Idaho Wildlife Review

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THE IDAHO STATE FISH AND GAME COMMISSION Boise, Idaho

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NOTICE

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COVER

First mantle of winter on the Clearwater primitive area, North Idaho . . . looking north down the Selway River from atop Pettibone Ridge. The largest elk herds in Idaho inhabit this region.

The Present and the Future...

Our records show the harvest of fish and game in 1951 to be the biggest and best in the history of the fish and game department. Much of the increased take can be credited to the propagation and management programs initiated and authorized by the fish and game commission. We have a fish and game commission with a united purpose and a forward looking policy as the prime moving force in today's fish and game management program in Idaho. We have trained personnel who are energetic and trustworthy—carrying out the commission's purposes as a realistic part of today's program.

We have the basic properties and facilities with which to propagate and distribute fish and game in reasonable numbers, and to replenish and bolster the native stocks. Propagation and distribution activities are aimed at giving stability and strength to the main objective of providing a sustained yield of fish and game for the fisherman and the hunter.

The purposeful program of the commission has kept pace with the demands and needs for expanding the scope and the range of departmental activities. The upper limits of expansion and production have been reached, based on present rates of income of the department and inflationary prices for all commodities and services. Due to inflated costs of feeds for fish and game, fuel, repairs and replacements for equipment. together with increased salary rates for personnel, our average monthly expenditures have exceeded our average monthly income during 1951. The commission's budget for 1952 calls for cuts in expenditures for new construction and cutbacks were also budgeted in expenditures for fish and game bird propagation, big game feeding, censuses and checking stations. This means that fewer legal size fish and mature game birds can be produced, and that the number of conservation officers and other regular personnel cannot be materially increased.

The commission's program for 1953-54 will of necessity call for further reductions in capital investments and cutbacks in fish and game propagation activities, together with possible reductions in personnel, in order to meet the inflated prices for everything that is purchased.

Additional revenues will be required to keep departmental activities in step with the tempo of the times in 1954. The next session of the Legislature could well afford to give consideration to ways and means of providing additional revenues to keep the commission's "sustained yield" program on a sound and business-like basis. Revenues that would accrue from legislative enactments in 1953 would provide funds for expenditures in 1954. In the meantime the fish and game department must scrutinize every purchase and defer any and all proposals for increased activities to some time in the future.

Director, Idaho Department Fish and Game