

Bighorn Sheep Observed On Winter Ranges

Oregon's bighorn sheep population continues to thrive and sheep are now being observed regularly in five different areas of the state. Production of lambs is also noted in all herds indicating that these trophy big game animals are back to stay.

Reintroduced to the state by the Game Commission in November 1954, bighorns are now established in former ranges on Hart Mountain, the Steens, Owyhee Canyons, Strawberry Mountains near John Day, and the Minam and Snake Divide in the Wallows.

Recently biologists of the Commission conducted brief surveys in these areas with good numbers of animals observed. Only a small portion in each area is covered by the survey so the number of animals observed does not represent the total number present.

At Hart Mountain, an aerial

flight revealed 22 bighorns wintering on Poker Jim Ridge north of Hart Mountain, 9 of which were rams. Thirty-two bighorns were tallied on a flight in the Steens, 11 of which were rams. On Canyon Mountain in the Strawberry, 11 bighorns, including 4 rams, were sighted. The group included several last year's lambs, a heartening sign since no adult rams were included in the small band transplanted there several years ago.

Nineteen bighorns are being observed regularly this winter in the Minam drainage and several are being seen often by fishermen on the Snake River. Good numbers are also being observed in the Owyhee Canyons. Biologists recently encountered 7 sheep, including rams, ewes, and lambs. A nearby rancher previously this winter spotted 23 bighorns and another rancher reported observing a band of 11.

Control of Oregon Predators Facing Session of Legislature

State Senator Robert F. Smith, R-Burns, said today that one of the most important agricultural problems facing this session of the Legislature is the question of control of Oregon predators.

The Senate Agriculture Committee has established as an objective the implementation of a statewide plan to eliminate or control predator animal damage, Smith said. Senator Smith noted that the results of this damage have created great economical losses to Oregon's agricultural community.

Smith said the committee is recommending that the State Department of Agriculture and Oregon Game Commission manage predator population of the state and thereby control damage to livestock and crops.

"Certainly counties within the state ought to be authorized to supplement statewide programs when the need arises," Smith said.

He noted there had been much discussion during this session of the Legislature about a bounty on coyotes and the control of other predators. Definitely, he said, it appears that the control of predators is essential because of recent actions of the federal government in eliminating the use of poisons.

Smith said there had been limits proposed to Senate Bill 144 which would provide for a \$25 bounty on coyotes.

The proposed amendments would establish a statewide plan to eliminate or control predatory animal damage. Practices employed in preventing predator damage would include the education and guidance of trapping and hunting skills to the agricultural community; provide technical advice and assistance in selection and placement of traps, aerial hunting, use of repellants, and fences.

30 Nyssa Boys To Compete In Jr. Olympics

The Preliminary Tournament for wrestling in Junior Olympics was held Saturday, March 10.

Dennis Savage was Meet Director, Mel Calhoun, Coordinator of the meet.

Those qualifying for the A. A. U. Jr. Olympic finals to be held Saturday, March 17 at Portland are:

MIDGET, 10 and under - Terry Cleaver, Kay Moore, Mark Needs, Scott Calhoun, Dave Moffis, Eddie Tooley, Jay Gomaza, James Grunke, Phillip Martinez, Kelly Ferrenburg and Roy Saldana.

JUNIOR, Age 11-12 - Norberto Lopez, Charles Stultz, Marvin Mosley, Ray Grijalva, Mike Johnson, Ron Freel, Eddie Kincaid and Stacy Garner.

INTERMEDIATE, Age 13-14 - Charles Simm, Kurt Moore, Kevin Cleaver, Bill Tensen, Clark Kido, Greg Moffis, Victor Suarez, Eric Stunz, Dan Simantel, Arthur Harris and Robert Fehlman.

The boys will leave here on Friday, March 16 for Portland.

Antelope Hunt Increased

Staff biologists of the Game Commission will recommend a five-day season for antelope and a slight increase in the number of tags when the Commission meets Friday, March 23, to establish 1973 antelope hunting regulations.

The public hearing is scheduled at the Commission's Portland headquarters, 1634 SW Alder, and will convene at 10 a.m.

August 18 through 22 are the suggested dates proposed for the general season and August 18 through 26 for the Gerber Reservoir archery season, which would be four days longer than last year.

The staff will propose 1,615 tags for the general season, an increase of 185 tags above the 1972 quota. Modest increases are recommended in the Beulah, Hart Mountain, Juniper, Malheur, Owyhee, Steens Mountain, and Warner units. Archery season tags would be increased from 50 to 65 if staff proposals are approved. The staff will also suggest better definition of the Gerber Reservoir archery area boundary.

The aerial spring census, which was recently completed by biologists in the southeast region, indicates a 5 percent increase in antelope numbers over last year. Counts are 75 percent complete in other antelope areas, with numbers observed comparable to the 1972 population count.

SUNSET VALLEY ACTIVITIES

BY MARTHA LORENSEN

SUNSET VALLEY - Mr. and Mrs. Larry Culbertson and family were visitors Sunday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Buster Talbot.

Mrs. Harold Alexander and daughter, Debbie were among those who attended the Foreign Exchange Student program held Saturday evening at the Nyssa High School Cafeteria.

Kelly, Brenda, Mike and Gabie, children of Mr. and Mrs. Don Hatch of Adrian spent the weekend at the home of grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Gabriel Astoreca.

Mr. and Mrs. Ken Lorensen, Harriet and Gloria had Sunday dinner at the Starlite in Vale and visited the Byron Grim family during the afternoon.

Gloria Lorensen was a guest on Friday evening at a birthday party in honor of Libby Miller. The party started at the Miller home near Adrian, and included an evening of bowling and afterward dinner at the Twilight in Nyssa.

Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Nielsen and Mr. and Mrs. Elver Nielsen had dinner at the Rodeway Inn in Boise Sunday and visited Mrs. Effie Nielsen who is recovering from major surgery at the St. Luke's Hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Nielsen and family were visitors Saturday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Elver Nielsen. Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Mitchell, Denton and Henry Mitchell, and Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Knowles visited Phil Mitchell at the Veterans' Hospital in Boise Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Mitchell, Mrs. Walter Hillis, Mrs. Melvin Kiesecker and sons of Annette, Wash., Melvin T. Pendarvis and Peggy Sands of Pendleton were dinner guests Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. James Baremore in Union, Oregon.

Bill Moore was an over night guest at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ora Newgen Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. George Johnston of Payette were visitors Sunday afternoon at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harley Wilson. Other afternoon guests were Mr. and Mrs. Don Brewer of this area.

Sunday dinner guests at the Harley Wilsons included Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Wilson and family, Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Wilson and family and Mr. and Mrs. Bill Wilson and family. Mrs. Lois Glenn of Farewell Bend was an over night guest at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charley Glenn Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Ira Price attended a potluck dinner at the Vale Grange Hall Sunday. The afternoon included a visit to the Nyssa Malheur Memorial Nursing home to visit Price's brother, Ed Price.

Mrs. Effie Nielsen of Nu Acres area was taken to Boise, where she underwent major surgery Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Elver Nielsen were visitors Sunday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Magnus Ekanger.

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Gordon and family were dinner guests Saturday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Magnus Ekanger.

Mrs. Lois Council, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Young, and Charles Moore were guests Saturday evening at the home of John Nottingham.

The Owyhee Garden Club held its monthly meeting at the home of Mrs. Fred Arai Friday afternoon. Mrs. Ira Price and Mrs. Keiji Okano were co-hostesses. Mrs. Donna Nelson gave the lesson on the "Art of Decapage".

Mr. and Mrs. Don Coons of Parma were dinner guests Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ora Newgen.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Lawson of Sparks, Nevada were dinner guests Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Wood.

Mrs. Adah Schweizer, Mrs. Sue Marshall, Jack Marshall and daughter Nancy, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Wood and Adah Louise were dinner guests at the Eastside in Ontario Saturday evening to celebrate the birthday of Mrs. Wood.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Clements of Boise were guests for Sunday dinner at the home of Mr. and Mrs. James Phelps. The afternoon was spent with a sightseeing trip to the Bully Creek Area.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Hanby of Nyssa were Tuesday evening guests at the James Phelps home.

JUNIOR BOWLING

PROGRAM SUNDAY

A certified Coach-Instructor School will be conducted by the American Junior Bowling Congress at the Sugar Bowl in Nyssa, March 18.

The school consists of one full day of activity commencing at 9 a.m. and concluding at 4:30 p.m. To be eligible for certification as a Certified Coach-Instructor, the participant must be at least 18 years of age and attend the entire day's activities and pass the course.

Those interested are invited to attend and learn how to teach youngsters to bowl, how to organize and conduct junior leagues, and all about the AJBC program.



THE NYSSA EAGLES WERE HOSTS TO THE Region Four Meeting of the State Eagles last weekend, with 162 Eagles and wives registered for the busy program of meetings, ritual competition and fun.

The top photo shows Rolland Laurance, left, Nyssa, Junior Past President of the State Eagles Lodge; Vern Hancock, center, Worthing President of the Nyssa Eagles; and Harold Lucas, Hood River, State President.

The lower photo shows Ken Luke, left, Worthing President of Salem and a state Trustee, and Jesse Gregory, Astoria, a member of the state membership board and secretary of the Astoria Aerle.

Dominating both pictures is the eagle carved out of a 400 pound block of ice by Nyssa Eagle Larry Gardner. Gardner used a chain saw and ice chisel to fashion the Lodge's symbol.

CHANGES DUE IN

ANTELOPE DRAWING

Oregon hunters are advised that a new application form and drawing procedure for special hunting seasons will be in effect this year, including the antelope season.

Bob Mace, chief of the game division, said the system involves a new special season tag application card containing magnetic serial numbers which can be data-processed quickly to establish a complete roster of all applications received and the status of each following the drawings.

The new application cards will be available at all license dealers by April 1, in time for hunters to file for the antelope season which will be established by the Commission on March 23. Antelope hunting regulations will not be published in the regular big game synopsis, but published as a separate leaflet to be available by April 1. The leaflet will contain detailed instructions regarding filing procedures, deadline and drawing dates, and other particulars regarding the antelope season.

Submission of the tag fee is not required with the new application. Successful applicants will be sent a notice and a bill for the appropriate fee. The new application has a serialized stub which the applicant must keep in his possession. Since names and addresses will not appear on the magnetic data processing list, the application stub is important to the hunter if he wishes to make an inquiry about the status of his application.

In addition to antelope, hunters will file on the new special tag application card for bighorn sheep, mountain goat, cougar, and turkey.

Gem Rockhounds To Hold Show

The Squaw Butte Rockhounds will stage their 10th annual Gem and Rock Show March 17 and 18 at the Gem County Fair grounds in the Armory building at Emmett, with a percentage of the proceeds being donated to the Gem County Irving Rescue Fund.

Displays of Gems, Rocks and Artifacts will be byline different clubs from the Northwest Federation district, and by local.

Big Game

Winter Well

Except for a two-week cold snap in late December, the 1972-73 winter now on the wane treated big game and other wildlife with a kind hand in all parts of the state.

The early cold spell caused considerable losses of chukar partridge and quail through most of eastern Oregon but big game animals survived with less ill effects.

Big game herds are in excellent condition on all winter ranges, Game Commission field biologists report. The mild, open winter has favored big game except for the short period of zero weather east of the Cascades. A below normal snow pack has allowed wide dispersal of big game at low to intermediate levels, with some deer and elk spending the winter on their normal summer range. Some green feed has been available all winter and the wide dispersal of animals has prevented any undue pressure on food supplies in critical wintering areas.

Herd composition is complete and shows better fawn survival through December in most areas. Blacktail fawn ratios improved in all districts and averaged 64 fawn per 100 does, a 14 percent increase over the 1972 figure. The average ratio of 25 bucks per 100 does is 7 percent below the 1972 count.

Return Expired 72

Salmon Licenses

Reino Koski, staff biologist for the Oregon Game Commission who maintains sport catch records on salmon and steelhead, today urged outdoorsmen to return their expired 1972 salmon-steelhead licenses as rapidly as possible.

Catch records for the 1972 calendar year are urgently needed, Koski advised anglers, and asked that all licenses be turned in by March 10. Although the 1972 licenses bear the return date of May 1, Koski hopes anglers will cooperate in returning them now so that complete records can be compiled by early April.

Collection boxes are located at all license dealers for the convenience of fishermen. The licenses may also be sent directly to the Game Commission, 1634 SW Alder, Portland 97208.

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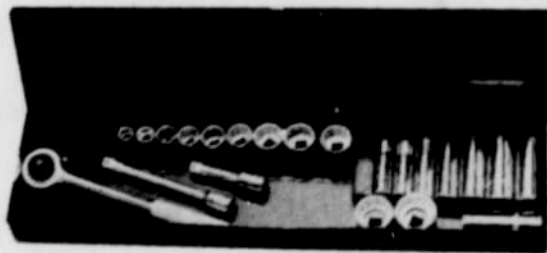
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