

# Necessity Continued from Page 5B

The result is a potential population explosion, according to Greer. When that happens, the general hunting season is extended or a special hunting season is added.

Special hunting seasons are often designed to reduce the number of breeding animals in a herd, Greer says, and thus reduce the further growth of the herd.

But herds are also protected when they dip to low levels, as the muledeer in Eastern Oregon are currently being shielded. There, the general hunting season in many areas has been cut to seven days, he says, while the hunting season for blacktail deer in Lane County's McKenzie and Siuslaw management units is 39 days this year.

Greer rejects the claim by anti-hunting groups that only the biggest and strongest deer and elk are shot. He points out that 44 percent of the deer shot in his district in the first weekend of the general hunting season were less than three years old.

"The average hunter will take the first legal animal he sees," Greer says. The larger animals are harder to hunt, he says, because they usually have several seasons of avoiding hunters behind them.

"Bull elk and large bucks will prove that every year, because we don't see them in the hunter bag but we do see them in our fall counts when we go out at night."

Both Greer and Caine acknowledge that some hunters

abuse their rights in the outdoors — to the detriment of the hunting population in general.

"The slob hunter gets a lot more visibility than what you might call the good hunter," says Greer. "That guy — although he's a very small percentage of the population — is the one who the finger gets pointed at."

"Everyone notices what the slob hunter does," he says. "No one notices what the good hunter does."

"Slob hunters" anger Caine because they not only don't know how to use the outdoors, but they present a danger to other hunters and an incorrect image to the public.

Caine professes frustration — and anger — when he talks of

hunters wounding deer and leaving them to bleed to death, or hunting deer but leaving the dead animal at the bottom of a canyon.

Caine is equally frustrated by the emotionalism of some anti-hunters, such as the television special "Guns of Autumn" which was shown several years ago.

Greer points to a current battle in Maine as an example of where hunting fits into the outdoors.

When the state wildlife department announced plans to allow limited hunting to reduce a burgeoning state moose population that had grown to between 10,000 and 20,000, the state legislature moved to block the issuing of hunting permits.

Greer believes the state will suffer in the long-run if the moose herd is allowed to continue growing.

"You would probably have damage complaints running rampant. You would probably have to go into full-scale fencing or repellent or hazing or anything short of killing the animal. That is an expensive proposition," Greer says.

"Once it is taken out of the biologist's hands, then you lose kind of control you might have to keep that population biologically stable," Greer says. "You can't manage on a biological level through a legislature that makes its decisions based on emotional issues."

By John Healy

# Slaughter Continued from Page 4B

Kelley says that man is wildlife's prime enemy.

"Humans tend to destroy these systems by their lack of sensitivity and knowledge of the ways and the needs of the animals," she says. "The best thing we can do to preserve what's left of our declining wildlife is to leave them in peace."

Many species have become entirely extinct due to man's manipulation of the wilderness. For example, the wolf is non-existent in all but about three areas of the United States.

According to Kelley, the eradication of wolves is part of

the reason why there is an overabundance of deer in some areas. With no wolves to prey on deer and rodents, those populations explode, she says.

Hunters often use the overabundance of deer as justification for their activities, but actually the best thing would be to bring back the wolves and leave them alone, Kelley says.

"Make trapping, hunting and poisoning illegal and let the wolf take care of it," she says. "Man messes everything up."

The three agree hunting is not as bad as some other forms of habitat manipulation, such as the clearcutting, spraying, and burning done by timber

companies.

"Habitat protection is our greatest concern," says Wood, noting many people involved in the ONRC do hunt. "How forests and lands are managed — that is important."

Part of the callousness of people stems from "the belief that because of being human you are superior to all other creatures on the planet and have some quasi-divine right to hunt, trap, poison or maim any animal besides a human," says Kelley.

The image of the macho hunter is another reason many men hunt, says Kelley.

Many men are taught to be tough in early hunting ex-

periences and to hide their inner feelings of horror at the killing of innocent animals, she says.

"Perhaps the hunter is a basically compassionate person who is secretly horrified by killing in such an uneven contest and by the sight of the animal suffering," says Kelley. "But this person would sorrow secretly because of a fear of not being tough. This person may have been taught by his father that hunting is some sort of badge of manhood."

The man should just face up to his feelings and "tell his family he no longer subscribes to this barbarism," she says. He should start to teach his

children more constructive things about forests and wildlife — "that would be a manly act."

"I would think that this indifference and this callousness would carry over into human affairs," Kelley says. "For example, I'd be very concerned if my daughter married a hunter."

Hunting is also "just a few steps apart" from killing in war, she says.

Hunters are a real resource for the army because when they start using a gun they are already hardened to killing, she says. So if they are told to start aiming at humans, they are more likely to start shooting without questioning orders.

Another argument hunters use to justify killing animals is that people kill animals daily for their meat and often under less humane conditions than hunting.

"If you eat meat, you are paying someone else to do the dirty work for you," says Kelley, who does not eat meat. "I don't feel angry at everyone who eats meat. I accept there are non-meat eaters and meat eaters."

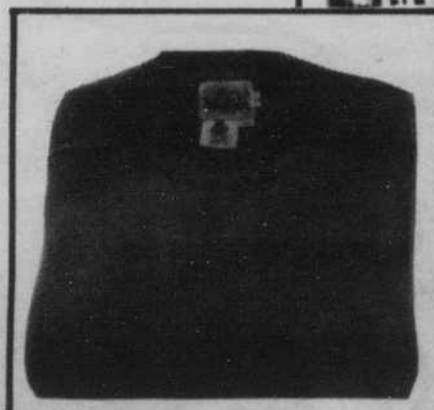
By Sandy Johnstone

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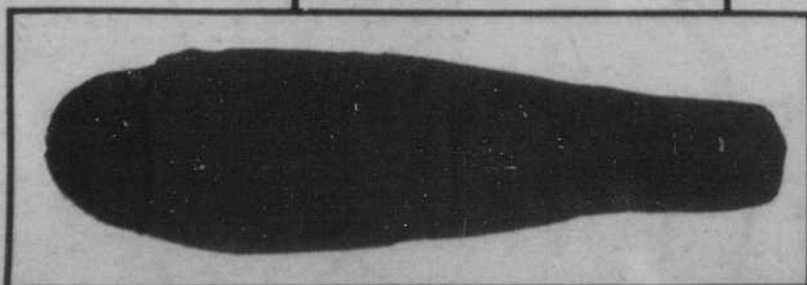
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