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## **Out Of Season**

The state of Idaho needs more out-of-season hunters. These illegal hunters would provide more fine money for Idaho Fish and Game biologists to illegally hunt legally.

I am referring to the article "Let's Stop This Absurd Slaughter," by George Dovel in the Outdoorsman, (January issue, page 10). I believe this article is true because the Fish & Game Department is not denying these facts. We do not need highly educated men to play peek-aboo in a helicopter with our wild game. As long as the Fish & Game Department pays the helicopter expense, any dumb bunny would do this job free if he enjoyed chasing wild game until they drop dead from exhaustion.

Quote from the Outdoorsman; "A Rocky Mountain bighorn ewe was chased by a biologist in a helicopter until she dropped from exhaustion. A tranquilizer gun was not used. She was run to death, less than two weeks before lambing season."

Another study involving cougar is but another example of the thousands of dollars wasted, many game animals destroyed and the same foregone conclusions emerging each year of the study.

In December of 1966, I stopped by the study ranch with a pack outfit, for the purpose of photographing ewe-lamb ratios in declining bighorn sheep herds. The lion study biologist (who now holds a doctor's degree and a university position with a high federal salary) was raising a pair of pet cougars in a pen there. When I asked whether or not he intended to feed them wild game, he assured me that they would be fed three horses that he had purchased for that purpose.

On subsequent trips to the ranch during the next three months, my companions and I found only big game animals in the lions' cage. A department biologist and I saw 12 horse quarters still hanging there three months later, but two freshly killed deer were in the cougars' pen ...

the cougars' pen .... I am glad George Dovel has the guts to state the true facts about our wildlife. Will we have more out-of-season hunters to provide money for our highly educated biologists or shall we all hunt legally and have good men with common horse sense in our game department? With a little education man can be dangerous.

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