



by Mark Baggett

Ask most any elk hunter the history of the North American elk and he'll proudly tell you that this big-game favorite was once a plains animal, found from the Midwest through the open expanses of the Plains states to the base of the Rocky Mountains. He will likely support this theory by describing the elk's tannish-brown color as the perfect camouflage for the bunch grass prairies which dominated this once-preferred range.

But according to Mike Wisdom, a wildlife biologist with the USDA Forest Service, elk not only inhabited the plains, but also the deserts, the high Rocky Mountains, the coastal areas of both the east and west coasts and the fertile valleys and hardwood forests of the eastern United States.

"Elk were once found in just about every kind of habitat that we have in the United States," Wisdom said, "and also in parts of southern Canada and northern Mexico."

Wisdom, a long-time biologist for the Bureau of Land Management who a few years ago transferred over to the Forest Service to begin research on the precedent-setting Starkey project in northeast Oregon, said that while elk once ranged over nearly all the United States, they were not entirely the same critter, and taxonomists have since divided these wapiti populations into six different subspecies: the Eastern elk, the Manitoban elk, the Merriam's elk, the Tule elk, the Rocky Mountain elk and the Roosevelt elk. "They're all the same species—they are Cervus Elaphus—but they were different subspecies," he said.

Many elk enthusiasts believe that since elk were once so visible throughout the Great Plains that such was the original range of our Rocky Mountain elk, which later were pushed into the timber and mountains by increasing numbers of white settlers.

"That's just not true," Wisdom says. "That's where the myth comes in; Rocky Mountain elk have always existed in very healthy numbers—for as far back as we know elk to have existed—in the Rocky Mountain states. The thinking is, at least based on the records that taxonomists have looked at, that the Manitoban elk was actually the plains animal, found in the areas like Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, the Dakotas and up into Saskatchewan and Manitoba."

Wisdom said the Eastern subspecies of elk were found from just west of the Mississippi River to the eastern seaboard, while the Merriam's elk ranged through what is today the southwestern states of Arizona, New Mexico and down into Mexico. Of course, Roosevelt elk still occupy many mountainous areas of the extreme west coast, and the smaller Tule elk can be found in isolated areas of central California. Of the six subspecies, the Eastern and Merriam's varieties today are extinct.

"But as far as having pushed elk into the mountains, there has been no such thing at all," Wisdom said. "There have been no major population displacements of elk caused by man. Basically, we just wiped out the elk populations in areas we settled in heavily."

"Really, what happened was," Wisdom continued, "when the white man arrived, he settled in the flat ground and most productive areas, which eliminated all the populations of our Eastern elk first, since that's where we first settled. Then the next subspecies to be impacted was the Manitoban elk, which was primarily found out in the Plains states. Of course, elk out there didn't stand a chance, so their numbers and distribution range became restricted to parts of Canada in several National Parks, where they remain protected today."

Wisdom said that while the Rocky Mountains have always been home to Rocky Mountain subspecies of elk, their range was historically broader than it is today, from the Great Basin deserts during the winter to the high-mountain summer ranges.

"So we may have changed their migratory patterns by displacing them from some of that low-elevation, sagebrush-desert-type winter range, but their numbers are still doing very well today. They were nearly extirpated from many parts of their range from over hunting in the late 1800s and early 1900s, but they've done really well in terms of a comeback."

Wisdom suggested elk aficionados wishing to learn more about the mighty wapiti should obtain a copy of "The Elk of North America" by Stackpole Books. The book, a compilation of research by many leading elk experts, was edited by Jack Ward Thomas, currently a co-leader of the 10-year Starkey Project, which is studying the interactions of elk, deer and cattle in the wilds, the habitat preferences and requirements of each species and their reaction to man's usage of the land.

Rocky Mt. Elk Not Originally a Plains Animal



Flight A: low gross, Pat Edmundson; low net Eileen Padberg, least putts-Lois Hunt.

Flight B: low gross-Harriet Evans, low net-Bebe Munkers; least putts Maude Hughes and Bernice Lott. Hostesses for the day were Lois Hunt and Eileen Padberg.

Chip In Bebe Munkers No. 7, Martha Peterson, No. 6, Lois Hunt No. 3 & 7.

Team best ball Pat Edmundson, Bernice Lott, Luvilla Sonstegard and Maude Hughes.

July 27

Flight A-Bev Wilson, first place club champ; Harriet Pierson, second; a tie for third between Lois Hunt and Eileen Padberg.

Flight B-Pat Edmundson, first; a tie for second between Anita Boyer and Vern Batty.

Chip ins-Bev Wilson, Pat Edmundson and Juanita Martin.

Birdie on 4 - Pat Edmundson.

Most penalties - Barb Gilbert and Anita Boyer.

K.P. on 4-Pat Edmundson.

Least putts for 27 holes-Pat Edmundson, 26.

Most 6's-Lucille Massey.

July 30

Flight A: low gross-a tie between Don Lott and John Boyer, 65; low net-a tie between Frank Pearson and Rick Paullus, 53; least putts-Marc Damon, 27.

Flight B: low gross-Ron Bowman, 66; low net-a tie between Dave Mitchell and Duane Disque, 54.

Long drive: Don Lott.

K.P.: Don Lott.

August 15, 1989

Flight A low gross-Barb Gilbert; low net-Jan Paustian; least putts-Harriet Pierson; long drive-Anita Boyer.

Flight B low gross-Neoma Bailey; low net-a tie Harriet Evans and Muriel Palmer; least putts-Luvilla Sonstegard; long drive-Harriet Evans.

Flight C low gross-Lynnea Sargent; low net-Maude Hughes; long drive-Maude Hughes.

K.P.: Jan Paustian #2.

Chip in: Barb Gilbert #9 and Harriet Pierson #8.

Birdie: Barb Gilbert #9.

A special luncheon was given for Charlie Rawlins. Charlie is leaving WCCC to go back to school this fall. We all wish him the best.

Hostesses for the day were Jo Petryjohn and Bernice Lott.

Thursday, Aug. 17

Two-man Scramble

Low gross-Bev Wilson and Harriet Pierson; second low gross-Anita Boyer and Juanita Martin.

Low net-Muriel Palmer and Maude Hughes; second low net Bernice Lott and Luvilla Sonstegard.

Long drive-Barb Gilbert.

Short drive-Jan Paustian.

K.P. #4 Jan Paustian.

Chip in: Barb Gilbert and Luvilla Sonstegard.

August 22

Flight A-low gross-Anita Boyer; low net-Jan Paustian; least putts-Lois Hunt.

Flight B-low gross-Neoma Bailey; low net-Luvilla Sonstegard; least putts-Doll Campbell.

Flight C-low gross-Maude Hughes.

Birdie #13-Luvilla Sonstegard.

Mystery number (most 5) - Harriet Evans.

August 29

Flight A-low gross-Harriet Pierson; low net-Anita Boyer; least putts-Martha Peterson.

Flight B-low gross-a tie between Harriet Evans and Neoma Bailey; low net - Doll Campbell; least putts - Lucille Massey, Bebe Munkers and Bernice Lott.

K.P. first shot-Barbara Gilbert; second shot-Bev Wilson.

Chip In #6 Martha Peterson. Special award-Bebe Munkers; mystery score-Verna Brinda.

WCCC Golf

Willow Creek Country Club Jack and Jill Tournament held August 11 was hosted by Gary and Barb Watkins, John and Kelly Boyer and Dave and Tricia Gunderson.

Low gross-first-Eddie and Bev Gunderson; second-Bob and Susan Jensen; third-John and Kelly Boyer.

Low net-first-Larry and Kerry Pettyjohn; second-Mike and Lorrie Smith; third-Dave and Tricia Gunderson.

Ladies long drive-Jan Paustian. Mens K.P. second shot #8 -John Boyer; #7-Larry Pettyjohn.

High gross-Allen and Debbie Scott.

High net-Gene and Luvilla Sonstegard.

Sunday Men's Play August 20, 1989

Low gross: Don Lott, 59; second low gross-Gerald Pierson and Earl Fishburn, 70.

Low net: Russ Rollis, 51; second low net-Mike Doherty, 54.

K.P.: Jay Straley. Long drive: Jay Straley. Least putts: a tie between Don Lott and Gerald Pierson, 23.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The next meeting of the Morrow County JSC Crossroads Program is recruiting for shelter homes to provide emergency care for children. Homes will be on-call one to two weeks per month. A stipend of \$100 per week will be paid to the shelter care parents in addition to daily per diem paid for any children placed. Homes will be certified by CSD. Applicants will need to go through 12 hours of training provided by CSD and must meet administrative rule requirements for certification. Must reside in Morrow County. If interested call Carolyn at 676-9061 or Kim at 481-9482. 8-23-2c

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Morrow County School District is now taking applications for substitute teachers new to our district. Certificated teachers wishing to be employed during the 1989-90 school year may contact Kathie McGowan at the district office, 270 West Main, Lexington, Oregon, or call 989-8202. Applicants must complete a district application form, provide copies of transcripts and teaching certificate, complete W-4 and I-9 forms and specify preferred location for substituting. 8-23-2c

PUBLIC NOTICE

INVITATION TO BID

The Port of Morrow will accept bids until 1:30 p.m. on September 11, 1989 on the following:

General Cargo Crane, capacity in excess of 200 ton rating.

The Port of Morrow Reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Call 503-481-7678 or write Box 200, Boardman, OR 97818.

Gary Neal
General Manager
Port of Morrow

Published: August 30 and September 6, 1989

PUBLIC NOTICE

INVITATION TO BID

The Port of Morrow will accept bids until 1:30 p.m. on September 11, 1989 on the following:

4700 pcs. 3" x 40' Irrigation Pipe including Risers & Sprinklers.

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I CARD OF THANKS

We would like to thank the firemen and John Jensen, Butch Heideman, Joe Orem and all the people that responded to our call for help with our chimney fire at the Woolery House. Everyone was so careful not to damage anything and we appreciate all of you so much. 8-30-1c

John and Faith Jordan

To the Heppner swimming instructors, Randy, Michelle, Casey and Kim, on behalf of your "little buddies" we the parents would like to thank you for a job well done.

We were especially impressed with the extra special care received by the children that weren't quite as cooperative as others in not dunking their heads. You really turned this into a positive experience. Each morning the children smiled all the way to, during and after lessons. When the lessons were over all the children had advanced their swimming skills. The kids thought their instructors were "awesome" and so do we.

Hope to see you next year. We will be there, that you can count on.

Ray and Debbie Miller

Dave and Pam Piper

Bob and Sherree Smith

Carlita and Jim Bloodsworth

8-30-1c

Thank you to those of you that helped to put on our annual Wrangler Cowboy Breakfast Sunday morning of Rodeo weekend. It's nice to have so much good help.

Also a thank you to the community for once again coming out to enjoy our early morning breakfast.

Janet Greenup

Susie Hisler

8-30-1c

I would like to thank everyone for all the cards, flowers, and calls of encouragement, during my hospital stay and since I have been home.

Carol Baker

8-30-1p

2 NOTICES

NEW MOVIE RELEASES

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T-Ball, Minor, and Babe Ruth pictures are in. Stop by the Gazette-Times office and pick yours up or call Joyce Hughes, 989-8412.8-2f-2e

Pregnancy Crisis?

Free pregnancy test and confidential counseling at 240 S.E. 2nd St., Hermiston, Mon. Wed. Fri. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 24 hour telephone, 567-0888.

3-1-fc

3 LOST & FOUND

FOUND: gray kitten, phone 676-5443 after 5:30 p.m. or before 7:30 a.m. 8-30-1fc

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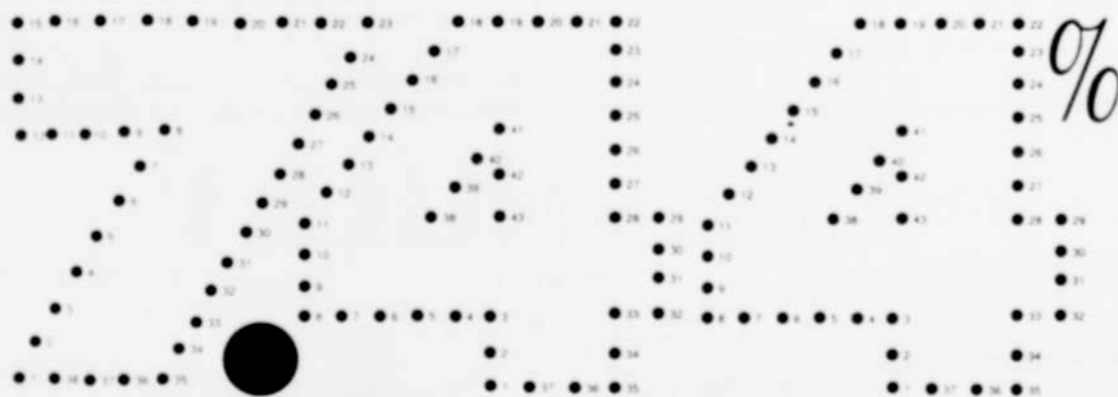
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