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Game Regulations Hearing June 1

Staff recommendations for a 13-day buck mule deer season in eastern Oregon and a 37-day blacktail deer season for the west side were heard Friday by the Oregon Game Commission. Final regulations will be set after a public hearing on June 1.

A 12-day Roosevelt elk season opening a week later than last year, and a Rocky Mountain elk season similar to 1972 in eastern Oregon were also recommended. Hunting pressure for elk last year was the highest ever, but populations remain stable.

Biologists suggest a bear season similar to last year, a cougar season with hunting by tag holders limited to specific areas in northeastern Oregon, and archery seasons more liberal than last year. Black powder enthusiasts may again have special hunts offered in Hart Mountain Refuge and in the Patterson Mountain area.

A High Cascade buck hunt is again recommended in September but would be restricted this year to 5,000 permit-holders.

Ten lucky hunters may have an opportunity to pursue bighorn sheep in Oregon this year. Recommendations call for eight permits to be issued for the Steens Mountain Unit, the same as last year, and two tags in a new area, the Owyhee Unit. Biologists recommended against sheep hunting this year in Hart Mountain Refuge. Animals have been removed by trapping from the refuge for use in re-establishing bighorn sheep in other areas. While sufficient animals remain to regenerate the herd at Hart Mountain, most of the rams are of sub-legal age.

Game managers report improvement in both fawn production and winter survival among mule deer populations with overall population increases this year in all regions. Deer numbers are still considerably below levels prior to the 1968-69 winter die-off, however, and again this year no mule deer antlerless permits are recommended.

In western Oregon, population trend sampling indicates continued recovery of blacktail deer from the severe winter kill of 1969. Buck/doe ratios remain high indicating the bucks are being underharvested. Three warm dry weeks at the start of the 1972 blacktail season discouraged hunters and kept success at a low level. It was only during the final days of the season when deci-

duous trees dropped their leaves and rains began that success improved. Despite the unfavorable weather, hunters bagged 44,020 blacktails which exceeded the mule deer harvest for the first time on record.

In order to take better advantage of blacktail surpluses, Game Commission staff recommended a longer season, and that 37,600 antlerless permits be issued in 17 west side units. The numbers of permits recommended is more than double the 18,300 issued in 1972 but below the 64,150 issued in 1968 before the population declined.

Roosevelt elk populations are at nearly the same levels as last year. Biologists suggest the Polk, Sixes and Siuslaw units which were restricted last year to permit bull hunting be opened without restriction during the general bull season this year. Closure of the Chetco Unit is recommended again this year to protect newly transplanted herds.

In addition, permit seasons in December and January are recommended to reduce small herds that are causing serious damage in agricultural areas. Numbers of antlerless permits suggested for these areas are: Pike, 50; Cherry Grove, 50; Banks, 100 and Loon Lake, 50.

Rocky Mountain elk wintered well and slight increases in population are reported. Recommendations call for a hunting season similar to last year in northeastern Oregon. Although the split elk season in southeast Oregon would be the same length as last year, the either sex portion would be shortened from two weeks to nine days because of concern over increased hunting pressure, increased road accessibility and removal of timber cover.

A new regulation regarding minimum antler length was recommended and should make things easier for hunters. "Hardened antlers which are exposed and visible above the hairline," will make buck mule deer and bull elk legal game this year and will eliminate the problem of deciding whether spike antlers on elk are longer than the ears. Blacktail bucks still need a forked horn on at least one side to be legal.

Women's Golf Association league winners are as follows: Gentry Ford, 1st place, Margaret Keith, Clair Farber, Becky Platt, Shirley Gaschler and Joyce Christensen. Superior Block, 2nd place, Lenora Walker, Darlene Hamilton, Billy Fisher, Arlene Brammer and Katy O'Keith. Brackens' Dept. Store, 3rd place, Vivian Jones, Mae Nakano, Claudine Garrison, Anne Nelson and Orlena Smith.

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Nyssa-Ontario High School Rodeo



THE NYSSA-ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL RODEO WAS WELL attended by participants from Hermiston, Burnt River, Bend, Crow High, Grant Union, Sherman, Vale, Baker, Burns, Adams, Halfway, Pendleton, Redmond, Crane, Prineville, Condon and Adrian and the two host schools.

Picture #1 Randy Warnock of Baker is shown on Snowflake just as his hat decided to part company even though Randy stayed till the whistle blew.

Picture #2 is Ron Parrish of Bend making a great ride on a whopper of a bull.

Pictures 3 and 4 show Jerry Haile of Prineville atop a horse called Antelope who gave a great effort but Jerry managed to stay aboard until the whistle. John Dailey of Ontario leans with Big John as he comes back to earth in a cloud of dust. Picture #4 shows the clowns who did a great job at the rodeo, from left to right Gene Volz, Derril Rolland and Butch Watanabe.

High Lakes, Coastal

Stream Season Opens

Oregon anglers should have had some excellent fishing Saturday, May 26, when the high lakes and coastal stream season opened.

Game Commission biologists report fish in the high lakes wintered very well because of a relatively light snow pack and unusually mild winter conditions.

Warm and dry spring weather has already melted snow on access roads to many lakes which normally do not become accessible to fishermen until much later in the year.

In the Cascades, lakes below 4,000 feet elevation are reported free of ice. Most high lakes that can be reached by road are open while many high lakes already have road access to trailheads.

Lakes on the popular Century Drive highway in central Oregon are mostly accessible and free of snow with the exception, at this writing, of Todd and Sparks lakes. Roads to these waters may be plowed clear by the weekend. There is no snow around Paulina and East lakes.

Hatchery trucks have been rolling for the past several weeks carrying legal rainbow

and cutthroat trout to coastal streams, which, in spite of low water conditions, should provide excellent fishing for the opening weekend.

Coastal rivers such as the Nestucca, Trask, Siletz, Rogue, and Umpqua should provide good fishing on the weekend for legal-sized planted trout with the added chance of picking up a summer-run steelhead or spring chinook.



TWO TVCC RACKET MEN recently won Northwest Community College titles. Sam Guerrant (left) and Lee Wiegand teamed up to take the NWCC doubles championship, while Lee Wiegand also took the singles title. Between them is Wally Johnson, TVCC tennis coach.

Game Commission Hears Big Game Recommendations

Final 1973-74 regulations for hunting big game, mourning doves, and band-tailed pigeons will be set by the Oregon Game Commission following a public hearing beginning at 10 a.m. on

Friday, June 1, at the Western Forestry Center in Portland. Public comment either oral or written on staff recommendations will be welcomed by the Commission at that time.

In addition to the season regulations, the Commission will be considering a change in firearms regulations that would permit the use of some .22 caliber center-fire rifles in taking deer, bear, cougar and antelope.

The hearing was changed from its customary Saturday date so people coming to Portland for the joint weekend meeting of the Oregon Division of the Izaak Walton League and the Oregon Wildlife Federation will also be able to attend the hearings if they wish.

Copies of Game Commission staff recommendations for big game regulations are available from Oregon State Game Commission, P.O. Box 3503, Portland, Oregon 97208.

"Be gentle with unhappy people; the happy ones can stand a blow." (Ferdinand Raimund)

Nyssa Third In District

Nyssa High School took third in the District 7A Track Meet at Madras Saturday, May 26. Burns won the event with 116 points followed by Madras with 87. Nyssa totaled 82, Crook County 56, Vale 52, Wadsworth 38, and Grant Union 1. Javelin - Ableman, 2nd, 173'0". 440 Yard Relay - Nyssa 1st, 45.0. 100 Yard Dash - Wade, 2nd, 10.35. Pole Vault - Ballou, 3rd, 11'0". 440 Yard Dash - Ollison, 1st 52.1. 220 Yard Dash - Ollison, 1st, 22.8; Moncur, 3rd 23.3. Discus - Moore, 5th, 125'6.5". Two Mile - Manley, 1st, 10-06.1.

Mile Relay - Nyssa, 4th, 3:40.5. Coach Glenn Walker will take seven men with him to the State Track Meet at Corvallis. They are Lee Ollison, Doug Wade, Curtis Moncur, Dar Haney, Geran Manley, Don Ballou and Scott Ableman. They qualified on their first or second place finishes at the district meet. The mile relay team will be made up of Lee Ollison, Doug Wade, Curtis Moncur and either Dar Haney or Don Ballou. The two latter men have been injured, and their participation will depend on how well they have recovered by Saturday. Ollison and Wade will also participate in their sprinting events, Manley in the two mile, and Ableman in the javelin.

Chemical Promises Squawfish Control

Squawfish may lose their appetite for feeding on young salmon and trout are the main course if Squoxin, a highly selective squawfish poison, is approved by the Environmental Protection Agency for use by fisheries management personnel in Oregon's streams.

Squawfish are a major problem in salmon spawning grounds and outside hatchery release sites where they congregate and feast on newly released hatchery fry. They also torment sports fishermen, readily taking bait intended for game species. Their business and flavorless flesh makes them an undesirable catch for the dinner table.

Squoxin, an industrial chemical used in the manufacture of rubber and other products, was found to be effective for squawfish control by Craig MacPhee, professor of fisheries at University of Idaho.

Oregon State University biochemist Leon C. Terriere and agricultural chemist Robert J. Burnard, in cooperation with the Oregon Game Commission and Idaho Fish and Game Department are monitoring the effects of squoxin on animal and plant life during and after experimental field tests with the chemical. They also are subjecting it to a variety of laboratory tests. Their work is being supported by the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration.

Sections of two or three streams in Oregon and Idaho are treated with squoxin each year to determine the effects of squoxin under a variety of water conditions, said Burnard. He added that Washington and British Columbia also are field testing squoxin.

The chemical is highly selective, killing squawfish at concentrations as low as six parts per billion (ppb) while not affecting trout until concentrations reach around 200 ppb. Other chemicals that could be used for squawfish control do not have this selectivity and would kill all fish species in the treated area.

Special Stream

Closure by G.C.

A special 1973 angling closure has been placed on Crooked Creek, a tributary to the Alsea River, by the Oregon Game Commission which met last week.

Crooked Creek is being used as a test site for a study project conducted by the Commission's Research Division. The project, which began some eight years ago, involves control of day length by means of artificial lights at the hatchery to control the time of year when anadromous fish migrate downstream. By being able to alter the migration time, biologists can release fish ready to begin migration immediately during times when stream conditions are well suited to insure fish survival.

Biologists release smolts (fish that have become physiologically ready to migrate to salt water) in the upper end of Crooked Creek. They then count the fish past a weir at the lower end of the creek to determine if the fish are actually migrating downstream as desired. The angling closure will be in effect through the 1973 fishing season.

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