

PRESIDENT CLINTON PROPOSES RECORD \$1.4 BILLION BUDGET FOR U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

President Clinton is proposing a record \$1.42 billion budget for the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Fiscal Year 1999, including \$826.3 million, an 11-percent increase, in appropriated funding to support Service's endangered species, national wildlife refuges, migratory bird, fisheries, land acquisition, construction and other programs.

"The President's budget re-

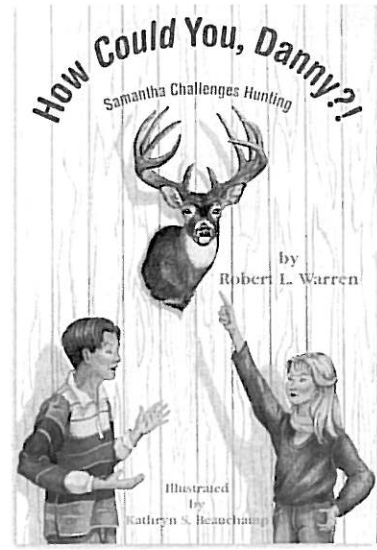
flects how important the work of the Fish and Wildlife Service is to the American people," Interior Secretary, Bruce Babbitt said. "Americans have an unmatched love and appreciation of fish and wildlife and this budget recognizes the need to actively manage these priceless resources if they are to remain healthy."

"From the conservation of endangered species to management of the National Wildlife

Refuge System, the President's budget represents a strong commitment to the work of the Service to conserve fish and wildlife to benefit all."

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency with responsibility for conserving, protecting, and enhancing fish and wildlife and their habitats. The Service manages the National Wildlife Refuge System, which includes 512 national wildlife refuges and covers nearly 93 million acres, as well as 64 national fish hatcheries.

— U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE



HOW COULD YOU DANNY

In the Winter '97 issue of *Fair Chase*, we printed a press release for the new children's book, "How Could You Danny - Samantha Challenges Hunting." Unfortunately we failed to print ordering information.

Copies of *How Could You Danny - Samantha Challenges Hunting* can be ordered directly from the publisher: Natural Highs, P.O. Box 781292, San Antonio, TX 78278. Please include your complete mailing address and a check or money order made payable to Natural Highs. Prices vary depending on the number of copies ordered. (1 copy is \$8.95; 2 copies are \$6.95 each; 3-5 copies are \$4.95 each) plus Texas sales tax of 7.75 percent and \$3.50 shipping and handling.

TENTATIVE REGULATION MAY OPEN LION HUNTING TO GENERAL SEASON HUNTERS

Montana's biggest cat has long been a focus of intense interest and controversy. Now, a tentative hunting regulation allowing big game hunters to harvest lions without the use of dogs promises continued lively debate among the hunting community.

Mountain lions, also known as cougars or pumas, are perhaps Montana's most adaptive and effective predator. Once killed for bounty, the cougar was only classified as a game animal by the Montana legislature in 1971. Since then, with a combination of management and a steady supply of deer, the big cat has regained most of its historic range in the state. In fact, many people believe lion numbers may be near an all time high, despite recent declines in deer numbers.

In response to increasing lion numbers and encounters with humans, the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) Commission has steadily raised the quotas for mountain lion harvest in the hunting districts across the state. For this hunting season, which began on December 1, the quota stands at 777 lions. The 1997-1998 quota represents a sharp increase from past harvests of 62, 170 and 571 lions in 1980, 1990 and 1995, respectively.

In northwest Montana's Re-

gion One, an experimental hunt for lions was established by the Commission for the 1997 general big game season. Called an "encounter hunt," the new regulation allowed general season deer and elk hunters to purchase a mountain lion license and hunt the cats, without the use of dogs.

Many hunters were opposed to the hunt citing the danger of harvesting lactating female lions or lions with kittens. Others said that hunters would not be able to successfully harvest lions without the use of dogs.

Several hundred hunters purchased lion licenses and took part in the general season hunt. These hunters harvested ten lions: six females (one lactating) and four males. This sex ratio is similar to the lions harvested by houndsmen.

This season, now proposed statewide, would provide several new opportunities. First, it allows hunters who do not own hounds to pursue lions while they are out hunting big game. Also it allows hunters to legally kill lions which might pose a threat to them or their hunting companions.

The Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commission will make the final decision whether to adopt a statewide general season lion hunt this spring.

— MONTANA OUTDOORS, JOHN FRALEY

SURVEY SAYS: WILDLIFE IS BIG BUSINESS

Upwards of a billion dollars made its way into the state of Colorado in 1996 as a result of wildlife-related recreation, according to three reports released in the last several months by state and federal wildlife management agencies and an outdoor recreation group.

Each of the reports uses different variables, measurements and methods to calculate wildlife's economic impact, but in the end, they all reach fairly similar conclusions. The studies all highlight the importance of wildlife-related recreation to Colorado's economic well-being, the billion-plus in business translating into thousands of jobs and millions of dollars to local and state governments.

"It's easy to think of wildlife and see only ecological, recreational and aesthetic values," said Division of Wildlife Director, John Mumma.

"But, these analyses clearly show that Colorado's natural heritage is extremely important from an economic standpoint as well."

According to the 1996 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, more than a million residents and out-of-state visitors hunted, fished, photographed or watched wildlife in Colorado in 1996. Expenditures on these activities totaled \$2.6 billion.

Where is all that money spent? More than half is used on directly-related equipment -- items such as guns, ammunition, rods, reels, bird seed, bikes, tents, etc.

Around 35 percent of total expenditures, however, are for trip-related expenses such as lodging, food and transportation. This category is especially important to

Colorado's smaller rural towns -- resident's money is most likely spent regardless of whether it is wildlife or not, while nonresidents inject new money into a town's economy.

Tallies used in the Division's analysis show that out-of-state hunters comprised 37 percent of the 349,491 people who hunted big game in Colorado in 1996, with visitors spending more than \$118 million.

According to the federal survey, more hunting license -- for big game, small game and waterfowl hunting combined -- were purchased in Colorado by nonresidents in 1996 than any other state. Only two states had more nonresidents visit to participate in activities such as wildlife viewing and photography.

— COLORADO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

WYOMING G&F'S NINTH ANNUAL YOUTH AND EDUCATOR CONSERVATION CAMPS

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department is again offering outdoor/wildlife enriching experiences for kids and teachers this summer. Applications are now being accepted for the ninth an-

nual camps held at the Audubon Society's Camp of the Rockies southeast of Dubois.

From June 15-19, 50 Wyoming educators will learn ways to teach wildlife management to their students. Hands-on techniques on how to spearhead habitat improvement projects will also be taught.

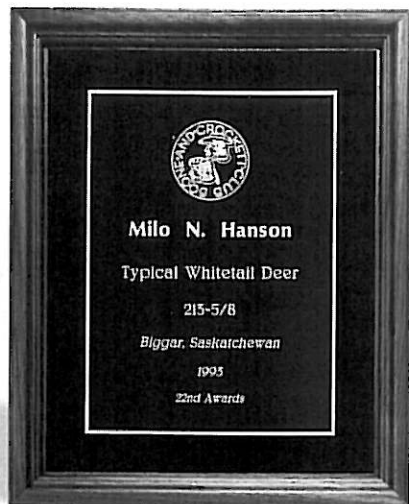
Wyomingites 15-18 years old will not only learn but get to experience outdoor survival, wildlife management and shooting skills August 9-15 at the youth camp.

Participants are selected by a G&F panel. Applications are available by calling (800) 842-1934.

— WYOMING GAME AND FISH

Now Available...

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Boone and Crockett Club is very pleased to announce the availability of this handsome plaque created especially for trophy owners whose trophies are accepted in B&C's records archives. Preserve the single-most outstanding achievement of your hunting career with the beautiful 8x10 shadowbox of genuine black walnut lined with black felt. The B&C logo and trophy owners name, along with the vital statistics of the trophy and its taking, are engraved in gold letters on a black metal plate. Use the order form located in the center of this issue or...

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These plaques are available for \$69.95 plus \$4.25 for shipping and handling. Allow 4 to 6 weeks for delivery. The Boone and Crockett Awards Recognition Plaques, which are optional, are available to those with a trophy accepted in the Club's Awards Program. Have the full name of the trophy owner, as well as the category, score of the trophy, and the entry period in which it was accepted ready when you place your order.