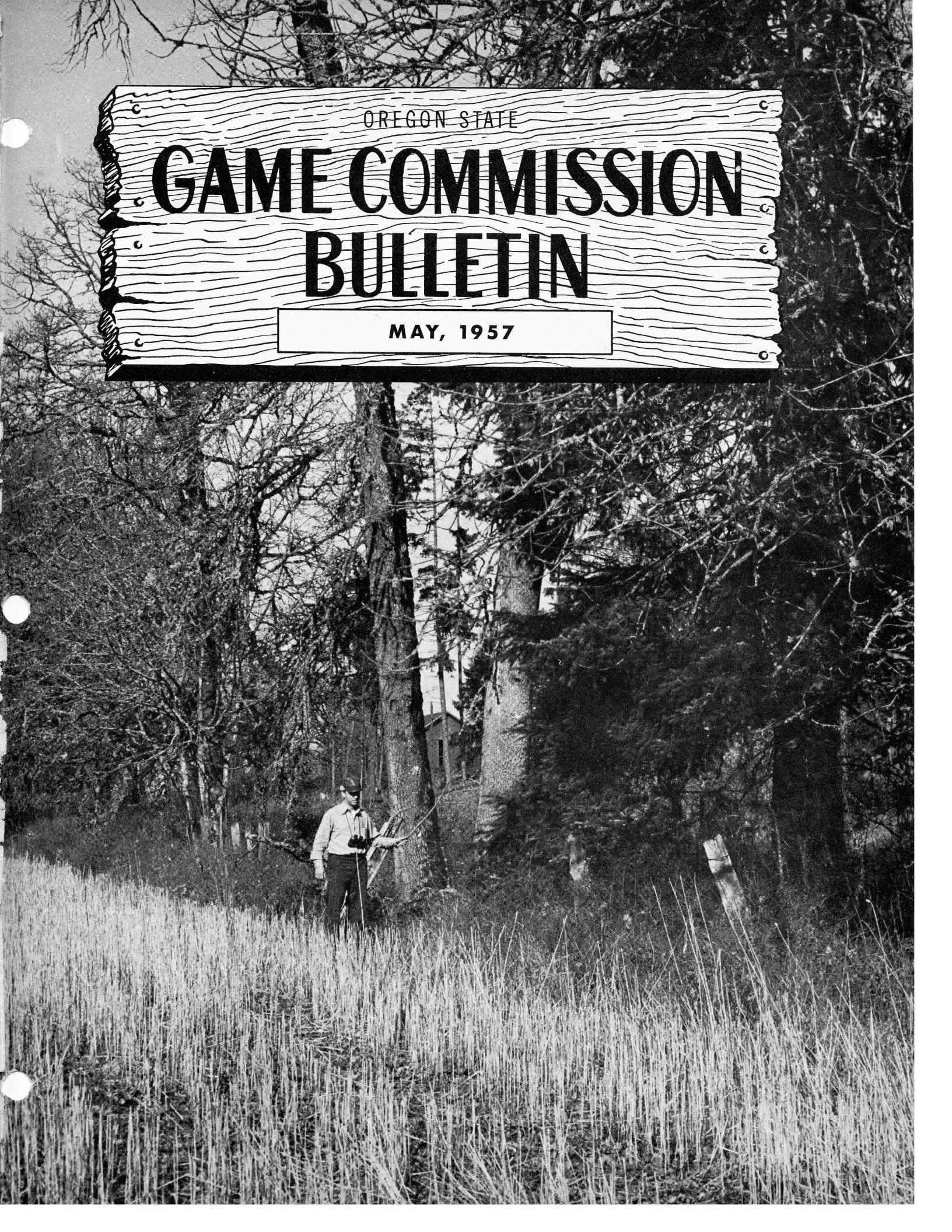


OREGON STATE

GAME COMMISSION BULLETIN

MAY, 1957



Oregon State Game Commission Bulletin

VOLUME XII

MAY, 1957

NUMBER 5



Published Monthly by the
OREGON STATE GAME COMMISSION
1634 S.W. Alder Street—P. O. Box 4136
Portland 8, Oregon

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Entered as second-class matter September 30, 1947, at the post office at Portland, Oregon, under the act of August 24, 1912.

Please report promptly any change of address. Send in both the old and new address with notice of change.

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

This is the time of the year that you are likely to see those spotted fawns here and there as you travel around the countryside. If you see one all by itself, do not leap to the conclusion that it is an orphan. In all probability, its mother is close by. So do not disturb the fawn, it's better left alone and you will avoid breaking the law.

★ ★ ★

The 1957 smelt run lasted one week—from 11:30 a.m. March 24 to about noon on March 31. A total of 26,690 persons bought dipping licenses at fifty cents each. This money is earmarked for improvement of the Sandy River fishery. The 1956 run was somewhat longer. It started March 29 and ended April 11. That year 34,419 smelt licenses were sold for personal use.

★ ★ ★

The first 1957 spring chinook was recorded through the Winchester counting station on the Umpqua on February 28. By March 15, 93 adults and 16 jacks had been counted. This is the earliest record of such substantial numbers of spring salmon in the 12 years of counting.

★ ★ ★

Coastal cutthroat eggtakes at Alsea and Bandon hatcheries totalled 921,000 eggs this season.

★ ★ ★

Yearling fish being held at the hatcheries for release during spring and summer number 2,838,342.

COVER

Game Agent taking annual pheasant census sample in the Willamette Valley. (Photo by Harold Smith)

ELMER H. BALSIGER



Members of the Oregon State Game Commission meeting in Portland on April 12 were saddened by the death the day before of their fellow Commissioner, Elmer H. Balsiger of Klamath Falls.

Mr. Balsiger was first appointed on the Commission July 24, 1950, and was reappointed for another five-year term in 1955. He was well equipped for this service, having both a deep interest in fish and game matters and a background of business experience that was valuable in helping solve many of the problems confronting the Commission.

Born in Dalton, Illinois, March 19, 1881, Mr. Balsiger had lived in Oregon more than 50 years and had been in the auto sales business in Klamath

Falls since 1923. Very active in civic affairs, he had contributed much time and effort to the welfare of his community.

Survivors are his widow, Blanche; three sons, Eston, Stuart and Randall; and one daughter, Rixey Ann.

The Game Commission passed the following resolution which expresses the feeling of the department employees as well as the Commission:

Whereas our gracious Heavenly Father has seen fit to remove our friend, Elmer Balsiger, from our midst, and

Whereas Elmer was a friend to all of us, full of kindness and consideration for others, a lover of the great outdoors and devoted to his duties as a member of the Oregon State Game Commission.

Now, Therefore, We, the Oregon State Game Commission and all its employees, do hereby deeply grieve and mourn the passing of our friend, Elmer Balsiger, and we extend to all the members of his family our sincere regrets and deepest sympathy.

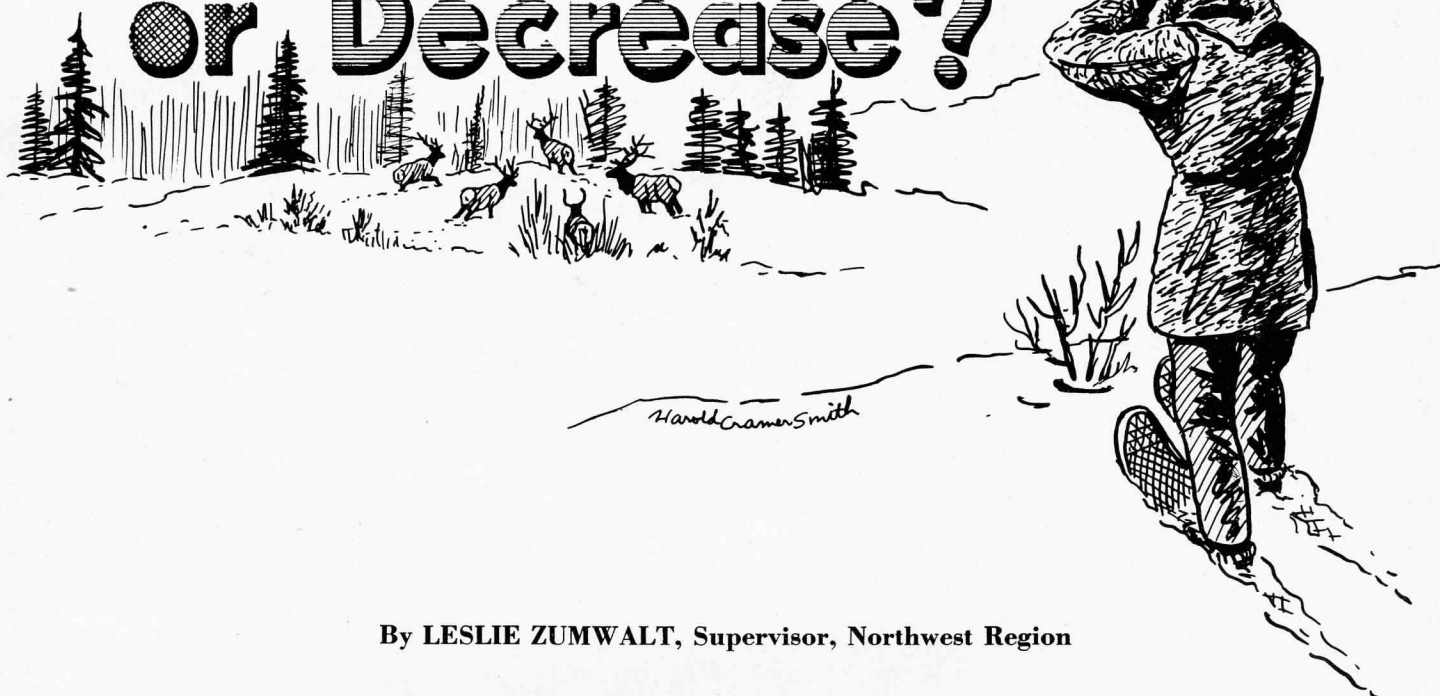
Be It Further Resolved that a copy of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of this meeting and that copies be sent to the members of his immediate family.

Passed this 12th day of April, 1957, in regular session.

OREGON STATE GAME COMMISSION

KENNETH G. DENMAN, Chairman
J. H. VAN WINKLE
DELBERT GILDERSLEEVE

An Increase or Decrease?



By **LESLIE ZUMWALT**, Supervisor, Northwest Region

IF YOU hunt deer, elk or pheasants, you probably went into the field this past season and returned home with a firm conviction that there were less deer, elk or pheasants than last year. Or you had an equally firm conviction that there were more. You had some basis for fixing this in your mind. What was your basis?

Did you drive along the road, see a couple of nellies bounce off into the brush, jump out of the car, pot one, and then immediately conclude that there were lots of deer? Did you get up late, drive like crazy to the top of the ridge, perch on your favorite stump, chat with your unknown buddies and return home with your story of hunting most of Eastern Oregon only to see no deer?

Or are you a hunter who likes to still hunt? One who got up two hours before daylight, ate a good breakfast, put a snack in the packsack and was standing on top of the ridge waiting for the crack of dawn? When it was light enough, you glassed the hillside, saw a doe and a fawn and then hunted quietly down the ridge, always peering, listening. Maybe you moved at the rate of one mile per hour. You crossed the canyon and worked your way along the opposite hillside following an old skid road, always on the alert. You heard the thump of a bouncing animal, you jumped up on a stump—it was another

doe. On the side of the hill you passed through a pole thicket. You heard a heavy thumping and ran to an open point in time to see the white rear-end and a rack of horns disappear into the next thicket. You followed the ridge on back and at the end of the day reached your car tired and hungry, unsuccessful that day but hopeful for tomorrow. You repeated this type of hunting until you had to get back to work. How many deer did you see? You are not sure—maybe ten a day, maybe fifteen. Were there more deer this season than last? Well, now, you don't remember exactly! You guess there were fewer.

Mr. Still Hunter, you came home this year with a conclusion that there were fewer deer than last. On what are you basing your conclusion? The fact that you hunted down one ridge and up another three different days, a total walking distance of approximately fifteen miles, and you estimated that you saw between thirty and forty-five deer in all. You saw between two and three deer per mile of foot travel this year, and last year—well, what did you see last year? You remember now, you were lucky—you got your buck not fifteen minutes after legal shooting time on that same ridge, and then you spent the remainder of your three days playing dog for the other members of

your party. No, you really do not have a good basis for comparing this year with last.

Yet, Mr. Still Hunter, with a few modifications the game field agent in running a deer census sample uses your methods of still hunting to be able to report whether there is a decrease or increase in a game population. He carries a good pair of binoculars, as you do, but rather than a rifle he has a pencil and notebook. He uses your same method of moving down a ridge, crossing the canyon and moving up the other side to complete his loop back to his car. He moves quietly, always peering and listening. If he sees a deer, he immediately enters it in his big game census sample notebook under the proper classification. If grouse, mountain quail, Hungarian partridge or elk are observed, they, too, are recorded. At the end of one census sample the game agent has recorded the numbers of game animals he observed per mile of travel. He has the population index for one sample only; but does he have enough information to tell the story for a given county or individual herd range? No, he must have a series of such samples. Once these are taken, he divides the total number of game animals observed by the total number of miles traveled and can give you the

(Continued on page 6)



Techniques used in examining winter deer losses are explained by Bill Lightfoot, Southeast Region supervisor, during the Silver Lake deer range inspection trip.

SHOW-ME TRIPS

Three major deer winter ranges, Silver Lake, Tillamook Burn and Lake-Klamath, were visited by sportsmen during special show-me or look-see trips conducted by the Oregon State Game Commission in March and April. Those interested in Oregon's deer man-

agement problems were invited to participate in any one or all of the three trips arranged for consecutive week ends. Purpose of the trips was to give the public an opportunity to gain a better understanding of the land and game management objectives.



Browse conditions on Klamath-Lake interstate deer range are examined by hunters interested in this area.

A stop to look over a section of Tillamook Burn on tour held March 31 and attended by a large group.



HUNTING REGULATION HEARING

The 1957 hunting regulations hearing will be held by the Oregon State Game Commission on the second Friday in July, the 12th. This is the date set by law for the Commission to consider regulations in regard to seasons, bag limits and methods of taking game animals, game birds, and furbearing animals. Following the July 12 hearing, the Commission will recess for two weeks until Friday, July 26. At this time the final regulations will be adopted.

APRIL MEETING OF THE GAME COMMISSION

The Oregon State Game Commission met in Portland on April 12 and conducted the following business.

Eel Lake Bag Limit . . . Rescinded special bag limit of 30 trout for Eel Lake which had been set in anticipation of chemical treatment of the Tenmile Lakes system. Cancellation of project made it advisable to restore general bag limit of 10 fish.

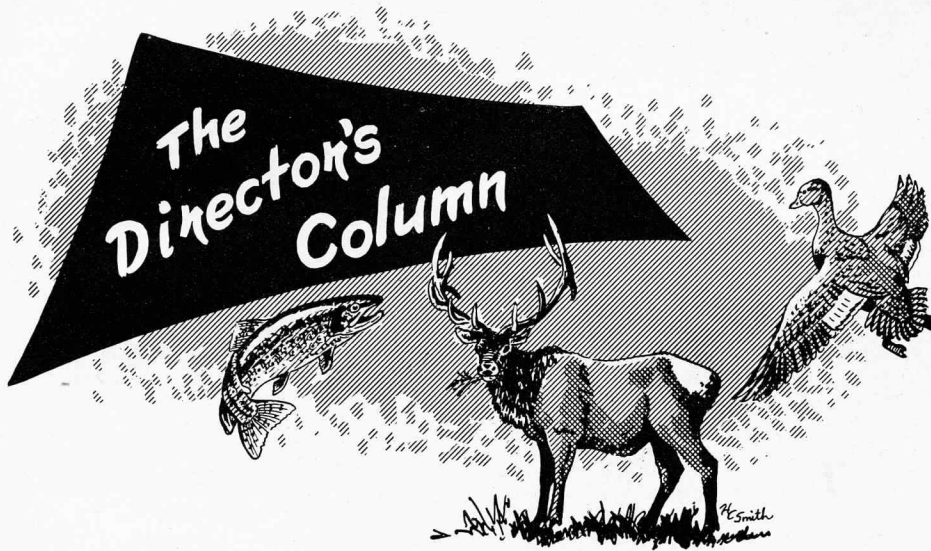
Eel Lake Property . . . Denied request of Riviera Sports Club for lease of Eel Lake land bordering an arm of Tenmile Lake; also denied request of private logging company for permission to boom logs on Eel Lake.

Capital Outlay . . . Authorized expenditures as follows: \$3,312 for increasing size of proposed Elkhorn Reservoir in Wheeler county to provide a minimum pool for fish stocking purposes; \$900 for fence on Sauvies Island management area; \$6,500 additional appropriation for Isthmus Slough access project; \$2,395 additional expenditure for Butte Falls pipeline; and \$1,600 for additional tract of land at Camas Swale.

Fish Lake . . . Adopted set of regulations governing use of Game Commission property bordering Fish Lake in Harney county. Under these regulations, motor propelled boats will be prohibited in the area.

Fish Production . . . Authorized certain changes in the fish hatchery production and stocking policy as recommended by staff.

Game habitat improvement activities are well under way. In the northwest region 200 wood duck nest boxes have been constructed and erected. Several hundred acres of deer and elk habitat in Tillamook and Clatsop counties have been seeded. In the Columbia Basin area, crews are busy planting the 150,000 nursery-grown shrubs received for upland game habitat.



DURING recent years there has been a growing concern expressed by hunters and anglers regarding the increased amount of private land posted against access. This Commission, many landowners and organized sportsmen's groups are seriously worried about this trend.

It is the inviolate privilege of every landowner to permit or deny public use of his property for such activities as hunting and angling. The acquiring of a hunting or angling license does not carry with it the right of trespass. Trespass is a privilege which must be sought from the owner or steward of the land, and if granted, requires proper conduct and respect of the landowner's interests.

Major factors contributing to this problem, both from the standpoint of the sportsman and the landowner alike, are examples of vandalism, disregard of property rights and actual destruction of property repeated time after time in the course of a year by citizens who either through carelessness or willful action commit these violations. These acts convince the landowner that the simplest solution is to exclude all entry to his property. It is very doubtful that many of the acts of vandalism even during hunting or fishing season are committed by sportsmen. Be that as it may, the net result is loss of access to the respectful and careful citizen.

This Commission is constantly confronted with complaints from landowners regarding hunter or angler conduct. The Commission is likewise confronted with complaints from the sportsmen regarding the growing incidence of land posted against trespass. Although extensive efforts are being employed by

the Department in working both with landowners and sportsmen in numerous ways on this problem, the basic responsibility rests expressly with the individual who hunts or fishes. Without the positive exercise of self-discipline and the discipline of one's associates when hunting or fishing, no progress sufficient to correct or even arrest this trend will take place.

These tragic examples of disregard for property rights are not confined to private lands. Even on public lands violations of the most elemental principles of ethics are to be found. For example, on one piece of property owned and operated by the Commission specifically for the welfare of wildlife and for the use of the public, we recently experienced a glowing example of the type of conduct which tends to create greater problems for access. A residence, vacant at the moment, was entered by parties as yet unknown and for all practical purposes so damaged that a costly repair will be necessary to restore the structure. In another instance, an extremely valuable stock of Atlantic salmon, which had been secured after extensive negotiations and a difficult rearing program, was removed from one of the Commission's brood ponds and killed. This act had the effect of seriously delaying a program for this species which had been underway for several years. It is improbable that such examples are the acts of hunters or anglers but it is the legitimate sportsman who suffers as a result.

It is our belief there is a growing consciousness of this problem which in itself is encouraging. There are, however, dangers in such concern if it takes

the form of letting the other guy worry about it or if legislation or similar approaches are developed along the lines of relieving the individual citizen of his direct responsibility.

We are at the crossroad in this problem. It is one resting specifically on the shoulders of every interested citizen and especially upon all those who directly engage in hunting and angling. A public consciousness of the problem, an intolerance for disrespect of private property and a concerted effort between sportsmen and landowner groups, at both local and statewide level, must be forthcoming to reduce this problem to a minimum. Unless the individual sportsman is prepared to assume responsibility in this matter as well as to actively cooperate with appropriate groups in meeting this challenge in the immediate future, further decline in available hunting and angling access will ensue. Continued firm enforcement of existing trespass laws and legislation along the lines of license revocation or similar actions may in part alleviate the problem. However, there remains no substitute for individual consciousness and respect for the landowner's rights concerning trespass.

P. W. Schneider

GAME COMMISSION'S BULLETIN OF THE AIR ON 30 STATIONS

The Game Commission's BULLETIN OF THE AIR will complete its second year in August. Approximately thirty radio stations of the state have been receiving the program. The time of airing varies with each station so if you're interested, contact any one of the following stations for time and date the program is carried.

These are the stations currently receiving the tape recorded series:

KASH—Eugene	KMED—Medford
KBCH—Ocean Lake	KMCM—McMinnville
KBKR—Baker	KOAC—Corvallis
KBND—Bend	KORE—Eugene
KCOV—Corvallis	KRCO—Prineville
KERG—Eugene	KRMW—The Dalles
KEX—Portland	KRRR—Roseburg
KFIR—North Bend	KRUL—Corvallis
KFJI—Klamath Falls	KSIM—Salem
KGAL—Lebanon	KSRV—Ontario
KGAY—Salem	KTIL—Tillamook
KGON—Oregon City	KUIN—Grants Pass
KIHR—Hood River	KUMA—Pendleton
KJUN—Redmond	KVAS—Astoria
KLBM—LaGrande	KWIL—Albany

Other programs are also done by Commission staff member, Ron Shay, on KOIN and KPDQ in Portland.



An Increase or Decrease?

(Continued from page 3)

population index for this one herd range for this year.

Now, Mr. Still Hunter, basically you had this same information, but when it came to comparing this year with last, you remembered that you had not duplicated your effort on the same ground. What about the game agent? He travels the same sample routes in the same manner at a similar time each year. It is through this duplication that he is able to compare records of this year with those of last year, or those of five years or ten years ago to give you the trend in game numbers.

Game agents of eastern Oregon take advantage of the winter concentrations of deer and elk to do their population trend work. On the more open ranges it is feasible to travel by foot or horseback, and in some cases by automobiles. The airplane is used during the winter to sample inaccessible northeastern Oregon elk herds and the southeastern antelope populations.

In western Oregon where winter concentrations are not predictable, big game census samples are taken in the spring and summer months. Here, your method of travel while you are hunting, Mr. Still Hunter, is used almost entirely.

By recording the number of mountain quail, ruffed and blue grouse, and Hungarian partridge observed on a big game census sample, trend figures are

obtained on these game birds. For a given county, the total number of deer census miles traveled is divided by the total number of mountain quail, Hungarian partridge or grouse recorded to get the population index figure.

You say that following the deer season you hunt pheasants, Mr. Still Hunter. What does the game agent do to measure the pheasant population? Throughout the good pheasant habitat he has a pattern of pheasant census samples which are taken each year in the late winter and early spring to measure the breeding populations. In running a pheasant census sample, he does almost the same thing as you do when you hunt pheasants. He walks down a brushy fence-row, crosses over an open field, follows a grass sod-way and comes up the ditch bank back to his car. All pheasants observed are classi-



(Left) Deer track count being made along migration route of Lake-Klamath interstate deer herd. (Above) After tracks are checked, they are smoothed out to make way for fresh set.

fied and recorded. Valley and bobwhite quail likewise are recorded. Through duplicating the same samples at a similar time each year, the game agent knows whether there is an increase or decrease in the pheasant and quail breeding population.

Since the numbers of upland game birds available to the hunter in the fall are dependent upon nesting success of the breeding population, the game agent must also make a brood count. This is done by traveling graveled roads in the early morning hours during July. The number of hens with broods, the number of hens without broods and the average number of chicks per brood by age group are recorded to provide a measure of the nesting success.

What about migratory birds? Even though the primary responsibility of

(Continued on page 7)



Winter concentrations of big game herds permit aerial census.

An Increase or Decrease?

(Continued from page 6)

migratory bird management lies with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, state game agents do assist in taking wintering population trends. Shortly after the close of the waterfowl season, game agents attempt to count all waterfowl on the more important areas of the state. Counts are made principally from an automobile or airplane. Local reproduction is measured by making brood counts on key sample areas at Summer Lake, along the Snake River, in Klamath Basin and in Umatilla county.

One of the most difficult bird populations to measure is the migratory band-tailed pigeon. For several years game agents have made attempts to determine population trends by counting the number of these birds using key mineral springs. All birds flying into a selected spring are recorded on three different days during the last ten days of August. Large numbers come on warm, clear days, whereas few appear during cool, rainy, foggy or cloudy weather. Because of these weather influences on the numbers of pigeons using a mineral spring, it is difficult for the game agent to make year to year comparisons to show a decrease or an increase in the pigeon population.

The jacksnipe population is sampled

by recording these birds while taking pheasant samples. Permanent road-side census strips have been established to measure the mourning dove population.

Even though game census techniques vary with game species, to be of value all methods must have these things in common: they have to be done in the same manner, in the same place, at a similar time year after year. These measurements designed to obtain facts on game population increases or decreases are important to you. The Game Commission uses this information to set the bag limit, place and length of hunting seasons.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Leslie (Les) C. Zumwalt (Zumie) is one of the Game Commission's five regional supervisors, having charge of the Northwest Region. From his headquarters located near Corvallis he directs the fish and game activities for an area bounded on the north by the Columbia River, on the west by the Pacific Ocean, on the east by the Cascades and on the south by the divide

between the Siuslaw and Umpqua drainages.

Native of Oregon, Les graduated from Port Orford High School in Curry county and then went to Oregon State College. He received his degree in fish and game management in 1939. He also attended the Institute of Marine Biology at Charleston, Oregon.

Employed by the Oregon Game Commission following his graduation from college, his career was interrupted by the war for several years. In the Army he served at various times as a lab technician, prison officer, platoon leader, and supply officer, all of which experience is proving helpful in his present job.

In 1947 he came back to work for the Game Commission as a game biologist in the south coastal district, where he stayed until his appointment to his present position in January, 1950.

PERSONNEL TRANSFERS

Filling two administrative positions has resulted in four promotions for game department personnel in recent months.

Ross Newcomb, employee of the Game Commission since 1940, has taken over the job of personnel director, vacant for several months. Ross, a graduate of University of Maine with a master's degree from Oregon State College, prior to his transfer was the Game Commission fishery research biologist working with the Oregon Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit at Corvallis.

This latter job has been filled by Homer Campbell, fishery field agent from La Grande. An Oregon State College graduate, Homer had been working in the northeast region since his employment in 1948.

John Dimick, coordinating biologist for the fishery division, is now understudy for H. R. Mangold, chief of service and supply, who will retire June 30. Dimick has worked for the Commission since his graduation from Oregon State in 1939 with the exception of time out for military service. His recent job included directing special fishery projects such as the rehabilitation of Diamond Lake.

To this former job of Dimick's has been assigned Robert Borovicka, district fishery agent at Bend. Bob has had various fishery assignments in the central region since his employment in 1946. He, too, is a graduate of Oregon State College's fish and game management department.



Francis Ives, district game agent, on a big game survey in the Cascades.

OTTER

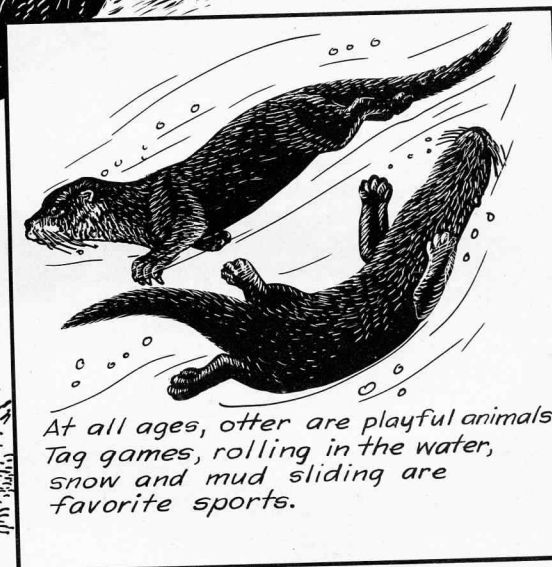


Otters often stand erect to get a better view of their surroundings.

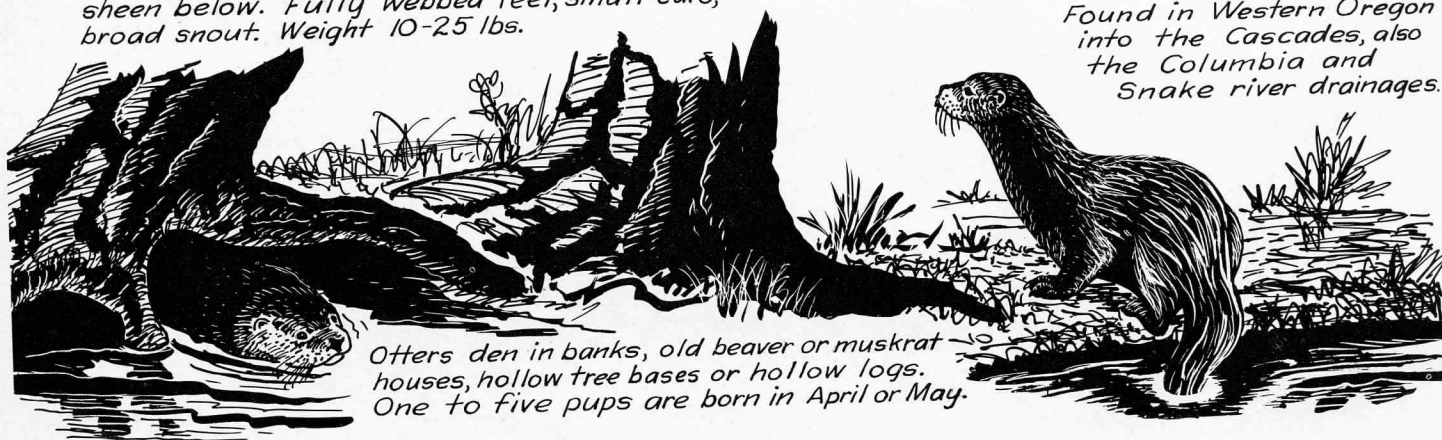
Favorite food is crayfish. Also eat snails, clams, frogs, snakes, fish, insects, birds, young beaver and muskrats.



A large, streamlined, Weasel-like animal. Tail, thick at base tapering toward tip. Chocolate brown fur above with silvery sheen below. Fully webbed feet, small ears, broad snout. Weight 10-25 lbs.



At all ages, otters are playful animals. Tag games, rolling in the water, snow and mud sliding are favorite sports.



Otters den in banks, old beaver or muskrat houses, hollow tree bases or hollow logs. One to five pups are born in April or May.

Found in Western Oregon into the Cascades, also the Columbia and Snake river drainages.

Oregon State Game Commission Bulletin

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