

Wildlife endangered by bad weather

An unrelenting winter continues to take its toll. Wintering wildlife throughout much of eastern Oregon need help.

Cold temperatures have forced wild creatures to burn energy reserves at much higher than normal rates. In addition, deep snows have concentrated many animals in areas where food is limited. In some regions, particularly Wallowa, Union, Baker and Malheur counties, freezing rain has armored the snow with a thick crust of ice. This further restricts food availability and makes travel even more difficult for the animals, which in turn causes them to burn still more calories. It is a vicious cycle with no immediate end in sight.

Because conditions have been more severe than normal, the Northeast Region of the Department of Fish and Wildlife has already spent all its budgeted money for winter wildlife feeding and game damage control for this winter and next, and is well into funds budgeted for other wildlife programs.

When the chips are down though, Oregonians are generous people. In recent weeks, the department has received increasing offers from the public money, hay, manpower and other commodities to help wildlife through these severe times. While the department can certainly use the assistance, there is a problem in accepting and spending donated money. Because of state budgeting constraints, the department cannot put donated money to immediate use. All funds must be incorporated into a biannual budget and approved in a regular session of the Oregon legislature.

In order to allow donated money to be put to use this winter, the Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation has established a special project fund and is accepting public donations which can be used by the Fish and Wildlife Department to buy hay, deer

pellets, grain and other commodities needed to ease winter wildlife problems. Money donated to the Foundation can be used immediately to pay the bills for these supplies and all donations to the Foundation are tax deductible.

Those who would like to contribute money should send checks to the Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation, PO Box 8301, Portland, Oregon 97207, along with a note indicating the money is for the **Winter Wildlife Fund**. The fund will be held in reserve to pay bills for the purchase of feed and materials needed by the Fish and Wildlife Department to help wintering wildlife.

While donations of money are the most useful because funds can be spent as needed, the department can also accept donations of certain commodities. In northeast Oregon, the department is currently feeding alfalfa for elk at a rate of up to 10 tons a week and specially-formulated pellets for deer at up to five tons a week.

Most of the elk feeding is aimed at keeping elk out of privately-owned haystacks. In order to do this, the department must feed high-quality hay, otherwise the elk pass it by and proceed to a private stack offering better feed.

The department needs, and will gladly accept, donations of high quality alfalfa; second and third cutting hay is preferred in up to 80 lb. bales. Because of weed control concerns, hay from western Oregon cannot be accepted.

The department can also use deer pellets. These must meet agency specifications for content. Those who might wish to pay for deer pellets should contact the department's regional office in LaGrande for additional information by calling 963-2183.

The department is also feeding grain for upland birds, and the department can use any kind of grain. It must be weed-free, untreated grain from eastern Oregon. Again,

because of weed concerns, grain from western Oregon cannot be accepted.

The public can also help songbirds by buying and setting out bird seed mixes near their home. If this kind of feeding is undertaken, it should be continued until spring when natural foods become more abundant.

The department also uses large numbers of wooden panels to protect haystacks on private land. Donations of wood can be used for panel construction planed fir or pine is preferred. It should be one inch stock, six inches wide by eight feet in length.

Organized sportsmen clubs and other groups can help in their local areas by setting up and conducting feeding programs for small game. For advice and help in developing such a program, contact your nearest department regional office. The most severe problems are in portions of eastern Oregon, but clubs in western Oregon might want to plan a spring fence repair project.

In their efforts to get to feed, elk have broken fences in a number of northeast Oregon areas. Sportsmen can go a long way toward improving relations with private landowners by helping to repair the damage caused by elk. Last year a club in western Oregon provided the money to buy fencing materials and another group in northeast Oregon contributed the labor

Winter conditions are worse than they have been in many years and there are at least two months more to go before any significant moderation can be expected. Although deer had a good spring and summer with excellent fawn production and good growth, the winter weather has taken its toll. Biologists believe there will be severe losses before the winter is through.

While feeding can greatly help the deer which can be reached, winter feeding is still a frustrating operation because for every deer which can be fed there are many more that are inaccessible.

Fish and Wildlife Department resources are taxed to the limit right now. Public support through donations of money, feed or organizations projects cannot stop the losses, but they can help substantially to ease the impact on at least a portion of the wildlife population.

Indian News Notes

FRITZ DIRECTS BIA FIELD OFFICES TO HANDLE WEATHER EMERGENCY NEEDS:

Interior Deputy Assistant Secretary John Fritz directed BIA field offices to use initiative in meeting emergency fuel, food and clothing needs on reservations afflicted with extraordinary cold weather in December.

Fritz said he did not want paperwork or technicalities holding up needed assistance to people who were cold and hungry. He said the Bureau may have to request additional funding or reprogramming if the severe conditions continue.

Social service personnel were kept on duty throughout the Christmas weekend on the Pine Ridge, Cheyenne River and Rosebud reservations in South Dakota because of the special needs for fuel and food assistance. On these three reservations more than \$200,000 was used in December for emergency fuel and food assistance, according to a preliminary report received by the Social Services Office.

BUREAU OF CENSUS BOOKLET LISTS OCCUPATIONS AND YEARS—IN—SCHOOL FOR INDIANS:

A supplementary report issued by the Bureau of the Census gives a detailed listing of occupations of American Indians and Alaska Natives and also shows the number of years of school completed by age groups.

The report identified 1,179 Indian of Alaskan men and 761 women as teachers in colleges or other post-secondary schools. In the elementary and secondary schools there were 4,504 men and 11,086 women working as teachers. There were 3,457 men and 262 women who were engineers, architects or surveyors. Indian and Alaskan talent in the fine arts was reflected in the figures showing 3,271 men and 2,164 women made their living by being writers, artists, entertainers or athletes.

In the health field, 386 male physicians were listed and 127 women, along with 175 male nurses and 3,681 female nurses. There were also 927 men and 4,209 women who were health technologists or technicians.

In the table showing the years of school completed, the report includes only persons in the labor force. This means persons at least 16 years of age who are working or available for a job. It excludes, therefore, students over 16, aged people not able or interested in working, mothers of large families not in job market and others. The report showed 546,457 American Indians and Alaska Natives in the labor force. Of these 192,603 had completed less than 12 years of school.

The report, PC80-S1-8, is available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

Community Center Calendar

January 20	Mens 30 and over basketball tournament, contact Satch Miller for more information
January 26	Lil' Miss Warm Springs pageant, 7:00 p.m. two age divisions. —3 to 6 years of age, must know how to say their name, age, where they live, and their guardians. —7 thru 17, must be able to tell of their reservation or culture. Both groups will be judged on dancing—Only 2 more Monday night dance practices left! Contact Carol Allison for more information.
January 28	Silver Gloves Boxing tournament
January 30	Professional Wrestling, 8:00 p.m.—sponsored by the Warm Springs Stick Game Association.
January 31	Lil' Miss Warm Springs Jackpot Bingo, 6:30 p.m. (The jackpot is getting bigger and bigger!)

YIKES YIKES Toe Ness YIKES YIKES

A tax consultant told this guy, "Don't be surprised if you next income tax form is simplified to contain only four lines? 1. What was your income last year? 2. What were your expenses? 3. How much do you have left? 4. Send it in. YIKES

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There were these two guys who were making counterfeit money on an off-set machine. They ran quite a few when the white man looked at the bills and then yelled at the black man, "No, no, no, you fool!!! I said Andrew Jackson . . . not Reggie!!" YIKES

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There was this boy who was telling his girl friend that his father had attended the school board meeting the night before. His dad said that the board was thinking of cutting out the necking. "Now I suppose they will want us students to quit, too." YIKES

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There was this husband and wife sitting in a marriage counselor's office when the counselor said, "Maybe we should begin by finding out what your names are, unless, of course, 'Dopehead' and 'Blabber Mouth' are your real names. . ." YIKES

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