

OREGON WILDLIFE

AUGUST 1978

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OREGON FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

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The Cover

Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep reintroductions in northeast Oregon have been successful and populations now permit some trapping for further expansion in suitable areas.

Photo by Vic Coggins

HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM INSTRUCTORS APPROVED

Month of June..... 9
Total Active.....1,428

STUDENTS TRAINED

Month of June.....365
Total to Date.....254,171

HUNTING CASUALTIES REPORTED IN 1978

Fatal..... 1
Nonfatal..... 7

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GUEST EDITORIAL

Wild Fish Policy No Cause For Alarm

By Herbert Lundy
Fish and Wildlife Commissioner

In spite of the efforts of the Fish and Wildlife staff and commissioners to explain the Wild Fish Policy adopted by the Commission on May 25, 1978, some public misunderstanding and unjustified alarm persist. Here are some things to consider.

1. The policy is not new. It is a refinement of an existing Department program which implemented a Commission motion in February 1977. The present policy is intended to carry forward, with additional emphasis and manpower, the inventory of Oregon streams and rivers and the adoption of management programs for each.

2. It is not exclusively a "wild fish" policy. It calls for written proposals for management in three categories: (1) exclusively for wild fish, (2) for addition of hatchery fish if these will not "significantly reduce future production of wild fish", and (3) stocking hatchery fish for maximum return to the angler, commercial and treaty Indian fishermen.

3. A year ago, the fisheries division staff submitted to the Commission a detailed report explaining the substantial progress made over a period of years not only to preserve the populations of wild fish, which everyone should agree are vital in maintaining the resource, but to provide the best possible return to anglers of stocked fish in waters otherwise sterile or no longer capable of producing wild fish.

It is anticipated that stream classification will be speeded and management plans proposed, for Commission and public consideration, in response to the latest Wild Fish Policy directive. These will be in addition to the streams, and segments of streams, already being managed under the three categories.

The first such written management report will be presented to the Commission by the fisheries staff for that portion of the Deschutes River from the Pelton impoundments downstream to Maupin. The deadline is November 1.

Inasmuch as I have been fishing the Deschutes since 1925, I am well aware of the continuously increasing angler pressure on a river which remains, because of wise management, probably the most productive in America. Here are some personal observations:

The Maupin to Madras segment of the Deschutes is wholly capable of supporting a wild fish population of native rainbow trout, without augmentation by hatchery trout. This could be accomplished by extending the segment now limited to use of flies and lures, only, with a daily limit of two trout over 12 inches, to the segments from Maupin to the Deschutes Club gate and from the Warm Springs bridge to the Pelton reregulating dam.

The banning of bait and requiring release of trout under 12 inches has been successful, in my opinion, in maintaining a superb fishery for large trout in the section from the Deschutes Club gate to the Warm Springs bridge. The same regulations, applied to the roadside areas, should work as well.

I cannot see much sense in stocking segments of the Deschutes with hatchery "catchables" when the riverbed and water quality provide ideal spawning conditions. Besides, the Department cannot afford it, with its tight budget and programs of stocking lakes and streams adjacent to population areas or incapable of natural reproduction.

(Continued on page 6)

Commission Meetings

The Fish and Wildlife Commission will conduct a general business meeting beginning at 9 a.m. Thursday, August 17.

On Friday, August 18, the Commission will adopt 1978 hunting seasons for upland game and waterfowl, and trapping regulations, following a public hearing beginning at 9 a.m. Both meetings will take place at Fish and Wildlife Department headquarters, 506 SW Mill Street in Portland.□

AUGUST 1978



Rocky Mountain bighorns

Bighorn Sheep in Oregon

*by Paul Ebert
Staff Big Game Biologist*

Wild sheep are considered the most majestic, most difficult to hunt, and the most highly prized trophy game mammals found in North America. Four native groups — the Alaskan Dall sheep, the Stone sheep, the Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, and the desert or California bighorn sheep — are found on the west half of this continent. Of these, two subspecies of the Rocky Mountain bighorns, the Rocky Mountain and the California, were native to Oregon but became extinct and have now been successfully reintroduced.

Bighorns once roamed most of the more rugged open mountainous areas and major unforested canyons of Oregon east of the Cascade Range before 1900. The Rocky Mountain subspecies inhabited the northeastern corner of the state including the Snake River Canyon. Its range receives more rainfall than that of the California bighorn and some popula-

tions migrated considerable distances from their winter range to their summer range. High, alpine meadows like those found in the Eagle Cap Wilderness area were favored by this subspecies. Another subpopulation of the Rocky Mountain bighorn also thrived in the Snake River Canyon and tributaries where alpine meadows were not common.

The California bighorn inhabited most of the open rimrock desert, river canyons, and rugged mountainous area of southeastern Oregon and the lower John Day and Deschutes River Canyons. This subspecies was associated with drier and warmer conditions.

The story of the decline of bighorn sheep in Oregon parallels the decline of other wilderness species that could not compete with the coming of the white man and his "civilization". During the 1800s large bands of domestic sheep grazed most of the habi-

tat used by the bighorns. Competition for food and the skin disease "scab" brought in by domestic sheep caused a rapid decline in bighorn numbers during the last half of this century. Hunters pursuing the declining populations for meat or trophies hastened the extinction of the bighorn in Oregon. The last reported California bighorn was seen on Hart Mountain and finally disappeared between 1912 and 1915. The last Rocky Mountain bighorn disappeared from the Lostine River Canyon between 1941 and 1945.

The California Bighorn Sheep

In 1939 an attempt was made to restore the bighorn to Hart Mountain. W. O. Harriman, supervisor of the Fremont National Forest, had sold the idea to a group of Lakeview sportsmen and received assistance from Stanley Jewett and Ira Gabrielson of the old Biological Survey. Twenty-three Rocky Mountain bighorn were obtained from the National Bison Range in Montana and released on Hart Mountain. Losses after release were heavy, the sheep scattered, and low production and pneumonia plagued the reintroduction. The last survivor was seen in 1947.

Plans were developed by the Oregon Game Commission (now Department of Fish and Wildlife) in 1950 to obtain California bighorn sheep from British Columbia and place them in a fence enclosure on Hart Mountain. In 1953, twenty sheep were picked up at a trapping site 26 miles from Williams Lake and trucked to a 34-acre holding pen on Hart Mountain. In 1955 a 600-acre pasture adjoining the holding pen was fenced and opened to the sheep. The sheep quickly adapted to their new home. By 1957, eighteen sheep were allowed to leave the pen and periodically some sheep escaped on their own. By 1960, sixty-four sheep were counted and presently the population is estimated at 200. The Hart Mountain group continues to be one of the most productive populations in the state. The sheep have now expanded their range to the north and make substantial use of the Poker Jim area. The largest segment of ewes and lambs still remains in the vicinity of the old fenced pasture although the fence has been re-

moved. It is still a mystery why the sheep don't use the extreme southern end of Hart Mountain. This population has been hunted since 1965 and 55 hunters have been successful in taking 34 rams and averaged 62 percent success.

The greatest value of the Hart Mountain population has been to provide transplant stock for other potential sheep ranges in Oregon. A total of 89 sheep has been trapped on Hart Mountain and transplanted to six sites in eastern Oregon. Another eight sheep were loaned to Nevada in 1968 to be placed in a pen on the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge for future transplant stock in that state.

The Steens Mountain bighorn sheep population, which is now estimated at 150, originated from 11 of the Hart Mountain sheep transplanted in 1960 and 1961. As many as 69 rams have been counted at one time, including 30 rams with horns $\frac{3}{4}$ curl or larger. Most of the ewes and lambs use the southern half of the range found on the east slope of the Steens Mountain while the more adventurous rams at times use the range to the north. There appears to be room for some expansion in this area but since this population does not lend itself to convenient trapping, either-sex hunting may be necessary in the

future if this population does not disperse on its own.

Steens Mountain offers the most challenging bighorn sheep hunting in Oregon. The steep eastern escarpment, which has many vertical cliffs, ledges, and rock slides, is a challenge to the best prepared hunter. Hunter success is lowest on this range, averaging 44 percent. Seventy-nine hunters have taken 35 rams since hunting was first allowed in 1968.

The next transplant from Hart Mountain occurred in 1965 when 17 sheep were released in Leslie Gulch, a major canyon on the southeastern end of Owyhee Reservoir. Buildup in this population has been slow, with an estimated population at 75 currently. Rams have expanded their range to the north 10 miles while the ewes have moved only 4 miles to the south to Spring Creek. Since most of the Owyhee Canyon is considered potential sheep habitat, this population has considerable room to grow. Idaho's recent stocking of bighorns in the headwaters of the Owyhee may eventually benefit Oregon.

Rams have been hunted in the Owyhee population since 1973 and have produced the highest hunter success for sheep hunters in Oregon. Fourteen hunters have taken 13 sheep and averaged 93 percent suc-

cess.

In the fall of 1971, twenty-one sheep from Hart Mountain were transplanted to the Strawberry Mountains and released in Berry Creek on the southwestern edge of the Strawberrys. The population is presently estimated at 80 with room for some expansion although accessible winter range is limited in this area. This area will have its first sheep season this fall.

The Pueblo Mountains, an extension of the Steens range, received a transplant of 16 sheep from Hart Mountain in December of 1976. This mountain extends into Nevada and adjoins the Trout Creek Mountains on the east. A portion of the original transplant has been seen periodically but presently is not considered an established population.

Abert Rim in Lake County received three small transplants totaling ten sheep between November of 1975 and January of 1977. Status of this transplant remains uncertain.

The most recent transplant from Hart Mountain took place this year in March when 14 sheep were moved to Aldrich Mountain on the Murderer's Creek Wildlife Management Area. This was one of the potentials considered when the area was purchased. Most of the sheep are remaining in the vicinity of the release site and three new lambs have already been observed. Prospects for establishment are encouraging.

The Rocky Mountain Bighorn

First attempts to reestablish the Rocky Mountain subspecies in northeastern Oregon occurred in April of 1971 when 20 sheep were picked up from Jasper National Park in Alberta. These were released in Short Creek Canyon $\frac{1}{2}$ mile below Hells Canyon Dam on the Snake River. Reproduction was observed for several years but this population had disappeared by 1975.

Also during 1971 another 20 sheep were received from Jasper National Park and in November these were released in the Silver Creek Burn on the north side of the Lostine River. Excellent production in this group has been recorded and after trapping and transplanting 33 sheep, the population is estimated at 90. With the observation of 24 rams with horns $\frac{3}{4}$ curl or larger, the first season was



Young California bighorn in typical habitat



Since 1965, some 148 hunters have taken 82 rams in closely controlled hunts.

scheduled for this fall. Although these sheep summer along Hurricane Divide, they migrate each winter to a small winter range near the site of release. Since the sheep show no tendency to spread to new ranges, it is critical that this population be closely monitored and managed within the capacity of this winter range.

In January of 1977 the first sheep were trapped on Translator Ridge near the top of the Silver Creek Burn and 17 transplanted 7 miles to the northeast in the Bear Creek drainage. This was only temporary as most of the adult sheep eventually returned to Translator Ridge. In December of 1977, eight young sheep were selected from a group of trapped sheep on Translator Ridge and again released in Bear Creek. This group remained in Bear Creek until early May and have not been seen since.

Also in December of 1977, five sheep from Translator Ridge were released in the Battle Creek drainage of the Snake River Canyon.

Future Transplanting Plans

Transplanting of the California bighorns has been underway since 1960 and most of the better sites have received some stocking. Most of the Owyhee Canyon is considered sheep habitat where there is considerable room for expansion. Expansion is possible on other established ranges and a few minor sites show potential in southeastern Oregon. Because of the vast amount of private lands along the Deschutes and John Day Rivers, these canyons are not pres-

ently considered for stocking.

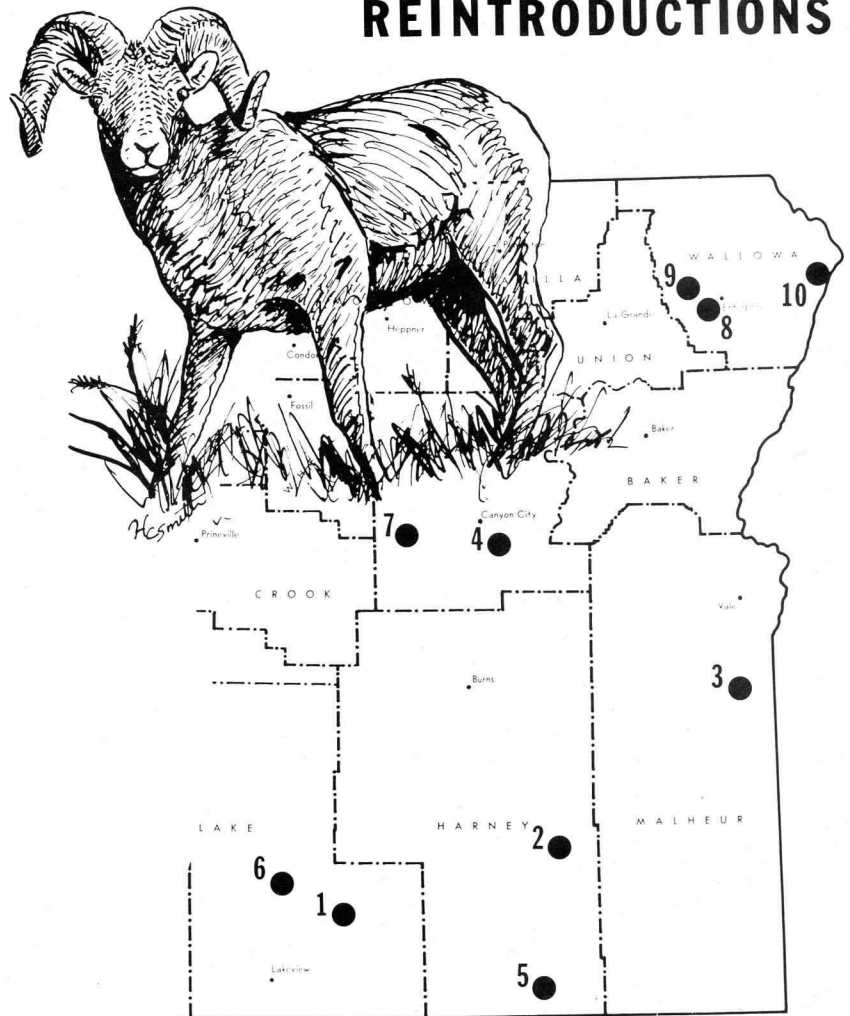
Reestablishment of the Rocky Mountain subspecies in northeastern Oregon has only just begun. There is considerable potential habitat in the Wallowa Mountains and the Snake River Canyon and tributaries have unlimited possibilities. The state of Idaho is to provide a stock of bighorns adapted to conditions in the Snake River Canyon in trade for other big game already given them.

The state of Washington has released bighorns near the mouth of Joseph Creek which may eventually blend in with future populations in Oregon.

Hunting

The Rocky Mountain bighorn is the largest in body size of the groups of sheep found in North America and the horns are the most massive at the base but the outside circumference will not match that of some of the

BIGHORN SHEEP REINTRODUCTIONS



CALIFORNIA BIGHORN SITES

1. Hart Mountain
2. Steens Mountain
3. Leslie Gulch
4. Strawberry Mountain
5. Pueblo Mountains
6. Abert Rim
7. Aldrich Mountain

ROCKY MOUNTAIN BIGHORN SITES

8. Lostine River
9. Bear Creek
10. Battle Creek

other groups. Mature rams will weigh between 200 and 300 pounds live weight with the largest sometimes approaching 350 pounds. Back in the 1800s when they were plentiful in Oregon, the pioneers preferred the meat of the bighorn over that of the domestic sheep.

There is considerable interest in Oregon in sheep hunting, which is confirmed by the 4,000 applications received for less than two dozen once-in-a-lifetime tags in 1977. All hunters successful in drawing a tag must attend a scheduled session for instructions on identification of legal rams, how to select a trophy, how to take care of the carcass, the general area where rams are found, and some hints on how to hunt them. All hunters are required to check in and out and heads are measured and permanently tagged.

Since hunting was first allowed in 1965, a total of 148 hunters has taken 82 sheep for an average of 57 percent success. No trophies have been taken to date that score high enough to be placed in the Boone and Crockett record book. The highest score of a

ram taken by a hunter in Oregon has been 167 4/8 but a larger head found with a carcass on the Steens Mountain scored 174 points. Regardless of their score, Oregon hunters have taken some magnificent specimens.

Management

Population control and proper range management are more critical in the management of bighorn sheep than other big game animals. The traditional habit of wintering in specific areas is so imbedded in these animals that they will often overuse a traditional range while a drainage or two away good foraging exists. Once a population exceeds the capacity of its range and there is a shortage of food, the health of the animals deteriorates. Low infestations of lung worms are common in most sheep populations. Once other factors have caused a decline in the health of the animal, parasite levels increase, placing further stress on the animal. Then pneumonia often sets in and the animal dies.

Sheep thrive on ranges where plant communities are stable. Bluebunch

wheatgrass is the preferred perennial grass found on all good winter ranges although other perennial grasses and forbs are used to a lesser degree. Overgrazed ranges eventually lose the bunchgrass stands and annual grasses and forbs take over. When this happens, sheep numbers decline until the range has recovered. Since sheep are not capable of wintering in deep snow, the winter range must have a favorable exposure where snow seldom lasts for long periods. Winter migration of most California bighorn is just a matter of moving farther down the hill but for the Rocky Mountain bighorn in the Wallowa Mountains, theirs is a planned migration involving 10 miles.

The bighorn sheep, like the mountain goat, live in steep, rugged habitat where few enemies venture. The cougar and bobcat are the most common predators of sheep although seldom do they have much impact on sheep numbers unless predator numbers are high or other food is scarce. Coyotes can be a predator but usually only if good lambing and escape cover are lacking. The eagle is always thought of as a predator of sheep but, in reality, few incidents of eagle predation have been recorded.

Summary

Oregon has experienced excellent results from the bighorn reintroduction and transplant program. From the original 20 California bighorns brought in 1953, seven ranges now have populations totaling 600 sheep. There still exists room for expansion of this subspecies to at least double the existing population. An established and productive population of the Rocky Mountain bighorn subspecies now exists in northeastern Oregon and transplanting is already underway. Considerable unstocked range exists for this subspecies. Eighty-two hunters have already experienced the thrill of taking one of these fine animals and opportunities are increasing as populations expand and new areas are stocked. Since bighorn sheep are extremely sensitive to range vegetation changes and overstocking, good management must be practiced to insure perpetuation of the bighorn in Oregon and insure enjoyment of a wildlife species that once became extinct.□

Tillamook County Judges Rap Violators

Violation of the fish and wildlife laws continues to be costly in Tillamook County, thanks to the efforts of judges there.

Circuit Court Judge Delbert Mayer at Tillamook recently fined a scuba diver \$255 for attempting to spear salmon. The diver was found guilty in a jury trial.

In another case, in the Justice Court, Justice of the Peace Marge Christianson indicated her distaste for poaching. An individual caught

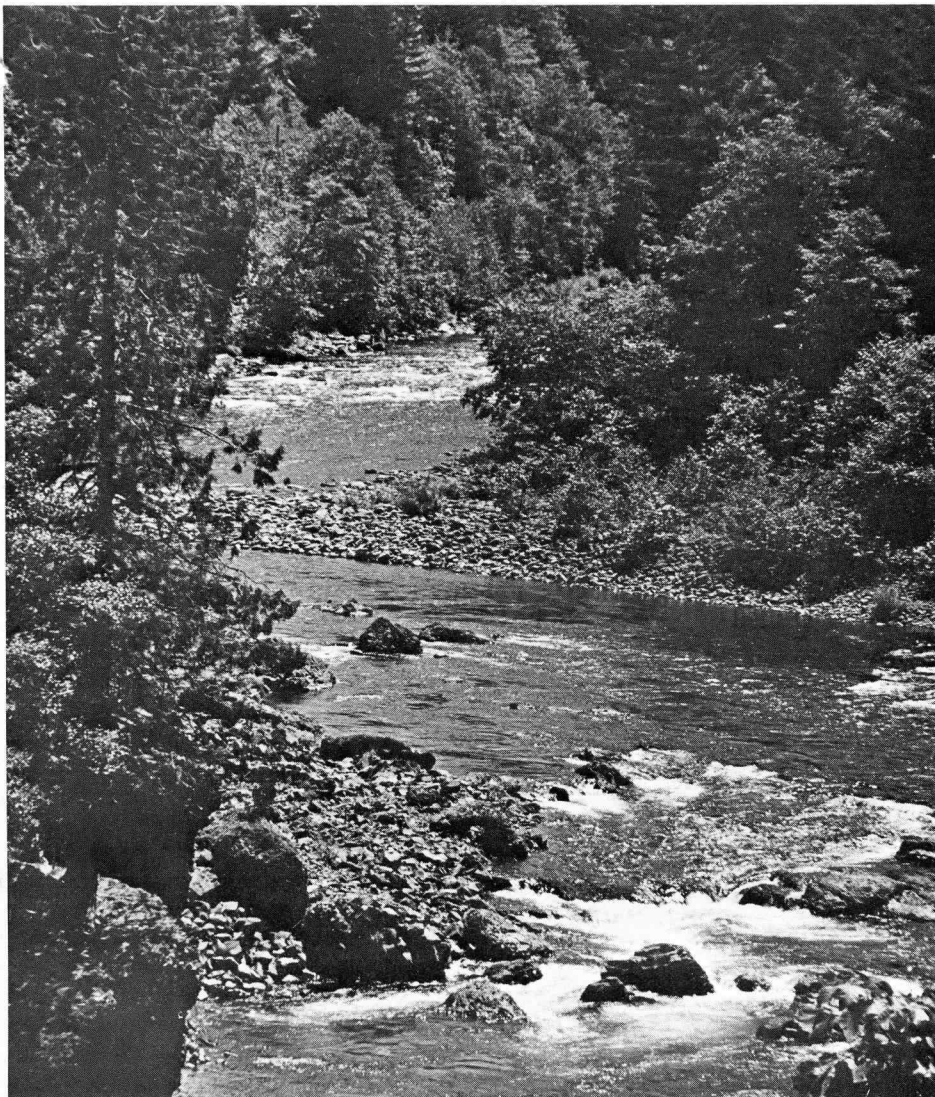
snagging fish at night at the Trask Hatchery Hole had his catch confiscated. In addition, he was fined \$500, given 30 days in the county jail, and lost his angling privileges for 1½ years.

The illegal fishing activities taking place in the Tillamook and other areas are a constant irritation to legal sportsmen and we offer a tip of the hat to these judges for not letting the violators off easy.□

Policy Not Cause For Alarm *(continued)*

The Department annually stocks about 20,000 "legals" — over six inches in length — in the Warm Springs segment, and 40,000 between Sherar's Falls (below Maupin) to the Deschutes Club gate seven miles above Maupin. The average statewide cost of hatching, raising to legal size and stocking trout, salmon and steelhead is approaching \$1.50 a pound, and catchable trout run about three to a pound. In my view, the Department would be better advised to spend the \$30,000 a year where it is needed more, even though the return to the angler of Deschutes stocked fish is high.

This is only one example of a segment of a river which could be managed for wild trout. It needs to be recognized that wild, native fish must be conserved, where possible, and that, as population increases, it will not be possible to provide a limit of hatchery trout in all waters for everyone who wants to go fishing.□



Above North Fork Reservoir

Clackamas River Summer Steelhead

*by Jay Massey
District Fish Biologist*

Winter steelhead angling has been popular on the Clackamas River for many years but now anglers can also catch summer steelhead. Summer steelhead were introduced into the Clackamas River in 1970 and for the past several years adults have been returning in numbers sufficient to interest anglers.

The potential for summer steelhead in the Clackamas River appears excellent. A good summer flow of cool water and numerous resting pools

provide excellent habitat for the summer fish. Good access and proximity to the major population center in Oregon are other factors favoring development of a summer steelhead fishery.

The summer steelhead program on the Clackamas began in the spring of 1970 with a small experimental release of yearling juvenile summer steelhead (called smolts) above North Fork Dam. Downstream movement of the smolts was moni-

tored at North Fork Dam and was considered poor. Only a small fraction of the number released passed below the dam on their way downstream. The first experiment was discouraging.

Juvenile steelhead migrating downstream in the Clackamas River have a difficult time. Some of the smolts released do not migrate to the ocean and others are caught in the trout fishery. If high flows occur during the migration period, some smolts pass over North Fork Dam with the spill and may become trapped in two reservoirs downstream.

Smolts were not released in 1971, but in 1972 another larger experimental release was made above North Fork Dam. Monitoring at the dam indicated the downstream migration was much better.

The first adult returns, although limited, were encouraging. Adults returned to the river during the summer of 1972 from smolts released in 1970. Over 200 adults were counted over North Fork Dam that summer. The returns were good considering the poor smolt migration in 1970.

In 1973 and 1974 smolt releases were increased and the downstream migration continued similar to 1972. Releases were made at several locations above North Fork Dam with the objective that returning adults would home to the area above the dam where excellent bank access is available for anglers.

During the first few years there was only limited success but returns of adult fish have steadily increased. Adult returns during the summer of 1977 were exciting. Over 3,400 adults returned to the river above North Fork Dam. Anglers that located these fish had excellent angling. The number counted at the dam, of course, does not include fish caught by anglers in downstream areas.

The summer steelhead introduced into the Clackamas River is the Skamania race native to the Washougal River in Washington. These fish may enter the Clackamas as early as April with the major portion of the run passing over North Fork Dam in June and July. Most of the adult steelhead return to fresh water after

spending two years in the ocean. At that time the fish weigh 5 to 9 pounds and are 25 to 30 inches in length. The remainder of the adults return to fresh water after three years at sea and may weigh 10 to 15 pounds or more.

The summer of 1978 is expected to be one of the best yet for summer steelhead on the Clackamas River. Adult returns are primarily from a large release of smolts in 1976. Over 2,500 summer fish have passed over North Fork Dam through the middle of July and more are moving above the dam daily.

Boat anglers have taken some summer fish between River Mill Dam and the mouth of the Clackamas and bank anglers are catching fish above North Fork Dam. Many anglers probably do not know that the summer steelhead are in the river.

These fish may be caught from boats or at the limited bank access sites in the lower 23 miles of the Clackamas River below River Mill Dam. Above River Mill Dam there are many miles of public access along both banks where anglers can fish for the big fish. This fishery is so new to the Clackamas that specific fishing sites or "hot spots" are still being located.

Most lures and baits used to take summer steelhead on other streams will work on the Clackamas River. Most fish so far have been taken on wobblers, salmon eggs, and sand shrimp.

Adult summer steelhead are being trapped at Faraday Dam and hauled to upstream release sites this year by Portland General Electric Company as part of a cooperative study with the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Summer steelhead that were marked and released as smolts in the North Fork fish ladder are tagged prior to being hauled upstream and released.

Tag returns from these fish will provide information on distribution. Anglers catching tagged fish are urged to return the tags along with the date and location on the river where the fish was caught to the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Anyone reporting a tagged fish will be given a report on his fish upon request. Anglers should include their names and phone numbers so they can be contacted.□

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Endangered Species Protected By New Rules

Endangered species are the beneficiaries in several regulations adopted recently by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission. One provides additional protection to the endangered Columbian white-tailed deer and another protects four nongame species of fish which are limited in distribution and low in numbers.

Columbian white-tailed deer once occupied brushy lowlands throughout the Willamette Valley and along the lower Columbia River. But, unlike the more adaptable black-tailed deer commonly found throughout western Oregon, the whitetails could not tolerate a burgeoning civilization and loss of the lowland habitat in which they live.

Their range is now severely restricted. The Columbian White-tailed Deer National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1972 to provide habitat for a large share of the remaining deer. The refuge consists of about 5,200 acres of moist, brushy bottom land on Tenasillahe, Hunting, and Price Islands and a part of the Washington mainland near Cathlamet. Limited numbers are also found in other flood plain areas bordering the lower Columbia River. They are strictly protected under the National Endangered Species Act.

There are 31 subspecies of white-tailed deer in North America. In Oregon another remnant white-tailed deer population exists along the Umpqua River northeast of Roseburg. Until recently the Douglas County group was thought to be a different subspecies. But recently scientists have decided this group is also of the Columbian white-tailed variety.

In response to that decision, the Fish and Wildlife Commission has closed Dixon, Indigo, and Melrose Units to the taking of white-tailed deer. Formerly these deer have been considered legal game during the black-tailed seasons in those units.

As might be expected, black-tailed deer can be distinguished from white-tailed deer by their tails. Whitetails have longer, broader, triangular-shaped tails, relatively light colored on the upper surface. The un-

dersurface is brilliant white and, when alarmed, the white-tailed deer flips its tail up like a jaunty flag. Black-tailed deer have smaller tails with a dark-colored dorsal surface. Black-tailed deer also flip their tails up when alarmed but the "flag" is smaller and much less spectacular.

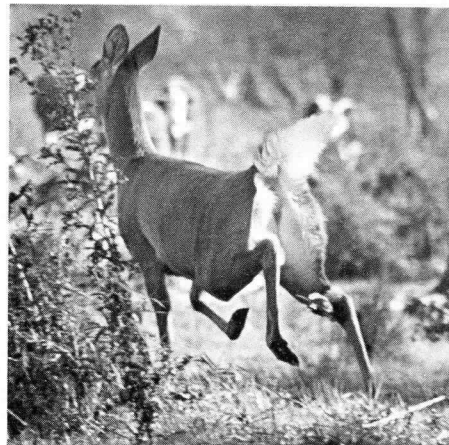
In bucks, the two species can also be identified from one another by antler configuration. The black-tailed deer has antlers with points branching in pairs like the letter "Y". In white-tailed bucks, points arise singly from a main beam.

Although seldom easily seen at a distance, white-tailed deer have smaller metatarsal glands, about 1 inch long, on the rear legs. Black-tailed deer have larger glands about 3 inches long.

There are also white-tailed deer in the northeast portion of Wallowa County. Those deer are not of the Columbian subspecies and are similar to white-tailed deer found in good numbers in Idaho.

Another recently adopted regulation places four species of nongame fish on the state's protected list. The Warner sucker, Borax Lake chub, Fosket Spring dace, and Oregon tui chub of Hutton Spring are all confined to limited areas in southeastern Oregon and numbers are extremely low.

Although none are actively sought by anglers and all four are found all or mostly on private land, Warner suckers are sometimes accidentally caught by trout anglers fishing tributaries to Hart Lake.□



AUGUST 1978

THIS AND THAT

compiled by Ken Durbin

New Smallmouth Record Set

The state smallmouth bass record has been soundly topped by 13-year-old Mark Weir of Richland. His 6 pound 13 ounce smallmouth was taken June 17 from Brownlee Reservoir on a purple bass jig. It measured 19 inches in length and 16 inches in girth.

Weir's bass supplanted one weighing 5 pounds 2½ ounces taken in April 1977 from Prineville Reservoir by 19-year-old Doug Hicks.

*

Help for Farmers

Under a new agreement, farmers may be able to get up to half of the cost of water pollution control activities paid by the federal government. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Agriculture have settled on a framework for the Rural Clean Water Program authorized by the 1977 Clean Water Act. The Secretary of Agriculture may enter into long-term contracts with rural land owners and operators to install and maintain practices that will control "non-point" sources of water pollution from pesticides, fertilizers, animal wastes, and sediment. Copies of the new agreement are available from the EPA Press Office (A-107), Room 329 West Tower, 401 M Street SW, Washington, D.C. 20460.

Conservation News

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Rare NW Visitor

A great white shark 15 feet 4 inches in length and too heavy to be rolled over by three men was recently found on the beach near Ketchikan, Alaska. It was measured at 8 feet in circumference by a biologist of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. These sharks are found worldwide in temperate and tropical seas but are considered rare in the waters of the North Pacific. The stomach of the shark was found to be empty.

Alaska Fish Tales & Game Trails
OREGON WILDLIFE

Wild Nutrition

According to a Utah report, wild game usually has higher amounts of usable protein than domestic meat. It also has fewer calories and less fat which makes it one of our healthiest food choices. For instance, a 3½ ounce serving of broiled T-bone steak has 235 calories, 24 grams of protein, and nearly 15 grams of fat. The same portion of venison steak cooked the same way has 201 calories, nearly 35 grams of protein, and about 6 grams of fat. In other words, venison offers about 15 percent fewer calories, almost 50 percent more usable protein, and only 40 percent of the fat found in beef.

A 3½ ounce portion of domestic roast turkey has 200 calories, 31 grams of protein, and about 8 grams of fat. A like amount of wild pheasant has only 151 calories, about 5 grams of fat, but is a bit lower in protein at 24 grams. You may give up 7 grams of protein by switching from domestic turkey to wild pheasant but you also avoid about 25 percent of the calories and 38 percent of the fat. Waterfowl seems to be the exception to the rule, however. The meat of a wild duck compares just about straight across the board to a T-bone.

Outdoor Oklahoma

*

State Wildlife Authority Upheld

The U.S. Supreme Court has upheld the authority of the Montana Fish and Game Commission to charge nonresidents more than residents to hunt elk. For an out-of-stater to hunt elk in Montana, a \$225 license is required. Residents may hunt with a \$9 license.

The Court said that recreational hunting is not a fundamental right. It said that the Montana Legislature did not act irrationally in establishing the differential fee. The decision is important because it rehabilitates the doctrine that wildlife is owned by the people and resident animals are held in trust by the state. But states had best keep the differential reasonable, observers report, or Congress may be encouraged to get into the act.

Wildlife Management Institute

Some Exceptions in Steel Shot Zone

Oregon waterfowl hunters will have a sort of "phase in" period of one year in the newly established steel shot zone. The zone, within which steel shot is required for hunting waterfowl, lies along the lower Columbia River in an area bounded by Longview Bridge, Highway 30, Bonneville Dam, and the Oregon-Washington state line.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has said that for the 1978-79 season only guns other than 12 gauge may still be used in the steel shot zone with lead shot. Twelve-gauge guns must use steel shot ammunition. Steel shot is only commercially available in 12-gauge ammunition.

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Department's Sauvie Island Wildlife Area falls within the steel shot zone, however, and no exceptions will be made there. Steel shot will be required for all waterfowl hunting.

Also, the Fish and Wildlife Service said, in federal areas where steel shot has been required in the past, it will be required again without exceptions. Those areas include Umatilla, William Finley, Baskett Slough, and Ankeny National Wildlife Refuges.

*

'77 License Sales Set Record

People who hunted and fished last year spent a record \$329 million on licenses, tags, permits, and stamps, although the actual number of fishermen declined slightly from 1976, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Total income from license sales of all kinds was \$10 million more than in 1976 and included \$156 million for fishing licenses (up \$1.56 million over 1976) and \$172.8 million for hunting licenses (\$9.2 million more than 1976).

Last year the number of fishing license holders decreased by 494,000 to 27.3 million while the number of hunting license holders increased by 86,349 to 16,386,594. "The slight decrease in fishing license holders is not significant," Fish and Wildlife Service Director Lynn Greenwalt said, "and can be attributed to some states eliminating the license requirement for senior citizens. The 1977 drought also had an impact on outdoor activities, especially in California."

Redband Trout Project Underway

The Fish and Wildlife Department's first limited hatchery production of redband trout has been released into a newly formed reservoir near Jordan Valley, according to southeast Oregon district fishery biologist Bill Hosford. Eventually Hosford hopes this close relative of the rainbow trout will be produced in sufficient numbers to serve as the major species for stocking the lakes and reservoirs of the desert.

This strain of "wild trout" was originally found throughout the arid reaches of northern Nevada, western Idaho, and eastern Oregon. It is one of several native trout species which has been uniquely adapted by evolution for the harsh conditions common to desert watersheds.

The redband trout can survive water temperatures of 80 degrees Fahrenheit or more as well as 30 to 35 degrees daily fluctuation in water temperature. And it is uniquely adapted to the highly alkaline waters (pH of 10-10.5) common to the desert.

Redbands are able to reproduce in spite of silted spawning gravel and they are an effective competitor for

food and living space against rough fish species which also tend to thrive in the warm desert waters, Hosford says.

Redband trout are savage predators and prey extensively on undesirable fish species such as chubs. By comparison, the rainbow trout commonly produced in the state's hatchery program seldom feed on rough fish and when they do, they suffer a vitamin deficiency due to a chemical present in the slime of these fish. Redband trout will thrive on a diet of these fish, apparently without suffering any vitamin deficiency. In areas where rough fish populations provide ample food sources, redbands reach weights of 6 to 8 pounds, Hosford says.

Although the redband trout is the native stream fish throughout southeast Oregon and is still present in hundreds of miles of streams, many populations have been hybridized with hatchery rainbow because of past stocking programs, Hosford said. There are only a few streams in which biologists are confident no stocking has taken place and where redband

trout still exist in a pure strain.

Limited numbers of redband trout eggs have been collected and reared by the Department the last two years at the Klamath Fish Hatchery. The first of the redband fingerlings have been released in Parsnip Reservoir, a new 37-acre reservoir built on Jaca Brothers Ranch west of Jordan Valley. Although the reservoir was constructed primarily to provide irrigation waters, the Jaca Brothers have agreed to leave a minimum pool to ensure trout survival.

Because the reservoir was new and no other fish are present, it was selected to be used exclusively for redband trout production. To ensure that redband trout will be available for future egg production, Parsnip Reservoir will not be open to angling.

Redband trout, like most species of trout taken directly from the wild, are notoriously difficult to rear in a hatchery. But Hosford says if enough can be produced, this will be the strain of trout released in the popular trout waters in Harney, Lake, and Malheur Counties — waters such as Antelope, Beulah, and Malheur Reservoirs. □

Refuge Task Force Recommendations Under Review

High-level officials of the U.S. Department of Interior are reviewing some thousand comments on a major task force study on the 34-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System, with one particular recommendation of the task force report promising to raise a good deal of controversy.

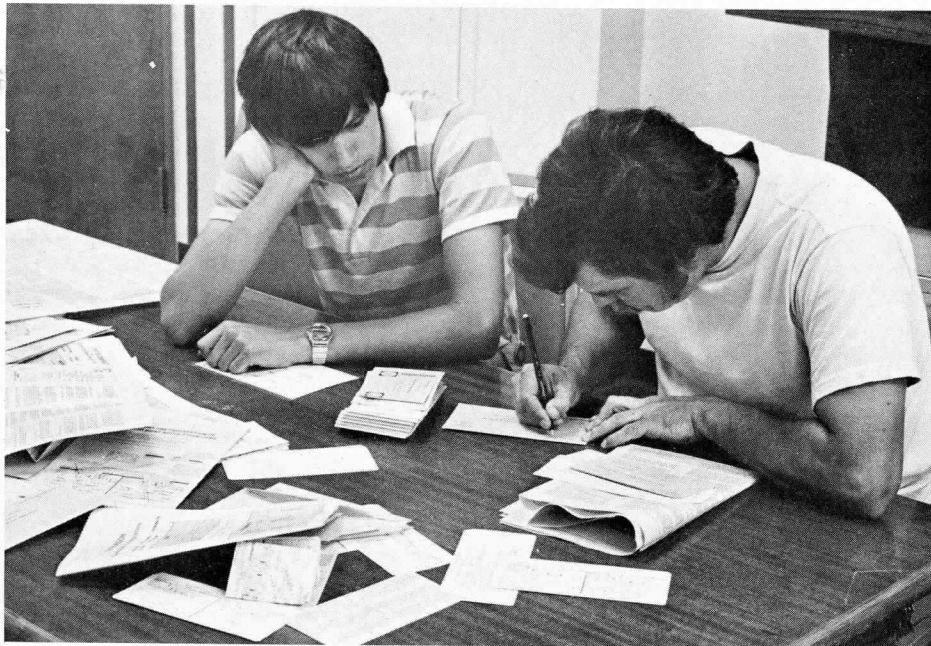
Of the 26 recommendations, the most controversial is probably number 25, concerning hunting, fishing and trapping on refuges. This lengthy recommendation recognizes that, if closely regulated, hunting, trapping and fishing are consistent with refuge goals of providing habitat for healthy populations of wildlife. "On the other hand, hunting, trapping or fishing should be prohibited if these activities are actually or potentially damaging to primary refuge objectives," the recommendation states.

The task force warned against any "deliberate manipulation" of habitats or populations to produce "excessive numbers" of resident wildlife solely for hunting, fishing or trapping. FWS should update its hunting policy memorandum, review commercial uses of fish and wildlife and issue its draft policy on taking of fur-bearing animals, the task force said.

Director Greenwalt devoted almost five pages in response because it "is clearly the most provocative and potentially controversial" of the recommendations. FWS philosophy, according to Greenwalt, holds that hunting, fishing and trapping are legitimate and necessary tools of effective fish and wildlife management. Further, as "tools of the trade," these so-called consumptive uses of wildlife should not occur only when wildlife populations are so high that harvest is necessary to protect a species from

the adverse impacts of too many of its own kind. "If harvestable surpluses are taken regularly, the development of excessive numbers will be avoided," Greenwalt explained.

Hitting at what he considered the crux of the matter, Greenwalt said the issue "most frequently boils down to the question of the morality or acceptability of killing a fellow creature, even when that killing may substitute one form of death for another." But while emotion mounts on the ethical question, biologically it has no foundation, Greenwalt said. Intelligent land management should produce a diversity and harvestable surplus of wildlife, which should not imply the same as "excessive" populations, Greenwalt added. He saw no need for an artificial distinction between resident and nonresident species as far as managing for an "excess" for hunting or fishing. □



Permit Drawing

Story and photos by Jim Gladson

The last of some 80,000 controlled hunt applications are being processed and readied for the August 18 permit drawing.

In the fall, hunters successful in the drawing will go afield armed with weapon and permit to seek game ranging from antlerless deer to big-horn sheep.

While each hunter may be involved in different hunts, all have been through one test together — that of making it through the drawing system.

This will be the third hunting season since the computer edged out a manual system of tag drawing.

The computer has become a necessity for most organizations that deal with large numbers of people. So it is with the Fish and Wildlife Department controlled hunt drawings.

The computer requires accurate information and it allows no margin for error. The result is that many hunt applicants never make the drawing because of application errors or omissions.

calls come to the Department often with problems like "I think I forgot to put my tag number on the elk application. Can you correct that for me?" Or another common error such as "I forgot to put the one dollar application fee in with my card. Can I still get in the drawing if I send in a dollar?"

The answer is the same for both cases. "Sorry, but no." As the photos here illustrate, there are too many applications and not enough people to stage any rescue operations.

Once a card enters the Department headquarters, it follows a set procedure that hopefully ends with a permit being issued.

From the mail room the envelope goes to the sorting room where the money is tabulated and the applications are sorted. It is here that cards incorrectly filled out and applications short the application fee are removed from the process.

Because of the volume of permit applications handled, those hunters who do not receive a permit will never know whether they were not selected in the drawing or never made it to the computer. Unsuccessful applicants are not notified in either case.

The sorted cards are entered in the computer where they join all other valid applicants according to hunt number.

When the drawing begins, the computer is fed a set of numbers. The original numbers taken from the application card are then rearranged by the computer and used to select successful applicants.

If you are destined to receive a permit, you should be notified within ten days after the drawing. No news, however, is bad news. Better luck next year.□



A Reminder to Young Hunters

Perhaps you are an Oregon hunter under the age of 18 who has decided that soggy mess in the washing machine was your hunter education certificate. Or maybe it has simply turned up gone since you last used it in 1977. If so, you're going to need a new one before the seasons open this fall.

Each year the Fish and Wildlife Department receives numerous panicked calls on the day or two preceding the opening of hunting season from youths who suddenly realize their hunter education card is missing.

Tony Faast and Jane Hodges in the hunter education branch of the Department do their best to see these callers get new cards in time for opening day. But young hunters could do the Department and themselves a big favor by checking now to make sure they can find their certificate. If it's lost or destroyed, there is still plenty of time to get a replacement.

In spite of the Department's efforts, some of those who wait until the last minute are invariably disappointed when they don't get their duplicate card in time.

If you need a duplicate card, drop a letter giving your full name, address, the address where you lived

when you took the hunter education course if it's different than your current address, date of birth, and the approximate date when you took the course. You can also call the Department with the same information or provide it to any of the Department's seven regional offices.

If you need to take a hunter education course, now's the time to do it. The mandatory course takes eight hours, usually over a week or more. Courses are often advertised in the newspapers. The local police department or a sportsman's club may also have information about a course. If you can't find a course starting in your area, you can call the Portland office of the Fish and Wildlife Department or any of its regional offices to get a list of instructors in your area. You can then contact one of them directly about a course.

Hunters less than 18 years of age must carry a hunter education card when hunting except on property owned or leased by parents or guardian.

Incidentally, you do not have to have the card to purchase a license or tags or to apply for controlled hunts. You must simply have it when you hunt.□

Some 3-Point Bull Elk Units Require Permit

If you are a general season elk hunter just beginning to think about this year's expedition, you should be aware of a change in the regulations that will directly affect you if you hunt in the Saddle Mountain (formerly Clatsop), Tioga, or Snake River Units.

These units are open only for bulls with three antler points or more and hunters must obtain a permit to hunt any of those three units. The permits are free (except for the \$1 application

fee) and there is no limit on the number that will be issued for each unit. But the permit restricts the hunter to one unit.

Other units with a 3-point regulation where a permit is not required are Chetco and Dixon Units.

Permit applications for the 3-point bull areas will be accepted through October 17. Details and instructions for application are given in the 1978 Controlled Hunt Regulations available from license agents.□

Management Unit Changes Revisited

Several game management unit names have been changed this year. We've mentioned this before, but more folks are studying the hunting regulations as the seasons approach and there has been some confusion about the new names. We list them again below.

The changes were made for those units which shared their name with a county. Having both a county and a game management unit with the same name has caused boundary confusion in the past.

In addition to the name changes, a new Indigo Unit was established from the north part of the Dixon Unit and the south part of the McKenzie Unit. The Nestucca Unit was eliminated, being combined with the Wilson and Trask Units. Confused? No need to be. New management unit maps have been printed and are available free from license agents throughout the state.

Old Name	New Name
Clatsop	Saddle Mountain
Polk	Stott Mountain
Hood River	Hood
Wasco	White River
Sherman	Biggs
Wheeler	Fossil
Deschutes	Upper Deschutes
Klamath	Klamath Falls
Umatilla	Mt. Emily
Baker	Sumpter



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