	322	1,028	87	1,756	75	176	202	780	72			
Jefferson.....	1,265	2,315	489	2,962	386	719	32	32	674	6,582			591	2,066	580			
Klamath.....	3,574	6,990	1,000	6,283	374	1,786	592	777	976	15,773	131	1,800	12,197	102,800	14,459			
Sherman.....	1,296	5,035	815	3,351	1,513	6,412	0	0	404	6,514			1,272	5,259	6,781			
Wasco.....	2,057	5,313	1,082	7,212	1,399	7,110	239	662	955	14,805	119	558	829	1,753	693			
CENTRAL.....	21,273		33,042		16,966		3,777		59,100		2,534			125,090	23,211			
Baker.....	2,037	6,064	990	7,498	2,778	18,388	1,203	4,380	182	2,828			1,571	5,173	179			
Gilliam.....	139	660	215	2,430	407	2,830	0	0	32	159			246	456	72			
Grant.....	358	1,322	787	6,155	609	1,935	929	2,947	119	932			528	1,135	207			
Morrow.....	2,290	7,061	1,027	3,439	1,997	9,831	607	1,400	151	0			1,186	2,400	428			
Umatilla.....	8,034	30,166	2,827	15,173	1,517	6,795	2,136	12,700	1,464	18,653			3,059	17,732	1,038			
Union.....	1,910	5,122	622	4,492	551	2,491	1,669	9,163	433	2,922			1,322	8,902	271			
Walla..	566	1,176	327	1,627	719	2,728	1,831	9,222	44	176			552	2,157	144			
Wheeler.....	302	885	693	5,110	951	4,996	95	32	193	4,477			396	603	207			
NORTHEAST.....	52,456		45,924		49,994		39,844		30,147					38,558	2,546			
Harney.....	561	2,405	517	5,914	1,300	6,489			107	1,364			1,118	5,058	2,236			
Lake.....	927	2,464	561	6,742	232	1,247	302	875	467	8,159			4,203	22,441	3,112			
Malheur.....	9,449	53,726	3,917	32,121	4,402	24,567	183	1,045	890	7,578			3,411	28,393	1,626			
SOUTHEAST.....	58,595		44,777		32,303		1,920		17,101					55,892	6,974			
STATE TOTAL	*56,871	180,086	*34,642	243,272	*19,015	99,880	*31,203	118,362	*18,064	206,141	*10,287	66,273	*57,262	529,013	51,485			

*State total omits duplication of hunters hunting in more than one county.

THIS AND THAT

compiled by Ken Durbin

ON MEN AND MOVING WATER

"I don't know why I fish or why other men fish, except that we like it and it makes us think and feel. But I do know that if it were not for the strong, quick life of rivers, for their sparkle in the sunshine, for the cold grayness of them under rain and the feel of them about my legs as I set my feet down hard on rocks or sand or gravel, I should fish less often. A river is never quite silent; it can never, of its very nature, be quite still; it is never quite the same from one day to the next. It has its own life and its own beauty, and the creatures it nourishes are alive and beautiful also. Perhaps fishing is, for me, only an excuse to be near rivers. If so, I'm glad I thought of it."

Roderick L. Haig-Brown
A River Never Sleeps

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DE-OILING BIRDS

The safest and most effective methods for treating oiled birds are detailed in a new manual published by the American Petroleum Institute.

Written by the International Bird Rescue Research Center, Berkeley, California, with a grant by the API, the 35-page manual, *Saving Oiled Seabirds*, provides information for volunteers seeking to assist in waterfowl rescue operations.

The manual provides volunteers with illustrated step-by-step guidance on how best to collect, transport, treat and clean birds with oil-soiled plumage. The procedures recommended are based on seven years' research with thousands of oiled birds, extensive tests and evaluations of different techniques and cleaning agents, and consultations with scientists and veterinarians in the U.S. and abroad.

Single copies of the manual are available free by writing Distribution Services, American Petroleum Institute, 2101 L Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20037. Additional copies in quantities of less than 100 are priced at 35 cents each. There are special discounts on quantities of more than 100.

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QUICKENING THE SNAIL'S PACE

The French government has asked scientists to find a way to hasten breeding and growth of escargot or snails which are now threatened with extinction in France because of human consumption, predators, and insecticides. Scientists will try to decrease or eliminate the 3½-month hibernation period by changing humidity and temperature, allowing predator-free, scientific breeding in laboratories.

Conservation News

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STRANGE PROPOSAL OF THE BIRD KIND

The Taiei Company Ltd. of Tokyo has told the United States government that it is in the market for a new food source from America — sparrows! The company "wishes to buy whatever quantity, preferably 20 gram, an American firm can offer at regular intervals." In case we're short of know-how, Taiei is ready to "visit us to give guidance on how to catch small birds and how to process them into frozen food." When asked about the request, a Commerce Department spokeswoman replied, "That's the most incredible thing I've ever heard of." She added that no American interest had yet been shown.

Audubon Econotes

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A TUBULAR PUZZLE

In the Pacific waters around the Galapagos Islands, excited scientists have discovered a colony of previously unknown "tube worms" which lack any visible body openings or means of feeding, digesting, and breathing. Also amazing to the discoverers is that the worms flourish in water saturated with poisonous hydrogen sulfide. The bluish worms, named for the tube-like shell they secrete around themselves, have puzzled scientists at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History, where dead specimens are being examined. Museum officials theorize that the worm is nourished by bacteria which thrive on the hydrogen sulfide.

Conservation News

JUST TO BE ON THE SAFE SIDE

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, responsible for protecting endangered and threatened species, is skeptical about the existence of the Bigfoot and Loch Ness monsters, yet has had the two creatures formally described and named in a recognized scientific publication, as required for protection under the Endangered Species Act, should they be discovered. Officials worry that undisputed proof of existence of "Nessiteras rhombopteryx" or "Sasquatch" or any strange species will draw throngs of curiosity seekers and hopeful captors, creating panic, mass confusion and possibly endangering the creature. Though Bigfoot and Nessie may remain legends, scientists believe there are as yet undiscovered species of birds and mammals in remote areas, with limited populations, and want them to be assured of protection.

Conservation News

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OWL BIBLIOGRAPHY

For those who give a hoot, the first worldwide bibliography on owls will soon be available. The book, "A Working Bibliography of the Order of Strigiformes (Aves) From World Literature", is being produced by the National Wildlife Federation's Raptor Information Center.

The publication will contain more than 7,000 entries — nearly all from scientific journals — on the 20 species of owls in the United States and Canada, and 133 species in the world. The Federation is sponsoring the publication to provide scientists and wildlife experts with a comprehensive guide to scientific literature pertaining to owls.

The bibliography will include sections on literature searched, owls of the world, common names of owls in selected foreign languages, available computerized search services, and data banks. Individual references will be computerized and cross-referenced by category of information, scientific names, and geographic location.

For more information on how to obtain a copy, write the Raptor Information Center, National Wildlife Federation, 1412 - 16th Street NW, Washington, D. C. 20036.

MAY 1978

An Ounce of Prevention

by Leon W. Murphy
Director, Fish and Wildlife Habitat Management
U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Region

There is a spotted owl named *Strix occidentalis caurina*. Strix and his mate live in a 250-year-old stand of Douglas fir. Several of these giant "old-growth" trees per acre reach high through a 100-year old understory in the home range that Strix glides silently through as he hunts for flying squirrels, mice and wood rats to feed his mate while she huddles over the two eggs in the nest.

Strix is a lucky bird. He and his family live in an area of Oregon which is undisturbed by human civilization. The dark, old reaches of the mature forest contain many dead, decadent, and rotting trees, and many small critters are available to him on his nighttime foraging flights. A huge Douglas fir provides the deformed trunk with a limb-covered niche some 20 feet below its 210-foot high crown, an ideal spot for his family nest high above the forest floor.

Because the forest stand he occupies is thick and has a canopy which closes almost completely some 150 feet above the damp duff on the ground, he and his mate are reasonably safe from natural predators which occupy more open forests.

Strix is a lucky bird. The man who saw him that day in 1972, sitting unafraid on a low limb, blinking his eyes, was a wildlife biologist. Another human might have knocked him from his perch with a limb or rock, a fate some of his other, also gentle, relatives undoubtedly have experienced.

The biologist, who walked below him, took his picture and searched until he found the very limb on which Strix's mate sat on the nest, was a wildlife research biologist from Oregon State University.

Dedicated to his work and sensitive to the fact that "old-growth" forest stands are being cut rapidly for their highly valuable wood products, the research biologist began an almost one-man campaign to alert forest managers to the fact that Strix and his relatives must have this special

OREGON WILDLIFE

habitat if they are going to survive. Strix doesn't know it, but his species is listed by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife as "threatened" in the State of Oregon.

The biologist found sensitive ears in a group of fellow biologists from five state and federal agencies who call themselves the "Oregon Inter-agency Endangered Species Task Force." This group, collectively represents the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Oregon State University. Its purpose is to prevent, if possible, any fish or wildlife species which inhabits federally-managed land in the State of Oregon from being depleted to the level that would cause it to be placed on national threatened or endangered species lists.

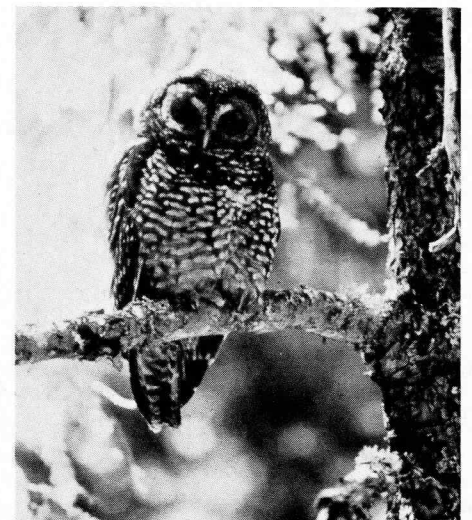
Further studies by Oregon State University researchers have revealed that Strix and his relatives have rather restrictive habitat needs. Big old trees, a two-layered understory, a nearly-closed forest canopy, and all these requirements in a minimum size of about 300 acres for each nesting pair must be met.

Strix is a lucky bird. In late 1977, after several years of meetings, discussions, and analysis of the latest inventory information of spotted owl populations and remaining old-growth stands, the Task Force recommended to the Regional Forester of the U.S. Forest Service and the State Director of the Bureau of Land Management that habitat be maintained to support 380 pairs of spotted owls on federal land in Oregon. The philosophy of the recommendation was that plant diversity should be maintained and that management options should be kept open on selected patches of the forest which still contain "old-growth" stands. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure — particularly when the cure involves replacing tree stands which are 250 years old, or more.

In February 1978, Regional Forester Dick Worthington and State Director Murl Storms agreed that management on National Forests and Bureau of Land Management lands in Oregon should provide habitat for 290 and 90 pairs of spotted owls, respectively, as well as the many other animal species which occupy the same unique "old-growth" habitat. The final determination of location and number of areas providing suitable habitat for Strix and his kin will not be known until the land management plans for these areas are completed through the time-consuming environmental statement and public involvement process.

Strix is a lucky bird. Well — at least somewhat lucky. Strix will never again find his beloved "old-growth" habitat as plentiful as it was 100 years ago, nor even as plentiful as it is today. He can, however, be consoled by the fact there is now a plan to provide enough suitable habitat to ensure that his species will have a place to live and reproduce in Oregon without fear of extinction — thanks to a persistent wildlife research biologist, cooperative inter-agency Task Force action, and decisions by top federal administrators who recognize the value of vegetative and animal diversity on the lands they manage.

(Editor's note: A statewide spotted owl plan calls for protecting 400 pairs of owls including the 380 pairs mentioned in this article. The remaining 20 spotted owl pairs will be found on other federal, state, county and private lands.)□



"Strix"

Allan Kelly Receives National Honor

Allan Kelly has been named to receive the American Motors Conservation Award for 1978. He is among 18 men and four women from 14 states to be so honored.

The awards have been presented each year by American Motors since 1954 to professional and nonprofessional conservationists for dedicated efforts in the field of renewable natural resources.

Kelly, a Portland insurance broker, is serving his ninth year on the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission but his active participation in conservation matters goes back much further than that.

In naming Kelly for the award, the American Motors Company called him one of the most knowledgeable lay conservationists in America. "Mr. Kelly exemplifies the degree of citizen involvement that is so important in fostering sound management principles in state resource affairs. Whether working through organizations or as a representative of the state, he has made deep and lasting contributions over many years to Oregon's conservation programs."

Kelly has been active in efforts to stop commercial harvest of steelhead in Oregon, to prevent repeal of the state land use planning statute, has battled for equitable funding of a state nongame wildlife management program, was active in Oregon's statewide litter bag program, and has



Allan Kelly

been a driving force in the Izaak Walton League and other conservation organizations in the state.

He is known as a "grass roots" commissioner with a close rapport with many divergent organizations and a talent for enlisting support for his many conservation interests.

Since inception of the American Motors award program, 458 individuals and 52 groups have been honored for promoting sound conservation. □

Top Hunter Ed Instructor Named

Harold P. Eberlein of Klamath Falls is the recipient of the Oregon State Rifle and Pistol Association's "Class of the Year" award for hunter education.

This is the first year for the presentation of this award, and Eberlein's program is a deserving one. He was certified as an instructor in 1969 and has been teaching actively ever since.

Eberlein's classes go beyond the minimum requirements set by state law for completion by hunters under the age of 18. Some of the key features of his classes include: (1) class size limited to 14-16 students, (2) seven two-hour sessions are required, (3) participation by at least one parent is mandatory, (4) a field trip is included to recreate actual gun handling situations, (5) registration cards are typed to insure accuracy and legibility, and (6) live firing is included in the program and students participate in the National Rifle Association awards program.

Eberlein's class was selected from class descriptions received from instructors around the state. He will serve as a member of the board that selects the 1978 award recipient.

An award plaque was presented to Eberlein at the OSR&PA annual meeting. He is first on the list of those recipients whose names will be engraved on an attractive permanent award provided by the OSR&PA that will hang in the Portland office of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. □

BIG GAME *continued*

Bowhunting

Bowhunters had a 30-day early season for deer and elk, a 24-day late season for deer and a 13-day late season for elk. The law again required elk hunters to select between rifle hunting or bow hunting when purchasing an elk tag. The elk bow tag was selected by 4,270 of the hunters and they reported taking 430 elk. A total of 19,610 hunters reported taking 3,060 deer.

A 16-day controlled buck antelope

season was also open to 200 bowhunters. One hundred fifty reported participating in the hunt but only one was successful in taking a buck.

The accompanying tables show results of the 1977 big game seasons. Estimates are based on projected information from questionnaires returned by hunters selected at random, from special controlled hunt surveys, and from report cards sent in by elk, bear, antelope, and cougar hunters. □



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