

Idaho Wildlife Review

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BY

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COVER

November's bright hunting weather with fodder in the shock and the field full of pheasants . . . Maxine Nelson of Boise, with last year's limit.
—Bach Photo.

THE TIME IS NOW

"I give my pledge as an American to save and faithfully to defend from waste the natural resources of my country—its soils and minerals, its forests, waters, and wildlife."

The familiar words of the conservation departments in America today bulletins and publications of conservation departments in America today can be an inspiration to action on the part of citizens of the country, or just a meaningless series of phrases — empty words. It all depends on what we are willing to do about it. Not a very large percentage of the citizenry do any serious thinking about it at all.

The fact that so much emphasis is being placed on conservation of our natural resources by responsible agencies throughout the country may be encouraging. It is true that serious thinking is being done about the rate at which we are using our topsoil, forests, wildlife, water and minerals. The danger lies in the fact that we may not be aware of the urgency of the problem we face here — that we may not take concerted action soon enough to make a successful defense of these resources we talk about in the pledge. It may be that as sportsmen we think too much about means of harvesting this year's wildlife crop, for example, and not enough about the future of our sport — our goose that lays our golden egg.

It is not easy to organize for the defense against waste and misuse of our natural resources. The urgency of man's immediate economic desires is the force that operates against conservative, long-range use of minerals, topsoil, timber and water supplies and, ultimately, wildlife populations. But right thinking sportsmen can do their part. There are many ways to approach this goal.

After a citizen accumulates enough worldly goods to provide for his old age and make his family reasonably secure, he should have the intelligence and inner resource to get out of the economic scramble and indulge in more worthwhile satisfactions. Too often, unfortunately, he has become unable to do this, due to narrowed horizons, and thus elects to follow the only pursuit that gives him pleasure, the accumulation of more money than he needs.

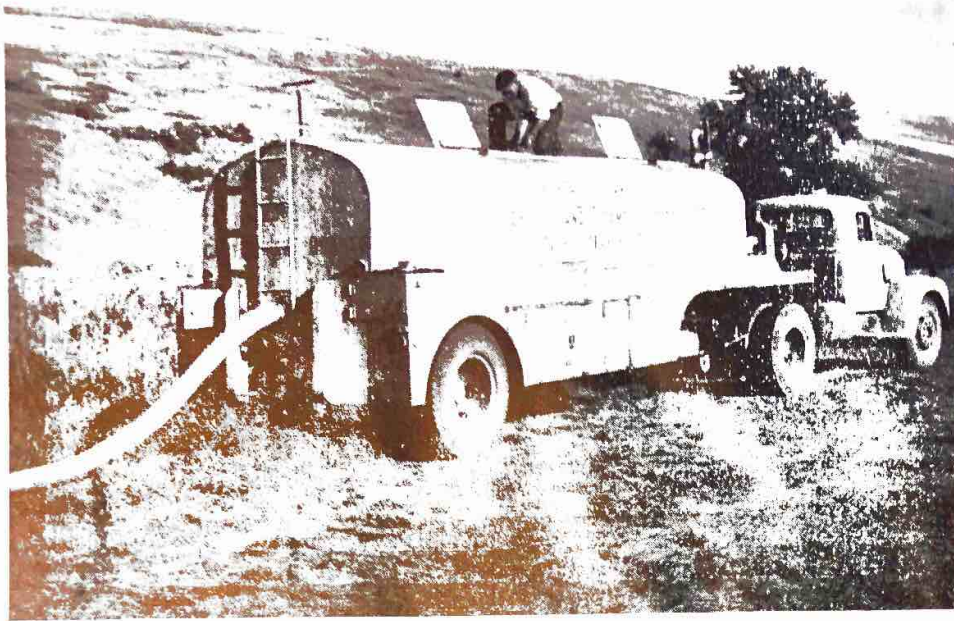
The antics of this misguided fellow might not concern us here except that his case is useful for purposes of illustration. As a money-grabber he is dangerous. Multiply him by 100,000 or 500,000, put him on that many good American farms, and the total cumulative damage to topsoil on millions of acres is staggering. It might be a forest mismanaged, its potentials as a watershed perverted, or a vast mineral resource plundered. A citizenry educated in right values would be largely fore-armed against such losses.

The educated person, it has been said, has mastered the art of living with his fellows, within a community. Good citizenship implies a proper sense of values, a true appreciation of the worthwhile things of life, among these the things that money cannot buy. Obviously enjoyment of hunting and fishing — the outdoors — falls into this category.

Hunting and fishing values are by-products of lands and forests still in their productive stage. Unless those who directly or indirectly control the harvests of crop and timber are willing to exercise temperate control, these resources will not last.

Conservation departments in many States today are participating in efforts of the schools and other agencies to educate for better citizenship. If youth receive little or no training in proper concepts, or are permitted to develop faulty attitudes toward this important matter of conservation of the country's real wealth, we can hardly be surprised if they continue to squander that wealth when they inherit what remains tomorrow. The time to set up an educational program for proper resource use is right now.

In any community it is possible to look to the quality of conservation education available not only to those of school age but to the adults who would like to do something tangible about the problem. It is possible to secure leadership and information necessary to influence public opinion.



One of two huge Fish and Game Department transport tankers unloads at Lapwai holding ponds after the long trip from Hagerman. On the way, trout rested several days at the McCall Hatchery.



Cliff Middleton, fisheries division, dips big rainbow from one of the smaller trucks that move fish to streams and lakes.

Trout Tankers Still Hauling Those Keepers

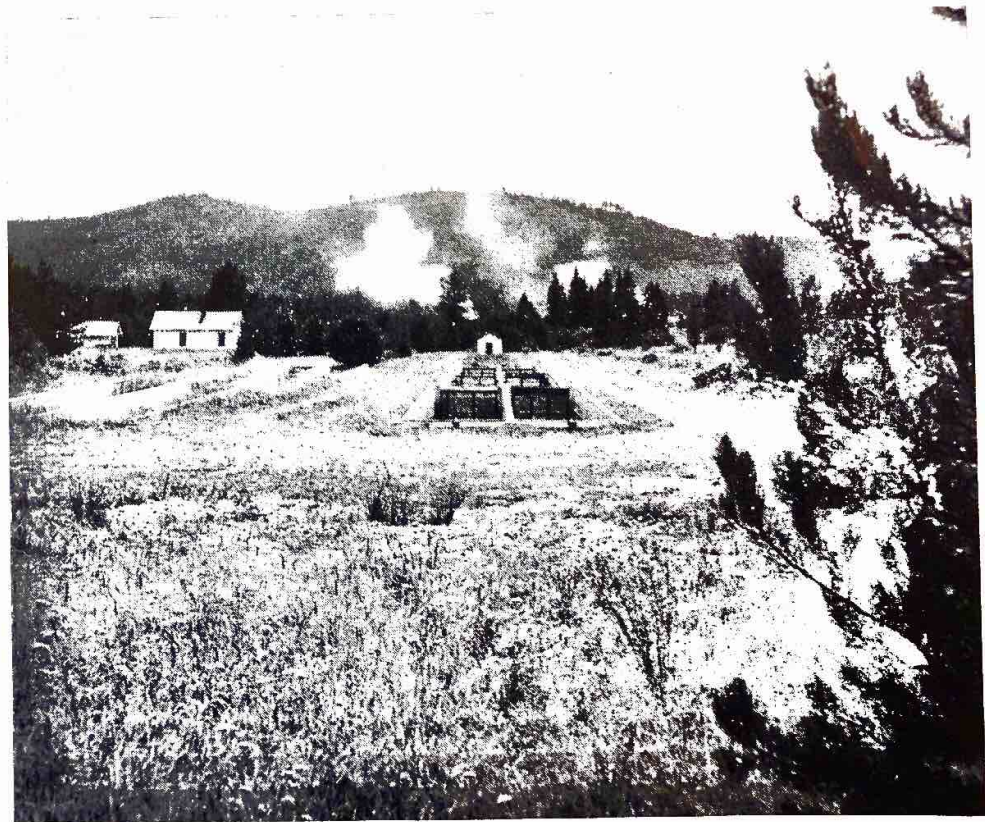
Every few days since early this summer the two large transport tankers of the Idaho fish and game department have been rolling through city, town, village and gas stop along highways from Hagerman to McCall, Lapwai and Fernwood.

The "putt-putt-putt" of auxiliary motors mounted on the front of the unit has become a familiar sound along the way. Motors circulating 1500 gallons of water through the compartments replace oxygen used by 1600 trout ranging in size from 6 to 14 inches. They are on their way to holding ponds where they are reloaded into smaller tanks on trucks capable of negotiating winding mountain roads to suitable planting sites along rivers, streams and lakes.

The first transport was placed in service early in 1948, and made direct runs to redistribution ponds at Fernwood, Sandpoint, and Clarks Fork. The load was iced enroute to cool the water and provide additional oxygen, but it was found that the long haul, with the trout continuously confined, was not conducive to good condition upon arrival. A layover period was set up

at the McCall hatchery where trout were unloaded into holding ponds and given a chance to "rest up". After a few days they were reloaded and moved to distribution points. This method has proved very satisfactory during the summer's operation.

Bert Bowlden has been in charge of the Fernwood redistribution station on the St. Maries river, Cliff Middleton planted trout in the Clearwater drainage from the Lapwai station.



The Fernwood redistribution station on the St. Maries River is the last stop for the big trucks after the long haul north. Smaller trucks and other equipment take over from here.

Northern Crew Removes Tons Of Trash Fish

Removal of rough fish from waters in the vicinity of St. Maries on the head of Coeur d'Alene lake waters and from Hayden Lake several miles north of Coeur d'Alene has been continued this summer under direction of Tim Vaughan, fisheries biologist. Edward Rauser of St. Maries has charge of the work crew and supervises actual fishing operations.

Department records show 65,734 pounds of tench taken from Hayden Lake since operations started in April, and 93,225 pounds of tench from waters in St. Maries area. Several thousand pounds of squawfish, and suckers were also taken in the seines. All bullhead catfish, bass, trout and crappie found in the nets are returned to the lakes.

The Idaho game department pays wages and operating expenses for the fishing crews. Seining areas are carefully established to prevent damage or loss on game fish whenever possible. Nets are checked each day.

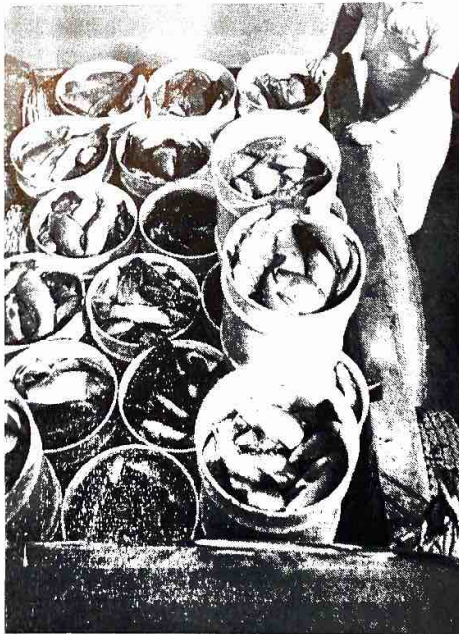
The trash fish removal program under direct supervision of the game department was initiated late in 1948. Swinging into action during the 1949 season, Rauser's crew removed 110,237 pounds of tench; 1,819 pounds squawfish and 1,615 pounds suckers. Total cost for the 1949 operation was \$3865.03 averaging \$2.52 per hundred weight for trash fish destroyed.

The crews process the trash fish by cutting them into smaller portions, and returning them to the lake where they decompose to fertilize the waters. Some have been transported to hatcheries where they were ground in effort to determine possibilities for use as supplemental feed. Hatchery men found the thick, tough skin of tench refused to pass knife blades of the meat grinders, making preparation uneconomical.

Least known Idaho duck is the Western Harlequin Duck which breeds in the mountains of the Panhandle.



Trash fish removal is an unending job in many Idaho waters. Disposal of the fish is often the hardest part. Projects in the vicinity of St. Maries collected the fish in boats, transferred them to containers, and had them ground for fish feed.



Hatchery men found the tough skin of tench made grinding difficult.

Posters Distributed

The 1950 HUNT SAFELY campaign is being aided in Idaho by the distribution throughout the state of 2400 hunting safety posters by the state game department. Posters are in a series of six showing hunters what not to do. Con-

School Bulletin Ready

A bulletin titled "YOUR GAME DEPARTMENT" containing information about the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, division activities and responsibilities; listing birds, fish, game animals and predators of the state, has been received from the printers and is ready for distribution. Pictures from previous issues of the "Wildlife Review" were used to illustrate the special issue. The publication is directed along educational lines, and most of the 40,000 copies authorized will be placed in primary grade schools of the state. Copies will also be available to the general public upon request until the supply is exhausted.

servation officers have placed these reminders in sporting goods stores, service stations, business houses, at checking stations and in the field, in effort to help reduce hunting accidents. The Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers Institute provide the signs at minimum cost to game commissions in the United States. Records from six states have shown a reduction of fatal accidents from 6.4 persons per 100,000 licenses to 3.2 persons since the program started in 1941.