

There's good hunting . . . so good luck!

With the major hunting seasons set to open on the next several weekends, hunters all over the state are busily readying equipment, sighting in rifles, breaking a few clay birds and studying maps and hunting forecasts.

Recent rains over the state have improved prospects and somewhat reduced fire danger all over the state, although hunters will still want to be especially cautious since the fire season is far from over.

Buck hunters should again give consideration to a Western Oregon hunt since blacktail herds are in fine shape and good numbers of mature bucks have been reported in most areas of blacktail range. Game Commission biologists feel that blacktail herds can support considerably more hunting pressure than they received last year.

Mule deer herds are gradually increasing following the severe losses of the winter of 1968-69 but have not responded as quickly or as well as have their blacktail cousins in Western Oregon. Eastern Oregon hunters can look forward to a season about the same as last year.

Elk populations on both sides of the Cascades remain stable and hunters will find them in numbers much the same as last year.

One certainty is that hunters of both deer and elk will find competition afield in unprecedented numbers with many

venturing afield for the first time, lured forth by the temptation of "free meat."

Prospects are mixed for upland bird hunters. Game bird numbers are generally reduced in Southeast Oregon because of winter losses and poor survival of young this spring. On the other hand, population of both pheasants and chukars are up in North-eastern Oregon and Columbia Basin counties. Most hunting in the Willamette Valley will be for released birds on public shooting areas. Quail population is down in South-eastern Oregon but elsewhere in the state are equal to or better than last year.

Waterfowl hunters can look for a slight reduction in duck numbers down the Pacific Flyway but goose production in the arctic and subarctic regions was up from last year. A long season is set to go with slightly reduced bag limits.

Deer

Deer populations are up to near pre-1968 levels in the Morrow-Wheeler County area, and hunters can expect good success, especially for yearling bucks. Deer are concentrated at low elevations adjacent to agricultural lands.

In Grant County, prospects are for a slightly better season than last year. Populations are gradually increasing, although they have not popped back as quickly as hoped.

Buck ratios of last fall still compare with the lowest on record, and fawn production has not made up for the poor year of 1971.

Umatilla County deer hunters will find deer numbers at about the same level they have for the past five years. The south half of the county is best.

Poor 1972 fawn production will limit numbers of forked horn bucks in Union County. These bucks usually make up 60 per cent of the harvest. Deer are presently found feeding and bedding in the heavy timber.

In the northeast corner of the state hunters will find good hunting in the Minam, Sled Springs and Wenaha units where populations are back to normal. Deer populations are down and hunting not expected to be as good in the Imnaha and Snake River canyon country.

A few young bucks should be available in this canyon country, but hunting will be only fair compared to the excellent years in the late 1960s.

In Baker district, deer populations have not recovered from the winter of 1971-72. Percentage of large bucks is up, but this is because there are fewer numbers of young bucks in the population. Deer are scattered at all elevations.

Elk herds are in good shape and hunters should experience good success in the Heppner unit. Popular areas are the North Fork John Day drainage, Madison Butte, Potamus Creek and Divide Wells.

Elk herds in Grant County remained stable through the past year. Bull survival was higher than usual last year so there will be a few more mature bulls. Spike or yearling bulls are not as numerous.

Umatilla County elk numbers are distributed throughout the county in good numbers. Animals are concentrated in timbered areas above agricultural lands.

Prospects are very good in Union County where elk are more plentiful. The Starkey Unit will again be the greatest producer of elk followed by the Wenaha, Umatilla and Catherine Creek units. Yearling animals are expected to make up 70 per cent of the harvest.

Wallowa County elk hunters will find elk numbers much

the same as last year. Weather conditions will determine distribution of the animals now concentrated near ridgetops. Not many mature bulls in this heavily hunted area.

Baker, Keating, Starkey and Pine Creek units offer good prospects for hunters this fall. Populations are up by 7 per cent over the five-year average.

Bear populations in Northeast Oregon are not high, but some are taken each year by

deer and elk hunters. Populations appear to be on the increase in the Baker district. Baker, Keating, Pine Creek and Starkey units are possibilities.

Upland birds
The upland game picture in most of Northeast Oregon is a bright one. Populations of most species are up and hunters should experience an excellent year.

Pheasants are up sharply in Gilliam, Morrow, Umatilla and Baker Counties, about the same as last year in Union

County, and below normal in most of Grant County. Pheasants and chukars are released for hunters in the Ladd Marsh Area near La Grande.

Valley quail numbers are also up in Gilliam, Morrow and Umatilla Counties. Populations are especially good along the Umatilla and Walla Walla rivers. Quail numbers are down in Grant County.

GOOD HUNTING

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10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

admission \$2 per person

LET'S GO RIVERSIDE PIRATES



Offensive and defensive backs: front row, from the left, Head Coach Mike Wetherell, Gail Phillips, Daryl Frederickson, Robert Richards and Assistant Coach Jim Harper. Back row, from the left, Jim Graham, Jerry Zielinski, Bud McKenzie and Joe Mesteth.

Offensive and defensive line: front row, from the left, Jack Brasel, Mark Adams, David Hug and Dennis Thomas. Back row, from the left, Bill Bedford, Ken Davis, Mike Kennedy, Frank Flock and Kieron Haney.

CHEER LEADERS

Sharon Stewart
Bobbie Acock
Linda Bell
Danette Leighton

Linebackers: front row, from the left, Gordon Bozarth and Carl Wiley. Back row, from the left, Mark Mesteth, Jerry Donovan and Chris Snyder.



JUNIOR HIGH SCHEDULE

SEPT. 13—UMATILLA AT RIVERSIDE 1:30
SEPT. 27—RIVERSIDE AT ECHO 1:30
OCT. 4—ARLINGTON AT RIVERSIDE 1:30
OCT. 11—RIVERSIDE AT IONE 2:00
OCT. 18—HEPPNER AT RIVERSIDE 1:30
OCT. 20—WASCO AT RIVERSIDE 1:30
OCT. 27—RIVERSIDE AT CONDON 2:00
Coach: Gail Enright

VARSITY SCHEDULE

SEPT. 21—HEPPNER AT RIVERSIDE 2:00
SEPT. 28—RIVERSIDE AT SHERMAN 8:00
OCT. 5—UMATILLA AT RIVERSIDE 2:00
OCT. 11—RIVERSIDE AT WASCO COUNTY 8:00
OCT. 19—CONDON AT RIVERSIDE 2:00
OCT. 26—RIVERSIDE AT PILOT ROCK 8:00
NOV. 2—RIVERSIDE AT McEWEN 2:00
Coach: Mike Wetherell
Assistant: Jim Harper

Good Luck in the Columbia Basin League

<p>Boeing Co. Boardman American C & D Drive-In Dewey Chevron Dodge City Inn Eastern Oregon Telephone Co. Frontier Irrigation & Supply Imperial Electric Heating and Air Conditioning</p>	<p>Hick's Market Inland Chemical Co. Inland Empire Bank Kuhn's '76 Riverview Motel Russell's Shell Service Wicklender General Supply Moore's Texaco</p>	<p>Morrow County Grain Growers Nelson Construction Nomad Restaurant Nugget Motel Peck's Arco Helen's Beaute' Oasis IRRIGON — Complete Food Store</p>
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