



# Upper Willamette

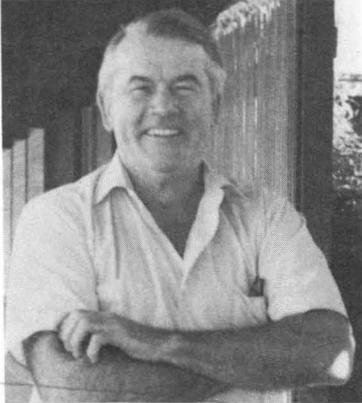
## Resource Conservation & Development



### RC&D AREA NEWSLETTER

--Volume XI, No. 1 - October 1980

954 13th Avenue West  
Eugene, OR 97402



#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This is the first RC&D Newsletter we've printed for some time due to cutbacks in funding and staff. It seems vitally important to me to reestablish it because our RC&D Area is so large and the need for communication is growing.

Everything seems to indicate that more intensive management of natural resources lies ahead of us, especially in the renewable activities of agriculture and forestry. They continue to be important to our local welfare. In addition, the export of food and wood products plays a big part in our balance of trade and foreign policy.

This call for increased productivity logically demands an increased effort to protect the environment and conserve the basic resources of soil and water. If we can agree on these assumptions, some vital questions arise:

- Can we control sedimentation and chemical pollution of waterways?
- Can we find or afford the energy needed for intensive management?
- Can technology increase productivity to offset the loss of farm land and loss of soil itself?
- Can we find an effective compromise between competing land uses?
- Can we accelerate the management of small woodlands?

Some of the answers are taking shape. It's interesting to note that the "208" Clean Water Program for rural areas is emphasizing best management practices that the Soil Conservation Service and Soil and Water Conservation Districts have been advocating for years.

It would appear that one of the most important functions for RC&D in the future is to help coordinate agency programs with resource management. This necessarily entails the cooperation of land owners whom, I believe, will respond if approached in the right way. If watershed planning included all the elements of physical, social and economic needs, we could achieve good resource management, environmental protection and an equitable compromise for competing land uses.

This is our challenge. I would like to think that Oregonians still have a pioneering spirit and that good resource management may be the last frontier.

TOM KERR

#### RC&D MEETING

The Upper Willamette RC&D Area Sponsors will have a meeting at the Lane Extension Auditorium, 950 13th Avenue West, Eugene at 8:00 p.m. on October 23.

Some of the agenda items are reports from cooperating agencies and RC&D Sponsor activities, the Flood Prevention & Drainage Study, "208" Clean Water Program and alternate energy production.

## NATIONAL AUDIT

Congress directed the General Accounting Office to audit the RC&D Program to determine its effectiveness. The RC&D Program has been funded for at least the 1981 fiscal year but future support by Congress will depend upon the outcome of the national audit.

Begun in 1964, the Upper Willamette RC&D Area was one of the first 10 approved in the United States. The auditors visited us from September 8 through September 18. We haven't heard when the findings will be given to Congress.

## LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT

Two bills were introduced in Congress to place the RC&D Program on a sound legislative and administrative financial basis. A substitute version of S. 1942, originally introduced by Senator George McGovern of South Dakota, was passed by the full Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry on September 3. A companion bill, H. R. 6664, has been written by Congressman Ed Jenkins of Georgia.

In the words of Congressman Jenkins, "these Bills will not create a new program, but rather, mandate one already in existence. The RC&D Program has been in effect since 1964 under a provision of the 1962 Food and Agriculture Act (PL 87-703). Yet neither this law, nor subsequent legislation, has specifically spelled out the function of RC&D. Consequently, despite notable successes, RC&D remains a 'creature of budget,' an administrative entity which is vulnerable to proposed budget cuts and eventual elimination even though we in Congress have consistently indicated our intent that the Program continue."

As a member of the Western RC&D Association, the Upper Willamette RC&D Area Aponsors are asked to contact Senators Hatfield and Packwood, and tell them how important this bill is to the future of the RC&D Program, and ask that they support it when it reaches the floor of the Senate.

## SOUTH BEACH MARINA

The Port of Newport's new marina on the south side of Yaquina Bay should be completed by December 15th of this year. It has been under construction since 1978.

This RC&D funded project is sponsored by the Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District and the Port of Newport. Technical and financial assistance has been provided by the Soil Conservation Service, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U. S. Coast Guard.

The local sponsor's costs have been financed by a Farmers Home Administration community facility loan which was supported by a general obligation loan and authorized by a vote of the residents in the Port District. Funds for annual payments will be obtained from user fees.

The marina consists of a breakwater, constructed in part by the Corps of Engineers, launching ramp, launching hoist, public fishing pier, paved parking areas, restrooms, fish cleaning facilities, a picnic area and moorage for 600 boats in the water and 150 in dry moorage.

This marina will improve the economic conditions of the Yaquina Bay Area and provide additional public water-based recreational opportunities while at the same time preserving and enhancing the area's unique natural resources and life style.

## FLOOD PREVENTION & DRAINAGE STUDY

A study originally proposed by Linn SWCD to evaluate the flood prevention and drainage problems in the Upper Willamette Valley is underway.

This will be a cooperative River Basin activity to identify project opportunities, to set priorities and to consider other matters directly related to flood prevention and drainage. Anyone having comments or suggestions is urged to contact the RC&D office.



Wilbur Ternyik, Port Commission Chairman, and Paul Coyne, Gen. Manager.

## PORT OF SIUSLAW

Paul Coyne, General Manager of the Port of Siuslaw, reports the marina (Harbor of Refuge) on North Jetty Road is on hold due to litigation to establish state ownership of the 224-acre site. All but one of the 80 owners have signed off title to the land, with no money involved, leaving only the parcel held by the original claimant undecided. The case is now on the Oregon Supreme Court docket, but it may be several months before the issue is decided.

The Corps of Engineers have prepared plans for the marina, which is estimated to cost \$5 million. However, if there is a delay in starting construction, the cost would be greater because of inflation.

The marina project will be built in two stages. The commercial facilities, first to be completed, will have 65 to 75 slips for large fishing vessels (50 feet or longer) and will include a receiving station where boats can dump catches and receive payment, fuel pumps, and ice.

Fishing boats now must make an 11-mile round trip to the Florence moorings, requiring several hours during which crews are without knowledge of changing weather conditions that can make the bar impassable in the time it takes to return down river after dumping. Boat owners can look forward to large savings in fuel costs and time once the marina is in operation.

The recreational section of the Harbor of Refuge will offer moorings for 250 sport and pleasure craft of all sizes. The small cove where the marina is to be built will be kept in its natural state, the only development being the moorages and an adjacent landscaped parking area. Lane County's Harbor Vista Park on a rise overlooking the cove offers overnight camping facilities and is within easy walking distance of the proposed marina.

## SOUTH PRICEBORO

The South Priceboro Flood Prevention Project should be completed this coming year. The measure plan has been approved, construction plans prepared and it appears that RC&D funds will be available to assist in its construction.

## WHO?

A Directory is being prepared to aid local people, organizations and agencies on a variety of resource related problems and/or situations.

"WHO?" will identify the major local, state and federal agencies and organizations providing basic information and technical assistance in the four-county area. Included will be the phone numbers and addresses of the nearest office.

The booklet is being funded through the yearly assessment from each of the RC&D Sponsors. A copy will be given to each of the offices listed; additional distribution will hinge on availability of funds.

## GRAND PRAIRIE

Field work on a geology investigation for the Grand Prairie Watershed Project in Linn County has just been completed along Truax, Burkhart and Cox Creeks at half mile intervals. The purpose of the investigation was to identify geologic hazards such as sand pockets which would influence channel design.

The Grand Prairie Watershed encompasses 23,000 acres lying between the cities of Albany and Lebanon and calls for improvement of approximately 42.5 miles of natural channels for flood prevention and drainage. Construction of about four miles of new irrigation water delivery canals is also planned.

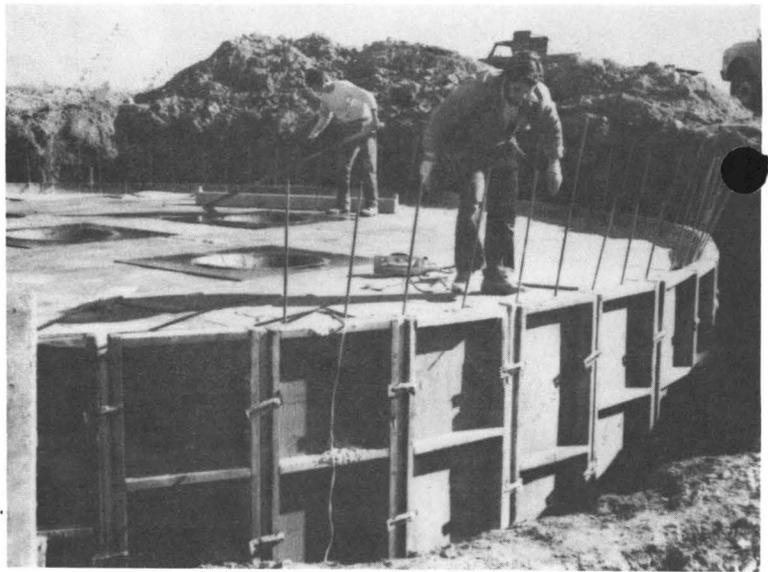
An environmental assessment of the project has been prepared and a declaration of no significant environmental impact was published in the Federal Register on August 22. During the mandatory 30-day comment period, concerned groups, agencies or individuals may review the assessment and file objections. Construction of approximately 900 ft. of the Cox Creek channel near Albany may be completed this fall.

Congress authorized this watershed project and it is sponsored by the Grand Prairie Water Control District, Linn Soil & Water Conservation District, Linn County and the cities of Albany and Lebanon.

## ANIMAL WASTE MANAGEMENT

Ten public meetings have been scheduled across the State in October and November to gain public, producer, and agency input for Oregon's Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) Waste Management Program. The results obtained from these meetings will affect the entire Waste Management Program.

The only meeting in the Upper Willamette RC&D Area is at Albany - Monday, November 10, 1:15 p.m., Linn County Extension Office, 104 6th St. N. W. Contact: John Fitzpatrick, Extension Agent, 967-3871.



Linn County--Mike Eisenga 150 cow dairy near Scio. Photo shows construction start of liquid manure tank for animal waste disposal.



Linn County--Jack Smalley's two cell lagoon for animal waste disposal on Richardson Gap Road.

## ASCS FUNDING

In spite of tightening economy cost-sharing programs for qualified applicants are available through the USDA Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service. Forest incentive programs, permanent cover, and spring developments for stock water are some of the practices which can be partially funded through ASCS.

From 50 to 75 percent of the cost of financing installation of waste management facilities can be recovered through ASCS programs on eligible costs--up to a maximum of \$3500. Many dairies in the County are taking advantage of this funding to build dry storage facilities, lagoons, and tanks for waste management, according to Luree Wilson, Executive Director of the Lane County office. Cost-sharing programs apply to commercially producing farms.

Funds are available for establishing and improving woodlots and timberlands (20-1000 acres), up to a maximum of \$10,000 a project.

Fourteen percent of Oregon's forest land is owned by small woodland operators. Only one-fifth of this area is now producing timber to help meet the anticipated shortage of timber products, which will cost the state needed jobs in the near future. Forest lands now gone to brush can be converted to productive properties with significant savings to owners through participation in ASCS programs.

These are not programs where farmers must pay the cost and wait several months to recover a share of the outlay. "Payment is authorized for eligible costs as bills are presented to us," Luree Wilson points out.

Information on cost-share funding can be obtained by contacting these ASCS offices: Benton/Lincoln ASCS, 305 S. W. C Street, Corvallis, phone 757-4534; Lane ASCS, 952 13th Ave. West, Eugene, phone 687-6442; Linn ASCS, 425 W. 1st Avenue, Albany, phone 967-5925.

## STATE TAX CREDIT

Oregon forest landowners can now receive tax credit for converting unproductive woodland areas to productive use. The 1979 Oregon Legislature approved the program which allows a 10 percent credit against state income taxes for nonindustrial woodland owners who convert undeveloped timberlands of 10 to 500 acres to commercial forest. Christmas trees are not included.

For those who are upgrading forest lands through participation in federal cost-share programs, the tax credit applies only to the share invested by the owner. An owner operating in partnership which pays the taxes can claim a tax credit if the individual share of expenses exceeds \$500.

Practices which count toward the tax credit include site preparation, clearing of vegetation, animal damage control and moisture control, in addition to tree planting.

Owners can obtain details by contacting the Oregon State Department of Forestry office which administers the program in the county where the timberlands are located.

## ENERGY SECURITY ACT

Signing of the Energy Security Act by President Carter earlier this year signals action on concentrated conservation measures related to existing natural resources, and massive efforts in development of alternative energy sources.

Establishment of the Synthetic Fuels Corporation provides incentives through loans, loan guarantees, grants and subsidies to hasten production of alcohol fuels from biomass and waste products, with \$1.45 billion scheduled for funding over the next two years. \$5 million annually is designated to establish ten model demonstration facilities around the country for rural, agricultural and forestry biomass energy operations. In addition, \$12 million annually is allocated for grants to conduct research in these areas, with 25 percent earmarked for identifying and developing agricultural commodities which may be suitable for the production of alcohol. Both of these programs will continue through fiscal 1984.

An amendment to the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act details cost-sharing and technical assistance programs to encourage energy conservation by agricultural producers through shelter belt projects, minimum tillage systems, waste management, pest control, and other related resource management practices.

Assurances are written into the Act to ensure small operators (those producing less than one million gallons of ethanol or its energy equivalent (annually) access to funds and assistance.

Also included in funding stipulations is authorization for appropriation of \$10 million annually through 1984 for educational programs to be provided by state and federal agencies for producers of agricultural and wood products concerning the feasibility, research, and available technology regarding use of biomass products for energy, and the use of biomass energy; and to provide technical assistance through ". . . meetings, short courses, workshops, tours, demonstrations, publications, news releases, radio and television programs.

## WEYERHAEUSER AWARD

The Weyerhaeuser Company has announced its First Annual Tree Farm Family Reforestation Award, with 2000 Douglas-fir 2-0 seedlings to be presented to a member of their program for converting non-productive timberlands to Douglas-fir production.

The Tree Farm Family project is a national program conducted by Weyerhaeuser to encourage small woodlot owners to upgrade nonproductive lands by supplying them with plantings from the company nursery at cost. About 30,000 acres are involved in the program in the Wil-

lamette Region, which covers the part of Lane County in the Willamette Valley, with some slight overlapping into adjacent counties.

125 Tree Farm Family members will be eligible to make application for the award, to be presented in December of this year.

## VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

When you vote in November there will be several names on the ballot for the position of Director on the Soil and Water Conservation District in your county. This is an unpaid position and the Director must own a minimum of 10 acres of land in the District.

A Soil and Water Conservation District is an independent subdivision of state government. Administration of state enabling laws is in the hands of the State Soil & Water Conservation Commission in Salem who have been appointed by the Governor.

The purpose of a SWCD is to focus attention on land and water problems, develop annual and long-range programs designed to solve the problems, and enlist all the appropriate, available help from public and private sources that will contribute to the accomplishment of the District's goals. Some of the Directors are farmers but there is a growing trend for other persons concerned about resource development from urban as well as rural areas to be elected or appointed.

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CORRECTION: page 6 "Vote! Vote! Vote!"

Should have stated: A Director in a zoned position must live in that zone and own or manage 10 acres or more of land in the District. A candidate for an at-large position must live within the District, but does not have to own or manage any land.