

*Conty*

PAVED HIGHWAYS AND GOOD TROUT STREAMS DO NOT MIX.

It seems to be a pretty definitely proved fact that any stream bordered by a paved highway has little or no value as a trout stream. The reason for this is that any water course is exactly like a piece of pasture land. The latter provides food and supports a certain number of cattle. The stream is also on the same basis. The number of trout in the stream is limited the same as the cattle in the field. They are much more difficult to see and count.

At the present time there are many more people living in Oregon than formerly. A larger proportion of people like to get out with the rod, and reel in the trout. It furnishes a family with both food and recreation. The increasing number of people owning cars and the ease with which they can move from place to place is the reason why the supply of fish cannot be kept up. There is no way of saving enough spawning fish to produce the next year's crop. It is impossible to propagate enough fish in hatcheries to liberate. No one has ever solved, or ever will solve the problem of giving away a valuable public resource practically free, and meet the demands of the public. No one can curb the practice of selfishness that exists in many people for "getting while the getting is good."

The alternative, of course, is a public effort of protecting the supply of trout that does exist by various restrictive laws and regulations. An important factor to always keep in mind is that good trout streams must not be too accessible. It is easy enough to argue that all men are free and equal, and that each should have a hand in the pot. Since this is an impossible factor relating

to game resources, the prize should go to those who are willing to trudge over the trails and make some greater effort than climbing out of an automobile.

There is a necessity for wilderness areas. Highways should not always follow the course of a stream. Since they are considered necessary from a commercial viewpoint, the cost and upkeep is often less expensive when a road follows a ridge or higher plateau.

There is a demand in southern Oregon to build a highway within this State connecting Grants Pass and Gold Beach. At the present time, farmers and fruit growers in the Rogue River Valley who want to market their produce along the coast, have a long way to travel going north and west. If they go south crossing the California line, they are held up by inspectors who are very particular about Oregon products entering California in order to get back into Oregon.

The cry of many residents is to build a road down the Rogue River. The complaint of those trying to conserve our outdoor resources is that ~~that~~ this road should not be built following the river, but should take another course across the mountains. A sound reason for this is that the Rogue River has been one of the best known and most valuable angling streams in the country. Its value is in the runs of fish that come in from the ocean. In the Rogue River Valley the stream is very accessible to the public. At present, the sea-run fish get through the mountains, although the supply is limited. If the whole course of the river is opened up by a highway, the fish resources of the stream will disappear much more quickly than they are at present.

The Rogue River is a serious problem for fish experts to

solve. It needs systematic study and careful work. If it is to be used as a public highway from the source to its mouth, it is a waste of time to employ fish experts. The fact that certain runs of fish now come in from the ocean means nothing in the future, since these will soon be caught out. With the brood stock destroyed, the crop is ended.