

OREGON STATE

# GAME COMMISSION BULLETIN

DECEMBER, 1952







Attention of elk hunters planning to hunt during the extended season for elk of either sex in the specified area in vicinity of the city of Baker is called to the fact that this season runs from November 21 to December 21 as stated on page 14 of the 1952 hunting synopsis. A typographical error in the table on page 38 lists the closing date as December 31.

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Another doe deer sporting a set of antlers has been reported, this one shot by Harold Edef of Sandy while hunting last season near Fish Lake in the Steens Mountains. The 140-pound doe had a set of 3 point antlers still in the velvet. These rare incidents are attributed to a hormone upset.

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A Federal Aid project has been approved to carry out a large portion of the game habitat improvement program. Under this project, work will be concentrated primarily in two regions, the farm lands of the South Willamette district and of the Columbia Basin in eastern Oregon. Emphasis will be directed toward improvement of habitat for upland game but other activities have also been approved. These include reseeding burns and logged areas in certain big game wintering areas in the Coast Range; construction of waterfowl impoundments and farming the adjacent areas in Willamette Valley; construction of wood duck nest boxes for use in the Northwest region; grain plantings for waterfowl in McKay Refuge; construction of quail roosts in the Columbia Basin; big game waterhole development in the Southeast region; and statewide planting of aquatics for waterfowl food.

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A thorough investigation of the silver salmon runs in the coastal streams is being made to determine the ratio of marked to unmarked fish in order that the contribution of hatchery-planted yearlings to the fishery may be established. The frequency of marked silver reports turned in by anglers has been encouraging.

#### COVER PICTURE

A Warner Valley hunter makes a try for geese.  
(Photo by Harold Smith)

## Landowners Cooperate

"Attention Deer Hunter," was the bold head on a sign prominently displayed through the upper John Day Valley for the recent either-sex deer season.

The sign read, "The Grant County Stockgrowers' Association has set up an information office at the Chamber of Commerce office in John Day to assist with the *Special Deer Season*. The office will be open October 17-18."

During these two days nearly 200 hunters from all sections of the state visited the stockmens' information center manned by Fred Lemcke of John Day, Bill Drinkwater of Prairie City, Larry Williams of Canyon City, Bill Southworth of Seneca, and Grant County Agent Bill Farrell.

Information on open areas, boundary descriptions, and location of deer was given to the hunters. Some were steered

away from sections they had planned to hunt but from which the deer had moved.

Objective of the either-sex hunt in Grant County was to thin down the deer to aid in restoration of their winter ranges and to avoid heavy winter losses.

Many of the inquiring sportsmen received slips addressing them to a rancher whose lands were open if permission were asked, and nearly all the well-known Izee country was opened to public hunting through this method of entry. Hunters were reminded of the simple courtesy of requesting permission to hunt on a rancher's lands, and respecting his wishes and property.

Ranchers who received the hunters sent from the information booth stated that they were very cooperative. Reaction of the hunters was one of surprise at meeting with the ranchers on these terms. The Grant County Stockgrowers' information booth project is a heartening note in relations between sportsman and landowner and points the way for future programs of mutual benefit.

### Oregon State Game Commission Bulletin

VOLUME VII DECEMBER, 1952 NUMBER 12

Published Monthly by the

OREGON STATE GAME COMMISSION  
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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.  
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### NOVEMBER MEETING OF THE GAME COMMISSION

The Game Commission held a meeting at its Portland office on November 14 and acted upon the following matters:

Ordered investigation of public boat access point as requested by the Beaver Chapter of the Izaak Walton League; also investigation of development of access site already available at the mouth of the lower Clackamas river.

Approved taking up of option of Harley Counsell for land in Ladd Marsh.

Approved department recommendation to suggest to the Board of Control a plan for disposal of confiscated meat to state institutions.

Heard various applications for use of land at Eel Lake, including that of the Oregon Society for Crippled Children and Adults. Staff was instructed to investigate applications presented from all angles.

Approved expenditure of \$4,500 for habitat improvement equipment.

Accepted the bid of Bill's Electric in the sum of \$4,100 for installation of power system at Fall River hatchery.

Approved opening of bank accounts by regional supervisors for deposit of guide license receipts.

ORGANIZATION

By C. B. WALSH, Assistant Director

By C. B. WALSH, Assistant Director

Although more than 400,000 people buy hunting and fishing licenses in Oregon every year, comparatively few of these people know how the moneys from these licenses are spent. The people that read the Game Commission Bulletin regularly probably know of most of the activities and operations of the Commission but only a few of this group are familiar with the organization that has been set up to carry out the fish and game management program which these moneys support. This organization has gone through a number of changes in the last few years and is continually being refined toward the end that it may function more efficiently and smoothly. To better understand the organization, probably it is best to briefly look at the historical background of fish and game management in Oregon.

When Oregon was established as a territory with territorial government, the citizens were already aware of the value of wildlife resources. In Section 12 of the Territorial Act, it states as follows:

"The rivers and streams of water in said territory of Oregon in which salmon are found, or to which they resort, shall not be obstructed by dams or otherwise, unless such dams or obstructions are so constructed as to allow salmon to pass freely up and down such rivers and streams."

After Oregon became a state, the Legislature in 1872 passed an Act for the protection of game and fish. Since that early date, there has been a growing realization of the tremendous values of fish and game resources in the state. In addition to this, due to the steady increase in population and the increased

and diversified land and water uses that accompany population increases, the management of these wildlife resources has become more and more complex. As this situation has developed the statutes have changed in an attempt to keep pace and the organization that is charged with the responsibility for these resources has also gone through a long period of change and development.

In the early beginnings the Fish and Game Commission's activities dealt primarily with fish hatcheries. Also at an early date the responsibility of fish and game law enforcement was delegated to the Fish and Game Commission. In 1921 the State Legislature divided the responsibility for commercial fish from the responsibility for game fish and game animals and birds. This resulted in the establishment of the Oregon State Fish Commission that bears the responsibility for commercial fisheries and the Oregon State Game Commission which is responsible for game fish and game animals. Since 1921 there have been revisions in the legal status of the Game Commission made by the Legislature from time to time. The duties and authorities of the Commission at the present are summed up rather well in the following section from the present law:

“The State Game Commission shall have full power and authority to formulate the general policies and programs of the state of Oregon respecting the management which for the purposes of this Act shall include protection, preservation, propagation and promotion, of game fish, game animals, furbearing animals, other than domestic furbearing animals, game birds, and nongame birds, other than domestic birds and fowls, within this state, and such further general powers as may

be necessary to carry out the provisions, purposes and objectives of this Act . . .”

In 1931 the Legislature created the Department of State Police and placed game law enforcement under that department's jurisdiction. The year 1937 marked the entry of technically trained wildlife management workers over and above the operation of fish hatcheries and bird farms which had been in operation for many years. During the past ten years the present organization has been going through a building period in a constantly increasing effort to meet the increasing public use of our wildlife resources.

As the whole organization stands today, the Oregon State Game Commission itself is the policy making body. It is a five-man group appointed by the Governor of the state. Two of these men must come from west of the summit of the Cascade Mountains, two from east of the summit of the Cascade Mountains and one may be appointed from the state at large. The duties of these men, as stated in the law, are to set the policies and programs. In addition to this, they

(Continued on page 7)





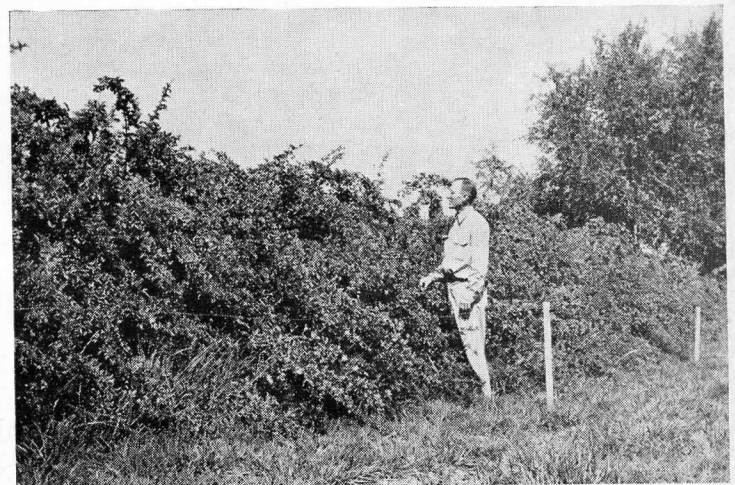
**Game agents in range study school examining a deer proof enclosure that demonstrates range recovery under protection.**



**Small pond on water wasteway in Madras plots developed experimentally by Oregon Game Commission.**

**Good Oregon**  
is required to coordinate  
the widespread activities  
of the Game Commission.

**Fish hatcherymen spawning rainbow trout seined from shoals on East Lake.**



**Living fence of multiflora rose planted in 1949 on North Unit near Madras examined by Central Oregon Regional Supervisor Len Mathisen.**

**Stream clearance work on a debris-choked stream in the coastal area.**







irrigation unit with game food and cover  
gon Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit.

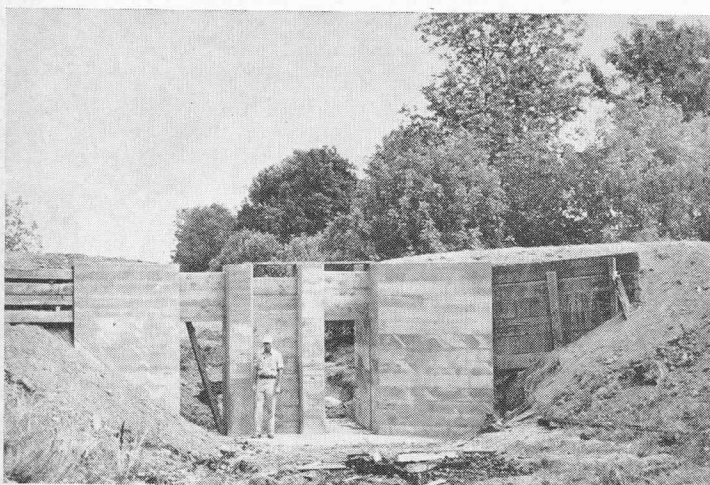
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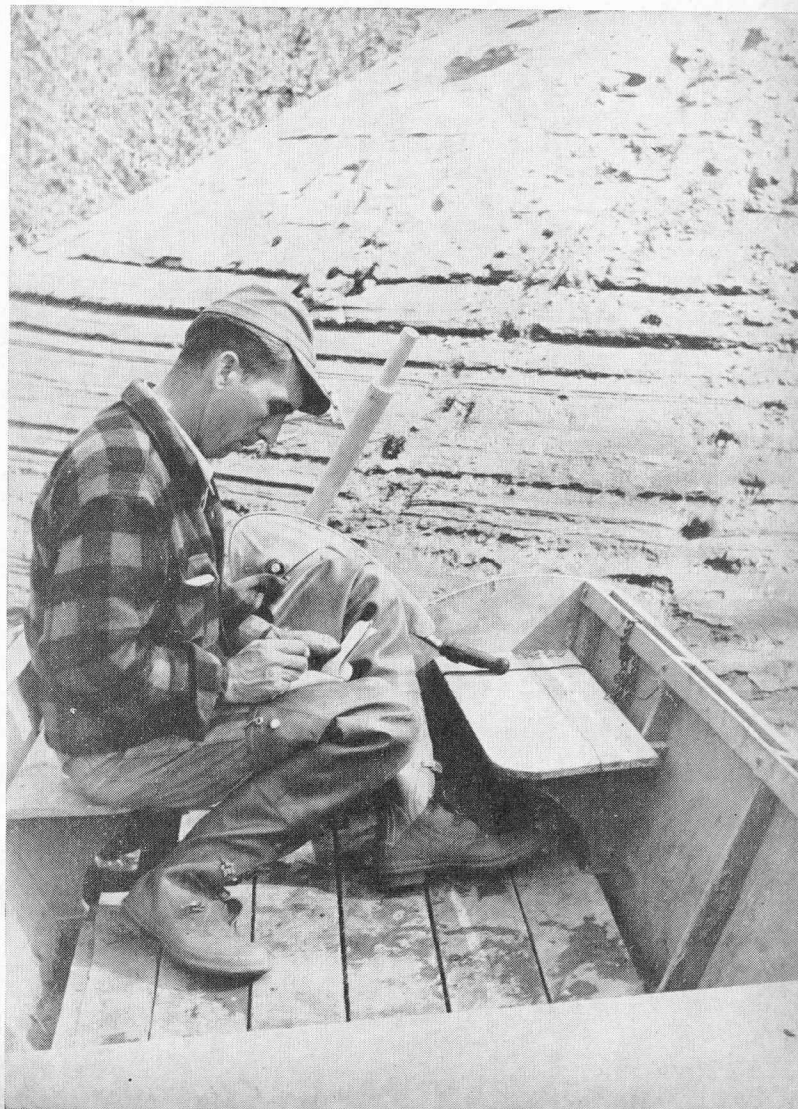
Assistant State Game Director Clark Walsh shooting model winter range  
scene for a new movie, "Behind the Trophy."

Trapper W. E. Holderman making beaver track counts  
on a survey of Willamette Valley streams.



Completed water control structure for new waterfowl and warm water  
game fish impoundment on Wilson Wildlife Management Area.

Game Agent Cecil Langdon restocking area with  
livetrapped valley quail.



# The Southwest Region

By J. W. VAUGHN, Supervisor

**R**EGION No. II comprises the five southwestern counties of Douglas, Jackson, Josephine, Coos and Curry with an area of 12,737 square miles. It extends north and south approximately half way across the state and east and west from the crest of the Cascades to the Pacific Ocean. It has (as well as fish and game) some of the scenic wonders of Oregon within its boundaries: Diamond Lake in Douglas county (just a few miles from Crater Lake), Golden and Silver Falls in Coos county, and the famous Oregon Caves in Josephine county.

The region has the largest stand of Douglas fir in the world and of course lumbering is first in the economy with agriculture second. The national forests and large private timber companies are harvesting on a sustained yield basis, which should assure the economy of the area ad infinitum.

The first screening of water diversions done by the Game Commission was on the Rogue River. It has taken several hundred screens for the irrigation ditches but today the project is more than 90 per cent complete. The saving of seaward migrant fishes number in the thousands each year.

We have launched upon a rather ambitious program of acquiring access sites on the Rogue River to enable the general public to enjoy the recreation of this famous river. Our present plan includes 44 sites to be financed mostly by Dingell-Johnson funds.

The regional office was established in Roseburg because the highway system makes every part of the region more readily accessible from this point. The object of the decentralization of the Game Commission is to bring the administration nearer to the people and the field.

The southwest region embraces three main fishery management areas, the Rogue River, Umpqua River and the collective coastal drainages. Each area has a resident and sea-run fishery, posing separate problems. The principal resident species of the Rogue and Umpqua Rivers is the rainbow, while cutthroat trout is dominant on the coast. Lately the emphasis has been to release rainbow into the coastal waters also, with a view toward the improvement of mid-summer angling. A number of the high mountain lakes are stocked

with eastern brook trout. Trout plantings for the region amounted to 1,183,000 fish totalling 106,200 pounds in 1951.

In addition to the pursuit of trout, salmon angling is an extremely important sport in southwestern Oregon. Spring chinook are taken principally in the Rogue and Umpqua Rivers, fall chinook and silver salmon run in all of the streams, and large summer salmon fisheries are enjoyed at Winchester Bay and Gold Beach. Approximately 12,000 salmon are caught from the Rogue River annually. The Winchester Bay fishery is comparatively new, but has jumped from a minor fishery in 1947 to a total catch of 10,600 salmon weighing 178,000 pounds in 1951. Salmon rearing is carried out at all of the regional hatcheries, which are located at Bandon, Butte Falls and Rock Creek. Chinook salmon, principally the spring run variety, are released in the Rogue and Umpqua drainages, and silver salmon are stocked in all of the major stream systems. In 1951, 610,000 salmon weighing 19,600 pounds were released.

Summer steelhead run in the Rogue and Umpqua Rivers. These unique fish, found few other places in the world, are the center of a very popular sport. They take flies readily, and pound for pound are unsurpassed in a fight. An all-year fishery for striped bass exists at Coos Bay. For years anglers have come from

all parts of the western United States to battle the big ones, and a catch of approximately 2,500 fish is produced annually. Fresh-water spiny-rayed fish are also very popular. Most of the coastal lakes, including the sand dune potholes, abound with one or more species of bass, perch, sunfish and catfish. Perch and catfish angling brings thousands of anglers to the Tenmile Lakes each year, while Loon Lake is a favorite bass water. The Umpqua, Coquille and Rogue Rivers supply numerous catfish.

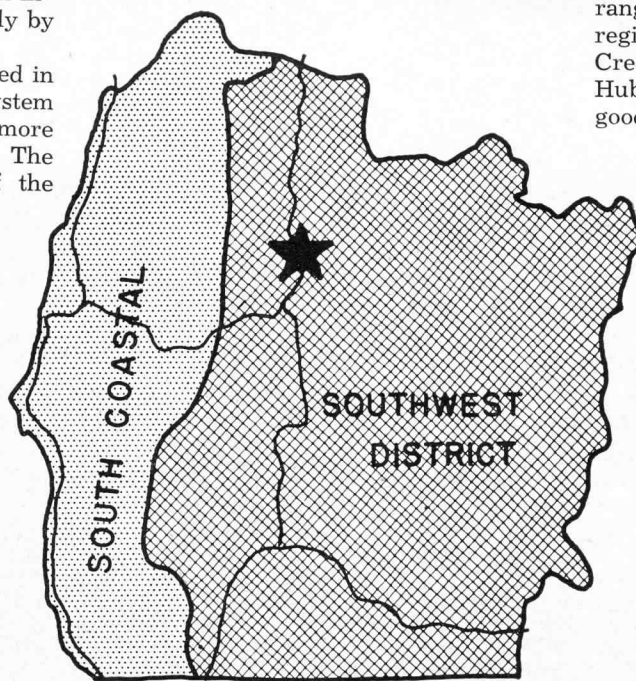
The surf and bay species may be considered Oregon's forgotten sports fish opportunities. Some people do angle for the many forms found along the ocean shore and in the inlets, but the fishery should be greatly expanded. The southwest coastal waters teem with sea perch, flounder, greenling, ling cod, sole, rock fish, tom cod and countless other species. Certainly a large portion of the angling public is overlooking a good source of fishing enjoyment.

Southwestern Oregon in the 1920's was a mecca for deer hunters. Large scale fires had opened up timber overstories and lack of access roads had made fire fighting difficult. As a result of the excellent forage produced, deer were very numerous. Then, as fire suppression became better organized, the old burns grew up to such an extent that they no longer offered good habitat, and deer hunters shifted their efforts to eastern Oregon. In recent years, however, large scale logging operations are again opening up the forests to the extent that they provide excellent deer and elk range. Two large recent burns in the region, one near Scottsburg on Vincent Creek and the other near Roseburg on Hubbard Creek will also provide very good habitat in a year or so.

Douglas and Jackson counties offer the best hunting in the region. Whitetail deer are still numerous near Roseburg in spite of the opening of the Whitetail Deer Reserve and the heavy hunting pressure placed upon them. This population near Roseburg is the only heavy concentration of whitetail in the state.

In 1951, 21,926 hunters killed 7,247 bucks in the Southwest Region, with a success ratio of 33 per cent. This compares favorably with the excellent hunting year of 1949 when 33 per cent of all the hunters in the state were successful.

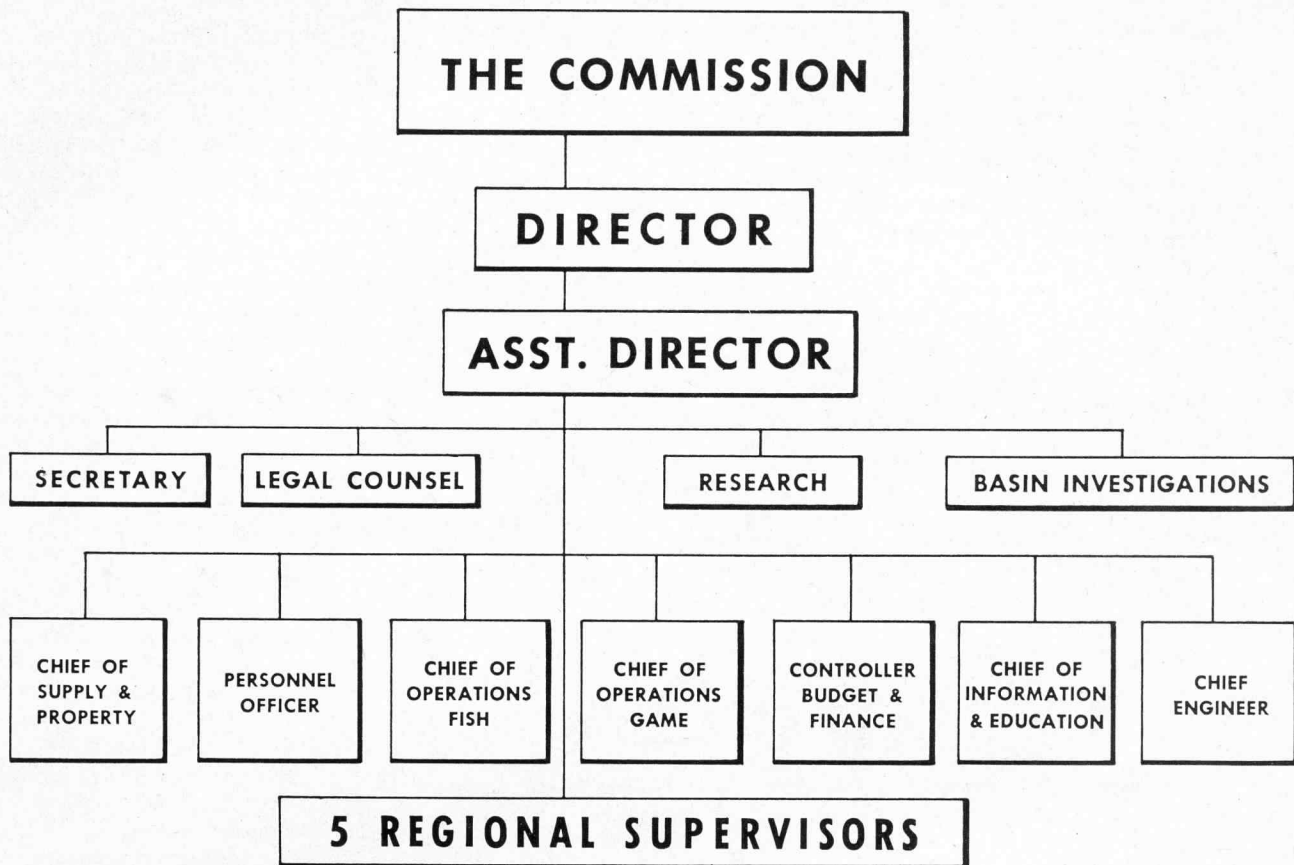
Coos and Douglas counties have the largest elk population in this area and hunting in these counties



The Southwest Region (No. II)

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## ORGANIZATION

(Continued from page 3)

have the duties of establishing the hunting and angling seasons, bag limits and methods of taking. They also must approve the spending of the moneys which incidentally are not derived from general taxation or through appropriations from the general funds of the state. Their final duty is to select a Game Director who is the administrative officer.

The total operational organization is directly under the control of the State Game Director and his Assistant. The two major divisions are the Division of Fisheries and the Division of Game. Each of these divisions is headed by a Chief of Operations and he is assisted by several specialists. In addition to the two main divisions, there are several service and supporting divisions. These are the Division of Finance, the Division of Supply, the Division of Engineering, the Division of Information and Education, the Division of Research and the Division of Basin Investigations.

The field force consists of fisheries field men, game field men, wildlife management area managers and their assistants, game farm and fish hatchery foremen and their personnel and wildlife conservation aides. The actual administration of the field force is under

the direction in most instances of five regional supervisors. These men are in direct charge of nearly all men, materials and equipment within their regions. Basically, these men are the line officers and the division heads and their specialists are the staff officers. Staff determines the programs to be carried out by the field force and the line officers administer the programs put into effect.

The Game Division is headed by a Chief of Operations who has as his staff specialists, a man whose prime responsibility is for big game, one whose responsibility is habitat improvement, one for furbearers and waterfowl, one for small game and one who coordinates federal aid programs in both game and fish matters. In addition, there is a specialist who is in charge of lands owned by the Commission.

The Fisheries Division is also under a Chief of Operations and his specialists include a man in charge of biological programs, one in charge of liberations and one who supervises the fish hatcheries.

One of the most important of the supporting and service division is the Fiscal Division under the direction of the Controller. This division handles all the financial matters including the more than one thousand license agents that

are located within the state.

The Division of Basin Investigations, although one of the smaller divisions, has one of the greatest responsibilities. These responsibilities have grown tremendously during the past few years. The head of this division handles all coordination with state, federal and private organizations that deal with land and water uses which in turn affect the wildlife resources.

The Information and Education Division is, as its name implies, divided into two sections, the first section supplies information to the general public through the press, radio, Game Commission Bulletin and public appearances. The Education Section carries out the extensive wildlife youth education program in the public schools and summer camps of the state. That is now in its third year as a Game Commission program.

Engineering is concerned with all the major construction carried out by the Oregon State Game Commission. This not only includes the building of fish hatcheries, game farms and other capital installations, but the program of screening water diversions and stream clearance work also falls under the responsibility of the Engineering Division.

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## ORGANIZATION

(Continued from page 7)

Supply, as the name indicates, is responsible for purchases through the over-all state purchasing agency and the distribution of supplies to the Game Commission's organization. Although supplies for such a large organization are greatly diversified, the major item is fish food for the various hatcheries operated over the state. Well over 2½ million pounds of fish food must be purchased each year and in recent years an extremely competitive market has developed for these products. It goes without saying that the extensive program of raising and liberating legal-sized trout now carried on by the Game Commission is completely dependent upon steady and good sources of fish foods.

All basic research in the fields of fish and game is carried out by the Oregon Wildlife Research Unit. This unit is a cooperative of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Oregon State College, the Wildlife Management Institute and the Oregon State Game Commission. The Game Commission maintains two men with the unit who coordinate the research projects with the Oregon State Game Commission's operations and activities. One of these men is primarily responsible for research projects in the field of game while the other is primarily responsible for research projects in the field of fisheries.

As has been mentioned before, the field force mainly consists of district game agents, district fisheries agents and wildlife conservation aides. The state has been divided into game districts and in each game district, a district game agent is responsible for all of the operation and activities concerning all game species within his district. In a like manner, the fisheries field agents are responsible for all of the fisheries activities and operations in their particular area. Wildlife conservation aides assist both the fisheries field agents and the district game agents and also install and maintain fish screens that have been built by the Game Commission. In addition, these men often carry out the work of the habitat improvement program within their regions. Trapping to relieve

damage situations is also one of their activities. Although these men have specialized fields, they work at the disposition of the regional supervisor and often a man whose prime responsibility is fisheries will be assisting a district game agent or vice versa depending upon the immediate needs.

All employees with the exception of the Director are employed through the State Civil Service Commission. Competitive examinations are held for many positions and minimum requirements have been established for each position. It is interesting to know that 61 of the Game Commission's employees have university degrees in fish and game management, or related subjects. Forty-three of these men received their degrees from Oregon State College.

Not only have many of the Commission's employees been technically trained in the field of fish and game management but the great majority of them have had a number of years of experience with the Commission. In fact, the average service time of the total number of Game Commission employees exceeds six and one-half years. Trout hatchery superintendents as a group lead all other classes in terms of experience with the Commission. They average more than eighteen years of service per man. Administrators average slightly more than thirteen years.

Clerical personnel as a group have the lowest term of service average with three years. The game and fish district agents average almost eight years of service and game farm superintendents average twelve years.

In the last few years many inquiries have been received from other state fish and game organizations concerning the regional supervisor type of organization now in operation here in Oregon. This type of organization has now been in operation long enough to prove its worth but it will continue to be revised as experience proves these revisions necessary. In fact, it is the feeling of the Oregon Game Commission that any organization that is responsible for such complex resources must be continuously reviewed toward the end of achieving a more smoothly functioning department.

## THE SOUTHWEST REGION

(Continued from page 6)

is good. Hunter success is lower than for deer as only bulls with three points or better can be shot. Since hunting is after the breeding season, hunters are always assured of another crop for the coming fall. Last fall 1,785 hunters shot 274 bulls, with a success ratio of 15.3 per cent.

In many places near agricultural areas, deer and elk have become a major damage problem. In some cases deer must be removed by kill permits or a deer-proof fence erected in cooperation with the landowner. To date over eleven miles of deer fences have been constructed in the region at a cost of nearly \$10,000.00. Elk pose a very serious problem due to their large size and capacity for forage crops. Ordinary fences mean nothing to these animals, and the Commission has tried trapping offending herds without notable success. One group of seven elk were trapped near Dora in 1948 and moved to Copeland Creek on the North Umpqua, where they have been doing very well.

Small game and furbearers are also important in the Southwest Region. Last year \$35,000.00 worth of pelts were taken from this area, the most important being mink, muskrat and beaver.

Jackson county produces very good pheasant and quail hunting, and waterfowl shooting is good in the Coquille Valley and the Rogue River Valley near Medford.

## NOTICE OF HEARING

A public hearing on the 1953 angling regulations will be held by the Oregon State Game Commission at 10 a.m., Friday, January 9, in the Portland office at 1634 S.W. Alder Street.

At this time the Commission will consider seasons, bag limits and methods of taking game fish.

In September, 1632, Virginia became the first state to enact a law protecting game.

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DEER AND ELK HUNT REPORTS ARE DUE.

## Oregon State Game Commission Bulletin

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PORTLAND 8, OREGON