

OREGON STATE
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At the present time the Bulletin is circulated free of charge to anyone forwarding a written request.

the cover

Before construction of The Dalles dam, this picture of anglers fishing for salmon on the Columbia River near Celilo used to be a common sight. (Photo by Ron Shay)



Hearing on August 14 for Game Bird Regulations

The 1959 hunting regulations for waterfowl and upland game birds will be considered by the Game Commission at a hearing to be held August 14 at its Portland office. Final regulations will be adopted the same day.

The federal framework for regulations on waterfowl will be issued just prior to the Commission hearing and

will be available for consideration at that time. Outside dates for the waterfowl season and the number of days are established by the federal government. The Commission will then set the dates for the Oregon season within this framework.

Regulations for the trapping of fur-bearing animals also will be set at this meeting.

NEW RESEARCH DIVISION ESTABLISHED BY THE COMMISSION

The Game Commission's plan for a stepped-up research program went into effect last month with the establishment of a new division within its organizational structure to handle research in both the fish and game fields. The division will be headquartered at Oregon State College and will be under the direction of Dr. H. J. Rayner, formerly chief of the fishery division.

Transferred to the position of fishery division chief was C. J. Campbell, previously in charge of basin investigations.



Counts made during the first month of the Centennial Exposition indicated that the Game Commission exhibit is attracting approximately 50 per cent of the people visiting the Exposition.

The annual dove-call census completed earlier this year showed a substantial increase in doves heard and in doves seen. This year 711 doves were heard calling and 775 seen, compared to 501 heard and 473 seen on the same routes last year.

Forty-two bandtailed pigeons were banded this summer at the Nehalem banding station. Hunters are asked to

NEW COMMISSIONER APPOINTED

John P. Amacher of Winchester was appointed a member of the Game Commission by Governor Mark Hatfield upon expiration in July of the term of Kenneth G. Denman of Medford.

Mr. Amacher operates a motel and trailer sales business and has been prominent in conservation activities for many years. For two sessions he was a member of the legislature and served on the House game committee (chairman during one session). He is a member of the Douglas County Park Board and served as adviser to the Legislative Interim Committee on Fish and Game prior to the last session of the legislature.

watch for bands on pigeons as well as other game birds and report them to the Game Commission.

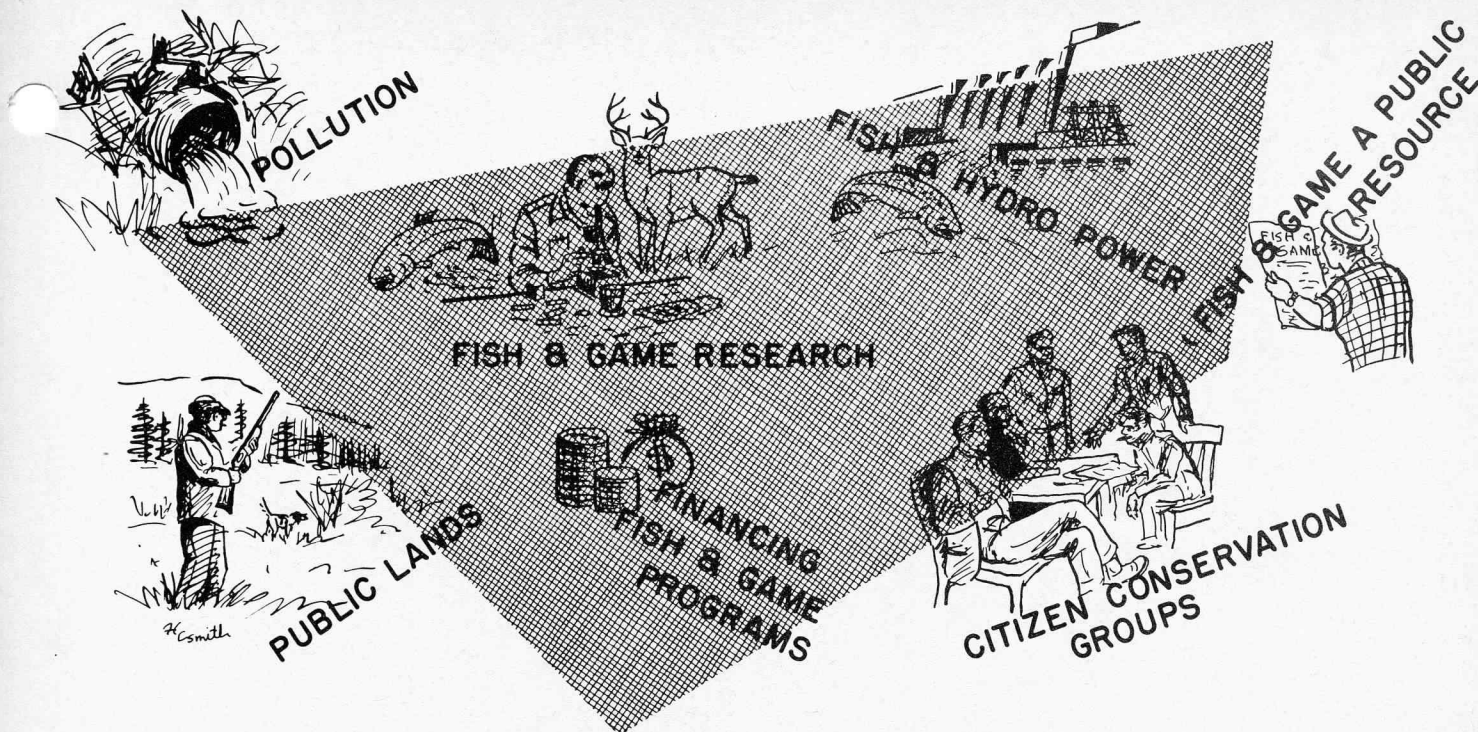
Examination of 44 of the 325 nest boxes installed on Sauvie Island revealed that 84 per cent were being utilized by wood ducks.

The coyote population in eastern Oregon has been increasing and the control program of the Fish and Wildlife Service is being stepped up in the areas of heaviest concentration.

Deadline for the filing of applications for the game unit deer hunt permits and antelope tags was on July 27. Persons interested in applying for the free permits on game unit elk hunts and for controlled deer tags (\$5 fee) in certain areas have until August 17 to file their applications.

Deer hunters are reminded that they may not enter the Silver Lake Unit to hunt buck deer unless they are successful in drawing a unit permit. The permit will then entitle the holder to kill either a buck or a doe.

Fishery agent on the Siletz reported an angler with a bullhead catfish this summer. This is the first known recovery of this species in the Siletz watershed.



The President's Address

P. W. Schneider

Director, Oregon State Game Commission

IT IS MY PRIVILEGE AND PLEASURE to welcome you to Portland, to the state of Oregon and to the Pacific Northwest. Although this Association is officially composed of the eleven western states and the province of British Columbia, I hope that at the conclusion of this session we can count on our two newest states — Alaska and Hawaii — as official members, and that at an early date the province of Alberta will become an additional and important part of our Association.

I want also to welcome the representatives of the numerous other agencies and organizations represented here today. We welcome the related agencies of government — federal, state, and local. Your activities in the resource affairs of the West are of keen and vital interest to us in the fish and wildlife field.

I want to extend to those of you representing citizen conservation groups a special welcome and to encourage your attendance throughout the period of this convention. We in Oregon are especially fortunate to enjoy the close association with our dedicated and active conservation organizations. You and your organizations hold a far more important place than I think you realize in making it possible for the official fish and game agen-

cies, not only in Oregon but throughout the western United States and Canada, to discharge the responsibilities associated with the proper management of our magnificent fish and game resources.

I want also to welcome the several representatives of private industry whose programs in land and water management bear such an important place in the future welfare of all our renewable natural resources, and of which fish and game represents either directly or indirectly an important part. The increasing recognition of the value of fish and game as a factor of serious consideration by agriculture and industry has been, I believe, particularly significant during the past decade and an encouraging development in land and water use programs of the West. The day is long past when we in one phase of resource work can proceed without close and cooperative association with other interests whose activities influence the public resource of fish and game.

In preparing this year's program, we have selected subjects which we believe will be of real interest and importance

NOTE:

This is main portion of address given by P. W. Schneider, President of the Western Association of State Game and Fish Commissioners, at the opening session of the 39th annual conference on June 29 in Portland.

to you but in so doing have, of necessity, had to pass over several important matters.

The general sessions will include comments in three fundamental fields important to this Association — policies with regard to both the national forests and our water resources and a report on national legislation.

To us in the West, the national forests hold a vast stake in habitat — both terrestrial and aquatic — essential for fish and game production and utilization. These important areas, which include values to industry in the form of watersheds and raw materials, to agriculture for grazing, and to the recreationist, are becoming more important from a fish and game standpoint. Close coordination of our programs with those of the U. S. Forest Service is essential. The same can be said with respect to the lands under the administration of the Bureau of Land Management. More and more the place for fish and game within the legal and policy framework of water management throughout the West has become one of the dominant factors important to those in fish and game work. I believe we must have a continued and active interest in water policy and the Association has

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"In the Good Old Days"

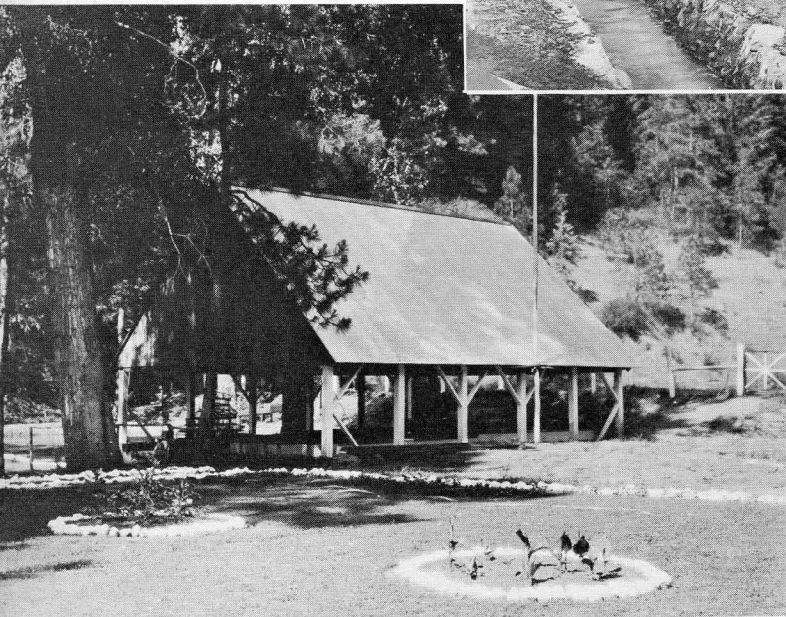
In the spirit of the Centennial Year, we have delved into our old picture file on early fishery activities. These do not go back 100 years but do show some of the changes that have taken place during the past 50 years or so in methods of rearing and releasing trout.



Old ponds at the Hood River hatchery with water flume in the rear.

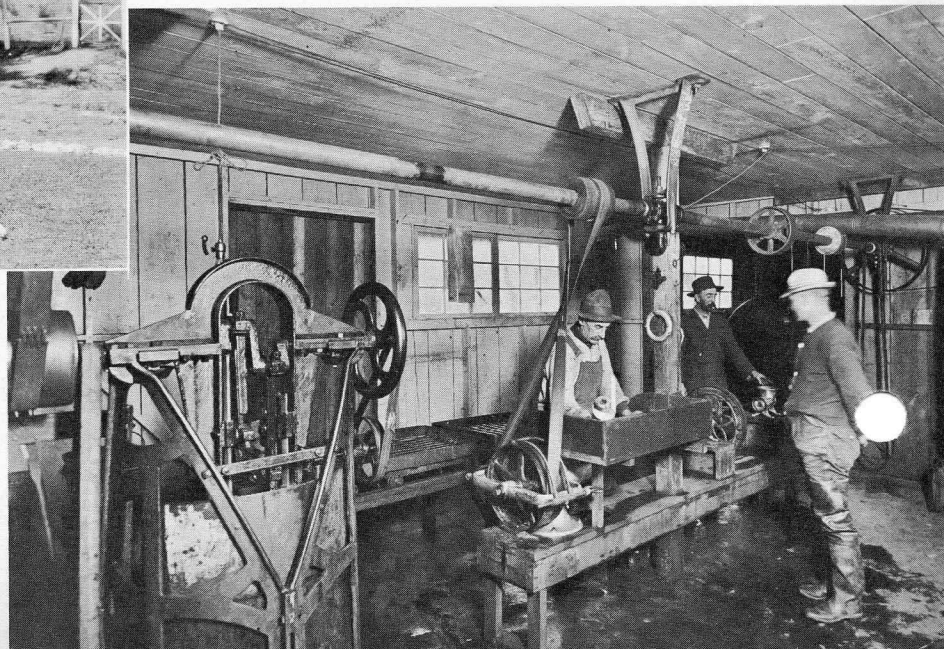


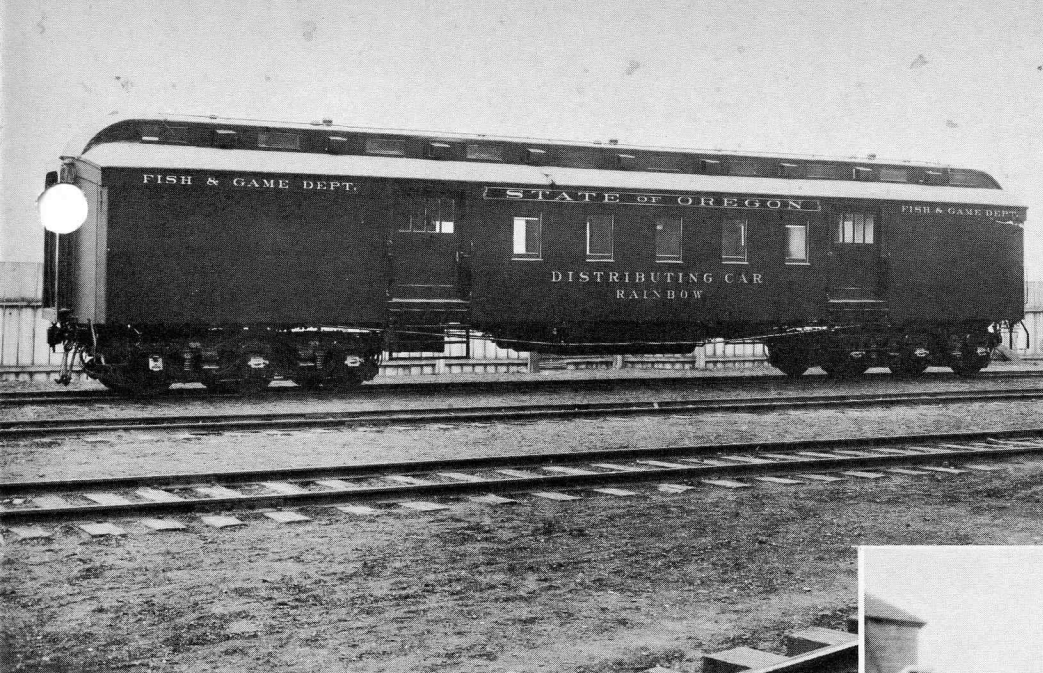
One of the picturesque sights at the McKenzie hatchery in former years was the old water wheel standing on the hillside above the trout pond. The McKenzie hatchery was closed down this summer.



The first hatchery buildings were mostly the open air type like this one at Bingham Springs in Umatilla County. It was built in the 1920's and operated for a few years.

Preparing fish food in this old grinder room is a far cry from the recent development toward pellet feeding of fish.



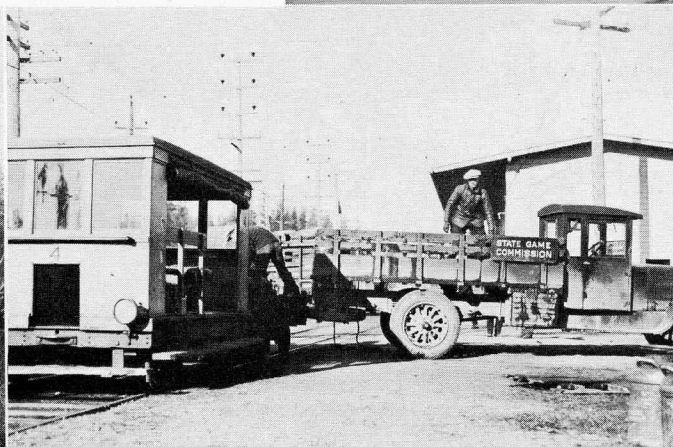


Horse and wagon haul away milk cans full of fish just unloaded from the Rainbow car shown in the background.

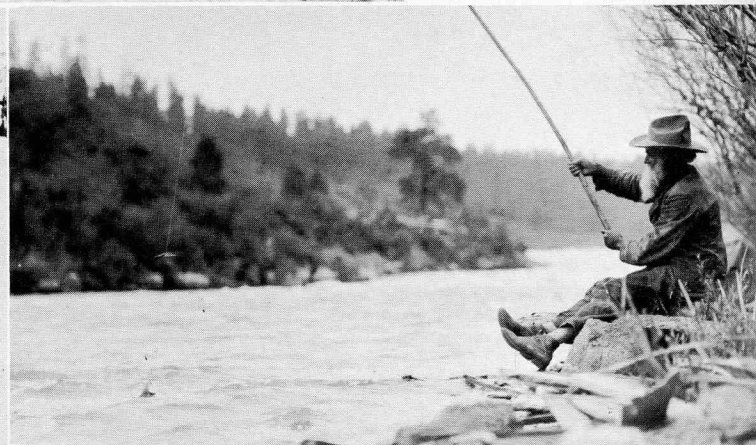
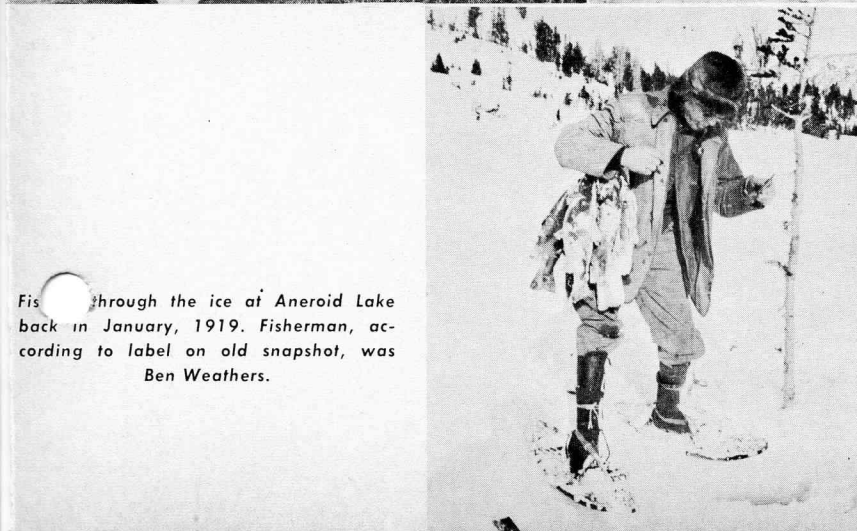
The famous Rainbow fish distribution car was purchased in 1913 for \$6,700 from the O.W. R. & N. Railroad. It was used to haul fish by rail until 1922.



of the early fish tank trucks which gradually replaced the milk can method. The first tank trucks came into use around 1927-28.



Fish being unloaded at Estacada onto railroad car for transportation up to Harriet Lake above the Oak Grove dam.



Relaxation and contentment exude from this old time angler photographed along the Klamath River by William Finley.

Fish through the ice at Aneroid Lake back in January, 1919. Fisherman, according to label on old snapshot, was Ben Weathers.

President's Address

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quite properly been directing more attention to this matter. National legislation of concern to the Association will be reported on.

I WISH TO CALL YOUR ATTENTION TO WHAT I BELIEVE to be one of the most pressing contemporary resource problems facing any group of resource management agencies of North America. It is in fact an international problem comparable to that of waterfowl but complicated with additional local and international factors. I refer to the problem of maintaining and increasing the stocks of anadromous fish, particularly salmon and steelhead, of the Pacific Northwest. Because of the magnitude of the problem and complexities inherent in managing the several species and many races of these fishes, plus the apparent pattern of water development in the Columbia Basin, the agencies involved are faced with one of the most difficult challenges in the history of man's effort to preserve a natural renewable resource. To this already difficult problem, there is now being suggested a time schedule for additional large water development projects which, in some instances, is little more than the life cycle of one age class of a species.

There are encouraging evidences of successful protection and passage of fish at existing structures, particularly low-head dams with little fluctuation. However, unless there is preserved within the broad pattern of water development sufficient unobstructed natural environment for the increase of these species, we are in serious trouble. I am concerned that in our headlong and urgent efforts to work out passage problems we do not become so hypnotized with this phase of the problem that we overlook what I believe to be an even more important problem—the preservation of sufficient natural environment to sustain and increase the incredibly valuable fish resources unique to this region.

The problem of the wide and massive application of chemically complex and toxic pesticides as they relate to fish and wildlife is one of vital concern to us in the West as well as in other parts of the country. This matter has been receiving wide attention nationally and for that reason is not part of our formal program this year. It is, however, a matter which we should follow carefully.

The national as well as regional and local attention to the problem of pollution abatement and control is a manifestation of the importance of this issue in

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In the West the national forests and other public lands hold a vast stake in habitat—both terrestrial and aquatic—essential for fish and game production and utilization.



President's Address

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present resource affairs. Although we are not formally covering this subject as a part of this year's program, I feel obliged to make reference to it here in order that the record will show the vital interest this Association has in both the local and national efforts to correct this critical problem. The stake that not only natural resource agencies but all segments of our economy, including industry and agriculture, have in an early correction of this problem seems to me to dictate that all areas of public and private interest work in concert toward an immediate solution to the pollution problem.

ONE OF THE MOST PERPLEXING PROBLEMS with which the several Commissions represented at this conference must contend is that concerned with financing the quality and scope of a program required by current conditions. A successful program in the management of fish and game is no different than any other field of effort, whether it is in private business or in other areas of government. It takes money, and lots of it, if we are to keep up with the job we have to do. There is abundant evidence throughout the West that the employment of modern skills and technology pays dividends to a degree far greater than would even be justified commensurate with cost. Even though barely 2 per cent of the money the sportsman spends in using these resources is spent in maintaining that resource, the various Commissions must contend with a growing trend of continuous efforts at weakening the financial structure supporting their programs. On the one hand we are dealing with a resource which is, according to some, in short supply and in growing demand. On the other hand it is a resource with spectacular responsiveness to proper management but being managed with a shrinking dollar under a basic license structure which, in many instances, was established as much as a decade ago.

Wise planning and sound investment dictate a more realistic look at proper and adequate financing of the programs. I am convinced that a thorough and careful analysis of the scope of our programs in relation to the value of the resources involved would dictate a far better financed program than prevails in most western states and provinces today. Even though many of the programs are woefully underfinanced, it is likely that the situation would be even worse if it were not for the uniformly and long established principle of reliance on dedicated funds which arise primarily from



license revenues. Any disposition to divert these revenues, either through commingling with other tax revenues or reorganization of government in a manner which would result in a diversion of these funds, is a serious threat to not only the existing program but to the new activities which must be inaugurated.

ANOTHER MATTER OF DIRECT AND VITAL CONCERN to present programs is the difficult to understand problem of our inability to pay salary scales commensurate with the skilled personnel now employed by all agencies represented in our Association. In no field can be found more dedicated, experienced and better trained personnel. Our respective programs require career personnel representing many diversified fields. Yet woefully inadequate salaries for these essential people are the rule rather than the exception. Encouraging gains have been made in recent years in some states but the factor of inflation has diluted the effect of these gains at about the same degree.

You are well aware of the almost insatiable demand of an ever growing hunting and angling population. You are aware of the current explosive human population growth in the West and the expected even greater growth forecast for the next couple decades. You are also aware that the percentage of increase of hunters and anglers is even higher. It is inevitable that this trend will impose greater and more complex problems for responsible resource agencies. Although this development is proper cause for concern, it should not be one of pessimism. We are dealing with resources of tremendous responsiveness. The lessons manifest by the profound changes which have transpired in agriculture are examples of what we can do in numerous instances in increasing yields in fish and game. Where agriculture has for 20 years been employing with spectacular results the elements of mechanization, automation, wide use of fertilizers—the products of research and technology—we are only now on the threshold of employing in a positive way the research, resulting knowledge and skills in a way necessary to do our job. I do not mean that we are entering an assembly-line era in our field. Indeed, there will be some species

which, if greatly increased over present levels, would in future economies and development pose incompatible circumstances as a result of direct damage to other values.

The opportunity is before us, however, within fixed biological laws and in relation to social and economic factors, to move forward in maintaining and increasing the great and diversified fish and game resources of the West. To achieve these objectives a reorientation and increased emphasis on all types of research is mandatory. There is no shortcut to these goals and the sooner this phase of our program is developed to a greater degree than exists today, the sooner will the resources respond as a result of our better understanding of their requirements and the application of more precise management made possible through research.

IN THE PROCESS OF MEETING THESE OBJECTIVES, one of the most difficult principles to protect will be that traditional North American concept that fish and game are public resources held in trust for all of the people. The growing trend from all sides of the commercial or economic overtones associated with the use of fish and game could present a pitfall to the general public interest and stake in this heritage. These economic factors in themselves are not bad. They are simply indicators of a large but immeasurable value represented in fish and game. They create an avenue, however, down which could flow and disappear those concepts and principles, ethics and appreciation of this unique public status of our fish and game resources. This legal and social concept is one which must be guarded zealously by the agencies and organizations assembled here today.

During the month of June, 48 instructors were certified for the Hunting Safety Program.

* * *

Banding returns from waterfowl killed by hunters show that as a general rule the birds follow the same route on their annual migrations between the north and the south. Occasionally, however, there shows up the bird with a wanderlust who has taken off on his own. A mallard male shot on the Malheur shooting grounds last season by John Hartley of Coquille turned out to be an Illinois resident, having been banded in 1956 on the Union County Wildlife Refuge near Ware, Illinois. A female adult canvasback taken last January on Tillamook bay by Carl Smith of Tillamook was wearing a band placed on it in March of 1958 at Sandy Point, Annapolis, Maryland.

Western Assn. State Game and Fish Commissioners Adopt Resolutions

The Western Association of State Game and Fish Commissioners acted upon several matters of regional, national and international importance at its 39th annual conference held in Portland on June 29-30, and July 1. Following is a summary of the major resolutions passed:

Recommended increased appropriation by Congress for the "Operation Outdoors" program of the Forest Service providing for the development of recreational use of the national forests.

Urged the Department of the Interior to see that the Bureau of Land Management is given the needed adjuncts to speed up processing of applications for withdrawals of public domain lands for recreational purposes.

Urged Congress to appropriate funds to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service for conducting research in wildlife-forest damage relations.

Urged Congress to act favorably upon proposed legislation to increase the appropriation for the sewage treatment construction grants program, which has resulted in abatement of stream pollution in the United States.

Asked that all construction agencies, including the Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation, contemplating the construction of several dams on the Columbia River watershed be required to acquire the necessary lands for the impoundments in fee simple title rather than just a flowage easement; and that such lands adjacent to the impoundments be assigned to conservation agencies to be managed in the best interest of the public generally and fish and wildlife particularly.

Opposed Department of Interior Memorandum No. 12's assignment of responsibilities in regard to activities in the Columbia River Basin between the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries and the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, and asked that equal status be given to each Bureau.

Endorsed proposal by Senator James E. Murray that the Department of the Interior prepare a comprehensive and

long-range program for the conservation, rehabilitation and development of the lands under the Bureau of Land Management; and further endorsed Senator Richard Neuberger's proposal calling for a Senate Committee staff study of problems of public access to the public lands; and further resolved that Congress initiate studies leading to the revision and strengthening of the Taylor Grazing Act and other laws relating to the conservation and multiple-use management of the public domain lands.

Recommended enactment by Congress of S. 812 providing for establishment of a Youth Conservation Corps which it was believed would assist materially in the conservation of American youth as well as in the conservation of natural resources.

Endorsed the principles of S. 1420 and urged its enactment by Congress (requiring the Federal Power Commission before licensing hydroelectric dams to have approval of the Fish and Wildlife Service).

Reaffirmed its opposition to federal subsidies which encourage the drainage and destruction of valuable and irreplaceable waterfowl habitat and requested Congress to enact corrective legislation incorporating the principles of H.R. 3909 as introduced in the 86th Congress; and further requested that pending such legislation, the Secretary of Agriculture revise the regulations governing the administration of the Agricultural Conser-

vation Program Service in such a way as to discourage the drainage of potholes and marshes valuable for waterfowl production.

Commended Secretary of the Interior for initiating action through the Department of Justice to evict the illegal trespassers occupying federal lands along the lower Colorado River in California and Arizona.

Endorsed enactment by Congress of proposed amendments to the Pesticides Research Act by increasing the authorization for appropriations to \$2,565,000 annually.

Urged Congress to extend the Soil Bank Act program beyond 1959 and appropriate adequate funds for increasing acreage eligible for being placed under Conservation Reserve contracts. It was felt that the acreage of land devoted to production of surplus crops is greater than presently needed and state game programs are receiving benefits to wildlife from crop lands being retired from cultivation under the Soil Bank Act.

Endorsed legislation proposing establishment of a national wildlife disease laboratory and requested Congress to act favorably upon this proposal.

Endorsed legislation proposing to authorize the donation of suitable personal property declared surplus by the federal government to the states for fish and wildlife management purposes.

Requested U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to administer federal big game and waterfowl refuges in a manner to permit an orderly harvest of surplus game (in many cases present regulations do not permit the harvest of surplus species).

Requested the Secretary of the Interior to name a suitable Alaskan Wildlife Range area in honor of Clarence J. Rhode.

Endorsed creation of an Arctic Wildlife Range by Congress and asked that the State of Alaska retain administration and regulatory control over residential game species.

Four of this year's applicants for pioneer angling licenses had reached the age of 93 years or more, with one pioneer lacking a year of his centennial birthday. The spry fishermen are: W. L. Wheeler, Dexter and James I. Braden, both 93 years; A. L. Snyder, Albany, 94 years; and the senior member of the quartet, George Wyatt, The Dalles, 99 years old.

Remember!
Red Hat Days
Start
September 25

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