

OREGON STATE
GAME COMMISSION

BULLETIN

JULY, 1959



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July, 1959

Number 7, Volume 14

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

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

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

the cover

Dave Luman, now chief big game biologist, and Frank Grogan, district game agent, looking out over the west face of the Hart Mountain escarpment into North Warner Valley during the annual spring survey of the bighorn sheep released in the area in 1954. (See story page 6) . . . PHOTO by Milton Guymon.

TWO HUNTING SYNOPSSES SCHEDULED

Synopsis of the big game hunting regulations have been distributed to all license agencies. Another synopsis will be printed after adoption of the upland game bird and waterfowl regulations on August 14.

May-June Meeting of the Game Commission

The Oregon State Game Commission met on May 22 and June 5 to establish the 1959 big game hunting regulations and consider the following business:

Bids: The following low bids for construction projects were accepted:

Leagjeld Construction Company, \$17,750.00—Klamath hatchery residence. N. Chavis, \$29,518.00—Summer Lake checking station and residence. Lord Bros., Contractors, \$21,384.75—Pendleton habitat shop and metal building. D. K. Smith, \$2,221.00—Well at Pendleton. F. E. Wilburn, \$7,500.00—Road at Camas Swale project. C. E. Chase, \$998.62—Pipeline, Wallowa hatchery.

Capital Outlay: Approved following projects: Alsea hatchery water supply pump and storage tank, \$1,500; White River management area fencing, \$8,250; two horse trailers for Northeast Region, \$1,400; fence and cattleguard, Oak Springs hatchery, \$1,500; nylon trap net, Northeast Region, \$1,500.

Access projects: Authorized \$8,000 for boat ramp and parking area for Riverton access site (Coos county); exercise of option for Smith river access site; \$16,000 for development of Arago boat ramp on Coquille river.

Big Creek property: Approved granting of easement to Lane county for a park site at the Big Creek property. Staff was instructed to develop a long term management plan for remainder of property.

PERSONNEL NEWS

Frank Stanton, chief biologist for habitat improvement, last month received his doctorate from Oregon State College. Title of his thesis was "Autecological Studies of Bitterbrush."

* * *

Switching assignments in the game division the first of July were Bob Mace, who has been assigned as chief biologist of upland game, formerly handled by Dave Luman. Luman has Mace's former job, chief biologist of big game. Mace will also assume additional responsibilities in connection with production of the game department films.

* * *

Arthur S. Einarsen, employed by the Fish and Wildlife Service as leader of the Oregon Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit at Oregon State College, retires in July. He has held this position since initiation of the research unit in 1936.

Newberry Crater: Approved execution of agreement with Forest Service closing Newberry Crater to hunting.

Shooting preserves: Formulated a policy for operation of shooting preserves pursuant to provisions of the new law passed at the last legislature.

South Jetty Road: Authorized expenditure of \$9,300 for subsurfacing and topping of the South Jetty road subject to acceptance by formal resolution by Clatsop County Court of responsibility for future maintenance and repair.

Chemical treatment: Authorized chemical treatment this year of Thompson reservoir (Lake county), McKay reservoir (Umatilla county), and Devils lake (Lincoln county).

McKenzie Hatchery: Formally authorized disposal of the McKenzie river hatchery property.

Land withdrawal: Approved application for withdrawal for recreational purposes of 80 acres of Bureau of Land Management lands at Chickahominy reservoir.

Angling hearing: On June 5 decided to re-enact all the provisions repealed by H. B. 620 relating to boat fishing and fly fishing, with two exceptions. Davis lake will not be restricted to fly fishing after August 5, effective date of H. B. 620. Also under the new regulations, fishing from motor boats (instead of just gas-propelled boats) will be prohibited at Deadhorse, Blue, and Campbell lakes in Lake county.

NEW FILM RELEASED

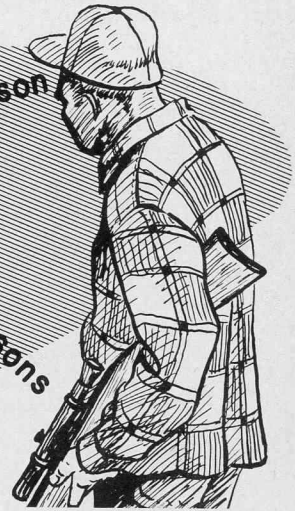
The Game Commission staff has recently completed a new film on upland game birds entitled "Autumn Wings." It was photographed and produced by Bob Mace, with editing by Clark Walsh and sound recordings by Ron Shay. The film is available for showing to sportsmen and other groups.

WESTERN CONFERENCE HELD IN PORTLAND

This issue of the Bulletin went to press before the Western Association of State Game and Fish Commissioners conference convened on June 29, 30, and July 1. Coverage of the meeting will appear in the August Bulletin.

1959 Big Game Seasons

Antelope Seasons
General Elk Season
Buck Deer Season
Permit Elk Seasons
Management Unit Deer Season
Special Deer Seasons
Extended Deer Seasons
Archery Seasons



By John McKean
Chief of Operations, Game Division

THE 1959 BIG GAME REGULATIONS provide a variety of opportunities for Oregon sportsmen with seasons extending from August 15 through December 31. Antelope season opens on August 15. Archery seasons and a Wallowa Mountain deer season begin on September 5. The general deer season opens October 3 and the elk season on October 31. A number of late deer and elk seasons are scheduled in November and December to resolve local problems.

This assortment of seasons announced in May gives everyone an opportunity to plan their hunting trips to fit their personal preferences.

The purpose of this article is to point out some of the spectacular hunting opportunities and explain some of the reasoning behind the regulations.

The 64 big game management units established last year again provide the base for control of the harvest of antlerless deer and elk. They are also employed to control distribution of antelope hunters this year. With exception of a few minor changes, the unit boundaries are the same as in 1958.

Staggered seasons for deer and elk continue to give trophy hunters the opportunity of getting in a good hunt before the permit hunters move in for the necessary harvest of antlerless deer and elk. The principal objective of the staggered season is to reduce hazards to life and property and increase recreational values by spreading hunting pressure over a longer period.

In the face of much demand for a straight either-sex season, the Commission authorized two experimental deer seasons wherein persons holding the necessary permit and tag will be allowed to take any deer during the entire deer season. These areas are the Silver Lake Unit in northern Lake and Klamath Counties, and the Wendling basin, a portion of the McKenzie Unit in eastern Lane County. These areas will be closed to all other rifle hunting during the deer season. Detailed records of hunter experience will be secured to evaluate that method of hunting for both blacktails and mule deer.

Antelope:

With evidence of a modest increase in antelope herds and plans for improvement of the distribution of hunting pressure, the Commission authorized the issuance of 900 buck antelope tags for a 5-day season, August 15 through 19. The quota has been 600 tags for the past five years.

A total of 5,465 antelope was observed on 3,645 miles of aerial transects last February. A similar coverage in 1958 provided a count of 4,916 antelope. Classification of 1,536 antelope last August indicated ratios of 39 bucks per 100 does and 77 fawns per 100 does. In 1957, the ratios were 33 bucks and 81 fawns per 100 does. The slight decline in the fawn-doe ratio is believed traceable to an increase of nonbreeding yearling does accruing from the high 1957 production. Average fawn production for the period 1951-56 was 59 fawns per 100 does.

During the 1958 antelope season, 554 hunters reported taking 314 buck antelope with hunters enjoying greatest success in Malheur and Lake Counties.

This year the antelope ranges are divided into six hunting areas with tags authorized in proportion to the number of antelope available in each area. The objective of this change is to encourage use of antelope herds that have not been hunted during previous seasons and reduce hunting pressure on the more popular antelope ranges. All six of the areas will provide good hunting; however, success is expected to be highest in Areas 3, 4, and 6.

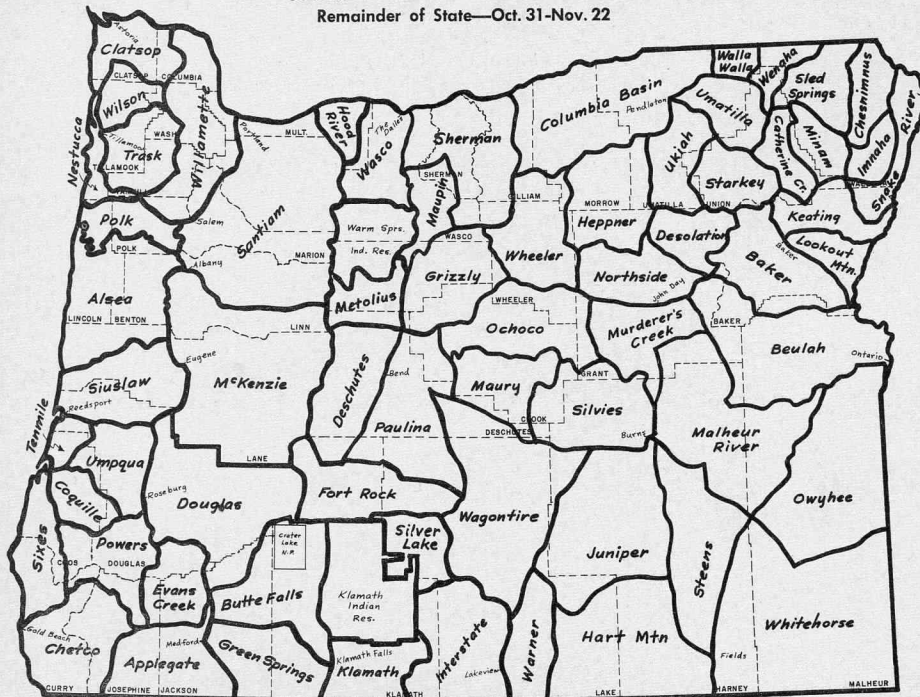
The Commission reinstated the special regulation prohibiting shooting at antelope from within 50 yards of any vehicle and determined that there will be a two-year interval between issuance of antelope tags to any person.

Deer:

Initiation of unit control of the antlerless deer harvest last year shifted hunting pressure from mule deer to black-tailed deer ranges. The total general season harvest of 115,364 deer was almost identical to the 1957 take of 114,515 deer. However, hunters took approximately 10,000 less mule deer than in 1957 and 11,000 more blacktails. This planned shift of hunting pressure combined with a very mild winter resulted in some substantial increases in mule deer herds and apparently had little effect upon densities of blacktails, as tree damage on reforesta-

(Continued on Page 4)

General Deer Season—October 3-25
General Elk Season—Coast—Oct. 31-Nov. 11
Remainder of State—Oct. 31-Nov. 22



Closing dates for applications: July 27—Antelope & unit Deer;
August 17—Elk permits & controlled deer tags

1959 Big Game Season

(Continued from Page 3)

tion projects was much more severe this spring than in 1958.

The controversial Interstate deer herd, which winters on the Modoc Forest in California and summers in Lake and Klamath Counties, provides a good illustration of the manner in which unit quotas were established. With a short either-sex deer season and no control of numbers of hunters, Oregon had consistently taken approximately 3,500 bucks and 2,000 does from that herd from 1954 through 1957. In 1955 and 1956, California also participated in the harvest by taking approximately 500 bucks and 2,000 does each of those years. With this high level of harvest, the herd was being held at a stable level and the depleted winter range was beginning to show some evidence of recovery. In 1958, Oregon issued only 2,500 antlerless deer permits for that range and only 1,050 antlerless deer were reported taken. California did not take any antlerless deer. An immediate increase of approximately 2,000 deer was indicated by a count of the herd as it migrated back into Oregon this spring. With knowledge of this trend and the necessity for improvement of the winter range for benefit of future generations of deer, the Commission increased the quota of permits to 4,000 for the 1959 season.

A similar process was followed in fixing quotas for all units.

A total of 116,400 unit antlerless deer permits is authorized this year. Last year the total was 87,900. Most of this increase occurred on northwestern Oregon units where blacktails are causing damage to reforestation projects and agricultural crops. Quotas were also increased on some of the mule deer ranges in Lake and Harney Counties where acute winter food problems are anticipated.

An extended season on the week end of November 14 and 15 is an added incentive for persons to apply for permits in some of the black-tailed deer units this year. After that date portions of the Willamette and Hood River Valleys will be open for either-sex hunting by anyone with an unused general deer tag. The objective of these extended seasons is to reduce the number of deer on agricultural lands and reforestation projects.

In addition to the unit permits, 4,400 special deer tags are authorized for use during eight controlled deer seasons. These tags cost \$5.00 and authorize the taking of an additional deer.

The first of these seasons opens a large part of the Wallowa Mountains on Labor Day week end, September 5 through 8, and provides a wonderful opportunity for a wilderness outing. The open area is not accessible by road. Pack horses are required for successful hunt-

ing. Wallowa Pack Area tag holders will be permitted to take one antlerless deer and one deer of either sex, and the opportunity extends through the entire deer season if they are not successful on Labor Day week end. Similar two-deer seasons are authorized for the isolated Snake River breaks and the Pine Creek range but the tags are valid only during the general deer season.

An early antlerless deer season on Hart Mountain provides an opportunity to visit that unique area on September 26 and 27. During an either-sex season last year, 250 hunters bagged 154 bucks and 74 does. This year 300 tags are authorized but only antlerless deer may be taken. The Hart Mountain antlerless deer tags are also valid during the archery season, September 12 through 20, provided the tag holder uses a bow and arrow that meets specifications.

In response to a request from the Oregon State Board of Forestry, the Commission authorized 4,000 unit permits in the Tillamook Burn to prevent any further increase of blacktails in that area and supplemented that act with a controlled season (1,200 tags) on a small area north of Wilson River that is to be planted to conifers during the next two years. The Cedar Creek controlled deer season (November 14 and 15) provides an excellent opportunity to bag a second deer; however, the hills are steep and success will require some effort.

With the high survival of deer during the mild winter, deer hunting should be excellent throughout the state this fall. Harney, Malheur, Baker, and Wallowa Counties are expected to provide the highest success for mule deer hunters, and Benton, Polk, Lane, Tillamook, and Linn Counties will probably lead the list of blacktail counties.

Elk:

In 1958 a total of 42,448 persons purchased elk tags. This figure compared with the total of 27,858 in 1954 and 34,885 in 1956 illustrates the increasing interest in elk hunting. The unfortunate part of this situation is that there are comparatively few opportunities to increase the distribution or densities of elk in Oregon without encountering serious conflicts with primary land uses.

The elk management program has effectively maintained Oregon elk herds at comparatively stable levels, but it is inevitable that as the number of hunters increases individual hunter success will decline. Last year the 42,448 hunters bagged 5,404 bulls and 1,549 antlerless

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1959 Big Game Season

(Continued from Page 4)

elk. The total kill of 6,953 elk provided success for 16 per cent of the hunters.

The spring census on eastern Oregon elk ranges provided a count of 4,585 elk on 999 miles of census routes. In the spring of 1958, 4,605 elk were counted on the identical routes. The 1959 census is conservative because elk were not forced to concentrate on low ranges during the mild winter. These foot and horseback samples were supplemented by aerial transects on major elk ranges with the following results: Starkey—1,-

341, Wenaha—985, Chesnimnus—954, and Walla Walla—911 elk. Many elk remained in timbered areas where they were not visible from either the ground or the air.

In designing the 1959 elk seasons the Commission gave much attention to the wanton waste problem in coastal counties. Last year, 67 wasted elk, 50 of them spike bulls, were observed by officers in Clatsop County. The total legal kill in Clatsop County was reported to be 560 bulls during the general elk season. In attempting to analyze the causes of the problem, it was concluded that crowding, poor visibility, and low hunter

success were contributing factors. With this in mind, the Commission enlarged the hunting area to include the Wilson Unit and provided a noon opening on October 31 to assure that the participating hunters can see what they are shooting at. The Commission also shortened the season to 12 days. If these adjustments do not provide some improvement, control of the number of hunters appears to be the most logical approach to the problem. The Commission considered permitting the taking of spike bulls in Clatsop County but concluded that action should not be initiated until experience

(Continued on Page 8)

Unit Deer, Elk Hunts Listed for Next Fall

GAME UNIT DEER HUNTS

AREA	COUNTY	PERMITS	BAG LIMIT	DATES
Unit Seasons:				
Alsea	Benton and Lincoln	10,000	1 deer	Oct. 17-25, Nov. 14, 15
*Applegate	Josephine	400	1 deer	Oct. 17-25
Baker	Baker	2,000	1 deer	Oct. 17-25
Beulah	Malheur	4,000	1 deer	Oct. 17-25
Butte Falls	Jackson	500	1 deer	Oct. 17-25
Catherine Creek	Union	900	1 deer	Oct. 17-25
Chesnimnus	Wallowa	600	1 deer	Oct. 17-25
Clatsop	Clatsop	1,000	1 deer	Oct. 17-25
Columbia Basin	Morrow and Umatilla	200	1 deer	Oct. 17-25
Coquille	Coos	700	1 deer	Oct. 17-25
Deschutes	Deschutes	800	1 deer	Oct. 17-25
Desolation	Grant	500	1 deer	Oct. 17-25
**Douglas	Douglas	1,500	1 deer	Oct. 17-25
*Evans Creek	Josephine and Jackson	600	1 deer	Oct. 17-25
Fort Rock	Lake and Klamath	2,500	1 deer	Oct. 17-25
Green Springs	Jackson and Klamath	500	1 deer	Oct. 17-25
Grizzly	Crook and Jefferson	300	1 deer	Oct. 17-25
Heppner	Morrow and Grant	2,500	1 deer	Oct. 17-25
*Hood River	Hood River	400	1 deer	Oct. 17-25, Nov. 14, 15
Imnaha	Wallowa	800	1 deer	Oct. 17-25
Interstate	Klamath and Lake	4,000	1 deer	Oct. 17-25
Keating	Baker	1,500	1 deer	Oct. 17-25
Klamath	Klamath	1,000	1 deer	Oct. 17-25
Lookout Mountain	Baker	1,000	1 deer	Oct. 17-25
Malheur River	Harney and Malheur	5,000	1 deer	Oct. 17-25
Maupin	Wasco	200	1 deer	Oct. 17-25
Maury	Crook	600	1 deer	Oct. 17-25
*McKenzie	Lane and Linn	12,000	1 deer	Oct. 17-25, Nov. 14, 15
Metolius	Jefferson and Deschutes	800	1 deer	Oct. 17-25
Murderer's Creek	Grant	3,000	1 deer	Oct. 17-25
Nestucca	Tillamook	1,000	1 deer	Oct. 17-25, Nov. 14, 15
Northside	Grant	3,500	1 deer	Oct. 17-25
Ochoco	Crook	700	1 deer	Oct. 17-25
Owyhee	Malheur	1,000	1 deer	Oct. 17-25
Paulina	Deschutes	1,500	1 deer	Oct. 17-25
Polk	Polk and Lincoln	4,000	1 deer	Oct. 17-25, Nov. 14, 15
Powers	Douglas and Josephine	500	1 deer	Oct. 17-25
Santiam	(*Multnomah, Clackamas)			
	(*Marion)	10,000	1 deer	Oct. 17-25, Nov. 14, 15
	(*Linn)			
Sherman	Sherman	400	1 deer	Oct. 17-25
***Silver Lake	Lake and Klamath	4,000	1 deer	Oct. 3-25
Silvies	Harney	3,000	1 deer	Oct. 17-25
Sixes	Curry	700	1 deer	Oct. 17-25
Siuslaw	Lane and Douglas	4,000	1 deer	Oct. 17-25
Sled Springs	Wallowa	800	1 deer	Oct. 17-25
Starkey	Union	700	1 deer	Oct. 17-25
Steens Mountain	Harney	2,000	1 deer	Oct. 17-25
Tenmile	Coos	400	1 deer	Oct. 17-25
Trask	Tillamook and Yamhill	2,500	1 deer	Oct. 17-25
Ukiah	Umatilla	800	1 deer	Oct. 17-25
Umatilla	Umatilla	800	1 deer	Oct. 17-25
Umpqua	Douglas	2,500	1 deer	Oct. 17-25
Walla Walla	Umatilla	500	1 deer	Oct. 17-25
Warner	Lake	1,500	1 deer	Oct. 17-25
Wasco	Wasco	1,500	1 deer	Oct. 17-25
Wenaha	Wallowa	800	1 deer	Oct. 17-25
Wheeler	Wheeler	2,500	1 deer	Oct. 17-25
Whitehorse	Malheur	500	1 deer	Oct. 17-25
Willamette	Columbia & Washington	5,000	1 deer	Oct. 17-25, Nov. 14, 15
Wilson	Tillamook	1,500	1 deer	Oct. 17-25
		118,400		

CONTROLLED DEER TAGS (\$5 FEE)

AREA	COUNTY	PERMITS	BAG LIMIT	DATES
Wallowa Pack	Wallowa	1,200	2 deer	Sept. 5-8, Oct. 3-25
Pine Creek	Baker	500	2 deer	Oct. 3-25
Snake River Pack	Wallowa	500	2 deer	Oct. 3-25
***Corvallis Watershed	Benton	300	1 deer	Oct. 27-28, Nov. 7, 8
Hart Mountain	Lake	300	1 doe	Sept. 12-20, 26, 27
Alfalfa	Deschutes	300	1 deer	Dec. 5-31
***Cherry Grove	Washington	100	1 deer	Dec. 19-20
***Cedar Creek	Tillamook	1,200	1 deer	Nov. 14-15
		4,400		
*On or within one mile of cultivated agricultural land		**National forests closed		
		***Unit closed to all other hunting		

GAME UNIT ELK HUNTS

AREA	COUNTY	PERMITS	BAG LIMIT	DATES
Unit Seasons:				
Chesnimnus	Wallowa	250	1 elk	Nov. 14-22
Desolation	Grant	200	1 elk	Nov. 14-22
Heppner	Morrow	250	1 elk	Nov. 14-22
Imnaha	Wallowa	100	1 elk	Nov. 14-22
Minam	Wallowa	200	1 elk	Nov. 14-22
Sled Springs	Wallowa	300	1 elk	Nov. 14-22
Starkey	Union	400	1 elk	Nov. 14-22
Ukiah	Umatilla	250	1 elk	Nov. 14-22
Umatilla	Umatilla	150	1 elk	Nov. 14-22
Walla Walla	Umatilla	250	1 elk	Nov. 14-22
Controlled Seasons:				
Elgin	Union	300	1 elk	Oct. 3-9
***Mill Crk Wtrshd	Umatilla	100	1 elk	Nov. 7-11
Clatsop	Clatsop	500	1 elk	Nov. 28-29
Baker	Baker and Union	300	1 elk	Dec. 5-31
Bridge Creek	Umatilla	150	1 elk	Dec. 12-31
***Matson Creek	Coos	150	1 elk	Dec. 12-13
***Wenaha	Wallowa	100	1 elk	Dec. 19-23
		3,950		

ARCHERY SEASONS

AREA	COUNTY	BAG LIMIT	DATES
Baker Unit	Baker	1 deer and 1 elk	Sept. 5-27
Keating Unit	Baker	1 deer and 1 elk	Sept. 5-27
Starkey Unit	Union	1 deer and 1 elk	Sept. 5-27
Mt. Emily	Union	1 deer and 1 elk	Sept. 5-27
Canyon Creek	Grant	1 deer and 1 elk	Sept. 5-Oct. 25
Wasco	Wasco	1 deer and 1 elk	Sept. 5-27
Deschutes	Deschutes	1 deer and 1 elk	Sept. 5-27
Keno	Klamath	1 deer	Sept. 5-27
McDonald Forest	Benton	1 deer	Oct. 3, 4
Lost Creek	Tillamook	1 deer and 1 bull elk	Oct. 3-16
Hart Mountain	Lake	1 deer	Sept. 12-20
Malheur	Harney	1 deer	Sept. 19, 20
Rogue River	Josephine	1 deer	Dec. 5-20

ANTELOPE SEASON—August 15-19.

Bag Limit—One buck antelope with horns longer than ears.
Fee—\$5.00. (1958 tag holders ineligible)

AREA	TAGS	UNITS
Area I	100	Ochoco, Maury, Silvies
Area II	150	Paulina, Wagonite, Fort Rock, Silver Lake
Area III	150	Klamath, Interstate, Warner
Area IV	250	Juniper, Hart Mountain, Steens
Area V	150	Beulah, Malheur, Owyhee
Area VI	100	Whitehorse

BIGHORN SHEEP SURVEY

Hunters and other Oregonians treasure the out-of-doors, who would like to see big game animals in probably one of the most beautiful and rugged settings found in the state, might take a trip to the west escarpment of Hart Mountain, the home of Oregon's only band of bighorn mountain sheep.

It will be an experience long remembered, not only for the inspiring scenery that the tremendous Hart Mountain upheaval presents on its west slope, but also for the sight of the graceful antelope, trophy buck deer, and the magnificent bighorns found in this jumbled, stair-step terrain.

A word of warning though; it takes a pair of sturdy legs and good wind if one expects to traverse any distance around the face of the escarpment. For this country stands on end and it's a scramble all the way unless the traveler sticks to the top along the high, flat benches. As one colorful Warner Valley native put it, "The mountain is as steep as an old cow's face and almost leans over backward as it juts skyward to more than 8,000 feet."

This writer was fortunate to visit this spectacular country late in May in company with three biologists for the Game Commission, Frank Grogan, district game agent at Lakeview; Dave Luman, chief of upland game birds for the commission; and Vic Masson, southeast regional

supervisor. Purpose — the annual spring survey to determine the status of the bands of bighorns introduced to Hart Mountain from British Columbia in November of 1954.

Each year since the introduction, a census has been made on the nucleus band held within the 1,000-acre Juniper canyon enclosure. But, this was to be the first survey for the 21 surplus animals released from the pasture into the craggy peaks in the spring of 1957. Where were they? How were they doing? Were they increasing in number? Before the day was done, biologists, and this writer, too, found the answers — the hard way.

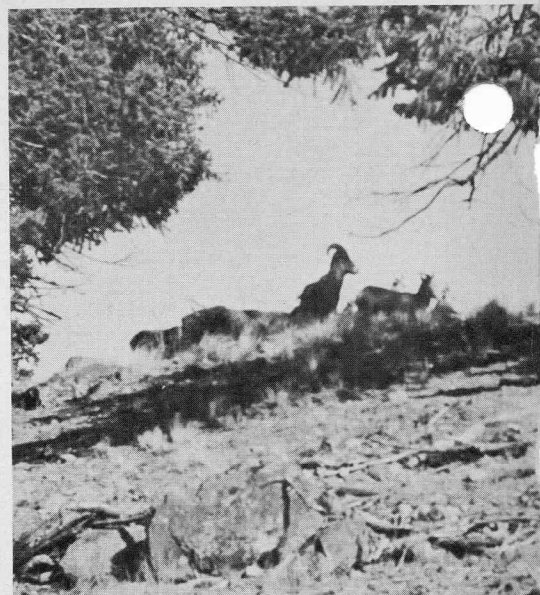
Access into this mountain vastness is limited. A good gravel road from the village of Plush skirts the west base of the escarpment and winds a serpentine course up a gouged canyon to the benchlands above and terminates at the Hart Mountain refuge headquarters. Another gravel road leads in from the east via Frenchglen crossing the scablands along the breaks of Rock creek. A work road heads south from the headquarters a mile or so, then splits, one leading easterly around the mountain and the other past the Hot Springs, over a mountain saddle and on down to Guano creek. Both roads join again just north of what is called "The Post."

It's off the Hot Springs road that two jeep trails head upward to the west, both of which wind precarious paths through steep box canyons, over abrupt sage covered slopes, up and around precipitous volcanic benches, and come to a welcome stop on the flat benchlands overlooking the sheer walls of the west face.

From these huge, jutting headlands, the view is unparalleled. Almost a mile below, Warner Valley extends to the north and south until it is lost to the eye. The valley floor is dotted with a maze of alkaline lakes, potholes, and marshlands. In the distance, Canada geese can faintly be heard, and a flash of white far out and below indicates a group of pelicans wheeling in formation over the fens.

The heights are so vast it would appear that one could easily cast a stone from the cliffs and see it splash in one of the lakes directly below. Yet these lakes if they were on the same level as the heights would be a mile or more away.

A brief reconnaissance was made in the upper basin within the enclosed sheep pasture. A total of 26 bighorns was observed. Six of these were good sized



The bighorns do not take time to pose for a picture but keep going when anyone is around.

rams, one of which had a three-quarter curl to its horns. Only three lambs were observed, but, since lambing was still under way, a later check seemed advisable. No attempt was made to work down the canyon, but the sheep observed tallied closely to the survey made in the pasture earlier in the year.

It was the bighorns on the outside about which information was desired, and by jeep we headed toward the north end of the mountain several miles off the main road. It was a slow, rough ride over the scab-rock, across boulder-strewn dry washes, until passage was blocked by a huge slide that through the years had sloughed from the rims above.

From here Vic Masson and the writer, loaded with cameras, binoculars, and a healthy lunch set out for the west face, destination to proceed south just under the cliffs of the escarpment to the pasture some four miles away. Luman and Grogan returned to the pasture and proceeded to a headland where they were to watch the high rims and the canyons below and tally any animals driven their way.

The first half mile across a broad, boulder-strewn flat to the escarpment was comparatively easy going. Although bighorn sign was plentiful, no sheep were seen on the north end of the mountain. Several big buck deer all in the velvet bounced out of our way as we crossed over.

It was on the west face that the going slowed almost to a crawl for here the

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One band of sheep was seen this year here on the west face of Hart Mountain but not close enough for the camera to catch them.

FUR CATCH REPORT

1958-1959 TRAPPING SEASON

GAME BULLETIN

COUNTY AND NUMBER OF TRAPPERS' REPORTS	OTTER		MINK		MUSKRAT		RACCOON		SKUNK		CIVET CAT		WEASEL		WILDCAT		*FOX		*BEAVER		TOTAL AMOUNT		
	No.	Amt.	No.	Amt.	No.	Amt.	No.	Amt.	No.	Amt.	No.	Amt.	No.	Amt.	No.	Amt.	No.	Amt.	No.	Amt.			
Baker	19	\$	51	\$ 437.07	1,962	\$ 1,079.10	44	\$ 59.40	38	\$ 32.68	1	\$ 0.52	2	\$ 0.58	12	\$ 41.16	25	\$ 60.98	59	\$ 535.72	\$ 2,155.85		
Benton	27		44	377.08	71	39.05	45	60.75	1	.86	1	.52	7		7	24.01	19	13.13	509	4,621.72	\$ 5,219.09		
Blackamas	36	9	162.45	479.92	204	112.20	42	56.70	2		2	1.04	7	2.03	8	27.44	19	13.13	3,277.88	9.69	4,143.34		
Clatsop	69	23	415.15	3,145.19	1,017	559.35	82	110.70	4		6	3.12	13	3.77	31	106.33	2	.82	770	6,991.60	59.61	11,394.82	
Columbia	51	18	144.40	1,319.78	569	323.95	75	101.25	4	3.44	2	1.04	15	4.35	4	13.72	2		620	5,822.68	13.24	7,248.67	
Coos	33	18	324.90	702.74	639	351.45	31	41.85	4		4	2.08	2	.58	2	6.86			420	5,811.20	8.68	7,250.34	
Crook	9		25	214.25	6	3.30													341	3,096.28		3,330.98	
Curry	8		15	128.55	72	39.60	1	1.35											33	299.64	46.44	515.58	
Deschutes	27	2	36.10	694.17	679	373.45	15	20.25	1	.86	3	1.56	5	1.45	38	130.34	3	6.57	104	944.32	244.14	2,453.21	
Douglas	69	26	469.30	2,519.58	288	158.40	145	195.75	20	17.20	32	16.64	7	2.03	9	30.87	3	1.23	889	8,072.12	42.90	11,526.02	
Gilliam	1																						
Grant	14																						
Harney	15																						
Hood River	10	5	90.25	539.91	20,905	11,497.75	4	5.40											224	2,033.92	17.90	2,903.54	
Jackson	31	11	198.55	702.74	1,308	719.40	128	172.80	5	4.30	3	1.56	1	.29	3	576.24	15	52	182	1,652.56	19.24	14,292.66	
Jefferson	6	2	36.10	59.99	5	2.75	6	8.10	20	43.86	20	10.40	1	.29	67	229.81	15	6.15	306	2,778.48	130.62	4,993.10	
Josephine	17	4	72.20	51.42	423	232.65	66	89.10	19	16.34	1	.52	3	.87	7	24.01	8	5.95	58	526.64	10.35	644.69	
Klamath	38	7	126.35	805.58	15,260	8,393.00	26	35.10	15		26	13.52	3	.87	173	593.39	4	1.64	216	1,961.28	79.99	12,019.72	
Lake	9																		186	1,688.88	3.45	2,827.45	
Lane	97	34	613.70	2,768.11	540	297.00	124	167.40	15	12.90	38	19.76	4	1.16	31	106.33	23	14.77	156	10,496.48	9.24	14,506.85	
Lincoln	50	27	487.35	1,174.09	171	94.05	125	168.75			17	8.54	3	.87	52	178.36	14	11.08	683	5,747.64	4.68	7,682.29	
Linn	47	10	180.50	1,156.95	560	308.00	121	163.35	1	.86	4	2.08	1	.29	2	6.86			231	2,097.48	143.87	5,998.82	
Malheur	33	7	126.35	137.12	3,182	1,750.10	75	101.25	9		25	13.00	10	2.90	472	1,618.96	19	7.79	351	3,187.08	3.90	4,234.78	
Marion	44	1	18.05	454.21	868	477.40	64	86.40											33	299.64	369.34	644.69	
Morrow	3				27	14.85													33	1489.12	23	2,420.43	
Multnomah	29	13	234.65	334.23	539	296.45	29	39.15	7	6.02									164	1,489.12	23	2,420.43	
Polk	16	6	108.30	53	454.21	51	28.05	29	39.15	4	3.44	1	.52	1	.29	2	6.86	8	245	2,224.92	2879.38	2,879.38	
Sherman	38	25	451.25	34.28	6	3.30	13	17.55											24	217.92	273.34	273.34	
Tillamook	32				709	389.95	62	83.70											229	2,079.32	9.29	4,176.75	
Umatilla	28	131	1,122.67	591.33	705	387.75	15	20.25			1	.52	8	2.32	11	37.73			67	608.36	2.58	1,613.99	
Union	21	1	18.05	591.33	390	214.50	5	6.75	2	1.72	1	.52	6	1.74	11	37.73			53	481.24	5.49	1,359.07	
Wallowa	13	4	72.20	50	428.50	244	134.20	18	24.30										33	299.64	5.75	1,020.05	
Wasco	13	7	126.35	76	651.32	44	24.20	5	6.75										103	935.24	1.43	1,756.50	
Washington	18	3	54.15	19	162.83	217	119.35	33	44.55	1	.86	3	1.56	2	.58	2	6.86	8	3.49	257	2,333.56	2.34	2,731.25
Wheeler	5				14	7.70													106	952.48		1,007.45	
Yamhill	18	1	18.05	38	325.66	53	29.15	51	68.85										9	11.70	392	4,016.49	
TOTALS	957	254	\$4,584.70	\$23,670.34	53,767	\$29,571.85	1,499	\$2,023.65	179	\$153.94	191	\$95.32	96	\$27.84	1,188	\$4,074.84	162	\$167.88	9,786	\$88,856.88	\$886.63	\$154,118.07	

Table compiled from reports of 957 of 1,097 (87%) licensed trappers.

*Catch of beaver compiled from beaver report cards.

*Includes 124 gray fox @ 41c and 38 red fox @ \$3.08.

*Includes 271 coyotes @ \$1.15; 31 opossums @ 23c; 6 ringtail cats @ 76c; 85 badgers @ \$1.43; 95 martens @ \$4.34; and 38 nutrias @ 78c.



All Game Commission fish hatcheries, except Fall River, have started feeding pellets on a production level. Approximately one-half of the fish are scheduled for pellet feeding with four or five different kinds to be used.

* * *

Stateline track count on the Interstate deer herd completed in May resulted in a tally of 14,642 north-bound tracks of deer moving into Oregon for the summer. This is an increase of 14 per cent over the previous year and 10 per cent above the yearly average since 1947 when the counts were first started.

* * *

Completion of upland game census in eastern Oregon showed an increase from 34.0 birds per 100 acres in 1958 to 36.3 in 1959. Populations varied considerably from a low of 3.9 in the Upper Deschutes area to 78.7 in Malheur county.

Western Oregon pheasant populations indicate an excellent carry-over with the census showing an increase of 48 per cent from 16.4 birds per 100 acres in 1958 to 24.4 in 1959.

Valley quail populations increased from 19.0 per 100 acres in 1958 to 24.0 in 1959. Bobwhite quail trends were up slightly and Hungarian partridges in eastern Oregon showed a carry over of 1.2 birds this year compared to 0.5 in 1958.

* * *

Many marsh areas and waterholes in eastern Oregon started to dry up in May due to last winter's light snow pack and the scarcity of rain this spring. Loss of potholes in desert areas before the water-fowl leave often results in the destruction of the brood. Reports from Alberta, which raises many of the ducks that migrate through or winter in Oregon, indicated that the drouth there is quite severe.

* * *

Approximately 6,000,000 rainbow (kamloop) eggs were taken at Diamond Lake this season.

1959 Big Game Season

(Continued from Page 5)

in Coos and Douglas Counties demonstrates that it will not be detrimental to calf production.

Results of the two spike seasons in Coos and Douglas Counties are encouraging. The normal harvest of bulls in Coos and Douglas Counties with the three-point regulation was approximately 300 bulls. During the first spike season in 1957—1,069 bulls were reported taken and in 1958—889 bulls were bagged. There also appears to be less wanton waste; however, that problem is still substantial. Sex ratios observed in Coos and Douglas County herds this winter averaged 9 bulls per 100 cows. In Clatsop County, where spikes have been protected, the ratio was 27 bulls per 100 cows.

A total of 3,950 either-sex elk permits is authorized. No person will be allowed to take more than one elk, but the persons with a permit will enjoy the privilege of taking any elk at the authorized time and place. The permits authorize 2,350 hunters to hunt elk of either sex on ten northeastern Oregon units during the last nine days of the elk season (November 14-22). The remaining 1,600 are allocated to seven special seasons designed to alleviate specific problems.

In forecasting the success of elk hunters, it is anticipated that the Wenaha, Umatilla, Starkey, Sled Springs, and Ukiah Units will be most productive during the bull season. The Chesnimnus Unit will be good, but the sex ratio observed there this winter was 3 bulls per 100 cows so a high percentage of the available bulls will be spikes.

Of the 17 unit and controlled seasons, the Matson Creek hunt will provide the highest success. During a similar season in 1957, 117 hunters bagged 115 elk.

The Wenaha controlled season (December 19-23) opens a small area of rugged country between the Wenaha River and the Washington state line, which may provide high success if deep snow drives elk down into the Wenaha canyon. Horses may be necessary for successful hunting of that area, but the chances of getting an elk are good.

The Bridge Creek season (December 12-31) opens a large area south of Ukiah that should provide high success if normal snowfall occurs. Last year 150 hunters took only 19 elk; however, the open

BIGHORN SHEEP SURVEY

(Continued from Page 6)

escarpment is like a slightly tilted wall, roughed up by clinging boulders and broken by rising cliffs, cirque-like basins, and jutting benches. A half-mile an hour is fast travel in this country, handicapped by the human adaptation of having two legs the same length. Even the sidehill gougers, adapted to such travel, would shun these precipitous slopes.

Again sheep sign was plentiful, but it was not until three hours later and about a mile and a half farther that any animals were seen. The bighorns seemed to appear out of nowhere, and the entire band of 19 were in full view when spotted. They fed upward into a small basin and then bedded down on the hillside. While they fed, we dropped down the slope out of view and inched our way within about two hundred yards to a jumble of boulders on a small ridge. From here the animals were carefully inspected and revealed one yearling ram, nine ewes with seven lambs, and two unidentified animals which were thought to be yearlings.

At our appearance, the band headed into the rock escarpment to the south. The nimble-footed animals progressed without fear of the almost sheer walls upon which they were climbing, leaping from ledge to ledge, some scarcely wide enough to land upon. They travelled at

area was small and there were no storms to drive the elk down into the hunting area.

Persons who prefer to hunt deer and elk at the same time may apply for an elk permit in the Elgin area (October 3-9). During a similar season in 1958—300 hunters took 112 elk.

All of the elk permits substantially increase a person's opportunity for success, but even the cows offer a challenge to most hunters after they have been harrassed for two weeks by bull hunters. If weather conditions give the hunters a break this year, the 1959 harvest of elk should be substantially greater than 6,953 taken in 1958.

Archery Seasons:

Oregon's many bow hunters will have 13 hunting areas available for their exclusive use for a short period this fall. The western Oregon seasons are scheduled in October to avoid fire hazards and

break-neck speed and disappeared among the cliffs high above.

Out of sight, the animals immediately doubled back and soon reappeared to the north, still angling upward among the dizzying heights. They stopped on benches several times to look back at the two interlopers, then continued north at the same pell-mell pace.

Near the pasture, 11 more animals were flushed from a pocket among the cliffs. These were observed by Luman and Grogan from their vantage point on the rim. The band included 10 ewes and yearlings and one lamb. The animals raced northward into the crags following almost the identical route over which the previous band had travelled.

No more sheep were observed, and the final tally stood at 30 bighorns, 15 ewes, 10 lambs, 1 yearling ram, and 4 unidentified. So, the original band of 21 bighorns released from the pasture in 1957 have increased by at least nine animals, and probably more. No big rams were seen on the trip, although several have been observed roaming the mountain heights by Game Commission and Hart Mountain refuge personnel. Total animals observed outside and inside the enclosure numbered 56, a decided increase over the little band of 20 introduced in 1954.

By Milt Guymon

most of the eastern Oregon areas are open from September 5 through the 27th. The amount of area available to archers was substantially increased by opening entire units such as the Wasco, Deschutes, Starkey, Baker, and Keating. The only other major change was that archers will be permitted to hunt bull elk on the Lost Creek area in Tillamook County.

All of the archery areas will provide good deer hunting; however, it is anticipated that the short seasons on the Malheur and Hart Mountain National Wildlife refuges will provide the highest success.

If you enjoy the privilege of hunting Oregon's big game resources and want to do your part to preserve that opportunity, remember the "Red Hat Pledge"—

Obey the game laws.

Respect the rights and property of others.

Be careful with fire and firearms.

Oregon State Game Commission Bulletin

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