





**Fall Steelhead Season Running by the Numbers**

Lewiston—What is making conservative citizens hook the second car for a boat, cautious sports shop owners place gigantic fishing tackle orders and sober-minded fish and game biologists grin in their sleep? It's September in northern Idaho,

and that can mean only one thing: the steelhead run is going to be good. Based on counts at Bonneville Dam, first checkpoint on the Columbia River, Idaho anglers are in for a windfall. Steelhead numbers are up considerably over last year, which saw a record run enter the Salmon River and the Idaho stretch of the Snake River. In 1983, 148,000 of these early arriving fish passed Bonneville. About 82,000 made it to Idaho.

This year the tally is up 27 percent. When technicians monitoring the fish ladder totaled the daily counts late last month, the sum was 188,000. Of that number, some 103,000 steelhead should enter the state. While these figures have captured the attention of Snake and Salmon River steelheaders, it is the recent counts at Bonneville that are getting Clearwater River anglers excited.

On September 5, 7,900 steelhead

passed the dam. That nearly triples the highest one-day count at this time in 1982, year of the best run into the Clearwater in over a decade. Biologists designate August 25 as the end of the A-run, that group of steelhead headed mainly for the Snake and Salmon. Fish that pass Bonneville Dam after that date are mostly the larger B-run steelhead, bound primarily for the Clearwater.

Experts think this scenic stream will soon be swarmed with the 12- to 14-pound seagoing trout, possibly in numbers exceeding the 36,000 that returned two years ago. This is particularly good news to fishermen who struggled through a lackluster season on the Clearwater last fall.

To allow Indians to take advantage of the anticipated large steelhead run, liberal treaty fishing seasons have been scheduled. Biologists are concerned that this gillnet fishery may cut into the depressed stocks of wild steelhead returning to Idaho waters to spawn. However, Indian harvest is not likely to have a major impact on the overall run.

**SLOB HUNTING RUNS RISK OF ARREST, PROSECUTION**

A recent bad example of slob hunting a neighboring state won't be repeated in Idaho without the risk of a citation and prosecution, according to enforcement chief Frank NeSmith, Department of Fish and Game.

He was referring to a newspaper account of an individual who kept a cougar tread all night so an out-of-state "sportsman" could fly in and shoot it the next day.

The department's enforcement bureau and legal section have researched this matter and concluded that the activity is illegal in Idaho, NeSmith said.

A Fish and Game Commission regulation states that no big game animal may be taken from a half-hour after sunset to one hour before sunrise.

Idaho law defines "take" as "hunt pursue, catch capture, fish, seine, trap, possess or any attempt to do so, NeSmith explained. Field personnel have been directed to actively enforce prevention of any such illegal hunting, he added.

NeSmith also had a warning for hunters who fail to properly validate big game tags.

"The tactic of slitting the tag instead of notching it should be viewed as a premeditated act to evade regulations," he said. "CAP calls us to indicate that this has been a favorite tactic for using one tag to take more than one animal." All conservation officers should enforce the tag validation requirement when it is apparent that the correct procedure has not been followed, NeSmith said.

**UI INDUSTRIAL ED OFFERS TECHNICAL COURSES FOR ALL**

Moscow—Information about working with electricity, wood, metals and finishing materials as well as help with other technical areas will be offered this fall by the UI Department of Industrial Education. All of the classes are open to anyone interested and have no prerequisites, according to Jim Casseto, assistant professor of industrial education.

Included in the list of classes that are available to the general public are basic electricity, meeting at 9:30 a. m., Monday, Wednesday and Friday; with a choice of a 1:30 to 3:20 p. m. lab on either Monday or Tuesday; wood techniques, meeting at 8:30 a. m., Monday, Wednesday and Friday with an 8:30 to 10:20 a. m. lab on Tuesday or Thursday; power technology meeting at 12:30 p. m., Monday, Wednesday and Friday, with a 1:30 p. m. Wednesday lab session; metals processing, meeting at 7:30 a. m., Tuesday and Thursday with a lab at 8:30 to 10:20 a. m., Tuesday or Thursday; finishing materials and methods meeting from 1:30 to 4:20 p. m., Thursday; computer programming for educators, meeting from 7 to 9 a. m., Monday, Wednesday and Friday with a 1:30 to 4:20 p. m. lab on Tuesday.

Casseto said the finishing materials and methods class will teach re-finishing techniques for people interested in furniture refinishing. The computer programming class will be helpful to anyone interested in learning how to operate an Apple computer, he said. Students will learn basic programming. The high technology manufacturing class will include information about robotics, C and C machining and other high technology methods.

Anyone interested in obtaining more information may call the Department of Industrial Education

**WINTER FEEDING DONATIONS TOP \$262,000 SINCE JANUARY**

Contributions to the Department of Fish and Game for last winter's emergency big game feeding continued to come in last month, bringing the total to more than \$262,000 since January.

Costs for feeding and depredation have been plugged at about \$575,000 by the department's bureau of administration—some \$13,000 more than funding from the donations and a 300,000 supplemental appropriation from the 1984 legislature.

The money from organizations, businesses and individuals goes into the Fish and Game Trust Account and earmarked for winter feeding.

More than a dozen other funds in the account are currently active. Donors have specified that their tax-deductible contributions go to the Elms-Pogue Memorial Fund, nongame management, Peard Orelle Trout and Char Study, wild turkey transplants, bighorn sheep relocation or a number of activities.

The widows of Bill Pogue and Conley Elms stated that contributions to the memorial fund would be used only for equipment and training to benefit conservation officers. The two department officers were killed in the line of duty in 1981 while investigating suspected poaching activity.

Under Idaho law, the department director is authorized to receive on behalf of the department, any money or real or personal property "donated, bequeathed, devised and conditionally granted."

Arrangements for any type of donation to the trust account can be initiated by visiting or calling a department office.

at 885-6492 or Casseto at 882-3164.

**ARMY AND AIR FORCE HOMETOWN NEWS**

Spec. 4 Robin L. Smith, daughter of Ellis J. Odberg of Rural Route 2, Genesee, Idaho, has been decorated with the U. S. Army Commendation Medal at Fort Knox, Ky.

The Army Commendation Medal is awarded to those individuals who demonstrate outstanding achievement or meritorious service in the performance of their duties on behalf of the Army.

Smith is an administrative specialist with the 4th Training Brigade.

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letters to the editor...

October 1

Dear Editor:  
 In your last issue there was an article concerning the need for a Recreation District Project in Juliaetta. The article stated that if nothing was done on a unified project, that the money would be used elsewhere in the district.  
 I would like to shed some light on this situation.  
 An interest survey was conducted in Juliaetta. Based upon that input the Juliaetta City Council began an active search for appropriate property for Park development.  
 I have attended the last two council meetings. The council and Mayor have been in contact with several property owners regarding specific potential sites.  
 The council has had communication with Juliaetta's representative on the Recreation District Board in an effort to determine the nature and level of support available from them.  
 There is to be a meeting of the Juliaetta Council and the Recreation Board on Wednesday, Oct. 3, at the City Hall in Juliaetta.  
 Many citizens and council members have given of their time and effort to promote Park development in Juliaetta. The cooperation of the Recreation District and City is unified and organized. It will be a great day for Juliaetta and this community when those efforts are rewarded.  
 Hopefully yours,  
 Nina Woods  
 Chairman,  
 People for Juliaetta

**STEELHEAD ANGLERS TAKE RECORD HARVEST IN '83**  
 Steelhead anglers spent at least \$6.5 million, or even as much as \$18.6 million, to harvest an estimated record catch of 32,220 of the big fish in Idaho last year, Herb Pollard, Department of Fish and Game, reported.  
 The previous high harvest estimate was 31,000 in 1959, the anadromous fishery coordinator said.  
 "Various economic surveys place the average cost for a day of steelhead fishing at \$35-\$100. Applying these numbers to be 1983 estimates for user days yields estimates ranging from \$6.5 to \$18.6 million expended, Pollard said.  
 The department's annual survey of steelhead anglers also showed that the Salmon River was the most heavily fished, receiving 114,581 days of fishing and producing 19,177 fish caught. The Clearwater yielded 10,645 fish for 71,679 days of fishing and the Snake yielded 2,439 fish in 17,352 days of fishing.  
 An estimated total of 38,240 steelhead were caught and released in 1983, according to the survey.  
 Pollard said the most steelhead (21,827) were caught in the fall months, with October and November each accounting for about 9,000 fish. Fewer fish (10,403) were caught in the spring and March was the best month (3,880) steelhead.

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