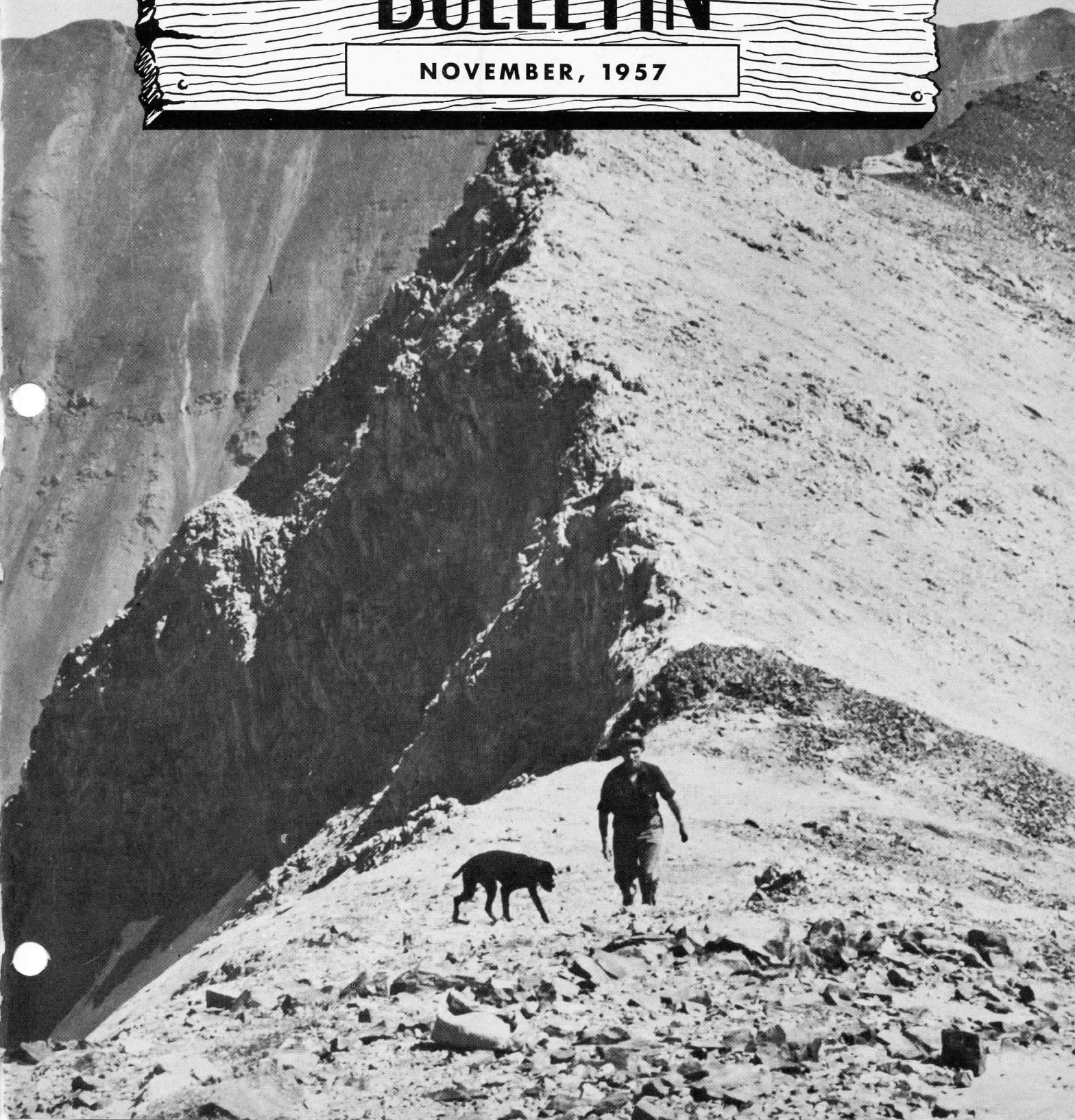


OREGON STATE

# GAME COMMISSION BULLETIN

NOVEMBER, 1957



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**Number 11**

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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.

**the cover**

Hurwal Ridge in the Wallows, with Sacajawea Mountain in the background.

The two spots in the foreground are Milt Guymon and his dog, who accompanied game agent Bob Stein on a survey of the area in which mountain goats were released in 1950 by the Game Commission. Six goats were seen and signs observed indicated additional animals in the area. (Photo by Bob Stein.)

Oregon's share of federal aid funds for the 1958 fiscal year will be \$130,363.30 for Dingell-Johnson projects (fishery) and \$484,815.28 for Pittman-Robertson projects (wildlife). The Game Commission will have to match one-third of these funds.

**OCTOBER MEETING OF THE  
GAME COMMISSION**

The Oregon State Game Commission met in Portland on October 18 and acted upon the following matters:

**Bids:** Accepted bid of \$7,700 by Schneider Concrete Company for construction of pond bottoms at Wizard Falls hatchery; and bid of \$9,249 by Sig Anderson for construction of boat ramp on the Coquille River.

**Central Region Headquarters:** Authorized acquisition of tract of land in Bend on which to construct headquarters buildings for the Central Region.

**Access:** Authorized exercise of options for easement over V. Campbell tract on Deschutes River for \$1,000; and purchase of access site at Riverton on Coquille River for \$1,000.

**Wallowa Lake Screen:** Authorized removal of inoperative screen, sharing cost of removal with local agencies involved.

**Klaskanine River:** Passed emergency

angling order closing to all angling through November 14 that portion of Klaskanine River in Clatsop county from the Fish Commission hatchery dam downstream to Smiley's hole at tide-water. Extremely low water conditions created need for protection of mature salmon congregated in that section of the stream.

**Snake River Dams:** Reaffirmed previous policy asking that provision be made for proper fish protection facilities at any dam constructed; and if more dams are to be built in Snake River, expressed preference for sites above the confluence of the Salmon and Imnaha rivers in order to protect natural salmon and steelhead spawning in these two streams.

**Silvies River Project:** Scheduled for 2 o'clock, November 22, a discussion on the Corps of Engineers' proposed Silvies River project.

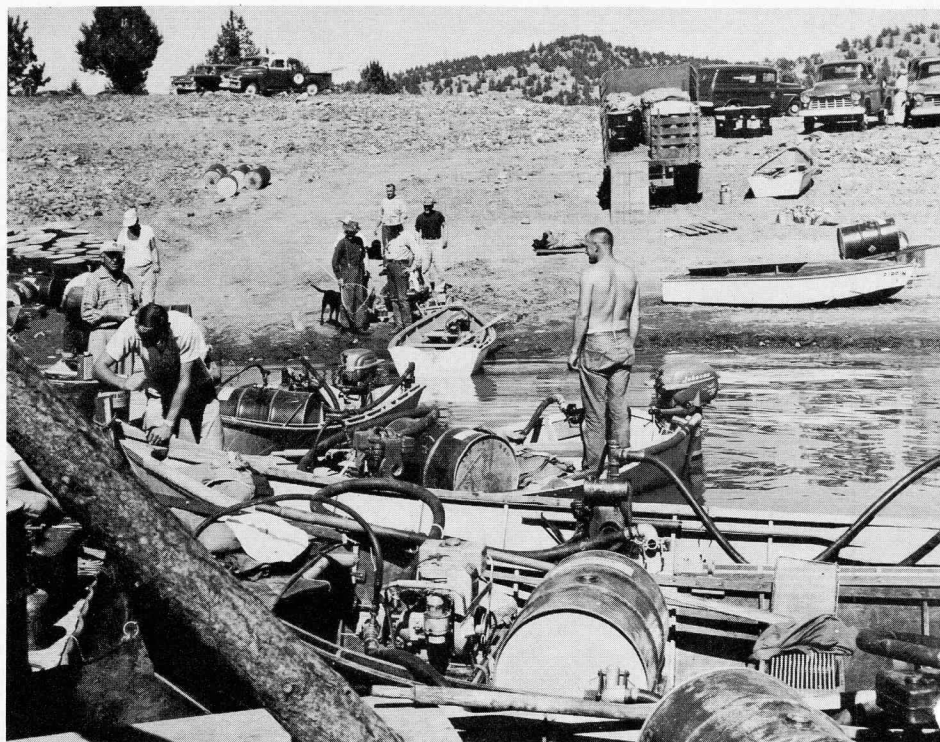
**Next Meeting:** November 22 in Portland.

**Ochoco Reservoir Treated**

Ochoco Reservoir and 450 miles of tributary streams were chemically treated this fall to get rid of trash fish. The reservoir itself was treated on September 24 and boats equipped with underwater spray jet units and pumps introduced eighty 55-gallon drums of liquid rotenone in 11 sections of the

lake. A shallow portion of the reservoir at the upper end was sprayed by airplane. The kill consisted mostly of suckers and crappies, and some trout.

South Twin and Mud lakes also were treated this fall. South Twin was the scene in 1941 of the department's first lake rehabilitation project.



Ochoco Reservoir presented a lively scene when game department field staff gathered there with boats and equipment to rid the lake of scrap fish.



# waterfowl management areas



By A. V. Meyers, Coordinator of Federal Aid

WHO DOES not thrill during the quiet of the night at the sound of geese honking far overhead to announce their arrival from the North, and maybe wish he too could take to the wing? This thrill is multiplied thousand-fold at waterfowl areas such as Summer Lake or Warner Valley. Early on a crisp fall morning to see and hear thousands of geese flying overhead on their way from the resting areas to the feeding grounds is an experience no one should miss.

But it's becoming harder each year to preserve sights like this. Living space for both people and wildlife is becoming more crowded. Agriculture and industry are utilizing more intensively the lands at their disposal. There is no choice for fish and game than to do the same to keep abreast.

The acquisition and development of wildlife management areas is a relatively new program. Within the last 25 years the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the various states and Canadian provinces, Ducks Unlimited and private sportsmen's groups have activated aggressive programs to acquire lands for wildlife. Oregon's part in this program has been the establishment of 14 wildlife management areas, of which 7 are for waterfowl.

Waterfowl have a highly specific habitat requirement. While upland birds and big game are more capable of adapting to marginal areas and main-

taining limited production and numbers under adverse conditions, waterfowl require marshlands, wet meadows or flat water perimeters as a basis for existence. The devastating effects of the drought of the early 1930's on the waterfowl populations of the western flyways demonstrated this basic need.

Industrial and agricultural development and even urban expansion have made inroads on wildlife habitat and proportionately waterfowl habitat has suffered the most. Reclamation and drainage have resulted in tremendous reduction of marshlands and wet meadows.

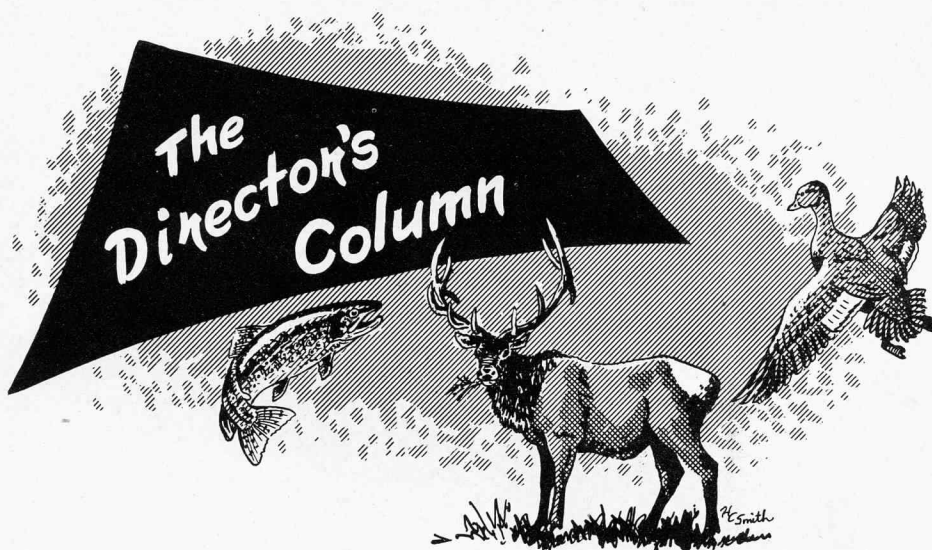
The introduction of the German carp into west coast waters about 1880 had a

damaging effect upon the waterfowl populations of the western flyways. Carp have substantially reduced the native aquatic waterfowl food production, especially in western Oregon. Wapato, sago, pondweeds, fresh water eelgrass, and coontail, the main aquatic waterfowl food plants of this area, are all susceptible to carp damage. Undoubtedly the Oregon waterways produced many times more aquatic waterfowl food before carp were introduced than today. Malheur Lake and waterways on the National Wildlife Refuge near Burns were well known for the bountiful production of aquatic waterfowl food, particularly sago. Recently,

(Continued on page 5)

## SUMMARY OF WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT AREAS

Areas	Date Initiated	Acres Owned	Acres Leased or Under Agreement	Marsh	Approximate Water	Acres Type Meadow	Cropland	Waste Land
<b>WESTERN OREGON</b>								
Sauvies Island .....	1946	7,357	3,495	—	3,500	4,915	2,350	87
Government Island .....	1949	2,310	—	—	—	1,815	135	360
Fern Ridge .....	1949	36	3,153	800	1,255	—	124	10
Camas Swale .....	1952	2,492	—	—	15	1,577	900	—
<b>EASTERN OREGON</b>								
Summer Lake .....	1944	7,862	5,778	7,500	500	2,000	300	3,340
Klamath .....	1949	2,771	2,400	3,720	200	420	495	336
Warner Valley .....	1951	—	22,000	Varies from desert conditions in drought years to predominately lakes, ponds and marshes in wet years.				



One of the most widely discussed aspects of the Commission's regulatory programs deals with the types of seasons providing for the use of Oregon's deer resource.

Deer management is not a simple matter. In its most fundamental aspects it consists of a systematic measure of both the resource and pertinent elements of its environment correlated closely with the hunting pressure and the harvest. There are too many factors involved in the foregoing to delineate here but knowledge of each of these must be maintained on a continuing basis if we are to know where we have been, where we are today and to forecast where, under normal conditions, we may be going in deer management.

As the deer hunting demand has increased from approximately 166,000 hunters to in excess of 233,000 hunters in less than a decade, it has become apparent that more intensive management must follow. Hunter distribution, particularly when cropping antlerless deer, is a particularly important phase of that management. With the increase in deer hunters, one of the obvious problems to develop has been the improper distribution of hunting pressure, resulting in excessive numbers of hunters in some areas and insufficient hunters in other areas. During that period of the season when bucks only are taken, such a problem is not as serious from a management standpoint. However, when animals of either sex and age class may be taken, and such seasons are an essential phase of deer management, hunting pressure and hunter distribution become an important aspect of the over-all management program.

The staff of the Game Commission is constantly seeking methods of improv-

ing the Commission's program with both the interest of the resource and the public in mind. During recent months a critical analysis of the deer management program has been made. In a report to the Commission, a review of the deer management program for the past several years was presented with a recommendation that the Commission consider the employment of the so-called "unit" type hunts to replace the state-wide hunter's choice deer season. Such a plan would involve the creation of from 30 to 40 permanent units in which predetermined numbers of hunters would be authorized by permit to take antlerless deer. Several serious administrative problems inherent in such a proposal have been studied and solutions developed. Such seasons would normally follow the general state-wide buck season. The unit hunt plan has now been used for three years for Rocky Mountain elk in the northeastern part of the state and has worked out very well. Numerous individuals have likewise recommended such a proposal.

One unsatisfactory aspect of the unit type hunt is the restriction imposed upon the hunter in his choice of areas. We are reluctant to recommend at any time added regulations when they can be avoided. A hunter still could hunt where he wished during the buck season, and since the quality of antlerless deer hunting would be improved through reducing hunter concentration and better control over harvest by areas, such a restriction seems justified.

The Commission has now issued instructions that we proceed in developing this proposal for its consideration at the time hunting regulations are set in July. Whether the 1958 hunting regulations will include antlerless deer seasons on

a unit basis is a decision which will be made by the Commission next July. In the meantime, the Commission desires that a wide discussion of the proposal be had and every opportunity be afforded those interested to familiarize themselves with the proposal.

P. W. Schneider

## COLOR TESTS CONTINUED

A series of color vision field tests for greater hunting safety was carried out near Wenatchee, Washington last month as part of a two-year project which has been sponsored by the California, Oregon and Washington game departments, the National Rifle Association and several state optometric associations.

The last test series was conducted against the background of brilliant red and yellow foliage. Although final results have not been fully compiled, visibility ratings appeared to be decisively in favor of golden yellow. Red seemed to be the poorest or next to the poorest for most of the test participants, composed of two ten-man teams of soldiers. One group had normal eyesight and the other group's members had color deficient vision.



## TRAPPING SEASONS START

November 15 marks the opening for the trapping of mink, marten and ring-tail cat; also muskrat, beaver and otter in most sections of the state. Muskrat trapping has been permitted since November 1 in Lake, Klamath, Malheur and Harney counties. The beaver and otter season likewise has been open since November 1 in Lake, Harney and Malheur counties.

The mink season closes on January 15. The muskrat season in Lake, Klamath, Malheur and Harney counties extends through March 31. Otherwise, all trapping seasons close on February 15.

There is no open season on fisher while raccoon, being classified as an unprotected species, may be trapped the year around.



## **WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT AREAS**

*(Continued from page 3)*

carp populations built up in the lake to the point that aquatics were practically eliminated. Waterfowl use dropped off as the aquatics disappeared. After the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, at a cost of \$30,000, chemically treated the water areas in 1956 to remove the carp, the aquatic plants responded immediately and a good waterfowl food crop is available this year.

Some of the semiaquatic waterfowl foods such as smartweed, native chufa, millet, and barnyard grass are used by livestock. Grazing of wet meadows and the perimeters of waterways reduces the waterfowl food normally produced there.

The loss of native aquatic and semiaquatic plants has forced the waterfowl to move to the farm lands in search for food. This results in crop damage or at least the birds' survival is in part dependent on the sufferance of the farmer. All this summed up, means that waterfowl have been subjected to rough treatment.

Waterfowl are far more tolerant of concentrations than any other group of game species. A good waterfowl habitat will draw birds from great distances and support tremendous populations, which is not true of other game species such as pheasants, deer, elk or grouse. This characteristic of waterfowl invites the establishment of management areas. As waterfowl areas are acquired and developed, the response on the part of wildlife is immediate and the results are so spectacular that the program enjoys great popularity. The fact that waterfowl will migrate to and concentrate upon relatively small units gives the waterfowl management areas a high return for the money invested.

The Oregon State Game Commission started the waterfowl management area program in 1944. Since that time seven areas have been established, four in western Oregon (Sauvies Island, Government Island, Camas Swale and Fern Ridge), and three in the eastern part of the state (Klamath, Summer Lake and Warner Valley).

Relatively few waterfowl are inclined to nest in western Oregon. Apparently, even before white men came to the country, very little waterfowl production, except for certain species, occurred here. However, this area is visited by large flights in the fall and spring migrations along with some winter use. The western Oregon waterfowl areas were selected and are being developed to provide feeding and rest-



**Construction of ponds for waterfowl has been part of the development program of Camas Swale area.**

ing areas for migrating and wintering birds. This includes the management of water and swampy areas for aquatic and semiaquatic food production, the planting of annual field crops, and the maintenance of perennial grass and clover stands.

Camas Swale area in Lane county has demonstrated vividly the value of food plantings. Waterfowl usage of the area prior to the winter of 1955-56 was almost nothing. After a food crop was put in that winter, a peak number of 25,000 ducks was recorded. The next winter a peak of 38,000 birds used the area. The principal field crops grown and left standing for waterfowl feed in western Oregon include common Sudan grass, field corn, potatoes, millet, and buck-

wheat. Some cereal grains are planted in the early fall to provide winter and early spring green feed and then harvested the following summer. The humid, relatively warm winters of western Oregon cause so much rotting or molding of mature standing cereal grains that this practice is impractical.

Eastern Oregon, besides having large flights of fall and spring migrations, is noted for the waterfowl production of the marsh areas. There is practically no winter use because of the severity of the weather. Waterfowl management areas in eastern Oregon were selected and are being developed with emphasis on production and feeding areas for migrating birds. This includes the stabilization and

*(Continued on page 7)*

**Planting food crops has increased tremendously the waterfowl value of Camas Swale management area.**





# International Association Takes Many Actions

It will not be so many weeks now before the angling regulations for 1958 will come up for Commission consideration. The second Friday in January each year is the date set for the public hearing at which all those interested are welcome to come and express their opinions and wishes in regard to seasons, bag limits and methods of taking game fish.

\* \* \*

During the Conservation Field Day for Portland Council Explorer Scouts held on Sauvies Island last month, 69 boys and 11 advisors participated in the work projects lined up for them. The boys built 11 foot bridges, posted more than 5 miles of refuge boundary, safety zones and private property, cleared one-half acre of willow brush from Little Martin Lake and slashed more than a mile of new access trail.

\* \* \*

Archers took at least 3 elk and 160 deer during the September archery hunts. The Malheur refuge hunt from September 14 to 16 provided the highest success with 265 archers taking 56 deer, a success ratio of 21 per cent.

\* \* \*

Twenty-five elk were killed during the Loon Lake controlled elk season from September 21 through 23. This was a success ratio of 33 per cent for the 76 hunters participating.

\* \* \*

Wood ducks are increasing in Oregon. Field agents report seeing large numbers this year throughout the western part of the state. The success of the nest box program during the past few years receives a large share of the credit for the increase. A complaint of damage by wood ducks near Junction City upon investigation revealed about 600 birds feeding in a filbert orchard.

\* \* \*

Noted in the catch records of Winchester Bay salmon anglers this season were several white sea bass, four pink salmon, a 23-pound white sturgeon tagged by the California Department of Fish and Game, and a silver tagged by the Washington Department of Fisheries.

The International Association of State Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners held its 47th annual meeting in Las Vegas September 9 through 11, followed by the American Fisheries Society meeting from September 11 through 13. John Biggs, Washington director of game, was elected 1958 president for the International.

Among the many matters acted upon by the Association, problems connected with water use figured prominently. Actions taken in form of resolutions included the following:

Urged Secretary of the Interior to take immediate action to preserve permanently the Tule Lake Refuge for waterfowl management.

Approved increasing duck stamp fee to \$3 if entire income is matched with general public funds and if not less than 50 per cent of combined funds be allocated to acquisition of wetland areas for waterfowl management.

Urged each state to adopt adequate state water laws recognizing wildlife and recreation as beneficial uses of water.

Endorsed withdrawal of 33,000 acres of public lands along Salmon River headwaters to preserve salmon spawning grounds.

Endorsed amendments to Coordination Act (Public Law 732) developed by the Secretary of the Interior at Association's request to achieve greater recognition of fish and wildlife conservation in the water resources program of the federal government.

Urged Congress to recognize as federal responsibility the permanent main-

tenance of fish facilities constructed at federal dams in the Columbia basin.

Recommended that under national highway construction program highway fills be utilized to impound water also where feasible.

Opposed use of federal funds for drainage of wetlands of value to wildlife and decried the inconsistent policy of subsidizing unwise or unnecessary drainage on one hand and water storage on the other.

Urged continuation of \$50 million annual appropriation for sewage treatment construction grants to municipalities under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act.

Endorsed legislation to authorize study of effects of chemical pesticides on fish and wildlife resources.

Suggested radioactive wastes be disposed of underground instead of in the ocean.

Asked Secretary of Agriculture to modify existing Soil Bank regulations governing wildlife practices; and that wetlands be made eligible for soil bank payments irrespective of past crop history.

Recommended any future dams on Snake River be located above the Salmon and Imnaha Rivers.

Urged passage by Congress of the Engle military lands withdrawal bill.

Requested federal agencies to return to former land acquisition policy at reservoir sites so that public use is assured.

Recommended each state take action

(Continued on page 7)



## DUCK HUNTER'S CODE

### A Good Duck Hunter Will—

Equip himself with the materials and knowledge necessary for successful hunting.

Respect the rights of others by:

Securing permission to hunt.

Avoiding conflicts with other hunters.

Dressing inconspicuously and remaining in concealment.

Not crowding an established stand.

Shooting only at birds within effective range.

Be careful with fire and firearms.

Obey the game laws.

Retrieve all crippled birds.

Report all banded birds taken.

Not mix alcohol and gunpowder.

Be a Good Duck Hunter!



## INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

(Continued from page 6)

to control importation of nutria and spread of nutria in the wild state because damage to muskrat and waterfowl habitat has become serious in areas where nutria populations are well established.

Endorsed the objectives of the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review (the Anderson-Aspinall bills, S.846, H.R.3592, et al).

Favored legislation which would authorize Secretary of Interior to regulate hunting on all portions of any national refuge as dictated by management needs.

Recommended Fish and Wildlife Service to employ entomologist to assist in devising mosquito control program which would reduce or eliminate destructive loss of wildlife habitat.

Commended Forest Service for its "Operation Outdoors" program and urged Congress to appropriate necessary funds.

Recommended legislation strengthening control of importation of undesirable species into the country and urged Fish and Wildlife Service to step up its program of importing desirable game species.

Requested that permits issued to develop public lands by private interests stipulate the right of public access for recreational purposes.

Opposed firearms and ammunition regulations proposed by Internal Revenue Service.

Commended Fish and Wildlife program of harvesting game on certain refuges and urged its application to entire refuge system.

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**BIRD BANDS**—Have you shot any banded birds this season? If so, is that band resting in your pocket or did you send it in to the Game Commission with report of date and place of kill? Migratory birds have been banded in large numbers in Oregon and the other Pacific Flyway states. Did you go chukar hunting? Since the Game Commission started its chukar program in 1951, 60,652 have been released, of which more than 7,000 were banded. We would like to get some of those back.

---

Boat fishing in Lemolo Reservoir on the Umpqua River, permitted since August 20, has been good. Catches taken by shore and boat anglers consisted of 50 per cent brooks, 25 per cent rainbows and 25 per cent browns.

**GAME BULLETIN**



*Nearing completion, an extensive development program, including water stabilization and planting of food crops, has been carried on for 13 years at the Summer Lake management area. Here hunters walk along one of the several dikes constructed on the area.*

## WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT AREAS

(Continued from page 5)

maintenance of marsh and meadow areas for nesting and rearing, and the growing of cereal crops such as oats, barley, rye, wheat and speltz, left unharvested for bird use. Here, the cold, relatively dry winters permit the use of these cereal grains without loss through rotting or molding.

The amount of land that has been acquired for waterfowl use by the Game Commission is shown in the table on

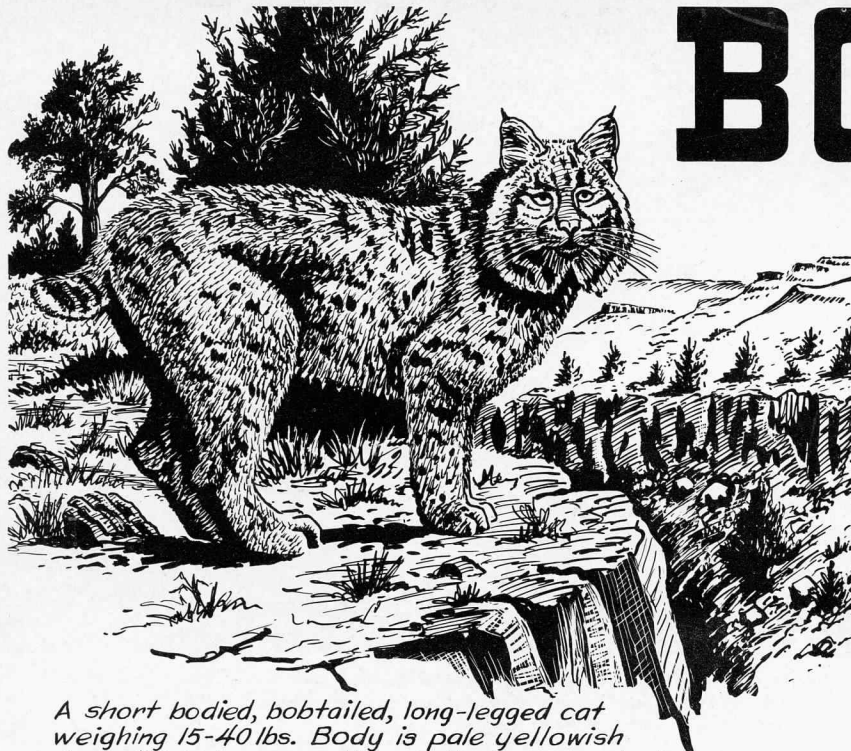
page 3. The primary value of these areas is their contribution to the waterfowl population of the Pacific Flyway. Popular and highly publicized, the public hunting permitted on portions of these areas attracts the most attention and often overshadows the true value of the areas as waterfowl habitat.

All states in the Pacific Flyway are establishing and operating waterfowl management areas which, along with the national waterfowl refuges, set up a chain of waterfowl habitat units essential to the perpetuation of the Pacific Flyway. Oregon's seven management areas are important links in the chain.

*Man and his Labrador watch for ducks on one of the many lakes on the Sauvies Island management area. Here, too, a long-range development program is being carried out to make the area attractive to waterfowl.*



# BOBCAT



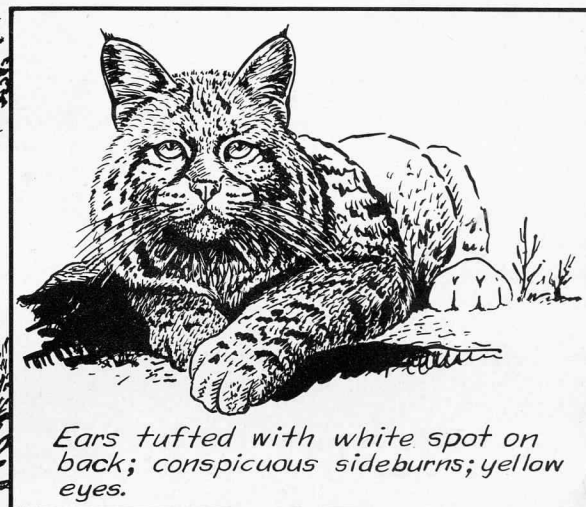
*Bobcats vary from the large pale variety of eastern Oregon to the smaller richly colored ones of the Coast Range. They prefer semi-open and rimrock country.*

*A short bodied, bobtailed, long-legged cat weighing 15-40 lbs. Body is pale yellowish to reddish brown with spotted or streaked dark splotches. Shoulder height 12"-15", length 30"-40".*

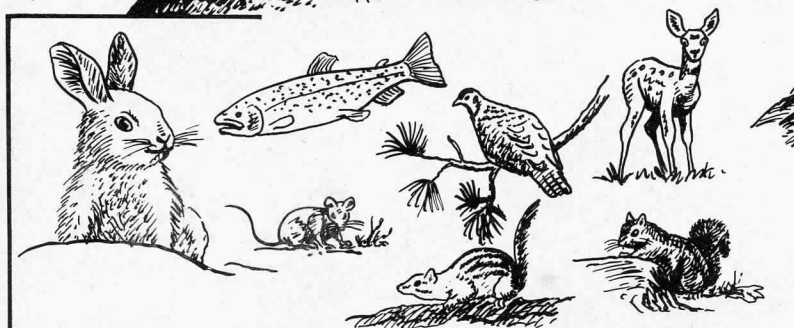
*Their curiosity may cause them to follow man.*



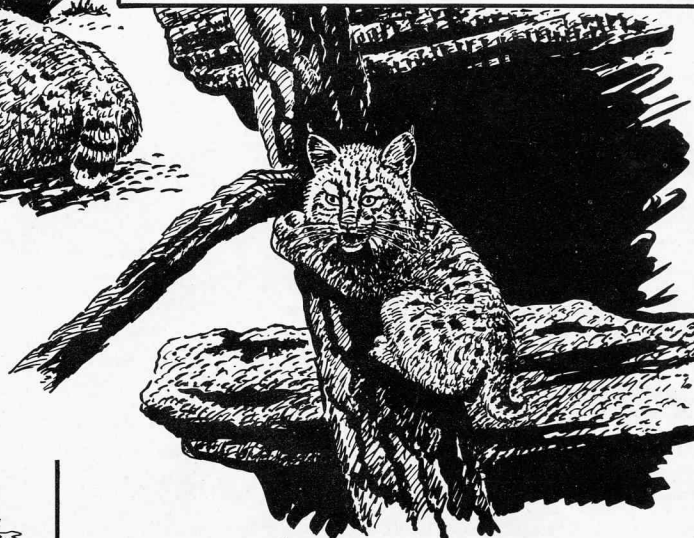
*Harold Cramer Smith*



*Ears tufted with white spot on back; conspicuous sideburns; yellow eyes.*



*Food availability determines their main diet. Bobcats feed on anything they can catch.*



*They mate in February or March. 1 to 4 kittens are born about May 1st in hollow trees, thickets, or preferably caves in the rimrocks. Kittens are born blind; remain so about 9 days.*

## Oregon State Game Commission Bulletin

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