



OREGON STATE  
GAME COMMISSION

# BULLETIN

DECEMBER 1963



# OREGON STATE GAME COMMISSION BULLETIN

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## The Cover

What's this—a new method of fishing through the ice? No, just the local fishery biologist taking an oxygen sample from frozen over Cottonwood Meadows Reservoir to see if there is an adequate supply for fish. PHOTO BY VIC MASSON

## BULLETIN HUNTER SAFETY TRAINING PROGRAM

### Instructors Approved

Month of October ..... 19  
Total to Date ..... 3,070

### Students Trained

Month of October ..... 1,001  
Total to Date ..... 63,211

### Firearms Accidents Reported in 1963

Fatal ..... 5  
Nonfatal ..... 32



Front row, left to right: Miriam K. Suhl, Harold Rennie, Charles Roadarmel, Willis Baker, Roy Delozier, Lynn Webb; back row: John McKean, Everett Moore, Knox Alexander, Roy Dickinson, Robert C. Holloway, Andrew B. Smith, and James W. Vaughn. Not shown in picture are Phyllis Clayton, A. V. Meyers.

## Service of Fifteen Employees Totals 480 Years

The Oregon State Game Commission at its meeting on November 22 gave special recognition to fifteen employees who had served the State of Oregon and the Commission continuously for 25 years or longer. Their total tenure adds up to 480 years or an average of 32 years. Each individual received a certificate indicating years of service and either a pin or tie clasp.

Oldest in length of service is "Andy" Smith with 47 years to his credit. At the age of 16 years Andy started working at the old Umpqua Hatchery and was made superintendent the next year at a salary of \$3 a day. Eight years later he assumed his present position, the superintendency of the Oak Springs Hatchery near Maupin. Besides running one of the largest trout hatcheries in the state, he is a well known radio ham.

The second highest service record, 42 years, is held by Everett Moore, superintendent of the Butte Falls Hatchery in Jackson County. Everett started at the Klamath trout hatchery, moved to Spencer Creek, and in 1926 was promoted to his present position at Butte Falls.

Employees with 35 years of service are Jim Vaughn, regional supervisor at Roseburg; Charlie Roadarmel, superin-

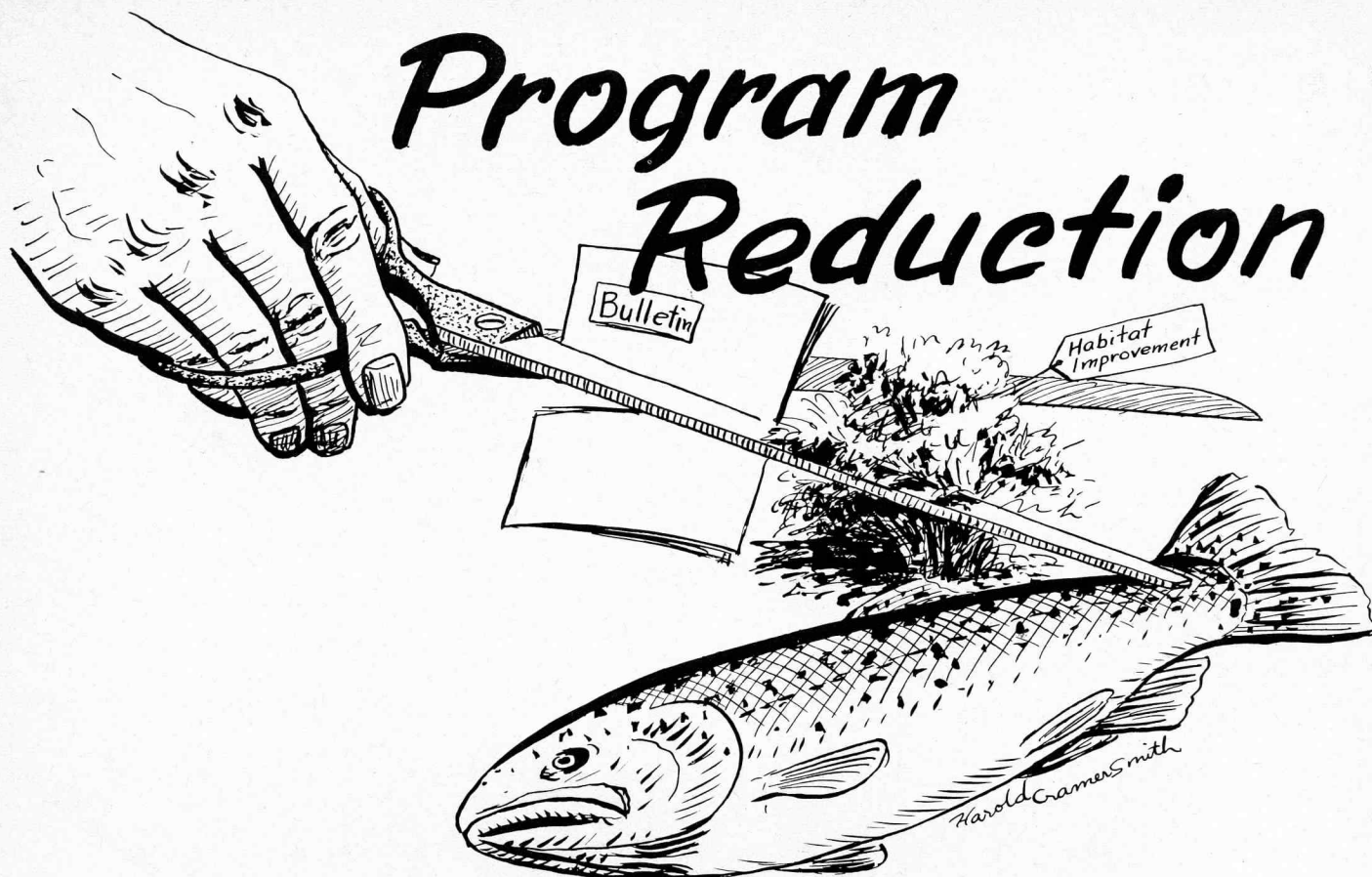
tendent of the Cedar Creek hatchery near Hebo; Harold Rennie, service and supply; and Lynn Webb, superintendent of the Leaburg Hatchery near Eugene.

Service records for others of the group are: Willis Baker, superintendent of Bandon Trout Hatchery, 32 years; Phyllis Clayton, property control clerk, 31 years; Miriam Suhl, Commission secretary and bulletin editor, 31 years; Roy Delozier, fish liberator, 30 years; Roy Dickinson, superintendent of Hermiston Game farm, 26 years; Knox Alexander, habitat improvement foreman, 26 years; John McKean, chief of game division, 25 years; Robert Holloway, chief of information and education, 25 years; and A. V. Meyers, lands supervisor, 25 years.

In addition to these awards, 24 additional Commission employees earned 20-year certificates; 40 employees 15-year certificates; and 69 employees 10-year certificates.

## 1964 GAME BULLETIN TO BE BIMONTHLY

The Game Commisison Bulletin will appear only 6 times in 1964 instead of the usual 12 because of a lack of funds.



By P. W. Schneider, Director

**T**HE MAINTENANCE OF Oregon's extensive and diversified fish and wildlife resource is comparable to any other enterprise where a host of activities and the use of goods and services are component parts of a coordinated program. Among the many requisites of such a program is an adequate and stable source of revenue to prosecute a program in keeping with the needs of contemporary conditions.

The financing of the Oregon Game Commission program has traditionally arisen from the voluntary purchase of hunting and angling licenses; some federal funds, primarily arising from the federal excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition and sports fishing tackle; and a smaller amount of miscellaneous receipts from fines and Commission properties. Over 80 per cent of the Commission's financing depends entirely on licenses and tags purchased by the hunter and angler. No money has ever been appropriated to the Commission from the general fund of the state and consequently the general taxpayer is not required to contribute to the maintenance of the program through mandatory taxes.

On the other hand, the Game Commission is required to pay local taxes on

certain of its properties. Its extensive operations contribute both directly and indirectly to the economy of the state.

Because of the basic reliance on revenues accruing from the hunting and angling licenses and tags, any erosion of this essential source of revenue through a decline in license sales, the effect of inflation, diversion of funds elsewhere, increasing program requirements, or related economic factors strikes effectively at the heart of the Commission's program.

As a result of a combination of the aforementioned factors simultaneously coming into play and consequent lack of funds, the Commission has found it necessary to cut back its existing program and to eliminate several planned vital activities and facilities. Dollar-wise these reductions will amount to over \$815,000 and will be reflected throughout the Commission's program.

Numerous inquiries by interested individuals indicate the desirability of defining those significant phases of the Commission's program affected by this reduction. In the process of arriving at a downward adjustment of the program, the Commission first critically reviewed the full scope of its operations. This was

to effect the cuts in a manner to maintain a balance in its use of funds between various phases of the program and to take cognizance of the urgency of certain program needs in relation to land and water use activities having a potentially serious impact upon fish and wildlife.

With this background for the recent action of the Commission, the following segments of the program will be affected.

The production of yearling trout, a significant item cost-wise, will be cut 20 per cent for the next two years. In addition

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*Legal-sized trout are expensive so production of these fish will be reduced by 20 per cent.*





# Wenaha Game Management Area



*Northeast end of Eden Bench of the Wenaha Game Range. Just out of sight at the extreme right is location of the town of Troy at the mouth of the Wenaha River.*

**T**UCKED FAR UP IN THE northern corner of the state in Wallowa County lies one of Oregon's most important big game management areas, the Wenaha Game Management Area.

Two quick reference points that can be used in locating the management area are the junction of the Grande Ronde and Wenaha Rivers and the town of Troy. In fact, the management headquarters is located on the Grande Ronde River approximately one-quarter mile downstream from the town of Troy.

The Oregon Game Commission, prior to authorizing the Wenaha project, was faced with the big question of: How important is it to maintain an elk herd in the Wenaha district of northeastern Oregon? Past history told it there had been, and would continue to be, a conflict with the large migratory elk herd and agricultural enterprises on the dry-farmed bench lands. The Commission also knew that each elk hunting season brought an ever increasing number of elk hunters into the woods in hopes of bagging an elk. After weighing these and many more factors, the decision was made in February, 1953, to initiate the Wenaha Big Game Management Area for the purpose of providing a winter range for one of Oregon's major elk herds.

The entire project includes approximately 17,560 acres along the breaks of the Grande Ronde and Wenaha Rivers. To date, 8,281 acres have been acquired by the Oregon State Game Commission. Also, there are about 1,300 acres of public domain within the project boundary. Of the 8,281 acres of land under the ownership of the Game Commission, mately 170 acres of this are seeded to alfalfa, 900 acres are seeded to permanent pasture grass, and about 200 acres are classed as mixed grass and forbs.

Reseeding and protection of existing grasses following acquisition by the Commission resulted in an abundance of grass forage on parts of the area. It was found that elk and deer grazing use is light on heavy mature stands of grasses, but is heavier where the grasses are moderately cropped down to a point where the game animals can obtain the basal green forage. It was decided the best tool to use to obtain the moderate cropping of the mature stands of grasses, and at the same time have the area serve a multiple use purpose, was to allow domestic livestock grazing. During the past season, livestock grazing permits for 774 animal-unit months were issued on a bid basis to four different livestock operators. Domestic livestock use is controlled by maintenance of over 35 miles of stock fence.

Rocky Mountain elk is the principal big game animal found on the area, but there are also both mule deer and Idaho whitetail deer. During the general hunting season most of the elk are above the management area boundary but if severe storms occur during November, large numbers will migrate down on the management area. Mule deer hunting success is good and an occasional whitetail deer is taken each year.

In addition to the deer and elk hunting available, several species of upland game birds inhabit the area. Valley quail, chukar partridge, Hungarian partridge, blue and ruffed grouse, and mourning doves are present in sufficient numbers to provide good hunting. Mountain quail are considered to be too scarce to provide good hunting success.

Seven Merriam's wild turkeys from Arizona were released on the management area in March of 1961. An additional eight Merriam's turkeys were trapped on the White River Game Management Area in Wasco County and released on the Wenaha Management Area in March of 1963. Observations of both adult and young turkeys by Game Commission personnel and interested residents give cause to believe the birds have become established.

Two pole-type elk traps have been constructed on the area to trap and tag elk. During the last two years seventy-one elk and five deer have been trapped, tagged, and released. Reports thus far on the small number of animals tagged have provided the Commission with valuable information on elk movements and life history.

Both the Wenaha and Grande Ronde Rivers are popular trout, steelhead, and salmon angling streams. In fact, it is not uncommon for many October visitors to the area to combine deer hunting, bird hunting, and angling on one trip.

If you have not already had the opportunity to visit the Wenaha Game Management Area, include it in your next outdoor trip to this corner of the state. You will enjoy it.

—Clyde Smith

## THE PRAYER FOR ALL THOSE WHO GO HUNTING

When I take my gun unto the hill,  
Oh Lord, I plead and pray but this:  
That when I shoot I kill  
and when I miss, I miss.

(Read by Sir John Cordle, member of British Parliament, at a meeting in Salem, Oregon, April, 1963.)

# New Angling Regulations

## Effective January First

THE 1964 ANGLING REGULATIONS adopted by the Game Commission on November 22 go into effect January 1. Printed copies of the complete regulations will be available at license agencies soon after that date.

The regulations were not changed greatly from those in effect during 1963. General trout season will run from April 25 to October 31 in all zones except streams in zones 1, 3, and 4. The season for zone 1 streams and the high lake area in the Cascades will open May 23 and close October 31. Exceptions to these two general seasons are listed by zones in the synopsis.

Added to the list of lakes open the year around to trout angling was Sutton Lake in Lane County. Pelton Reservoir (Lake Simtustus) and Round Butte Reservoir (Lake Chinook) will open with the regular trout season, April 25, as will recently treated Bully Creek Reservoir in Malheur County.

Bag limit and length limit for black bass were removed for fish taken in the Snake River and its impoundments. The bag limit for sturgeon in the same waters, however, was reduced to one fish per day and possession but not more than two fish a year (36 to 72 inches in length). Both of these changes were made to conform with state of Idaho regulations. The possession limit of 20 fish on shad was eliminated.

Salmon angling will be prohibited in Eagle Creek (Clackamas County) from April 1 through September 30 to permit a larger escapement to the spawning beds of the 1964 run of adult salmon. This run is not expected to be as large as usual because the parent run of fish released four years ago was considerably less. The Fish and Wildlife Service recommended this closure in order to be assured of an adequate supply of spring chinook salmon eggs for its Eagle Creek hatchery operation.

Because of a large loss of salmon by snagging last spring in the upper Rogue River, the Commission tentatively considered a closure above Elk Creek. In its final action, however, it decided to try to control the situation by prohibiting the use of multiple hooks and regulating the size of the single hook permitted.

Changes by zones are summarized below.

### USE OF BAIT

Tualatin and Yamhill Rivers, use of cut bait permitted.

### MISCELLANEOUS GAME FISH

**Black bass**—No bag limit or length limit for bass in Snake River and its impoundments.

**Sturgeon**—In the Snake River and its impoundments the bag limit is one fish per day and possession but not more than two fish per year.

**Shad**—Bag limit 10 a day.

### GENERAL TROUT SEASON

April 25 to October 31 in all zones except streams in Zones 1, 3 and 4. May 23 to October 31 for streams in Zone 1, and for lakes, reservoirs and their tributaries within the national forest boundaries in the Cascade Mountains (including Paulina and Siskiyou Mountains).

### ZONE 1

**Alsea River (North Fork)**: Closed from Highway 34 bridge upstream to 200

feet above Game Commission hatchery water intake dam.

**Sutton Lake**: Open entire year.

### ZONE 2

**Eagle Creek** (Clackamas County): Closed to salmon angling April 1 to September 30.

**McKenzie River**: Closed to all angling between Trail Bridge Dam and Geological Survey cable crossing approximately ¼ mile downstream from July 1 to October 31.

**McKenzie River** and tributaries above Blue River: Closed to fishing from any boat or floating device except on Eugene Water and Electric Board reservoirs and Cougar Reservoir.

**McKenzie River** and tributaries up to Trail Bridge Reservoir: Closed to the taking of rainbow trout over 14 inches.

**McKenzie River** (South Fork) up to 200 feet below the salmon trap: Closed to taking rainbow trout over 14 inches.

**McKenzie River** (South Fork): Closed

from a marker 200 feet below salmon trap at Cougar dam up to the dam.

**McKenzie River**—Walterville Powerhouse Tailrace: Closed to salmon angling from the powerhouse to the salmon rack and closed to all angling from the salmon rack to Camp Creek, including the bypass canal between the tailrace and the McKenzie River.

**Santiam River** (North Fork): Closed to all angling from the falls above the highway bridge in Mill City downstream to the railroad bridge.

### ZONE 3

**Rock Creek**: Closed to angling in any manner other than with an artificial fly.

### ZONE 4

**Rogue River**: From a point ¼ mile below Savage Rapids dam to the confluence of the Middle Fork for the period March 23 to June 30 it is unlawful to use any double, treble, or multiple hook or use any hook larger than one-half inch, measured from point of the hook to shank; and provided further, that in these waters only ONE single hook measuring not more than one-half inch from the point of such hook to the shank thereof is permitted.

**Rogue River**: Special 10-fish bag limit on spring chinook was removed.

### ZONE 5

**Deschutes River**: Closed from Crane Prairie dam down to the watermaster cable crossing in Sheep Bridge Forest Camp, a distance of about 2 miles; except that from September 8 to October 31 the closure will extend to a point ¼ mile below the Sheep Bridge watermaster cable crossing.

**Fall River**: Closed to angling in any manner other than with an artificial fly.

**Pelton Reservoir** (Simtustus): Open April 25 to October 31.

**Round Butte Reservoir** (Lake Chinook): Open April 25 to October 31.

### ZONE 6

**Heart Lake**: Closed to fishing from motor propelled craft.

### ZONE 7

**Umatilla River**: Closed to all angling for a distance of 300 feet below the Three Mile dam and in the Westland canal from the point of diversion to the fish screen and from the fish screen down the bypass ditch to confluence with the river.

**Closing deadline** for salmon and steelhead angling in ZONES 7 and 9 will be extended from March 15 to April 1.

### ZONE 8

**Bully Creek Reservoir**: Open April 25 to October 31.

### WINTER REGULATIONS

### ZONE 1

**Big Creek and Klaskanine River**: Special limit on jack salmon of 5 a day, 10 in possession from November 1 to 30.





Reservoir construction projects like this one are not included in this biennium's budget.

## Program Reduction

Continued from Page 3

tion, a reduction in the production of steelhead will be in effect.

The important and effective lake construction and access development will, for all practical purposes, be eliminated for the remainder of the biennium.

The cooperative program of boat ramp construction with the several counties will of necessity cease.

The popular and constructive youth conservation education program at summer camps will be eliminated. Issues of the Oregon Game Commission Bulletin will be cut in half by publishing every

other month instead of monthly as in the past. The publication of the several informational leaflets, widely requested by interested people, will be curtailed.

Consolidation of game farm production will be accelerated. The Hermiston Game Farm will be closed and the property will be disposed of earlier than planned.

All new capital construction, with the exception of one fishery research facility, has been cancelled.

Drastic reduction in game habitat improvement has been placed into effect and planned development on game management areas and big game winter ranges was curtailed.



The Commission's conservation education program at summer camps has been dropped.

In personnel, seasonal employees have been cut severely. A number of positions for planned and urgently needed personnel in field activities will remain unfilled.

Orderly replacement of automotive equipment will be curtailed although such savings achieved will in part be offset by increased maintenance costs.

The preceding items are indicative of the broad sweep of adjustments necessary throughout the Commission's program. Actually cuts were made pretty much across the board. In addition, a number of new activities planned, particularly in the anadromous fisheries and big game fields, were cancelled for the time being.

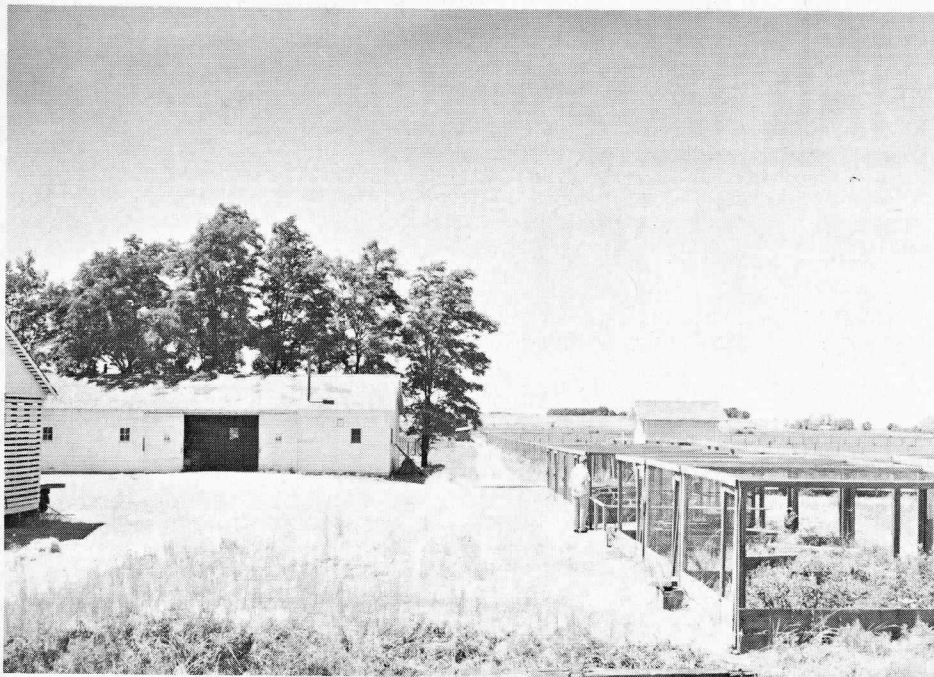
Functionally, Administration was reduced about \$35,000; Fisheries, almost \$347,000; Game, about \$212,000; Information and Education, over \$26,000; General Services, almost \$203,000; and Research, nearly \$25,000.

There are, in our opinion, some tragic undertones to the timing and magnitude of this situation. The Commission, unlike most areas of resource management, had pretty well maintained a stable organization over the past decade. Following World War II expansion of the Commission's organization during the late 1940s, we actually reduced personnel during the decade of the 1950s. Although our program was expanded extensively, the addition of personnel was held to a minimum through a continuous effort to economize, the immediate employment of new techniques or manpower saving equipment wherever available and possible, and a constant review of program detail and organization. In the meantime the cost of doing business increased and loss of some funds continued.

Currently about one-fifth of all the license monies accruing to the Commission are allocated by law to other agencies or functions outside the purview of this Commission's administrative control. It should be pointed out that most of these funds are expended by the recipients on sound, necessary, and important activities directed at fostering the welfare of the state's fish and wildlife resources. The fact must be faced, however, that this trend tends to erode the ability of the Commission to discharge the obligation with which it is cloaked by law. Continuation of this trend will have an inevitable result, the effective liquidation of the Oregon Game Commission.

As difficult as it will be to meet program needs over the next couple years, we are fortunate in one respect. The general condition of the resources involved is, with a few exceptions, excellent. An-

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Shop and exhibit pens at the Hermiston game farm. This property will be disposed of and game bird rearing operations transferred to the E. E. Wilson Management Area.

## Program Reduction

Continued from Page 6

nual gross yields of most species to the license holders are the highest in recent times. If the opportunity to adjust the state's management program in a more positive and adequate scope occurs in the near future, we can look forward to the maintenance in perpetuity of a splendid renewable natural resource. If, however, there is forced, through inadequate fi-

nancing, a deteriorating program, the resources will in like measure decline. I am confident the latter will not occur over the long pull. The splendid fish and wildlife stewardship throughout the history of our state does not dictate its demise at a time when its value is on the incline. The importance of this resource in the social, economic, and cultural complexion of Oregon is too important to derogate its place in our future scheme of balanced and orderly development of our natural resource base.

## Marked Fish—Banded Birds Have You Reported Them?

Did you catch a fin-clipped fish this summer? Or perhaps shoot a banded game bird this fall? If so, did you report them to the Game Commission? All this work of marking fish and game is wasted (paid for by your dollars) unless you

cooperate in sending the information needed. So please fill out the form below and send it to the Game Commission or give it to any game or fishery man you see in the field.

### FISH

Species	Length	Weight	Sex
How marked	Location of catch	Date of catch	

### BIRDS

Species	Sex	Band Number
Location of kill	Date of kill	

Name .....

Address .....



Angler use and number of trout caught at Diamond Lake this past season exceed any previous season since catch statistics were undertaken in 1946. For the 1963 season it is calculated that 86,495 anglers took 227,130 trout. Anglers found particularly good fishing the latter part of the season.

\* \* \*

Waterfowl hunters in southeastern Oregon had better success the first two weeks of the season than they had experienced for several years. At Summer Lake between October 8 and 20, 1,803 hunters bagged 2,338 ducks, 3,017 geese, 168 pheasants, and 201 quail. Hunters recovered 49 Russian bands from snow geese the first 13 days of the season.

\* \* \*

Salmon and steelhead count over Gold Ray Dam for the season as of October 12 was 41,400 spring chinook, 826 summer steelhead, and 26 silver salmon. An estimated 14,194 salmon were caught in the lower Rogue, representing the highest sport catch ever recorded for this section of the river.

\* \* \*

On the North Umpqua River the spring chinook run totaled 11,020 fish, of which about 16.3 per cent were jacks. The summer steelhead run reached 4,107. Both runs were over 200 per cent of their parent runs. Examination of the summer steelhead at the Winchester counting station revealed that 40 per cent were marked fish.

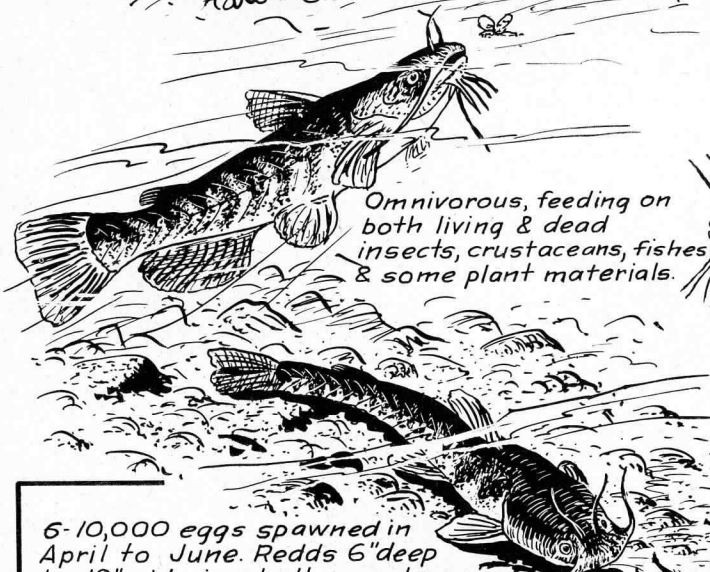
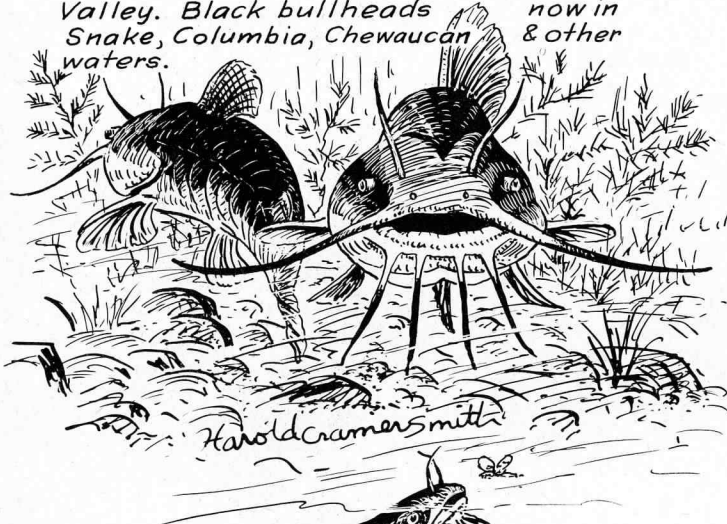
\* \* \*

Eighteen deer marked as part of the continuing Silver Lake deer study project were reported taken by hunters the early part of the deer season. One hunter reported killing a deer, carrying a yellow streamer and ear tag, on Juniper ridge about 12 miles west of Odell Lake. The animal had been tagged as an adult male below Summer Lake rim during the winter of 1962. Another deer wearing a white bell and ear tag was reported killed near Beatty in Klamath County.



# BULLHEAD CATFISH

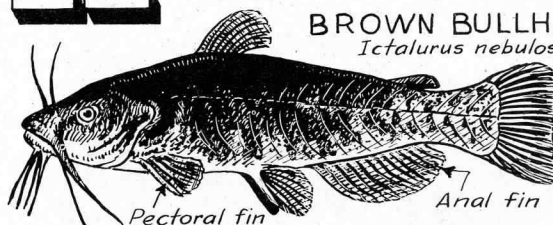
Introduced into Oregon in 1880 in the Yamhill & Willamette Rivers. Brown bullheads common throughout the state. Yellow bullheads found in Willamette Valley. Black bullheads now in Snake, Columbia, Chewaucan & other waters.



Omnivorous, feeding on both living & dead insects, crustaceans, fishes & some plant materials.

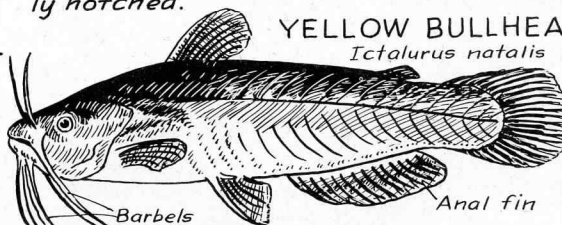
6-10,000 eggs spawned in April to June. Redds 6" deep by 18" wide in shallow waters or in holes in muddy banks. Parents guard eggs & young until they can shift for themselves.

**BROWN BULLHEAD**  
*Ictalurus nebulosus*



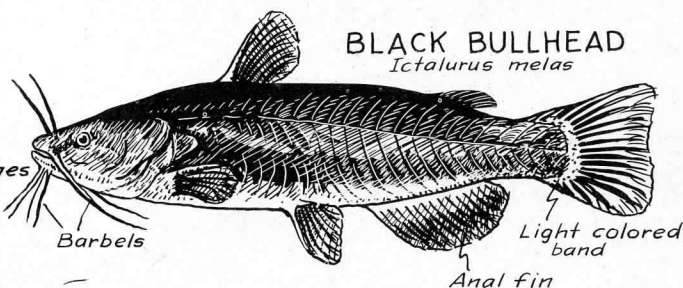
Body 8" to 10", olive to brown with dark mottlings on sides, fading to white or cream beneath. Strong barbs on pectoral fins. 17 to 24 rays in anal fin. Tail straight or slightly notched.

**YELLOW BULLHEAD**  
*Ictalurus natalis*



Body to 18", light olive to yellow on top, white or cream belly. Barbels white or cream colored. 24 to 27 rays in anal fin. Tail rounded.

**BLACK BULLHEAD**  
*Ictalurus melas*



Body up to 12", dark olive to black. Belly is white to yellow. Chin barbels dusky to black. Light color band at base of tail. Anal fin 17 to 20 rays. Tail slightly notched.

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