

OREGON STATE
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The Cover

A cow Roosevelt Elk surveys the snowy scene.

photo by John McKean

HUNTER SAFETY TRAINING PROGRAM

Instructors Approved

Month of February 19
Total to Date 3,761

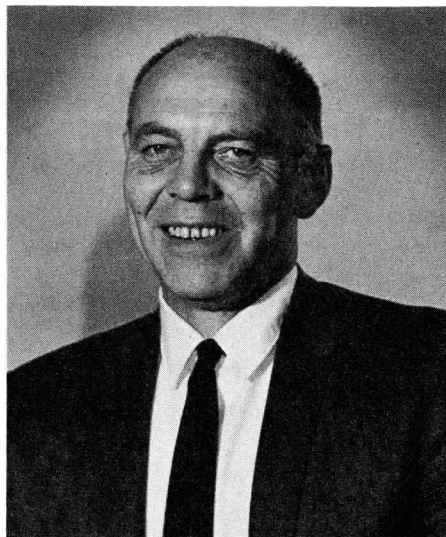
Students Trained

Month of February 423
Total to Date 136,465

Firearms Casualties Reported in 1969

Fatal 0
Nonfatal 3

NEW ASSISTANT DIRECTOR NAMED



On March 1, Leslie C. Zumwalt, longtime northwest regional supervisor, was officially appointed assistant game director. Zumwalt had been acting assistant since the death of Clark Walsh in January.

Mr. Zumwalt was one of the first fish

and game graduates to come out of Oregon State College, receiving his Bachelor of Science degree in 1939. Following that he did graduate work at the Institute of Marine Biology at Charleston, Oregon.

In January of 1940 the new assistant director joined the Game Commission as a fishery biologist, a position he held until 1942. After a stint at the shipyards and as a lieutenant in the U.S. Army, he returned to the Game Commission in January of 1947 as a game biologist on the south coast of Oregon. After some 3½ years in that position he was appointed Northwest District supervisor, a position now called regional supervisor. Since June of 1950 Mr. Zumwalt occupied this administrative job, running a region with several fish hatcheries, a game farm, and numerous other Commission activities. He is well known by the members of the various sportsmen's clubs in his region.

In 1965 the Oregon Wildlife Federation and Sears Roebuck Foundation honored him with their award of Wildlife Conservationist of the Year.

Mr. Zumwalt, 51, is a native Oregonian, married, and has three teenage daughters.

GAME COMMISSION COMMENTS ON STEELHEAD BILL

On March 11 a hearing was held concerning House Bill 1302 now under consideration by the State Legislature. The bill, introduced by Representative Connie McCready, would make the steelhead a game fish in Oregon.

At the hearing George Hibbard, chairman of the Game Commission, presented the following statement for the Commission:

The Game Commission recommends that steelhead trout be classified and managed exclusively as a game fish for social and economic reasons.

The sportsmen of Oregon have consistently sought recognition of the steelhead trout as a game fish. A large segment of Oregon's half million licensed anglers still vigorously pursue this objective.

Of similar importance is the conflict with the people and programs of Washington and Idaho. Both of these states have classified the steelhead as a game fish and prohibited commercial taking of the species. Oregon's concept that the supply is adequate to justify a commercial fishery jeopardizes their programs for propagation and protection of the species in Columbia Basin streams.

The attached memorials from the leg-

islatures of both states convey their sincere concern.

The economic value of the Oregon steelhead sport fishery cannot be overemphasized. Based on punch card estimates for 1967, Oregon anglers took 134,040 steelhead of which 55,676, or 41 per cent, were taken from the Columbia River and its tributaries in 208,785 angler trips. Comparison of the expenditures of steelhead anglers with the retail value of commercially marketed steelhead indicates that people are willing to pay nearly three times as much for the product as a sport fish.

A national survey of fishing and hunting conducted by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife in 1965 showed that anglers spent an average of approximately \$5.00 per trip. This figure has been revised by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife to \$6.00 per angler trip when applied to steelhead angling in 1968-69. At \$6.00 per angler trip, an expenditure of \$1,252,710 was made by Oregon anglers alone in Columbia Basin steelhead fisheries in 1967. Expressed another way, each steelhead landed cost the angler \$22.50.

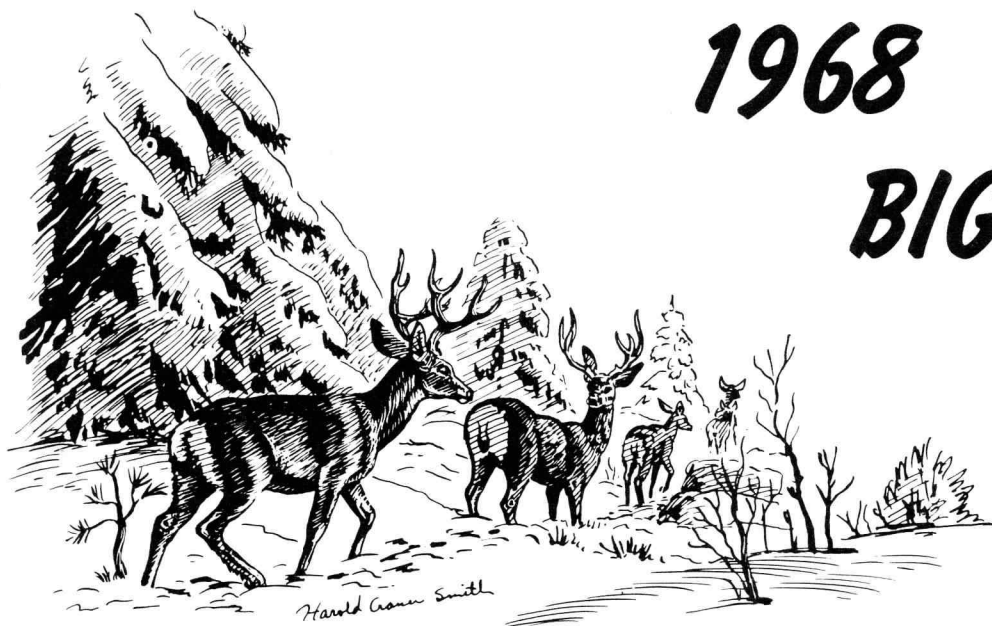
The retail value of commercially mar-

(Continued on Page 7)

1968

BIG GAME HARVEST

by Francis Ives
Chief Big Game Biologist



Oregon's 1968 big game hunting seasons provided 1,965,000 recreation days of hunting for 363,000 licensed hunters who reported harvesting slightly more than 164,000 big game animals. The big game take included 151,400 deer, 9,400 elk, 380 antelope, 5 mountain goat, 3 bighorn sheep, and 2,900 bear.

A one week later opening and an extension of the general season resulted in the third highest deer harvest on record. A substantial increase in the kill of mature mule deer bucks occurred because of the extension of the hunting season into the rutting period.

Rainfall occurring throughout most of the state just prior to the opening of deer season created excellent hunting conditions. Fifty-three per cent of the 284,600 deer hunters bagged a deer; 57 per cent of the antelope hunters were successful; three of the six sheep hunters scored; five out of eight goat hunters bagged an animal; and 29 per cent of the bear hunters took a bear.

DEER SEASON

The general deer season extended from October 4 through October 27 for mule deer and October 4 through November 3 for blacktail deer.

There were 111,940 blacktail deer hunters who harvested 62,360 deer for a hunter success of 56 per cent. Fifty-one per cent of the 163,260 mule deer hunters were successful, taking 89,020 deer.

Issuance of 64,150 blacktail and 57,650 mule deer unit permits produced a harvest of 31,500 antlerless deer. Early and late deer seasons, including archery, controlled, and extended deer seasons, produced 17,180 deer.

As has been the trend, deer tag sales increased again this year to 303,109 com-

pared to 287,622 in 1967. The 284,600 hunters used 1,579,600 recreation days to take the total of 151,380 deer. This is the sixteenth year that more than 100,000 deer have been harvested by Oregon hunters.

ELK SEASON

The Rocky Mountain elk season ran from November 2 through November 20, while the Roosevelt elk season was open November 16 through November 27. Again this year, hunters were required to make a choice of hunting either Rocky Mountain or Roosevelt elk.

Elk hunters reported harvesting 9,410 elk including 7,160 bulls and 2,250 antlerless animals. The 65,900 elk hunters spent 384,300 recreation days of hunting for an average of 5.8 days of hunting per hunter.

There were 20,300 Roosevelt elk hunters who bagged 3,260 elk, of which 270 were antlerless. Rocky Mountain elk hunters numbered 45,600 persons who took 6,150 elk, including 1,980 antlerless ones. The mature bull elk harvest improved in both western and eastern Oregon.

Elk tag sales of 68,630 increased from 1967 but did not reach the high of 69,800 sold in 1966.

ANTELOPE

Antelope hunters, although handicapped with muddy roads created by heavy August rains, reported taking 377 antelope for a 57 per cent hunter success. An additional telephone survey of non-reporting hunters upped the total kill to approximately 410 bucks.

BIGHORN SHEEP

Two hunting areas were authorized for sheep with three tags issued for Hart Mountain and three issued for the Steens

Mountain. One ram was taken on Hart Mountain while two rams were killed in the Steens. Eleven sheep have been taken during the three authorized trophy seasons.

MOUNTAIN GOAT

Five of the eight hunters possessing mountain goat tags successfully bagged an animal. Three male and two female goats comprised this year's harvest. Twenty goats have been taken by 23 hunters during the four open seasons.

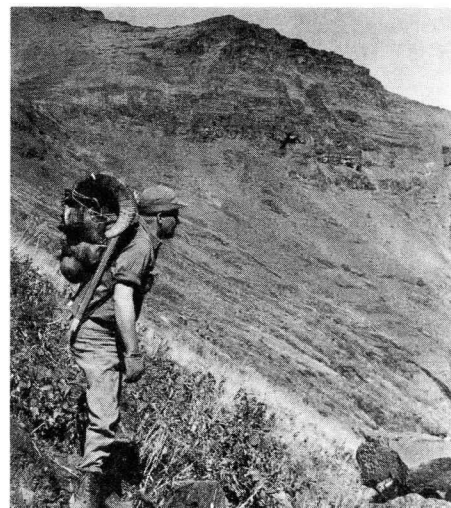
BEAR

The 1968 bear kill numbered 2,900 taken by 10,100 hunters. The bear is a game animal in certain portions of the state and is unprotected in the remainder.

BOW HUNTING

Big game hunters using archery equipment increased by 16 per cent over last year to 12,400 and enjoyed the highest recorded kill. These hunters bagged 1,133 deer and 250 elk.

After the thrill of the hunt comes the work. A successful bighorn hunter carries the head and cape of his sheep. Meat came in other pack loads.



SUMMARY 1968 DEER SEASONS

Units by Region	GENERAL DEER SEASON						General Season Total	Percent Hunter Success	Percent 1-2 pt. Bucks*	Additional Deer Harvest		Total Deer	Deer Per Sq. Mi.
	Hunters	Hunter Days	Bucks 1-2 pt.	Bucks 3 pt. +	Does					Early Seasons	Late Seasons		
Alsea	10,310	58,750	2,140	1,680	1,220	5,040	49	56	30	1,560		6,630	3.08
Clatsop	4,950	30,930	1,010	590	310	1,910	39	63	0	0		1,910	1.96
McKenzie	15,270	88,520	2,240	2,690	1,570	6,500	43	45	280	2,100		8,880	2.18
Nestucca	1,310	7,400	160	170	140	470	36	48	0	0		470	1.36
Polk	3,440	17,030	480	620	240	1,340	39	44	0	610		1,950	3.23
Santiam	14,090	78,960	1,750	1,410	1,100	4,260	30	55	110	2,320		6,690	1.51
Siuslaw	3,780	24,760	900	900	240	2,040	54	50	0	790		2,830	2.88
Trask	6,030	32,460	1,080	710	620	2,410	40	60	0	580		2,990	2.85
Willamette	4,550	24,160	690	380	270	1,340	29	64	0	980		2,320	1.38
Wilson	3,770	18,830	570	420	570	1,560	41	58	0	20		1,580	2.71
NORTHWEST	67,500	381,800	11,020	9,570	6,280	26,870	40	54	420	8,960		36,250	2.15
Applegate	3,270	19,520	650	610	130	1,390	43	52	190	160		1,740	1.28
Chetco	2,140	14,640	540	730	120	1,390	65	43	0	0		1,390	.83
Dixon	5,250	29,000	1,130	1,310	640	3,080	59	46	460	160		3,700	1.57
Elkton	2,040	12,490	540	520	120	1,180	58	51	220	40		1,440	1.52
Evans Creek	1,790	11,420	200	670	190	1,060	59	23	100	40		1,200	1.49
Melrose	4,510	28,160	1,090	1,150	400	2,640	59	49	340	470		3,450	2.83
Powers	2,230	12,750	350	710	310	1,370	61	33	20	40		1,430	1.45
Rogue	7,620	48,760	1,140	1,320	380	2,840	37	46	490	160		3,490	1.96
Sixes	4,440	26,130	1,070	1,170	790	3,030	68	48	70	50		3,150	3.23
Tioga	2,510	16,330	570	610	380	1,560	62	48	0	0		1,560	1.61
SOUTHWEST	35,800	219,200	7,280	8,800	3,460	19,540	55	45	1,890	1,120		22,550	1.72
Deschutes	8,390	43,720	1,150	840	260	2,250	27	58	100	0		2,350	1.65
Grizzly	4,080	19,260	790	410	570	1,770	43	66	0	0		1,770	1.19
Hood River	360	1,960	140	50	0	190	53	74	0	0		190	.50
Keno	2,310	14,080	180	500	140	820	35	26	0	20		840	.84
Klamath	8,080	45,590	1,460	1,290	970	3,720	46	53	0	130		3,850	3.11
Maupin	1,760	6,910	330	330	140	800	45	50	0	0		800	1.26
Maury	2,460	11,600	710	310	280	1,300	53	70	0	0		1,300	1.25
Metolius	3,020	13,940	490	360	350	1,200	40	58	0	0		1,200	1.55
Ochoco	13,320	56,260	2,430	1,450	1,060	4,940	37	63	0	0		4,940	3.14
Paulina	6,630	35,890	1,040	1,000	710	2,750	41	51	0	0		2,750	1.34
Sherman	2,210	8,420	730	430	420	1,580	71	63	0	0		1,580	.79
Sprague	5,730	29,370	1,040	830	670	2,540	44	56	0	0		2,540	2.97
Wasco	5,970	27,630	1,050	960	370	2,380	40	52	50	100		2,530	2.55
CENTRAL	64,300	314,600	11,540	8,760	5,940	26,240	41	57	150	250		26,640	1.72
Baker	5,580	25,810	1,300	1,330	850	3,480	62	49	40	0		3,520	2.35
Catherine Cr.	3,570	16,680	1,000	590	980	2,570	72	63	0	0		2,570	4.46
Chesnimnus	2,060	10,420	440	560	420	1,420	69	44	0	0		1,420	2.23
Columbia Basin	870	4,200	230	120	240	590	68	66	0	0		590	.21
Desolation	1,810	9,500	280	450	440	1,170	65	38	0	0		1,170	1.69
Heppner	9,620	40,290	1,420	1,580	1,480	4,480	47	47	50	0		4,530	3.03
Imnaha	3,330	15,150	870	950	420	2,240	67	48	0	0		2,240	5.56
Keating	3,580	16,740	860	950	970	2,780	78	48	50	0		2,830	3.55
Lookout Mtn.	2,030	7,950	380	470	590	1,440	71	45	0	0		1,440	2.70
Minam	1,620	6,970	380	490	240	1,110	69	44	1,410	0		2,520	2.77
Murderer's Cr.	5,680	26,880	1,040	1,100	1,070	3,210	57	49	30	0		3,240	2.66
Northside	6,220	29,200	1,150	1,430	1,220	3,800	61	45	0	770		4,570	4.24
Sled Springs	4,140	19,790	1,160	1,010	1,090	3,260	79	53	0	0		3,260	3.77
Snake River	2,410	12,400	360	1,030	380	1,770	73	26	0	0		1,770	2.33
Starkey	1,990	11,150	380	490	330	1,200	60	44	40	0		1,240	.81
Ukiah	2,650	13,040	560	510	250	1,320	50	52	0	0		1,320	1.74
Umatilla	3,710	18,870	780	720	240	1,740	47	52	20	0		1,760	2.34
Walla Walla	640	3,530	70	160	190	420	66	30	0	0		420	1.50
Wenaha	1,080	5,630	210	420	100	730	68	33	0	0		730	1.78
Wheeler	8,010	31,700	1,450	1,390	1,280	4,120	51	51	0	0		4,120	3.06
NORTHEAST	70,600	325,900	14,320	15,750	12,780	42,850	61	48	1,640	770		45,260	2.34
Beulah	4,390	16,960	1,270	1,290	600	3,160	72	50	0	0		3,160	1.17
Fort Rock	7,080	35,770	1,100	1,210	730	3,040	43	48	0	1,110		4,150	2.18
Hart Mtn.	170	850	50	80	0	130	76	38	32	0		162	.06
Interstate	6,580	40,080	1,330	1,180	790	3,300	50	53	0	0		3,300	1.51
Juniper	160	860	60	40	0	100	63	60	0	0		100	.03
Malheur River	3,230	14,980	850	830	70	1,750	54	51	0	0		1,750	.61
Owyhee	520	1,890	130	250	0	380	73	34	0	0		380	.13
Silver Lake	7,510	38,700	1,140	1,000	850	2,990	40	53	0	790		3,780	4.32
Silvies	3,370	17,050	900	830	0	1,730	51	52	0	0		1,730	1.01
Steens Mtn.	1,440	6,190	520	470	0	990	69	53	18	0		1,008	.53
Wagontire	400	1,930	30	60	0	90	23	30	0	0		90	.03
Warner	1,630	8,170	400	400	0	800	49	50	10	20		820	.93
Whitehorse	500	2,440	90	150	0	240	48	38	0	0		240	.05
SOUTHEAST	37,000	185,900	7,870	7,790	3,040	18,700	51	50	60	1,920		20,680	.66
GENERAL SEASON TOTALS	275,200	1,427,400	52,030	50,670	31,500	134,200	49	51					
EARLY SEASON TOTALS	16,630	58,800	1,630	1,540	990		25	51	4,160				
LATE SEASON TOTALS	28,510	93,400	3,400	2,150	7,370		46	61		13,020			
GRAND TOTALS	**284,600	1,579,600	57,060	54,360	39,860		53	51	4,160	13,020		151,380	1.58

*in buck kill.

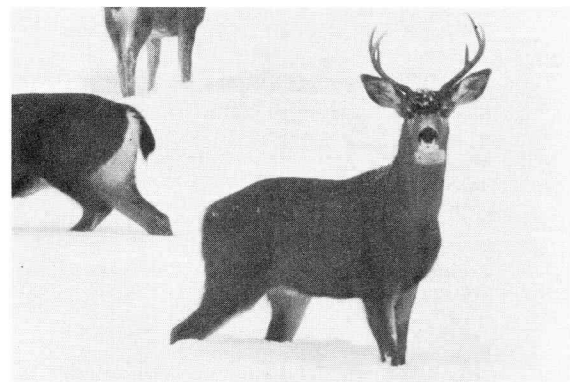
**Total omits duplication of hunters participating in more than one season.



DEER In The Snow

photos by

Al Miller



1968 ELK SEASONS

Units by Region	Hunter Numbers	Hunter Days	Av. Days per Hunter	HARVEST				Hunter Success Percent	Yearling Bulls Percent*	Hunters per Sq. Mi.	Elk per Sq. Mi.
				Yearling Bulls	Adult Bulls	Antlerless	Total				
Alsea	720	3,890	5.4	56	56	0	112	16	50	.33	.05
Clatsop	8,360	42,930	5.1	675	426	50	1,151	14	61	8.57	1.18
McKenzie	1,030	4,510	4.4	74	106	0	180	17	41	.25	.04
Netucca	80	270	3.4	4	3	2	9	11	57	.23	.03
Santiam	150	510	3.4	0	22	0	22	15	0	.03	.00
Trask	650	2,790	4.3	77	22	0	99	15	78	.62	.09
Willamette	240	980	4.1	25	17	2	44	18	60	.14	.03
Wilson	2,240	9,440	4.2	242	84	11	337	15	74	3.84	.58
NORTHWEST	13,470	65,320	4.8	1,153	736	65	1,954	15	59	.88	.13
Dixon	410	1,750	4.3	29	34	0	63	15	46	.17	.03
Elkton	640	2,560	4.0	85	37	37	159	20	70	.68	.14
Melrose	650	2,940	4.5	56	36	23	115	14	61	.53	.08
Powers	440	1,820	4.1	77	19	0	96	22	80	.45	.10
Rogue	300	1,250	4.2	21	14	0	35	12	60	.17	.02
Tioga	4,250	19,640	4.6	447	240	140	827	21	65	4.39	.91
SOUTHWEST	6,690	29,960	4.5	715	380	200	1,295	19	55	.81	.16
Keno	40	40	1.0	2	0	0	2	5	100	.04	.00
Deschutes	100	280	2.8	0	4	5	9	9	0	.07	.01
CENTRAL	140	320	2.3	2	4	5	11	7	18	.06	.00
ROOSEVELT ELK TOTALS	20,300	95,600	4.7	1,870	1,120	270	3,260	16	63	.78	.13
Grizzly	60	280	4.7	0	0	4	4	7	0	.04	.00
Hood River	90	1,750	19.4	3	4	2	9	10	43	.24	.02
Ochoco	470	2,290	4.9	8	13	31	52	11	38	.30	.03
Wasco	680	3,630	5.3	17	15	0	32	5	53	.68	.03
CENTRAL	1,300	7,950	6.1	28	32	37	97	7	29	.29	.02
Baker	2,930	17,010	5.8	79	137	142	358	12	37	1.95	.24
Catherine Cr.	800	4,730	5.9	34	42	15	91	11	45	1.39	.16
Chesnimnus	2,000	13,320	6.7	196	52	0	248	12	79	3.14	.39
Desolation	2,870	20,390	7.1	118	159	67	344	12	43	4.15	.50
Heppner	2,470	13,760	5.6	102	71	86	259	10	59	1.65	.17
Imnaha	1,670	10,200	6.1	86	80	116	282	17	52	4.14	.70
Keating	670	4,270	6.4	11	46	57	114	17	19	.84	.14
Lookout Mtn.	40	230	5.8	2	6	5	13	33	25	.07	.02
Minam	1,520	9,910	6.5	105	129	100	334	22	45	1.67	.37
Murderer's Cr.	760	4,260	5.6	24	32	50	106	14	43	.62	.09
Northside	1,060	5,970	5.6	10	32	100	142	13	24	.98	.13
Sled Springs	3,730	24,180	6.5	248	45	213	506	14	85	4.32	.59
Snake River	1,840	12,220	6.6	178	91	74	343	19	66	2.42	.45
Starkey	5,320	36,840	6.9	266	259	177	702	13	51	3.47	.46
Ukiah	3,470	22,300	6.4	143	178	123	444	13	45	4.57	.58
Umatilla	4,130	26,490	6.4	262	99	95	456	11	73	5.49	.61
Walla Walla	1,710	10,560	6.2	120	50	125	295	17	71	6.11	1.05
Wenaha	5,640	34,650	6.1	413	119	271	803	14	78	13.72	1.95
Wheeler	220	1,280	5.8	2	6	7	15	7	25	.16	.01
NORTHEAST	42,850	272,570	6.4	2,399	1,633	1,823	5,855	14	41	2.59	.35
Beulah	770	4,650	6.0	8	24	71	103	13	25	.29	.04
Malheur River	380	2,380	6.3	6	25	19	50	13	19	.13	.02
Silvies	300	1,150	3.8	9	6	30	45	15	60	.17	.03
SOUTHEAST	1,450	8,180	5.6	23	55	120	198	12	12	.20	.03
ROCKY MTN. ELK TOTALS	45,600	288,700	6.3	2,450	1,720	1,980	6,150	13	59	1.61	.22
STATE TOTALS	65,900	384,300	5.8	4,320	2,840	2,250	9,410	14	60	1.21	.17

*in bull kill.



1968 ANTELOPE SEASON (87% Report Card Return)



Area	Units	Tags Available	Applications Received	Number Hunted	Report Cards Received	Reported Harvest	Percent Success	Hunter Days
I	Ochoco, Maury, Silvies, Murderer's Creek.....	150	664	131	134	73	56	321
II	Paulina, Wagonfire, Fort Rock, Silver Lake.....	100	1,199	87	88	43	49	210
III	Warner	50	560	44	44	26	59	99
IV	Juniper, Hart Mtn., Steens.....	225	2,402	189	194	88	47	472
V	Beulah, Malheur River, Owyhee.....	150	619	125	130	89	71	282
VI	Whitehorse	100	668	83	86	51	61	218
	Hart Mtn. Refuge.....	10	170	7	7	7	100	12
TOTALS		785	6,262	666	683	377*	57	1,614

*Estimated total harvest—408.

DEER HUNTING TRENDS 1952 - 1968

Year	Deer Tags Issued	Total Deer Harvested	Percent Hunter Success	MULE DEER						BLACK-TAILED DEER					
				*Hunters	Number Harvested	Percent Hunter Success	Percent of Total	Antlerless Harvest	Percent Antlerless	*Hunters	Number Harvested	Percent Hunter Success	Percent of Total	Antlerless Harvest	Percent Antlerless
1952	188,250	77,897	41	126,719	53,030	61	68	20,570	39	61,531	24,867	40	32	5,210	21
1953	204,808	105,275	51	121,356	64,607	53	61	24,652	38	83,552	40,668	49	39	13,045	32
1954	215,047	112,622	52	134,617	76,877	57	68	22,410	29	80,430	35,745	44	32	8,043	22
1955	230,585	133,834	58	148,566	90,126	61	67	37,752	42	81,919	43,708	53	33	13,446	31
1956	233,842	146,568	54	146,568	85,394	58	68	37,978	44	87,274	40,277	46	32	13,340	33
1957	221,960	116,409	52	140,627	81,873	58	70	26,853	33	81,333	34,626	43	30	8,877	26
1958	233,885	116,251	50	139,183	71,250	51	61	19,308	27	94,702	45,001	47	39	15,251	34
1959	248,701	145,823	59	138,856	88,261	64	61	23,686	27	104,750	56,670	54	39	20,108	35
1960**	259,739	157,504	61	141,102	96,122	68	61	28,254	29	110,725	61,382	55	39	20,133	33
1961	265,326	163,939	62	147,597	97,951	66	60	30,538	31	101,971	65,988	65	40	24,529	37
1962	263,838	139,712	53	143,580	76,776	53	55	24,977	32	108,343	62,936	58	45	21,932	35
1963	258,375	117,619	45	136,676	64,678	47	55	15,403	24	105,603	52,941	50	45	16,754	32
1964	271,339	143,023	53	148,215	84,665	57	59	19,931	23	110,555	58,358	53	41	18,807	32
1965	277,857	119,369	43	143,618	71,637	50	60	19,242	27	108,281	47,732	44	40	13,348	27
1966	285,961	147,975	52	156,720	88,516	56	60	22,821	26	114,049	59,459	52	40	14,687	25
1967	287,600	142,000	49	153,950	87,180	57	61	29,518	34	109,250	54,820	50	39	15,089	27
1968	303,109	151,380	50	163,260	89,020	55	59	21,250	24	111,940	62,360	56	41	10,250	16

*General season hunters only.

**1960-64 estimates of hunting pressure revised.

ELK HUNTING TRENDS 1933 - 1968

Year	State Total					Rocky Mountain Elk					Roosevelt Elk				
	Hunters	Bulls	Cows	Total	Success	Hunters	Bulls	Cows	Total	Success	Hunters	Bulls	Cows	Total	Success
1933	2,523	579	0	579	23%	2,440	579	0	579	23%	No Open Season				
1940	6,152	1,340	1,179	2,529	41%	4,809	1,152	1,179	2,331	48%	1,343	198	0	198	15%
1945	12,625	7,270	2,243	2,465	20%	7,270	2,176	67	2,243	30%	1,327	222	0	222	17%
1950	24,713	3,157	2,234	5,391	22%	16,726	2,210	1,234	3,444	21%	6,076	947	1,000	1,947	32%
1955	29,309	4,228	1,855	6,083	21%	21,504	3,361	1,749	5,110	24%	6,205	867	106	973	16%
1961	51,349	9,707	2,384	12,091	23%	36,514	7,098	1,863	8,934	24%	14,835	2,609	521	3,130	22%
1962	52,983	7,998	2,178	10,176	19%	39,432	6,460	1,925	8,385	21%	13,559	1,538	253	1,791	13%
1963	54,724	10,082	3,606	13,688	25%	41,216	6,959	3,606	10,565	26%	13,508	3,123	3,123	23%
1964	62,898	11,846	5,311	17,157	27%	41,010	7,576	4,879	12,455	30%	21,888	4,270	432	4,702	21%
1965	67,387	8,066	4,200	12,266	18%	47,651	5,768	3,594	9,362	20%	19,736	2,298	606	2,904	15%
1966	68,178	8,030	3,372	11,402	17%	49,504	5,529	3,189	8,718	18%	18,674	2,501	183	2,684	14%
1967	64,200	7,660	2,870	10,530	16%	46,100	5,220	2,690	7,910	17%	18,100	2,440	180	2,620	14%
1968	65,900	7,160	2,250	9,410	14%	45,600	4,170	1,980	6,150	13%	20,300	2,990	270	3,260	16%



STEELHEAD (Continued from Page 2)

keted steelhead is about \$1.00 per pound. Approximately 50,000 steelhead weighing some 439,458 pounds were landed in 1967. This represents a total retail value of some \$439,458, or \$8.84 per fish.

The Game Commission earnestly recommends classification of the steelhead as a game fish. It recognizes that some steelhead will inevitably be taken during authorized net fisheries for salmon or other food fish. To legalize their possession and to permit a utilization of this public resource, the Commission respectfully recommends that ORS 509.030, which now provides for marketing of the incidental catch of steelhead, be amended to read as follows:

"(1) Any *salmo gairdneri*, commonly known as steelhead trout, taken as an incidental catch in the operation of any lawful fishing gear during any lawful open fishing season, by any person having in possession a valid license issued by the commission under ORS 508.025 to 508.035, is regarded as having been lawfully taken. Steelhead trout so taken shall remain the property of the State and shall be disposed of through public institutions in a manner prescribed by the Oregon Game Commission."

Oregon Hunters Increase, Anglers Down

The spiraling increase in the number of hunters and fishermen in Oregon slowed last year from past trends with a total of just over 1,800 more hunting and fishing licenses issued in 1968 than were issued in 1967.

John McKean, state game director, said that with the raise in angling license fees which went into effect in 1968, the slowdown was actually expected. Past records indicate a drop in license sales following an increase in license fee schedules. True to form, the reduction took place in the number of angling licenses issued. A raise in hunting licenses and tag fees became effective this year.

The number of hunting and fishing licenses issued in 1968 totaled over 893,100 compared to 891,300 in 1967. Some receipts are still in the hands of license dealers which will raise the total by several hundred when received. Although the number of angling licenses issued showed a drop, the number of hunters showed the normal up-trend, raising the total past the record sales of last year by the 1,800 margin.

Anglers licensed to fish in Oregon waters in 1968 numbered over 450,900 compared with 462,200 the previous year. This figure includes the combination license holders but does not include daily licenses issued, since some anglers may have purchased one or more of the daily permits. Daily licenses issued rose sharply, totaling 235,900 compared with 230,800 the previous year. It is estimated that daily permits were issued to a minimum of 120,000 individuals.

For the first time since the salmon-steelhead license was issued, the number of salmon and steelhead fishermen showed a drop. Total salmon-steelhead licenses issued were just over 284,100 compared with 298,600 in 1967.

This drop was probably influenced by very poor weather last summer and fall which prevented sport fishermen from going out over the coastal bars, as well as scattered fish which made catching them difficult. In addition, the excellent sport salmon fishery in 1967 prompted many charter boat operators to commercial fish last summer in expectation of another good salmon run rather than charter to anglers. Furthermore, the popular chinook sport fishery in the Colum-

bia was closed by emergency closure for much of the summer to protect this valuable run of salmon.

The number of hunters increased by almost 14,700 individuals as shown by the issuance of almost 362,900 licenses compared with 348,200 in 1967. The figures include combination license holders. As would be expected from this large increase in hunters, deer hunters experienced more competition than in any previous year. More than 303,100 deer tags were issued compared with 288,000 in 1967.

The number of elk hunters climbed back near the record set two years ago in spite of a short season and fewer cow permits. Elk hunters totaled just over 68,600 compared with 65,100 the previous year. In the past ten years the number of elk hunters has more than doubled.

Other big game tags issued included just over 7,000 controlled deer tags, 786 antelope tags, 250 turkey tags, 6 bighorn sheep tags, and 8 mountain goat tags.

The total number of hunting and fishing licenses issued does not reflect a true picture of the number of individuals hunting or fishing. Many individuals hunt and fish legally without licenses. No license is required to angle for nongame marine fish, a sport fishery which has increased considerably in recent years. Also, landowners may hunt and fish on their own property without licenses, except for big game. Furthermore, youngsters under the age of 14 years of age may hunt and fish without licenses, except for big game.

Clouding this picture further, it is not known how many individuals purchase a fishing license and later on purchase a hunting license. Also, the occasional angler may purchase several of the daily angling permits.

Twenty years ago less than 400,000 licenses were issued, which illustrates the rapid buildup and popularity of hunting and fishing in Oregon since that time.



Game Winter Losses

John McKean, state game director, advised outdoorsmen that a heavy winter loss of game, both game animals and upland game birds, is expected this year as a result of the hardest winter to hit Oregon in some 20 years or more. Songbirds and numerous small animals have also been hit hard by the harsh weather.

Biologists from most areas of the state report winter mortalities higher than normal, with the heaviest losses expected in the next month as a result of low food supplies and weakened animal condition. Game birds will be especially hard hit, and deer in some areas.

District personnel carried on supplemental feeding programs in almost all areas of the state where excessive stress was noted. Upland game birds respond well to supplemental feed, but big game animals have shied away from hay and pellets in some areas, while in other areas they have utilized considerable amounts. Supplemental feeding has also been carried out by numerous sportsmen's groups, landowners, and interested individuals.

Hardest hit is western Oregon and the east slopes of Mt. Hood, with only moderate stress noted on eastern Oregon ranges. Marauding dogs are also causing extensive damage to deer, a problem especially serious on the Klamath winter ranges, the Wasco-Sherman area, Willamette Valley, Clatsop, and in Washington and Columbia counties.

BIRD SHOOTERS HAVE GOOD YEAR

Just over 137,700 bird shooters wound up the 1968 upland game bird and waterfowl season with a total bag of 1,309,100 game birds of all species.

Results of the survey show that 88,600 individuals hunted upland game birds, a slight decline from the 91,700 hunters in 1967. These shooters reported taking almost 862,500 upland game birds. Bird shooters, including waterfowl hunters, reported spending more than 1,126,100 man-days in the field during the 1968 seasons.

The number of waterfowl hunters dropped slightly from the previous year with 49,000 participating compared with almost 51,000 the previous year. Hunters reported bagging almost 398,400 ducks and about 42,300 geese.

