

Deer or hunters?

Unpredictable deer season



GLEN WARD

"Prospects for the coming deer season are unpredictable," said Glen Ward, game biologist for the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission, speaking before the Chamber of Commerce, Monday. "Because of the short seven-day season, which opens Oct. 4, we don't know what to expect. We don't know if the shorter season will bring more hunters to the Heppner area, or if Portland hunters will decide against making the trip to Heppner this year."

Last year 15,000 hunters came to the Heppner management area, comprised of Morrow, Gilliam and Wheeler counties, and they took home 2,600 bucks. Although this year's fawn crop is down, the population is up about 20 per cent, as last winter's fawn loss was light.

The bucks should be found scattered throughout the area, because of the availability of both food and water, however, the larger bucks will be found at higher elevations and in the pole thickets.

Elk hunters should have a 10 per cent success this year. Last year 4,500 hunters bagged 465 elk for a 10 per cent success, and the same ratio is expected this year.

About 80 per cent of the elk taken by hunters will be taken the first weekend of the season.

There has been an increase in the Rocky Mountain elk population this year, with a good calf crop producing most of the spikes that will be taken this year.

Ward continued saying, "The Rocky Mountain elk hunting should be good in the Heppner area, but the weather will play an important role in the hunting conditions, as adverse

weather conditions will be needed to move the animals down from the high country."

Because of the extensive road system, the U.S. Forest Service and private land owners are joining with the Fish and Wildlife Commission in establishing road closures. This year the Black Mountain-Madison and the Texas Butte area which is comprised of 30,000 acres will be closed to vehicles during elk season.

Ward showed slides of various ways the Fish and Wildlife Commission is using to tag both deer and elk and the variety of transponderized collars used to follow their movements. Some of the deer and elk are tagged with ribbon of various colors, so their movements can be easily spotted from the air.

Ward also mentioned some of the work being done by the Commission to preserve the natural habitat of the deer and elk. Some of the problems encountered by the commission are the lack of grazing land and the removal of brush and trees which tends to destroy their natural habitat.

In logging areas, most of the land that has either been cleared for reforestation, or had the trees thinned, has been reseeded to provide more food for the elk.

Speaking of game birds and waterfowl in the area, Ward said, "The pheasant population is good, however, there is a shortage of adult birds. Most of this is due to the poor habitat and the adult birds are not surviving from one year to the next." The habitat has been partially destroyed, either by the re-channeling of creeks, the removal of brush or the cleaning of fence rows.

To date 320 birds have been released in Morrow and Gilliam counties with another 300 birds to be released during the season.

"Chickadees are more abundant than in previous years and should provide a good hunting season in the two counties," said Ward.

The quail population is up over last year, as there was a good hatch. Most of the birds will be taken the opening weekend of the season, then the birds will seek cover in the side canyons where there is water.

Although the turkey population is showing an increase, there will be no fall season this year.

The success of hunting waterfowl will be dependent on the weather, especially when the birds are migrating from the north.

The Fish and Wildlife Commission is using special traps to capture waterfowl so they may be tagged. Once tagged some of the waterfowl are shipped to Mexico and released, in hopes of trapping them in the future to study their migration habits.

He also told the members of some of the new legislation, recently passed protecting owls and hawks from hunters. He mentioned some of the problems facing fish planted in Lake Penland, as they are not surviving, Ward continued. "Perhaps the fish are not getting enough oxygen during the winter."

He concluded his talk warning all deer and elk hunters to be careful of their actions and respect the rights and property of others.

THE GAZETTE-TIMES

Vol. 92, No. 33

Heppner, OR, Oct. 2, 1975

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Alumax site wins EPA approval

Environmental Protection Agency approval has been given to the Alumax Pacific Corporation for construction of a \$350 million aluminum plant near Umatilla, OR. It was announced by EPA's Northwest regional administrator Clifford V. Smith.

According to Smith, EPA determined that Alumax would be using the best available pollution control technology to keep emissions of sulfur oxide and particulate matter within air quality limits established by EPA to preserve presently clean air.

EPA review of the Alumax project was required, Smith explained, by federal regulations that call for EPA to review proposed new sources of air pollution that might cause a significant deterioration of air quality.

The Alumax plant, to be built on a 790 acre site at the Port of Umatilla's McNary Industrial Park, is designed to process primary aluminum ore into 187,000 tons of aluminum ingots each year.

Last July, the Oregon Environmental Quality Commission gave its conditional approval to state air quality permits for the Alumax plant.

In August, a federal district court in Portland ordered the Bonneville Power Administration to prepare an environmental impact statement

on its contract to provide Alumax with electrical power for the plant. The court ruled that Bonneville's contract with Alumax is unenforceable until the impact statement process is complete.

Documents relating to EPA's approval of the Alumax construction are on file at the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, 1234 SW Morrison St., Portland, and at the public library in Hermiston.

Lions Earn \$1,800 for Mikka Evans

The benefit auction held Sunday at Irrigon Marina Park for Mikka Lou Evans earned close to \$1,800.

The auction sponsored by the Irrigon Lions Club was termed "very successful" by Margaret Jorgensen.

She also stated that more money would be coming in from various groups raising the total amount to be given the Evans family to nearly \$2,500.

Mikka Lou, 16 months old, was born with a cyst near her larynx and she must wear a tube to enable her to breathe.

Band Parents Sponsor Card Party

A benefit card party sponsored by the band parents will be held Monday, Oct. 6, 8 p.m. at the Catholic Parish Hall. Tables will be set up for bridge and pinocle.

Mr. Jim Ackley, band instructor, for both the high and grade schools said the money raised this year will be used to purchase new instruments for band students.

Presently there are 140 students in the bands and the need for instruments has increased every year. The band parents help cover the cost that are over the school district's budget, by sponsoring special events.

Tickets may be purchased from any band student or at the door for \$1. Refreshments will be served.

Columbia Basin Receives Award

The Columbia Basin Electric Co-op received a safety award from the National Farmers Union Insurance Co. for no lost time accident hours for 1974. There were 132,153 hours worked during the year by coop employees.

The last time injury for the co-op was January 1972.

Manager, David Harrison, advises in his 20th Annual Report to a coop membership that his employees over the years have never had an electrical contact injury or a vehicle accident.



Mr. Ldee Lorengal is the head teacher for the Child Development Center. He also supervises the care of the infants. This is Mr. Lorengal's first position and finds working with young children a very rewarding experience. Mr. Lorengal graduated from Eastern Oregon State College with a degree in elementary education. Ldee Lorengal is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Lorengal, Kinzua.

\$1,200 each

BLM to Move Two Wild Horses

A pair of wild horses, a mare and a stallion, will have a new home this week near Beaver Creek in Clackamas County, OR. The horses are part of a band removed from national resource lands in Harney County last fall by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The horses were removed because there were too many for the amount of food available.

The excess horses were placed with volunteers who agreed to provide a home for the animals. The mare and stallion originally were placed with two Lane County men last September. In July, BLM reclaimed the horses, finding that they were not getting proper treatment. The investigation was prompted by a report on the condition of the animals by the Lane County Humane Society.

According to Chuck John, of the Society, the horses had not been given a proper pasture and had been left without water for several periods. Since BLM took the horses, they have been boarded by Bill Swagerty, Eugene, until a new home could be found.

This week Richard Brown, Portland, volunteered to take the pair, which will increase to three when the mare foals in a few months. Brown, who owns an auto repair shop in North Portland, has an acreage near Beaver Creek. Brown's quali-

fications to care for the animals were checked by BLM. The check indicated that he had considerable experience in ranching and had trained horses.

To date, the cost to the government of catching, transporting, placing, reclaiming, and replacing these two horses has exceeded \$1,200 each. The National Wild Horse and Burro Act of 1971 protects wild horses and makes them wards of the government for life, prohibiting their sale. The Act also prohibits use of aircraft or motorized vehicles in gathering wild horses. Amendments to modify the Act to allow outright sale or donation of excess horses and allow aircraft to be used in management are pending before both houses of Congress. According to BLM State Director Muri

W. Storms, enactment of these changes would reduce the costs of wild horse management substantially.

So far, about 120 wild horses have been gathered and placed by BLM from eastern Oregon rangelands. Some have found new homes as far away as Maryland.

Storms also points out that the wild horse population in Oregon is now near 7,000 and is increasing about 20 per cent each year.

Currently, BLM is supervising a gathering along the John Day River, north of Prineville. After several days of hard riding only three horses out of 100 have been caught. Additional attempts to gather wild horses from rapidly growing herds in southeastern Oregon will be made by BLM later this year.

U.S. Answers Complaints

Postal customers in the Heppner area who have complaints about damaged or delayed mail are urged by Postmaster Hubert Wilson, to save the envelope or parcel wrapper to enable postal officials to track down the source of delay or damage.

"The information on the envelope or parcel gives us a place to begin an investigation into what might have happened to a damaged or delayed letter or parcel," said Wilson. "Saving the envelope or

wrapping when you have a problem and bringing it in for us to look at gives us a better chance to trace it." Such cooperation is particularly important with the inception of the new consumer service program on Sept. 15. The program seeks to expand the level and quality of service provided to postal customers.

"What's most important," Postmaster Wilson said, "is for the public to come to us with their problems. We'll be glad to work with them to try and resolve them."

Sumner to pay 91 cents

State Rep. Jack Sumner, D-Heppner, was ordered to pay 91 cents interest for late payments on a contract, plus \$7 court costs in justice court, last Thursday.

Mrs. Helen Cox, mother of Sumner's ex-wife was the plaintiff.

Sumner, who was in Salem, talked to Justice of the Peace Charles O'Connor by telephone.

The base involved a life annuity for Mrs. Cox in exchange for farm land which Sumner and his ex-wife, the former Rita Cox were purchasing from her. The contract was drawn up in 1968 and Mrs. Cox said payments had been made on time until shortly before the divorce in Multnomah County, Aug. 9, 1974, when Sumner became the sole owner of the property in a divorce settlement.

Mrs. Cox stated, "Payments since that time had been consistently late, and I got tired of it."

Farmers Asked to Nominate Committee

"Farmers are asked to nominate candidates of their choice to be on the ASC County Committee ballot," says David McLeod, executive director of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service Office.

The ASC County Committee election will be conducted from Nov. 21 to Dec. 1, by mail ballot. Morrow County is a single community starting this year.

ASC committees are responsible for managing government farm programs on the local level. To meet the needs of individual producers, ASC committee members must be concerned and responsible individuals, McLeod said. Morrow County farmers have the opportunity to nominate persons they feel would best serve the farm communi-

ty. Farmers will soon receive petition forms by mail and may begin submitting them to the county ASCS office on Oct. 2.

"A few basic considerations should be kept in mind when circulating petitions," McLeod said. In order to be valid, petitions must be limited to one nominee each, must include written certification that the nominee is willing to serve if elected, must be signed by at least three eligible farm voters in the ASC community, and must be received in the county ASCS office no later than Oct. 28.

A farmer may circulate or sign nominating petitions for as many candidates as he chooses. Anyone wishing to nominate a farmer for the ASC committee election may contact the county ASCS office

for full details, including eligibility requirements for officeholders.

McLeod believes that farmer nominations of candidates for the upcoming ASC committee election are very important. He said, "Farmers should petition for and elect those individuals they feel would do a good job as ASC committeemen."

The election of concerned farmers to positions on ASC committees is necessary for good administration of farm programs.

He further explained that the county ASCS office welcomes all valid petitions. The opportunity to nominate, vote, and be elected to office is guaranteed to all farmers regardless of race, religion, sex, color, or national origin.



Heppner's Main St., about 1896. The picture shows the Minor Bros. Hardware Store and the Slocum and Johnston Drug Store.