

# OREGON WILDLIFE

November - December 1984



# OREGON WILDLIFE

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OREGON FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

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Ron E. Shay, Editor

**Cover** — A coyote is fitted with a radio transmitter that allows biologists to track its movements (See article on page 8). *Photo by S. Bruce Craven*

**HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM**  
**INSTRUCTORS APPROVED**  
Months of August —  
September ..... 45  
Total Active ..... 1,581  
**STUDENTS TRAINED**  
Months of August —  
September ..... 4,475  
Total to Date ..... 316,769  
**HUNTING CASUALTIES**  
(Reported in 1984)  
Fatal ..... 1  
Nonfatal ..... 4

## Guest Column

*Editor's note: Tom McAllister is an outdoor columnist for the Portland Oregonian. Recently he attended a seminar sponsored by the Oregon Hunter's Association in Bend. He reported on the meeting in an article in the September 27 issue of The Oregonian. With his permission, we are passing along portions of that column.*

The Bend chapter of the hunter's association brought together a group of range and wildlife managers to look at ways to bring back the (mule deer) herds in Eastern Oregon.

Mike Golden, central region wildlife supervisor from Bend, blames a steady attrition of winter range, fawning areas and migration routes through roads, subdivisions, harassment, and loss of habitat, for the losses.

These losses are among the least understood and most overlooked by Oregon hunters, Golden said.

Golden said excited hunters show up for meetings on the length or type of seasons, but not for county planning commission meetings to discuss proposed subdivisions smack in the midst of critical deer area.

From Bend south to Crescent, the migration routes from the summer range on the Fort Rock, Paulina and Silver Lake game units are peppered with one-and two-acre lot subdivisions. Houses have been built around the wet meadows and streamside areas that were excellent fawning areas for does.

The deer need migration corridors where they are not subject to disturbances by the dogs that go with the housing developments. People like to claim they keep their dogs under control, but that's not the case, Golden said. The Little Deschutes area was once a major staging area for deer migrating between the Cascades and the High Desert, but now it's a total loss, Golden said.

He showed aerial slides of the dense gridwork of new roads and clearings that are not otherwise apparent when driving through this lodgepole timber country which has 600 subdivisions and 8,000 lots for homes.

"It's a matter of picking the best deer areas, compromising and standing behind what you have retained." Golden said of the relationship with county planners.

He cited Sunriver as a development, where in spite of its size, the housing was clustered and lots of open space was retained. "It's not the best for deer but it limits what happens."

He said road closures and agreements with private landowners, as in the Tumalo area, are making a difference on the amount of harassment and poaching of deer concentrated on a winter range.

*(On another subject of the meetings, McAllister told of coyote discussions.)*

Oregon has one of the higher coyote populations and for many years there has been no big jackrabbit irruption to act as a buffer between the coyote and the deer and antelope fawns.

Rod Ingram, big-game specialist from the department's Portland office, said the 1985 legislature will be asked to approve \$100,000 in the Wildlife Department's budget for aerial shooting of coyotes.

"It can be effective if we pick our spots," said Ingram, who cited 193 coyotes taken in a 12-hour period in one area south of Burns last winter, and another 244 coyotes on a later sweep of the same area.

Ingram said approval of \$400,000 of enhancement or rehabilitation work on deer winter ranges each year will be sought.

(continued on page 14)

## Commission Meetings

November 16 8 a.m. Two-year angling regulations review  
Review of 85-87 biennial budget  
December 14 8 a.m. General Business



Hunters at a Corvallis elk workshop make their concerns known.

## What Do Elk Hunters Want?

*A Summary of Results from Questionnaires and Workshops*  
*Dan L. Eastman, Wildlife Management Coordinator*

WE KNEW WE WERE IN TROUBLE, when we had the beginnings of a crowd at the door a full hour ahead of schedule. Would the meeting rooms accommodate everyone? Were there enough helpers for more small group sessions?

At our second elk workshop in Portland that January evening, the turnout buried us. We had cut our teeth in The Dalles a few days earlier and the interaction method for conducting meetings worked well. The 168 participants spilled off the stage and onto the gym floor at Dry Hollow Grade School. Yet, a productive first elk workshop, with eight small work groups, resulted under the guidance of Rod Ingram, chief of the big game management program.

The Portland workshop warned of things to come. We had scheduled the Fish and Wildlife Commission hearing room, and as a backup, the use of some rooms at Portland State University, two blocks away. We estimated we could squeeze in 250 participants by running two concurrent ses-

sions. At 280, we had the unpleasant task of turning away over 100 individuals who were still arriving before the meeting's scheduled start. Another workshop at a later date was promised.

Next, we were swamped in Bend with 515 people. We had to start turning folks away at 390. In Eugene, 413 people arrived at Lane Community College. The work groups were up to an excessive size at 340 participants and the remainder had to be turned away. Both Bend and Eugene were scheduled for repeat sessions.

Clearly we had underestimated the interest in elk workshops. No longer would we be caught unprepared for the large turnouts. For the remaining schedule, everyone was advised to overprepare. New or backup meeting halls were located and extra helpers were scheduled for duty. It worked!

In Salem, 545 participants worked in the small groups. They generated 19 lengthy lists of priority concerns and recommendations on elk management, the wel-

fare of elk and elk hunting regulations. In Pendleton, 332 people participated; Medford, 358; Klamath Falls, 276; Roseburg, 270. Apparently, the 120,000 elk fact sheets we had distributed statewide were read.

The 25 elk workshops held in 22 Oregon communities drew 4,950 individuals. There were 198 small work groups. Each generated an average seven-sheet roll of easel-sized paper containing all the prioritized concerns and solutions offered during the one and one-half hour small group session. The material was eventually transferred to 434 typed pages for the record.

While the workshops were underway, 42,214 questionnaires were sent to a sample of elk tag holders to get responses to several questions such as: Are there too many bull hunters? Should there be more closed roads? Should we have one hunting season for bulls? Should a three-point rule be adopted? Should there be no changes? Approximately 16,000 contacts

were made during the rifle bull season to reach hunters in the particular unit they hunted in 1983. This made it possible to create a mailing list by hunt period, species and unit. Almost 26,000 statewide questionnaires were sent out to reach hunters who may have hunted elsewhere than their favorite unit in 1983, bowhunters with a three-point tag and those in a controlled hunt. These went mostly to persons who were selected to receive the annual harvest report form.

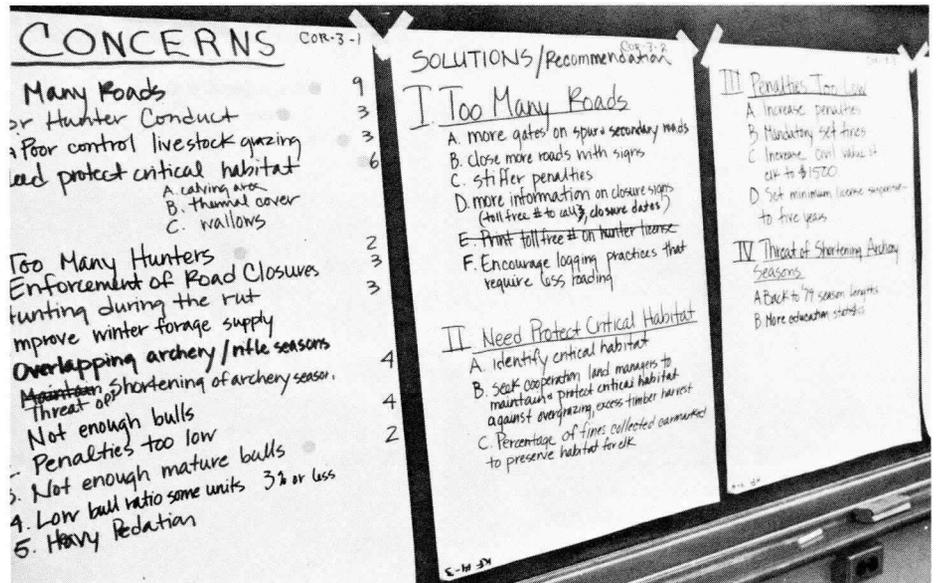
As near as can be determined, this effort using questionnaires and workshops to find out what elk hunters and others interested in elk want, is unparalleled among western states.

### Questionnaire Results

Forty percent (16,912) of the total mailed questionnaires were completed and returned. All of the questionnaire responses from the field contacts were by unit. In addition, 70 percent of those returning the statewide questionnaire specified a unit. Checkboxes and comments were directed at 53 Rocky Mtn. and Roosevelt elk units. Because of different attitudes among hunters in various units, results by unit are most important. However, overall results that follow, with some examples, serve as a general frame of reference.

### Too Many Bull Hunters?

One-third of the questionnaire respondents indicated either there were not too many bull hunters or they had no opinion. The no opinion group ranged from 6-8 percent of all respondents. The other two thirds indicated either we should hold hunter numbers at the present level or reduce them up to 50 percent. Of those contacted in the field for the unit questionnaire, 58 percent indicated they would hold or reduce hunter numbers. This compared to 72 percent for the statewide questionnaire, which could have included hunters who abandoned a favorite unit. Fifty-nine percent of bowhunters would hold or reduce bull hunter numbers.



A full listing of concerns and solutions handwritten on easel pads at 25 workshops filled 434 pages when typed.

By unit, the implication is most hunters would hold or reduce bull hunter numbers. The strength of the feeling varied considerably according to unit. For example, only fifty-seven percent of White River hunters would hold or reduce hunter numbers compared to eighty percent in the Mt. Emily unit.

Rocky Mtn. elk hunters and first period hunters of both Rocky Mtn. and Roosevelt bulls are most concerned about bull hunter numbers.

### Close More Roads?

With this and the other questions that follow on both unit and statewide questionnaires, level of support was sought only because there were no checkboxes to indicate opposition or no opinion.

There was stronger support to close more roads than any of the offered management options. Overall, 36 percent of hunters would close more roads compared to 38 percent in a survey of elk tag holders in 1980. That survey revealed 85 percent of elk hunters support the road management program, and 45 percent of those wanted more closures. About 44 percent in the current survey would close more roads in Snake River, Wenaha and McKenzie

units, compared to 21 percent in Silvies unit.

### One Bull Hunting Season?

The two-period bull season as presently practiced is two to three times more favored than one bull hunting season according to various sections of the questionnaire. The strongest supporters of one bull hunting season feel there are not too many hunters. Slightly over one fourth of the respondents (28 percent) support one bull hunting season. Among rifle hunters, the strongest support was indicated for Chesnimnus, with 39 percent favoring the present one hunting season regulation.

### Adopt Three-Point Rule?

Rifle hunter support for a three-point rule was 29 percent overall, compared to 40 percent among bowhunters. The questionnaire did not reveal which of the seasons bowhunters might be referring to. Only Saddle Mtn. and Tioga units where the three-point rule is in effect had clear majority support.

Roosevelt elk hunters are the stronger advocates for the three-point rule at 37 percent, compared to 26 percent for Rocky Mtn. hunters. Those who feel there are too many hunters are the stronger

advocates for a three-point rule. There is no significant difference in attitude comparing the two hunt periods.

### Make No (Other) Changes?

All people who would change nothing, and those who would limit hunter numbers and change nothing else, amounted to 20 percent of the respondents. Suggested changes have varying degrees of support unit by unit. (i.e. road closures have more support than the three-point rule). Obviously, the perfect solution is nonexistent but respondents have indicated which options are the more palatable unit by unit.

### Workshop Results

The wide variety of expressions of concern in the elk work group records gradually evolved into a listing of 32 categories from the top five group priorities of each group. Every concern of each group fell somewhere in the 32 categories. In August, a special report of elk workshop concerns was mailed to all participants and a supply was provided for the public at each district and regional office.

The roading issue was by far the number one concern, surfacing among the top five priorities 159 times out of a possible 198. While 92 percent of the recommendations supported road management of some kind, 39 percent called for more closures, closely approximating the mailed questionnaire results.

Hunter numbers was the number three concern, appearing in the priorities of 113 work groups. Seventy percent of the recommendations to resolve the concern would limit hunter numbers. About the only time the present two-period bull hunting system appeared was as a reaction to a one-bull season recommendation. The two-period edged one season 52 to 48 percent. This paralleled questionnaire results.

Under the category of "pressure on bulls," solutions were some form of point rule 36 percent of the time, again similar to questionnaire results. Other results of the workshops had little or no relation

to questionnaires.

Habitat turned out to be such an all encompassing category that it was split into forest habitat loss, conflicts with livestock, winter range and habitat improvement programs. Had that not been done, habitat would have been priority two with 131 work group votes. Instead, enforcement/penalties,

with 116 votes, ended up priority two.

The total detail of elk workshop results is too long for this publication. The concerns that surfaced in three or more work groups as priorities, follow in descending order showing frequency of occurrence and top recommendations:

Priority	Category	Frequency	Recommendations
1.	Roading	159	more physical & administrative closures cover all seasons promote self-policing
2.	Enforcement/ Penalties	116	more effective enforcement, more officers promote public involvement (CAWT) minimum mandatory fines crackdown on double-dippers
3.	Hunter Numbers	113	limited entry by unit limited entry first period hunt alternate years
4.	Pressure on Bulls	92	three-point rule close certain areas raise bull ratio mgt. objective
5.	Pressure on Cows	71	reduce cow tags no cow hunts in some units transplant problem elk
6.	Hunting in Rut	69	no hunting in rut reduce early bow season hunt high bull ratio areas only
7.	Forest Habitat Loss	52	maintain cover in timber management earmark dollars to improve habitat more road closures
8.	Excessive Season Length	51	reduce total hunting days shorten bow season close seasons earlier
9.	Conflicts with Livestock	42	reduce livestock use, enforce permits shorten public land grazing season improve communication with landowners
10.	Revenue/Fees	32	wildlife dollars to wildlife elk dollars to elk management increase nonresident fees
11.	Winter Range	28	purchase/lease winter range fund winter feeding increase fees for feed
12.	Fish & Wildlife Commission	20	follow biological recommendations remove political & landowner influence from decisions
13.	Too Few Elk	16	increase elk populations more trapping/transplanting
14.	Interval Between Seasons	15	up to 30 days between hunts more time between deer and elk
15.	Bow Season	14	shorten, lengthen, leave bow seasons rifle/bow season at same time



Almost 5,000 individuals had a chance to comment on Oregon's elk seasons and management during workshops held in 22 communities around the state.

16.	Unqualified Hunters	13	require safety training for all teach shooting proficiency
17.	Hunting Access	10	promote access to private land stop posting of public land
18.	Opening Dates	10	open on saturdays open later
19.	Habitat Improvement	9	stop spraying increase forage
20.	Hunting Strategies	9	more primitive weapons hunts stop hazing elk
21.	Short Rifle Season	9	increase rifle season lengthen first period
22.	Drawing Procedures	8	equalize opportunity for cow tags disallow nonresidents
23.	Cooperation/ Coordination	5	improve agency, hunter, landowner co-op. improve dept. lobbying
24.	Management Direction	5	improve accuracy of census raise minimum calibers
25.	Split Season	5	one longer bull season all seasons same length
26.	Low Calf Ratios	4	increase predator control disallow hunting of calves
27.	Indian Hunting	3	reduce indian hunting pressure same season for indian/nonindian
28.	Game Damage	3	don't issue kill permits solve problems with hunters

### Where Do We Go From Here?

Hunters and the interested public were informed that we would release survey results in the fall of 1984. They were also told survey results might begin to show up in recommendations for elk seasons beginning in 1985. The wishes of the public expressed through questionnaires and the workshops are expected to influence decision-makers for years to come.

Task groups will be formed to develop alternative action plans to implement solutions to the problems identified by the workshop participants. Biologists will assess the possible effects of adopting new hunting regulations called for in units within their jurisdiction. It is reasonable to expect changes in some units because of the high hunter demand, as long as biological principles are the first consideration. Fish and Wildlife Commission deliberations on proposed changes will provide for more public testimony. □



Run

Fall

Begin

## Salmon

Returns of coho and chinook to Columbia River hatcheries are almost over, and fall rains have brought a surge of fish into coastal streams and hatcheries. Answers to the questions of how good or bad the 1984 salmon runs would be are beginning to take shape.

There is little doubt how the season turned out for ocean fishermen, both sport and commercial. Catches in both of the fisheries were among the lowest on record. Short seasons and restrictive quotas kept harvest down in anticipation of poor coho returns. Some chinook stocks were also expected to be down as well.

Are the runs as bad as expected? Were the tightened ocean seasons justified? With most of the seasons over in the ocean and winding down inland, fisheries managers are starting to add up the numbers. Early indications are that pre-season coho run-size predictions will be reasonably close to actual performance.

Department biologists caution that at this stage any estimate is just a ballpark figure, but they agree that the ballpark boundaries for coho returns will likely fall somewhere between the original and adjusted Oregon Production Index (OPI) predictions.

The most restrictive ocean fishing seasons in history were designed to allow depressed stocks to escape inland. Fishing off much of Oregon was reduced to boost escapement of naturally-spawning coho to coastal streams.

At the same time, seasons were also cut back off the coast of Washington and Oregon north of Cape Falcon. These restrictions were designed to protect chinook bound for the Columbia and coho that spawn in streams on the north Washington coast.



Anglers on Tillamook Bay were attracted by a chance at landing a 50-pound fall chinook. Improved salmon escapement inland meant better fishing in the bays this year.

The harvest rate at sea was less than half the percentage of recent years. As a result, more coho and chinook did escape inland. Restrictions on fisheries in Canada and Alaska also contributed to improved Columbia River returns. The good showing of upriver bright fall chinook this year was partly because the fishing fleets did not intercept as many fish as usual.

Biologists caution people to avoid jumping to the conclusion that more fish in freshwater means the OPI projection was substantially off. The numbers are still low, but this year, as intended, a larger percentage of a smaller coho population escaped ocean harvest.

This increased escapement inland has brought some good fisheries to coastal estuaries this fall. The coho catch of more than 70,000 fish during the lower Columbia River sport season was an all-time inland record. Other bays, such as Tillamook, have enjoyed some of the best fishing opportunities in several years. Columbia River gillnetters are tallying one of the best seasons in the past ten years.

Hatchery programs are also reaping some benefits. ODFW fish culture supervisor Jerry Bauer says that many coastal stations have reached, or are near, the numbers of coho needed for full production.

These goals include not only hatchery smolt rearing, but also presmolts for off-station release, and coho eggs for Salmon and

Trout Enhancement Program (STEP) hatchbox projects.

This could be the first year since the STEP program officially began that volunteers will be working with significant numbers of coho eggs. In the past, the coho egg shortage has forced volunteers to rear chinook and steelhead eggs. This year, the options of what to raise could be expanded.

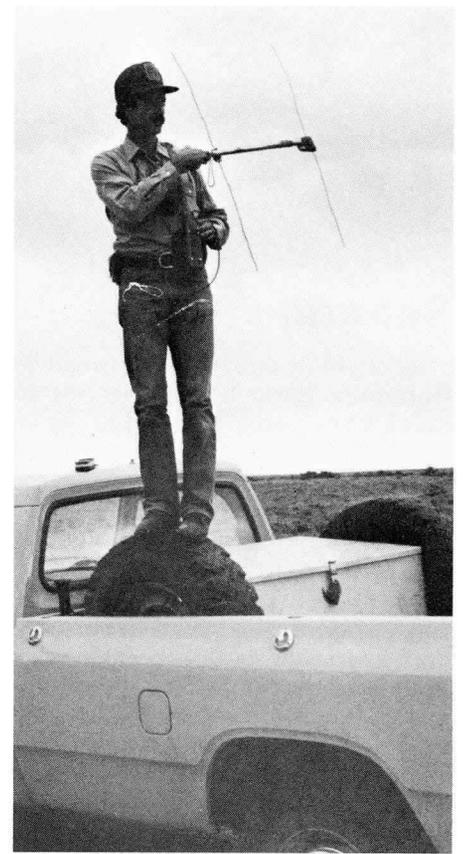
STEP volunteers that rely on Columbia River coho eggs will probably get most of their request. Bauer says the lower river complex of hatcheries will likely meet egg goals for all coho programs. Tule chinook returns to the hatcheries are well below the number needed for full production, however. This shortage could be offset somewhat by increased production of the upriver bright chinook.

Bauer says forecasting the status of coastal chinook returns would be premature at this time. These fish, especially those bound for south coast hatcheries and streams, normally return later than coho.

It is also too early to judge how well the restrictive ocean seasons actually protected the naturally-spawning coastal coho. Whether the regulations were an overall success at meeting this goal will not be known until stream surveys are completed and numbers totaled. Preliminary information on these surveys usually is available by January. □



Department biologist Walt VanDyke fits a small transmitter on a young ruffed grouse.



As evening falls, a biologist uses a receiving antenna to check on transmitters placed that day.

## Playing Radio Tag in the Wilds

*By S. Bruce Craven*

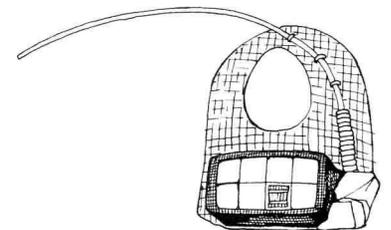
What do pheasants, sandhill cranes, bobcats, bighorn sheep, mountain goats, wild turkeys, black bears, walleye, harbor seals, sage grouse, blue grouse, Roosevelt elk, Rocky Mountain elk, coyotes and squawfish have in common? Well for one thing, all are species that have recently become travelling "radio stations." They are not the type of stations you will pick up on a car radio; nor would most people want to, since the program material is only a succession of beeps. For wildlife biologists, these beeps are the main elements of a variety of radio telemetry research projects and will be music to their ears for months to come.

Much has changed since radio telemetry was first used for the Millicoma and Steens elk studies of the early 1960's. In those days elk, Oregon's largest wildlife residents, were one of the few species strong enough to carry the heavy batteries needed to power the bulky transmitters. The equipment was crude, delicate, temperamental, and unable to survive for long in the moist climate of the west side, or the rugged mountains to the east.

Today the equipment used for radio telemetry is dependable, high tech, state-of-the-art electronics. Transmitters, smaller than a man's little finger, can last for months and even years in the wild. As the

preceding list of species shows, many more wildlife species can now be fitted or "tagged" with transmitters that do not hamper their movement. The old back-pack radio receivers of the biologists have given way to units small enough to be worn on the belt. These can simultaneously scan two-hundred different transmitters.

Yet some things have changed little since the 1960's. The transmitter is still the heart of any telemetry project. Its signal allows biologists to use the receiver and a special, highly directional antenna to locate the tagged animals on a regular basis. The information provided can then be used to deter-





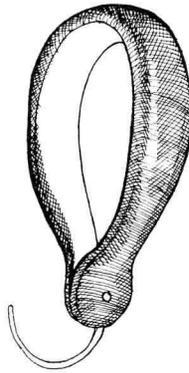
Biologists and volunteers capture and load harbor seals onto a boat so they can be hauled to a less muddy area for transmitter placement.



A harbor seal (above) gets a radio that will allow biologists to track its movement. A tranquilized elk (below) is fitted with a transmitter collar.

mine habitat preferences, distribution, migration patterns and survival. Just as the initial studies did, today's radio telemetry research allows the unknown or misunderstood to be learned.

It is not enough to simply place transmitters on one or two individuals of a given species. Of the twenty or so current telemetry studies, between 350 and 400 transmitters are operating throughout the state. The ongoing elk study in the Wallowa Mountains alone has nearly one-hundred animals tagged. Usually between ten and twenty animals must be radio tagged to provide the statistical base needed to draw any biological conclusions. This means ten to twenty snapping, slippery, and even submerged animals, must be located, captured and fitted with radios. As these photographs show, that is still no easy task. □





Rimrock Springs Wildlife Management Area.

## Watchable Wildlife in Central Oregon

*Greg Concannon  
Fish & Wildlife Biologist,  
Prineville*

As I approached the turnoff to Rimrock Springs Wildlife Management Area, I caught a glimpse of something white to my left. Once in the parking area I quickly turned off the engine to my pickup, grabbed my binoculars and camera, and headed in the direction of what I had just seen seconds before.

A warm breeze was blowing in my face this early October morning as I slipped quietly through the sagebrush and rabbit brush toward a small rise in the terrain. Near the top I got down on my hands and knees and slowly peered over the rise. There, approximately 100 yards away was a small herd of about 15 pronghorn antelope.

With my binoculars I could see that there was only one buck in the bunch. I could also see that I was not the only one doing all the watch-

ing. To the right stood a doe with her eyes fixed on me.

By the time I put the binoculars down and started to get my camera in position, the doe had alerted the rest of the herd to my presence. They wasted very little time putting some distance between me and them as they broke into a run, lined out single file, zigzagging through the sagebrush. I was only able to snap a few parting photos of their white rumps in retreat.

Returning to the parking area I found the foot trail that I had originally intended to follow before being sidetracked by the antelope. I had come to Rimrock Springs Wildlife Management Area for several reasons, but foremost among them was just to get outdoors and enjoy for a few minutes one of the last warm days of the year before winter's debut.

Rimrock Springs WMA is located in the center of the Crooked River National Grassland adjacent to State Highway 26 midway between Prineville and Madras. Several years ago, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife identified this site as a potential "watchable wildlife" area. As a result, the Rimrock Springs WMA was established to emphasize nonconsumptive uses of wildlife with opportunities for both recreational and educational activities.

A wide variety of plant communities and habitats at Rimrock Springs supports a rich diversity of wildlife. The presence of a riparian zone in the management area, encompassing several ponds and springs, provides a unique wildlife habitat in this semi-arid grassland setting.

Sagebrush/bunchgrass, juniper-

/sagebrush, dry meadow and rimrock are other important habitat types found at Rimrock Springs. Wildlife unique to each habitat type can be found.

Many kinds of wildlife inhabit Rimrock Springs year-round while others are present only during migration. More than 100 species of songbirds, shorebirds, waterfowl, raptors and upland game birds frequent the area at various times. Other inhabitants include about 50 species of both small and large mammals, reptiles and amphibians.

Pronghorn antelope are infrequently encountered on the management area. Mule deer are more common. Marsh hawks and sometimes an occasional coyote hunt the dry meadow. During spring, the air around the meadow and marsh is filled with the chatter from yellowheaded and red-winged blackbirds. Mountain bluebirds are also common, but only the lucky visitor may catch a fleeting glimpse of the secretive Virginia rail.

On this particular day in October the management area seemed to be alive with wild creatures. As I walked along the 1.5-mile "watchable wildlife" trail I surprised several mule deer does with their fawns feeding among the juniper trees and sagebrush. Hundreds of busy songbirds flittered from tree to tree while a rough-legged hawk soared high overhead. And every one hundred yards or so a chipmunk would dash across the trail in front of me, disappearing into the nearest cover.

I stopped momentarily at the site of a soon-to-be constructed viewing platform overlooking the marsh and meadow. With my binoculars I could see several small groups of mallards and teal dabbling among the rushes in the marsh.

Continuing on, I noticed the tracks of a porcupine in the dust of the trail. I remembered a discovery I had made about a year ago, so I took a few minutes to venture off the trail a short distance. My hunch paid off and I found what I was looking for. There, near the top of the same juniper tree as last year was a porcupine enjoying a mid-morning nap. Probably the same porcupine that left the tracks in

the trail and the same one I found asleep in the tree a year earlier. I call this particular tree the "porcupine roost tree".

As the trail bends back in the direction of the parking area, it reaches its highest point, providing a spectacular view of the Cascades from the Three Sisters north to Mount Hood. It was at this point that my presence sent a covey of valley quail scurrying off in all different directions to hide among several large lichen-covered boulders.

My journey along the trail took only 45 minutes. In this short period, I had an opportunity to view a variety of wildlife along with some splendid Central Oregon scenery. Much more can be

constructed this past summer and the trail system is nearly complete. Two viewing platforms overlooking the marsh and meadow will soon be constructed.

Raptor perch structures matching the landscape have been installed and plans to increase open water areas in the marsh are currently in the works. These improvements will enhance habitat for wildlife while improving viewing opportunities for human visitors to the area. The entire 425-acre management area has been designated a wildlife refuge and is closed to all hunting and trapping.

Financial backing and manpower to develop Rimrock Springs have come from both the department and National Grassland.



Diverse habitats at Rimrock Springs offer an opportunity to see a variety of wildlife species.

seen, heard and felt by taking more time to quietly investigate the management area.

The development of Rimrock Springs into a "watchable wildlife" area is a cooperative effort between the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Crooked River National Grassland. Development is progressing with two major objectives in mind: 1) to emphasize wildlife diversity by improving habitat condition and habitat diversity, while 2) providing opportunity for wildlife viewing and photography with an emphasis on educational interpretation of the ecosystem.

A parking area with easy access from State Highway 26 was con-

structed this past summer and the trail system is nearly complete. A portion of these dollars comes directly from the "Nongame Wildlife Fund" generated by Oregon's nongame tax check-off program.

Rimrock Springs WMA is currently open year-round to the public. As one of the state's newest "watchable wildlife" areas, it provides visitors the opportunity to view a variety of wildlife in a unique Central Oregon setting.

If traveling through Central Oregon, you find the need to stop and stretch your legs, try stopping at Rimrock Springs. You just might catch a glimpse of something wild worth watching. □

# This & That

## Bald Eagle Doing Well

The endangered bald eagle populations in the U.S. appear to be stabilized after years of decline, according to the Wildlife Management Institute. A survey by the National Wildlife Federation earlier this year revealed 11,819 bald eagles in 42 of the continental states. Last year there were 10,903 in the same states.

"The bald eagle isn't home free yet," said Jay D. Hair, NWF executive vice president. Hair said the eagle needs years to recover from the drastic decline it suffered in the 1960's, primarily from DDT and dwindling habitat. "Slowly, but surely," he said, "the bald eagle is making a comeback, and this year's survey demonstrates encouraging progress."

The bald eagle is endangered in 43 states and threatened in five others. The bird is plentiful in Alaska, and none live in Hawaii.

*Wildlife Management Institute*



## Fish Bite Back

A Louisiana angler recently got a shock while cleaning a 14-pound bass he had caught. He reached into the fish's mouth and was bitten by a foot-long water moccasin that the fish had apparently swallowed. Both fish and snake were to be mounted.

An Illinois angler fishing in an Illinois lake landed a six-inch fish that promptly took a chunk out of his finger. It seems the fish was a piranha which the angler recognized from his travels in South America. Apparently a pet released by some disenchanted owner.

*Illinois Outdoor Highlights*



## Plant Poacher

A Texas man was fined \$5000 and given a one-year suspended prison sentence for illegally importing cacti from Mexico. This represents the first instance of a person being convicted for trafficking in endangered plants.

*Penna. Game News*

## Beavers Save Bucks

To help remedy such man-made problems as erosion and overgrazing, wildlife managers are turning to the continent's largest rodent in nature's premiere dam-builder — the North American beaver, reports *National Wildlife* magazine. Some \$100,000 erosion repairs by human engineers can be done for less than \$5,000 by beavers under the supervision of wildlife managers.

*National Wildlife Federation*



## Feral Horses Expensive

The Senate Appropriations Committee has had to increase the Bureau of Land Management's FY 1985 budget for feral horses and burros by \$20 million in order to capture and hold excess horses now on public lands in the West, the Wildlife Management Institute reports. This increase alone is far more than the \$16.1 million recommended for all fish and wildlife conservation on BLM lands.

About 60,000 feral horses and burros are on BLM lands, whereas 25,000 is the number biologists have recommended be there. It costs about \$435 each to capture the animals. And when they are captured, BLM can't get rid of them through its adoption program, and federal law forbids that the stock be sold for slaughter. Therefore, the only alternative is to hold and feed the animals in corrals.

*Wildlife Management Institute*



## Calendar Available

The Oregon Wildlife Federation is again offering its Wildlife Calendar for 1985. The calendar features 12 outstanding color prints of wildlife, one for each month. Also included is a brief description and information about each species.

The money from the sales of the calendars goes toward the cost of sponsoring wildlife week in Oregon.

Send \$5.00 to Oregon Wildlife Federation Calendar, 2753 N. 32nd, Springfield, OR 97477.

## Anglers Not Lonely

Fishing is one of the most popular participatory sports in America, attracting about 59 million anglers, according to a recent survey completed by U.S. News and World Report magazine.

Interest in fishing exceeds interest in such spectator sports as major league baseball (44 million), and college and NFL football (50 million).

Participatory sports ranking ahead of fishing include swimming, bicycling and camping. Boating came in sixth after bowling. The average angler spends about 20 days fishing each year and spends \$412 for tackle and other expenses related to fishing according to the report.

*Illinois Outdoor Highlights*



## Pelicans Back

Brown pelicans along the eastern coast may soon be removed from the endangered species list. The brown pelican is apparently recovering from adverse pesticide affects, and its future looks even more secure as most pelican rookeries are protected by federal or state agencies or private conservation groups.

*Penna. Game News*



## Some Fires are Good

Smokey the Bear, whose 40th birthday was celebrated in August, has successfully spread the message that forest fires are destructive to wildlife and the environment. But, contrary to popular belief, fires can be beneficial and even essential to wildlife, says the National Wildlife Federation's Robert Davison, a fish and wildlife specialist. Small-scale fires, he said, eliminate brush that, if left to accumulate, could turn a flame into a holocaust. Brush fires also return nutrients to the soil and create a more diversified wildlife environment. In fact "controlled" fires monitored by U.S. Forest Service officials have helped move the endangered Kirtland's warbler away from the brink of extinction.

*National Wildlife Federation*

## Bull Run Mitigation Agreement Reached

The Department of Fish and Wildlife and the City of Portland have agreed to a conceptual settlement of the department's claim against Portland for mitigation for fish losses arising out of construction of the Bull Run Dam and Reservoir. The department had intervened in 1977 before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) when the city applied for a license to install hydroelectric turbines in penstocks originally constructed in the dam in 1922.

Under the terms of the settlement agreement now being drafted by the attorneys, the city will pay for construction of additional rearing facilities at Clackamas Hatchery and for annual operation and maintenance for rearing 60,000 steelhead and 20,000 spring chinook smolts. The FERC hearing on the matter originally scheduled for October 23-24, 1984, has been postponed for one month to allow for final approval of the agreement.

## One More Chance

For those of you who might have missed it in the last issue, just a brief reminder of the latest campaign of the Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation.

The foundation has been joined by 14 clubs in the Portland Tri-county area in an effort to raise \$30,000 to provide part of the purchase price for a piece of property in the Sandy River Gorge.

Here is my tax deductible contribution to the completion of the Sandy River Scenic Waterway Corridor.

Check enclosed.

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to:

**Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

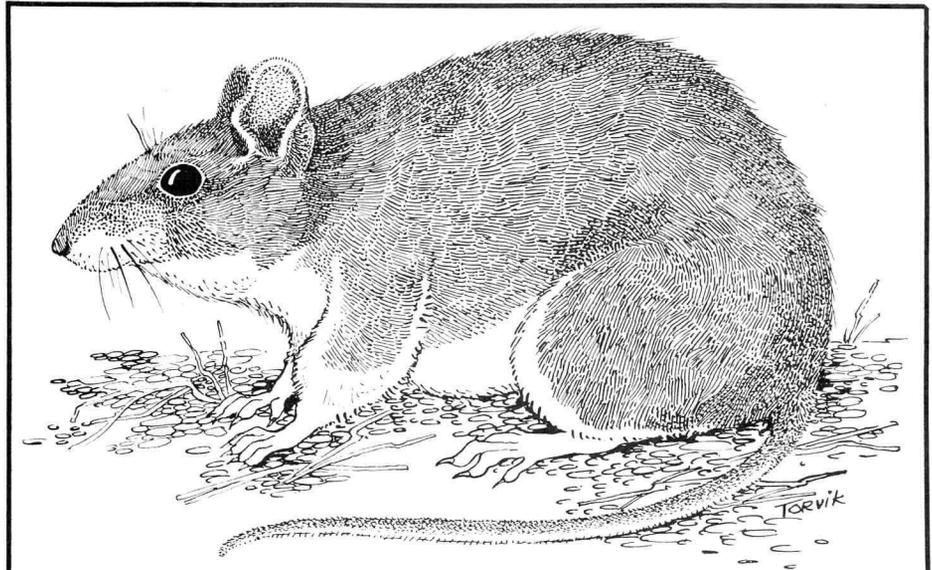
Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation  
P.O. Box 5093, Portland, OR 97208



## Deer Mouse

The cat food sack stored in the cupboard beneath the sink has developed a mysterious hole in the side. The bag of rice is likewise showing some leaks. Tiny black droppings confirm the suspicion. There is a mouse in the house. Out come the traps. The next morning the remains of a creature, with a fatal taste for cheese, awaits disposal.

So goes the most common human contact with mice. While the encounter is most often viewed with annoyance, and even disgust by some household members, there is also a positive side to the experience. Here is a chance to learn more about the world around the house, preferably the outside areas, and what small animals share this space.

What kind of mouse is it? If it is grayish-brown above with a buff to gray belly and naked tail, then it is probably a house mouse (*Mus muscula*). This species is a European import that scientists think hitched a ride to the new world by boat in the mid-18th century. The next most likely catch is one of the species in the deer mouse family. These are Oregon natives.

Three distinct species of the *Peromyscus* family live in the state. The most common is the deer mouse, *P. maniculatus*. Common is an understatement. These mice live almost everywhere in the U.S. ranging from central Alaska well into Mexico, and from coast to coast. Eastern and southwestern Oregon also support populations of the less common pinyon (*P. truei*) and canyon (*P. crinitus*) mice.

Fur color on these species may vary from dark gray to reddish or buff. All are distinguished by their white bellies and legs. The tail is also furred with a white underside as well. The tails are long, equalling at least 70 percent of the head and body length.

Deer mice will move in with people, but they also live in a variety of environments in the wild. They are omnivorous and usually feed at night. Seeds, fruit, bugs and yes-cat food are all part of the diet.

These are just a few of many mouse or vole species found in Oregon. Books are available that allow non-scientists to identify at least the family group. Specific ID of some species is sometimes possible only by examining skulls or studying genetic structure. For persons wanting to make mouse-trapping a more positive experience, the Department of Fish and Wildlife has plans showing how to build a small-mammal live trap. Write the ODFW at PO Box 3503, Portland, OR 97208, or check the September 1983 issue of *Oregon Wildlife* for instructions. □



This perch will allow hawks and eagles to land and watch for prey. Photo by Bend Bulletin/Diane Kulpinski.

# Land Use Critical Issue

(continued from page 2)

The money would come from the game-license revenue and the Pittman-Robertson Fund, which is the federal excise tax on arms and ammunition. Some 3,000 acres of mule deer winter range and 1,000 acres of summer range would be improved each year under the proposal.

A dramatic presentation on the quick response of deer and other wildlife to a range where prescribed burning has been used was given by Frank Russell, U.S. Forest Service range and wildlife specialist for Crooked River National Grasslands.

After 100 years without fire, the juniper has taken over much of the Central Oregon range and the deer are losing the mix of feed and cover they need Russell said.

Contrary to what many people think, deer move right back into an area after a fire. They're seeking the green sprouts that come in the wake of the fire.

Picking the time and the spot is critical in the management-by-fire operation, and in example after example, Russell showed how deer browse, such as bitterbrush, serviceberry and willow, was stimulated and came back quickly with fresh shoots.

Along with the use of fire for plant stimulation, spring sites have been fenced and streamside zones protected from trampling and overgrazing by cows which like to "camp" in these spots.

Deer are bedding and fawning in these waterside areas, which were denuded a few seasons ago, and the little creeks are running where they went dry when the cover was lost on these grasslands.

Don Leckenby, wildlife researcher for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife from La Grande, stressed the mix of foraging, hiding the thermal shelter areas that deer require and how the summer range is as important as the winter range.

The fat that deer accumulate in summer is the reserve that gets them through the winter. "Everybody likes wildlife, until it gets in the way," said Leckenby. The combination of good forage and cover is needed both winter and summer.

Neil Rodgers, executive director of the Oregon Hunter's Association summarized the session on mule deer by saying hunters have to become more involved in land-use planning, especially on public lands. □

## "A Place to Perch"

Raptors, a general term for birds of prey, received a new place to alight thanks to a generous donation by Mid State Electric company in La Pine and the efforts of contractor Terry Bryan.

Six new "roosts" were erected in early October using the power company's auger. Old power poles donated by Pacific Power and Light Company, Bend, were topped by 2x4's and wire platforms. A few tree branches were added in hopes birds will nest atop the poles.

The alfalfa fields around Ft. Rock are favored by bald and golden eagles during the winter months. Other birds that may use the perches include red-tailed and rough-legged hawks, falcons, great horned owls and the less common burrowing owl. "We felt perches were lacking and wanted to give the birds an alternative to power poles", said Jim Anderson, president of the Central Oregon Audubon Chapter. The addition of perches was Jim's idea. Public donation through the nongame checkoff program provided funds for Bryan's contract. □

## Tip of the Hat

This month's Tip of the Hat goes to Yamhill County District Court Judge Wayne Harris.

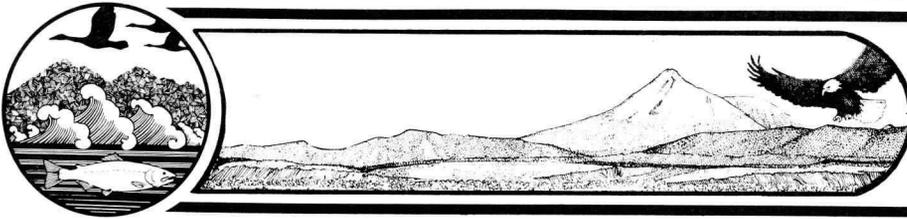
In January of this year, four Grande Ronde men were cited by McMinnville game troopers for killing a six-point bull elk during closed season and compounding the act by leaving half of the animal in the woods to spoil.

Judge Harris recently accepted guilty pleas from three of the men and imposed the following sentences:

One individual fined \$75.00 for illegal possession of elk. A second individual, \$300 for the same charge. The third violator was charged with killing elk during closed season and was fined \$800, given 10 days in jail, two years hunting license suspension and forfeiture of a Weatherby 7mm magnum rifle.

The fourth individual involved plead not guilty and is awaiting trial. □

# THE WAYS OF WILDLIFE



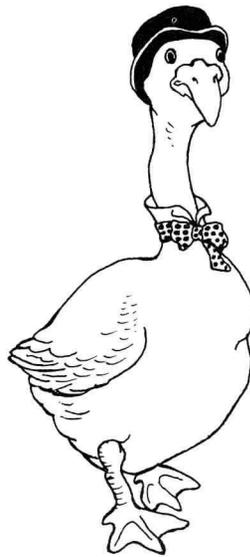
## Learning By Experiencing

### It's Wild on Saturday Morning!

Are you one of the millions of TV watchers that tune into "cartoons" every Saturday morning? If you've gotten into the cartoon habit, you already know that many of the characters you see are really from the animal world. You might say that Saturday morning television watching in the U.S. offers a wide variety of "wildlife watching."

Donald Duck and Mickey Mouse are two examples of cartoon characters that have come to us from the animal world. Television animals — mammals, birds, insects, reptiles, fish, etc., — cartoon or real, give us a picture of what life as an animal is like but not always a true picture. Often, the way these animals live their lives and are treated, are poor examples of how animals actually live and should be treated.

Cartoons regularly show animals as behaving much like humans. They often walk upright,



talk, think and live in human environments. We call this *anthropomorphism* (an·throw·po·more·fiz·em). Because of this, many children and even adults come to see animals as being partly human. This false impression could lead to

inappropriate actions toward wildlife in the future.

Can we continue to enjoy cartoons and still have a realistic view of animals and how they really live? The answer is yes, if we take a close look at cartoon animals and how they are presented. Here is one way to do that:

Make a chart like the one shown below. You can fill out the chart as you watch cartoons at home. Some examples are written on the chart to help you get started. List the name of the animal character, what the real animal it represents is, and check whether it is tame, wild or can be either. List its human characteristics, its animal characteristics, and how it is treated by others. When you have done several cartoon animal characters, consider the following questions about what you saw:

1. Is all the information about animals shown in cartoons accurate? Look at your chart to see if you can find some information that is not.

2. Can cartoons influence people to treat animals poorly?

We can continue to enjoy cartoon characters, as long as we realize that they often do not show us how real animals live or how they should be treated.

Bill Hastie

Adapted from "Saturday Morning Wildlife Watching", Project WILD. Western Regional Environmental Education Council, 1983.

CARTOON ANIMAL	REAL ANIMAL	TAME		WILD		EITHER	HUMAN CHARACTERISTICS	ANIMAL CHARACTERISTICS	HOW IS ANIMAL TREATED BY OTHERS?
Donald Duck	Duck					✓	Talks, thinks, wears clothes, drives, cries	Voice sounds like QUACK, has feathers	Sometimes is injured by others
Yogi Bear	Bear					✓	Talks, thinks, acts like human, walks upright	Has fur	usually well. Sometimes laughed at.

## Death Takes Wildlife Chief



Jim Harper

Jim Harper, the Department of Fish and Wildlife Assistant Director for Wildlife, suffered a fatal heart attack Sunday afternoon, October 14. He had been the head of the wildlife division for only ten months after serving as division assistant chief since 1976.

Jim was born in Springfield, August 5, 1932. He attended school in Springfield and entered college at nearby University of Oregon. His baseball-playing ability led him south to Southern Oregon College at Ashland before returning a short time later to U of O. He then signed up for a four-year hitch in the Navy. It was during his service years that he got his first experience of both budgeting and supervision, two talents in which he would later become an expert.

Returning to Oregon, he enrolled in the fish and game program at Oregon State College. During the summer Jim began working for the Game Commis-

sion's summer camp visitation and warmwater fish programs before gaining a degree in 1959.

Following graduation, he spent the summer working for the university's agricultural experiment station as a specialist in rodent control. Jim then headed south to Arcata, California, spending the next two years doing master's degree work at Humboldt State College.

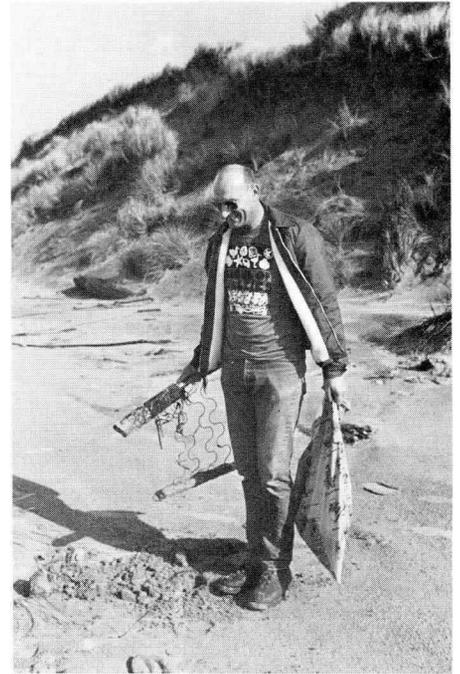
It was during this time that Jim began honing his public speaking skills. He delivered lectures on big game management, while teaching labs in both ornithology and comparative anatomy.

His professional career covered all the bases, from pheasant research in Illinois to director of both research and the game division for Alaska Fish and Game. His research work on Roosevelt elk became a milestone in Oregon, being a pioneer to use both tranquilizer darts and radio collars in studying the animals and their habitat.

His years as an administrator in the wildlife division saw the unit make some dramatic changes and begin pushing in new directions. User groups, like elk hunters, were asked for their ideas. New sources of funding were developed, such as the nongame wildlife state tax refund check-off and the state waterfowl stamp.

His expertise in wildlife ecology, his ability for finding and attracting the right people into the right staff positions, and his magic personality, which could turn any situation, no matter how negative, to his and the department's advantage, will be missed.

Jim is survived by his wife Paula, sons, Josh and Mark, and a daughter, Robin.



Department nongame biologist Bill Haight was one of more than 2,100 volunteers who spent a day picking up plastic debris along the Oregon Coast October 13. Coastwide, participants in the "Plague of Plastics" clean-up gathered almost 2,500 full 20-gallon sacks of plastic beach litter, totalling 26.3 tons.

**DO  
SOMETHING  
WILD!**



**SUPPORT OREGON'S  
NONGAME WILDLIFE**



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