

Copy

Comparative records of game in any one area and through consecutive years are important in determining the up and down trend of game birds, mammals, and fish. Mr. Lester Moncrief, Supervisor of the Ochoco National Forest, reports that approximately twelve hundred deer were killed in the past hunting season within the boundaries of Ochoco.

Mr. Lyle Miller, storekeeper at Paulina, has for years counted the deer that have been tied on cars that either stopped for gas or could be readily seen as they passed in daylight. No attempt has been made to estimate the number of deer taken out at night, or no count was made of those killed by local hunters.

In 1931, Mr. Miller counted two hundred and ninety deer; in 1932, two hundred and ninety-nine; in 1933, ³two hundred eighty-seven; in 1934, nine hundred and eighty-nine. During the past season the count was ⁸³⁸~~over six hundred~~.

This shows that four years the number of deer hunters entering this region and the number of deer taken out increased steadily. The season just past was not as favorable for hunting.

In the face of the large number of bucks that have killed in the Ochoco Forest, rangers claim that the number of deer are increasing. If this is the case, it is very definite proof that the protection of the does is the key to deer increase. One buck will take care of anywhere from ten to thirty does, very much the same as cattle are bred on the range. The elimination of predatory animals that kill fawns, and the setting aside a part of the Ochoco Forest as a game refuge, has also helped toward the increase of deer.