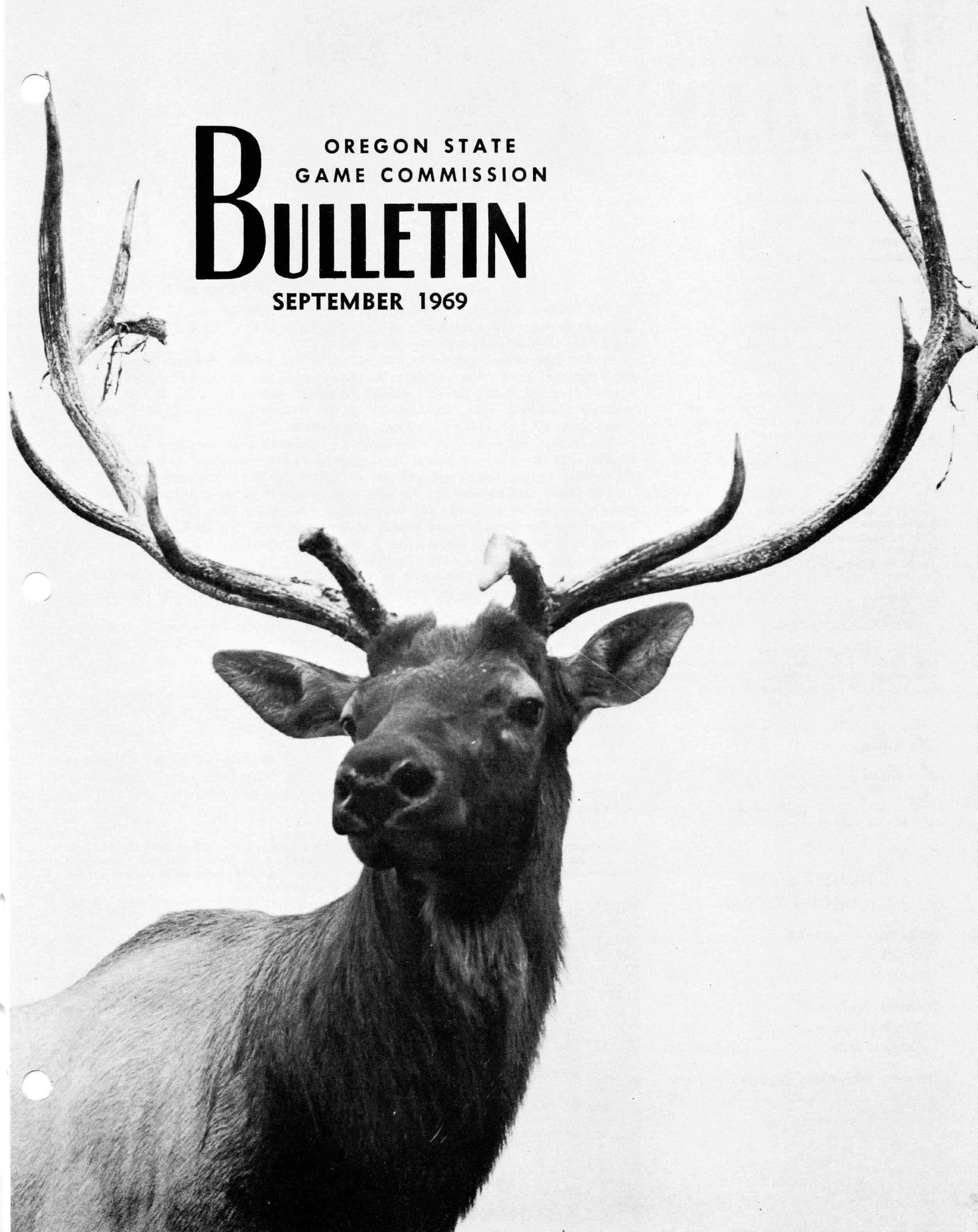


OREGON STATE
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BULLETIN

SEPTEMBER 1969



OREGON STATE GAME COMMISSION BULLETIN

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The Cover

A Rocky Mountain elk, one of the major game species of northeastern Oregon. For more about the region, see the feature article.

Photo by Ron Shay

HUNTER SAFETY TRAINING PROGRAM

Instructors Approved

Month of July 13
Total to Date 3,827

Students Trained

Month of July 234
Total to Date 139,058

Firearms Casualties Reported in 1969

Fatal 0
Nonfatal 8



The Oregon State Game Commission is privileged to be one of the first state agencies to receive the assistance of the "Management 70's" Task Force in developing a more efficient and responsive program.

A five man force assigned to this agency is led by Mr. Kenneth Karlas of the First National Bank, who will serve as chairman of the group. Other members are Stanley N. Read of Electronic Specialty Company; Robert G. Paige of International Business Machines, Inc.; Don Mezirow of the Oregon Executive Department; and Leslie Zumwalt representing the Game Commission.

The group began its task on August 15, at which time members of the Commission and its staff explained the agency's broad objectives and programs as determined by the legislature and the judgments of the Commission.

The Game Commission and its staff are extremely proud of Oregon's fish and game management programs and believe that the systems that have been employed have served the resources and people of the state well. We do appreciate that no system or program is so perfect that it cannot be improved. It is in this spirit that we greet the "Management 70's" program.

We are particularly interested in potential improvements in the business end of our operation such as the licensing systems, accounting, property control, and communications.

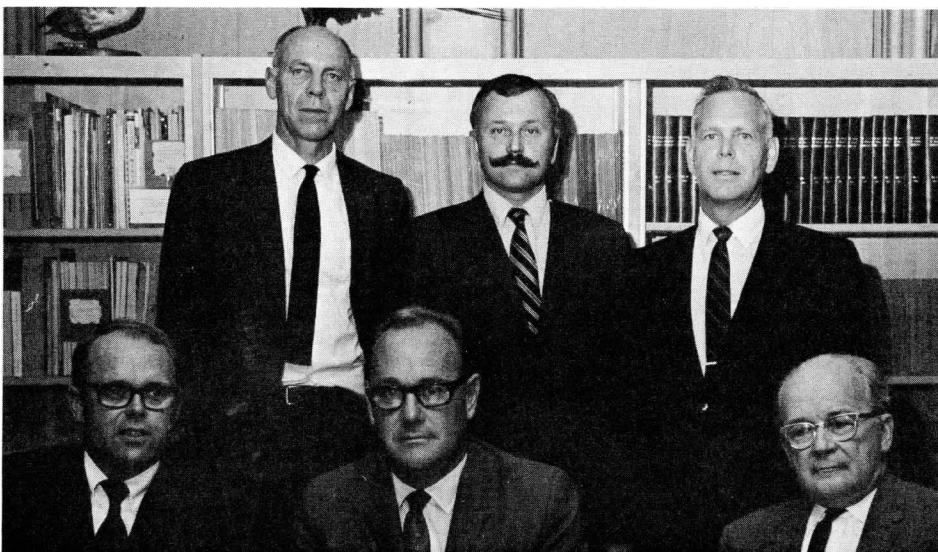
A realistic evaluation of the potential benefits of using computers, radios, automatic typewriters, and other new devices in performing some of the functions that are now performed by less sophisticated methods and equipment can be of great help to the Commission in making such decisions.

I am confident that an objective evaluation of Game Commission programs and a collective evaluation of the performance of state government as a whole by the diversified talents represented within the "Management 70's" Task Force can produce many constructive suggestions.

The implementation of those suggestions will in the end be largely dependent upon the will of the people as expressed through the Commission and the legislature. For this reason it is important that all persons take an interest in the activities and findings of the Task Force.

J. M.

Task Force 70's group studying Game Commission operations. Back row from left to right: Les Zumwalt, assistant game director; Don Mezirow and "Chris" Christensen of the Oregon Executive Department. Front row: Robert Paige, IBM; Kenneth Karlas, First National Bank and chairman of the group; and Stanley Read, Electronic Specialty Company.



THE NORTHEAST REGION

by Will H. Brown
Regional Supervisor



Northeast Vacationland, the slogan of a local promotional group, is a good description of the Northeast Region. It includes all or parts of Baker, Union, Walla Walla, Umatilla, Morrow, Grant, Gilliam and Sherman Counties, and makes up 22 per cent of Oregon.

The major drainages are the John Day, Umatilla, Walla Walla, Grande Ronde, Imnaha, Powder and Burnt Rivers. Elevations range from below 1,000 feet in the semi-desert country around Boardman to nearly 10,000 feet in the high alpine Wallowa Mountains. Most of the recreation in this area is provided by the mountains—either on the slopes, in the mountain valleys, or on water provided by the high watersheds.

The Northeast Region is blessed with an abundance of water and provides many hundreds of miles of spawning stream for summer steelhead, coho and chinook salmon. These fish contribute substantially to the Columbia and Snake River runs of anadromous fish. Most of these fish are caught in the main Columbia River or at sea, however, as the stream systems are closed to angling during the spawning season. The long run from the ocean and difficulties in navigating the many main stream dams delay the fish until they are near spawning condition by the time they reach our streams.

There is a very active Indian fishery on chinook salmon spawning grounds of the Imnaha, John Day and Grande Ronde Rivers, and on Catherine Creek during these closed periods. In 1968 the Indian fishery took over 300 spawning chinook

from the Grande Ronde River alone.

The summer steelhead picture is a little brighter. In years when there is a good fall water supply, excellent fish may be taken in the lower John Day, Umatilla, Grande Ronde and Imnaha Rivers from September through December. More fish are available in the period of January through March but the quality of the fish goes down as they approach the spawning period.

Construction of McNary and John Day Dams virtually eliminated the free-flowing Columbia River in northeast Oregon but there is still some angling opportunity for steelhead, salmon, and shad in the short stretch of water below McNary Dam.

The Snake River canyon, with 75 miles of free-flowing river from the Washington line to Hells Canyon Dam, is a tremendous challenge to the angler or hunter. Best access is by boat from Lewiston and several outfitters regularly provide accommodations. The private boatman should have powerful heavy-duty boats and preferably someone familiar with the river on his first run. At some water stages only big jet boats can navigate above the mouth of the Salmon River. The Snake River can also be reached by a four-mile hike down the Imnaha to its mouth or by driving to Dug Bar.

A good horse trail follows the river from Dug Bar to Saddle Creek, then out over Freezeout Saddle to the upper Imnaha River. A minimum of four travel days should be allowed for this trip.

The white sturgeon is the most sought after trophy in this water and all fish under 3 feet or over 6 feet in length must be released. Several fish over 8 feet long have been landed and released during the past year. The angling for smallmouth bass and channel catfish is outstanding in this river. Many trout and steelhead are also taken.

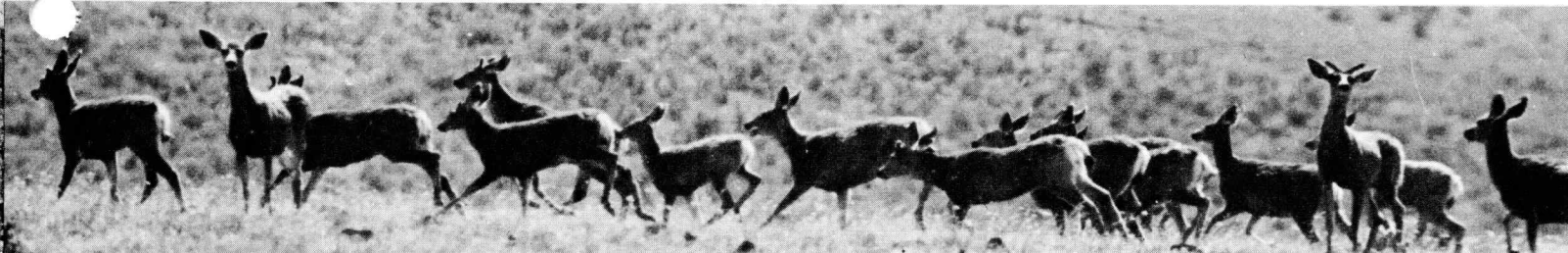
Salmon and steelhead no longer run above Hells Canyon Dam but good angling is available in the spring and early summer for bass, catfish and crappie in Hells Canyon, Oxbow and Brownlee backwaters, especially at the mouths of inflowing streams. Cold Springs Reservoir and McKay Reservoir in Umatilla County have recently been treated and restocked with warm-water fish and should be in good production soon.

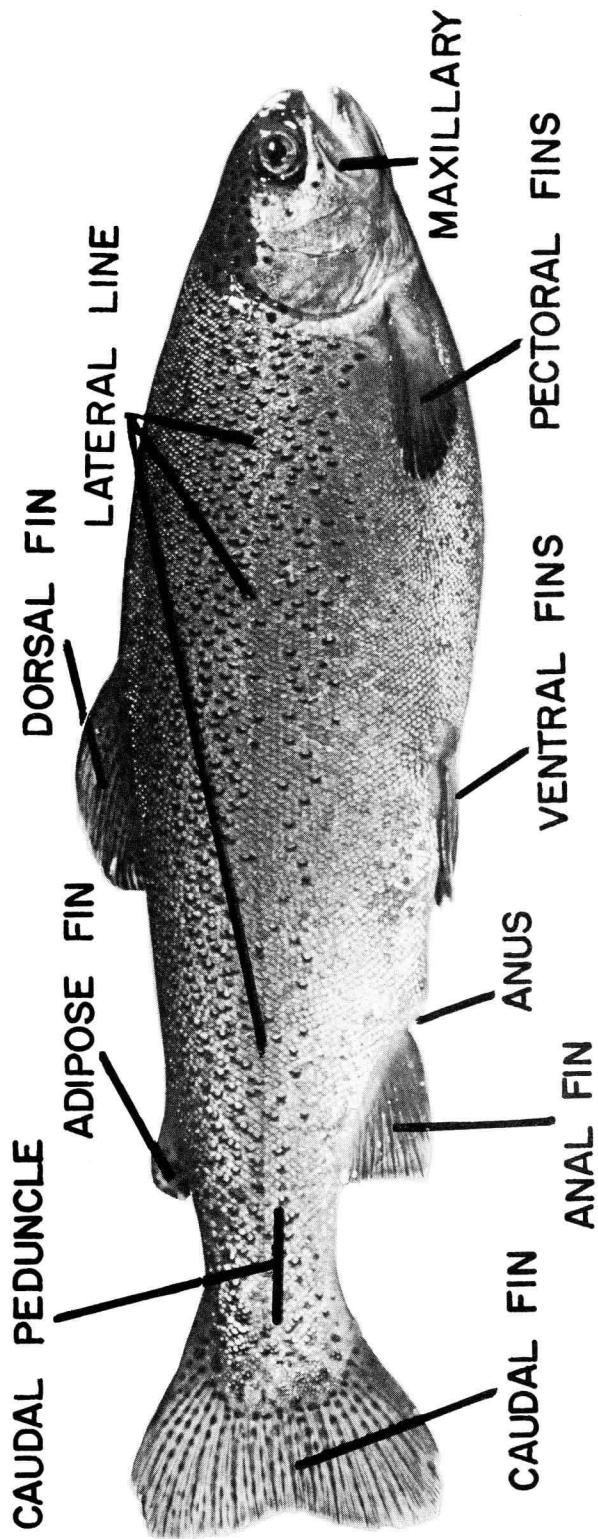
Legal size rainbow trout are stocked in most of the major streams and many small ponds in the region. The Minam and Wenaha Rivers in Walla Walla County provide excellent angling for wild rainbow and Dolly Varden trout. These are the only important trout streams in northeast Oregon that still have extensive portions of their watersheds undisturbed by logging or road construction.

The Oregon Game Commission in cooperation with the Forest Service has constructed three lakes in the Northeast Region for the primary purpose of trout angling. Bull Prairie, located southeast of Heppner, is 27 acres in size and provides year around angling for rainbow and brook trout. Canyon Meadows Lake is on Canyon Creek, south of John Day.

(Continued Page 6)

Mule deer on spring range in northeastern Oregon.



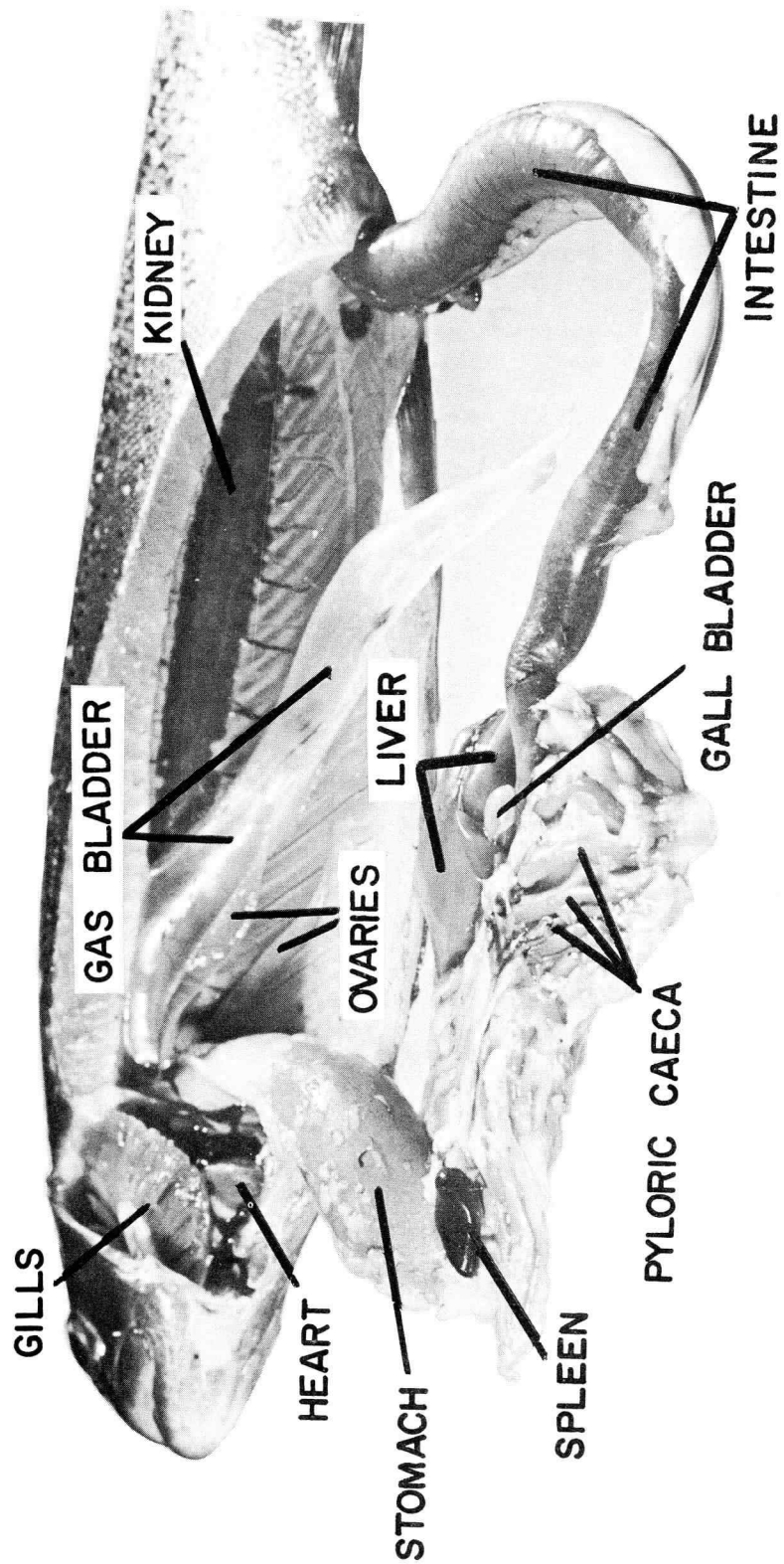


WHAT'S IT CALLED?

Often fish are marked by the removal of various fins or the clipping of the maxillary. Anglers cleaning fish, especially young anglers, often wonder just what all the various parts are that are being removed.

Here, for your reference, are the inside and outside of a fish with parts labeled. Most parts need little explanation. The pyloric caeca are blind sacs with a function in the digestive system. The air bladder basically has to do with the buoyancy of the fish. Many of the parts are used in fish identification, a subject we will cover in a future issue.

If you catch a fish with one or more of the fins removed, please take time to report it to the Game Commission. Such information is important in evaluating the returns of hatchery-raised fish.



N.E. Region

(Continued from Page 3)

Jubilee Lake, constructed in 1967, is 14 miles north of Tollgate. This 97-acre lake is producing good angling for rainbow trout. Other lakes in the region that produce good trout angling are: Wallowa Lake, near Joseph; Unity and Higgins Reservoirs, near Unity; Phillips Lake, near Baker; and Morgan Lake, near La Grande.

Over 60 lakes in the Eagle Cap Wilderness Area and 15 lakes in the Elkhorn Mountains, at elevations of 7,000 to 8,500 feet, are available to the hardy angler who is willing to walk or ride a horse to them. The limit is 30 fish per day on eastern brook trout or 10 fish per day on golden, rainbow, cutthroat, or lake trout.

Hunting season in northeast Oregon means elk to most people and this is prime country for this big trophy animal. In 1968, 42,850 elk hunters spent 272,570 hunting days to harvest 5,855 elk in this

region. Hunter success was 14 per cent. The most popular unit was the Wenaha where 5,640 hunters killed 803 elk. This is almost 2 elk per square mile for the unit. Hunting pressure was 13.72 hunters per square mile—highest in the state. The roadless Wenaha back country makes up the north end of this unit.

The Starkey Unit, with 5,320 hunters killing 702 elk, is a close second in hunter popularity, followed by Sled Springs, with 3,730 hunters taking 506 elk. Highest hunter success was in the Minam Unit where 1,520 hunters took 334 elk for a 22 per cent rate.

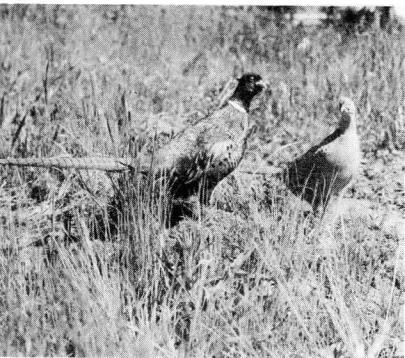
There has been a slight decline in the number of Rocky Mountain elk hunters and in the total kill during the past five years which appears to be the result of the increasing loss of elk habitat by road construction, logging, and other human activities. The U. S. Forest Service is making plans to close unnecessary roads and protect key blocks of escape cover which should be helpful in maintaining

the population of this valuable game animal.

During the 1968 general deer season, 70,600 hunters spent 325,900 hunter days to kill 42,850 mule deer, with a success rate of 61 per cent. An additional 1,640 deer were harvested during archery hunts and a special early hunt in the Wallowa Mountains.

The most popular area was the Heppner Unit where 9,620 hunters took 4,530 deer; however, the Northside Unit was the most productive with a harvest of 4,570 animals, for an average of 4.24 deer per square mile. Mule deer are well distributed throughout the region. White-tail deer are scattered throughout Wallowa County and along the west side of the Blue Mountains from the Washington line south to Pilot Rock. The largest concentrations are in the vicinity of Troy and Milton-Freewater.

(Continued Page 8)



A pair of ringneck pheasants. One of the Northeast Region's main game species.

A Snake River catch. This great river bounding the Northeast Region offers a wide variety of angling including channel catfish shown here.



The Columbia Basin. Vast wheatlands with nearby canyons provide excellent upland bird habitat. Commission habitat improvement programs have assisted the birds with suitable nesting and resting plants.



Scanning Craig Mountain for mountain goats.



HUNTING CASUALTIES 1968







The 88 hunting casualties which occurred during 1968 was not the highest number ever recorded in Oregon nor was it close to the least.

Carelessness accounted for slightly more than two-thirds of the total, which is a sad commentary for those hunters who **cannot** or **will not** respect the equipment they use.

Off-season hunters were most careless, as indicated by the 42 casualties that

occurred while these persons were hunting rabbits, squirrels and other nonprotected species of wildlife. Deer hunters accounted for 34 casualties. Proportionately, this is a small number when compared to the total of more than 303,000 deer hunters in Oregon last year.

Juvenile hunters caused more than half the total 1968 casualties despite the statewide safety training program. Fifteen of the young shooters had not taken a hunter safety course as required by law.

	 Self-Inflicted	 Mistaken for Game	 Carelessness & Accidental Gun Discharge	 Loaded Gun in Boat or Car	 In Line of Fire and Ricochet	 Unknown & Other
'62-'67 Avg.	34	7	52	18	9	7
1968	43	9	57	25	6	16

REASON FOR ACCIDENT

LAWS AFFECTING YOUNG HUNTERS

by Cal Giesler

Hunter Safety Supervisor

Several often confused and misquoted laws affect young Oregon hunters.

The Federal Firearms Act of 1968 **does not** prohibit a youngster from hunting. It does forbid a dealer from selling any firearm, ammunition or component parts of ammunition to any person less than 18 years of age. The Act also prohibits a dealer from selling any handgun (revolver or pistol) except CO2 or BB to persons less than 21 years of age. Proof of age must be presented to the dealer if he requests it.

An adult may purchase both the firearm and ammunition for a young person to use for hunting and target practicing. Both the gun and ammunition may be given as a gift.

The dealer is required to keep a registry of all firearms, ammunition and component parts of ammunition that he sells. The register will include the purchaser's name, address and year of birth. Then either the kind and amount of ammunition or component parts of ammunition must be recorded, or the make, model and serial number of the firearm.

No purchases can be made through mail orders except by a federally licensed dealer.

There are many other provisions of the Federal Firearms Act, but only those most directly related to youngsters have been included here.

Oregon law ORS 498.820, which was

originally enacted in 1916, states that no person under 14 years of age shall be permitted to hunt with a **gun** or bow and arrow on lands other than his own premises or those of a parent or legal guardian **unless accompanied by an adult**. This has been interpreted as meaning hunting for any kind of wildlife with any kind of gun, including BB, pellet and handguns.

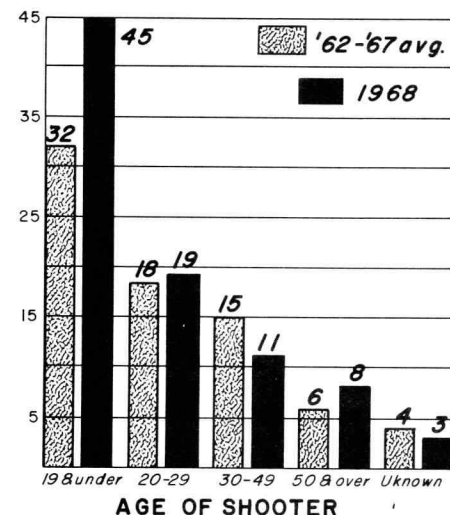
This law was amended in 1961 and makes it unlawful for any child less than 12 years of age to purchase or be given a hunting license or big game tag. The amendment does not apply to hunting upland game birds and migratory birds in season or for hunting unprotected species.

This law makes it necessary for an adult to accompany a child less than 14 years old who is hunting on any lands that are not owned by himself, his parent or legal guardian.

Oregon's hunter safety training law (ORS 498.810) was passed in 1961 and became mandatory January 1, 1962. It states that no person 17 years of age or younger shall **hunt**, except on his own premises or that of a parent or legal guardian, **with firearms** without first obtaining from the Oregon State Game Commission and having on his person a certificate of competency in the safe handling of firearms.

Any youngster wishing to obtain a certificate should enroll in a hunter safety course as soon as one is available in his local community. Names of local instructors may be obtained from game of-

The 1969 hunting seasons are just beginning. If the accidental death and injury rate is going to be reduced, every hunter must constantly practice the basic rules of safety and demand that all members of his hunting party do the same.



ficers of the Oregon State Police, at sheriffs' offices or Game Commission offices, or by writing to Hunter Safety, P.O. Box 3503, Portland, Oregon 97208.

Summary

A hunter safety certificate is required of youngsters less than 18 years of age hunting any form of wildlife with firearms off their own or their parent's or legal guardian's property. A nonresident who has a certificate from his own state or province can use it.

An adult 21 years of age or older must accompany a hunter who is less than 14 years of age. This applies when the child is hunting any wildlife species with any kind of gun or bow and arrow off his own or his parent's or legal guardian's property.

The \$5 hunting license and appropriate tag is required of all residents, 12 years of age and older, for hunting big game animals and wild turkeys. The fee for nonresidents 12 years of age and older is \$35 plus appropriate tag.

A 16-year-old needs a migratory bird stamp, commonly called "duck stamp," to hunt ducks and geese.

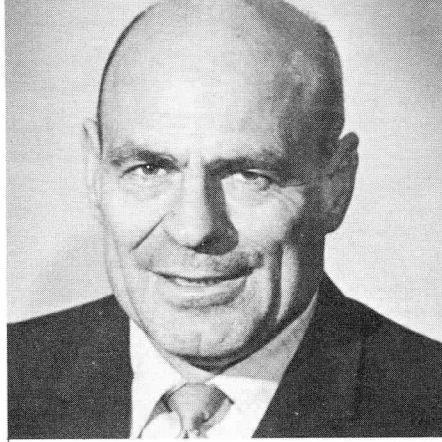
No license is required for resident juveniles up to 14 years of age to hunt upland game birds, migratory birds, unprotected species, and bears. A \$2 juvenile hunting license is required for residents 14 through 17 years of age if hunting off their own or their parent's or legal guardian's property. A juvenile hunting license is not valid for big game hunting. Nonresident juveniles must have the \$35 hunting license regardless of age.



AMACHER REAPPOINTED TO COMMISSION

John Amacher of Winchester started his third term on the Oregon Game Commission as a result of his reappointment in July by Governor McCall. He was first appointed to the Commission in 1959 by Governor Hatfield.

He was Commission chairman in 1961 and named Conservationist of the Year by the Oregon Wildlife Federation in 1967. His term with the Commission will run until 1974.



CAMPBELL ELECTED V.P.

Chuck Campbell, Fishery Division chief, was recently elected second vice president of the American Fisheries Society in national balloting. The Society is the oldest professional fishery organization in the United States and has members throughout the world.

Currently president of the Western Division of the AFS, Campbell will rise to president of the national group if normal succession pattern is followed.

N.E. Region

(Continued from Page 6)

Antelope are doing well in Bear Valley in southern Grant County. Additional animals were trapped in the spring of 1969 and transplanted to Virtue Flat in Baker County and the Umatilla Ordnance Depot in Umatilla County.

Rocky Mountain goats were introduced in the Wallowa Mountains in 1950 and are doing well. Twenty goats have been harvested in four open seasons.

Black bear are well distributed throughout the forested areas. Cougar appear to be doing well with the protection they are now getting.

Fisher have been introduced in the Minam River drainage and appear to have occupied all of the suitable wilderness-type range. Willow ptarmigan were planted in the Eagle Cap Wilderness Area in 1967 and 1968.

Merriam's wild turkeys are established throughout the timbered sections of the region. The best populations are in the drainage of the lower Grande Ronde River and the North Fork of the John Day River.

Pheasants may be found in all of the cultivated valleys. The best hunting is in the wheat fields of Umatilla County. Valley quail are well distributed in the brushy stream bottoms. Chukar and Hungarian partridge are abundant along the rocky breaks of the John Day and Snake River canyons. Blue and ruffed grouse are distributed throughout the Wallowa and Blue Mountain ranges.

A wintering population of Canada geese provides fair hunting around Cold Springs and McKay Reservoirs in Umatilla County. Mallard ducks provide most of the waterfowl shooting in Umatilla, Union and Baker Counties. These birds leave the area during freezeup periods.

The Northeast Region operates three major game management areas. Bridge Creek Game Management Area near Ukiah winters over 800 elk and many mule deer. The Wenaha Game Management Area near Troy contains over 10,000 acres and is the key winter range for Wenaha Unit elk, mule deer and white-tail deer. Ladd Marsh Game Management Area near La Grande provides 2,200 acres for upland game and waterfowl hunting. All are open to hunting during the open season.

1969 UPLAND GAME AND WATERFOWL SEASONS

UPLAND GAME:	Open Season (all dates inclusive)	Open Area	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
Silver Gray Squirrel	Sept. 1-Nov. 2	Hood River & Wasco Counties *Southwest Area	5	5
	Entire Year	*Northwest Area	No limit	No Limit
Blue & Ruffed Grouse	Sept. 6-Sept. 28	*Eastern Oregon	3	6
	Oct. 4-Oct. 26	*Western Oregon	3	6
Sage Grouse	Sept. 6-7	Crook, Deschutes, Lake, Harney, & that part of Malheur Co. S. of U.S. 20	2	2
Chukar & Hungarian Partridge	Oct. 4-Dec. 31	*Eastern Oregon	8	16
Cock Pheasants	**8:00 a.m. Oct. 18- Nov. 23	*Eastern Oregon except Klamath County	3	9
		*Western Oregon and Klamath County	2	4
Valley and Mountain Quail	8:00 a.m. Oct. 18- Nov. 23	*Western Oregon	5	10
	**8:00 a.m. Oct. 18- Dec. 31	*Eastern Oregon	10	20
Turkey		See "Controlled Season" in synopsis		
MIGRATORY BIRDS:				
Mourning Dove	Sept. 1-30	Entire State	10	20
Band-Tailed Pigeon	Sept. 1-30	Entire State	8	8
Duck	**8:00 a.m. Oct. 18- Jan. 11	Entire State except Columbia Basin Counties	5(b)	10(b)
	8:00 a.m. Oct. 18- Jan. 18	Columbia Basin Counties (a)	6	12
Coot	**8:00 a.m. Oct. 18- Jan. 11 (c)	Entire State	25	25
Merganser	**8:00 a.m. Oct. 18- Jan. 11	Entire State	5(d)	10(d)
Goose	**8:00 a.m. Oct. 18- Jan. 11	Entire State	3(e)	6
Black Brant	Nov. 22-Feb. 22	Entire State	4	8
Common Snipe	**8:00 a.m. Oct. 18- Dec. 6	Entire State	8	16

(a) Columbia Basin Counties are Baker, Gilliam, Malheur, Morrow, Sherman, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, and Wasco.

(b) The bag limit may include not more than 2 canvasbacks daily or in possession.

(c) The coot season extends through January 18 in Columbia Basin Counties. See (a).

(d) The bag limit may include not more than 1 hooded merganser daily or 2 in possession.

(e) Daily bag may be increased to 6 providing 3 or more are snow geese. One Ross' goose allowed in daily bag or in possession.

* Area Definitions — check the synopsis.

** Shooting time on opening day in Klamath, Lake, and Harney Counties is 6:50 a.m.

