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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER BY RICK CHEATUM

We Need You

We are still making 2004 plans for the foundation and can always use input from the general membership. If you have a project idea the foundation could tackle to insure the future of mule deer in southeast Idaho, let us know. If you would like to become more involved in the SEIMDF, come to our monthly meetings the first Tuesday of each month at the Ramada Inn in Chubbuck at 6:30pm. Every member is welcome to attend every meeting we have. I send out a meeting notice each month by email to remind everyone to attend the monthly meetings and if you would like to be on that mailing list, let me know at cheatum1@cableone.net. The bottom line is we need the active involvement of the general membership or the SEIMDF will never endure or make a real difference in the long term.

Feeding

It seemed like winter lasted forever this year, but it really wasn't that long. It started late and ended early. We didn't have extremely low temperatures, but the freeze/thaw cycle with more snow on top of the crusted surface made it very tough for the deer to get around. The general state of the range was poor going into winter after the extremely hot summer we had and the continued drought. The fat on the yearling bucks at the Inkom check station was slightly above the long-term average, but we had an early green-up and may have avoided a major die-off. As I write this, the green-up count of deer is going on and the first few areas Fish and Game have looked at in the southeast region have not in-

dicated a major winterkill of deer. Feeding occurred at many locations throughout the southeast corner of the state, but that can only reach a portion of the overall herd, and even then, there is some question whether it really helps when the deer can't get to native food sources to supplement the pellets.

Dan Bull is the official representative of the SEIMDF on the Region 5 Winter Feeding Advisory Committee. I have also been a member of the committee for three years. Feeding is a controversial subject, with the big questions about when to feed, what to feed, and where to feed. Feeding either is over, or will soon be over, in the Southeast Region. The feeding Committee usually begins to meet in November and holds its last meeting when the apparent danger to the herd is over in the spring. The members of the committee can't be everywhere, so we need your help to be our eyes and ears and help us do what we can to help the deer. If you have concerns about specific feeding needs or locations where deer are venturing too close to roads and are being killed by cars and trucks, let us know so we can bring it up at the meetings held every two weeks. There are several criteria used to determine the need to feed the deer. Snow depth, low temperatures, social pressure for feeding, and deer mortality on roads are all acceptable reasons.

One point to keep in mind is that a Southeast Idaho winter kills deer. It doesn't matter how much we feed, or how mild the winter is, we are going to lose the fawns first, then the older bucks, then the younger bucks and then the does. Deer are going to die in the deep snow and on the wind-blown

FROM THE EDITOR BY JJ

Editor's note: This article will encompass the Guest Opinion also, as two of the people I had asked to write an opinion took a little hike late in the game. I must say that "John", the person whom the Guest Opinion is based on, is a very private person and asked me to not reveal any more information about his operation etc. than I had to. So be it.

I met John about eighteen months ago in Aikin's Sport Shop in Pocatello. I looked him over and thought another advanced middle aged (same as the Editor- age wise) Rancher. He was buying some 223 ammo for coyote control. I asked him if he had heard of our Coyote Survey and he said no, he hadn't. I talked about it a little, gave him one of the extra newsletters that reside on Aikin's counter, and he departed. End of the deal for me, I forgot all about it. Evidentially John didn't do the same.

During this winter, I got a call and it was John. He identified himself, asked me if I remembered him, I responded in a truthful manner, vaguely. He kind of laughed. He wasn't too much for pleasantries on the phone; he came to the point rather quickly. He told me he had wandered into Aikin's from time to time and picked up a few more newsletters. He had read the GO (guest opinions), one of the first being Mike Coulter's article, then we had Daryl Meints (F&G), and then Eric Krasa's article, all

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being Guest Opinions. He said, "I took the first two with a grain of salt, but when the Vet, he is a vet, isn't he (?), wrote that article of his, I'd about had it. So I figured I'd give you a call." About this point the Ol Editor is thinking- Oh great, what fun, a po'd Rancher preaching the Gospel according to the Cattleman's Association/Farm Bureau to me.....

In addition, I didn't even know him. Well folks, don't judge conditions too quickly, as I had just done. This turned into quite an experience for me.

We talked for quite a spell that day, kind of feeling each other out, getting to know the other one a little better and just talking, in general. In essence, John took a side that I would expect, the landowner/rancher/farmer. To say he had problems with people who had the opposite point-of-view would be understating it. In a nutshell, he explained he had bought and paid for his land, he wasn't a hunter of any game (he ate beef), and besides that he didn't participate in any Government giveaways, such as CRP. He went on to say that his lifestyle entailed running some cows and growing some grain, and he wanted to keep it that way. He further stated that he had moved here twenty-five years ago from the mid-west, just liked the coun-



try after he had visited a friend in the Preston area. So he had sold his farm, came to this little valley, bought this place, and started a new life. It impressed me as the same story I had heard before, looking for greener pastures. And I guess that from the sounds of it, he had found it. So we ended the conversation, he asked me to keep this to myself if I would, and being somewhat of a talker, I hesitated, then assured him I would. (I lied, here it is- joke, only a joke). He said in closing that he'd probably be in touch.

I like to read people; usually I have a 50/50 percentile read factor about the person. I kept getting a feeling there probably was more to this story than met the eye. I found out.

Spring was here, the F&G issues were on the boil, politicians were in abundance around the Boise Beltway, life was normal. I was having a spate of medical tests and enjoying it not, trying to figure what was going on in the country as a whole, and drawing a blank- much as looking at Washington D.C. does for me. In general, I was just being testy JJ. Then not very long ago, John called.

That call ended up with my

The ideas and opinions expressed in this newsletter are the sole responsibility of the different authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the S.E.I.M.D.F.

visiting him at his place, being given a guided tour, and seeing a point-of view that I agreed with to a large extent. Not totally, but to a large degree. He called and asked me the pointless but nice questions people do—how you feeling, how's the weather and water up your way, etc. It seems we all do it and it's nice to be asked, but it doesn't change much. After a respite of this idle chatter from both of us, he came to the point. "If you have the time JJ, I'd like you to come for dinner and a visit, I've got some things I want to show you." Now dinner to a "townie" is 7 P.M. or later; to John and I it was noon. Fine with me, I told him, the Cummins needs to run some, get the clatter going. So we set it up.

I pulled into his place about 11 A.M. one March Tuesday morning, he came out to meet me. I had driven about 60 miles from my place on the Res, following his directions. Nice older house, steel sided, good out buildings and sheds. Large corrals off a ways, full of cattle. Some horses in a little pasture up behind the corrals. A really large machine shed with equipment showing through the open door. All in all, a well kept outfit that anyone would be somewhat proud to have. We went inside, I met his wife, did the pleasantries thing, and then we settled in with a cup of coffee and started to visit. It should be said I'm not real neighborly, these kinds of things aren't my cup of tea, or in this case, coffee. I'm pretty much of a loner anymore. I happened to kind of bring this up, the Mrs. said—"that's okay JJ, you're sitting with someone just like you, he values his privacy above all". Ah, a kindred spirit! So we talked until dinner, then we had roast beef

and all the trimmings. Good stuff. Except I ate too much and was feeling it. John says "Are you up to a little ride around the property so I can show you some things?" I said yep, let's do it.

I'll let John do the talking. We get into an old four-wheel drive (Ford, he didn't want to ride in my Dodge), and we start out, back to the main road. "My place starts back toward the way you came, about one half a mile. There was a fence there and that's the end of my place going down. We'll go up the road for a while. I own all the ground on your side of the road, up into and for a ways, through the trees. It's grain down here and just brush and trees up above. I've left them up there cause it seems kind of the thing to do, it's good for the wildlife and I get my firewood from thinning the dead out. Plus, up there in the middle, there's a little spring that we kind of like. When the kids come with the grand kids, we picnic up there. Been about to dry up here the last couple of years, though. Sure could use some water winters. (A new phrase to me, I liked it). I've never seen it this dry in the twenty five years we've been here." We were coming to some hay ground and I asked where the water came from, because I saw a wheel line. "There is a small reservoir back up that draw, usual years it gives me enough water for about one and a half cuttings- I cut the second cutting when it starts to get dry and I'm out of water. Here lately, I only been getting the half, no water. About 200 acres of hay, 1600 acres of dryland grain, plus I did lease other grain ground but I'm pooping out here lately. So I don't know if I will keep up with it after this year. I've got grazing for 200

pairs, cows and calves. Not very many but we seemed to scratch by okay if we repaired the machinery, not bought new, kept the car up in shape for Mom and this old truck for me. I'm real lucky to have a younger fellow who works for me year-round, he's a dyed in the wool cowboy, and single; but he gives in and works the equipment too. I pay him as much as I can afford, but it's not enough, so I just throw in a good place to live and all his eats, he's happy. He gets lost once in awhile during the winter, ends up in town and shares the bottle a little too much. But not during the working season. Good man. I'd be up the crick without him" He was smiling now, the first real smile I'd seen. Then we turned off the road.

"Now, this is the end of my ground going along the main road. I stopped here to show you a few things. Look at this little dirt road going up the outside of my fence line. We can make it in a car, not needing this big old truck. But look over there inside my field, behind that shut gate with the No Trespassing sign. Looks like they been playing mud-bogging with some four wheel drives right up through my winter wheat." It was a mess and I had to admit it irritated me to no end. "I used to have open fields here, had to fence it about 10 years ago. But they don't care, cut the fence and tear the hell out of my field. And they could get up to the tree line on this little road, that's why it's here. That's where we're going." We started up the little road and I looked at the ruts in his field, then looked at this smooth (kinda) little public road. Made me sad to think of the slobbs that frequent this planet.

“Here we are, JJ, the end of the grain and the start of the trees. You can see the fence going on up through the trees, that’s my property also. I own about 800 acres of this trees and brush ground, and that’s where those four-wheel drives are going. There’s a gate here, lets you into the grain field and trees. I use it to get my firewood out and haul some grain on it. It’s posted too, but look up there—the fence is cut. ATV’s. Locked metal gates mean nothing to these people. This is where we have a horse trail over to the little spring; we don’t use ATV’s. But they have rutted up the horse trail, dug up the spring with the damned machines, and kinda just messed everything up. I’m thinking of fencing the spring. Let me say it would be better for Mom to ride a four-wheeler than a horse, she’s getting stove up from arthritis, so the horse riding is hard for her. In fact, it’s probably in the past. She’s walked it but it’s a mile. Too far for her anymore. But after seeing what the four wheeler’s have done, she said no way is she getting on one.” I sat there and finally asked him why they didn’t drive across the top of the grain field to near the spring so the Mrs. could walk. “It’s too rough going from the tree line up through to the spring. It’s hard for me, let alone Mom. This trail was just right, when she could ride. Guess we’ll have to figure something else out. Kind of bothers the kids, her not being able to get around as good.”

We sat, looked and talked a little more. Finally I was starting to get antsy and wanting to get moving, time waits for no one. So I asked John, “Well, I surely don’t like what they’ve done to your place. But don’t you think it’s a small minority that does these kinds of things?”, and he answered me like this: “Yep, it probably is, that’s for sure. And I imagine I know who some of them are, I turned it into the Sheriff more than once. But there is just so much they can do, you have to catch them in the act. Really, that’s only part of the reason for your visit, at least from my point of view. The way I see it is this: Everybody has an agenda. You sportsmen write your newsletters, talk to the F&G, try to talk to the landowners, and I assume talk with the politicians. Now I’m not against hunters or sportsmen, but I’m not interesting in shooting anything but a coyote. I fish with the grand kids a couple times a year. I don’t mind the wildlife eating some of my crops, I never put in for any of the money you can get. But they aren’t as important to me as my cows, that’s just the way it is. By the same token,

my neighbors don’t really care for the elk and deer eating off them. They believe in cows first and always, so far at least. And they file for the money due them, and that’s okay. They are organized too. Almost all of them belong to the Farm Bureau or the Cattleman’s Association, or both. You know, they even pretty much belong to the same religion, and that’s okay too. But I don’t belong to the Mule Deer Foundation (he forgot Southeast Idaho), the Farm Bureau, the Cattleman’s Association, one political party, or an organized religion. All I really want is to tend to my business, have others respect my holdings, and treat me fairly. I don’t ask much of anyone—I pay my own way. But because of what you’ve seen today, no one will ever legally hunt my land, it’s done. And I’ll never be a member of any of the Organizations we’ve talked of. Or any others like them. Now, my question to you, JJ, is this. What about us independent thinkers who want to stay that way, is there going to be a place in America and Idaho for us? My son is starting to think of coming here to take over this place, he is college educated, has a good job in Omaha, and hates it. Is there going to be a home for him and his on this place? He’s like me, free thinker, non-hunter and independent. What is happening to those of us who just want some peace, some privacy, and to be treated fair and square? Are we going to become extinct?”

Geez, I couldn’t give him a straight answer. We went back to the house and I thanked his wife for dinner, thanked him, and came home. I sat for a few days thinking of what he’d shown me and asked of me. And some of it sort of started to come to me. John was just like the hunter of old, out to get a deer for the larder, to feed his family. Independent, hunted alone or with a family member or neighbor, didn’t take any real thrill from killing the animal, just did it to eat. He wanted to get the game and have it over with because he had other things pressing him. And now that way is, for all intents and purposes, over. Maybe John’s way of life is going the same way. Many of our jobs in this country are gone or going, it seems you adapt or fall through the cracks. I haven’t the proper answer for John’s query or the other questions. I know it surely would be nice to not have politics wound all around the wildlife issues, but those days also are gone. As long as the growth of the state continues, so the more involved the politicians and organizations

will become. It seems the only way. (From my own perspective, I really feel that it is a horrible thing if we lose all the people like John in the west. For they represent, to me, my heritage- even if they don't hunt. It certainly would be nice if he didn't lock up

a strict law should be in place regulating antler hunting because of the high impact on wildlife. Four of the hunters were from Montana, camping out with a fifth-wheel trailer. The property is all fenced,



all his ground, though).

I called John and told him of this article, he didn't like it at first. But I sent him an unedited copy of his part and he said it was okay. But he surely made me aware again of the privacy issue. It would appear he has a privacy complex, but I respect that. (I'm sure he'll read this, hope he grins instead of frowns). Thanks John, you've made me think. (And the roast was great). I guess just some more musings from the Editor, who has many more questions than answers.

On to other issues: Timberdome Ranch and antler hunters. Bill Scouten reports that antler hunters have trespassed onto the joint owned property, causing huge numbers of elk and smaller numbers of mule deer to try and escape from the four-wheelers; tearing down fences, running into the higher country with the snow and the resulting harm caused. It would seem something will have to be done to rectify this situation. Bill is of the opinion

locked gates and posted with numbers to call for access. No calls were received by anyone. It seems it never stops. Fix one thing and another rears it's ugly head. It makes you want to catch one of these guys, mount him on the antlers, and then take his picture (your own idea as to where the antlers go would please me to no end). Oops, end might be giving it away.... (Bill has been fixing fence for a couple of weeks so we're fortunate to have him living close to the property).....

That's about all from the Res, I'm plumb tuckered out. Remember, if you don't renew your memberships, we can't keep up our good works. **New Board Member Appointed:** Sheldon Alver of Soda Springs, Idaho. Welcome aboard.

Rick Cheatum says the Fund-Raiser is tentatively set for January 22, 2005 at the Ramada Inn in Chubbuck, Idaho. The next newsletter will have all the information.

Enjoy spring and keep your powder dry. JJ

CAMPFIRES AND KETTLES

By Jerry Hackworth

I don't know about you folks but I am ready for SPRING. I was going to write a short article this edition and then I bumped into Rick Cheatum. Now we are going to do a complete cookout for a family group of about 20 or 25 people. This function is going to take place at Jackson's Trout Pond by Tilden Bridge.

First, we must determine how much food we need. First what age group are we looking at. Little people and the seasoned citizens don't each much but the 10-to-40 year olds can put down up to a pound and one half of food. A general rule of thumb is 1 pound of food per person.

With this in mind let's build a shopping list.

We start with a meat. I would suggest a bottom round in a bag. Try to get one in the 12# range so you can trim up the ends and end up with a 10# roast.

- 1ea 10# bag of potatoes
- 2ea #10 tins of pork and beans
- 1ea 3# package ends and pieces bacon
- 3ea big white onions
- 1ea small bag dark brown sugar
- 1ea small bottle molasses
- 1ea bottle hickory liquid smoke
- 1ea turkey size foil pan
- 1ea turkey size oven bag
- 1ea bottle burgundy wine
- 1ea bottle fresh chopped garlic
- 1ea bottle horse radish
- 1 dessert of your choice. We have talked about cobblers in a earlier article. It's time to give your rendition a try!!!

We are going to need a large grate for this job but you will have use for this in other outings as you get better at campfire cookouts. We start by building a large fire in a shallow pit. We will use coals and fire to cook our roast, campfire beans and saute onions with bacon.

A day or two before the outing peel and cut in large chunks one of the white onions. Take the large oven bag and put the roast, onions, two big spoons of chopped garlic, and a cup or so burgundy in the bag.



Squeeze most of the air out of the bag and seal bag with tie provided. Wrap bag with extra heavy duty tin foil and put in fridge.

We are now at Jackson's so we start by building a large camp fire in a shallow pit. Make sure the fire material provides a lot of good coals. After the fire burns down a little position the grate over the top of the fire pit. Use rocks or bricks to raise the grate so that there is about 10" to 1 foot between the grate and coals. While we are playing with fire lets get our charcoal started.

While your fire is burning down wash and cut up spuds and onions for dutch oven potatoes. Cut bacon into small pieces. Open cans of beans and drain all liquid. Pour into foil turkey pan. Retain one of the empty bean cans and add equal parts Brown sugar and molasses; about 1 cup. Put on fire to liquify brown sugar. When you have accomplished the liquification, pour mixture onto the beans and stir in. At the same time cook the bacon and onions in dutch oven until onions are partially transparent. Use 1/2 of the bacon/onion mixture in the beans, add about a tablespoon of liquid smoke and 5-6 tablespoons of prepared mustard; turn into beans and cover with tin foil. Place on grate over cooler part of fire. Make sure that it is hot enough to keep you from getting sick.

Pour most of the bacon fat from dutch oven, add potatoes and mix together.

Your potato dutch should be a 14" so we will put 16 to 18 bruquettes on top and 12 to 14 on the bottom. This dish will be done in about 1 hour.

It will take about an hour and one half to two hours to cook your roast depending on your coals. Don't be afraid to add small branches of wood to keep the fire hot. You can start everything together with the exception of your dessert as the fire will keep the beans cooking and the roast roasting. Watch the roast and when it starts to puff up

punch holes in the ends of the bundle to let steam out. You should turn the roast at least 4 times, be careful as liquid will leak out the puncture holes and scald you. You also should keep the liquid from leaking out because it tastes very good served over the meat and/or potatoes.

In my opinion the most important thing in accomplishing success is to keep your mind on cooking. Make sure you turn meat and stir beans and potatoes often and of coarse sample things.

Now put together your dessert, salad and rolls. Put out the horse radish and enjoy!!!!

Again; write in your recipes PLEASE!!!!!!!

(Editor's Note: Jerry needs a respite from this newsletter for an issue. So if you have any recipes, send them to: semuley@onewest.net or drop them off at Aikin's Sport Shop. Snail mail them to SEIMDF, PO Box 2724, Pocatello, Idaho 83206 - Thanks)

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS!

This newsletter belongs to all of you. If you take an active interest in this foundation, and have an opinion or something to say, why not say it here? We can always use some new ideas and people who will write an article of interest. As is somewhat evident, it seems we have the same people writing every newsletter, and our fingers are getting sore. So step up and be counted, write something you feel is important to you. I'll see that it gets into the newsletter.

Thanks, JJ

INFORMATION

HOW TO CONTACT US:

Phone: 208-233-0811 (JJ) or
208-233-3837 (Aikin's)

Email: semuley@onewest.net

Web: www.semuley.org

WHEN WE MEET:

All meetings and the annual Fund-raiser are held at the Ramada Inn, Chubbuck, Idaho.

Meetings begin at 6:30pm.

Regular meetings for 2004 are scheduled for the first Tuesday of every month.

OTHER ISSUES

By Terry Taysom

For those of you who haven't heard the deer seasons for this coming fall have now been set by the Fish & Game Commission. Given the dire straits of our mule deer herd, your Board, in conjunction with other sportsmen groups lobbied the Fish & Game Department hard during this year's season setting process to do whatever could be done via season setting to help out our mule deer resource. This lobbying included multiple meetings with Fish & Game personnel, including some from Boise, handing out informational sheets at the public meetings and meetings with other sportsmen groups. I am happy to report that three sportsmen groups, Southeast Idaho Mule Deer Foundation, Gate City Shooting Sports Association and Portneuf Muzzleloaders were in 100% agreement regarding deer seasons for this fall and joined together in a mutual letter to express our viewpoint to the Fish & Game and our regional commissioner, Mr. Marcus Gibbs. The basics of the letter were that we requested deer season length to remain the same as last year and not be lengthened or run later in the year, that all antlerless deer hunting be stopped until the deer population recovers and that a general mountain lion season be implemented. Our friends with Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife wrote their own letter and were in agreement with us regarding deer seasons but preferred the female quota system for mountain lion seasons.

To at least a certain degree our voices must have been heard as the deer season this fall is the same length and time frame as last year, the exception being Units 70 and 73 which will be a 5 day 4-point or better season only, and there will be no antlerless (doe) hunting by any method of hunting. After years of personal frustration in trying to have an impact on the season settings it is very gratifying to me to see what can happen when sportsmen band together and let their voices be heard.

A big congratulations and thanks to all sportsmen who are concerned enough about our wildlife resource to get involved with any of the sportsmen's groups so that our voices can be unified and heard.

ridges. Some are going to die at the teeth and claws of mountain lions and coyotes and some are going to die at the feed sites with a stomach full of pellets. Bad winters kill more deer, but even in the mildest winters, we lose a portion of the herd. It has been that way as long as there have been deer and winter and we can't change that any more than we can stop it from snowing. All we can do is minimize the loss as much as possible by feeding where we can find concentrations of deer, stop snowmobilers and dogs from chasing already weakened animals, keep them away from roads, and pray spring comes soon.

I just checked the official snowfall reports and they still have our drought classified as the worst it can be, a D4 drought. I know if you plowed and shoveled as much snow as I did this year, it's hard to believe we aren't out of danger yet, but we aren't. If you look at the bigger picture and how the water moves out of the high mountains along the Wyoming-Idaho border and through the river system, the snow I am shoveling out of my driveway isn't going to do southeast Idaho much good. We need deep snow pack in the Tetons and Yellowstone and Island Park to make the long-term difference. According to the snowfall water equivalent records I found, the maximum average snow pack usually occurs around the first of April, so the dry March we just experienced doesn't make the picture look much better for the habitat this year.

The Future of Hunting

If you have a youngster old enough to begin hunting, it's time to sign them up for a hunter education class. I don't think anyone would disagree with the statement that our youth are the future of hunting in Idaho. Without another generation of hunters buying tags and pursuing small and big game, hunting will die in a generation or two and the anti-gun/anti-hunting crowd will have their way from a simple lack of interest.

Many of us started hunting with a mule deer hunt and the tradition of a family experience in the same places that generations have hunted. However, times have changed. There are more people using public lands, some for hunting, and many more for other recreational opportunities. Housing developments are destroying wildlife habitat; access to public and private land is increasingly difficult to acquire; public land is being managed to benefit

butterflies and bats because today's generation of biologists want to be politically correct; and we, as sportsmen, have failed to recognize the need to quit arguing about types of archery tackle, styles of muzzleloader, or the pros and cons of motorized travel and start worrying about the wildlife.

I firmly believe every member of the Southeast Idaho Mule Deer Foundation cares about the wildlife. If you didn't, you would be one of the many that are takers from the land. You know who the takers are. They are the ones that demand the right to kill a deer every year, even when herds are shrinking due to drought, habitat loss, poor recruitment, and over harvest. They don't consider a fishing or hunting trip a success unless they have a limit.

Instead, our members care about the future of hunting and the traditions it represents. You come to our banquets and spend your hard-earned money to help us raise the dollars it takes to place conservation easements on important wildlife areas, fund watering projects, or help stop poachers. You give back some of what you take out of the sport of hunting. Thank you. We need many more like you.

If we are going to gain the political clout to be heard in Boise, we must have thousands of members, not just a few hundred. We must have the numbers to be able to tell elected officials at the city, county and state level that if they continue to ignore us, we will elect representatives that will listen to us. If every one of us could get just one more member in the Southeast Idaho Mule Deer Foundation before the next banquet, the difference we can make will double. Who do you know that just needs to be asked to join us? Have them read this newsletter and then urge them to fill out the membership application.

Travel Plans for the Targhee and Caribou Forest

The new plan for access to the Targhee and Caribou Forest is in the preliminary stages, but will be decided in the next few months. Dave Klatt and I have been attending meetings so we can keep you up to date on the proposal as it develops. Public hearings are now underway, and the public comments are now being accepted. How those plans will develop depends on how vocal the various groups are and how much political pressure they can bring to bear for their viewpoint.

As sportsmen, we need to stop arguing about horses versus walking versus motorized travel and realize the forest is big enough to accommodate all

of us and our desires, but perhaps not everywhere. We must concentrate our efforts on the stewards of the land, to assure wildlife get a fair shake in whatever plan is finally developed so we have a reason to argue calibers and actions over campfires in the fall. Does it matter how we get to our hunt or what weapon we choose if the desire to go is gone because there are no rams or bulls or bucks to pursue?

ROBO-DEER

Here is summary of our use of all three decoys that we have in the region.

We set up the Pheasant decoy on five different occasions and issued four citations: two for shooting from the road and two for hunting without a valid license.

We set up the elk decoy on ten occasions and issued four citations for hunting with the aid of artificial light (spotlighting), and one warning for hunting in the wrong unit.

The Robo-Deer was used on nine occasions and seven citations were issued as a result. Three citations were for spotlighting, two citations for attempt to kill doe deer during bucks only season (closed season), and two citations for hunting deer without a valid deer tag.

All things being equal, it is safe to say we were able to catch people in violations without having to sacrifice any animals.

On one occasion, the hunters saw the deer standing in a field and stopped down the road while one got in the back of the truck. They then drove very slowly past the deer shooting two arrows and missing. Once again, they drove out of sight and turned around for a second try. This time they stopped while the hunter in the back of the truck shot another arrow. He was nocking a second arrow when we finally made the contact. When contacted he said, "I knew it was a dummy deer and I was just seeing if I could hit it". We were close enough to hear their conversation and it didn't match this story. It went something like, "Hurry and shoot, the son-of-a-bitch is getting ready to run".

(Editor's note- from Tom Lucia, F&G, to Rick Cheatum)

PURPOSES AND OBJECTIVES of SEIMDF

The purposes and objectives of the Southeastern Idaho Mule Deer Foundation are:

1. To promote and enhance increasing populations of mule deer in Southeast Idaho by promoting and cooperating in any items of business that are beneficial to or concern mule deer.
2. To promote the professional management of Southeast Idaho Mule Deer in order to augment the number and size of game herds, such professional management to include the use of regulated hunting as a legitimate tool of conservation and game management; and to achieve optimum populations of mule deer wherever possible throughout Southeast Idaho, and to safeguard against the decline of mule deer populations.
3. To promote biologically supported management of all species indigenous to Southeast Idaho and to ensure that no species is managed to the detriment of any other species.
4. To protect, defend and preserve the lawful right and privilege of recreational hunting through education of the general public as to the conservation benefits of lawful hunting, and to vigorously respond in a positive manner to those anti-hunting individuals and groups who strive, either legally or unlawfully, to prohibit this legitimate recreation.
5. To encourage all men and women hunters to be responsible conservationists who harvest animals humanely and utilize their meat without waste, while hunting under conditions of fair share and good sportsmanship.
6. To advocate the funding of both federal and state fish and wildlife departments and agencies through the purchase of hunting licenses, federal and state game stamps, and the payment of excise taxes on firearms and other sporting equipment, the combination of which continues to provide funds for fish and wildlife management.
7. To the legal use of all methods of travel on public lands to support enforcement of travel laws and regulations.

WHO IS MAKING YOUR DECISIONS?

As I walk around the streets of Pocatello, I hear—as many of you do—the constant complaints of how our deer herds and other game are managed. The people complaining my be members of SEIMDF, SFW, The Turkey Federation, SCI or one of the many other organizations to come down the pike. Little do these people know, they are one of the strongest and most powerful factions around—if they will just use their voices. Yes—it sure does sound funny that people can sit at home and watch TV, go to the bar and have a drink, or even discuss the big game crisis while grocery shopping, but they can't find the time or the effort to add their voices to important issues.

This 'finely tuned' organization is call *The Silent Majority*.

Thanks to this group of wonderful people, those organizations actually trying to make a difference haven't got a chance. It is surely a sad day when the majority of the hunters in South-east Idaho would rather sit down, watch TV, and drink a beer than take the time to go to a Fish and Game meeting to share their views. This *Silent Majority* doesn't even seem to take the time to let the different organizations know how they feel.

To this *Silent Majority*: Those of us who are trying to keep a few deer left in the state would sure appreciate your help in the knock-down, drag-out fight we're in to save what is left! We would sure appreciate you adding your voice to the cause! We would sure appreciate you fighting for what you believe in instead of just complaining!

Those of us who continue to try and make things better for the herds and for the hunters get tired of having everything we fight for thrown back in our faces. We are constantly told *The Silent Majority* would not accept what we are fighting for. Well, I have three things to say to that:

1. All of you who can't stand up for what you believe in should either take a good look at your beliefs or learn to keep quiet.
2. Apparently it doesn't seem to bother you that the Idaho Fish and Game is making your decisions for you!
3. *The Silent Majority* — immediately brought to a halt will end deer hunting and Idaho's game populations as we know it!

Nowhere does the old cliché "United We Stand - Divided We Fall" have more meaning than in the fight for our herds, habitat, and populations. It is time to stand up and fight. It is time to stand up and participate. It is time to stand up and let your voice be heard. The only way to get the job done is if we all fight together!

(Editor's Note: Author is unknown. If you wrote this, please contact JJ or Rick so we can give you credit.)

FROM THE LOST RIVER COUNTRY

by Bill Scouten

Greetings from your friend up north. Living here in Arco it is a very short drive for me to run out and check the fences, gates and wildlife situation on our Timberdome winter range project. Saturday February 7th, I ran out with my spotting scope to look over the land. I parked at the bottom on the county road and glassed it over. I am very pleased to report that there is an abundance of wildlife wintering on the property. Of course the deer were few and far between but there were around 400 cow and calf elk, I could see from the road. The benefits of our organization effort in conversation and wildlife enhancement are very obvious this time of year on the Timberdome winter range property. I am very thankful and proud of all the people and their efforts that went into the Timberdome project.

I would also like to remind everyone that spring is the time when the Idaho Fish & Game have the majority of their public opinion meetings. These meetings are very important to attend because public opinion helps influence major decisions made in the rules and regulations by the fish and game. One of the most recent decisions was the ATV off road travel restrictions. This change in policy and enforcement of the rule has already, in its first season, made a tremendous benefit to my local area's habitat and wildlife situation. So please attend and participate in these Fish & Game public meetings. One of the questions on the table for this spring meeting's is, what to do with the dreaded whitetail. Your input is necessary to influence the IDFG in becoming more quality management oriented.


Also I would like to thank Sammy's gas station in Mackay for their participation as a "drop off location" in our coyote survey.

WHAT'S NEW


By Chuck Aikin

This is the newest cartridge in the Winchester Super Short Magnums. It is the 25 WSSM. The rifles for this cartridge will be available in 7 different models beginning with the Winchester Ultimate Shadow which will sell for approximately \$450.00, to the Winchester Classic Camo Ultimate Shadow which will be in the \$850.00 range. All of these new models will have either the claw extractor controlled round feed, or the push feed controlled round feed. This will be a fast cycling short action magnum and should be an impressive one when it becomes available later this summer, if we are lucky!! Below is the ballistics chart for the rounds that will be available.


25 WSSM FACTORY AMMO



	Cartridge	Symbol	Bullet Weight	Bullet Type	CXP	Game #		
	25 WSSM SBST25WSS		85 gr.					
			Ballistic Silver Tip 1					
Distance (yds)	Muzzle	50	100	200	300	400	500	
Velocity (fps)		3470	-	3156	2863	2589	2331	2088
Distance (yds)	Muzzle	50	100	200	300	400	500	
Energy (ft.-lbs.)		2273	-	1880	1548	1266	1026	8
Distance (yds)		50	100	150	200	250	300	
Short Trajectory (in.)		-0.4	0	-0.5	-2	-4.5	-8.2	
Distance (yds)	100	150	200	250	300	400	500	
Long Trajectory (in.)		1.0	1.0	0	-2	-5.2	-15.7	



	Cartridge	Symbol	Bullet Weight	Bullet Type	CXP	Game #		
	25 WSSM SBST25WSSA		115 gr.					
			Ballistic Silver Tip 2					
Distance (yds)	Muzzle	50	100	200	300	400	500	
Velocity (fps)		3060	-	2844	2639	2442	2254	2074
Distance (yds)	Muzzle	50	100	200	300	400	500	
Energy (ft.-lbs.)		2392	-	2066	1778	1523	1298	1099
Distance (yds)		50	100	150	200	250	300	
Short Trajectory (in.)		-0.3	0	-0.8	-2.8	-6	-10.6	
Distance (yds)	100	150	200	250	300	400	500	
Long Trajectory (in.)		1.4	1.3	0	-2.5	-6.4	-18.6	



	Cartridge	Symbol	Bullet Weight	Bullet Type	CXP	Game #		
	25 WSSM X25WSS		120 gr.					
			Positive Expanding Point 2					
Distance (yds)	Muzzle	50	100	200	300	400	500	
Velocity (fps)		2990	-	2717	2459	2216	1987	1773
Distance (yds)	Muzzle	50	100	200	300	400	500	
Energy (ft.-lbs.)		2383	-	1967	1612	1309	1053	838
Distance (yds)		50	100	150	200	250	300	
Short Trajectory (in.)		0.1	.06	0	-1.9	-5.3	-10.3	
Distance (yds)	100	150	200	250	300	400	500	
Long Trajectory (in.)		1.6	1.5	0	-2.9	-7.4	-21.8	



Application for Membership

SOUTHEAST IDAHO MULE DEER FOUNDATION

P.O. 2724, POCATELLO, IDAHO 83206

TELEPHONE (208) 233-0811 or (208) 233-3837 E-MAIL

semuley@onewest.net

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____ E-Mail _____@_____

MEMBERSHIP TYPE

LIFETIME \$750.00

ANNUAL \$25.00

CORPORATE \$1,000.0

(Request schedule and options from member)

Remit form with total payment to address above.



P.O. 2724

POCATELLO, IDAHO 83206

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED