

## EASTERN OREGON OUTDOORS



by Mark Bagett

### Steelheading Opportunity Not Lost With New Regs Change

A hearty, holiday helping of confusion about the recent (emergency) steelhead regulations change apparently has many eastern Oregon anglers believing their steelhead-fishing opportunity for the season has been all but revoked.

Under the new rule, the bag limit on many eastern Oregon tributaries of the Snake and Columbia rivers has been reduced to one fish per day, one in possession, two per year; on at least two streams, "catch and release only" prevails for the duration of the emergency period. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife initiated the temporary measure last November in an effort to increase escapement among wild and hatchery steelhead, with the hope that enough offspring could be produced to offset the effects of dangerously low returns this year.

"It's not even worth going fishing," one angler grumbled. "I'd actually be hoping to not catch a fish, because once I had, I'd have to head on home. And if I caught a fish on my next trip, I'd be out of the ball game completely."

In truth, the only loss of opportunity in catching steelhead comes from the fact that there may be fewer to catch (due to low returns), regulations or no. Anglers' opportunities for keeping steelhead for the table is more limited, it's true, but not as drastically as many believe (for reasons we'll examine in a moment). As for catching steelhead, however, a special provision of the emergency regulation allows anglers to continue fishing after they have taken their daily bag of one fish (on streams that apply)—or even their yearly allotment of two fish—as long as they practice "catch and release."

"We wanted to provide as much angling opportunity as possible and still save enough fish for smolt production," said ODFW District Fisheries biologist Errol Claire of John Day. "But we want to emphasize careful handling of the fish. Hook and release means they take their needle nose pliers and pull the hooks out without ever removing the fish from the water. We can't afford to have people wagging that fish around or holding it up for several photos or whatever."

Proper release methods dictate that anglers not attempt to remove swallowed or deeply embedded hooks, but rather cut the leader just above it. Usually in such a case, a fish will rid itself of the hook or its own acids will quickly dissolve it. If the fish is exhausted, it should be resuscitated by grasping the tail and holding the fish upright and facing into the current, allowing water to pass through the mouth and over the gills. Do this until the fish breaks free and swims away.

"And never touch the fish's gills," adds steelhead program leader Mick Jennings, "like holding the fish by its gill plates. Those gills are so delicate, they can be ruptured very easily."

While the Grande Ronde River from the Oregon border up to Rondowa and the Willowa River from the mouth to the Lostine River are open only for catch-and-release angling under the new rule, other streams, including portions of the Innaha, John Day, Umatilla and Walla Walla rivers fall under the "one per day, two per year" reduced bag limit. Many anglers don't realize that on these streams, they may keep two steelhead in 1990 and, after purchasing their new licenses and steelhead/salmon tags after the first of the year, may keep two more fish during the January 1-April 15, 1991 season (January 1-March 31 on the Umatilla). The mainstem John Day below the North Fork is open to steelheading year round, and regulations there revert back to the standard bag limits after April 15.

"I think these regulations will help in the long run to maintain good populations in all these streams," said Jennings. "We've been criticized many times before for not 'doing something' soon enough. Well, this is what needs to be done."

### Deadline for 4-H exchange Jan. 15

Japanward, HO. 4-H'ers interested in traveling to Japan have the opportunity to do so this summer for one month to live with a host family, participate in Japanese club activities, and see Japan.

The trip will cost approximately \$1,850 and is usually scheduled for

the month of August. A weekend training, a pre-departure training, airfare, a chaperone, and host families are provided.

Applications are available at the Morrow County Extension office. Applications are due January 15. There is a limited amount of scholarship assistance available.

## Ione Cardinals defeated by Heppner, Spray

By Anne Morter

The Ione Cardinals were defeated in two games played last week, losing to Heppner on Monday and falling to Spray on Friday. In both games, the Cards struggled with their shooting as their opponents rolled to easy wins. Their pre-season record now stands at 4-3.

On Monday, Heppner wasted no time in pouncing on the Cards, jumping out to a 15-0 lead in the first quarter. The Cardinals pulled to within six points near the end of the first half but several Mustang three-pointers gave them a 12-point halftime advantage. Ione was never able to gain any ground on the Mustangs in the second half, leading to the 20-point margin of defeat.

Ryan Halvorsen led all scorers with 26 points followed by Mike Garrett with 22 and Gabe Garcia with 10. Doug Devin led the Mustangs with 17 points. The Cards were overpowered on the boards, 34-49. Mike Garrett led the Ione rebounding effort with 10, followed by Deacon Heideman with seven. David Wagenblast had five assists and Ryan Halvorsen had four while Garcia paced the Cardinals with five steals. Ione shot 36 percent from the floor, making 27 of 76. The Mustangs hit 33 of 85 for 38 percent.

From the free throw line, Ione managed just 12 of 25 for 48 percent compared to the Mustangs 13 of 21 for 62 percent.

"We did not have a good shooting night," said coach Del LaRue, summing up the loss. He did mention that Ryan Halvorsen had a good game and that Deacon Heideman did some strong rebounding.

On Friday, the Cardinals played the Spray Eagles almost even until the half. The third quarter was a different story as the Eagles outscored them, 20-7, and went on to win the game, 63-42.

Gabe Garcia was high scorer for the Cards with 15 points. Mike Garrett and Ryan Halvorsen each chipped in with 10. The teams were about even in rebounds. For Ione, Mike Garrett led the way with nine boards, followed by Ryan Halvorsen with eight and Deacon Heideman with seven. David Wagenblast dished out five assists and Gabe Garcia and Halvorsen had three steals each to lead those categories.

"We played well defensively in the first half," said coach LaRue, "but they got away from us in the third quarter." He noted that the team shot poorly and that the intensity was missing from their game. "Hopefully the vacation will revive us," he said.



Ryan Halvorsen goes for rebound

Photo by Pam Minster

## Ione Jr. High beat Eagles, stomp on Echo Cougars



Ione Jr. High players fight for rebound

Photo by Pam Minster

By Becky Wagenblast

The Ione Middle School Lady Cardinals beat the Fossil Eagles 26-24 in overtime on December 13. The Cardinals started out good when they scored the first basket, but the Eagles fought back and the first quarter ended in a tie, six to six. The Cards led going into the locker room at halftime, 16-10 out-scoring Fossil 10 to four.

The Cards came out in the third quarter with a better defense, but scored only two points on the offensive end. The Eagles scored six to trail the Cards by only two, 18-16.

In the fourth quarter, three of the Cardinals were in foul trouble. At the end of the quarter, the score was tied, 22-22. The Cardinals were excited as they went into overtime. Ione's defense once again came to the rescue as they held Fossil to only two points while scoring four points in overtime with a final score of 26-24.

Ione Middle School scorers were Jamie Lovett, post player, with 10 points; Melissa McElligott, wing, nine points; Becky Wagenblast, point guard, three points; Kimberly Bedrotha, wing, and Suzy Heideman, post player, each chipped in two points.

On Tuesday, December 18, the Ione Cardinals traveled to Echo to play the Cougars. Ione got the tip-off and the jump start and ran over Echo in the first quarter. Ione's defense had several steals which allowed the Cougars to only score four points.

Ione had good driving by Kim Bedrotha, scoring six points, and Becky Wagenblast, scoring five. They led going into the second quarter 15 to 4.

In the second quarter Ione went to one of their post players, Jaime Lovett, who scored nine points in the quarter. The Cardinals once again had great defense to hold the Cougars to four points. IMS scored 13 points to make the score at halftime 28-8.

## National forest receipt payments made to county

Pacific Northwest Regional Forester John F. Buttrille announced that 31 counties in Oregon and 27 in Washington received more than \$186 million as their portion of na-

tional forest receipts collected in fiscal year 1990. Morrow County received \$432,619.40.

The Oregon amount totals \$149,671,844.62 and Washington state received \$36,850,575.11. Last

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