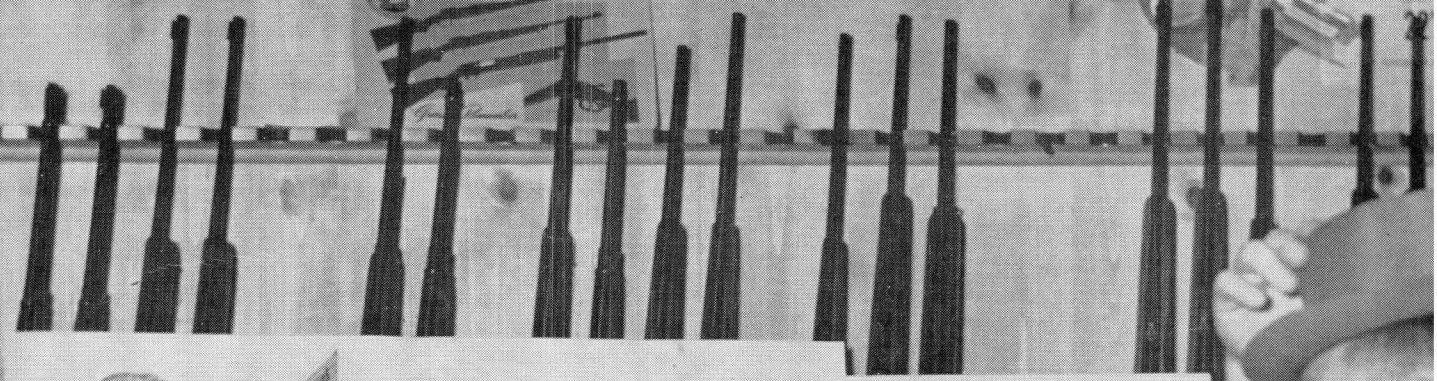


OREGON STATE
**GAME COMMISSION
BULLETIN**
SEPTEMBER, 1955

We Rent **RIFLES and SHOTGUNS.**

Gun on Our
PLAN



Be law abiding
Be careful with
Fire and Firearms

RESPECT RIGHTS AND
PROPERTY OF OTHERS

OBSERVE
RED HAT DAY
Sept. 23, 1955

**RED HAT DAY
PLEDGE**

I give my pledge:

- to be law abiding
- to respect the rights
and property of others
- to be careful with
fire and firearms

sign of a
Good Sportsman

wear yours on
RED HAT DAY
sept. 23





The Game Commission's annual training school for its personnel was held August 2, 3 and 4 at the E. E. Wilson Management Area near Corvallis. Besides the technical sessions on fish and game problems, the program included talks and discussions on state civil service, press relations, public speaking, safety measures for state installations and a mock trial and court put on by State Police representatives.

* * *

Copies of the 1955 hunting synopsis are now in the hands of license agents. An error, which slipped by in the proof-reading, occurs under the Hunter's Choice Deer Season. Although Gilliam county is listed as an exception from this season, it will be open to hunting for deer of either sex from October 15 to 21. Also inadvertently omitted from the synopsis is the regulation prohibiting use of rifles with caliber designation of less than .23 inch for deer. This is still in effect and in the Commission's legal order.

* * *

UNSPORTSMANLIKE—The person who drew an antelope tag last year but applied again this year knowing that by law he was not eligible to participate in the drawing. Several persons took a chance and applied anyway. Those whose numbers were drawn did not get their tags—their applications were disqualified. In the case of a party application, the partners lost out too. The drawing is conducted by electronic machine, which produces a list of the successful applicants in alphabetical order, all of whom are checked against those who received tags last year.

* * *

The Hart Mountain bighorn sheep are now in their new permanent home. First placed in a smaller temporary holding pen, the sheep are now in an enclosure surrounded by 4.64 miles of fence. It is difficult to determine the total area enclosed since it includes a complete canyon. However, the local game man's guess is that if he could flatten the area out, at least 1,000 acres would be involved.

The Story of Red Hat Day

Earlier this year, a group of sportsmen asked themselves, "What can we do to help assure better hunting in the future?"

They were concerned with the increasing reports of vandalism by hunters, the alarming incidence of fires caused by campers, the continuing "game hog" problem, the dangers of improperly handled firearms, and the tendency of Oregon landowners to close their lands to all sportsmen—knowing that only a small percentage of the people afield were to blame.

They took their query to friends among Oregon farmers, livestock operators, timbermen, governmental agencies and others concerned with the situation.

Objective discussions brought out two clear solutions to the problem:

1. *Control the actions of the hunter in the field by stricter law enforcement, restricted access, limited seasons and elaborate checking and patrolling plans;*
2. *Education of the general public and particularly sportsmen—on their outdoor responsibilities.*

The path ahead was clear. All agreed that if we are to continue to enjoy our outdoor pursuits in the traditional American way, then each must accept a share of responsibility for these opportunities. Each person afield should take it upon himself to see that nothing is done—by himself or others—to cause long-suffering landowners to post their property. All must take a hand in keeping the outdoors green, safe, clean and productive.

The outcome of the better hunting question was the formation of a "Red Hat Day" project committee in the Portland Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America.

The endorsement of virtually every major Oregon group concerned with the five points of the program was secured. When the idea was submitted to Governor Paul Patterson, he enthusiastically endorsed it, and appointed the five-man Red Hat Day Committee.

The Committee is representative of all groups concerned. Chairman L. C. Binford is a well-known sportsman who formerly headed the state division of the Izaak Walton League. John Amacher is not only a veteran state legislator, but is an active member of the Oregon Wildlife Federation. H. F. Thomas of the Valsitz Lumber Company has long been known for his knowledge of the problem of forest and range fires and for his hospitable treatment of hunters on Valsitz property. Ben Buisman, editor of the Oregon Grange Bulletin, brings to the Committee the farmer's viewpoint. He is also an enthusiastic sportsman. Committeeman Walter Holt manages the Pacific International Livestock Exposition and is a former agricultural extension agent.

After much consideration, the Committee selected the date of September 23, 1955, for the first observance of Red Hat Day. This is on a Friday, allowing participants to wear red hats to their place of work and on city streets, thus attracting a maximum amount of attention to the occasion. The day is eight days ahead of the opening of the gen-

(Continued on page 6)

Oregon State Game Commission Bulletin

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

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COVER PHOTO by Harold Smith

Backyard Blacktails

By MEL CUMMINGS, District Game Agent

The black-tailed deer is taking full advantage of the expanding prosperity in western Oregon. Foodwise, the table is being spread for him in all areas. The current demand for strawberries has stimulated landowners, especially in Columbia, Marion and Washington counties, to clear and plant to strawberries countless acres of brushland adjacent to ideal black-tail habitat. Orchardists in Yamhill and Hood River counties are planting succulent young fruit trees in the fringe areas close to excellent deer escape cover, and grain farmers and cane-berry growers are extensively utilizing previously uncultivated stumplands throughout the Willamette Valley fringe areas.

Although the blacktail is associated with the forested and burned-over areas, he does surprisingly well in other environments, too. In addition to making himself at home in the area adjoining cultivated lands, the blacktail is now finding it to his liking to inhabit the timber and brushland throughout the valley floor where cultivated truck garden crops such as carrots, beans, lettuce, and other vegetable crops are handy for plush living. Home gardens along the McKenzie River and other streams in Lane county are also being utilized. Recently, though probably not by choice, planted fir, cedar, and hemlock trees have been added to his diet.

In addition to providing feed, there are several other factors stimulated by prosperity that have been contributing to the blacktail's well being. Accelerated timber harvest and clear cutting practices on all forested lands are opening up vast areas of previously unproductive deer habitat. These openings grow up quickly with many types of brush, providing feed as well as excellent cover where the deer are relatively safe during hunting season.

Improved methods of predator control, in those counties participating in predatory animal control programs, have aided in reducing the coyote population. With few exceptions, this predator is being kept at a reduced level.

Better game law enforcement and controlled access on the vast areas of cut-over lands during closed seasons has substantially reduced the black-tail's hazards.

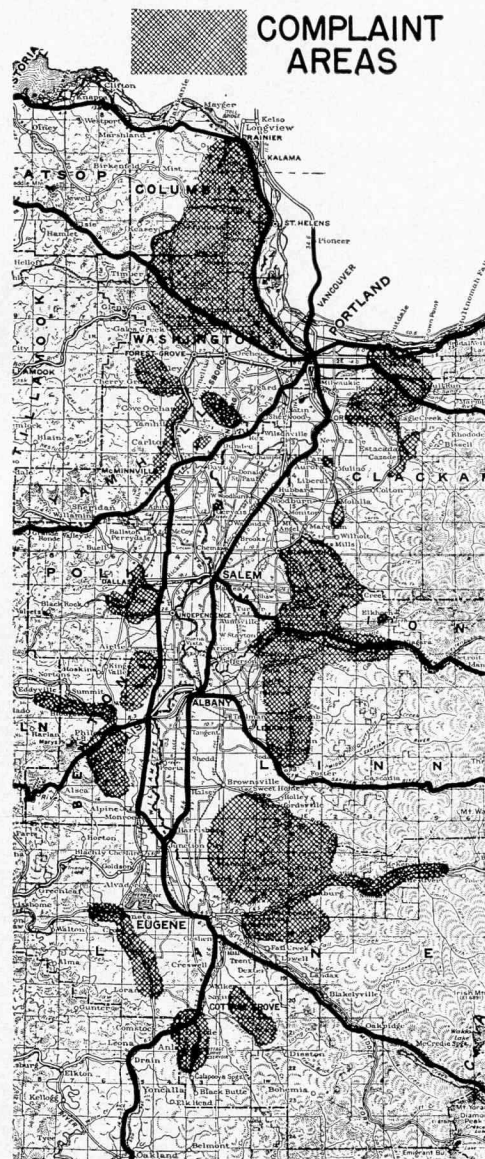
The prosperity of the hunter himself has been one of the chief factors contributing to the increase of western Oregon's deer. This prosperity has provided the means for thousands of hunters to make a lengthy trip away from home, leaving the deer in their own back yard practically unmolested. Approximately 67 per cent or 144,000 of Oregon's 215,000 deer hunters live in

Multnomah, Columbia, and the Willamette Valley counties. Yet, according to the 1954 deer kill records, only 41,000 hunters, or under 30 per cent of them, hunted in these counties. The 1954 deer kill record strongly emphasizes this trend. The total deer kill in Oregon increased from 105,000 in 1953 to 112,000 in 1954. The blacktail kill decreased from 41,000 to 35,000 during this same period.

However, there are many indications that this bubble of prosperity for the blacktail has reached its bursting point. In the Willamette Valley, Hood River, Wasco, Columbia and Multnomah counties approximately 280 complaints of deer damage to agricultural crops were received by the Oregon Game Commission during the past year. At the July regulations hearing of the Game Commission, private timber companies and timber associations that own in excess of 2,000,000 acres of forest land in the south Willamette area requested aid in reducing blacktail numbers on lands where tree production is being limited by deer damage to young trees. The State Board of Forestry also requested aid in reducing blacktail populations on areas being rehabilitated in the Tillamook Burn.

In the Tillamook Burn an extensive survey this spring by the State Board of Forestry on 21,000 acres of planted lands revealed that deer damage was serious. This consists of deer browsing the tips of the branches and terminal buds of young Douglas fir, cedar and hemlock trees. In addition to the browsing, newly planted areas suffer from the deer pulling the trees from the ground as well as from browsing. Most of the serious tree damage in the Cascade Range occurs in Linn and

(Continued on page 4)



BACKYARD BLACKTAILS

(Continued from page 3)

Lane counties at elevations under 3,000 feet where the deer concentrate during the winter and early spring months. In eastern Lane county a partial survey shows that a minimum of 30,000 acres are being excessively browsed by deer. These young trees are not a preferred food, and contain little food value, but they are eaten when other more desirable food is gone. Consequently, it appears that the blacktail's own increase, or response to prosperity, is working to his detriment. Where tree damage occurs there is evidence of a food shortage and winter losses are beginning to occur.

The 1955 deer hunting season was liberalized in an attempt to solve some of these existing problems as hunting these blacktail is a much more logical means of harvesting them than having them starve or having landowners kill them by permit to save their crops. However, the solution lies with the sportsman's acceptance of this challenge to bag a deer in his own back yard. Any hunter living in the Willamette Valley is within 30 miles of blacktail hunting. Yes, even in Portland, blacktails are invading the city limits, and any hunter could get out before breakfast for a quick hunt and a little recreation even on a work day.

If you normally go to eastern Oregon to hunt deer and can't get away this year, don't give up in despair. In Mult-

nomah county problem deer exist on Sauvies Island, adjacent to berry fields on Skyline Road, up the Dixie Mountain road off Highway 30, and in the area east of Troutdale.

Columbia county has crop damage areas throughout it from Watson Road at the Multnomah-Columbia county line off Highway 30 to Clatskanie. Some of the roads leaving U. S. Highway 30 that go into strawberry lands where deer are plentiful are Church Road out of Warren, Canann Road at Deer Island, Tide Creek and Shiloh Basin roads west of Deer Island, Fern Hill Road at Rainier, and the Apiary Market Road five miles west of Rainier. The Pisgah Home area out of Scappoose is also readily available.

In Washington county problem deer exist up the Pumpkin Ridge Road out of North Plains, up Dairy Creek out of Mountindale, in the Scofield District off State Highway 47 and in the area west of Banks, Gales Creek, Kansas City, Gaston and Cherry Grove.

If you live or hunt in Yamhill county blacktails are in need of being harvested around the orchard lands in the Chehalis Mountains, in the areas west of Dundee, and Cove Orchard, and in the foothills west of McMinnville.

In Clackamas county you can find problem deer south of Molalla on the Wilhoit Springs and Maple Grove School roads; along the Bluff Road north of Sandy; east of Carver on the north side of the Clackamas River; and

in the vicinity of Highlands, Colton and in the Garfield district east of Estacada.

Marion county offers hunting up the Crooked Finger Road out of Scotts Mills; in the Silverton hills; up the Powers Creek Loop Road, and up the Fern Ridge Road from Stayton to Mehama.

Farther south in the valley, in Polk county, the problem areas are the foothill orchard and cane berry areas from Monmouth to Dallas and Falls City.

In Benton county the area west of U. S. Highway 99 north of Corvallis to the county line; the Blodgett area along Highway 20; and the foothill area from Philomath to Monroe are fertile hunting grounds.

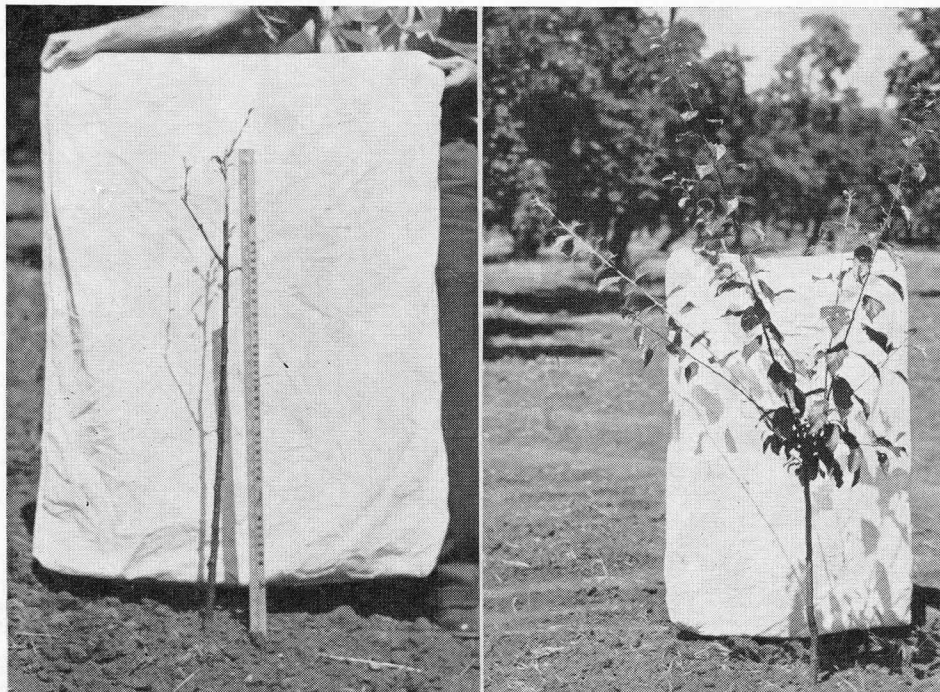
Lane county includes the large timber companies being affected by problem deer on their tree farms. These timber companies realize that deer are one of the crops produced on tree farms, and they believe in multiple use of forest lands including recreation. Consequently you will be welcome on these areas although you may have to check in and out a controlled gate. Booth Kelly's tree farms are the Row River farm; the south McKenzie tree farm between the McKenzie River and Little Fall Creek; and the Wendling tree farm between the McKenzie River and the Mohawk River. Weyerhaeuser's tree farm is between the Mohawk River and the Calapooya River; and Fisher's tree farm is northwest of Marcola. Garden crop damage also occurs from Elmira to Noti and south to Lorane and around Cottage Grove and Dorena reservoirs.

In Linn county cane berries receive the most deer use and areas around Berlin, Lacombe, Scio, and up the north Santiam River should be hunted.

If you insist on at least a short trip out of the valley to hunt blacktails, why not try Hood River or Wasco county? In Hood River county all of the fringe land around the Hood River Valley where orchards and some strawberries are grown contain blacktails that just aren't getting harvested. In Wasco county the grain and alfalfa land bordering the foothills from the Warm Springs Indian Reservation north is a problem area.

If you take a chance at blacktail hunting, you'll find a worthy opponent. After the first barrage opening morning, the hunting usually gets considerably more difficult, and you should prepare yourself for snap shots and quick thinking. The blacktail's adaptability accounts for his presence close to population centers. Descriptions of

(Continued on page 7)



Orchards in Hood River county. Tree on the left unprotected showing heavy browse by deer. Tree on the right protected by the cage.

Fifty Years of National Forests



Past and Future

By WILLIAM W. HUBER

In Charge, Wildlife Management
U. S. Forest Service, Region 6

IN celebrating the Golden Anniversary of the Forest Service this year, it is timely to state that for fifty years our national forests have been open to the hunter and fisherman, and only during periods of high forest fire danger or in special use areas has your Uncle Sam closed the forests to the public. The national forests in Oregon are today the homes of many big game animals and provide much of the water that makes trout and salmon fishing such a splendid attraction.

If we look back to 1905 we might be surprised at the lack of big game animals on the national forests. Only small herds of black-tailed deer and Olympic elk roamed the virgin Douglas fir forest of the coastal range. Mule deer and Rocky Mountain elk were few in numbers, victims of the hide hunters and hungry pioneers. White-tailed deer, antelope, and bighorn sheep were about gone. Only a few scattered bones and skulls marked the passage of the buffalo, which once inhabited eastern Oregon in considerable abundance but were vanquished by a hard winter probably about the time the wagon trains were trekking into Oregon.

Commercial catches of salmon in the Columbia River were down in 1905 from the peak year of 1883, but our waters had not as yet been barricaded by dams or contaminated with industrial pollution, sewage and silt.

Ranger Sam

With this introduction, let us jump into the past and spend a day with Ranger Sam in the year 1905. Sam is on

his horse, his walking office, and he is carrying his files in his saddle bags. As Sam jogs along, he thinks of his everyday problems even as you and I.

"Let me see now, I make \$75.00 a month and have to feed myself and family as well as a couple of horses. That's going to make it pretty tough sledding. Oh well, if I work real hard, I'll soon make district supervisor and that pays real money, \$90.00 a month. Whoa, horse, that looks like a deer track; haven't seen one in this area in some time. Now, let's see, I've got to open up that trail to Black Butte—some of them eastern dudes may want to ride up there. We sure get lots of visitors—three or four a year. Then I'd better check that forest fire and get the size. And I should look over that fence in Sunflower Flat and keep those horses out. That range is sure taking a beating. I wonder if we can prevent that trespass."

Ranger Sam took out his "bible," the Forest Service pocket-size use book

Mr. Huber has been in charge of wildlife management for Region 6 of the United States Forest Service since 1950. Just recently he has been promoted to the head office in Washington, D. C. to take charge of the Smoky Bear campaign.

During his service in Region 6, which includes Oregon, his department has worked in close cooperation with the Game Commission on problems of wildlife management.

and said, "Dang all these regulations! How do they expect a man to remember them?"

Ranger Herb

In 1955 Ranger Herb is sitting in his office. He has two assistants, one for fire, one for timber, and under them more assistants to handle sales and forest fires. Herb also has an engineering aide to help with road locations and a maintenance foreman and crew to keep up improvement such as roads, campgrounds, and lookout towers. In place of a small use book that can fit in your hand, he has a clerk to aid with the paper work and post currently the manuals that occupy a wide shelf in the bookcase. He has lots of plans: improvement plans, fire plans, timber-sale plans, range plans, and training plans. Safety reports, personnel reports, fiscal reports, and accident reports take up a lot of the ranger's time. Yet Herb still finds time to do a pretty good job in land management. His timber sales are coordinated with other uses and he protects meadows whenever possible from logging damage. He is alert to the protection of wildlife in road construction and timber-sale work, and he strives to apply the multiple-use principle of land management to all resources. In calculating forage capacity for livestock, a definite percentage of the forage is first allocated to big game, and seasons of livestock use are planned to prevent damage to browse by too late fall cattle grazing.

A great deal of credit for the interest
(Continued on page 6)

FIFTY YEARS OF NATIONAL FORESTS

(Continued from page 5)

Ranger Herb has in wildlife goes to his friends in the State Game Commission. Herb knows that these men are as well trained in the field of wildlife management as he is in forest management. Many of the "game boys" went to college with him. Some hold doctors' and masters' degrees in their respective fields. Herb looks to them for guidance in game matters and they look to Herb for help in improving wildlife habitat. They believe that the national forests are a guide to good land management statewide, and an example of how wildlife habitat can be provided without interfering with the development of the other resources.

Perhaps before we let Ranger Herb go to work, we should let him stargaze to the year 2005. He sees a smaller ranger district with the ranger again working as the "Lone Ranger." The ranger of 2005 will rely on television to check smokes for him and a central fire dispatcher to send a tank type of helicopter to put out the fire. This helicopter will be remotely controlled and will spray the fire with a fire-suppressing gas.

Other electronically controlled devices will aid the ranger in estimating tree volume, calculating cull and rot, counting cattle, and in traffic counts for recreational use. The ranger will be more concerned with land use management than today. He will be an expert in soils, plant ecology, and trained in the correlation and interrelationship of plants, soil, and water. Wildlife will be utilized more fully under the multiple-use principles and an informed public will have a greater understanding of wildlife management. Wildlife habitat work will be given greater recognition by the Forest Service in 2005 and the wildlife crop will come from lands and waters that have been treated to produce the optimum amount of fish and game.

Greater status will be given by the public to the wildlife field agents of the Oregon State Game Commission. More scientific methods of determining game use and land potential will permit greater production of wildlife. With fuller use of all lands, federal, state and private, for wildlife, a game bird or fish in every pot and a deer in every freezer can be a reality in 2005—just fifty years away.



Channel catfish caught on June 27, 1955 by Ray Spangle, Pendleton, at the mouth of the Umatilla River. The fish weighed 11½ pounds and was 27 inches long. Mr. Spangle also caught another one the same day, weighing 4½ pounds.

CHANNEL CATS CAUGHT

The channel catfish, which was introduced into a tributary of the Snake River in Idaho some years ago, has apparently become established in the Snake River and is being caught in increasing numbers in the Columbia River. A few channel cats have been caught in the Columbia River near Portland and a number have been recorded at Bonneville Dam. They appear

to be present in greatest numbers in the Ontario-Weiser region of the Snake River. Good catches have also been made at the mouth of the Owyhee River and the mouth of the Imnaha River. The channel cat is presently being studied by the Oregon State Game Commission and it is believed that this excellent game fish will eventually provide much angling in the Snake and lower Columbia rivers.

THE STORY OF RED HAT DAY

(Continued from page 2)

eral deer hunting season. It will allow all hunters to participate in their communities before some of them take off on extended hunting trips.

Committee, staff, advisors and sportsmen agreed that five major points should be emphasized in the forthcoming experiment in cooperation. They are:

1. Better sportsmanship.
2. Respect for the rights and property of others.
3. Firearms safety.
4. Observance of the game laws.
5. Prevention of range and forest fires.

This was later simplified to the Red Hat Day pledge:

- I give my pledge
to be law abiding
to respect the rights and property
of others
to be careful with fire and firearms.

When the vast scope of the Red Hat Day objectives became evident, the Committee then called upon the Governor to appoint chairmen in each Oregon

county. These local chairmen were carefully screened and selected for their knowledge of some phase of the problem and for their demonstrated ability as community leaders.

As much as financing by voluntary contributions will allow, every possible means of calling attention to Red Hat Day principles will be taken. Each Oregon sportsman will be asked to wear a red hat or a red hat button on September 23. They will be given a chance to sign the Red Hat Day pledge. And all Oregonians will be asked to show greater respect and appreciation for the outdoors, the people who own or administer the land and for its wildlife inhabitants.

A strain of Hungarian partridge imported from Denmark is now ready for trial in Oregon. Early in August, 265 one and two-year-old birds raised at the E. E. Wilson Management Area were released in Marion county. Because rainfall and weather conditions in Denmark are similar to those of the Willamette Valley, it is hoped that these birds will do better than other strains of Huns previously tried out.

MIGRATORY WATERFOWL SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS SET FOR 1955

Waterfowl regulations set last month by the federal government provide for an open season in Oregon for ducks, geese and coot from October 22 to January 9.

Jacksnipe season will be from November 27 through December 11. For brant the season is the same as last year, December 1 through February 10.

Shooting will be allowed on opening day at one-half hour before sunrise instead of at noon as before.

Bag limits are the same as last year. For ducks, it is 9 a day, 15 in possession, including at least 3 widgeons or pintails. Not more than 1 wood duck and 1 hooded merganser may be had in possession.

The daily and possession bag limit for geese remains at 6 birds including not more than 3 of the dark species. However, in Yamhill, Polk, Benton, Linn and Lane counties the bag limit on Canadas is reduced to 2 birds.

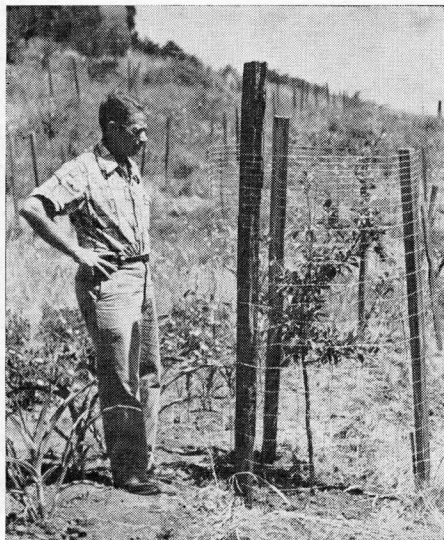
Other daily and possession bag limits are: brant, 3; jacksnipe, 8; and coot, 25.

The complete waterfowl regulations are being published in a separate pamphlet, copies of which will be available at license agencies after the middle of September.

BACKYARD BLACKTAILS

(Continued from page 4)

the preparations the Indians made for hunting blacktails show the respect they had for his wariness. They would eat no fish and smoke no tobacco the day before the hunt as these odors



Orchard in Washington county with protective tree cages installed around young fruit trees.

QUESTION BOX

QUES: Is there such a thing as "riparian rights" which allows fishermen to fish on private property within ten feet of the water's edge without first getting permission of the property owner?

ANS: No. Property owners adjacent to a nonnavigable stream own to the center of the stream. Hence one may not walk along the bank or even wade in the stream without committing a trespass on private property.

On navigable streams the state owns the bed and up to the ordinary high water mark of the stream. One may walk along the bank below such high water mark without committing a trespass on private property.

In the latter case, however, some caution should be exercised for the reason that the state, by legislative act and by state land board leases or grants, has conveyed in some instances either title or possession to private individuals in the bed and banks of the stream.

—O—

QUES: What is the minimum age limit for children to hunt game and what is the license requirement?

ANS: The present law does not

provide a minimum age limit. It is unlawful, however, for any child under the age of 14 years to hunt on lands, other than his own premises or those of a parent or legal guardian, unless he is accompanied by his parent or legal guardian.

A child under 14 years of age is not required to have a license except to hunt big game. Then he must pay the same fees for license and tags as his parents. He may not be legally issued a hunting license unless he is accompanied by his parent or guardian.

—O—

QUES: If I kill a deer, what do I have to do in order to give part of it away to a friend?

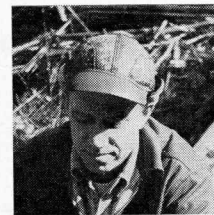
ANS: According to a law passed by the last legislature, if you give away a primal part of the carcass of a big game animal, you must attach a written record showing your name and address and the number of your big game tag. Your friend should keep this with the meat until it has been consumed or tagged with a Game Commission seal. "Primal part" means the shoulder, rib, loin, rump or hindquarters of each side of a big game animal.

were detected for great distances. On the morning of the hunt they rose early, bathed in a creek, rubbed themselves with herb leaves, washed out their mouth, drank lots of water, but ate no food. They dressed in loin cloths, but discarded other clothing including moccasins as it made too much noise in the brush. They observed the direction of the prevailing winds, the position of the sun, and took every precaution they could to give themselves every possible advantage in hunting. You might not wish to go to these extremes if bagging a deer isn't a life and death proposition with you. However, as most of these back yard deer inhabit relatively brushy land, caution in hunting cannot be overemphasized. For every step you take, look twice where you are going to step and three times around you. The blacktail has a sneaky habit of standing motionless and letting you walk by him unnoticed within 10 or 20 yards of your path.

If you prefer to hunt with a group of companions, beating the brush is an extremely successful method of hunting. Organized drives through patches of dense cover with hunters posted at

pre-arranged vantage points will produce good results. Last year a group of six hunters bagged five blacktails on the last day of the season using this method. Even the sixth hunter had a chance to fill his tag, but muffed it. How do I know? I was the sixth hunter.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Riding herd on his backyard blacktails might well be a full time job but Mel Cummings finds that there are plenty of other duties that fall to the lot of a

district game agent as well.

Mel has worked for the Game Commission since 1947, having various field assignments prior to his present position as game agent for the north Willamette district. He's a 1942 graduate of Oregon State College and served in the army from soon after graduation until 1946. Before joining the game department staff, he acquired experience at fur farming and taxidermy.

Western Mink

Mink are fairly common along most of the streams, lakes and coast line of Oregon; but not found in desert or waterless areas.



She is a devoted mother, though an aggressive, crafty killer. 4-12 kits are born in April or May. Until about 4 weeks old young are helpless and blind.

After 8 weeks, kits follow mother on hunts for food. Dens are usually near water in bank-burrows, hollow logs, or rocks.

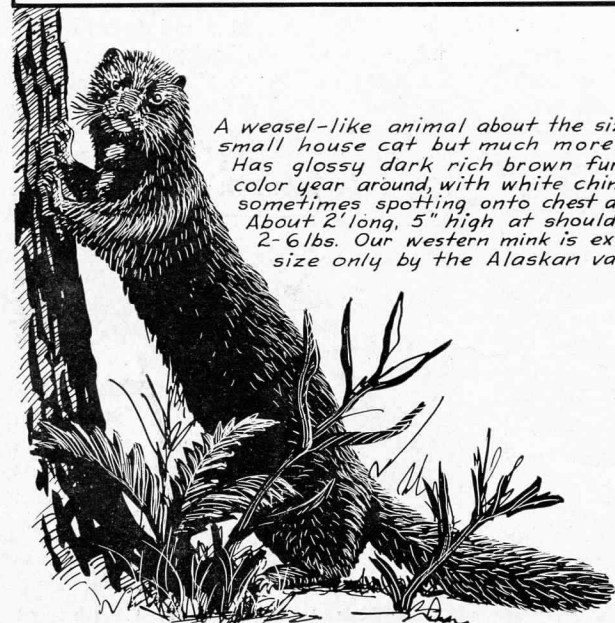


Harold Gomer Smith

On land, he hunts for rodents, eggs, birds and snakes. Not as expert a climber as his cousin the marten he sometimes climbs trees for eggs, birds or squirrels.



Strong, graceful swimmers, mink enjoy catching a trout, but are satisfied with frogs, crayfish, mussels and crustaceans. Choice food is muskrat. If possible, takes refuge in water when pursued. Next to man, Great Horned Owl is worst enemy.



A weasel-like animal about the size of a small house cat but much more slender. Has glossy dark rich brown fur the same color year around, with white chin patch sometimes spotting onto chest and belly. About 2' long, 5" high at shoulder, weighing 2-6 lbs. Our western mink is exceeded in size only by the Alaskan variety.



Mink farms started in the U.S. before Civil War where they were raised for catching rats in buildings, etc. After turn of century, mink became prized for fur garments; today, we find mink farms supplying the major portion of pelts used.

Oregon State Game Commission Bulletin

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