

PP&L Plans \$1.5 Million Program In Medford Area

Pacific Power and Light company plans an expenditure of more than \$1.5 million on its Medford district construction program for 1963, according to Frank Benesh, Medford district manager.

A major project calls for an increase in the power capacity of the White City substation in order to meet growing power needs of industry in the area. A 5,000 kva transformer with associated equipment will be added to boost the substation's capacity. The work will cost \$72,000, Benesh said.

A new Gold Hill substation, which will cost \$65,000, will provide an alternate power supply for the Tolo and Rogue River substations.

The district manager noted that PP&L's power generating and distribution construction projects in this area will absorb a significant portion of the funds budgeted for the company's Copco division construction program.

Of the \$1,540,000 total, the distribution system work will require \$1,339,000, much of it for work at substations throughout Jackson county.

Among other important construction projects in the Medford area the district manager listed modifications and additions to its Lone Pine substation and a feeder line to Eagle Point to supply new loads there.

"The outlay of the large sum of money budgeted for the Medford district construction program will help ensure our customers a dependable and high standard electric service," Benesh noted.

"We wanted to do it while the city had the street torn up, but they didn't want to keep the roadway closed any longer," a spokesman said. "Honest, we do have a working agreement with the city."

Past, Present Conditions Give Insight to Future State Hunting

By JOHN MCKEAN
Oregon State Game Commission

Will hunting continue to be one of Oregon's most popular sources of outdoor recreation, or will human pressures reduce the wildlife resources and hunting access until hunting is no longer attractive to the average citizen?

This is a question that every hunter should ask himself—not the game commission, or the legislature, or Uncle Sam—for the answers rest largely with hunters.

Laws are enacted and agencies of government are created to provide services that are considered necessary by a majority of the people; therefore, it follows that the efficiency of governmental programs is directly affected by the knowledge and will of a majority of the people.

Perhaps an examination of our past and present conditions and a recognition of the trends in more populous states will give some insight into the future of hunting.

The deer is Oregon's most popular and productive game animal. Hunter participation and kill figures illustrate the increase in annual yield of mule deer during the past decade. A similar trend has occurred with both the black-tailed deer and elk, except that current inventories do not indicate a 1962 decline in those populations.

The fact that the number of persons hunting deer and elk has nearly doubled and the annual yield of those species has tripled during the past 10 years is an enviable record, but there is no assurance that similar increases in yield will be possible in the next decade.

The principal factor contributing to the success of the last decade has been a public awakening to the fact that big game populations cannot be stockpiled. They can either be taken from the range by starvation, disease, predation, or other controls.

The Commission has been continuously seeking a level of harvest that would stabilize the big game herds in balance with winter forage supplies and minimize conflicts

with agriculture, forestry, and other primary land uses.

Another factor contributing to the high yield of the past decade has been a series of mild winters permitting a higher carry-over of animals than should normally be expected.

With knowledge that much of the waste inherent in antiquated management concepts has been eliminated, and with no assurance that mother nature will be as kind to the game herds as she has been during the past 10 years, it is probable that comparable increases in the public demand for big game hunting will have an effect upon the quantity of game available to each of us as individuals.

Whether this condition is good or bad depends upon the adaptability and philosophy of the people. Perhaps it is time to quit looking at deer and elk hunting as a cheap source of meat and develop a greater appreciation of the fine recreation available in hunting. It appears there are few hunters, but lots of people with a vehicle, a gun, and a lust to kill something.

Everyone likes to be successful and by present standards is embarrassed if he isn't. This philosophy must change to one of hunting for fun and greater emphasis on skill and ethics, if hunting is to maintain its present status in our variety of recreational opportunities.

The principal opportunity to increase big game production and hunting opportunities rests in constructive development of winter food supplies and more intensive management of every available acre of productive habitat.

Kiss Brings Ticket For California Girl

Victorville, Calif. — (UPI) — Romaine Minnefield, 22, has been cited for kissing by the California Highway Patrol.

Officers said she kissed Frank Trujillo, 28, while he was driving on a highway Saturday. This caused him to take his eyes from the road and the car hit a rock bank, injuring both of them.

Specifically, Romaine was cited for willfully interfering with a driver so as to affect his control of a vehicle.

Upland game birds and waterfowl are relatively short-lived and fluctuate in abundance annually in response to climate and other environmental factors.

As with deer and elk, game birds cannot be stockpiled. They can either be used in the years their nature will take them her way. Fortunately, nature's way of handling birds is not as damaging to other resources as with big game.

Chucker Is Added

During the past decade the chucker has added much to Oregon's hunting opportunities, and the Commission is currently searching for an exotic that may fit the covey forest lands of western Oregon. Merriam's turkey is another bird that has been recently introduced and shows great promise for the future.

These additions to the resource base, combined with the knowledge that quail chucker, and pheasant populations are not being fully utilized with present seasons and pressures, provide much cause for optimism by bird hunters.

There are many opportunities to increase game bird hunting through more intensive management, development of habitat, and introduction of desirable exotics. The matter of landowner tolerance and access to productive bird hunting areas will be the principal limiting factor of bird hunting in the future.

The real challenge to be faced in the future is maintenance of a reasonable access to the lands that produce the publicly owned wildlife.

In Public Ownership

With half of the state in public ownership and most landowners possessing a keen interest in the wildlife resources, Oregon is in a much better position to meet this challenge than most states. However, the forecast of a half-million more residents by 1975, combined with the probability that more leisure time and improved transportation will make Oregon more attractive to nonresidents, is cause for advance planning and the initiation of constructive programs that will make the landowner's position more tenable.

Nearly all of Oregon's access problems are the direct result of abuses the landowner has suffered from either wildlife or recreationists. A landowner who awakens to the fact that his land is producing more deer than cows has a real incentive to capitalize on the deer, and the landowner who finds cut fences, dead livestock, and littered property during hunting season logically feels that the users should help repair the damage.

If the people of Oregon want to continue to enjoy the landowner's hospitality during hunting seasons, they will have to show greater respect for his rights both in terms of their personal conduct while hunting and in terms of the abundance of game they expect to be produced on his property.



Your Money's Worth

By SYLVIA PORTER
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WILL FLORIDA FREEZE CAUSE NEW LIVING COST SPIRAL?

Will the skyrocketing prices of fresh fruits and vegetables in the wake of the December freeze in Florida send our cost of living into a new upsurge as the freeze of 1957-58 did and as so many headlines suggest will happen again?

Will the hike in postal rates and other price boosts which we know will take place in 1963 mark the end of the cycle of relative stability in U.S. living costs which began back in 1958?

No, these forces by themselves won't do this. Dramatic and obvious as the price hikes in fruits and vegetables and postal rates are, they won't push us into another living cost upsurge.

The prospect still is that the rise in living costs in 1963 will be within the range of recent years—1 1/4 to 2 per cent annually. The prospect still is that the biggest upward pressure will come in the area of services, not goods or food. If this outlook changes, it will be because of factors that cannot now be foreseen—and this is the considered view of Washington's top experts on consumer prices.

This appraisal may seem Pollyannish in the face of these two facts:

(1) The Dec. 11-13 cold wave ruined a huge part of Florida's orange, grapefruit and tangerine crop, wiped out some of its vegetable plantings, damaged a third of its citrus trees, hurt young trees of all varieties.

As a result, official government statistics on wholesale prices show that since Dec. 10, grapefruit prices have been marked up 69 per cent; oranges, up 78 per cent (with California oranges up 14.5 per cent in sympathy); cabbages, more than doubled; celery, up 78 per cent; lettuce, up 40 per cent; tomatoes, up 19 per cent; snapbeans, up 70 per cent.

As a result, retail prices of the foods have been sharply increased too throughout the country. In the neighborhood grocery store in which I shop, for instance, prices have been hiked a flat 30 per cent on oranges, grapefruit, tangerines, tomatoes, avocados.

What's more, a just-issued Agriculture Dept. report says that Florida fruits were more seriously damaged this past December than in the 1957 freeze.

The one-cent rise in postal rates which went into effect Jan. 7 will cost the average American family \$1.80 for postage this year, will boost the average family mailing bill to about \$9.

Of course, these price hikes are hitting us in the pocketbook. How then, justify the prediction that the impact over the year will be less severe than it now appears?

A first point is that purchases of fresh fruits and vegetables and of stamps play a comparatively small role in our overall living costs. The disastrous December 1957-April 1958 freeze in Florida and Texas created major shortages, pushed up fruit-vegetable prices 12 per cent. Even if the recent freeze causes a similar and lasting 12 per cent rise—which officials doubt—the increase would push up the consumer price index by only 0.4 per cent. In 1957-58, the fruit-vegetable price hikes triggered price boosts in many other areas, had a cumulative impact on the living cost index. The background today is far different. In 1957-58, the price index was much more sensitive to such extraordinary movements as this. Since then, the index has been more realistically adjusted so that a fruit-vegetable freeze in one Southern state doesn't throw the whole living cost picture out of focus.

A second point is that the influence of the fruit-vegetable price increases will be felt most strongly in these first few months, probably will be dissipated as the year rolls on. Large stocks of these perishable foods already had been harvested before the three-day freeze; the problem before the freeze was surplus, not scarcity of the foods.

As for the postal rate hike, it's now in the index. There will be no more increases this year.

Our cost of living is still heading up, will reach another all-time high in 1963. But price-cutting, not price-raising, is the trend in many areas which have the greatest effect on living costs. Despite the headlines, no new inflation spiral is in sight.

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