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Lots of game when it's out of season

University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations

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NEWS

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stewart
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LOTS OF GAME - WHEN
IT'S OUT OF SEASON

It was great to see so much game--too bad it was out of season!

Such may have been the consensus of a group of senior and graduate forestry students from the University of Montana after their field trip to the Sun River Game Range last weekend.

Dr. W. Leslie Pengelly, Jim Richard, forestry graduate assistant, and eight students saw game and fowl in over-abundance on their day-long tour.

Dr. Pengelly reported he had never seen such numbers or a variety of species before at any one place in such a short period of time. The location was the mouth of the Sun River Canyon, 14 miles north-west of Augusta in an area of not more than four sections of land.

There they saw six species of big game, including a grizzly, 713 mule deer, 30 white tails, 176 mountain sheep, 840 elk and four antelope. Eight kinds of minor mammals were also identified.

Three miles north-west of Fairfield at the Freezeout Waterfowl Management Area the crew identified 73 different species of fowl. Along the way they witnessed the fascinating mating dances of the sharp-tailed grouse, similar to the Indian sun dances.

The trip was taken for the experience of animal identification in the field experience and to witness the effects of the devastating flood of 1964, the game range for elk and the proposed Sun River Canyon dam site.

Dr. Pengelly stressed the value of field experience to range and wildlife management specialists in the UM forestry school. That trip would be spoken of for some time to come. He doubted if such numbers were to be seen this side of the African plains and even then there probably wouldn't be the variety of species.