

Oregon State GAME COMMISSION BULLETIN

Vol. V

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No. 3

The Rogue and Reclamation

By COLE M. RIVERS, *Field Agent, Rogue River District*

Once again, we are hearing of proposed U. S. Bureau of Reclamation dams on Rogue River, the famous stream in southern Oregon known all over the world for its sport fishing for steelhead and salmon. News releases from Washington, D. C., indicate that approval of the Rogue River Project will be asked for in early session of this 81st Congress. For nearly seven years, the people of Oregon intermittently have had their attention called to the planned dams on the Rogue and the threat to the valuable fishery they impose. Those who believe in the perpetuation of this resource have fought and continue to fight for its consideration in the planning.

The Oregon State Game Commission conducted a preliminary study in early 1944, and it was then brought to the attention of the people of Oregon that the spring and summer runs of Rogue River steelhead and salmon could be in jeopardy with completion of main-stem dams. Since that time, the Commission has been actively engaged in preliminary surveys to determine the probable effect on the fishery of the various changes in reclamation planning. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has assisted in planning and directing these investigations.

Plans A and B

Prior to the hearing held in Medford in June, 1948, two plans of development were offered, namely, Plans A and B. The hearing brought out the desire of the proponents to eliminate Plan B from further consideration. Studies by the Bureau of Reclamation continued on Plan A which now involves multiple-purpose dams for control of flood waters, development of hydroelectric power, the irrigation of 73,500 acres of new land and the supplying of supplemental water to 40,300 acres of presently irrigated land. Frequent changes of Plan A have made it necessary to adjust the figures relating to effects on the fishery from time to time.

Of the entire proposed basin development, the 242 foot Lewis Creek dam and provisions necessary for its operation are probably the most serious threat to survival of salmon and steelhead. The site is on the main channel of Rogue River on the Crater Lake Highway near the town of Trail. Constructed in conjunction with this large storage dam would be a smaller control-type dam called the Trail Diver-

sion, located about two miles below the Lewis Creek site. This dam would be used to divert stored and released water from Lewis Creek to the Medford and Table Rock areas for irrigation. Power would be generated at both the Lewis Creek and the Diversion dams while flood waters would be stored behind Lewis Creek. The Diversion dam would block salmon and steelhead from their present spawning areas above that point.

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WINTER GAME LOSSES

Unusually deep snows in western Oregon and North Central Oregon during the month of January, followed by zero temperatures early in February, have caused some losses of game animals and birds.

Reports from the Commission's field agents who attempted to accommodate the hundreds of requests for winter feeding of deer and birds indicate that some black-tailed deer and elk were lost in western Oregon and that bobwhite and valley quail suffered losses where they did not have access to barnyards or the emergency feeding stations set out by cooperating sportsmen, farmers, and Game Commission employees. Thousands of ducks and geese were along the Columbia River from Umatilla County to Astoria while the snow was crusted and waterfowl did not have access to grasses upon which they normally feed in winter.

Wesley Batterson, the Commission's Game Agent in the North Coastal District, has confirmed the loss of 79 deer and four elk on the Trask, Wilson and Salmonberry watersheds, and estimates that

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A favorite fishing spot on the Rogue River.

(U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service photo)

☆ THIS AND THAT ☆

The Bandon hatchery received a setback in fish production when the Giger Creek earth fill dam was washed out, two ponds destroyed and the fish released in the waters of the Coquille River during the January storms. The pipeline which feeds the hatchery and is supplied from Ferry Creek was collapsed by a slide.

* * *

Reports from field agents indicate that the fawn crop this year is very high, particularly for mule deer. In a few areas 90 fawns were present for every 100 does observed.

* * *

Plantings in western Oregon by the habitat improvement section have been resumed after interruption by freezing weather conditions in January and February.

* * *

Excessive cold weather also slowed up beaver trapping operations but an intensive effort will be made to take care of all damage complaints that have accumulated.

* * *

A bond of \$450 was forfeited by Wayne Negus of Bend after being charged with trapping wild animals with unbranded traps, using flesh of game birds for trapping wild animals and unlawfully trapping marten. Suspected of illegal trapping of beaver and marten, Negus was apprehended in the snow-bound Crane Prairie area following a long trip by sno-cat by two Game Commission men, Henry Reed and Bob Borovicka, a state police officer and a district forest ranger.

* * *

While searching for deer losses in the Tillamook Burn, Wesley Batterson found the remains of five deer that had apparently been spot-lighted by unscrupulous persons, who took advantage of the emergency condition.

* * *

The next regular meeting of the Oregon State Game Commission is scheduled for April 21 and 22 in Portland.

* * *

Copies of the Index for Volume 4 (1949) of the Game Commission Bulletin are now available for distribution upon request.

* * *

During the month of February, 277 pheasants were trapped from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service refuge on Malheur Lake and transplanted in adjacent habitat in Harney and Lake counties. Also, 630 valley quail were trapped along the lower John Day River and transplanted in the Willamette Valley.

**NATIONAL WILDLIFE
WEEK
March 19 to 25**

"JOE BEAVER"

By Ed Nolziger



Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture

"You won't jump like that when they dump that waste into the stream."

The pelican derives its name from the Greek. It has a huge beak shaped like a great Greek pelekus, an ax.

Oregon State Game Commission Bulletin

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Dates Set For Western Association Meeting

C. A. Lockwood, president of the Western Association of State Game and Fish Commissioners, has announced the dates for the 1950 annual conference to be August 14, 15 and 16. The meeting will be held at the Multnomah Hotel, Portland, Oregon, and representatives are expected from all eleven western states.

The western division of the American Fisheries Society will hold its annual meeting at the same time in Portland.

Farm Superintendents Meet

Superintendents of Oregon's four pheasant farms met in Portland on January 31 and after spending one day in the office planning operations for the 1950 season, they took a three-day trip into the State of Washington to visit game farms at South Tacoma, Whidby Island and Ellensburg. They also spent one day on a chukar partridge range near Yakima. Oregon's Game Farm Superintendents are Harold Sevey, Ontario; J. K. Alexander, Hermiston; Roy Dickinson, Eugene, and Don Kirkpatrick, Corvallis.

Special Sauvie Island Crow Shoot Permits Issued

Permits for shooting crows on the Sauvie Island Game Management Area are now being issued at the Portland office of the Game Commission.

The crow hunter must have a hunting license and a special free permit to shoot on the area. The permits will expire at the end of each month and a new permit will be issued upon request at the Portland office.

The areas where crow shooting will be allowed will be changed monthly to allow for crow migrations and to provide for the least possible interference with wintering waterfowl and upland game birds. This is the first time the Game Commission has conducted a crow shoot on the area, and until some experience is gained, the shooting success is not expected to be high.

A map of the Sauvie Island Management Area showing the crow shooting section will accompany each permit. Crow hunting areas will also be marked with special signs. The permits allow hunting only on the designated areas on state-owned land. Anyone desiring to hunt on private property must obtain permission of the landowner.

Preyed-upon species like the deer tend to have their eyes on sides of their heads providing a broad field of vision. The eyes of hunters like the bobcat are generally in front of the face so as to provide the best vision of the prey they are pursuing.

PUBLIC SHOOTING GROUNDS HUNTING REPORT FOR 1949

The 1949 waterfowl season showed no perceptible change in the number of hunters from the 1948 season.

Unfavorable weather conditions resulted in a much lower total kill, especially of geese. Sauvie Island was in operation for the first time.

Results of the season are presented in the following tables.

HUNTING PRESSURE

	Permits Issued	Resident	Non Resident
Summer Lake	3,684	3,641	43
Malheur	1,401	1,324	77
Chewaucan	190	190	..
Sauvie Island	1,688	1,685	3

HUNTING SUCCESS

Success Ratio: Birds Per Man Day

	Ducks	Geese	Total
Summer Lake	1.40	0.16	1.56
Malheur	1.20	0.26	1.46
Chewaucan	2.24	0.82	3.06
Sauvie Island	1.16	0.02	1.18

WATERFOWL KILLED

	Ducks	Geese	Total
Summer Lake	5,061	589	5,650
Malheur	1,681	360	2,041
Chewaucan	412	151	563
Sauvie Island	1,896	30	1,926
Total	9,050	1,130	10,180

LAW ENFORCEMENT

	Arrests Made
Summer Lake	21
Malheur	6
Chewaucan	0
Sauvie Island	9
Total	36

WATERFOWL KILL BY SPECIES

	Summer Lake	Malheur	Chewaucan	Sauvie Island	Total
Mallard	1,849	237	320	768	3,174
Pintail	851	118	31	340	1,340
Baldpate	819	700	12	508	2,039
Green Winged Teal	890	37	22	233	1,182
Shoveler	189	76	..	15	280
Canvasback	18	96	10	18	142
Gadwall	141	349	7	1	498
Redhead	112	11	..	2	125
Scaup	28	17	7	1	53
Ruddy	24	7	..	..	31
Goldeneye	9	15	2	..	26
Bufflehead	11	8	1	3	23
Cinnamon Teal .....	..	..	..	..	..
Merganser	2	..	..	..	2
Scoter .....	..	2	..	..	2
Woodduck	2	..	..	..	2
Coot	115	5	..	2	123
Ring-necked .....	..	3	..	5	8
Total Ducks	5,061	1,681	412	1,896	9,050
Snow Goose	298	31	28	..	357
Canada Goose	102	257	64	21	444
Cackling Goose	103	11	46	6	166
White Fronted Goose	71	2	12	..	85
Lesser Canada Goose	14	56	1	3	74
Ross Goose	1	3	..	..	4
Total Geese	589	360	151	30	1,130
Total Waterfowl	5,650	2,041	563	1,926	10,180

WINTER GAME LOSSES

(Continued from Page 1)

the loss of deer in that area will not exceed 10 per cent of the deer herd with 90 per cent of the loss occurring in last year's fawns. The fawns did not have the strength to buck the deep snow drifts and many succumbed from exhaustion.

Although previous attempts to aid coastal deer by providing supplemental rations of hay and a wide variety of concentrates have all been considered failures, an attempt was made to feed the deer and elk in concentration areas that were accessible. High-grade, second-cutting alfalfa hay was used readily by elk and more reluctantly by deer. For a while it appeared that the supplemental rations may have been of some value. However, when the snows melted and search of concentration areas was made in an attempt to evaluate losses, it was found that a higher loss occurred in the vicinity of the feeding stations than on similar ranges where hay and concentrates were not fed. This higher loss may be partially due to the fact that the weakest animals accepted the artificial ration most readily.

Autopsy of four animals by the Veterinary Department of Oregon State College revealed the principal cause of loss to have been malnutrition; however, exhaustion and exposure were undoubtedly partially responsible.

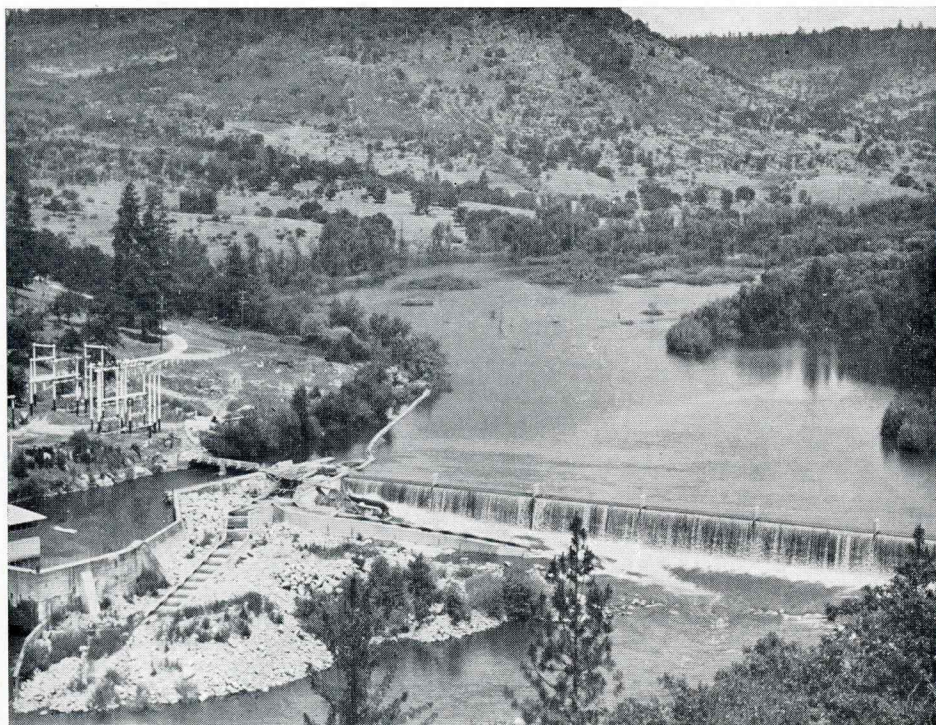
In addition to the deer losses resulting from storms, a total of 34 deer have been reported killed by automobiles on northwestern Oregon highways during the months of January and February.

No heavy losses of pheasants or waterfowl have been reported and of the game birds, bobwhite quail appear to have taken the greatest loss.

Steelhead Spawning Grounds Cleared

The fighting steelhead of the Wilson River are again returning to their ancestral spawning grounds in Jordan Creek. A ponderous mass of logs and debris has been accumulating in Jordan Creek since the disastrous Tillamook Burn of 1933. Logging operations which followed the fire added to the great log jams until Jordan Creek was obstructed from end to end. Miles of clear, graveled riffles in which the steelhead, silver salmon, and trout formerly spawned and lived were completely blocked and covered by the fire-blackened snags. Now, after a cooperative program undertaken by the Game Commission and the State Fish Commission, the last barrier has been blasted from Jordan Creek. The Coates Lumber Company of Tillamook also aided by removing several massive log jams.

E. C. High, Seaside logger who contracted for the job, used caterpillar tractors, a donkey engine with a high-lead rig, and blasting powder to clean up Jordan Creek. Some of the log jams were 800 to 900 feet long.



Gold Ray Dam where a counting station is operated by the Game Commission.

THE ROGUE AND RECLAMATION

(Continued from Page 1)

Joint Fishery Study

During 1949, the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Game Commission joined in a cooperative fishery study to gain further information on the extent to which anadromous fish would be affected. Four men of the Commission and 15 men of the Service carried out the intensified study. A deadline for the report was set for January 1, 1950, leaving less than a year for completion. With such limited time available, it was doubtful that the investigation could cover adequately all ramifications of the problem. Therefore, some phases of the study were eliminated.

A project was started at Gold Beach to tag runs of salmon and steelhead as they came into the mouth of the river. A total of 809 fish were tagged and released through the season to continue their migration up river. Tag-ratio counting stations were established at Agness, Savage Rapids and Gold Ray to determine the ratio of untagged to tagged fish. This furnished the biologists with data on distribution of the fish and migration habits of the different runs.

Information on tagged fish was obtained by various methods. On one of each pair of tags attached to a fish was printed a request to return the disks to the Game Commission and an address, enabling anyone finding or catching such a fish to send in the tags. Previously mentioned tag-ratio counts furnished further infor-

mation. Cooperation from the sportsmen was excellent, and to date 90 tags have been spotted or returned. This represents 11 per cent of the fish tagged and compares very favorably with similar programs in other areas.

Economic Value of the Fishery

The investigation included an intensive effort to determine the contribution of the fishery to the economy of the basin. It was fully realized that figures previously gathered on economic evaluation were inadequate and very conservative. The 1949 survey made clear the many



A steelhead entering the ladder at Gold Ray.

ramifications involved in an evaluation of the large sport fishery. In estimating this value, only those data were used that rested on a solid, tangible foundation.

Without consideration of the many intangible factors, the study showed that over \$1,300,000 were spent in pursuit of sport fishing on the upper river, and that over \$2,200,000 were spent on the lower river for a total of \$3,500,000 for the basin. Over \$10,000,000 was found to be invested in property for use by local and tourist fishermen. The fishery provides total or partial support for 233 places of business surveyed. The study showed that sports fishing on Rogue River is BIG BUSINESS.

The Rogue also makes a significant contribution to the offshore commercial fishery along the Pacific Coast. Sufficient data have not been gathered to assess this contribution accurately, but the fact that two fish were taken during the tagging program that had previously been tagged off the coast of California indicates its widespread importance.

Water volume and temperature studies were made to determine quantities and character of water that would be released for fish life to the main river below Lewis Creek. Reclamation planning has not yet progressed to the point where we can forecast the good or damage to the fishery from Lewis Creek water releases. Until an operating schedule can be supplied for Lewis Creek dam, no true analysis can be made of water releases and their effects on fish. Cold water in the channel of the main river could improve conditions for fish during warm summer months, but this means nothing unless the cold water can continue to be released when the warm surface of the reservoir is down near the penstock releases of the dam. Reclamation engineers plan on 110 feet of dead-storage which would probably be more than adequate for holding the warm, surface water within the reservoir. However, can we be assured that this surface water will not be used for power and irrigation during low water years? The effect on fish life would be disastrous. Another thing to consider is that dead-storage is gradually reduced by deposition of silt. This is known to have had serious consequences in many storage reservoirs.

Most of the seven tributary projects as presently outlined would probably cause negligible fish loss. The Ruch site on the Applegate River may be an exception, as adequate summer flows below the reservoir for the protection of the downstream migrants from the fall and winter runs involved are not as yet assured. Releases for maintenance of minimum summer flows are essential to the perpetuation of these runs.

The Union Creek area located below Crater Lake is contemplated for power development. A series of five run-of-the-river power stations is planned. For each a low dam would divert the water for a sufficient distance to develop the required

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THE ROGUE AND RECLAMATION

(Continued from Page 4)

drop, and it would then be returned to the river through a power house. As a result, the river channel between each diversion dam and its power house would be dry or nearly so. This is a vitally important fishing and recreational area for thousands of people in the State of Oregon. During 1949, this section was used by 722,285 people, 41.8 per cent of whom were residents of Oregon. Steelhead and salmon cannot reach this part of the stream, but the area is the most heavily fished resident trout water in the Rogue basin. Under the proposed development, very little of the present recreational and fishing attraction could be retained.

Migration Counts

All upstream migrant salmon and steelhead have been counted since April, 1942 at the Game Commission counting station at Gold Ray dam near Medford. These counts have shown an annual decline in spring chinook and summer run steelhead, but it is believed that under sound management this decline can be arrested, and the runs again built up. The annual silver salmon count is increasing by leaps and bounds, the 1949 count being over 2½ times greater than the run from which it originated. During the last four-year cycle, the chinook counts averaged 28,144; silvers, 5,071; and steelhead, 12,075.

Chinook salmon redd (spawning bed) counts were made through the middle and upper sections of the river. Heaviest use per mile of running stream was found from the mouth of the Applegate River upstream to Grants Pass and in that sec-

tion from Lewis Creek dam site upstream to the mouth of Big Butte Creek.

From these redd counts and the counts over Gold Ray, we know that from 10,000 to 18,000 fish would be blocked at the Lewis Creek development and would be involved in a salvage program. Comparison with existing large salvage programs indicates that costs to install facilities for such an operation would be extremely high and have small assurance of success. This cost would have to be borne by the taxpayer through additional appropriations.

Salvage Not a Solution

Our general conception of problems involving blockades to salmon and steelhead is that a salvage project can always be put to use, but how successful could it be in assuring a good return? Let's look at the facts. Salvage projects with anadromous fish have been known to be successful where the runs can be transplanted to suitable tributaries. This is particularly true when dealing with fall-run salmon. One of our main reasons for objecting to a salvage project is that there are no available tributaries below Lewis Creek to which the runs can be transplanted. Too, as a reminder, we are dealing with spring-run fish. This leaves artificial propagation as our only alternative. Artificial propagation alone has never been proven successful with spring-run salmon. For this reason, it is the desire of all interests studying the Rogue problem to prevent having to accept and operate such a program. Why gamble on salvage when such a valuable resource is at stake?

If another dam site could be used above and in place of the proposed Lewis Creek site, Big Butte Creek could probably be

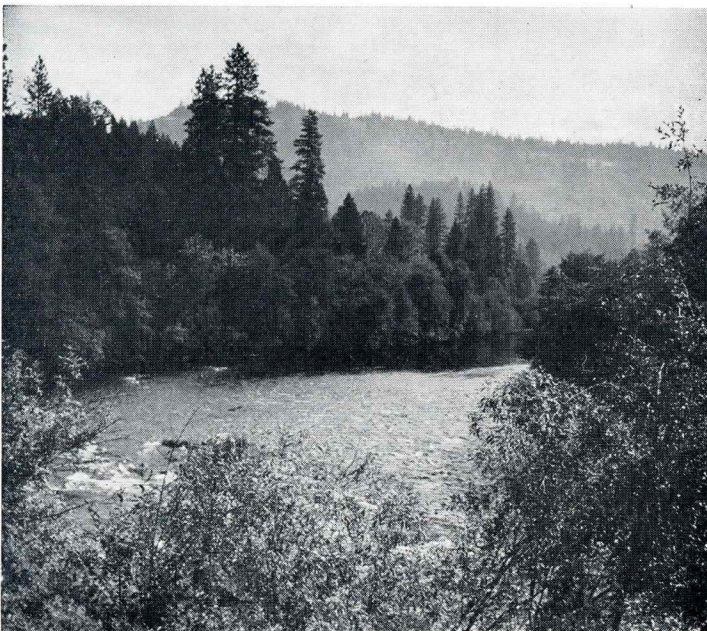
used in a transplantation program. A dam site above Big Butte Creek was suggested by the Bureau of Reclamation in its Plan B. Under present plans the Lewis Creek development would block access to Big Butte Creek.

Other than the dollars and cents evaluation mentioned before, just how important is this fishery? Even though 1949 was one of the poorest fishing years for salmon known on the Rogue, 204,740 pounds of salmon were taken in just the lower 12 miles of the river. This represents more than ten thousand fish. In 1945, 352,100 pounds or 17,600 fish were caught in that section. In addition, between 1,300 and 2,000 salmon are taken from salmon boards in the vicinity of Grants Pass and an estimated 15 to 20 thousand steelhead are caught in the river annually. These catch figures represent only a portion of the total harvest from the basin. Census studies have had to be limited to specific sections because of limitations on time and personnel.

At least one other alternative plan has been proposed to provide irrigation water and power without significantly altering the environment for fish. Extensive engineering studies on the ground that would be necessary to evaluate this plan have not been made. This indicates that Plans A and B may not be the only possible solutions.

However, in spite of these values and the many questions still unanswered, the Rogue Valley Irrigation Association has helped push the Rogue development plan toward an immediate decision that would be premature from a fishery standpoint. If this session of Congress approves the Rogue River Project, first appropriations

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Recreational area in Casey State Park above the Lewis Creek dam site, which is valuable to spawning salmon and steelhead.



Mill Creek Falls on the North Fork, the upper limits of steelhead and salmon migration 21 miles above Lewis Creek dam site.

ANNUAL REPORT

Department of State Police

1949
GAME CODE

	Warn.	Arrests	Acq.	Sent.	Fines
Altering hunter's license.....	...	1	..	..	\$ 100.00
Angling					
Closed season	30	60	3	.15	1,567.50
Prohibited areas, hours, or methods	176	401	12	.78	9,916.75
Disguising					
Sex of deer.....	...	9	1	.24	545.50
Species of bird.....	...	10	..	..	212.50
Exceeding bag limit.....	175	231	8	1.35	7,151.00
Failure to					
Post bear traps.....	...	4	..	.32	.....
Tag properly	39	196	6	1.98	9,430.50
Remit fees collected.....	...	1	..	..	.....
False application for license.....	1	16	3	..	355.00
Holding game animal no permit.....	1	..	..	..	.....
Hunting					
Closed season	14	177	13	6.15	11,092.50
Prohibited areas, hours, or methods	183	617	39	3.59	24,597.00
Protected animals, birds.....	...	28	..	.82	2,753.00
Interfering with duties of law enforcement officer .....	...	4	1	.06	100.00
Lending angler's or hunter's license..	...	11	..	.08	545.50
Molesting					
Game animals, birds.....	1	1	..	..	25.00
Trap line .....	...	2	..	.07	45.50
No duck stamp.....	...	1	..	..	25.00
No fish ladder.....	1	2	..	..	50.00
No license					
Angling	365	357	11	.95	7,820.00
Game breeder .....	...	12	4	.64	350.00
Guide	8	4	2	..	275.00
Hunting	122	230	23	1.10	5,178.00
Non-resident	1	113	6	.20	2,862.50
Trapping	8	17	1	..	276.00
No shipping permit.....	...	2	..	.28	25.00
Permitting unaccompanied minor to hunt .....	...	1	..	.08	.....
Possession					
Game animal	1	163	10	7.44	16,329.50
Game bird .....	...	93	2	.46	3,114.50
Game fish	2	157	5	.90	3,985.50
Protected bird, animal.....	...	75	1	.77	4,384.60
Purchase more than one license.....	...	1	1	..	.....
Sale game animal, bird, fish.....	...	2	..	..	275.00
Tampering with fish screen.....	...	5	..	..	125.00
Trapping					
Closed season	1	2	..	..	50.00
Prohibited areas, or methods....	...	2	..	..	25.00
With unbranded traps.....	5	5	..	.16	126.00
Trespassing .....	...	10	..	..	150.00
Using license of another.....	1	19	1	.43	1,301.00
Wanton waste of game.....	...	24	6	.28	3,718.50
Totals.....	1,135	3,066	159	29.28	\$118,883.35

17.53 years suspended — \$20,842.50 remitted

Licenses and bag limits checked o. k.		Predatory animals killed.....	38
Angling and hunting.....	114,372	Searches	
Fur dealer	5	With warrant	49
Game breeder	12	Without warrant	13,073
Guide	52	Seizures	
Trapping	191	Game animal	8
		Game fish	3

Disposal of Alaska Fur Seals

Finding carcasses of Alaska fur seals along the Northwest coast has prompted many inquiries to both the Game Commission and the Fish and Wildlife Service as to their disposal. As the fur seals come under the jurisdiction of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, that department has issued the following information as to procedure to be followed by anyone finding a dead fur seal in the coastal area:

1. Anyone finding the bodies of dead fur seals should immediately notify the nearest State or Federal Game or Fisheries employee or the State Patrol. If possible the bodies of the seals should ultimately reach or be inspected by a Game or Fisheries employee.

2. If the pelt is fresh it should be removed and preserved in salt. The pelt is not cased but split up the belly. The value of the skin depends upon its proper preservation and the condition of the animal. The skin of an animal that has been dead for some time rarely has any value and in that case the seal should be destroyed by a responsible official in the presence of witnesses. This is done by slashing the skin with a series of cuts along the length of the body. Disposal of such a destroyed body should be made in a manner that will prevent its probable discovery again.

3. Any metal tags on the flippers should be removed and forwarded to the Fish and Wildlife Service, 706 Federal Office Building, Seattle 4, Washington, together with information about the animal from which it was taken which would include the point of discovery, date, sex, and length of the body from tip of nose to tip of tail.

4. Whether a fur seal is preserved or destroyed, a complete record of each case should be made and forwarded to the Fish and Wildlife Service, 706 Federal Office Building, Seattle 4, Washington. Such a record should include the points mentioned in paragraph 3, and any additional facts that may be pertinent.

5. It is the purpose of this office to have a representative visit the various coastal regions sometime during the latter part of February, if possible, for the purpose of reviewing the many cases reported.

6. For any further information contact the Fish and Wildlife Service, 706 Federal Office Building, Seattle 4, Washington.

March-April Calendar

Salmon and Steelhead over 20", open both months in inland waters.

Salmon and Steelhead over 20", closed until April 15 in coastal waters.

Trout, open April 15, Zone 1, (coast area) and northern part of Zone 2.

Spiny-rayed fish, open both months.

Predatory animals, open both months.

NOTE: For exceptions consult official hunting and fishing regulations.



Salmon anglers lined up at the mouth of the Rogue River.

THE ROGUE AND RECLAMATION

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would probably be asked for immediate construction of the Lewis Creek dam and Merlin dam (a tributary project). This is several years ahead of dates previously announced.

The Rogue River Project is definitely a controversial issue within the basin itself, and among the people of the rest of Oregon and of other states. Since 1945, active groups have opposed the main river dam at Lewis Creek. Other groups question and doubt the feasibility of the plans for irrigation, power, and flood control. Kenneth G. Denman, Chairman of the Rogue River Basin Conservation Committee, says, "No one, not even opponents of the present reclamation planning, is against proper development. It is readily admitted that our general progress must not be stopped or unduly hindered. All broad-minded individuals who have taken the time to study the reports of the Bureau of Reclamation and the reports on the fishery realize there must be a happy medium in which the basin can be developed without undue injury to our existing resources. We believe all the needs of the valley can be supplied with tributary projects." The Preserve the Rogue Association, headed by D. H. Barber of Trail, is opposing the Lewis Creek dam and Union Creek power development by claiming unsound economic planning. On the basis of the most recent data, the Oregon State Game Commission urges that the Rogue development project should not be rushed into construction until some alternate plan is found whereby Lewis Creek can be eliminated.

One reason there is not more organized

and vocal opposition is well expressed by Merle E. Griffin, Josephine County Assessor, who says, "The reason the opposition is in the minority seems to be because to a great many people one dollar looks so much better today than two dollars tomorrow. One of the major local arguments favoring Reclamation Bureau plans is the money which will be brought to the valley only during the period of construction. We should all realize that one valuable resource should not be sacrificed for the sake of developing another." Fisheries interests have been seriously handicapped in obtaining audience and support because so few of the residents of the valley can appreciate their share in the monetary returns brought from sport fishing and recreation.

Rogue Fishery a National Asset

The placing of responsibility for decision on the Rogue problem has caused some controversy. Some contend it should be decided solely by the residents of the basin, but the natural resources of the Rogue belong also to the other people of Oregon, and, in a larger sense, to the nation. For wise use of such resources, we must not lose sight of this fact.

In viewing the Rogue fisheries as a national recreational asset, many believe that the Rogue Valley with its present and potential attractions could be made into an outstandingly valuable basin. With more leisure hours available to all working people, more and more facilities have to be provided for recreational diversions. Nation-wide surveys have shown that fishing is one of the most popular methods of spending leisure time. The Rogue River is one of the most important sport fishing streams in Oregon, if not the entire Pacific Northwest, and plays a most important role in furnishing this recreation.

Self-styled "experts" have made remarks about how little the planned project would hurt the salmon and steelhead runs, and even, how much it would help to bring the runs back to their former abundance. The best fishery experts in the country today have not dared venture any definite comment on the extent of damage or aid to the fish population that might be expected with certain phases of the planned projects. Some conservative estimates have been made, but they are felt to be grossly inadequate. A major reason for not making a fine analysis of fishery damage is that bureau planning has not advanced to the stage where operating schedules can be set up. The best that can be said at the present time is that there is *danger* for the Rogue's anadromous and resident fish. If the present plans including the Lewis Creek development go through, the value of the Rogue fishery would be reduced by approximately 50 per cent.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Cole Rivers, the author of the article on "The Rogue and Reclamation," is appropriately named as he is a good example of a person who's job is a living part of him.

A native Oregonian, Rivers studied fish and game management at Oregon State College, and since 1941 has worked for the Oregon State Game Commission primarily with the fish of the Rogue River. His skill as a boatman has made it possible for him to acquire a familiarity with all sections of the river from its headwaters to the sea, and its every mood is known to him.

All phases of the reclamation planning for the Rogue watershed have been closely followed by him in evaluating the probable effects on this valuable fishery resource.

Ducks use their webbed feet not only as a plane does its landing gear when coming down, but also as rudders for flight maneuvering.

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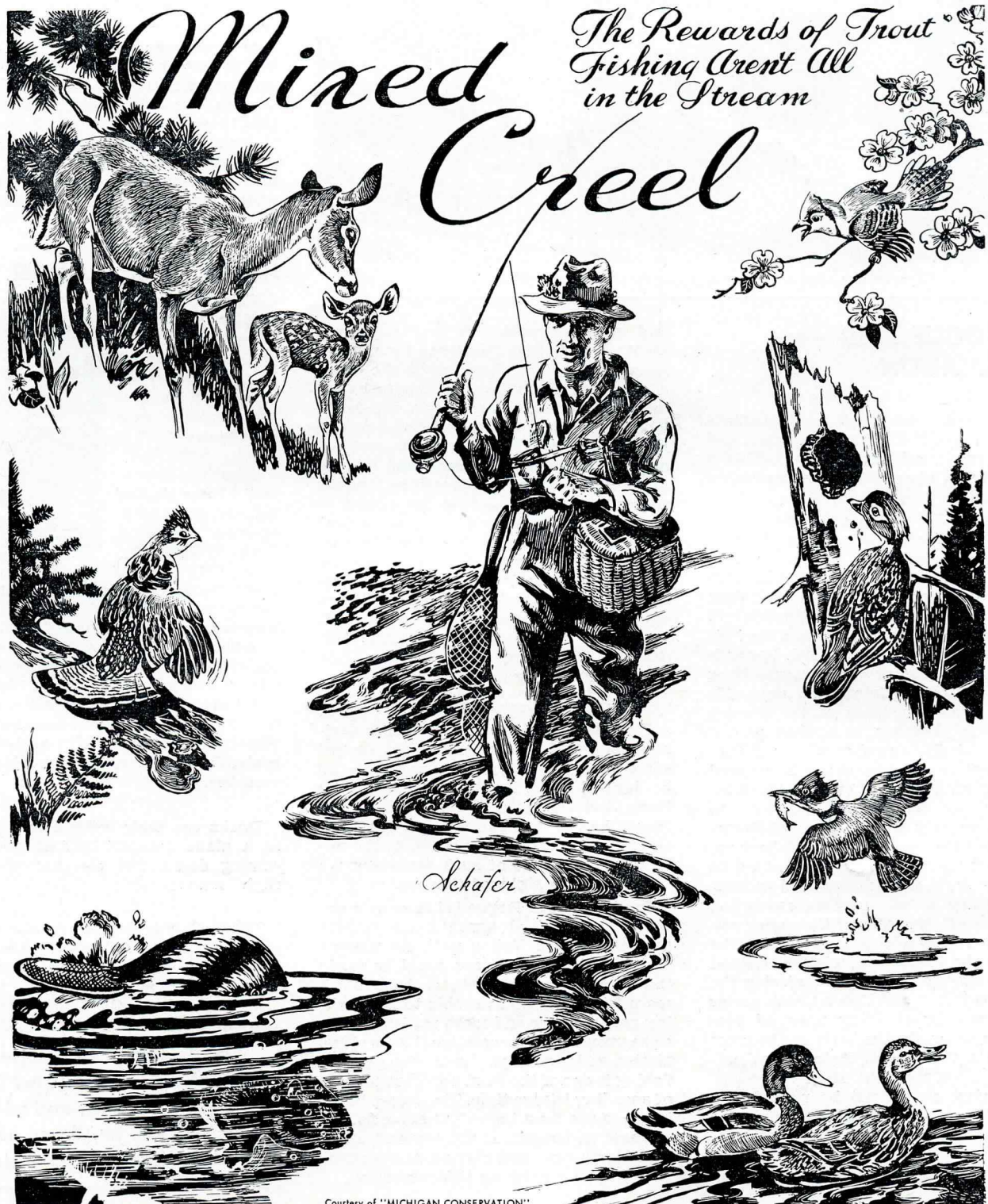
The neck of a bird has greater freedom of motion than that of a snake. In the tiny neck of a sparrow there are 14 vertebrae; in the swan's 23, while the neck of a giraffe has only 7.

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