

## MANY DEER ARE FOUND IN OCHOCO

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Forest Officials Give  
Estimate From Count  
Made on Winter Range.

There are plenty of buck deer the Ochoco forest, sportsmen were told Monday night at the Ochoco Inn dining room by Eldon Ball, ranger and specialist on game matters in the Ochoco national forest. There are something like ten or 12 thousand mule deer in the Ochoco, Mr. Ball stated, and about 35 per cent of them are bucks. Even allowing for a probable kill of 1,000 to 1,500 bucks during the open season this fall, there will still be plenty left, he believes.

The banquet, Monday night sponsored by the Crook County Game Protective association, the Prineville-Crook County chamber of commerce and the Prineville service club was attended by about 40 men and Wm. J. Smith, president of the Oregon Wild Life Federation; Wm. Finley, naturalist, and Stanley Jewett of the United States Biological Survey, were special guests.

Following the banquet at the hotel dining room, a group of probably a hundred people assembled in the auditorium of the high school listened to addresses by the three distinguished visitors and enjoyed several reels of wild life pictures.

Mr. Smith in his address strongly advocated taking the Oregon Game commission out of politics by the adoption of a constitutional amendment so that they might handle the fish and game of the state on a scientific rather than a political basis. Our wild life constitutes one of our largest natural resources, he stated.

Mr. Jewett emphasized the necessity for educating the public to know the habits and life history of our animals, birds and fishes, and believes too much thought is given by the average person to the sport of hunting and not enough to studying and appreciating them as part of the natural background.

Mr. Finley, who is one of the outstanding naturalists of the country, made an impassioned appeal for conservation of our wild life resources which he estimated as having a monetary value of from 35 to 50 million dollars a year.

The three wild life experts had been spending a vacation at Paulina lake and came in from there in their sporting togs to attend the meeting Monday night.

Reels of pictures shown during the evening showed the transplanting of beaver from lower streams to the high mountain streams and meadows and illustrated the work they do in damming streams and preventing erosion. Numerous scenes depicting elk, antelope, deer and other wild life in their natural

state were also shown, and a reel showing the spawning and planting of fish in Paulina and other lakes.

Both the meeting at the dining room and at the high school were presided over by Lester Davenport, president of the Crook County Game Protective association.

## 12,000 Deer on Ochoco National Forest Being Studied to Insure Preservation

There are 10,000 to 12,000 mule deer on the Ochoco national forest and fully 35 per cent of them are bucks, according to surveys made by the forest service covering both winter concentration areas and summer range, Eldon Ball told William Smith, William L. Finley and Stanley Jewett, and members of the Crook County Game Protective association, Prineville Service club and Prineville-Crook County Chamber of Commerce at a joint banquet

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honoring the three naturalists at Ochoco Inn Monday night.

Ball's talk was primarily for the purpose of paving the way for the open meeting at the high school which followed the banquet, but it brought out amazingly and distinctly the results achieved by the forest service in its game surveys and its checking stations last year.

One airplane was used in the survey last year but its value is largely in locating winter concentration areas. It is not possible to accurately determine either the sex or the condition of the deer from the air, said Ball.

## *Wheeler County Chronicle* Urges Managers for Mitchell, Oregon. Game and Fish Aug. 25, 1938

Plans to make the term of office of the game commissioners independent of the whims of politicians or the goodwill of the governor were advanced by William (Bill) Smith of Portland, president of the Oregon Wild Life federation, while in Prineville last week on a fishing trip with W. L. Finley and Stanley Jewett.

Take the commission out of politics and let the commissioners serve out the term for which they are appointed, put the enforcement of the game laws under the commission and you will begin to get results that will supply your streams with fish and make your mule deer hunting a real resource that will grow in importance with the passing of the years, urges Smith. A constantly changing commission cannot solve the deer problem. They do not know where the concentrations are and how many deer a given area will support. Only a trained manager is capable of determining this. Oregon should have a trained ichthyologist in charge of its hatcheries and a trained game specialist in charge of its game

farms, its preserves and its hunting regulations. The legislature should pass the laws after determining the wishes of the people. The game commission should determine general policies. But the actual management should be in the hands of men who have been trained by special study and proper knowledge of the problems to give them intelligent determination.

There are more deer in many areas than the food supply will carry from December to April. As a result they come off this range in a weakened condition and fall a ready prey to disease and predators.

The game commission is not responsible for the added \$5 fee required for hunting in the Murderers creek preserve and the Lake county antelope preserve, said Smith. It is the legislature which required that this fee shall be charged.

The game and fish situation is acute. Hatcheries are not delivering the fish they should. Game preserves are kept closed too long and then in turn are left open too long. But we are getting the best results possible under the present system. A constitutional amendment is now proposed to take the commission out of politics once and for all time and with the help of the interested sportsmen it will be accomplished, said Smith.