



WILDLIFE CHIEFS DISCUSS PROBLEMS

Together at the Oregon Wildlife federation convention at Oregon State college Thursday the three men who play dominant roles in the Oregon outdoors scene confer. From left they are Leo Laythe, regional director of the federal fish and wildlife service; Ira N. Gabrielson, national chief of the service, and E. E. Wilson, chairman of the Oregon game commission.

More Game Group Authority Sought

Chief of U. S. Wildlife Service Advocates Increase in Power

CORVALLIS, Nov. 29.—Ira N. Gabrielson, chief of the United States fish and wildlife service, Thursday told the fifth annual convention of the Oregon Wildlife federation, in convention here, that Oregon could make one of its most progressive steps by expanding the power of its state game commission.

Governor Charles A. Sprague had asked the federation to advise him on this issue and the commission had approved extension of the powers to give it full control over bag limits, seasons and other hunting and fishing regulations.

Commission Should Control Season and Bag Limits

Asked by William Joy Smith, federation president, for his opinion, Gabrielson said:

"The authority to control seasons and bag limits absolutely should be vested in the commission. Every substantial, successful, long-time advance in game management has been made by commissions with such authority. If the commissions abuse their power, you can always throw them out, but you should have a system where, if you get good people, they can do a good job."

Gabrielson also advised the placing of law enforcement control in the commission's hands. Without like powers, he said, his bureau never would have been able to have successfully restored the nation's migratory waterfowl populations.

Resolutions Adopted

The 214 delegates at the convention from 33 Oregon communities also voiced their convictions in a series of resolutions forwarded to public agencies.

Belief that granting of permits for splash dams has been too indiscriminate and as a result harmful to natural resources, was voiced in a resolution urging the legislature to make the approval of the fish and game commission necessary before such permits be issued. Under present regulations, full power in this matter is vested in Public Utilities Commissioner Ormond R. Bean.

Another resolution aimed at preservation of the spring runs of Chinook salmon in the Columbia river urged that a system of levies, dredging and revetment be used for the Willamette river flood control project in place of high dams on the north and south forks of the Santiam river, the McKenzie river and the middle fork of the Willamette river. Engineering reports indicate, the group said, that this would not only be feasible but about half as expensive as the dams.

No opposition was expressed toward the three dams now under construction at Fern Ridge, Row river and the coast fork of the Willamette river.

In regard to these three projects, however, another resolution urged the federal fish and wildlife service to afford protection for migratory waterfowl on the reservoirs resulting and to provide regulation of shooting and public shooting grounds and protection against private control of these shooting grounds.

The international fisheries committee was asked to provide control of deep sea fishing. This was aimed particularly at the pilchard fishery which, it was felt, is in danger of extermination through over-fishing. It also would apply to salmon, bottom fish, tuna and other international species.

Appropriation Too Small

The state legislature was asked by a resolution to appropriate sufficient money during the next biennium to allow the state sanitary authority really to

function. The group felt the last appropriation was so small as to constitute little value.

The legislature also was asked to make state laws on migratory waterfowl hunting conform to the federal regulations. This is intended to allow the state police to co-operate more fully in control of migratory bird hunting. The police now cannot make arrests on many of the federal offenses which are not against the state law.

To aid the state game commission to complete its Summer lake project for establishment of a migratory bird sanctuary and public shooting ground, the federation asked the state land board to sell the commission lands adjacent to Summer lake for the minimum statutory charge of \$5 an acre. This project is being undertaken with federal funds obtained under the Pitman-Robertson act.

The state game commission was approached in another resolution. This urged the body to investigate the advisability of closing to fishing all tributaries of the upper reaches of all spawning streams in the state.

Winding up the convention was the election of officers, which saw William Joy Smith, Portland, elected for his fifth consecutive term as president. Harris Ellsworth of Roseburg was named vice president and Norman A. Davis, Portland, secretary-treasurer. Regional groups are to name their own directors.