

Hunter Sees Wanton Destruction by Vandals with Magnum .12

Ed Hall rose early Wednesday morning, Oct. 4, and drove to Blind Slough for some daybreak bird-shooting.

"I stopped at Blind Island first to see if any geese were lying in there," he says.

While walking the trail to the water he passed four Forest Service garbage cans that had been "worked over" by .12 and .410-gauge shotguns.

"The cans were all shot up,"

he stated, "and expended three-inch magnum .12 gauge and .410 shells were scattered around."

Hall walked farther toward the slough and found two freshly killed blue herons lying where they'd been shot, with more of the three-inch magnum .12-gauge ammunition nearby.

"There weren't any birds at Blind Island," Hall explained, "so I drove to Blind River Rapids."

"The sign at the rapids was blown in half and five spent .12-gauge cartridges were lying on the ground nearby," he continued.

Hall suggested that the person wielding the shotgun had removed the plug to accommodate five shells.

"I walked down the trail and found three small trees shot-gunned down," continues Hall.

He added that a Tongass Na-

tional Forest sign also had been shot up.

Returning to town, about midway between Papke's Landing and Blind Slough, Hall found several more small trees, three or four inches in diameter, blown down by shotgun fire.

The hunter described the destruction as a "pretty sad state of affairs."

He suggested that the shooting occurred the previous day

as the birds were killed recently and the expended shells were new.

Hall said he would notify the State Trooper.