

2500 ELK HUNTERS READY FOR CHASE

Season Will Be Open for
Three Days This Month.

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FORECASTS AT VARIANCE

Some Declare Long-Protected Ani-
mals Will Be Tame and
Others Disagree.

BY LAWRENCE BARBER,
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State game commission officials have conservatively estimated that 2500 Oregon sportsmen will shoulder rifles October 23 in quest of a similar number of bull elk bearing the required number of two or more points on either horn. If each sportsman is fortunate enough to fulfill his bag limit of one animal, there will still be left four times that number of elk in Oregon, according to further conservative estimates by the same game officials.

Elk shooting will be lawful October 23, 24 and 25 in Umatilla and Baker counties and portions of Union and Wallowa counties, the first elk shooting season in Oregon since 1907. Throughout the state is displayed considerable interest in this newly-legalized sport. Some prospective hunters have visions of displaying mounted elk heads in their libraries and summer homes, others desire to taste of the meat of the elk, and others wish to satisfy their native desire to kill by bringing down something larger and more stately than ever before.

Ideas on Success Vary.

Opinions differ widely as to how successful will be the quests of these 2500 sportsmen. Conservationists, such as William L. Finley, say shooting of elk which have enjoyed 25 years of protection will be about as much sport as shooting the family milk cow. On the other hand, Vic Bracher, of Pilot Rock, says Oregon elk are far from being domestic animals and will prove difficult to find and more difficult to hit. Somewhere between these two opinions lies the answer to the question: "How many elk will be bagged?"

The Oregon elk is in reality not an elk, but instead the largest and statelyst round-horned deer in America, according to Mr. Finley, who explains that the term "elk" in Europe refers to an animal corresponding to the North American moose. Indians knew our elk as the "wapiti," but the people of America have never accepted this term for common usage.

Elk Herds Fade.

Oregon was a part of the original range of these fine animals, as much a part of this country as the Indians who depended upon the wapiti for a portion of their sustenance. But the coming of the white man, with his destructive ways, literally wiped away the wapiti even more completely than he did the Indians. When he began to take account of his slaughter, the white man found only scattered bands of these animals left in the Oregon mountains. Some are of the opinion that there were virtually no elk in this state in 1907 when a complete ban was placed against shooting them, while others say there were several hundred—possibly a thousand.

At any rate, careful protection, combined with steps to strengthen Oregon herds by the introduction of Rocky mountain breeding stock, has brought about a substantial increase in the elk population. Twenty-three Oregon counties now boast of sheltering elk herds ranging from a handful up to 4000 individuals. Oregon farmers in various portions of the state have been complaining to the state game commission and any other body that would lend ear that elk were making devastating inroads upon their garden patches.

Three-Day Season Opened.

To prove to the world that Oregon elk have again come into their own, the state legislature last spring ordered the three-day shooting season.

The present range of elk in this state is reported to be in the state's three leading mountain ranges, the Coast range from Young's bay southward along the western slope to Cape Sebastian, in southern Curry county; the higher Cascades from Mount Hood southward to Mount McLoughlin, and the Blue and Wallowa mountain group from northern Harney and southern Crook counties northeastward to beyond the borders of Oregon. The four counties opened to shooting are estimated to contain approximately 8700 of the animals, or more than three-fourths of Oregon's elk.

For a description of these stately animals follow the words of Ernest Crockatt, assistant supervisor of the state game commission, in the elk pamphlet issued recently by the commission:

Shows by William Wild Animal Pictures

Attract—A Young Pianist

Milwaukee Review Oct. 12, '33

The moving pictures of Oregon wild life, taken by William and Irene Finley, nationally known naturalists of Jennings Lodge, shown at the grange meeting last Saturday evening, were intensely interesting and the only drawback was their brevity. Anyone who has attempted to snap photographs of wild creatures will appreciate the patience required to get moving pictures of them.

A part of the grange program consisted of two piano numbers by Dwain Wanker. Dwain is only eight years old and small for his age, but his musical ability is worthy of a musician of mature years.

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Finley Lecture Postponed.—A lecture on nature and wild life by William L. Finley, scheduled for 8 o'clock Thursday night in the Salvation Army citadel, Southwest Sixth avenue and Ankeny street, has been postponed until Thursday night, October 12, Major C. O. Taylor announced yesterday. Postponement of the lecture was made necessary because of participation of the Salvation Army in the NRA parade. When Mr. Finley speaks next week he will accompany his lecture with moving pictures.