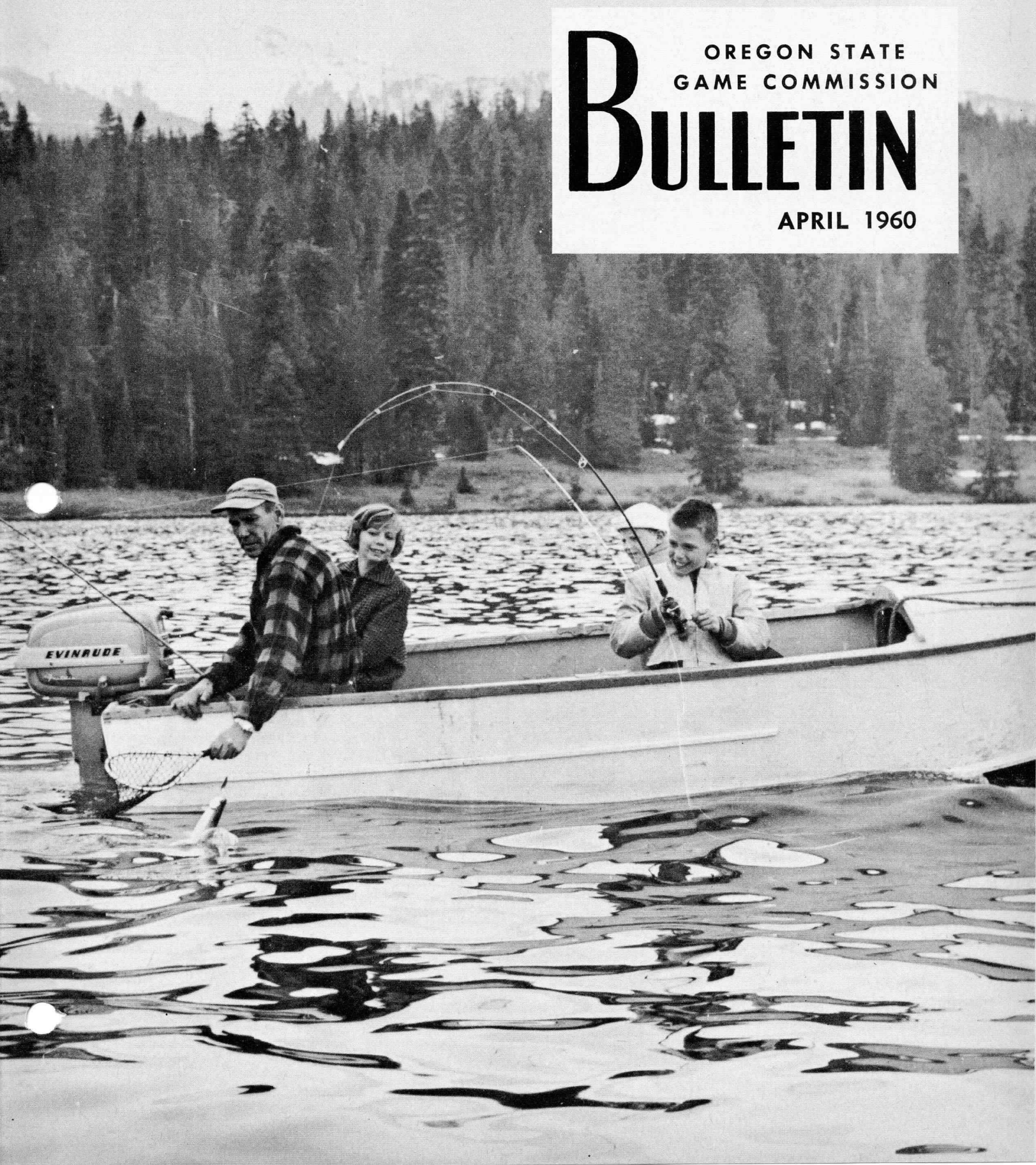


OREGON STATE
GAME COMMISSION

BULLETIN

APRIL 1960



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Please report promptly any change of address. Send in both the old and new address with notice of change.

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

the cover

What better way to celebrate the start of another fishing season than to take your whole family along. Here A. R. Weisner of Roseburg watches his son, Ronnie, land a rainbow trout from Diamond Lake.

(Photo by Milt Guymon)

BULLETIN HUNTER SAFETY TRAINING PROGRAM

Instructors Approved

Month of February	152
Total to Date	831

Students Trained

Month of February	256
Total to date	2205

Firearms accidents reported 1960

Fatal.....	1
Nonfatal.....	0

March Meeting of Game Commission

The Oregon State Game Commission at its meeting on March 18 in Portland considered the following matters:

BIDS. Accepted the bid of Wayne Korish for \$8,569.26 for construction of a building for a six-stall garage and storage at the Central Region headquarters.

CAPITAL OUTLAY. Approved purchase of two Morton fish graders, tandem disk harrow for Wilson Management Area and replacement of two tractors for the Sauvies Island Management Area and the Hermiston Game Farm.

SHOOTING PRESERVE APPLICATION. Approved application of E. B. Henningson of Jefferson to operate a private shooting preserve.

OPTIONS. Exercised options for two additional tracts of land for the Summer Lake Management Area, totalling 160 acres.

PUBLIC FISHING LAKES. Established a priority list of 14 suggested sites for possible development of public fish-

ing lakes and appropriated up to \$15,000 to cover preliminary engineering investigations as to feasibility of sites. Eventual development of any one site would depend upon results of staff investigations and availability of funds.

OIL LEASE. Postponed until the April meeting decision on Humble Oil Company application for an underground directional drilling lease at the Summer Lake Management Area (previously had rejected application for a surface drilling lease).

ILLINOIS FALLS FISHWAY. Authorized call for bids for construction of fishway at Illinois Falls, contingent upon approval as a Dingell-Johnson project.

MEDCO POND. Approved proposed agreement allowing the Commission use of a 76-acre unused log pond as an anadromous fish rearing impoundment on a tributary of the Rogue River.

YEARLING TROUT. Approved pro-

(Continued on Page 7)



and tagged. Each deer will carry three ear tags—white plastic, colored plastic and aluminum—plus a colored metal bell suspended from a plastic neck rope.

* * *

If you don't have your copy of the angling regulations for 1960, your nearest license agent can supply you with one.

* * *

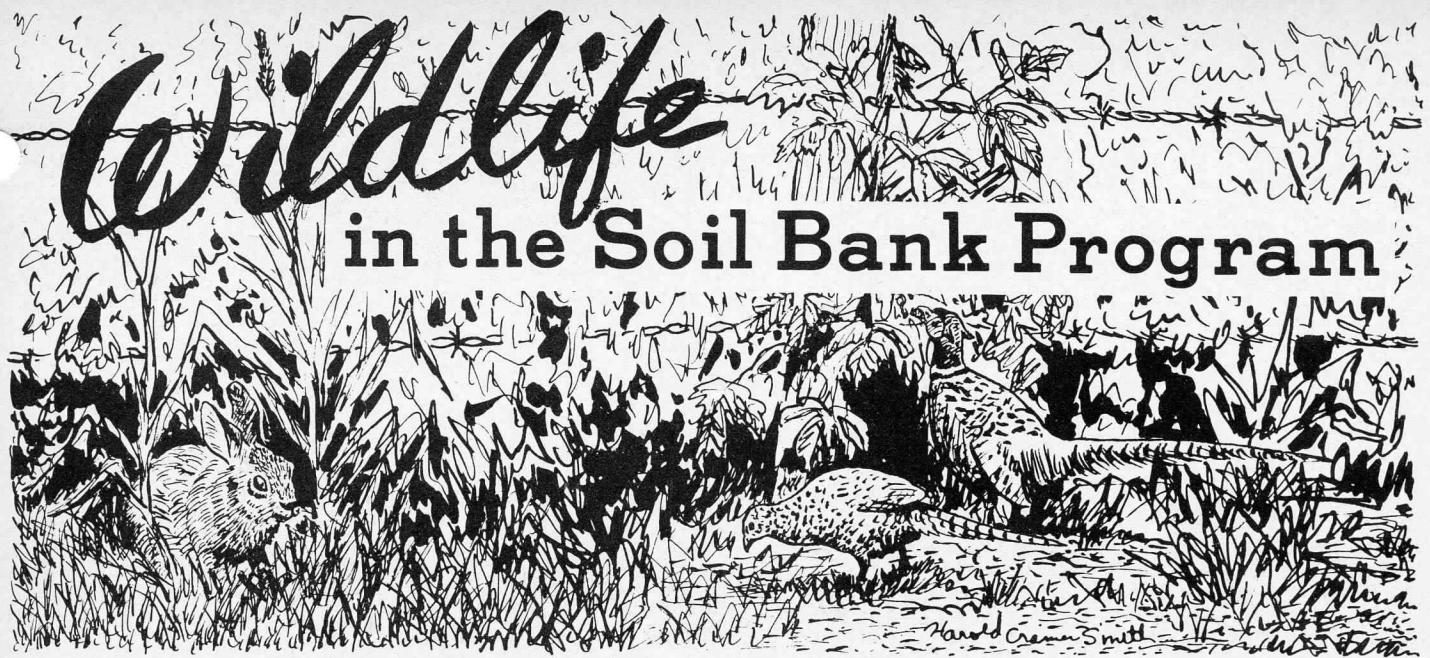
That marked fish you catch may have quite a history of travel behind it. Take the steelhead released from the Alsea Hatchery in April 1958, which in five months travelled 1,500 miles north as far as the open sea off Kodiak Island in the Gulf of Alaska. A University of Washington research crew captured it in September 1958 about 75 miles southwest of the island and metal-tagged it. The fish completed its round trip in two years. Early in February of this year it was spotted at the Alsea racks, still in good condition after a journey of at least 3,000 miles.

* * *

Approximately 3,700 ducks have been banded since the end of the season at Sauvies Island, Umatilla Meadows, Summer Lake and near Ontario. Hunters are reminded next fall to look for bands and report them to the Game Commission (this applies also to any on hand from this past season).

* * *

Trapping licenses issued for the 1959-1960 season totalled 1,029 and trapper purchased in addition 13,623 beaver tags. Tabulation of trapping results for the season has not been completed.



By Frank Stanton, Chief, Habitat Improvement

THE CONSERVATION RESERVE is potentially the greatest boon to farm game habitat since the great depression. This surviving portion of the Soil Bank program assists farmers in adjusting crop production to reduce certain surpluses. It reverses the trend of increasing utilization of farm acres for crop production. Under the program, excess acres are not only retired, but conservation practices must be applied and maintained on them for the duration of the contract. The farmer is reimbursed a substantial part of the cost of establishing the improvements and also receives annual payments during the contract period. Eligible practices include seeding perennial grasses and legumes, tree and shrub planting, and water developments. In addition, this is the first national agricultural program offering payments specifically for wildlife habitat improvement. These practices are known as: G-1, Establishment and management of cover and food plantings beneficial to wildlife; G-2, Water and marsh management to benefit fish and wildlife; G-3, Constructing dams or ponds for fish.

The State Game Commission has announced a policy of cooperation and participation in the Soil Bank program. It accepted an invitation to consult with the state agricultural group responsible for selecting practices for Oregon and determining the local requirements and specifications of each wildlife practice.

THE G-1 PRACTICE IS DESIGNED to secure a ground cover of vegetation adapted especially for protection of small game. The specifications for Oregon require that the farmer include tree or

shrub planting in any acreage of permanent cover, unless the technician determines that adequate woody growth is available. The balance of the area, if any, may be seeded to a grass-legume mixture. Or, if the farm operator prefers, he may plant the designated acres to an annual wildlife food crop each year of the contract. A combination of the permanent and annual crops is permissible. The detailed specifications, including plant varieties, were agreed to and largely recommended by the Game Commission staff.

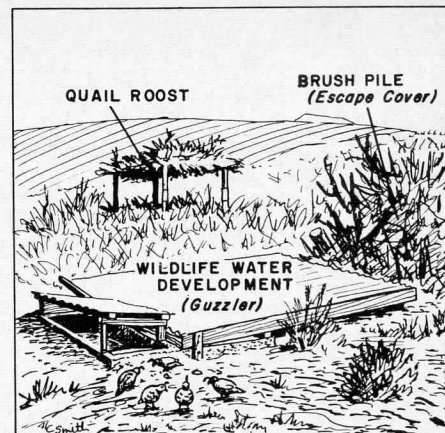
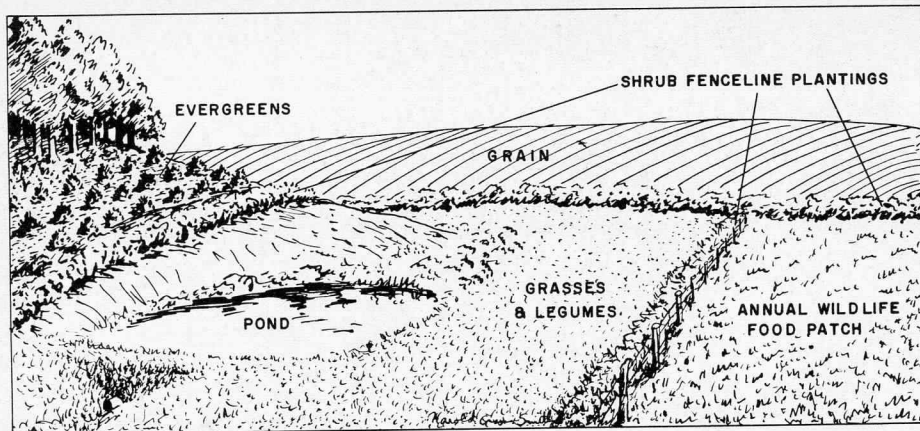
Since 1948, the Game Commission, through its habitat improvement program, has been testing and demonstrating similar practices to improve upland game cover, food and water. More than 1,000 farm operators have cooperated with the Commission by donating land on which 2,250,000 trees and shrubs have been planted, and almost 600 acres, in small plots, have been seeded to perennial grasses and legumes. On more than 500 sites where water was lacking, cistern-type water developments have been installed. During recent years cooperating farmers have been asked to enter into a ten-year agreement with the Commission, permitting and protecting these developments, and allowing hunting on the farm. More than 300 farms, totalling 317,000 acres, are open to public hunting by permission under these agreements.

THE G-2 SOIL BANK PRACTICE pertains to water impoundments for the development of shallow water areas to improve habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife. Such an area must consist of one or both of two types. It may be a site where aquatic or semi-aquatic vegetation

may become established, such as a former marsh or wetland that had been drained, or which could be created artificially by shallow flooding. The other type of development is on normally dry agricultural land that may be seeded to waterfowl food plants and flooded during a portion of the year. Any remaining acreage designated for either type may be seeded to wildlife food crops.

It is our view that here in Oregon providing food for waterfowl regularly over a period of years will entice increasing numbers of birds in their fall migration to remain in the state through the winter. The great increase of winter waterfowl use on the new irrigation districts in eastern Washington is an example supporting this viewpoint. Locally, in the Willamette Valley and along the lower Columbia River, private developments have already succeeded in building up fall concentrations of birds where formerly there were none. There is an excellent potential on well situated farm-lands for this type of development. Small acreages, for example in the upper Willamette Valley, could provide attractive feeding and resting sites for wintering flocks of waterfowl. Each year a number of farm operators in the Linn-Lane ryegrass seed producing region cooperate with the Commission's habitat improvement program by growing the highly attractive Sudan grass on selected acreages. It is not uncommon, after planting a 20 to 30 acre field for a few years, to observe several thousand ducks utilizing the mature crop. As part of the agreement, landowners permit hunting on these acres. The department would like

(Continued on Page 4)



Wild Life in the Soil Bank Program

(Continued from Page 3)

to double the 200 to 300 acre total annually planted under these cooperative agreements. The larger developments on public property also support the concept "more food—more birds." Estimated waterfowl populations at Camas Swale Game Management area jumped from practically nothing to 38,000 birds after two years of food planting. Even grain plantings on the bare sands of the coast are attracting, after only three seasons, flocks of 1,000 ducks and as many geese. Other examples could be cited.

THE CONSTRUCTION OF FISH PONDS is a popular practice on Oregon farms. Water storage for livestock, irrigation, or erosion control on private farm lands has been a recognized conservation measure authorized for government cost-sharing for a number of years. Many of these reservoirs support fish. The Conservation Reserve is now providing additional incentive for fish pond developments.

It should be obvious that all of the Conservation Reserve practices provide undisturbed vegetative cover, food, or water attractive to many useful forms of wild life. This currently amounts to 241,000 acres in Oregon. Linn County, with the largest area of cropland in the Willamette Valley, has 251 participating farmers with 19,000 acres in the Soil Bank. Of this total, approximately 2,000 acres are in wildlife food and cover plantings, and 107 acres in water and marsh management. Even this comparatively good record falls short of the goal.

Some eastern Oregon farms are participating in this agricultural conservation program but apparently much more could be done. On similar farms in eastern Washington, for example, over 40,000 acres have been contracted to the Soil Bank for wildlife habitat.

THE SOIL BANK PROGRAM pre-
(Continued on Page 5)



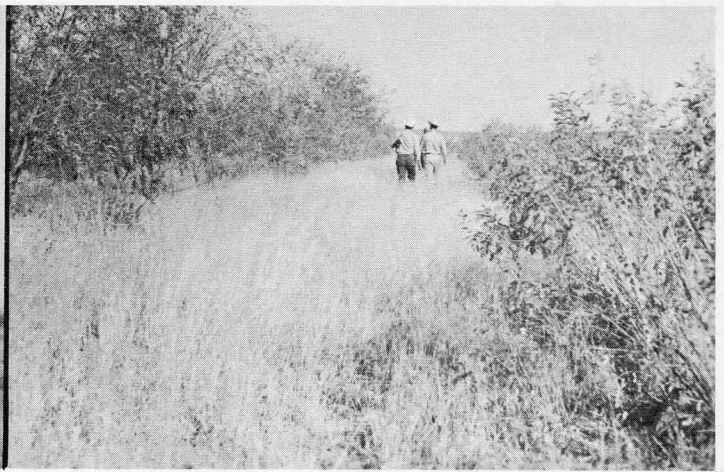
Food and water development to attract waterfowl. This is a wildlife practice on Conservation Reserve acres.



Non-Soil Bank acres in same vicinity as wildlife planting in picture above.



A small food and water development for waterfowl in the Willamette Valley.



A combination tree, shrub and grass planting for upland birds on an eastern Oregon wheat ranch.

Wild Life in the Soil Bank Program

(Continued from Page 4)

sents an excellent opportunity for sportsmen to cultivate a little good-will with the farmer. Sportsmen's organizations, state agencies, other interested groups, and individuals are permitted to assist a farm operator who has a Soil Bank contract. The federal payments which a producer would normally receive for establishing a wildlife practice is not reduced by reason of such donated assistance. Interested groups may extend financial aid or may provide materials or services in establishing a wildlife project. In return the landowner can permit hunting or fishing on the reserve acres, provided it is not a commercial operation.

As examples of the possibilities for attracting small game it may be of interest to cite a few census results. Prior to the breeding season each year, game agents walk over established routes, two and one-half to three miles long, to tally all upland game observed. At this time cover is at a minimum on much of the habitat and the largest percentage of birds present can be seen. Portions of these areas are currently under Soil Bank contract, however, and the standing vegetation provides excellent contrast. Game agents' reports indicate that unharvested Sudan grass harbored the largest concentration of birds. Several samples in Polk County which included reserved acreage each yielded counts of 80 or more pheasants. On another three-mile route on private farmland south of Corvallis, 107 pheasants were flushed. The average number of these birds on six samples known to include Conservation Reserve acres exceeded one bird per acre which is more than twice the

(Continued on Page 7)



Game agent Francis Ives on a Soil Bank field in Polk County where the pheasant count indicated 111 birds per hundred acres.



Game agent Cliff Kent discussing a Soil Bank wildlife planting in Linn County with the landowner.

General Trout Season Opens April 23

Getting ready for the opening of the general trout season on April 23 are fishermen of all ages and sizes. This opening date applies in all zones except for streams in Zone 1 (coastal area), Zone 3 (Umpqua River) and Zone 4 (Rogue River), and except for most lakes in the Cascade National Forests.

Streams in Zones 1, 3 and 4 are scheduled to open May 28.

The high lakes within national forest boundaries of the Cascades will open on May 21 with certain exceptions. The early opening of April 23 will be in effect at

Blue, Crescent, Odell and Suttle lakes; Rock Creek and Wickiup reservoirs in Zone 5; Howard Prairie and Willow Creek reservoirs in Zone 4; and the Copco impoundments above Soda Springs dam on the Umpqua River.

The general seasons will close on October 31 except the Cascade lake season which extends only through October 9.

Individual exceptions to general seasons and bag limits are listed by zones in the 1960 Synopsis of Oregon Angling Regulations.

Fishing Snake River Under Oregon Law

Oregon residents are required to abide by Oregon angling regulations when fishing on the Snake River, which comes under the concurrent jurisdiction of the states of Oregon and Idaho. To fish for steelhead, an Oregon resident is required to have in addition to the Oregon angling license, the salmon-steelhead license and punch card. The number of fish taken may not exceed the Oregon bag limit. Purchase of an Idaho license does not entitle the Oregon resident to an additional limit from the Snake River.

1959 Fish Stocking

W/s*	Rainbow	Cutthroat	Eastern Brook	Steelhead	Kokanee	Brown Trout	Lake Trout	Golden Trout	Chinook Salmon	Silvers	Atlan. Salm.	TOTALS
1.	99,476 13,389.7	60,578 16,870.3		109,135 13,080					36,587 6,804.5			305,776 50,144.5
2.	1,854,436 184,081.5	8,156 1,545	408,340 1,424		484,260 126.2			143 32.5				2,755,335 187,209.2
3.	616,548 42,628.4	47,465 1,279.5	39,213 115.5	93,492 8,899								796,718 52,922.4
4.	80,797 14,227		49,176 508	2,454 303								132,427 15,038
5.	2,854,272 85,975.2	370 370	1,071,067 4,749.1		996,095 464.7	174,142 1,258.8	114,665 7,168	813 184.7			1,094 4	5,212,518 100,174.5
6.	197,235 13,446.5		50,229 42		50,250 12.5							297,714 13,501
7.	51,794 6,231.2											51,794 6,231.2
8.	235,535 24,244.1	21,065 73	37,094 150.8				65,788 1,299.8					359,482 25,767.7
9.	292,696 11,732.1	39,750 81	45,728 102.1		50,350 12.5							428,524 11,927.7
10.	333,889 7,262.3											333,889 7,262.3
11.	87,034 3,688.4											87,034 3,688.4
12.	33,269 6,687.3	53,360 411.5										86,629 7,098.8
13.	227,235 11,938.4	56,907 535.4										284,142 12,473.8
14.	1,723,678 18,814.5		121,944 824.6		74,872 47.9							1,920,494 19,687
15.	831,684 45,068.8	1,900 528	17,634 56.4	34,838 4,489	201,600 52.5				43,966 5,971.6			1,131,622 56,166.3
16.	1,231,766 32,208.6		4,094 13	46,246 4,264.5					105,488 8,878.4			1,387,594 45,364.5
17.	49,265 12,296.3	65,710 9,427		21,932 3,193								136,907 24,916.3
18.	152,833 14,013.8	384,578 35,925.7		73,468 9,132						21,561 1,129		632,440 60,200.5
TOTALS	10,953,442 547,934.1	739,839 67,046.4	1,844,519 7,985.5	381,565 43,360.5	1,857,427 716.3	174,142 1,258.8	180,453 8,467.8	956 217.2	186,041 21,654.5	1,129	1,094 4	16,341,039 699,774

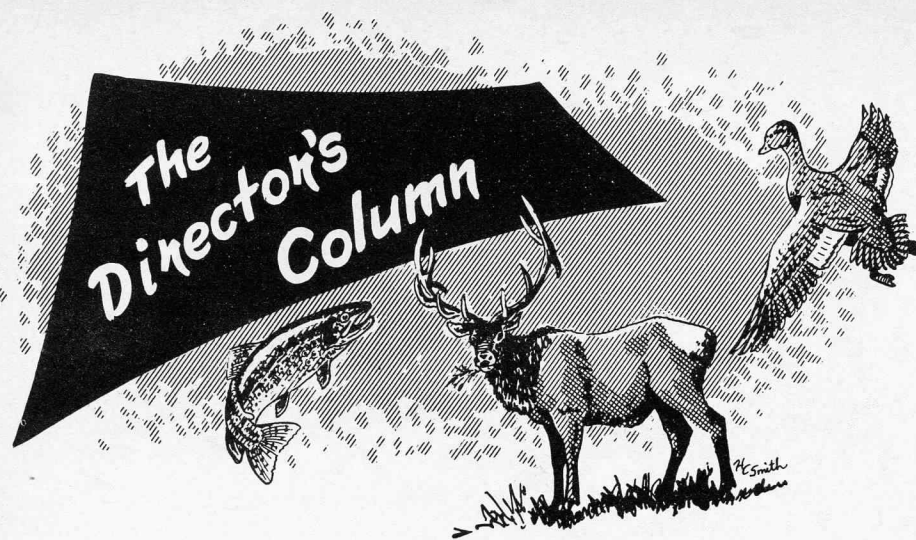
Note: Lower figures denote pounds of fish.

*WATERSHEDS

1. Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook, Yamhill, Washington.
2. Washington, Yamhill, Benton, Linn, Marion, Clackamas, Polk, Lane, Douglas.
3. Multnomah, Columbia, Clackamas, Marion.
4. Hood River, Wasco.

5. Sherman, Jefferson, Deschutes, Crook, Klamath, Lake, Grant.
6. Sherman, Gilliam, Wheeler, Jefferson, Grant, Umatilla, Morrow.
7. Gilliam, Morrow, Umatilla.
8. Umatilla, Wallowa, Union.
9. Baker, Malheur, Union.
10. Malheur, Grant, Harney.

11. Malheur, Harney.
12. Harney, Lake, Crook, Grant.
13. Crook, Deschutes, Lake, Harney.
14. Klamath, Lake, Jackson.
15. Klamath, Jackson, Josephine, Curry.
16. Douglas, Lane.
17. Curry, Coos, Douglas.
18. Douglas, Lane, Benton, Lincoln, Tillamook.



Anglers faced with the new requirement this year of purchase of a \$1.00 special license to fish for salmon or steelhead keep querying with natural interest as to what is going to happen to their money.

As I explained in a previous issue, the legislature earmarked the money to be used solely for salmon and steelhead research and management. With the license effective only since the first of January, we do not know yet how much money will accrue to this earmarked fund, but the Commission has been giving its disbursement intensive study. Preliminary plans have been made consistent with what the Commission considers to be the most compelling needs at this time. A frequent evaluation of the various lines of emphasis will follow, however, in order to correlate the needs that become apparent as the program and status of the fishery move along.

Initially, the program will concentrate on several avenues of research with the objective of applying the information acquired to the management of the salmon and steelhead resources. These studies fall into the following general categories:

1. Impoundment rearing as a technique for improving the runs of salmon and steelhead.

Wild Life in the Soil Bank Program

(Continued from Page 5)

average for the 40 samples in the Upper Willamette district.

Whereas during the thirties wildlife habitat increased with the spread of an economic depression, we now have a rare opportunity to enhance game habitat during prosperity. The Soil Bank is open for business; it would benefit farmer and sportsman alike to patronize it.

GAME BULLETIN

2. A study of the movement of downstream migrant fish to determine the most efficient method for the rearing and release of hatchery stock.

3. An enumeration of ascending adults of hatchery stock as related to wild stock in order to relate the cost of the hatchery product as one of the tools now being employed in the salmon and steelhead management.

4. A complete review and assessment of the potential of the summer steelhead.

5. The effect of logging on anadromous fishes with particular emphasis at this time on the silver salmon.

6. The development and improvement of several techniques needed in the sampling of water quality, silt disposition, embryo development, fish production, subsurface flow changes and related elements necessary in pinpointing the effects of stream environmental changes which will be a part of operating needs in the future.

These studies will be correlated closely with activities presently engaged in by this Commission as well as the work of several other fisheries management agencies in this region. Likewise, they will be tied in with significant factors related to salmon and steelhead originating in Oregon streams but mingling with other races in their oceanic environment throughout the North Pacific area.

—P. W. Schneider

BIG GAME HEARING SCHEDULED FOR MAY

For the second year, the hearings on big game regulations will be held in May and early June instead of in July as had been the practice for many years. This requires deer, elk and antelope hunters to start making their plans early if they wish to participate in the various hunts for which a limited number of tags or permits are authorized.

The first hearing is scheduled for Friday, May 27, at the Portland office of the Game Commission. Tentative regulations will be announced after this hearing in regard to seasons, bag limits and methods of hunting for deer, elk and antelope. Final regulations will be adopted at the second meeting on June 10.

Information as to the results of the 1959 big game harvest will be published in the May issue of the Bulletin.

Regulations pertaining to waterfowl and upland game will not be considered until sometime in August.

March Meeting

(Continued from Page 2)

duction of approximately 2,693,000 yearling fish for 1960, including 204,000 cutthroat, 1,536,000 fall rainbow, 486,000 spring rainbow, 103,000 summer steelhead, 197,000 winter steelhead, 76,000 spring chinook and 91,000 lake trout. The rest of the hatchery production will be released as fingerlings.

REARING POND SITE. Authorized staff to proceed with further investigation of a second possible anadromous fish rearing impoundment site on a tributary of the Rogue River.

REHABILITATION. Approved preliminary investigation of several bodies of water to determine necessity and feasibility of rehabilitation.

JOINT MEETING. Discussed forthcoming meeting with the Washington Game Commission on April 8 at Walla Walla to consider mutual problems.

GNAT CREEK HATCHERY. Decided to hold dedication ceremony for the new Gnat Creek hatchery around the middle of August.

NEXT MEETING. Set a tentative date of April 22 for the next regular meeting in Portland.

Pheasants per 100 acres on census samples. January, 1960.

	Benton County		Polk County	
	Acres Sampled	Birds per 100 acres	Acres Sampled	Birds per 100 acres
Samples not on Soil Bank acres.....	420	70	480	16
Samples including Soil Bank acres	216	107	120	116

RING - TAILED CAT



Slim-bodied with fox-like face. Head and body 14"-16" -- tail 16". Weigh up to 2½ lbs. Body is dark gray with creamy white underparts. Tail has seven alternate bars of black and white.



Ranges into southwestern Oregon, north to Rogue River & east to Klamath Lake. Inhabits broken ledges, containing caves, with water nearby.

A nocturnal animal seldom seen by man. Sometimes sunbathes & cat-naps in a tree during the day. Favorite pet of early day miners.



Rimrocks & ledges furnish small birds, rodents, & insects for food, as well as fruits & berries in season.



Three or four young are born annually in May or June. Dens are made in hollow trees or holes in ledges & rimrocks. Nest lined with leaves.



The ringtail has few enemies, the great horned owl possibly being the worst.



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