

Game Commission Releases Report On Winter Deer Population Trends

Just over 45,800 mule and black-tailed deer were tallied by district biologists of the game commission on 5,300 miles of sample routes during late winter and spring in the annual study to determine trends in the big game population. The miles travelled were covered on foot, horseback, automobile, and airplane. The only herd on which data is incomplete is the Interstate herd. The count here will continue for two or three weeks yet as the herd migrates from California into Oregon.

On a state-wide basis, blacktail deer trends were up slightly from a year ago, while mule deer trends were down slightly from a year ago. On 2,149 miles of sample route on the blacktail ranges the deer observed averaged out at 5.0 deer per mile compared to 4.8 deer per mile in 1962. Mule deer trends in eastern Oregon averaged out at 11.1 deer per mile compared to 11.9 a year ago. Inventories were made on 3,158 miles of sample route on mule deer winter ranges.

Biologists pointed out that fluctuations occurred on most ranges with some above the trends of 1962, while others were below the trends of 1962. Also reported was the widespread dispersal of big game on most ranges throughout the winter. In addition, many animals spent the winter high in the mountains on their normal summer range. Game officials feel the wide dispersal at high elevations may have influenced the trend counts on some ranges since most of the permanent sample routes do not extend into big game summer areas.

In northwestern Oregon, black-tail samples averaged out identical to those of 1962, at 3.7 deer per mile. Populations were up slightly in the Wilson, Polk, Alsea, Clatsop, and Nestucca; identical in

the McKenzie unit; and down slightly in the Trask, Siuslaw, and Santiam. The blacktails also were up slightly in Hood River and Wasco units from a year ago.

Count Down

In southwestern Oregon, the overall blacktail trend was down slightly from 5.8 deer per mile in 1962 to 5.7 in 1963. In this region, populations were the same as the previous year in the Umpqua and Chetco units; up in the Sixes, Evans Creek, Douglas, Butte Falls and Apple-gate units; and down in the Coquille, Powers and Green Springs units. These latter three units all reflect poor fawn production or survival.

In central Oregon mule deer numbers showed a drop from 7.5 deer per mile in 1962 to 6.5 deer per mile in 1963. The 1963 trend was identical to the tally per mile in 1961. Again, mule deer herds were up in the Sprague, Ochoco and Maupin units; and down slightly in the Deschutes, Grizzly, Klamath, Maury, Metolius and Paulina units. Fawn production and survival in the Paulina unit was only 45 fawns per 100 does, 44 in the Metolius, 47 in the Maury unit, 54 in the Grizzly country, and 50 in the Deschutes unit. Even in the better units in central Oregon, fawn production was considered low.

Northeastern Oregon region averaged out at 13.1 deer per mile compared to 13.4 a year ago. Although fluctuations occurred on several ranges, fawn production and survival was recorded low on only two units, the Baker unit with 38 fawns per 100 does and Murderer's Creek with 56 fawns per 100 does. Fawn production and survival was considered good to excellent on all other ranges in northeastern Oregon.

Trend counts showed slight declines in the population in the Baker, Catherine Creek, Heppner, Imnaha, Minam, Northside, Sled Springs, Walla Walla, Wenaha and Wheeler units. Increases were noted in the Chesnimnus, Desolation, Keating, Lookout Mountain, Murderer's Creek, Snake River, Starky, Ukiah and Umatilla units.

Poor Fawn Production

The southeast region also showed a slight decline in population with the trend count for all units averaging out at 11.3 deer per mile compared to 12.7 a year ago. The Beulah unit was down reflecting two years of low fawn production. The Fort Rock unit was down slightly from last year but above the 1960 level. Resident deer herds in the Interstate unit were down slightly from the three previous years. Malheur and Owyhee units

were down from last year, again reflecting two years of very poor fawn production. The Silvies and Warner units were down slightly from a year ago.

The Whitehorse unit showed an upward trend in population numbers, as did the Steens Mountain and Silver Lake units.

Elk Count Stable

Elk trend information shows fairly stable herds among the Roosevelt as well as Rocky Mountain elk. Roosevelt elk populations showed a slight upward trend from 4.1 elk per mile last year to 6.7 elk per mile this year. Slight increases were noted on herd ranges in southwest as well as northwest Oregon.

Populations of Rocky Mountain elk were almost identical to that of a year ago, averaging out at 5.7 elk per mile compared to 6.0 a year ago. Fluctuations were noted on all eastern Oregon ranges. Biologists report that many Rocky Mountain elk herds failed to migrate onto the more open ranges this past winter.

From the standpoint of food production, measurement of range or youth showed excessive bitterbrush utilization on number of ranges in several big game management units. Most severe utilization of bitterbrush was noted on ranges in the Klamath unit where 54 per cent use was recorded; Maury unit ranges were utilization was recorded at 68 per cent; Ochoco unit ranges with 60 per cent use; Sprague unit with 54 per cent; and the Heppner unit ranges where use was recorded at 59 per cent.

Individual herd ranges receiving excessive utilization include Crane Mountain in the Malheur unit, South Side John Day in the Murderer's Creek unit, Goodlow Mountain range in the Klamath unit, and the North Ochoco range in the Ochoco unit.

Summer Program Being Planned For Area Youth

Preliminary plans are being made for a summer recreation program for youth in the Winston, Dillard, Tenmile and Lookingglass areas, reports Phebe McGuire, correspondent.

Funds have been allocated through the school district to cover the salary of a full-time supervisor. He is Jim Well, athletic instructor at Douglas High School. He is being assisted by a board composed of Henry Carew and Raymond Wolles.

Mrs. McGuire said that plans are for at least two Babe Ruth teams from the Winston-Dillard areas. Each team will be made up of boys from 13 to 15 years of age of equal ability. Another team is being planned from the Tenmile area for boys of the same ages.

New uniforms will be purchased for players this summer. A Pee Wee League program is in prospect for boys 9 to 10 years of age and another group for boys from 11 to 12. It is expected there will be at least three teams in the Winston-Dillard area, two teams from Tenmile and at least one from Lookingglass.

Girls in junior high and senior high school will form a softball team to compete against four or five other schools in games during the summer months.

In addition, should adequate interest be evident, other sports, such as volleyball, archery and tennis, will be available.

Facilities now available for younger children include ping pong, croquet and badminton.

Well said instructors are urgently needed to coach and teach the various classes offered in sports activities. There is also a need for personnel to keep score and umpire.

Anyone wishing to contribute time to this worthwhile activity may contact Well at OS 9-5003.

Sheets for sign-up are now being circulated through the schools in the district for those students interested in the baseball program. Sign-up for other sport activities will be held at a later date.

Classes are being planned for those interested and wishing to learn horseshoes, badminton and other games.

Activities will be under supervision by Well at the Winston Community Park between the hours of 9 a. m. and 3 p. m. during the week. He plans to circulate to Tenmile and Lookingglass half days during the week to give instructions.

The summer program is expected to begin approximately June 2 and continue until Aug. 9. A program of activities will be published in the newspaper two weeks prior to the commencing date.

ROBERTS MILESTONE

BALTIMORE, Md. (UPI)—Robert Roberts of the Baltimore Orioles marked another milestone Sunday by striking out his 2,000th batter in the first game of a doubleheader with the Chicago White Sox.

Losing pitcher Juan Pizarro was the 2,000th victim and the 36-year-old Roberts went on to strike out two more, making him 15th on the all-time list, as he posted a 4-3 victory.

Walter Johnson of the Washington Senators holds the record of 3,497 strikeouts.

ACCEPTS INVITATION

NEW YORK (UPI)—Edgar (Sam) Rice, a recent addition to baseball's Hall of Fame, has become the first player to accept an invitation to play in the New York Yankees' 17th annual Old Timers' Day.

Oldtimers' Day ceremonies will be held Saturday, July 27 before the Yankees-Minnesota Twins' game at Yankee Stadium.

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Sports

Upland Game Birds Show Spring Increase

If game birds have a good nesting season this spring, upland bird gunners can look forward to a pretty fair season this fall. This is the word from district biologists of the game commission who report that the spring breeding population of most upland game birds shows an upswing in most areas from the winter carry-over of 1962.

R. U. Mace, chief of the upland game bird program for the game commission, reports a 10 per cent decline from last year in the carry-over of pheasants in western Oregon; higher breeding populations are present in the lower Deschutes, Klamath basin and the southeast basin; and fewer birds are present in the Malheur country and the Columbia basin than a year ago.

Valley quail show a substantial increase over last year, according to Mace. This is particularly evident in southeastern Oregon where the 1962 carry-over was very low due to severe wintering conditions. The 1963 breeding density of valley quail is almost three times as high in Malheur county and up substantially in Lake and Harney counties. Modest increases were noted in northeastern Oregon.

General observations of chukar partridge indicate increases in the number of breeding pairs over most of the range. It is estimated that a third more birds are present in the lower John Day drainage than a year ago, while the carry-over in Malheur county is believed to be the best ever experienced.

Little change is apparent in Hungarian breeding populations over a year ago. Mace reported that game farm production of pheasants and chukar partridge is well underway for the year, with egg setting on schedule. Pheasant breeders have already been released from the Hermiston and Corvallis game farms. Production schedules call for rearing around 21,000 pheasants and 10,000 chukar partridge.



C. L. DAVIS displays a couple of chinooks taken on a deep sea fishing trip from Salmon Harbor. While other anglers prepare to try for the elusive trout, Salmon Harbor is preparing for the invasion of salmon fishermen expected throughout the summer months.

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