Ike Says . . .

From page 3

sive hunting in a large tract of land...with the exception of a few individuals who drove around gates and through the "No Entry" signs posted at the bottom of Clear Creek.

Now, most of the gates have been opened and vehicular access is being permitted at the Petersen tie road and on the mainline, from mile 34 to mile 29. It's a shame there aren't a few walk-in areas left for people who want to use some shoe leather. The bottom of Clear Creek will remain closed to vehicular traffic, as will the south fork of Clear Creek. Do not go past the 29 mile marker toward Keasey Road on the mainline, because Fibre expects to haul some tree lengths out of the Koster area. Timber companies' signage is not accurate at times, so people have begun to disregard the signs they encounter. To ensure continued access to these lands, please obey the signs put up by the timber companies.

Tom also suggested that sportsmen call the local offices of Longview Fibre for up-to-date information about areas that may be closed. While it is admirable of Longview Fibre to offer this personal service, it is sometimes difficult to get quick answers and very time consuming to Longview Fibre personnel.

Hunting deer this year has not changed my mind on how dire the deer population is in our area. While there are deer, they are by no stretch of the imagination, very abundant. On foot, I have seen an average of about three deer a day, from daylight to dark (7 to 8 miles a day). Several deer were continually scratching and licking themselves and deer lice were flying onto me. In talking to hunters who have harvested bucks (which is very few), they noticed that the deer had heavy infestations of deer lice. This does not bode well for deer this winter, since deer lice are thought to be part of the reason that deer lose their hair in the winter months.

When I wrote this article, the bucks were starting to rut, and I would expect the harvest to pick up to the end of the season. If it doesn't, this may be a record low harvest year. Incidentally, I have talked with hunters from the coast who are traveling up here to hunt because we have better deer numbers than they do. Maybe we need to start a deer hatchery to keep the Blacktailed deer off the ESA list!!

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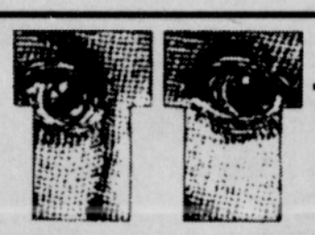
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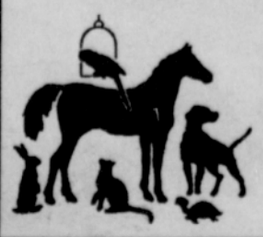

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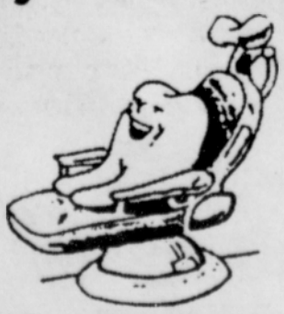

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