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# OREGON WILDLIFE

MARCH 1977



# OREGON WILDLIFE

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OREGON FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION  
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RON E. SHAY, Editor

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 P.O. Box 3503  
 1634 S.W. Alder  
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## The Cover

Winter is a busy time for field biologists. For a more detailed account of the biologist's activities see "A Biologist's Notebook."

Photo by Vic Masson

HUNTER EDUCATION  
 PROGRAM  
 INSTRUCTORS APPROVED  
 Month of January ..... 10  
 Total Active ..... 1,440

STUDENTS TRAINED  
 Month of January ..... 301  
 Total to Date ..... 239,789

HUNTING CASUALTIES  
 REPORTED IN 1977  
 Fatal ..... 0  
 Nonfatal ..... 1

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## Columbia River Fish Plan Adopted By Commission

At its February 18 meeting the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission voted unanimously to accept the recently completed plan for management and allocation of the anadromous fish runs originating in the upper Columbia River system.

The plan came about when it seemed that such a sharing agreement might be reached and after it became evident that expensive and time consuming legal battles could go on for years. Columbia River Indian tribes, which claim fishing rights under 1855 treaties, obtained a federal court decree in 1969 which requires state management of the fish to provide tribes with an opportunity to catch a "fair share" of the upriver-bound fish.

The four treaty tribes, the Warm Springs, Umatilla, Nez Perce, and Yakima, have already given approval to the plan. Approval by the Oregon Commission left only approval by the Washington Department of Fisheries necessary to make it ready for Attorney General Jim Redden to present to Judge Belloni for District Court consideration.

The plan calls for formation of a technical advisory committee consisting of fisheries scientists from each of the four treaty Indian tribes, the states of Oregon, Washington, and Idaho, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It will be the committee's job to conduct studies and make recommendation to the fisheries management agencies for regulations and enhancement programs consistent with the plan.

The agreement is good for five years, after which it can be renegotiated. It applies only to fish available for in-river harvest and escapement goals are set for each species and must be assured before any significant harvest is allowed.

The plan urges the adoption by the Pacific Fisheries Management Council of fishing regulations which will permit adequate returns of mature fish to meet sharing formulas.

Management formulas provide for a limited Indian ceremonial and subsistence fishery as the first priority after escapement goals are assured and the parties agree to work cooperatively for enhancement of upriver runs and to develop improved catch reporting methods.

For fall chinook the plan calls for a spawning escapement of 100,000 fish and sets a management goal for a harvestable run of at least 200,000 upper river fish each year. A large share of upriver-bound fall chinook are harvested in ocean fisheries by Oregon, Washington, and Canadian fishermen before they ever enter the Columbia River. So the plan calls for the remaining "in-river" run to be shared 60 percent by treaty fishermen and 40 percent by non-treaty fishermen. The treaty share is to include ceremonial and subsistence fish.

For spring chinook the plan sets a minimum spawning escapement goal of 120,000 fish to spawning grounds above Bonneville Dam, with at least 30,000 to get above Lower Granite Dam. The plan also sets a minimum goal for an average annual spring chinook run of 250,000 upper river spring chinook.

In addition to escapement goals, the plan allocates up to 7,500 spring chinook to Indian ceremonial and subsistence fisheries, 7,500 fish to Snake River system sport fishermen, and remaining harvestable fish to be shared 40 percent by treaty fishermen and 60 percent by non-treaty fishermen.

Steelhead are classed as game fish in all three states and may not be commer-

(continued on page 11)

*The Fish and Wildlife Commission will hold a public hearing starting at 9 a.m. Monday, March 28, to consider regulations for the 1977 ocean troll commercial salmon season and the ocean sport salmon season. The hearing will be held at the Western Forestry Center Auditorium in the Zoo-OMSI area just off Canyon Road west of Portland. Interested persons may present their views orally or in writing at the hearing. Written views may be sent to the Department headquarters prior to the hearing.*

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# The Biologist's Notebook

by Cliff Hamilton  
Education Supervisor

Editor's Note: The Department regularly receives inquiries from youngsters and adults wanting to know what a biologist does and how a person can get into the field of work. We hope Cliff's article answers a few of the questions.

Insistent jangling of the phone interrupted a sound sleep. Faint dawn light revealed the clock on the dresser reporting 6:15 a.m. Even before the receiver was more than a few inches off the hook, an angry voice came through the line: "Those elk are in there again!" So much for sleeping. It was the landowner out on the flat that had been complaining about elk damage to his pasture for several weeks. He had been promised someone would help haze them out next time they showed up.

This was supposed to be a "day off". Someone forgot to tell the wildlife about vacations and normal "working hours" we humans keep. Wild animals never seem to have heard of private property lines, clocks, or other boundaries that govern us "civilized" folks. Why else would the elk have invaded that pasture at this hour?

After a hurried cup of coffee and before starting the pickup, the following entry went into the notebook:

*Departed 6:45 a.m. to North Flat  
— Elk damage complaint*

Just above that notation in the book were figures gathered the night before from an after-dark deer spotlight route:

*Pine Ridge route — 13.7 miles, 17 bucks, 83 does, 71 fawns.*

*Begin 8:45 p.m. — completed  
10:15 p.m. Returned 11:30 p.m.*

No wonder that phone call came at a time when it seemed the night had just begun.

Responding to damage complaints takes a considerable amount of some wildlife biologists' time during certain parts of the year. Inventory or counting of fish and wildlife, however, occupies a large amount of every biologist's working hours. A variety of census methods are used. On the

wildlife side, in addition to herd composition counts indicated in the notebook entry above, there are counts to determine population trends, brood size, and winter mortality. These may be done from aircraft, on foot, horseback, in a pickup, at night, day, winter, summer, or any other time or manner the particular animal's habits and habitats dictate. Nongame creatures are tallied as the planned game census routes are run and in some cases special techniques are used on nongame.

Some counting methods do not require that any creatures be seen at all. Spring "crow" counts on rooster pheasants or "coo" counts on mourning doves give an index to the abundance of breeding animals without a single one necessarily being seen.

None of these census methods will reveal the total number of animals present. Almost without exception, biologists count on a trend or index basis. Data are gathered in representative habitat at about the same time and conditions each year. Figures obtained are compared with those from previous years so trends and changes in populations can be observed.

*Rocky Lake — 27 anglers, 53 rainbow, 21 cutthroat, 87 total hours fishing .85 fish/hour (5 year average .64)*

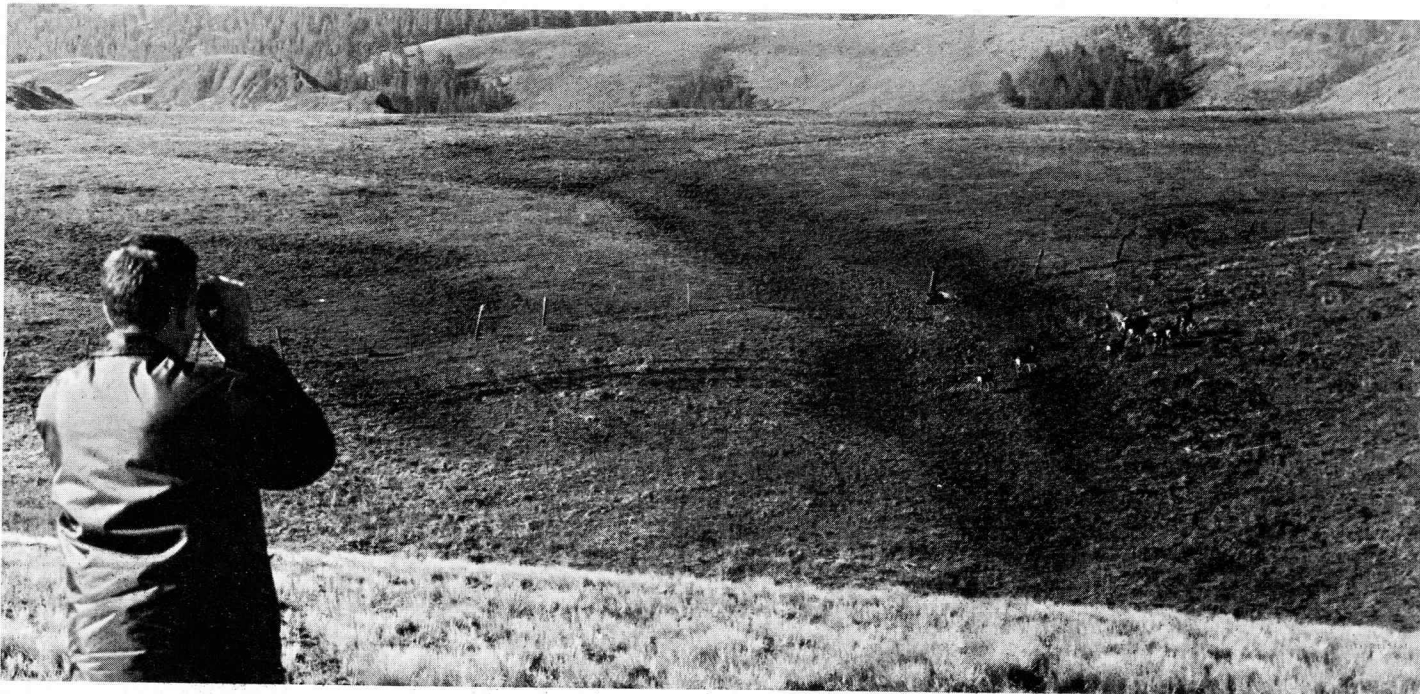
Numbers of fish caught per hour of fishing can be determined from creel checks along a lake or stream. When compared with past years, this gives an estimate of the availability of fish in that water. It may also reflect the success of various management measures applied. Numbers of fish actually present, however, remain unknown.

Fishery biologists often use nets to gather their own samples of fish for census evaluations. The trick here is to set the net so it catches a truly representative sample of the species, sizes, and numbers of fish present. Comparing sample data from past years in terms of size, spawning condition, age classes, and body condition gives a good evaluation of changes in the population from year to year.

Biologists are usually assigned to either fisheries or wildlife work. That may be on paper only. There is often a good deal of mixing in duties over a year's time. More than a few fishery biologists have filled notebook pages with data gathered from hunters during big game seasons. It would be a rare wildlife biologist who hasn't



Constant testing and sampling is necessary for biologists to see if past projects are working or if a change in management plan is necessary.



The wildlife biologist spends a great deal of time counting animals to check out the size and health of big game herds. Animals do not respect the clock and much of the inventory is done during hours when most people are sleeping.

filled a few pages assisting with fisheries inventory or a stream rehabilitation project.

*Black Mountain Sportsman's Club — talked on stocking plans for coming season. 37 attended.*

The management biologist can never escape public appearances, no matter how desirable it might be to spend all available time outdoors working with wildlife. Days of the outdoorsman-biologist who sought to get away from people and work only with the animals are long gone. Much of the fish and wildlife management today is really people management. Biologists are spending an increasing amount of time at this activity. Sportsmen's clubs are only the beginning. Civic organizations, schools, youth summer camps, and church groups are just a few of those wishing to hear what is being done from the local expert.

The notebook entry reads:

*Happy Fliers Bird Club — Discussed coming weekend's bird house building and placement project. Begin at 8:30 Saturday.*

Habitat improvement projects can be among the most beneficial aspects of the fish and wildlife biologist's work. They may also be the most difficult to accomplish and take years to show results. At times, habitat im-

provement can involve working with groups that want to participate in a conservation project. Helping a scout troop spread seed and fertilizer on an area where cover has been removed is an example.

Most habitat work is done by agency personnel. This may include planning and supervising a complete chemical rehabilitation of a lake or stream system. Removal of undesirable fish and restocking with more catchable species would be the end result. Clearing streams of obstructions to let migratory fish reach spawning areas and installing nesting boxes for wood ducks or small birds are also habitat improvement activities that involve biologists' time, plus big game range rehabilitation and maintenance.

*1-1/2 days — Review and prepare written comments on Environmental Impact Statement for Clear Creek Dam.*

Not all habitat work is aimed at improvement. Maintaining existing habitat for all forms of fish and wildlife is one of the greatest challenges any manager faces. Just preventing damage to or loss of living space for animals takes an increasing amount of the modern biologist's time. Much of this must be done indoors at a desk or negotiating table. Reviewing envi-

ronmental impact statements, developing recommendations for county planning teams and evaluating pollution reports are examples of a growing number of desk duties every biologist must accept. In addition, much effort is devoted to planning operations looking to the future needs of the resource.

One of the features that attracts considerable interest in the fish and wildlife profession is the promise of an outdoor career. Two pins should immediately burst that dream bubble. First, for those who are reasonably successful in the profession, the outdoor career soon becomes an indoor supervisory desk job. Secondly, fish and wildlife management *is* a profession. Scientific training and experience is a must. For the biologist classification, a degree in wildlife or fisheries management from a four-year accredited college or university is an absolute minimum starting point. Advance degree work is becoming increasingly important for those seeking even beginning level jobs.

*Sunday, October 2. Manned hunter check station near Rock Hills Wildlife Area. 6:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. 128 hunters, 13 bucks (10% success) 19 chukars incidental kill.*

Perhaps at one time there were

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those who got into fish and wildlife work because they liked to hunt and fish and figured the job was a way to get paid for it. Beginning students today quickly learn that professional biologists spend fewer hours hunting and fishing than most architects or grocery clerks. Harvest seasons are one of the biologist's busiest times.

In the hectic pace of today's life the modern urbanite's scramble to "get away from it all" makes even a faint glimmer of an outdoor job strong bait. Small wonder fish and wildlife schools throughout the nation are bulging with students. Oregon is fortunate to have one of the nation's best at Oregon State University. Approximately 100 fish and wildlife students graduate annually from OSU alone. This is double the number completing such studies a decade ago. Unfortunately for these new job seekers, state and federal agencies that employ most biologists have had relatively little increase in staff size. Turnover in these agencies from resignation or retirement is among the lowest of any career field. Private industry offers even less employment opportunity than governmental agencies.

The days of a nongraduate working up through the ranks to a professional title have also disappeared. Even jobs in fish hatcheries, on refuges, or management areas and game farms, that generally do not require a degree, are being filled by college graduates. Degree holders are now the ones taking nonbiologist jobs with hopes of working up to a professional position. Even so, probably less than 20 percent of each year's crop of new graduates find employment in their chosen field. A college education requires a healthy investment in time and money. It is especially expensive when the career training offers so little promise of employment upon completion.

Oregon is not alone in the fish and wildlife job pinch. Nearly every state has a college or university offering a degree in this field. Some schools are considered better than others. All are jammed with students. Competition for the few available jobs is keen everywhere. Each year, in every state, far more graduates enter the job market than that state or any of its neighbors can use. Every year the

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Elk in the orchards and deer in the haystacks seem to be an everyday happening for some biologists, and it is up to this man in the field to assist the landowner in preventing damage.

lines at the door get longer and longer.

Advertisements in popular sporting magazines regularly offer promise of a bright future as a game warden or conservation officer through one of several correspondence courses. Since most of the competition is equipped with a college degree, the limited amount of basic information such courses provide is of little or no help. In Oregon there is no such thing as a "game warden". Wildlife law enforcement is done by the Game Division of the Oregon State Police. Most officers entering that division now have fish and wildlife degrees. Plenty of other college-trained officers are impatiently working in other divisions of the State Police until a game job opens.

One last entry in the notebook reads:

*Office — all day — analyze census data, develop recommendations for next season.*

If there is one word for the end product of all this, it is "recreation". Biologists make recommendations

for recreational use of wildlife resources as well as work to maintain and enhance them. Recreational use applies not only to the hunter and angler but to those who simply enjoy observing and photographing wildlife in its natural surroundings as well. Fishing and hunting provide healthful outdoor recreation. They are also a tool the biologist uses to control population size of certain species. Recommendations based on accurate census data and consistent with management goals are the basis for all wildlife-related recreation.

Fish and wildlife biologists have an opportunity to deal with nature and the outdoor world. The job provides a means to actively participate in preservation and management of this important resource. The attractive features must, in part, compensate for whatever monetary rewards the profession may lack. Biologists seldom get rich. Few ever achieve fame in their profession. Fish and wildlife biologists do, however, have one of the most frustrating yet satisfying, demanding, and rewarding jobs anyone could want.

# This and That

compiled by Ken Durbin

## A Chirping Tom

A Fish and Wildlife Department biologist in southwest Oregon recently received a complaint from an elderly citizen whose sleep was disturbed each night by a small brown bird which roosted outside his bedroom window and chirped monotonously all night long. Lights, streams, thrown rocks — all efforts by neighbors and landlord had failed. Traps, nets, gunfire, even spraying water were discussed.

A few days later the biologist checked back and was told the problem had been solved. The bird calls turned out to be from a cricket living happily beneath the wall heater in the bedroom. A trusty vacuum cleaner solved the problem.

"Very amusing story," says biologist Gary Hostick, "unless you're a small brown bird trying to get some sleep after a busy day catching insects and pulling worms — then it's not so funny."

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## Snakes, Turtles, Toads & Frogs

Two new illustrated information leaflets have been published by the Department of Fish and Wildlife. *SNAKES OF OREGON* covers all 15 snakes native to the state, talks about their habitats, food habits, and how to identify them. *OREGON'S TURTLES, TOADS & FROGS* provides the same kind of information on these groups of animals. The four-page leaflets were written by Dr. Robert Storm, professor of zoology at Oregon State University and a well known expert on Oregon's reptiles and amphibians. Single copies are available free by writing the Department at the address printed on the last page of this magazine.

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## A Terrible Recipe

The metal strips used to band birds are inscribed: "Notify Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C." They used to read "Washington Biological Survey", abbreviated to "Wash. Biol. Surv." This was changed after an Arkansas farmer shot a crow and dis-

gustedly wrote the U.S. Government: "Dear Sirs: I shot one of your pet crows the other day. My wife followed the instruction attached and I want to tell you it was terrible."

Karl Morton, Manager  
Wenaha Wildlife Area

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## Colorado's Bottle Bill Fails

Colorado's bottle bill bit the dust in this past election in contrast to the successful campaigns in Michigan and Maine and the near successful one in Massachusetts. In a supposedly environmentally conscious state, the measure seemed to have a good chance of passing. Yet it lost by approximately a three-to-two vote and the likely reasons may prove a lesson for future state bottle bill campaigns.

Robert Case of the Sensible Coloradans Against Throwaways (SCAT), the main group supporting the initiative, attributes the defeat to the bottle industry's well-funded advertising — estimated at \$500,000; misleading and/or false statements by bottlers during the campaign; and, most importantly, poor planning and strategy on the part of the bill's proponents. Case says supporters made little effort to raise funds to finance their campaign and failed to inform the average voter of the need for the bill or of its particulars. The measure would have required a 5¢ deposit on bottles and cans but would also have required that containers returned for a refund be recycled or refilled, not thrown away.

Colorado Outdoors

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## Urban Sprawl Strikes Again

A favorite story comes at the expense of a nameless deer hunter. He was in the woods well before daylight, walking some distance to what seemed a familiar tree. He climbed to a comfortable spot in the tree, then sat expectantly waiting for what would surely be the trophy buck of a lifetime. Sunrise that morning was lost in a dense fog that hugged the ground for an hour. He became puzzled as strange sounds sifted through the slowly rising mist. He soon found himself . . . sitting in the middle of a subdivision.

Missouri Conservationist

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## Wild Sheep Publication Available

The Boone and Crockett Club still has a few copies of its book on wild sheep management for sale, the Wildlife Management Institute reports. Entitled *THE WILD SHEEP IN MODERN NORTH AMERICA*, the book is the most definitive work of its kind yet compiled.

The text is the proceedings of a workshop on the management of wild sheep held at the University of Montana in 1974. It represents the most comprehensive collection of data available on the past, present, and future status of those important game animals. Each chapter was contributed by renowned wild sheep authorities from throughout North America.

Copies of the 302-page book are available from the Boone and Crockett Club, 413 North Washington Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314 for \$10 each.

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## Wild Horse Numbers Increase

With few natural predators around, wild horse herds in the West are posing a threat to their own welfare and to the environment, according to a report made to Congress by the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service.

The report concludes that as many as 10,000 horses should be removed from federal lands annually to slow serious deterioration of the range forage needed by the horses and native wildlife. The report states that there are more than 56,000 wild horses and 7,000 wild burros roaming western public lands.

The need to control wild horse and burro populations is recognized in the Wild Horse and Burro Act. It even permits humane destruction, as long as no commercial use is made of the carcasses. Both agencies, however, have preferred to capture the horses and offer them for care by private individuals. The average cost of capturing a wild horse is \$300. That means control by capture would cost at least \$3 million annually, which is equal to about half the amount BLM currently has in its total wildlife budget. Whether tame or wild, livestock always seem to come first on the nation's rangelands.

Wildlife Management Institute

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Photos by  
Ken Durbin



When fish can not get to the hatchery, then the hatchery must go to them. Sportsmen assisted the Alsea hatchery crew in a project to seine steelhead from the Alsea in February.



## Low Water Forces River Seining on Alsea

Oregon's drought is creating a lot of problems, especially for fish. The Alsea River, for instance, had a February flow which looked more like July than February.

Because of this, winter steelhead that normally have migrated upstream into hatchery traps for spawning were still trapped downstream or unable to negotiate the hatchery ladder because of insufficient water.

The result is that spawning time

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arrived at the Department hatchery on the North Fork of the Alsea before the fish did. If the fish will not go to the hatchery, then the hatchery must go to the fish. That is what the Alsea Hatchery crew, with the help of the Corvallis and Albany chapters of the Northwest Steelheaders, did in mid-February.

Twenty people with three seines searched holding areas along the Alsea for the stranded fish. The first day of seining netted 90 fish. Addi-

tional netting was planned.

Some fish had made it to the hatchery by the time it became necessary to get out the nets but most of them were males. Over 400 females were still needed to reach the million egg total required for next year's smolt releases.

The Alsea Hatchery produces the bulk of the steelhead planted in coastal streams, so failure to raise enough fish could have coastwide effects.

# Tenmile Lakes – A Study of Change

By Ed Schwartz

District Fishery Biologist, Prineville

1925 - Passenger trains from Eugene, Coos Bay and Reedsport discharged passengers at Lakeside to fish for trout and salmon in the beautiful Tenmile Lakes. Commercial fishermen took many tons of salmon from the lakes each year.

1975 - Anglers driving campers and motor homes towing boats equipped with outboard motors, electric motors, casting outfits and swivel chairs travel from throughout Oregon where they compete in tournaments to catch the biggest bass and the most bass. Youngsters from 5 to 85 can be seen in boats anchored along the shore dabbling a worm, jig or fly for bluegill.

What has happened at North and South Tenmile Lakes during the past 50 years? Why has the fishery changed from a renowned trout and salmon fishery to perhaps the best bass lake in Oregon? Times have changed, and so have the Tenmile Lakes.

During the early part of this century the Tenmile Lakes area, located approximately halfway between Coos Bay and Reedsport, was an undeveloped, remote area. There were few roads and few people. The water was clear, the fish were numerous and big. Large hatches of mayflies each year provided fish food and angler bait. It seemed that these lakes were the angler's utopia. One could catch as many trout as they wished and could go there in the fall of the year to salt away as many barrels of salmon as needed for the winter.

Times changed. People began coming to the lakes in greater numbers. They built summer homes around the shores. Roads were built throughout the watershed to harvest the valuable timber. The bottom land along the streams was cleared and dairy cattle grazed the lush grass. Silt from the headlands began to slowly fill in the lakes, the water



The Department tried to return the trout fishery to the Tenmile Lakes with a massive chemical treatment program. The attempt was not successful.

began to get shallower and warmer. Nutrients washed from the watershed enriched the lake water and algae and plankton began to grow in profusion.

During the early 1930s someone decided that since trout and salmon did so well in the lakes, other fish would do as well. Yellow perch and brown bullhead were introduced into the Tenmile Lakes. These fish did grow very well and before long there were so many of these fish that there was not food enough for all and they began to become stunted. The trout became smaller and fewer in numbers. The young salmon and steelhead, pausing in the lakes for several months on their way to the ocean, found very little food and many other fish preyed on them.

During the early 1960s someone also introduced bluegill into the lakes. These brightly colored sunfish found the lakes an ideal place to live and in a matter of only a few years were found in vast numbers throughout the lakes and up into the tributaries flowing into the lakes.

Another catastrophe hit the lakes following World War II. Brazilian Waterweed somehow found its way into the Tenmile system. This weed flourishes in warm water one to ten

feet in depth. Since the numerous arms of Tenmile Lakes contain hundreds of acres of ideal growing conditions for this plant, it soon spread and the shallow areas were completely choked with Brazilian Waterweed. In addition to being nearly impossible to run a boat through, the weeds provide excellent habitat for the perch and bluegill to escape predators.

By the mid-1960s the Tenmile Lakes were a complete disaster as a fishing area. The trout were all but gone. The salmon and steelhead numbers were much less than they had once been. Perch, bluegill and brown bullhead were to be found in great numbers everywhere, but all were so small that the anglers didn't care to even fish for them.

The decision was made by the Game Commission to chemically rehabilitate the lake system. All of the fish had to be killed so that a fresh start could be made. At a cost of about \$176,000, a 75-man crew applied rotenone to the entire system in September 1968. The lakes were restocked with trout, salmon and steelhead. The cost of restocking the system ran the total price of the project to about \$224,000. It was hoped this effort would signal the end of a

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sad story about the Tenmile Lakes (Oregon State Game Commission Bulletin — January 1969).

The story, however, did not end there. It is true that there were a couple of years of good trout angling following the treatment project. However, fishery biologists sampling the fish populations in the lakes during the following summer found a bluegill. One year later there were quite a few bluegill noted. By 1972, four years after the treatment, the fish population in the lakes contained 70 percent bluegill. The 1975 spring samples indicated that 90 to 95 percent of all of the fish in the lakes were bluegill.

Where did these bluegill come from? Did a few survive the chemical treatment? Did someone release them back into the lakes? The answers to these questions can only be conjecture. The fact remains that they did reappear. The fact also remains that the cost of again chemically treating the lakes would now be prohibitive — and with the same possibility that the bluegill would reappear.

In an effort to provide some type of fishery at the lakes, the decision was made to stock the lakes with largemouth black bass. This bass thrives in a habitat such as is now found at Tenmile. They like the shallow, warm water, the weed beds and the irregular, debris-strewn shorelines. Their diet is primarily other fish, and with the large numbers of small bluegill present, food is plentiful.

During the spring of 1971, 67 adult bass and 137,000 juvenile bass were transported from Cottage Grove Reservoir and released into the Tenmile Lakes. From that date the fishery story at Tenmile has improved tremendously.

The bass thrived in the lakes. The juvenile bass grew at a rapid rate and within two years were weighing a couple of pounds. The bass also spawned successfully as could be seen by the large numbers of schools of little bass living in the warm shallows during the spring and summer.

Bass fishing at Tenmile Lakes has really caught on. Local people, as well as tourists and anglers from throughout Oregon, have found some of the best bass angling in the State

of Oregon. An angler with a bit of know-how and some casting skill can fish worms in the early spring, lures during late spring and surface poppers during the summer and consistently go home with a string of nice bass and a story about the big one that got away.

Tenmile is still more than a bass lake. Bluegill can be taken up to 12 inches in length. Brown bullhead up to 20 inches in length are consistently taken in good numbers during the summer by night anglers. Fingerling trout released into the system each year grow and provide some fair angling for those who would prefer to catch a trout. During the late fall and early winter good catches of jack salmon and steelhead can be taken in Tenmile Creek, where it flows out of the lakes and toward the ocean.

What is the future of the Tenmile Lake system? Is this good bass angling something that is going to last for a couple of years and then decline, or is it going to continue for many years? What is going to happen to the trout and the bluegill?

Catastrophe can always occur, as is demonstrated at Tenmile. It would appear, however, that Oregonians can expect Tenmile to be a good producer for many years.

Bass have an amazing ability to

withstand heavy fishing pressure. They are undoubtedly assured of a continuing good food source. Their habitat is not going to change substantially. To predict anything other than good bass angling in the foreseeable future would be unduly pessimistic.

To consider the Tenmile Lakes as primarily trout lakes is probably a thing of the past. The trout cannot compete with the other species. There will probably always be some trout for those who would like to catch trout.

Maybe these changes, or predicted changes, are not all bad. To the old-timer who remembers the good old days, Tenmile may be a disaster. To the connoisseur of warm-water fish, Tenmile may be heaven. To the fishery biologist, Tenmile is a complex system which requires regular monitoring, constant efforts to assure as good as or better habitat, and a continuing vigilance to detect changes which could perhaps be buffered by variations in management policies or regulations. To the local businessmen, Tenmile is again an area which attracts anglers who rent boats and buy lures, bait, food and fuel. To the bass, Tenmile is home.

Times have changed — and so have North and South Tenmile Lakes.



Bluegill are now the predominant species in the Tenmile Lakes system.

## Extension offers Boating Manual

\$1.00

Do you routinely reach for your PFD before approaching a bar?

For that matter, can you tell a PFD from a becket bend? If not, perhaps what you need is a better bar guide.

The Oregon State University Extension Service's new manual *Boating in Coastal Waters* may be the answer.

Do you know where to get and how to file a float plan? Are you certain someone reliable will know when, where, and how to begin looking for you and the family if you do not return on time from that next boat trip?

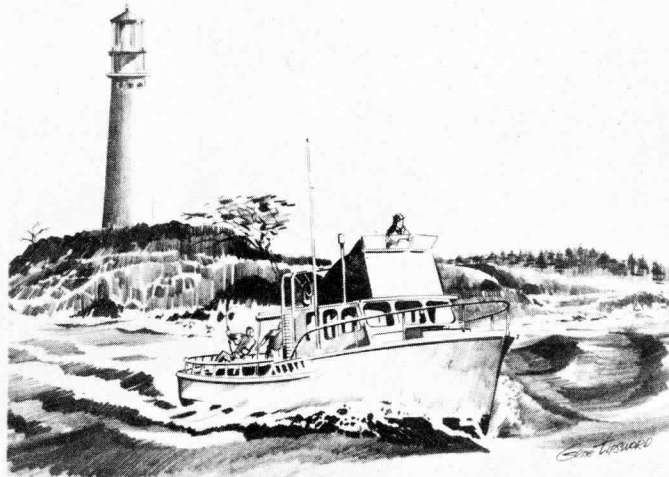
Have you the addresses of all licensed dealers for official navigation charts of the Oregon coast? Or the summer phone number for checking out boating conditions in the Nehalem River entrance?

Are you thinking about trailering the family dory to a new stretch of coast for a change?

Would it help to have an aerial view of that bay or bar along with a marked chart that lists what to avoid, to make the first trip safer and more pleasurable?

These and many, many more bits of practical information on operating small craft in scenic but often hazardous coastal waters are presented in the new Extension Manual 3, *Boat-*

## BOATING in COASTAL WATERS



Oregon State Marine Board, Salem  
Oregon State University Extension Service,  
Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program, Corvallis

Revised Edition 1976

Extension Manual 3

*ing in Coastal Waters.*

This clearly illustrated 56-page guide to coastal boating in Oregon has been published by OSU Extension's Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program in cooperation with the Oregon State Marine Board.

*Boating in Coastal Waters*, Extension Manual 3, is available by mail at \$1 per copy, from Extension Stockroom, Extension Hall, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR 97331. When ordering by mail, be sure to include return address.

## Commission sets 1977 Opening Dates

The Fish and Wildlife Commission, which met in Portland January 22, set opening dates for major 1977 hunting seasons. The opening dates are as follows.

August 27 — Antelope and general bowhunting seasons

October 1 — Mule deer, blacktail deer, and chukar partridge

October 15 — Pheasant season

October 29 — Rocky Mountain elk season

November 12 — Roosevelt elk season

The opening dates have been set for the benefit of those who must

plan their vacations well in advance. Season lengths, bag limits, and other regulations will be set at public meetings later in the year after biological field studies are completed.

The Commission discussed the question of hunter numbers and of quality in big game hunting and announced it would consider a number of possible steps in future meetings dealing with those subjects, among them:

- \* Restriction of hunters to use of a single weapon of their choice (conventional rifle, muzzle loading

rifle, or bow and arrow) for deer and elk hunting each year.

- \* Restricting deer hunters to hunting bucks or does, but not both in any one season.

- \* Restricting mule deer tag holders to application for a mule deer controlled season hunt and blacktail tag holders to blacktail controlled hunts.

- \* For elk hunting the Commission will be considering such possible steps as refuges, branch antler rules, a tag sale cutoff date before the season opens, multiple seasons with hunters limited to one choice,

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## Opening Dates

and a permit drawing season for all elk hunting.

An administrative rule adopted by the Commission closes Multnomah Channel (Willamette Slough) to salmon angling May 1 through June 30 to coincide with a closure already set in the Willamette River below Willamette Falls.

Other rules remove the special hook regulation on Coos River and Umpqua River main stem and lower the upstream deadline for salmon angling in the South Fork Coos River to a bridge 7 miles above Dellwood.

## Plant Seeding At White River

*Story & Photo by  
Pearl D. Anderson*

It might seem early for spring planting, but nearly fifty people arrived in the White River Wildlife Management Area on Saturday, January 29, for just that purpose. Bitterbrush is the crop, to provide browse in the winter months for the large deer population of the area.

Brief instructions on proper planting methods were given by Derald Walker and Paul Ebert, from the Fish and Wildlife Department, then the workers spread out across the frozen meadow, planting industriously. It was hard work and it was cold, well below freezing, but in about six hours, most of the meadow had been planted with 65,000 seeds.

The Multnomah Anglers and Hunters Club sponsored this project, assisted by members of Milwaukie Rod & Gun Club, Western Rod & Reel Club, Eagle Creek Boy Scout Troop #249, Portland Chapter of Steelheaders, Sandy River Chapter Steelheaders, Oregon Wildlife Federation, Lt. Ralph Loomis and Trooper Tom Ashmore of the Oregon State Police, and Ted Kelm, Tygh Valley Gamekeeper.

The fact that this has been a drought winter made the effort possi-

**OREGON WILDLIFE**



**Sportsmen clubs, outdoorsmen and a scout troop banded together to help the deer at White River management area by planting bitterbrush. It will be about two years before the animals will be using the new plants.**

ble. Usually there is about twenty-four inches of snow in this area. Normal winters, with usual snowfall is when the bitterbrush is most needed. There is little else available for the deer to eat. When asked if this would provide enough browse to make any difference, Paul Ebert stated, "Every bit helps. Perhaps as much as half of

this seed won't grow, but what has been done here today is so much more than our staff could have accomplished in the same time."

It will be two years before this crop can be "harvested" by the deer. Meanwhile, more projects like this would help assure the health and well-being of Oregon's deer herds.

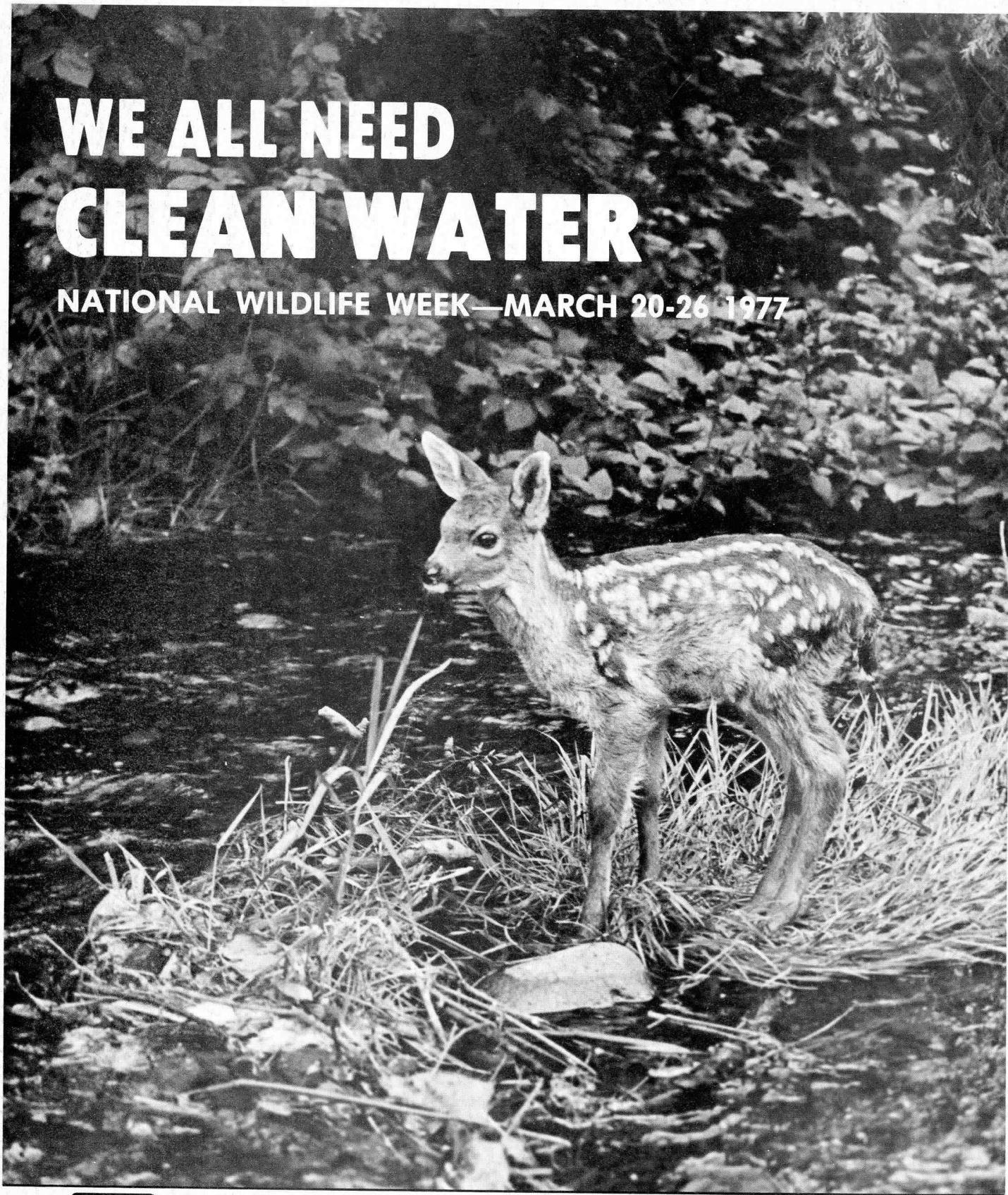
## Columbia River Plan

cially harvested by non-treaty fishermen. Columbia River treaty tribes are permitted to take steelhead through ceremonial and subsistence fishing and may keep those taken incidental to other commercial fisheries. But the Indian tribes agree not to fish for steelhead as a target species and to use an eight-inch minimum mesh size to limit incidental catch.

Oregon Fish and Wildlife Director Jack Donaldson says he believes the plan will permit the involved parties to stay out of the courtroom and instead devote their efforts and financial resources to rebuilding the fish runs to the maximum potential of the river. "If the runs could be rebuilt to anything approaching historical levels, there would be more than enough fish for everyone," he pointed out.

# WE ALL NEED CLEAN WATER

NATIONAL WILDLIFE WEEK—MARCH 20-26 1977



1634 S. W. ALDER STREET  
P. O. BOX 3503  
PORTLAND, OREGON 97208