

EXTENSION
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Wheeler County Planning Conference



1958 Reports

*Let's W. Co. Planning
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HOME AND COMMUNITY LIVING

HEALTH

The Situation, Doctors, Nurses, Dentists

Fossil has a doctor of advanced age, and consequently limited practice. It is not possible for him to lead the tremendously active life that is demanded of a doctor. There is a full time male nurse at Kinzua. A doctor from Prineville comes to Mitchell once a week, and with him is a prescription druggist.

The result of all of this is that most citizens are compelled to go to Prineville, Condon, The Dalles, Pendleton, and Portland for medical help. There is little help in case of an emergency, such as a bad accident or an internal hemorrhage.

Several doctors have investigated conditions here and have left because of lack of hospital facilities. They reported that, to use the Condon facilities, they would be compelled to associate themselves financially or otherwise with the Condon Clinic, and they did not feel like doing so.

There is one school nurse in the county but no public health nurse.

There is an ambulance at Mitchell and one at Kinzua. There is none at Spray or Fossil.

The Salk polio vaccine has not been available here, on the same basis as in other counties, thus endangering health to that extent.

State records show that Oregon citizens have an average of one doctor for each 1,000 persons, Wheeler County has 3,200 persons and only one doctor. He is not physically fit for such a load.

The dentist situation is just as bad, but of course, dental work is not usually of such an emergency nature.

Luckily, the general health of the citizens is pretty good, as evidenced by the low volume of draft rejections in the county. Percentage of draft rejections here are only about half the national average.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. We commend the County Health Association, the County Court, and the citizens who have attempted to get one or more doctors to locate here. We urge continued efforts and point out that any doctor, or dentist, who did locate in this county, could reasonably expect an excellent income. In addition, he would have some advantages not readily open to doctors in many other places, such as hunting, fishing, horseback riding and living in a country where western hospitality still exists.

2. We recommend that good first aid courses be given in all communities. We are not thinking of just a lecture on first aid, but a real course of study by a competent teacher. We ask the new home demonstration agent to investigate this and report to this group on possible courses by various agencies, costs, and other pertinent information.

3. We suggest that Dr. Thomas meet with this group at the first opportunity to talk over possibilities of more adequate local service from his clinic.

4. We commend the local group and the First National Bank for

their efforts to locate a suitable clinic here, and the other groups backing them.

5. We ask the school nurse to check on costs and other things involved in getting a mobile unit for use with school children. Perhaps this might be a joint venture with a neighboring county if impracticable for this county alone.

6. School children need a good breakfast, particularly the primary grades. We ask the various home economics groups and the home demonstration agent to bring out this fact wherever possible.

RECREATION

It was pointed out that in some ways Wheeler County is far better situated for recreation than most counties in the United States.

Advantages

1. Unsurpassed hunting and steelhead fishing.
2. Horseback riding is common here, whereas in a place such as Los Angeles or Portland, none but the rich can afford it.
3. A wonderful place for camera clubs and rock clubs.
4. Many natural picnic grounds, whereas in many counties the taxpayers must furnish huge sums for parks.
5. Natural swimming places.
6. The many streams offer countless locations for fish ponds and swimming pools.
7. U. S. Forest Service and State Game Commissions are increasing facilities here. Recent improvements include:
 - (a) Bull Prairie dam and park.
 - (b) Reservoir and trailer park on Swale Creek.
 - (c) Fairview Camp area, Spray-Heppner road.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. We ask that a State Game Commission representative meet with this committee as soon as possible in order to get their ideas on parks, fishing, and game development.
2. We ask that the Extension Service make a systematic survey, perhaps through the Cattlemen's Association, to locate all possible damsites that might increase swimming and fishing opportunities. Very often the same reservoir would be valuable for fire control, stock water, flood control, and irrigation as well as recreation.
3. We ask that the planning council make a study of TV reception and costs or possibilities of bettering it.
4. We commend the Boy Scout group for their plan for a Scout camp on Strawfork.

EDUCATION

The group agreed that some of the schools in the county do not seem to be up to the standards of those in some neighboring counties. Yet over 80% of the local property taxes goes for schools and most of the committee agreed that property taxes are close to limit of ability to pay. Some reported that it was difficult to get and hold the kind of teachers they would like to have, due to lack of housing and remoteness from cities. Salaries here appear to be as good as in most places.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. We do not believe that the state should have the power to hold back state aid in order to enforce building standards. Example: A sawmill is about to close down, resulting in a withdrawal of many of the children from that community. Yet the state department of education can order that community to build a new schoolhouse, when the local people know it will not be needed. We can ask our legislators to investigate this situation, consult with other eastern Oregon men, and see if this growing power of a state agency cannot be curtailed.

2. We request the county superintendent of schools to determine the percentage of high school graduates in the county that go to college, arranging the figures for some years back.

3. We also request her to correspond with the registrars of the various colleges in the state to find how graduates from here compare with others in the tests given to freshmen. If the figures are available by counties, we also ask her to find out the percentages that are unable to keep up in their college grades and leave school on that account.

4. The committee, though taking no action, was critical of the long trips taken by school athletic teams — to Crane for example, in Harney county, a distance of over 200 miles.

5. We ask members of this committee to investigate the libraries of the various schools to see if these libraries can be made available, on a year-round basis, to both students and adults.

6. There is some indication that youngsters of the county are deficient in English. This cannot be cured in school, yet the deficiency affects their school work more than any other one thing, particularly high school and college work. We suggest some sort of effort, county-wide, to increase home reading and, wherever practicable, reading aloud at home. We do not have any plans for that at present, but ask that PTA's, home economic units, Granges, or any other interested groups, take this matter up and see if someone can come up with a plan to put this recommendation into effect.

Some possibilities might be:

- (a) A Bookmobile, either for this county alone, or combined with others
- (b) A city library in Fossil
- (c) Better school libraries

7. We appoint an education committee as follows: Margaret Dale Keyes, Mrs. Rita Simmons, and Mrs. Charles Lange. This committee is instructed to follow up the recommendations of this Home and Family Living group.

4-H AND FAIR

In 1957, the county had 160 4-H Club members, many of whom had exhibits at the Fair. This number should increase as soon as the new home demonstration agent can help local leaders. Only Spray has a good meeting place for leaders and Club members.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. We ask the home demonstration agent to make 4-H work one of her major projects.

2. In view of farm consolidations and purchase of ranches by outside corporations, we suggest extra effort toward enrollment in Clubs of town children. These children should be taught something about the out-of-doors and the opportunities here. Often they are children of loggers or truckers who have little opportunity to learn about the county. We believe that 4-H Club work is a training in good citizenship that town youngsters do not get.

3. We ask the Fair Board to do these things:

(a) Work toward a permanent 4-H meeting place in the Fair grounds. We suggest a look at the Grant County set-up.

(b) Develop a long range plan and work on some one part of the plan each year.

(c) Make a year-round road past the main exhibit building.

(d) Work with various organizations so that each might take care of needed things .

(e) Stimulate an organization in each town to encourage participation in the Fair.

(f) Correspond with each school and ask each to make an exhibit of the school work, including items or projects from school achievement programs.

(g) Ceiling of quonset, and finishing of kitchen.

ADULT EDUCATION

Aside from the education offered by the Extension Service, there is not much organized adult education in the county.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. We ask the newspaper editor to run a series of stories on the types of adult education that are offered. Some of these are such that college credit is given for completion of the course. Some of the members had taken a course in painting, given by the General Extension part of the State System of Higher Education. Many courses are given including English, crafts, such as leather working, and various sciences.

2. We suggest a ceramics workshop. There is already some interest in that subject. The State Department of Education offers help.

3. We suggest active promotion by PTA, churches. Extension service and others of Great Decision groups. Much printed information is available at low cost. These discussion groups can be lively, lots of fun, and extremely informative. They also help in training everyone in how to engage in argument without getting upset.

SCOUT WORK

RECOMMENDATION:

1. We commend the scoutmasters and recommend that additional scout groups be organized, including Girl Scouts, so that every child in the county will be able to join a group if he desires. At present, there are no scout groups in some parts of the county.

ORGANIZATIONS

GRANGE The Spray Grange has been organized since the 1948 conference. Membership is about 70. The Clarno Grange is not very active. Ranch consolidation and, in some cases, absentee ownership, has resulted in a decrease of eligible Grange memberships near Clarno. The committee has no recommendations to make.

CHURCHES

Mitchell, 2; Fossil, 3; Kinzua, 1; Spray, 3.

The churches have grouped into a Council of Churches. They offer courses, non-denominational, in Sunday School teaching.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. We ask the planning council to conduct a survey on church preference and attendance, making the results available to all the churches.

2. We ask all of the churches to cooperate with the planning council in helping to put into effect such parts of the conference report as would be suitable for church action. Examples: increase in home reading; increase in 4-H Club work; increase in scouting; more recreational areas.

LIVESTOCK ASSOCIATION

About 68 cattlemen and sheepmen of the county belong to the livestock association, which is very active. It is probably the most active of any single organization in the county. About 102 stockmen do not belong, but many of them go along with various programs. A few owners have major interests elsewhere and pay little attention to the association.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. As with the churches, we suggest that the Association help in carrying out such portions of the conference report as seems appropriate.

2. We ask those stockmen, who do not belong, to join the Association, serve on committees when asked, and otherwise help in aiding their own business.

HOME AND COUNTY BEAUTIFICATION

1. We ask the County and the State Highway Commission to seed an appropriate grass on all soils exposed by highway or roadwork. The county agent can suggest the best species for each site.

2. We suggest for the county, perhaps a community at a time, some kind of contest for beautification of all homes and grounds. This would lead to more local pride, more enjoyment by everyone, and in case of a ranch sale, it would have a very real cash value. This would be a contest in which everyone would win, whether he won the first prize or not.

TRANSPORTATION

Situation:

The county suffers actual loss of income due to poor transportation facilities. The Madras area is destined to become a large feeder area and West Umatilla is already such an area. Large trucks cannot travel the road via Clarno or Service Creek-Mitchell, and therefore feeders look to other sources for feeder cattle. The above mentioned roads are only graveled roads (State Highways) and in poor condition much of the year.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. We recommend no change in the formula governing distribution of the county's share of money from U. S. Forest Svs. receipts.

2. We ask that a letter be sent to the division engineers of the State Highway Commission, calling his attention to the need for seeding road sides in all cases where soil is disturbed. The same policy should be adopted by the County Court. The cost is very small and the benefits great in reduced highway maintenance, protection from fire and erosion, and reduction of weed menace.

3. We ask the Court to improve the East-West Clarno road, with or without State or Federal money, as fast as conditions permit. We suggest that the Court take action to get Highway representatives to tour the county to see conditions on some roads under jurisdiction of the State Highway Commission.

Since the recommendations, contained in this report, there have been definite plans and proposals presented for the building of a medical clinic in Fossil, Oregon.

The proposal as approved by the Fossil Community Club and various committees from other local organizations, fraternal and civic, recommends the selling of shares at \$1.00 to raise the necessary funds to build the Medical Clinic building, up to an amount of \$49,000.

We anticipate that a building can be built comparable to the one erected at Condon, Oregon, for approximately \$40,000, which was financed by direct loans to the doctor. Mr. Albee, who is the financial manager of the Condon Clinic, states that the Clinic at Condon has more business than they can take care of, and that Condon will attempt

to locate three doctors and an additional dentist in their town. We plan to incorporate as a profit sharing corporation and consider the plan to build, which is feasible, necessary and certainly a step in building the community. Suitable sites have been offered without cost for this building. Namely, an acre offered by L. J. and Alice Marks, and one acre by the American Legion and donors to the Memorial park.

Various articles have appeared and will continue to be published in the Fossil Journal concerning this project.

A meeting of the committee held Friday night at the high school building, showed a poll of about 40 people present, favored the proposal and an amount of \$4,870 was indicated as shares pledged by this group. This test pledge indicates that people in the community are willing to buy shares and provide adequate medical facilities to this and surrounding communities.

May we point out that this is not a proposal to raise funds by taxation. As chairman of the Home and Family Committee, I recommend that the Wheeler county Planning Committee, now in session, go on record as favoring the project of building a Medical Clinic in Fossil.

TAXATION

RE-APPRAISAL

The law, as the committee understands it, does not require re-appraisal. The legislature though, has appropriated large sums of money to assist in re-appraisal, which must be completed by 1961. If re-appraisal is done before that time, the state will pay half the expenses; if done after that time, the state does not figure on offering any help.

The law does state that counties must use certified appraisers in such work. Perhaps the most advantageous way out would be for several counties to go together and hire a certified appraiser on a yearly salary basis. Certified appraisers hired by the day or by the job come pretty high, but if employed by the year, the cost per county should not be high.

Gilliam County did the appraisal work at low cost to the county by appointment of a farmer committee who met with the state appraisers and worked out a formula for land appraisal, based largely upon productivity. 20 bushel land so much, 25 bushel land so much, etc. The figures were available for every farmer in the county, the work was rather quick and inexpensive.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the court meet with the county planning council shortly after this conference and canvas the possibility of making a similar inexpensive reappraisal in this county. If this is done, certain ranchers will have to give generously of their time in working out a feasible formula for this county with the representative of the State Tax Commission.

We suggest as a basis for the formula, a base figure per cow that the ranch will carry. For example, a ranch that carries 200 cows should be worth about twice as much as ranch that will carry only 100 cows. Once such a formula is agreed upon, other problems are rather easy, as was proved in Gilliam county where wheat, instead of cattle, was the chosen base. This would make it necessary though

to work out some factors for changing, for assessment purposes, all ranches to a theoretical cow-calf basis. This should not be too difficult if a committee of three good ranchers would work on it.

2. We suggest to such a committee, if appointed, that buildings not be counted for much, since no real income is derived from a building. The actual income comes from the cow.

LAND TAXATION

The principal of taxation of land comes from the early days when there was little of value, except land and cattle. That was in the Revolutionary War period, nearly 100 years ago. There were no corporations, only a very small professional class, and virtually no persons offering services. 90% of the population lived on the land, made their own clothes, furnished their own transportation. Now nearly 90% of the population is engaged in furnishing services, and only a little over 10% live on the land.

In most states, including Oregon, the land and other property, no longer pays for the expenses of running the state government. But this is one of the very few states where property still pays most of the costs of local government.

For example, compare the property tax in Oregon with that in Washington. On every \$100 of farm produce sold, the Oregon farmer pays on the average, \$4.00 in taxes. That is 4% of his year's income, but usually 12% of his net. In Washington, the farmer pays only half as much, or 2% of his gross.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Our representatives in the state legislature should work out other forms of taxes so that land will not pay such a large share. As it is now, the average professional worker, making \$10,000 a year will pay far less in taxes than a farmer who nets \$10,000 a year. Both pay the same income taxes, but, in addition, the farmer will pay \$1000 or more in property taxes, whereas the professional worker's property tax is more likely to be around \$200 to \$300.

TIMBER TAXATION

This is a tough problem. If timber is taxed as high as other property of equal value, it becomes impossible to hold timber. The owners must harvest or sell, for, if they kept it for as long as 20 years, the taxes paid on it would be more than the value of the logs. But neither is it proper for farmers to pay most of the costs of educating the children of truckers and woods workers. These folks also, in time of unemployment, swell the relief rolls. Farmers also pay most of the costs of local roads over which timber is hauled.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The severance tax on timber should be larger and the increase should be returned to the counties to help pay for county government, county roads and local schools.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The county should maintain a county tax league to meet on call to discuss tax questions as they arise. There are qualified tax experts available who will come upon request to meet with such local groups.

2. All groups in the county should be represented in such a league or study group. These would include livestock associations, labor unions, timber owners, PTA, Grange, and any others interested.

The cost of fire protection of timbered and cut-over lands has become a heavy burden on the land owner. Most of our farmers who own cut-over lands look upon them only as grazing lands and attach little if any value to their growing timber. The land owner has no control over the mounting costs of fire patrol and fire fighting but is saddled with liability for them by state statutes. At least one of our neighboring states has recognized that it is in public interest to protect privately owned growing timber from fire by placing a ceiling on fire patrol taxes to the land owner and assuming all costs over this ceiling by the state general fund.

We recommend that our representatives in the Legislature be urged to review the whole subject of fire patrol laws in Oregon and take steps to remedy that which is approaching an unbearable tax burden.

LIVESTOCK

SITUATION

Changes Ahead

1. The corner grocery and the butcher shop are nearly out of the picture in cities. Supermarkets sell 90% of the meat that is retailed, and restaurants buy nearly as much homes. People eating meat are requesting more tenderness and quality generally in meat.

Result: This is resulting in a demand for more standardized cuts—hence, smaller animals, less finish, fewer grass fat beef.

2. Feeding is drifting rapidly to large yards. In California, 90% of the cattle on feed January 1, 1957, were in yards feeding more than 1,000 head.

Result: More concentration on profit per head, less on profit per pound. A little feeder couldn't make much on \$5.00 profit per head, a feeder with 10,000 animals would clear \$50,000.

3. More tie up between corporations and ranches, or between ranchers and feeders. For example, the Pendleton Grain Growers, a cooperative, has emerged as a large feeder. We can expect to see ranchers working together to own cooperative feed yards, throughout the west.

4. Fewer cattle going through central markets. The big stores buy right from the feeders. This makes it harder to know the price day by day, since such deals are not published.

5. Tenderizing: This will be brought about by one of the following, or a combination of these:

- (a) breeding tenderness into the animal
- (b) chemical treatment
- (c) aging procedure
- (d) some method yet to be developed whereby tenderness can be gauged before slaughter.

Result - A far better and more stable market for all such tender meat. Now, the only sure tenderizer is the hamburger machine and

45% of the total beef supply goes that route. Other results will be lower costs of doing business; a still further growth in prepackaging, lower costs in aging and merchandising; a growth of carcass sales. (The only thing now holding down carcass sales to consumers is the fear that the buyer will be stuck with a whole animal too tough to eat.) All of this will increase sales of beef.

6. Irradiation: By this means, unfrozen meat can be kept for a long time. This will result in another jump in beef sales.

CONDITIONS WITHIN THE COUNTY

NUMBERS

As compared to the previous conference, 1948, the committee estimates numbers about as follows:			
	1948	1954 (census)	1958 (Estimate)
Cattle	18,000	26,000	26,000
Sheep	12,000	18,000	21,000
Horses	18,000	1,000	950
TOTAL ANIMAL UNITS	38,400	29,600	31,150

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Bangs Disease: Less than 30 herds remain to be tested. The county should be free by July 1, 1958. We recommend that the remaining herds test as soon as possible so as not to penalize the entire county.

2. Stock Numbers: We recommend no further increase in either cattle or sheep numbers except as the feed supply is increased, both range and hay.

3. Size of Unit: Size of unit depends upon efficiency, type of outfit, capital, topography, and lots of other things. In general, we recommend:

This would indicate a decline in livestock numbers, but it is all in horses. Note an increase in both cattle and sheep since the 1954 census. In addition there are 1,300 hogs estimated as of January 1, 1958.

To Feed This Livestock	1948 (tons)	1954 census (tons)
Alfalfa	10,500	11,700
Grain hay	11,300	8,250
Meadow hay	4,700	2,800
	26,500	22,750

This shows a net reduction in tons of hay, in about the same proportion as reduction in animal units of livestock.

CATTLE OPERATIONS

Since the last conference there has been some further shift from sale of yearlings to sale of calves, allowing the operator to carry more cows. There has been a slow but steady development of water, some meadow improvement through fertilizer and better use of water, use of better sires, better disease control and markedly higher calf crops. All of this has resulted in sale of more beef per cow carried—in other words, more efficient operation.

There are some cattle fed out in the county each year—about 800 head in recent years.

Farm flock of sheep in good irrigated pasture	500 ewes
Range sheep	1000 ewes
Cow and calf, range cattle	200 cows

These are minimum figures and are not at all intended as an upper limit.

4. Insects and Diseases: Since last conference there have been good developments for control of both internal and external parasites, and for grubs. We recommend that all stockmen keep in touch with the new chemical controls.

Penicillin salt seems to control bloat well, except in cases where animals refuse this salt.

White muscle disease is still uncertain. We commend the college for its work on this and hope it is maintained until the problem is solved.

5. Production Testing: We recommend production testing wherever it is at all practicable. We badly need scales at Fossil and ask the Fair Board to consider installation.

6. Market Roads: We badly need roads that large livestock trucks can use. Fossil to Antelope, and Service Creek to Mitchell are highways taken over by the state system needing improvement. We suggest that an attempt be made, by strategy or otherwise, to get members of the highway commission over these roads. With stock moving now mainly to feed yards instead of to slaughter, it is increasingly important and to get feeder's trucks to where the livestock are.

7. Hormones: Use of hormones either implanting or feeding should be considered by all livestock feeders.

8. Predatory Animals: We recommend a year around trapper, with equipment so he can cover the whole county, for Wheeler county. 1080 is the best poison available, but cannot be used for all the year. This poison was in beginning of widespread use at the time of the last conference and coyotes were reduced to a very few for a few years. Coyotes seem to be increasing a little at present.

9. Bottom Lands: There are still some meadow lands that are not producing, mainly due to lack of irrigation, or to faulty irrigation, or lack of fertilization. We recommend that each operator study his ranch and improve all such lands capable of improvement. If he can't use more hay, study the use as irrigated pasture. With feeder cattle at present prices, and with an acre of irrigated land carrying from 1 to 2 cows all summer, it doesn't take much figuring to show that the cost of development can be gotten back again in two years in most cases.

10. Cattle Improvement: Bull grading has never paid off in the market place any better than it does right now. We recommend individual and community bull grading work.

11. Ranch Improvement Program: Each ranch offers a chance for the owner to study it and detect the weak places. Some of the most common weak spots are: (a) Low yielding range. Owner paying taxes and fence upkeep and interest on too much land per cow. This weakness can nearly always be corrected. It shows up in low calf weights, high death losses, low calf crops, abnormally poor condition in the fall—or else in abnormally high acreage of range for each cow.

(b) Not enough watering places. Cows and calves walk off their

weight travelling to water in July and August.

(c) Low Yielding Meadows. A yield of only a ton to the acre makes awfully high priced hay these days. If, in addition, the hay is poor quality, this will show up in loss of weight in the winter and weak cows and calves. If quality is all right, low yield shows up in high costs per cow.

(d) Low Quality Cattle: This shows up in sales of a cent or two under those of others who sell at the same time. It may show up in lower weights for any age group, but the latter is usually due to feed problems.

(e) Disease or Parasites: Low calf crops, low weights, poor condition. These are the 5 most common weaknesses. Correct the most glaring one first, then move on to the next most important. The worst mistake of all is to try to make up the loss of income by keeping more cows. This just makes the problem worse, no matter what it is.

This committee therefore points out to the stockman of the County that he can often profit by recognizing some of the big over-all changes now going on, but he can usually profit more by analyzing his own operations for weaknesses, and correcting them as fast as his finances permit.

LAND USE

WEEDS

The worst perennial weeds in the county include: Morning Glory, Russian Knapweed, Canada thistle, Quackgrass, Whitetop and Chicory.

In addition, a small infestation of Dalmation toadflax was found in Fossil in 1956, and St. Johnswort has been noted in a few places, the first report in 1952.

These bad weeds occupy 10% to 15% of the tillable land and they are also on range land, ditchbanks, roadways and forest land.

Clean cultivation of course, will kill any weed, but in many cases it cannot be done here because of rocky ground, steepness, smallness of patches, isolation of patch, or lack of machinery,

Most grain and hay growers in the county are well sold on chemical sprays and it's likely that chemicals in most places will be used for killing perennials.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That all road right of ways, County, State. and Federal, be sprayed for control of weeds, or other measures used for control of weeds on these right of ways.

2. That farmers sterilize small patches of noxious weeds whenever found and before the weeds spread to adjoining lands.

3. That trials with new chemicals for weed control be conducted by the Extension service in cooperation with farmers each year in different areas in the county.

4. That introduction of beetles on St. Johnswort infestations be continued in order to keep this weed under control.

5. That we commend members of the Odd Fellows Lodge at Fossil for pulling all plants of Dalmation Toadflax found in their

cemetery at Fossil We hope they will continue to keep the weed in check. Toadflax has proven a very bad noxious weed in some areas of the west and people of Wheeler County can well afford to keep it from spreading. The time to control a weed is when the infestation is small.

6. That all citizens acquaint themselves with noxious weeds and report any weeds they don't know.

7. That junipers on good range land be checked before they begin to spread, or if this has occurred, that juniper clearing start at once .

8. That sage brush spraying be organized on a community basis in all areas where it occupies a high percentage of the range.

RODENT CONTROL

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the Fish and Wildlife Service be asked to assist in rodent control.

2. That the Extension Service conduct gopher control demonstrations, especially in irrigated areas.

WATER RIGHTS AND USE OF WATER

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That every rancher check on his water rights and if he is using water without the legal right to do so, he should file for a right at once.

2. That maximum use be made of spring run-off water by small dams and diversion ditches. Nearly every ranch could get some extra acres this way for pasture or hay. Nomad alfalfa is excellent for such use since it can be used for either pasture or hay, and is somewhat immune to gopher damage, if once established.

3. That all springs be developed There can't be too many water holes for best use of range and best weights on livestock. On some ranches, livestock walk off part of their gains by having to go into a deep canyon every day for water. They won't climb a high, steep hill in hot weather. The only solution is to develop water all over, either springs or catch basins.

4. That willows be eliminated around every spring development. The willows may use half of the water, or more.

5. That all possible reservoirs be constructed to hold back run-off. Keep the water in the county where it is needed instead of sending it to Astoria where they haven't any real use for it.

HIGHWAYS AND ROADS

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Highway construction through good farm land should be stopped. One farmer alone is helpless. This takes community action. Only 3% of this county is cultivated land. The value of the other 97% is largely created by the 3%. Good roads improve the value of a ranch, but only if the ranch is left with its good land intact.

2. We suggest that a committee of ranchers be appointed by the Court to consult in all cases of road relocation. Engineers are notoriously unsympathetic with desires of ranchers to keep fields intact. It takes an engineer to lay out a road, but it takes a rancher to tell the engineer whether or not he is reducing Wheeler County's wealth for all time to come.

FISH SCREENS

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Farmers should be consulted about location of fish screens on their farms. Many screens now are put in where fish may be lost to raccoons, birds or overflow. The screens should be put in at the heads of ditches.

TIMBER

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That all logging operators in the county take steps toward reducing waste of timber. Kinzua has been outstanding in reducing waste and converting some waste to usable products. All other operators should follow suit.

2. That all laws governing slash disposal be enforced.

FEED MILL

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. We believe there is a waste in selling locally grown grains and shipping in feeds. We suggest that the Livestock Association make a survey, find how much feed is shipped in, and determine whether or not a local feed processing plant would have enough of an outlet to justify its existence.

2. If this is not practicable, perhaps some sort of deal might be made with Pendleton Grain Growers to trade locally produced feed for pellets or other types of shipped in feed.

FERTILIZER PLOTS

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Ranchers here sell hay and range in form of livestock. There is little chance to increase sales without increasing feed first. As prices rise, there will be greater and greater need to produce all we can on our limited land. We therefore recommend that the county agents and ranchers cooperate in additional fertilizer trials until the possibilities of increased yields are demonstrated on every type of land. Ranchers can then make up their minds on whether they should fertilize or not. Such decisions will partly depend upon price of cattle.

TRADE AGREEMENTS

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That we ask our Congressman to support extension of the Trade Agreement Act.

GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS

BACKGROUND

Wheeler County ranchers are primarily feed consumers, rather than feed grain producers. A few raise wheat, but all of the wheat is priced, by government programs, out of feed use.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That we endorse the so-called domestic parity plan for wheat, whereby wheat would sell for whatever it would bring, but wheat growers would get parity for that part going into domestic use for human food. Under this plan, locally grown wheat could be used for feed in some years.

LAND USE COMMITTEE

DEER POPULATION

SITUATION

With the buck law, numbers are not controlled, crippled or killed doe are left to spoil, or concentration in winter feeding areas results in starvation of large numbers, and doe tend to become tame, some doing much damage to crops. States that have either sex laws seem to be satisfied and seem to have gotten around some of the above bad situations.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That we favor trying out a general either sex law in part or all of the state as a means of using the game resources to the best advantage. Total kill could then be controlled by shortening or lengthening the hunting season.

HUMAN LABOR

SITUATION

Farm labor works longer hours than is the case in other industries, without regular time off, vacations and other benefits. To some extent at least, this channels the poorer types of labor toward the farms. Also, it is sometimes the reason why young people leave the farm. Also, this is poor public relations. The situation is being corrected by labor saving devices, but it is likely that farmers will have to come to shorter working hours. The committee recognizes that a farm cannot be run like a factory, but also recognizes that farmers who are improving their labor conditions are getting the best help.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That ranchers give thought to ways of rewarding good help, either in better housing, vacations, bonus systems or shorter hours.

2. That the homemakers' day be scrutinized also, with a view to reasonable length of working day.

3. That labor saving devices be translated into shorter working days rather than more land purchase.

4. That farms too small to own labor saving devices be consolidated into larger farms around them as fast as possible.

5. Farm reared boys and girls in many instances, look for occupations other than farming. More young people would tend to stay on farms if there were better working conditions. Also the many advantages of farm should be pointed out and analyzed for people growing up on farms.