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GAME COMMISSION

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OREGON STATE GAME COMMISSION BULLETIN

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Please report promptly any change of address. Send in address label from a recent issue with notice of change.

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

the cover

Bobcat picture by Robert Mace; cougar pictures by William L. Finley.

BULLETIN HUNTER SAFETY TRAINING PROGRAM

Instructors Approved

Month of December	19
Total to date	1,278

Students Trained

Month of December	457
Total to date	6,214

Firearms Accidents Reported 1960

Fatal	13
Nonfatal	53

NEW CHAIRMAN ELECTED FOR GAME COMMISSION

At its January meeting the Game Commission elected John Amacher of Winchester as its chairman for 1961. He succeeds J. H. Van Winkle of Oregon City.

The January meetings were devoted mostly to consideration and adoption of the 1961 angling regulations. The Commission's next meeting is scheduled for February 23.

HUNTER SAFETY TRAINING AWARD OF MERIT GIVEN

For the second year in a row the Oregon State Game Commission received an award of merit from the National Rifle Association of America for its efforts in promoting safe gun handling in the state of Oregon. Oregon was rated as one of the top ten states in the nation. The top award was given to South Dakota.

During 1959 and 1960, some 1,200 volunteer instructors conducted classes for more than 6,000 interested youngsters. Although juveniles are responsible for about one-half of the hunting accidents, not a single gun accident occurred during the past two years among this group of juveniles who had passed the hunter safety course of instruction.

"THE SEAFOODS STORY" SCHOOLS SCHEDULED

The 1961 schedule for "The Seafoods Story" schools has been announced by E. W. Harvey, in charge of the Oregon State College Seafoods Laboratory, Astoria. Co-sponsors are U. S. Bureau of Commercial Fisheries and Oregon State College Extension Service.

The series of schools is held to acquaint both family and quantity buyers with seafoods from "catch to cook." Tips on buying, cooking and processing will be presented.

Family program sessions will be held as follows:

February 6	8:30 a.m. to 12 noon
Coos Bay—North Bayside Grange	
February 8	8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Eugene—Eugene Hotel	
February 10	8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Portland—Lloyd Center Auditorium	
April 24	8:30 a.m. to 12 noon
Pendleton	
April 25	8:30 a.m. to 12 noon
The Dalles	
April 27	8:30 a.m. to 12 noon
Newport	



Have you returned your 1960 salmon-steelhead punch card to the Game Commission? Even if you did not go fishing, or if you went fishing and caught nothing, your report is wanted.

* * *

Water is now being stored in Trillium Lake and the impoundment, developed last summer by the Game Commission in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service, was stocked with 20,000 rainbow fingerlings before the snow blocked the road. The lake is located in the Mt. Hood National Forest.

* * *

Oregon had 13 fatal and 53 nonfatal hunting firearms accidents in 1960.

* * *

A trap net survey in McKay Reservoir revealed that stocked rainbow fingerlings have reached an average size of 7.50 inches. If growth rate continues, the fish should be in the 10-12 inch size group when the season opens this spring.

* * *

March 19 through 25 are the dates for the 1961 National Wildlife Week sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation. This year's theme is "Multiple Use — Balanced Conservation Planning for the Future."

* * *

An 18-foot fyke net has been installed on the Sixes River to sample migrating fall chinook smolts. The sampling program is designed to provide data on the movement of fall chinooks which can be applied to future impoundment rearing experiments. The trap will be fished at regular intervals until June.

* * *

A Minnesota deer migration study showed that deer, marked with colored collars, travelled up to 165 miles from the point where they were trapped. This distance was travelled by a 17-year-old buck before a hunter killed him during an open season. One doe was seen 85 miles away and another doe was shot 80 miles from the place it was released.



By Chester E. Kebbe
Chief Biologist, Fur Resources

"THERE SHOULD BE A BOUNTY ON THEM" is a common expression most often proposed as the solution to controlling wildlife populations, whether they be predatory animals, rodents, or birds. Statutes setting up fixed bounty programs persist in spite of overwhelming evidence to show that the bounty system is an inefficient and expensive method of control. Once a bounty law has been enacted it becomes difficult to repeal and bounty payments are continued as a subsidy for harvesting an annual crop.

A recent national survey indicates nearly \$2,000,000 in public funds, derived principally from the sale of hunting and angling licenses, is doled out each year by the 31 states paying bounties on undesirable species. Yet practically every one of the 50 states, whether they pay bounties or not, do not consider the benefits of bounty programs to be commensurate with costs.

In 1842 when bounty laws were first enacted by the Oregon Territorial government, they were designed to assist ranchers in the expensive task of protecting their livestock from packs of wolves and marauding bears. Today, losses of livestock and game to predatory animals are very light. When losses do occur they are most frequent in remote areas and in localities where trapping is unprofitable. Immediate control measures are necessary at the first sign of predation and for

this reason most ranchers favor a system which employs professional trappers whose services are available throughout the year.

Justification for bounty expenditures is difficult when results are not apparent. In light of this let us then consider the Oregon bounty laws on wolves, cougars, and bobcats, the three species on which the Game Commission is required, by law, to pay bounties. Over \$200,000 in game funds has been paid out for the destruction of these animals since the beginning of World War II. This sum could have been used more advantageously in improvement of game habitat or on other game management projects.

In 1946 R. D. Leaming of Creswell killed a wolf in eastern Lane county.

ANIMALS BOUNTIED* BY GAME COMMISSION 1951-60

Year	Cougar	Bobcat
1951	143	1,357
1952	153	1,681
1953	123	1,464
1954	148	1,887
1955	116	2,786
1956	80	2,861
1957	103	2,809
1958	56	2,819
1959	48	3,128
1960	36	2,263

*No wolves bountied during the decade.

That is the last authentic record of a timber wolf in Oregon. Each subsequent year, however, a number of pelts from coyotes and dogs are submitted for the \$30 wolf bounty. Since all three species belong to the dog family and have many similar characteristics, it is not hard to understand why positive identification of some specimens might be difficult for the average hunter or trapper.

Once a hunter has killed a coyote, been assured it is a wolf by his hunting partners and received a county wolf bounty, he becomes hard to convince the animal is actually a coyote. Disbelief and distrust of the Game Commission after a bounty payment has been refused goes even deeper after the pelt has been sold for, in the fur industry, all coyote skins go by the trade name of "wolf." Retention of this statute serves only to confuse.

From the number of claims annually submitted for the \$50 state cougar bounty, it is apparent this animal is also headed for extinction. As recently as 1948, 201 animals were reported killed during the year. By 1956 the annual take had dropped to 103, and by 1959 hunters succeeded in bagging only 36. Increased hunting pressure, dwindling habitat and road access into remote areas are the principal factors contributing to this decline.

The cougar, like the wolf, is no longer a serious predator on livestock or wild-

(Continued on Page 6)



A snow goose.

Report from Russia on Banded Snow Geese

Moscow has sent word that the three Russian banded snow geese shot last fall at Summer Lake (see December Bulletin) were "ringed" on July 18, 1960 at Wrangell Island, which is some 100 miles north of the Siberian coastline in the Chuckchee Sea.

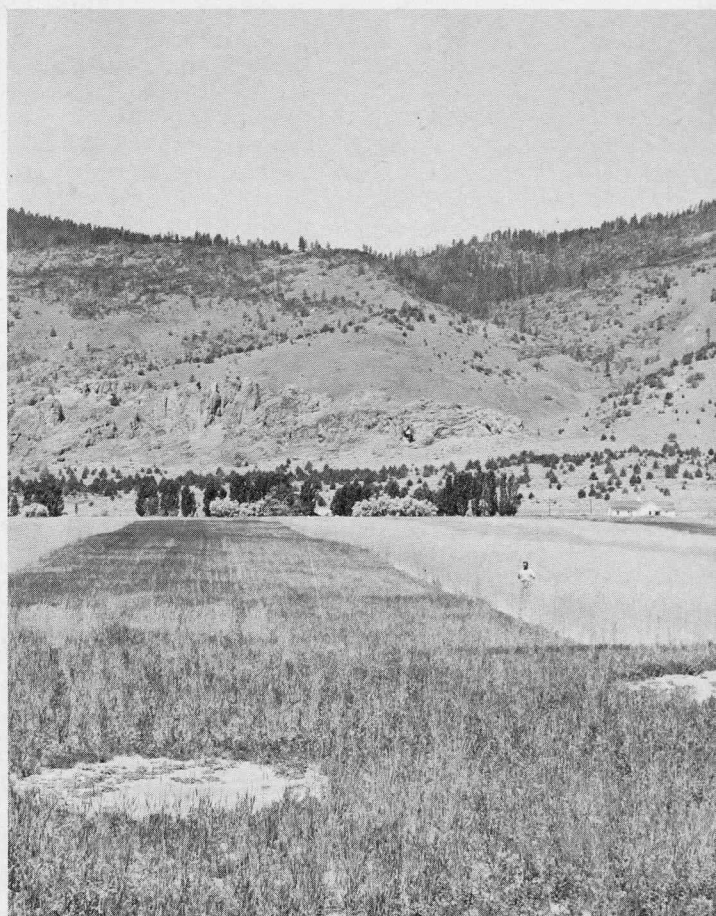
The reply reproduced on the opposite page was received by Chet Kebbe, Game Commission chief biologist for waterfowl, after he had notified The Bureau of Rings at Moscow that the birds had been shot here.

Wrangell Island is about 300 miles north of the Arctic Circle and to reach Summer Lake the geese flew approximately 3,000 miles. Their migration route is indicated on the accompanying map.

The banded snow geese were taken by Giles Mead of Hoquiam, Washington, on October 27; Ray Heiney of Sisters on October 29; and Walter Berger of Bend on November 4.

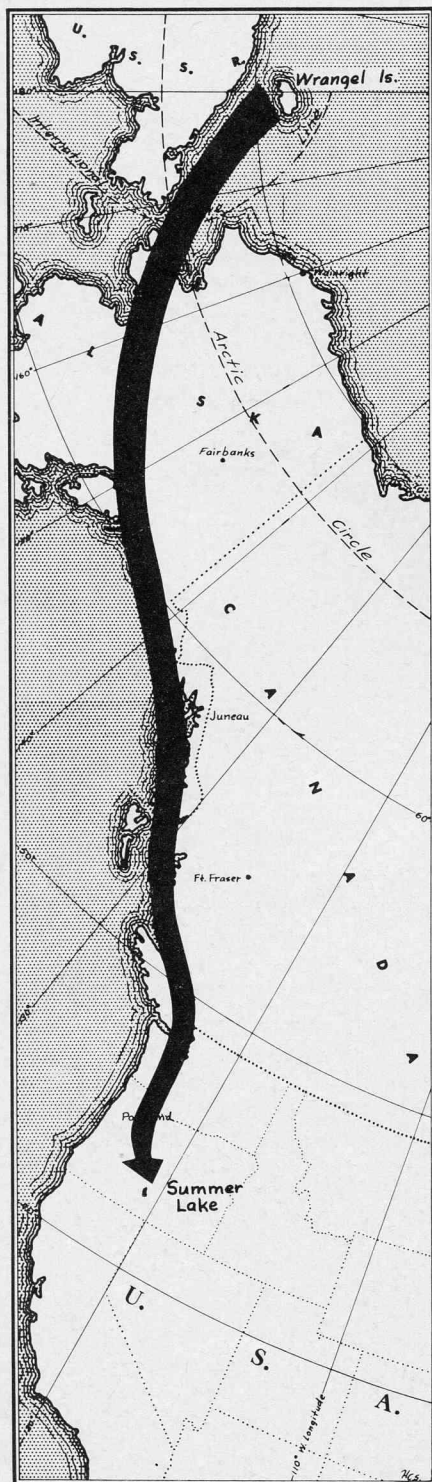
A grain field at Summer Lake Game Management Area. About 450 acres are seeded annually to barley, wheat and rye. The grain is left standing for bird feed.

A general view of the Summer Lake Game Management Area. Summer Lake marsh is in background, with headquarters buildings in the foreground.



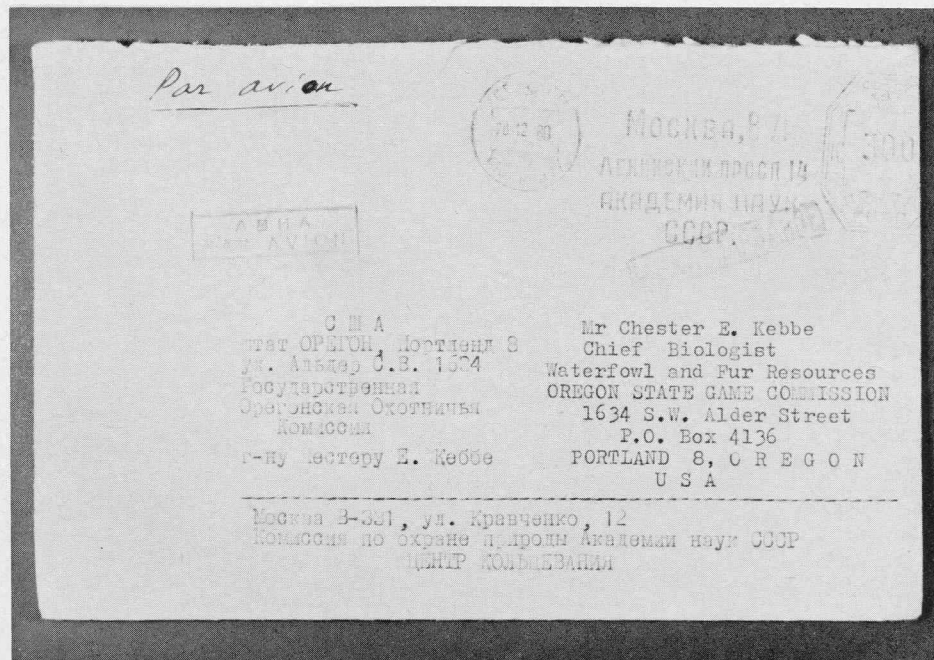


Russian leg bands taken from three snow geese shot at Summer Lake.

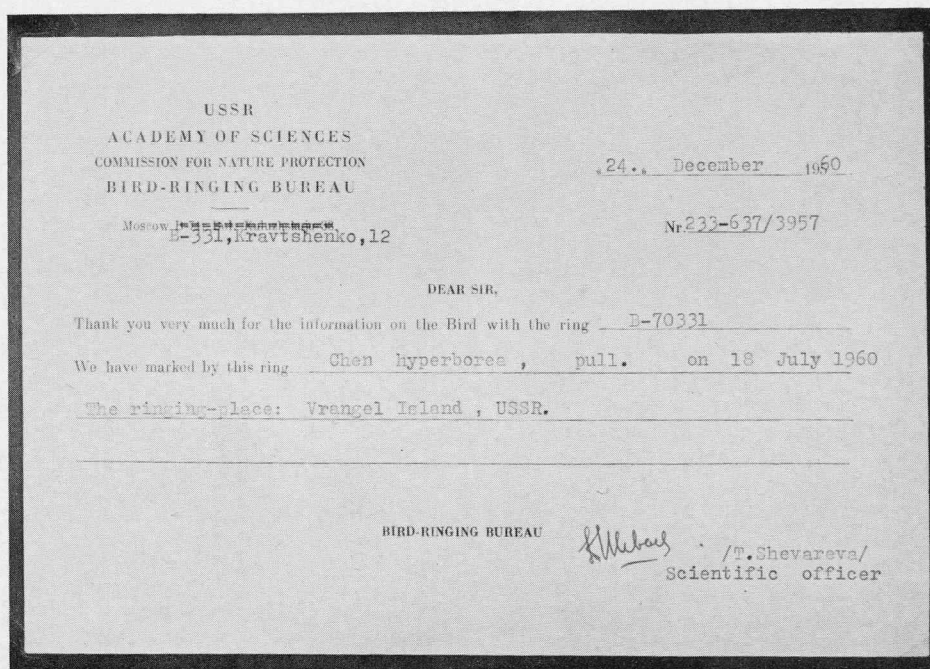


Migration route of snow geese banded in Russia and taken in Oregon.

GAME BULLETIN



Envelope in which reply was mailed. Address is given in both Russian and English.



Reply in English sent by "Bureau of Rings," giving information on banding of snow geese.



Bounty hunters in the 1920s.

Bounties

(Continued from Page 3)

life and as a part of our native fauna should be allowed to retain a place in our forests for future generations to enjoy. Continuation of the state bounty is certainly unwarranted.

Oregon bounty laws require the Game Commission to pay \$2.50 on each bobcat killed in the state providing the county in which the animal was killed first pays a bounty of \$2.50 or more. The records reveal an average of 1,500 claims was received annually between 1945 and 1950. By 1955 the number of claims had risen to 2,700 and to 3,100 in 1959. Payments of these claims neither controlled the population nor caused the annual production to be harvested.

Over one-half of the individuals filing affidavits for state bobcat bounties in 1959 killed only one animal during the year. Since the majority of these claims were filed during the fall months, it indicates the bobcats were killed incidental to other types of hunting.

In Oregon, only five per cent of the many recipients of bounties catch more than 10 bobcats. Their take, however, makes up 30 per cent of the total bountied in the state. With these hunters or trappers the receipt of bounties may be instrumental in increasing their hunting or trapping efforts. However, with good bobcat furs selling for \$15 each, it is unlikely that the additional bounty payments will result in increased trapping efforts.

Results of a county bounty survey conducted in October, 1960, reveal that only 19 of the 36 Oregon counties pay bounties on bobcats and, therefore, the state bounty program functions in only slightly over one-half of the counties. Also, as shown in the accompanying table, many of the larger counties do not

bounty bobcats so the state law actually applies to less than half of the state.

An effective predator control program based on the payment of bounties must provide the hunter or trapper with

an incentive which will increase his efforts and result in the taking of additional animals. The cost and results of the entire program then are reflected by the number of animals taken in excess of those which would normally be killed.

When payments are sufficiently high to stimulate an increase in hunting and trapping efforts and thus make the program function, fraudulent practices must continually be guarded against. The most common illegal practice is transporting predators from a state or county which pays little or no bounty to one where payments are high. Chiseling is even present when bounties are low, as indicated during the recent county survey. One county clerk was convinced numerous payments were being made on animals trapped in an adjoining county where no bounties were offered.

Only a few cases of fraud have been uncovered in Oregon but many ingenious methods for collecting fees have been

(Continued on Page 8)

ANIMALS BOUNTIED BY COUNTIES

October 1960

County	Coyote	Lynx, Bobcat or Wildcat	Cougar, Panther, Mountain Lion	Wolf	Other
Baker	\$ 3.00	\$ 2.50			
Benton	7.50				Red fox adult—\$3.00
	(Pups \$5.00)				Red fox pup — \$1.00
Clackamas	3.00	2.50			Fox — \$1.00
Clatsop	5.00	2.50	\$10.00	\$10.00	Mole—10c in lots of 10 or more.
Columbia	3.00	2.50	10.00	2.50	
Coos	6.00	4.00	10.00		
Crook	No bounties paid.				
Curry	25.00	2.50			
Deschutes	3.00	2.50	10.00		
Douglas	10.00	2.50	10.00		
	(Pups \$3.00)				
Gilliam	3.00	3.00		3.00	
Grant	No bounties paid.				
Harney	No bounties paid.				
Hood River	No bounties paid.				
Jackson	5.00	2.50	10.00	10.00	Porcupine — 50c
Jefferson	No bounties paid.				
Josephine	3.00	2.50	10.00	2.50	Porcupine — 50c
Klamath					Porcupine — 50c
Lake					
Lane	3.00	2.50	10.00	2.50	
Lincoln	15.00	3.00	5.00		Fox — \$5.00
Linn	4.50	3.00	15.00		
Malheur	No bounties paid.				
Marion	Male — \$3.00				
	Fem. — \$4.00	2.50	10.00	2.50	
Morrow	No bounties paid.				
Multnomah	2.50	2.50	10.00	2.50	
Polk	3.00	2.50	10.00		
Sherman	No bounties paid.				
Tillamook	No bounties paid.				
Umatilla	No bounties paid.				
Union	No bounties paid.				
Wallowa	No bounties paid.				
Wasco		2.50			
Washington	No bounties paid.				
Wheeler	3.50	2.50	25.00	3.50	Gopher — 10c
Yamhill					Mole — 10c

Angling Regulation Changes

A NGLING regulations set for 1961 by the Game Commission last month provide two general opening dates for trout anglers. On April 22 the season will open in all zones except streams in Zones 1, 3 and 4 and the Cascade lakes. May 27 will be the general opening date for Zone 1, 3 and 4 streams as well as lakes and reservoirs within the national forests in the Cascades. Closing date for the state generally is October 31 but there are many exceptions to this as well as the opening dates.

Use of cut bait will be permitted in Zone 1 waters to encourage an increased take of warm-water game fish, particularly crappies and perch, in the coastal lakes. Many of these lakes are now under-harvested. Another new regulation will allow night angling for bullfrogs. Bag limit for bullheads and channel catfish has been changed to 100 fish in the aggregate but not more than 50 pounds per day or in possession.

The Commission after much discussion left the deadline at Oregon City falls on the Willamette River at the same place as in 1960. However, it was made clear that if for any reason later on it was deemed advisable to do so, the deadline would be changed.

With respect to fishing on the Snake River, the Commission maintained that an angler on this river, or any other river forming an Oregon boundary, is entitled to but only daily bag limit per day with no regard to the number of licenses he may possess. Large numbers of anglers in Idaho and Oregon have been purchasing resident licenses for their own state and nonresident for the other state in the belief this entitled them to a bag limit for each license when fishing in the Snake River.

The complete synopsis of angling regulations will be available at license agencies early in March. In it anglers will find special regulations and exceptions listed by zones.

The following is a summary of other major changes made in the regulations this year.

ZONE 1

Big Creek (Lincoln county) opened to angling above Newport city dam.

Mercer and Triangle lakes opened to angling entire year.

Wilson river above Kansas creek bridge closed to salmon angling April 1 to October 31. Below Kansas creek bridge open to salmon angling April 22 to October 31. (See winter regulations.) Wilson river open to trout 8 inches and over up to Lees bridge July 8 to October 31.

ZONE 2

Clackamas river closed to all angling from River Mill dam downstream to the gauging station May 1 to October 31.

Dorena reservoir and Row river between the reservoir and the county bridge upstream open to angling entire year (summer bag limit).

Fish lake (Linn county) closed to angling.

Gold lake open to angling June 10 to October 31.

Hidden lake (Lane county) tributaries

closed to angling, including one-fourth mile of outlet.

ZONE 3

Umpqua river — Salmon regulations, Main Umpqua, North Umpqua below narrows at Rock creek, South Umpqua below Jackson creek, and Smith river below West Fork, August 26 to October 31. Bag limit, 2 fish over 20 inches and 5 fish 12 to 20 inches. Possession limit, 4 fish over 20 inches and 10 fish 12 to 20 inches.

Trout season open April 22 to October 31 in that part of North Umpqua and tributaries above Soda creek dam, except Lake creek above North Umpqua highway.

ZONE 4

Applegate river, exclusive of tributaries, open to winter angling below mouth of Little Applegate January 13 to February 28.

Rogue river, including tributaries, above Laurelhurst (Peyton) bridge and Big Butte creek and tributaries above Cobleigh road bridge, trout season open April 22 to October 31.

Rogue river—Salmon bag limit, 2 fish

over 20 inches plus 4 fish 15 to 20 inches. Possession limit, 4 fish over 20 inches plus 8 fish 15 to 20 inches.

ZONE 5

Cultus river, tributary to Crane Prairie reservoir, closed to all angling October 1.

Deschutes river—closed to all angling from Crane Prairie dam downstream to Sheep bridge forest camp, a distance of about 2 miles, except that from September 5 to October 31 the closure will extend one-fourth mile below Sheep bridge forest camp.

East, Paulina and Sparks lakes open May 27 to October 8.

Lucky lake opened to angling.

Mud lake opened to angling. Bag limit for Atlantic salmon, 1 fish per day or in possession or in seven consecutive days. Fly fishing only. Closed to angling from any craft while said craft is being propelled by motor.

Ochoco creek closed from Ochoco dam to weir 350 feet downstream.

Prineville reservoir — closed to angling until May 27. Open entire year thereafter.

ZONE 6

Drews creek and tributaries above Drews reservoir open to angling June 1 to October 31.

ZONE 7

Magone lake opened to angling entire year.

Mill creek open to angling May 21 to September 18.

ZONES 8 AND 9

Krumbo reservoir and Krumbo creek open July 1 to October 31.

Snake river—Bag limit for trout, 15 fish 6 inches or over per day or in possession. Open entire year.

WINTER ANGLING REGULATIONS

Tenmile lake and Tenmile creek (Coos county)—Special jack salmon bag limit removed.

Deadwood creek (Siuslaw tributary)—open to angling up to West Fork bridge.

Drift creek (Siletz Bay) open up to first bridge above North creek.

Indian creek (Siuslaw tributary) — open to angling up to Concrete bridge at Elk creek.

Wilson river open up to Lees bridge.

Santiam river (Little North Fork) open up to steel bridge 3 miles below Elkhorn.

Crooked river closed to winter steel-head angling.

1960 Fish Stocking

*Watershed	Rainbow	Cutthroat	Eastern Brook	Steelhead	Kokanee	Brown Trout	Lake Trout	Golden Trout	Chinook Salmon	Silvers	Atlantic Salmon	Total
1	36,223 4,054	126,755 26,888		125,867 9,088						27,904 32		316,749 40,064
2	1,352,865 196,852	1,200 1,300	315,129 984		584,654 129			834 1	4,997 199			2,259,679 199,467
3	748,871 57,487	60,346 143	88,048 286	96,882 14,648								994,147 72,564
4	95,088 22,067		21,219 57	32,536 2,843	108,080 39							256,923 25,006
5	2,349,253 103,039	12,949 2,309	844,931 4,382		1,510,233 525	84,449 490	56,769 5,620	4,170 7			49,605 539	4,912,359 116,913
6	66,711 16,217	30,024 108	25,000 83		40,000 10							161,735 16,419
7	732,660 13,792											732,660 13,792
8	160,385 24,518		30,510 101		520,000 130		33,897 892					744,792 25,642
9	253,951 15,118	60,660 218	48,060 160		40,000 10							402,671 15,507
10	217,755 8,195				103,500 25							321,255 8,221
11	8,583 2,164	646 104										9,229 2,268
12	72,880 9,603	39,846 104										112,726 9,708
13	541,762 14,697											541,762 14,697
14	976,279 15,734		163,276 886		98,460 458							1,238,015 17,080
15	702,305 58,641	3,002 909	51,257 238	11,451 1,425	100,030 18				73,498 7,168			941,543 68,402
16	1,382,634 44,489		20,214 78	26,612 2,099	92,768 26				49,114 6,666			1,571,342 53,359
17	48,240 13,469	292,085 10,597	9,860 42	17,490 1,110								367,675 25,219
18	140,132 10,671	440,704 21,321		113,509 9,906	343,544 72					2,496 2		1,040,385 41,975
TOTAL	9,886,577 630,816	1,068,217 64,004	1,617,504 7,301	424,347 41,121	3,541,269 1,445	84,449 490	90,666 6,512	5,004 9	127,609 14,034	30,400 35	49,605 539	16,925,647 766,310

NOTE: Lower figures denote pounds of fish.

*WATERSHEDS

1. Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook, Yamhill, Washington.
2. Washington, Yamhill, Benton, Linn, Marion, Clackamas, Polk, Lane, Douglas.
3. Multnomah, Columbia, Clackamas, Marion.

4. Hood River, Wasco.
5. Sherman, Jefferson, Deschutes, Crook, Klamath, Lake, Grant.
6. Sherman, Gilliam, Wheeler, Jefferson, Grant, Umatilla, Morrow.
7. Gilliam, Morrow, Umatilla.
8. Umatilla, Wallowa, Union.
9. Baker, Malheur, Union.
10. Malheur, Grant, Harney.

11. Malheur, Harney.
12. Harney, Lake, Crook, Grant.
13. Crook, Deschutes, Lake, Harney.
14. Klamath, Lake, Jackson.
15. Klamath, Jackson, Josephine, Curry.
16. Douglas, Lane.
17. Curry, Coos, Douglas.
18. Douglas, Lane, Benton, Lincoln, Tillamook.

Bounties

(Continued from Page 6)

discovered in states paying high bounties on many species. Counterfeit parts or portions of other animals are occasionally substituted for parts of animals on which bounties are paid. Most frequently submitted are dogs, house cats, and black-birds for wolves, bobcats, and young crows. Obliteration of markings so a pelt can be bountied a second time is also attempted.

Recently a bounty hunter in Alaska was fined for manufacturing hair seal scalps and a Michigan hunter attempted to make woodchuck scalps by sewing "ears" onto pieces of pelt.

Trappers have also been known to release females from their traps to assure a continued income from bounty trapping.

It is generally recognized that control of predators and other undesirable species is often necessary for the protec-

tion of livestock, wildlife, and other resources but that those controls should be applied at the time and place that a problem exists. A control program should be flexible and designed to meet changing conditions.

In some situations a short-term bounty program might be the most efficient and effective method of handling acute local problems. Fixed bounties over broad areas, however, do not concentrate efforts in localities of need nor provide effective control of undesirable species.

Oregon State Game Commission Bulletin

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