

The Powder River Sportsmen

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The Powder River Sportsmen's Club

It's History From 1953-1987

By W. Joseph O'Connor

The Powder River Sportsmen's Club was organized in 1953 by merging the old Baker County Rod & Gun Club, The Oregon Game Protective Society and The Oregon Trail Rifle & Pistol Club. Later, it took over the Baker Trap Club which it operated until 1980.

The incorporators were Floyd "Pat" Murphy, W. Joseph O'Connor and Franklin Lew. The Oregon Game Protective Society was organized about 1946 by a number of sportsmen interested in protecting Oregon elk herds.

Pat was secretary of The Oregon Game Protective Society. He served as secretary from the date of incorporation of The Powder River Sportsmen's Club until he retired in 1967. Pat was mainly responsible, with the aid of William "Bill" Makinson, during his term as secretary, in building the club's membership from several hundred to over 1,400 members in 1961. The 1987 club's membership is about 350. Pat was the club's first honorable life member.

The Oregon Rifle & Pistol Club, which disbanded during World War II, was re-organized in 1945 or 46. Its treasurer, W. Joseph O'Connor, served as treasurer of The Powder River Sportsmen's Club from the date of its incorporation until he resigned Dec. 31, 1979.

The club's newspaper, The Powder River Sportsmen, was first published in September 1958. It appears, from the apathetic indifference of its members, that the December 1987 issue will be its last issue after over 29 years of continuous monthly publication. During this time, its editor was W. Joseph O'Connor.

The Baker County Rod & Gun Club was organized after World War I and up to World War II was active in conservation projects in Baker county. It was mainly responsible for introduction of Hungarian partridges and stocking the high mountain lakes with trout. It was one of Oregon's first sportsmen's clubs to recommend the management of bear and cougar as game animals and stocking the Wallowa mountains with mountain goats and mountain sheep, which has been done by the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife. One of its members, Blaine Hallock, served a term on the State Game Commission. However, time and death removed most of its original members and failure to attract young new members plus a lack of interest during World War II developed it into an inactive organization.

The Baker County Rod & Gun Club clubhouse was built by volunteer labor of its members in the early twenties from plans prepared by J. H. Neder. Due to financial problems, the Powder

The Bottle Bill was introduced in the Oregon Legislature and defeated. It was reintroduced in the following session, passed, and signed into law by Governor McCall. Over heavy opposition from container manufacturers and organized labor this law has been enacted in a number of states.



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Forest Seeks Comment DEIS

Forest Service officials from the Pacific Northwest are seeking public comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Managing Competing and Unwanted Vegetation on 19 national forests in Oregon and Washington.

The DEIS outlines alternatives for managing unwanted vegetation, including noxious weeds, and

lands."

Three of the seven alternatives described in the DEIS are preferred by the Forest Service. "Under all three of the preferred alternatives, herbicides might be used where nonchemical measures are not effective," said Richmond.

The public comment period on the DEIS ends January 15, 1988. Response forms and documents are available at local Forest offices. Comments should be sent to: Forest Service, Vegetation Management Team, P.O. Box 3623,

the sites. There is no charge for filing either a proof of labor or notice with the BLM.

Claimants in Oregon and Washington, in addition to filing with the county recorder, may file their affidavits of assessment work or notices of their intent to hold mill or tunnel sites with the BLM in the public room, 14th floor, 825 NE Multnomah St., Portland, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

These may be mailed to the BLM, P.O. Box 2965, Portland 97208, if postmarked by Dec. 30. Affidavits are to include the claim name and BLM serial number.

For more information, call the Portland BLM public room, 231-6281.

Snowmobile Law In Effect Now, Roads

A county ordinance to govern snowmobile use on several county roads was passed yesterday and went into effect immediately, in the form discussed at length about two weeks ago.

A resolution opening the Eone Fir and East-Pine Fish Lake road to snowmobile use and fixing the use season from Nov. 7 through the snow season annually was also passed.

Judge Ralph Ward and commissioners Jack Urey and Steve Bogart

Forest Service, Vegetation Management Team, P.O. Box 3623, Portland, OR 97208.

Miners Report Years Activity

Miners and prospectors have until Dec. 30 to report work performed on unpatented mining claims on federal land or lose their claims, according to the Bureau of Land Management.

Claimants must do at least \$100 of assessment work for each claim held each year and report the work to BLM and the appropriate county recorder by Dec. 30, according to Bill Luscher, BLM Oregon-Washington state director.

The work can include such things as improvements to develop unpatented mining claims and to facilitate extraction of minerals, drilling and sampling, sinking shafts or other underground development and surveys.

The work must have been done between noon September 1, 1986, and noon Sept. 1, 1987. Those who located claims in 1987 need not file the assessment notices for them until next year, Luscher said. Claimants holding unpatented mill or tunnel sites also must submit written notice to the BLM by Dec. 30 each year if they intend to keep

Judge Ralph Ward and commissioners Jack Urey and Steve Bogart were unanimous in the action and snowmobile group representatives Morley Madden of Sumpter and LeRoy Merrick of Baker were on hand as advisors. Snowmobile use on roads is banned from 10 p.m. till 7 a.m. with special group later hours possible with sheriff prior approval to accommodate inter-community travel after evening functions, etc. it was said.

Snowmobiles by state law ordinance are unlawful on highways and by this county ordinance on county roads except as when roads are designated open and, of course unplowed county and forest routes, helmets, lights and flag mast are required on roads.

BLM Makes O&C Payments

BLM has paid the 18 western Oregon O&C counties \$68,347,121.39 as their share of timber receipts from the O&C lands received during the 1987 fiscal year, according to Bill Luscher, BLM Oregon-Washington state director.

The counties receive half of the income from timber harvested on the O&C lands. The percentage of the total gained by each county is computed on the basis of the value

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Volume 14 of its members in the early twenties from plans prepared by J. H. Neder. Due to financial problems, the Powder River Sportsmen's Club sold the building in 1976. It was remodeled and is now Klondike Pizza.



During its major period of activity, the Powder River Sportsmen's Club sponsored an annual sport show in the Baker Community Center building which was discontinued in 1976 due to lack of merchant support.

One of its major activities in the spring was cleaning up areas around our major fishing reservoirs; Murray reservoir, Malheur reservoir, Balm Creek and Unity reservoir. The club erected and maintained "Chick Sale" type restrooms at these reservoirs.

The club, in cooperation with the Baker County Chamber of Commerce and other civic organizations, promoted establishment of a State Park at the Unity Reservoir.

An annual Crab Feed was held in the Baker Community Center from 1957 to 1973. Lack of interest in working by members was the major reason this activity was discontinued. An annual Shrine football barbecue was held by the club from 1973 to 1979.

The Oregon Bottle Law originated on the floor of the club. The club was tired of cleaning up the garbage left by irresponsible and thoughtless campers and fishermen around our fishing reservoirs.

Re-Organization Mtg.
Jan. 11, 1988
7 p.m.
Sportsmen's Den
1st & Washington