

Program aimed at curtailing poaching

by KEN DURBIN
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Two people drive slowly up an eroded logging road. The moon is just rising over an eastern ridge. A deer is captured in the swinging spotlight beam. The animal collapses as a gunshot echoes off the hillside. It is quickly loaded and covered with a tarp weighted down with firewood.

A fisherman spots the end of a gillnet tied to low brush along a streambank. Tugging on the net, a cargo of decayed, stinking salmon drift to the surface. The net has been there for several days and the illegally caught fish are wasted.

Spotlighting, illegal netting or trapping along with a number of other unlawful activities involving wildlife are collectively called poaching. Poaching is a problem in Oregon and those who take wildlife illegally are thieves. You and I are the victims.

Recreation basketball underway

The Sandy men's basketball league began its 1981-82 season last week at Cedar Ridge and Firwood schools.

In "B" division games, A.D.P., led by Dave Chamberlain's nine points, ran away from S.T.C., 31-14. State Farm Insurance, looking like the team to beat, played a strong second half in defeating Dave Turin's team, 51-32. In a later game, S.T.C. came from behind to outshoot Obrist and Cunningham Construction, 45-31.

In "C" division action, Ron's No Place won its season opener against Tim Ward's team, 36-19. Don James scored nine points to lead the T-Talk Presbyterians over Williams Thriftway, 41-37, while Mike Pomerence poured in 12 for the Sandy Adventists in a 40-34 win over P and C Construction.

Standings

"B" Division

State Farm	1-0
A.D.P.	1-0
S.T.C.	1-1
Dale Bailey	0-0
Obrist & Cunningham Construction	1-1
Dave Turin	1-1

"C" Division

T-Talk Presbyterians	1-0
Sandy Adventists	1-0
Ron's No Place	1-0
Williams Thriftway	0-1
Tim Ward	0-1
P and C Construction	0-1

Wildlife. "Catch a Wildlife Thief or CAWT," says Cliff Hamilton, education supervisor for the Fish and Wildlife Department, is aimed at increasing public awareness of the damage done by wildlife thieves and promoting use of a statewide toll-free hotline in reporting violations.

Stickers bearing the hotline number, 1-800-452-7888, may be attached near a telephone, CB radio, tackle box, in a vehicle or other handy location. The number will connect the caller directly with State Police headquarters in Salem. Within minutes a local officer can be dispatched through the police communications system. In addition, a wall poster reminding citizens of the program is available for posting in businesses, offices, schools or other visible locations.

Kiwanis clubs in many parts of the state will be distributing these materials to local businesses, Hamilton said. A counter dispenser for the stickers will be available to those wishing to participate. Stickers are also available through offices of the Oregon State Police and the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Posters can be obtained through the department's regional offices or the headquarters office in Portland.

An audio-visual program pointing out the problems caused by poaching has also been prepared for showing to local clubs, schools or other organizations. Personnel from participating Kiwanis clubs, the Department of Fish and Wildlife and Oregon State Police can assist in arranging a showing.

Poaching and other violations of the fish and wildlife laws are a widespread in Oregon. Game officers issue some 15,000 citations annually with nearly 1,000 of those involving serious big game violations. But those who are caught represent only a

fraction of people involved in such activities.

In the past information provided by observant citizens has often come too late to make an arrest. Use of the toll-free number will help police receive tips more quickly and to obtain details while they are still fresh in the caller's mind. Time and location of the violation, vehicle license number, its direction of travel plus a description of people involved are all valuable tips to help apprehend a violator.

The impact of poaching activities is impossible to measure, but in some areas it is estimated the illegal kill of wildlife probably exceeds that taken during authorized seasons. The problem tends to worsen during times of economic slowdown. Hamilton says this may not be so much from the need for food as for relief from the boredom of unemployment. Fish and wildlife law violators come from a spectrum of social and economic levels. Most steal wildlife out of greed, spite, personal financial gain or simply for kicks.

Stealing wildlife is a crime in the same way that breaking into your house is a crime, Hamilton said. The modern trend is to avoid involvement, he adds, but fish and wildlife belong to everyone and poaching definitely does involve each of us as civitians. When someone steal five or six thousand dollars worth of publicly-owned salmon by snagging or netting, or shoots a deer or elk out of season, the losers are you and me.

Game law enforcement officers with the Oregon State Police employ a variety of modern technology in their work. Computer data banks, night vision scopes, radio communications, sophisticated crime lab techniques and aircraft are among them. But no officer or airplane can be everywhere at once, and there is only so much that they can do and only so

many people then can contact despite the best equipment and total dedication to the job. Each officer, said Hamilton, may be responsible for more than a thousand square miles of land and perhaps as many as 20,000 hunters, fishermen and other wildlife users.

It's an impossible job. And that is why each of us has not only the opportunity but a responsibility to help by using the telephone hotline to report violations. Callers may remain anonymous and do not have to appear in court nor assist in apprehension of the suspect.

CAWT, says Hamilton, is a program you can use to help protect what is rightfully yours. Contact the State Police, Department of Fish and Wildlife or your local Kiwanis Club for stickers, posters or a program for your club or organization. You can help to insure that the next violator gets CAWT.

When Bruce Cavallero of Portland shot an adult pintail hen on the last day of October he was not overly

surprised to find a metal band on its leg. Banding of ducks has been practiced in this country and Canada for a long time and has provided an immense log of migration data on the waterfowl of North America.

But he was surprised to find in addition to the numbers on this particular band, a series of Japanese figures. And so were waterfowl managers who later saw the band. Although it is not unusual to see birds with bands or other markings from Russia, it is very uncommon for a marked bird from Japan to be found in this country. For one thing, relatively little banding has been done in Japan, but more significantly, the route from Japan to the U.S. involves a long trip over water compared to the short hop from Russia to North America across the Bering Strait.

Cavallero shot the bird on a private hunting club adjacent to the Sauvie Island Wildlife Area managed by the Fish and Wildlife Department.

SYL schedule revised

The board of director's policy-making meeting will be Tuesday, Dec. 8 at Denise Redman's home (R.S.V.P., 668-8434) from 7:30 until 8:30 p.m.

Notice of revised game schedule is being provided this week.

Get well wishes to injured players Marc Donovan and Dave Scott.

Dec. 3 Schedule

(S is Sandy Gym, C is Cedar Ridge gym)

A vs B	6:30 p.m. (S)
1 vs 2	7:30 p.m. (S)
D vs E	8:30 p.m. (S)

Dec. 4 Schedule

B vs C	6:30 p.m. (C)
2 vs 3	7:30 p.m. (C)
F vs G	8:30 p.m. (C)

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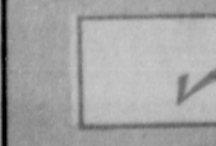
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P215/75R14	71.06		



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PAOLAS PIZZA BARN

Congratulations to Janice Hawkins

SUHS senior Janice Hawkins is prep of the week. Her 8.75 rating in the balance beam at the state gymnastics meet earned her a fifth-place medal.

Also, her 9.0 rating in preliminaries set a school record.

She was recently selected athlete of the month for the high school. Way to go, Janice!

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