May Meeting of the Game Commission

The Oregon State Game Commission met May 22-23 and in addition to the hearing on big game hunting regulations, considered the following matters:

Bids received. Accepted bid of $5,474 for construction of new pipeline at Rock Creek hatchery; and a bid of $4,560.50 for removal of log jam on Rock Creek above the hatchery. Rejected bids received for Lint Slough project, well for warm-water fish pond, and well on Camas Swale management area.

New Capital Outlay. Authorized call for bids for the Canyon Creek Meadows impoundment in Grant County; and for new pipeline and modification of dam at Wizard Falls hatchery. Also approved expenditure of $600 for impoundment on Floater Creek, to be known as Floater Pond, in Northwest Region.

Wallowa River Access. Authorized negotiation with Bureau of Land Management for classification as recreational area under joint management public domain along the Wallowa River between Minam and Rondowa.

Dodge Bridge Tract. Authorized conveyance to Clackamas County tract of land at Dodge Bridge, restricting the use to park purposes, reserving the right of the public to hunt and fish and including a reversionary clause.

Lands. Accepted offer of City of Lakeview to convey two small tracts of land not needed by the city; also accepted tract of land along North Powder River from the Highway Commission (former gravel site now surplus to its needs). Assured delegation from Union County that Commission did not intend to acquire Carter Lake in that county.

Agreements and Permits. Executed agreement with Highway Commission for use of highway right-of-way to install downstream migrant trap on John Day River. Approved issuance of permit of limited tenure to Bureau of Land Management to cross Game Commission lands in Wenasah Management Area for purpose of logging certain tracts owned by the Bureau.

Joint Meeting. On May 23 met with members of Water Resources Board and Fish Commission to discuss matters of common interest.

Application Deadlines For Big Game Tags and Permits

Applications for special big game tags and permits must be filed with the Portland office of the Game Commission by 5 p.m. Daylight Savings Time, on the following dates:

- Antelope tags—July 18
- Controlled deer tags—August 1
- Antlerless deer permits—August 8
- Elk permits—August 29

Only resident licensed hunters are eligible to apply. Persons who received antelope tags in 1961 or 1960 are not eligible to apply for a 1962 antelope tag. If tentative action to increase the waiting period is confirmed on June 8 by the Game Commission, 1962 antelope tag holders may not apply again for five years.

Persons who received an antlerless elk permit in 1961 are not eligible to apply for an antlerless elk permit until 1964.

Applicants for controlled season antelope or deer tags must be made upon a special form which is available at all license agencies. A fee of $5 must be submitted with the application.

Applications for deer and elk permits must be made upon the application form issued with each general season deer and elk tag.

Detailed information on seasons, areas, and regulations will be available at all license agencies by July 1.
During the past year the Coquille River system has undergone a major cleanup of old log jams and debris that had been accumulating for 30 years. This tremendous cleanup effort under the direction of the State Game Commission was made possible through the leadership of the Coquille Chamber of Commerce in obtaining the cooperation of public agencies, private timber companies, and individuals who have responded in a very gratifying way.

Old land and water abuses had caused some very large log jams and piles of debris to form. These jams resulted in impairment of valuable salmon and steelhead spawning runs, caused severe erosion and flooding damage to streamside property, and hindered fishing, boating, and other recreational uses of the Coquille River.

The Coquille River has long been important in the development and economy of the southern Oregon coast. Large timber resources were harvested and moved down to the mills in spectacular log drives. Splash dams were also employed to move logs down river. The long tide-water furnished valuable water transportation 35 miles inland to Myrtle Point from the ocean.

The Coquille River with its four main tributaries and many secondary tributaries has long been an important steelhead and salmon stream. The deep, slow meandering river above Myrtle Point serves as an excellent rearing area for small salmon, steelhead, and cutthroat trout. Chinook salmon spawn in the larger streams and silver salmon, steelhead, and cutthroat trout often seek out the tributaries in which to spawn. The upper reaches of the main streams and the tributary streams usually contain nearly all of the spawning gravels available to anadromous fish. The lower portions of the streams serve as rearing area for the young fish.

Early logging practices were often quite harmful to our salmon and steelhead runs. Splash dams many times seriously blocked spawning runs of salmon and steelhead. Logging debris, logs, bark, limbs, and chunks, not cleared from streams or later carried there by high water from the steep hillsides, often jam up and form barriers that can become complete or partial blocks to steelhead and salmon runs.

Logging also resulted in heavy erosion of stream banks during high water, causing heavy silt and mud deposits to form over gravel beds by salmon and steelhead and making the gravel beds useless for production of fish or killing the salmon and steelhead eggs already there. Log jams often caused valuable spawning gravel beds to be covered with heavy silt loads for some distance upstream because the log jam formed a barrier that lowered the stream gradient and acted as a trap for the heavy silt loads carried by the stream during high water.

Log jams can and do develop in streams located in forests that have not yet been logged. Old windfalls, natural pruning, and disease-killed trees contribute the material that collects and forms the log jams.

Modern-day timber operators are much more aware of the dangers of poor logging practices. There are laws against leaving logging debris in streams. Federal and state timber management agencies and some private firms have imposed tighter restrictions on logging activity near streams.

The State Game Commission has long recognized the value of stream improvement to enhance valuable salmon and steelhead runs. It has pursued a vigorous program of stream clearance and rehabilitation through stream surveys, seeking the cooperation of the logger in cleaning the stream, log jam removal, blasting obstructions, laddering falls, and screening irrigation ditches in the important watersheds. Much remains to be done in stream rehabilitation, particularly on coastal streams. Limited funds have heretofore confined operations to the removal of only part of the proven barriers.

In the spring of 1960 some money was allocated by the legislature from game funds with the request that efforts be made to expend it cooperatively on approximately a 60-40 basis. The Game Commission would pay 60 per cent of the cost of removal of log jams and direct the work while some other agency, group, or individual would pay the other 40 per cent.

(Continued on Page 6)
Pointer log jam on Middle Creek, tributary of the North Fork of Coquille River. Huge jam was a quarter of a mile long.

PICTURES TAKEN MOSTLY BY WOODROW HOLDERMAN, STREAM IMPROVEMENT FOREMAN

Middle Creek as it looks now after removal of the Pointer jam.

Yarder is used to take the biggest logs out of the streams.

Typical pile of logs removed by the yarder.
Crane was used also at Pointer jam. It was particularly useful in handling the smaller debris in the stream.

A wind machine from the Port of Coquille is used to start the fire for burning the debris. (Coquille Studio Photo)

Series of fires like these marked the end of the Pointer log jam.
Coquille Cleanup . . .
(Continued from Page 3)

cent. The Fish and Game Committee of
the Coquille Chamber of Commerce was
instrumental in getting the whole thing
started, and in arranging the 40 per cent
matching money for many of the big
jobs.

The Coos County Court started the ball
rolling by putting up the 40 per cent
on the first project, a huge jam nearly
one-fourth mile long on the Pointer Place
on Middle Creek, a tributary of the North
Fork of the Coquille River. The jam was
removed and burned. The program has
been rolling along in high gear ever
since and nearly all of the known large
jams have been removed from the Co-
quille River and burned.

Approximately 23 individual large log
jams have been taken out. In addition,
four miles of solid jams were cleaned
from Hudson Creek, an important spawn-
ing tributary of the North Fork of the
Coquille River. Continuous jams for a
distance of one mile were removed from
Woodward Creek, an important tributary
of the North Fork of the Coquille River.
All of this has been accomplished at a
total cost of a little less than $50,000,
a much more conservative figure than
was thought possible at the beginning of
the project.

Principal contributors of cooperative
funds during the removal program includ-
ed the U. S. Bureau of Land Management,
Coos County, the Menasha Woodenware
Corporation, the Georgia-Pacific Corpora-
tion, the County Agricultural Conserva-
tion Program, the Coquille Port Commis-
sion, and the Coos Forest Patrol. Many
other landowners and individuals assisted
with easements to their property and the
burning of the debris removed from the
river.

A real find during the removal program
was the highly efficient one-yard shovel
having a 70-foot boom and operating a
double grapple. This piece of machinery
owned and operated by the Storm and
Phillips Logging Company was able to
quickly and completely remove large jams
which contained a lot of small material
as well as large pieces with minimum
damage to stream bank property.

Immediate benefits of the cleanup pro-
gram were apparent during spawning
 ground counts of salmon in the North
Fork of the Coquille River system last fall
and winter. Spawning silver salmon were
noted in upper Moon Creek for the first
time in many years. The same was true
of upper Hudson Creek. Chinook salmon
seemed to respond readily to the opening
of Middle Creek and good numbers of
these fine salmon were observed spawning
in that stream and in the North Fork of
the Coquille River.

Recent high water during the winter of
1961-62 demonstrated that constant main-
tenance is going to be necessary to keep
the Coquille River free of log jams. Con-
siderably more material was collected by
the high water from the banks of the
stream and some small new jams were
formed. These have also been removed.

The interest shown by the people of
Coquille in their river has been closely
watched by other communities along the
Oregon coast and has created much in-
terest in similar programs up and down
the coast. Some are already under way.
It all adds up to more salmon and steel-
head for the citizens of Oregon and an
increased awareness on the part of land
users of their responsibility to maintain
clean streams for the economic gain and
better enjoyment of all.
Salmon or Steelhead?

What is an easy way to distinguish between a salmon and a steelhead trout? This is a question often received from those who do not know their fish too well.

There are two simple features that separate them (of course a biologist has several others he checks).

One is the coloration inside the mouth. If it is white, then the fish is a trout. The mouth of a salmon is black or has a dusky coloration. A chinook's mouth is all black or dusky, while the silver has a black mouth with a white gum or tooth line.

The other feature is the number of anal fin (single fin back of vent) rays. If the rays number from 13 to 19, it's a salmon; a trout has only 9 to 12 of these rays.

Also helpful in a general way are the tail features. The caudal (tail) fin of a trout tends to be square, while that of the salmon usually has an inward curve. The caudal peduncle (portion of body just in front of tail) of a salmon usually is more slender than that of a trout, making a salmon much easier to grasp by the tail.

Malheur Reservoir Trout Bag Limit Increased

Anglers may take more trout during the rest of the 1962 angling season from Malheur Reservoir. A recent order increased the limit to 30 trout a day and 60 in possession.

The Orchard Valley Irrigation District is planning to draw down the reservoir to a low level this season. The Game Commission fishery division will take advantage of this situation to get rid of undesirable species of fish by chemical treatment of the reservoir this fall. In the meantime, it is desired to let the anglers catch as many of the trout as possible, so the bigger limit.

Almost 3,500 acres of land and water area on the upper end of Prineville Reservoir will be under the limited jurisdiction of the Game Commission as a fish and game management area. This is the result of an agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation and Bureau of Land Management.

A new public fishing pond will be available in the Vernon area, Columbia County, following a water impoundment and dam construction undertaken jointly by the Game Commission and Crown Zellerbach. The pond will serve the dual purpose of supplying water for fire protection and for fishing. Control of the site was obtained through lease from the Bureau of Land Management.

A stream clearance project is under way now on tributaries to the Lower Umpqua and Smith Rivers. This is a cooperative project of the Game Commission with International Paper Company and the Bureau of Land Management.

In cooperation with the Forest Service, stream clearance projects also were undertaken on Maple Creek, tributary to Siltcoos Lake, and Deadwood Creek, tributary to Siuslaw River.

The 1961 salmon season at Winchester Bay produced some of the best fishing for several years. Anglers report catching 27,672 fish of which 3,903 were chinook and 23,769 were silver salmon. An estimated 34,889 angling trips were made.

The total of 7,061 winter steelhead for the 1961-62 season through Winchester counting station on the North Umpqua exceeded the season counts made the past four years.

Drews Reservoir near Lakeview has been restocked with rainbow trout following chemical treatment last fall.
JUNIOR HUNTERS COMPLETE SAFETY COURSE

Graduation day in Prineville recently for over 100 junior hunters who completed and passed the hunting safety course. Youths 17 years and under now may not hunt with firearms, except on their own premises, without a certificate of competency in the safe handling of firearms from the Oregon State Game Commission. Prineville Elks Lodge No. 1814, under the leadership of John Fattu, organized 14 classes in hunting safety for junior high school boys and girls. He was assisted by ten lodge members, who studied and took the instructor’s test in order to teach the classes. A total of more than 135 hours of instruction was given by these men. Similar classes are being conducted throughout the state by public spirited citizens interested in having their children enjoy the sport of hunting in a safe and sportsmanlike fashion. By the end of April, 34,181 juveniles had completed the safety course.

Scuba Divers Busy

Scuba gear continues to be useful equipment for fishery crews in the field. In the Bend district screens and seals were checked on the North Unit irrigation screen before water was released in the ditch. An inspection also was made of the COI fish diversion grills at the head of the ditch, and as a result it was recommended to the Irrigation District that new grills be placed in the installations.

A skin diver solved the problem of why only large salmon and steelhead were going over the counting board at Winchester Dam on the North Umpqua during a high water period in March. The fish counter was amazed to see nothing but fish of exceptional size passing upstream and could not figure out what had happened to the smaller fish usually present in the run.

Underwater survey by the skin diver disclosed that a plank on the outside wall had been pushed in by the water pressure, preventing the grates under the counting board from going completely down. The small fish quickly discovered the resulting hole of about 6 inches high and 12 inches long and were using it. A quick repair forced all fish to go over the counting board.

Fishing for channel catfish has been very good in the Snake River and Brownlee Reservoir this spring.

Conservation Conventions In Pacific Northwest

Two annual meetings of particular interest are scheduled for the Northwest in the near future.

First to take place is the national convention of the Izaak Walton League of America. It will be held June 20-23 at the Multnomah Hotel in Portland.

The Western Association of State Game and Fish Commissioners will meet this year July 15-18 in Seattle. Headquarters will be at the Benjamin Franklin Hotel.

Metolius River trout were provided some new hiding places as a result of two habitat improvement projects...

Through cooperation of the U.S. Forest Service, snags were fallen and anchored in strategic locations to provide cover for fish. A similar project also was negotiated with some private landowners.

Oregon State Game Commission Bulletin

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