

Controlled hunt deadline near

The Fish and Wildlife Department conducted a public fisheries workshop in its Portland headquarters at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, July 11. Fisheries staff of the Department presented abstracts of management plans for ten streams or stream sections which are being considered for classification under the wild fish management policy adopted last year.

Also up for discussion was a possible reduction in the stream trout bag limit next year. The daily general limit now is 10 trout and staff biologists are considering a possible reduction to 5 trout per day on most streams in the state. Bag limits would probably remain at 10 per day on most standing water bodies.

Hunt Deadline Soon

The last chance to apply for any of the 1979 controlled deer or elk hunts in Oregon is Monday, July 16. Applications postmarked after that date cannot be entered in the August 16 drawing.

Printed regulations listing all hunts and application procedures, and application cards are available from hunting and fishing license agents all over the state. Applications must be filled out correctly and accompanied by the appropriate application fee to be entered in the drawing, so hunters are urged by the Fish and Wildlife Department to carefully read and follow application instructions.

Turkey Hunters Successful

Thirteen was the lucky number for turkey hunters reporting on the success of their spring gobbler hunt this year. Of 193 hunters who returned their hunt information cards, that is the number who reported success in bagging a turkey dinner.

Of that group, 37 said they did not hunt so the success rate for those who did hovered around nine percent. Cold weather, a later than normal spring, and wide distribution of the birds all appeared to be factors in reducing the harvest about 25 percent over the previous two seasons.

Some 350 permits were authorized for a nine-day season the latter half of April. Even though success was characteristically low, more than half of those who hunted reported they had seen or heard turkeys. Eight birds were taken in the South Wasco area, four from North wasco, and one from the Northeast area.

Ralph Denney, biologist in charge of the Fish and Wildlife Department's upland bird program, says a cooperative research project is about to be launched to learn more about Oregon's Merriam turkeys whose main population is centered in Wasco County. Participants will be, in addition to the Department, Oregon State University and the Mount Hood National Forest.

Field work will begin this winter, Denney said, to evaluate the effectiveness of different methods of live-capturing turkeys. In the past, attempts to capture turkeys here have met with mixed success.

One method that has been tried involves the use of a cannon net. In this method a large net is anchored along one edge of a baited area. The opposite edge of the net is fired by several small cannons over birds which have come to bait. The net must be carefully concealed, and the method requires someone to be present to watch for the birds and to fire the net at the appropriate time.

It is an elaborate setup with plenty of opportunities for something to go wrong. But it has nonetheless been successful on occasion in capturing birds for transplant in other areas and will be tried again this winter.

Other methods to be evaluated include use of drop nets, baited walk-in traps, and drugged baits which temporarily disorient and immobilize the birds long enough for capture by hand. Birds captured during tests will be banded and affixed with streamer tags to help in evaluating habit patterns and

movements in subsequent sightings or recoveries.

The following winter, during December and January, the best trapping method will be used in attempts to capture up to 15 turkeys of various sex and age which will be fitted with small battery-powered radio transmitters. Each transmitter will emit a different signal, enabling biologists in the field to follow their movements with special radio receivers. The birds will be monitored for a full year in order to learn more about such things as movements during various seasons, feed and habitat-type preferences, preferred nesting sites, roosting patterns and other habits.

Information gained in this phase of the study will be a big help to wildlife managers. Turkeys are shy and secretive, and little is known about them compared with other game species. Other research will attempt to determine the best habitat types for the various races of turkeys. It may well be that some areas are especially well-suited to one variety but not another.

There is quite a bit of interest in turkeys and in turkey hunting and there may be substantially more potential for turkeys in Oregon than has been realized so far, says Denney. About 1,200 applications are received each year for the 350 permits available

in the spring turkey season, so relatively few of those who would like to hunt wild turkeys are currently able to do so.

One turkey introduction that may have a bright future began with the release of 20 Rio Grande turkeys in 1975 near Medford. Twenty birds is

an extremely small beginning where the introduction of a new wildlife species is concerned, but these birds seem to be doing quite well.

As of this spring, biologists could account for 125 to 150 birds and they seem to be expanding their range as well

as their numbers. The birds came from northern California. They had been introduced there from Texas in about 1968

and in only a few years had spread to 34 counties. The habitat type in northern California where these birds have done so well is quite similar to

that in much of Jackson and Josephine counties.

There are also several small populations of Eastern turkeys east of Eugene and in the Rogue River Canyon. There is but one species of turkey in North America, but six different races are recognized.

Irrigon-Boardman Little League finishes season with flourish

The Irrigon Little League finished an extensive ball season this week.

According to their coaches, they "had a good bunch of kids to work with."

White nets 36-lb.

salmon at Ilwaco

Gordon White, Ione, caught a 36 lb. salmon last week in Ilwaco.

The Ione resident was aboard a charter boat, the Maggie II, when he landed the lunker.

They competed in the Columbia Little League with teams from Umatilla, Stanfield, Echo and Boardman. Other years, Irrigon and Boardman combined their teams since the youngsters went to school together, but this year there were just too many kids to be combined and transportation was a problem.

The major team of 10 to 12 year olds had 6 wins and 6 losses. Five will try out for the all-star team. Their Manager, and Coach David Secl gave them a party Thursday night. The Minor team coached by

John Wenholtz and Carroll Lathrop had 10 wins and 2 losses. This is the 9 to 11 age group.

Bill and Janet Cooley and Vicky Van Doran coached T-ball A team. They had 24 boys and girls learning the fundamentals of baseball. They stressed the importance of giving everyone the opportunity to play. Youngsters ages ranged from 8 to 11. The team had 8 wins and 2 losses.

Dennis Kotilla and Stan Rauch coached the T-ball B team with 3 wins, 3 tied, 5 losses.



Butch Knowles

Knowles top rider at St. Paul Rodeo

Butch Knowles of Heppner earned the all-around cowboy honors at the 44th annual St. Paul Rodeo on the Fourth of July. He claimed the honors by winning the saddle bronc riding championship and places in bull riding.

His total purse was \$3,080, which included monies from the rodeo association and the Bank of Oregon. His name also will go on the St. Paul President's trophy, and he now has a leg on the trophy. A cowboy must win three times to claim permanent possession of the large prize.

Knowles won the honors

Knowles won the honors from a field of 300 performers. Total purse for the four-performance rodeo was \$52,900. For winning the saddle bronc championship, he received \$2,059, as well as a beautiful silver belt buckle.


Julie Doering, Athena, won \$562, for placing first in the girl barrél-racing event. Tom Flannekin and son, Tommy Jr., won the team roping event, with each receiving \$470. They are from Redmond, Ore.

St. Paul's 45th annual rodeo will be held next July 3, 4 and 5.

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