

# Wildlife Commission ponders change in 1979 elk hunting regulations

Elk hunting and its regulation remains one of the Fish and Wildlife Commission's most perplexing problems, one considerably complicated by the fact there is little consensus among hunters about direction regulations should take.

expressing dissatisfaction with elk hunting conditions has grown each year, yet Department biologists are unable to document any widespread instances where hunting pressure is having a damaging effect on elk populations. The problem boils down to one that is more

sociological than biological. Hunters generally agree they would like to see less hunting pressure and a return to elk hunting as it was years ago when there were fewer people, fewer roads and more wild places in the state of Oregon. How this should be accomplished, however, is a

matter of little agreement. Commissioners spent the better part of a day in Portland recently discussing elk management with Wildlife Division staff. Staff biologists wanted direction from the Commission since any major changes in elk tags or in regulations will require con-

siderable advance time to set up.

The Commission agreed it was time to do something about hunting pressure and crowding on opening weekend of the season. Commissioners also agreed that total hunting pressure had not yet reached a point where it was necessary

to eliminate anyone from elk hunting altogether.

They rejected a proposal from the staff which called for two separate bull hunting seasons on each side of the Cascades with about 20 per cent of existing hunters eliminated from eligibility for the first season each year. The

restriction would have been based on the initial of the person's last name and no one excluded more often than once in five years. Those excluded from the first hunt would be eligible for the second hunt.

The Commission approved the concept of two bull hunts for Rocky Mountain elk and

two for Roosevelt elk. But they preferred to establish a quota for the first hunt and make first period tags available on a first come, first served basis. This would allow the hunters to sort themselves out with the most enthusiastic making the extra effort to get a first period tag before all were taken. There would be unlimited number of second period tags available so no one would be excluded from elk hunting altogether.

The Commission has scheduled further discussion of elk management and will conduct a public hearing at 9 a.m. on Friday, January 19, at its Portland headquarters, 506 SW Mill Street. At that time the staff will present its proposals for handling the system asked by the Commission. The Commission will consider those, what the quota should be for the first period, and other possible regulations relating to elk hunting in 1979.

In addition, the Commission will be taking public comments on opening dates for some 1979 hunting seasons and will set the beginning dates for a number of the more popular seasons. This enables those who must commit their vacation dates far in advance to plan them around a hunting trip.

Staff recommendations will be for an antelope opening date of August 18, deer and elk bowhunting on August 25, general deer season on September 29, and pheasant on October 13. Dates proposed by the staff for Rocky Mountain elk are October 27 for the first period and November 10 for the second. For Roosevelt elk proposed opening dates are November 10 for the first and November 17 or 21 for the second period.

Closing dates which determine the length of the season will not be set until next May when more data on winter survival and spring production are available.

Regulations governing bear pursuit and kill seasons will also be considered by the Commission and public comments will be taken.

Big game staff biologist Paul Ebert reviewed for the Commission trends in deer populations and deer hunting in three southeast Oregon units which have been under a 4-point buck rule since 1975. That year 1,133 hunters tried their luck in Steens Mountain Unit but took only 70 bucks under the new rule.

Hunting pressure dropped to 790 participants the next year but harvest success jumped to 210 bucks as more legal bucks became available. In 1977 hunters numbers increased to 1,600 as word began to spread and they took an estimated 300 bucks. But in 1978 hunter numbers increased again to an estimated 2,000 and the kill jumped to about 500 bucks.

Unfortunately with this many hunters, some began taking a chance on antler points and the illegal kill of sub-legal bucks, which had been very low during the first three years, jumped to 80 or more.

In view of the steadily building hunter numbers and this year's illegal kill problem, the staff recommended to the Commission a return to the same antler regulation (forked horn and better in recent years) used elsewhere in eastern Oregon. A limit of 800 hunters in the Steens Mountain Unit would maintain a high level of quality in hunting in this unique and open unit. The permits would be issued on a first come, first served basis and the hunter receiving one would be restricted to that unit for all deer hunting.

Regulations for these southeastern deer hunting units will not be considered by the Commission, nor public comments asked, until other big game regulations are considered in late May.

## FAMILY SALE



**WESTERN FAMILY. SOFT MARGARINE**  
POUND TUB  
CASE OF 24, \$11.64

**49¢**



**WESTERN FAMILY. PEAS, CORN OR GREEN BEANS**  
PEAS, 17-OZ.; CUT OR SLICED GREEN BEANS, 17-OZ.; OR WHOLE KERNEL OR CREAM STYLE CORN, 16-OZ. CASE OF 24, \$7.84

**3 99¢**  
FOR



**FROZEN FOOD SAVINGS**  
**WESTERN FAMILY. MEAT PIES**

**BEEF, CHICKEN OR TURKEY**  
8-OZ. MIX OR MATCH  
CASE OF 24 - \$5.94

**4 \$1**  
FOR

**CHOPPED or LEAF SPINACH, COOKED SQUASH** Western Family, 10-12 oz. .... **4 for \$1**  
**WESTERN FAMILY SHREDDED HASH BROWNS** 12-oz. Pkg. .... **29¢**  
**APPLE or DUTCH APPLE PIE, 8-INCH** Western Family, 26-oz. .... **99¢**

### MORE WESTERN FAMILY VALUES

- WESTERN FAMILY PEAR HALVES Case of 24 \$11.64 16-oz. Size ..... **49¢**
- WESTERN FAMILY PINEAPPLE Case of 24 \$13.07 In Its Own Juice, Sliced, Chunk or Crushed, 20-oz. Size ..... **55¢**
- WESTERN FAMILY TOMATOES Case of 24 \$7.84, Whole Peeled, 16-oz. Size ..... **3 for 99¢**
- WESTERN FAMILY TOMATO JUICE Case of 12 \$7.01 46-oz. Size ..... **59¢**
- WESTERN FAMILY UNSWEETENED GRAPEFRUIT JUICE Case of 12 \$7.96 Regular or 12 Pink, 46-oz. Size ..... **67¢**
- WESTERN FAMILY SALAD OIL 24-oz. Size ..... **89¢**
- WESTERN FAMILY MACARONI & CHEESE Dinner, 7 1/2-oz. Size ..... **4 for \$1**
- WESTERN FAMILY ELBOW MACARONI 4-lb. Size ..... **\$1.39**
- WESTERN FAMILY LONG SPAGHETTI 4-lb. Size ..... **\$1.39**
- WESTERN FAMILY FLOUR 10-lb. Bag ..... **\$1.29**
- WESTERN SHORES POWDERED DETERGENT 48-oz. .... **99¢**
- INSTANT NON-FAT MILK Western Family, 4-lbs., 20-qt. .... **\$4.19**
- WESTERN FAMILY CAKE MIXES Assorted Flavors, 19-oz. .... **59¢**
- WESTERN FAMILY MAYONNAISE 32-oz. .... **\$1.19**
- WESTERN FAMILY CHILI WITH BEANS Regular or Hot, 40-oz. .... **\$1.29**
- WESTERN FAMILY SPINACH 16-oz. Size ..... **35¢**
- WESTERN FAMILY TOMATO PASTE 6-oz. .... **4 for 89¢**
- WESTERN FAMILY STEWED TOMATOES 16-oz. .... **39¢**
- WESTERN FAMILY YELLOW CLING PEACHES Western Family, Sliced or Halves, 29-oz. .... **65¢**
- WESTERN FAMILY PANCAKE SYRUP Western Family, 47-oz. .... **\$1.39**
- WESTERN FAMILY PUDDING Assorted Flavors, 4 1/2-oz. .... **79¢**

### ADDITIONAL SAVINGS

- MAXWELL HOUSE COFFEE ADC Grind, 3-lbs. .... **\$7.39**
- FOLGER'S INSTANT COFFEE 10-oz. Size ..... **\$4.29**
- FOLGER'S INSTANT COFFEE 6-oz. Size ..... **\$2.99**
- ALL POWDERED DETERGENT 3-B Concentrated, All, 9-lbs. 13-oz. .... **\$3.95**
- DOVE BATH SOAP Pink or White, 4.75-oz. .... **47¢**

*Have a Great Day with THRIFTWAY*

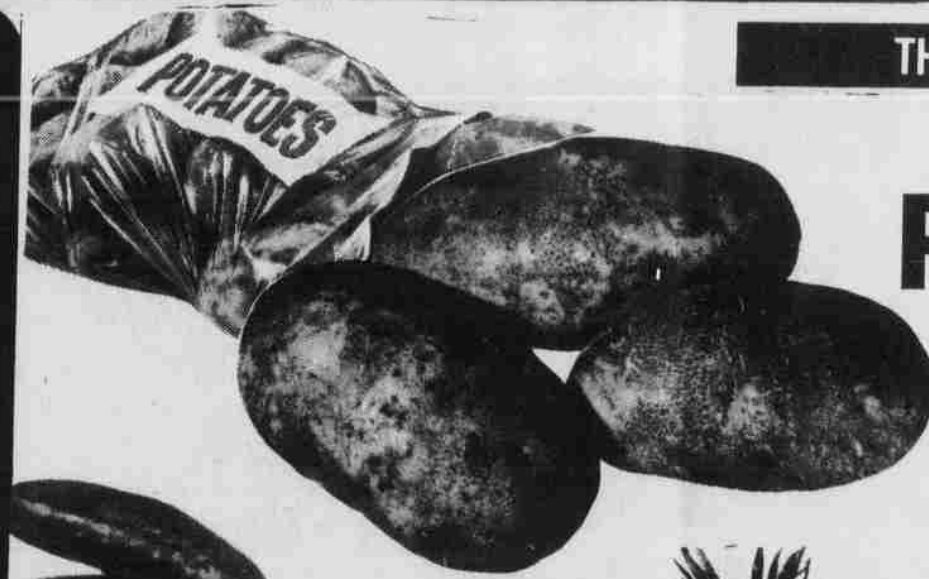
### DISCOUNT NON-FOODS

**CREST TOOTH PASTE** REGULAR OR MINT, 7-OZ. **\$1.09**

**A.G. VITAMIN C** 500 MG, BOTTLE OF 100 **\$17.9**

**A.G. ASPIRIN** BOTTLE OF 250 **79¢**

### THRIFTWAY FRESH PRODUCE



**U.S. NO. 1 POTATOES**

10-LB. BAG **67¢**

**LONG GREEN CUCUMBERS**

GREAT IN SALADS AND SLICING **19¢ EA.**



**LARGE HAWAIIAN PINEAPPLES**

A TASTE OF THE ISLANDS **29¢ LB.**

- FRESH BROCCOLI ..... **49¢**
- JUMBO SATSUMAS ..... lb. **39¢**
- GREEN BELL PEPPERS Large ..... **4 for \$1**
- YELLOW ONIONS Medium Size ..... 5 lbs. **\$1**

THRIFTWAY



printing

676-9228