

# Oregon's Environment

T0172  
27  
no. 7



OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY

June 1972



Number 7

## SOLID WASTE LEGISLATION NEEDED

Current legislation regarding agricultural solid waste management practices in Oregon is not adequate. This is the conclusion reached in a report entitled "*Agricultural Solid Waste Study - Oregon 1971*" recently distributed by the Oregon State Board of Health. The report states:

"Although most practices are sound, there are some significant problems noted. Some of these problems could be adequately controlled by passage and enforcement of strengthened county solid waste nuisance abatement ordinances. Currently, only about 15 of Oregon's 36 counties have such an ordinance, and in each of these counties agricultural operations are exempt from the ordinances.

"Prior to July 1, 1971, all agricultural operations were also exempt from the state air quality control standards. Under new statutes, open field burning of grass seed crop residues in the Willamette Valley will not be allowed after January 1, 1975. As an interim measure, burning is restricted to certain periods of time when weather conditions are optimal, but

\* \* \* \* \*

is still permitted to occur. These restrictions have brought some degree of control, but have not proven adequate to completely prevent air pollution during the burning periods.

### JUNK CARS

The rusting hulks of discarded cars are an eyesore throughout the state. These twisted carcasses will increase in numbers and offensiveness at a greater rate in the years ahead. The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) has established a two-year demonstration program to show local governments an inexpensive way to collect enough junk cars in one site. This is necessary so that recycling is commercially feasible.

"In regard to water pollution, current state laws prohibit the discharge of manure and contaminated drainage and runoff into water courses. However, these statutes do not regulate the problem's cause which is poor animal waste management practices, including improper design of manure and runoff handling systems. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality has proposed regulations which would provide control of manure management practices and disposal system design at confined beef cattle feeding operations. These regulations, accompanied by informative guidelines, were adopted by the Environmental Quality Commission January 5, 1972."

Since the collecting of junk cars is one of the more expensive elements of any solution to the problem, the TVA program might be of aid to local governments. They have set up a fleet of seven wreckers and specially outfitted trucks which it lends to local governments for four-month periods to collect cars. Each vehicle can collect 200 junk cars per month.

In addition, TVA has developed designs for two collection vehicles which a vocational school class or a county garage can easily and (continued next page)

\* \* \* \* \*

inexpensively construct on a surplus truck chassis. The cost of converting a chassis should not exceed \$1,000. Each vehicle is designed so that one person can load and haul all kinds of car bodies, even those without wheels. Detailed blueprints for these collection vehicles are available to local governments from TVA, at no cost, by writing to: Office of Tributary Area Development, Tennessee Valley Authority, Knoxville, Tenn., 37902.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### FLOOD INSURANCE

A new law extends until December 31, 1973 the emergency flood insurance program which makes communities eligible for flood insurance while awaiting completion of studies necessary to establish actuarial rates. The legislation leaves unchanged the requirement that after December 31, 1971, all communities presently in the program and communities newly applying for flood insurance eligibility must have in effect land use and control measures to reduce future flood damage.

#### MAKE MONEY

You can be paid for fighting pollution. The Refuse Act of 1899, which was resurrected only recently, makes most kinds of refuse dumping into navigable waters illegal in all states. If you are walking along a scenic stream and notice an ugly discharge from an industrial pipeline, or sewer outlet, or any other type of offender, what can you do?

The office of the U.S. Attorney General suggests that you photograph the building, (if there is one), its pipes and the spreading effluent. Then, collect water samples in clean, lidded containers. When your evidence is complete, notify the nearest U.S. attorney. It is necessary that you provide as much specific information as possible -- including a description of the pollution, its source, the date and time you saw it and its location.

If your evidence results in a conviction, your reward will be half of the polluter's fine, which ranges from \$500 to \$2500 per day of pollution.

---

#### HIGHWAYS AND ECOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS

In carrying out highway development, it is absolutely necessary to consider enhancement of the environment. A key role in this effort has to be assumed by the state highway departments. The problems involved have been explored by a research team at the University of Massachusetts.

The report points out that "with a half-century of dedicated service to highway building behind them, with assured trust fund financing, with an array of interest groups which live off highway building, with the acknowledged central role in the highway construction process, the state highway department's cooperation is crucial. Yet any broadening of the purposes of highway building, of the criteria of a good road, makes their lot more difficult. Speed and simplicity are not served by adding environmental considerations to highway planning.

"What agency can match the administrative and financial and political resources of the state highway agencies and their Washington counterpart, the Bureau of Public Roads? If none, will the departments voluntarily adopt highway-environment policy?

"Highway doctrine is changing, the social impact of roads is being recognized within highway agencies. But the question remains -- Is what we ask somewhat ahead of the times, and when the full impact of environmental demands is accepted by highway builders, will most of the irretrievable losses have been suffered?" The report concludes with five recommendations for policy changes. (From "Enhancement of Ecologic and Aesthetic Values of Water Associated with Interstate Highways," Publication No. 19, June 1971, Water Resources Research Center, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts.)

## RESEARCH PRIORITIES

The order of priority areas for research in Northwest environmental matters has recently been identified as follows: water, air, solid waste, pesticides, noise, radiation, and environment-wide needs. This ranking has been established by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Seattle for Region X (Oregon, Alaska, Idaho, and Washington). The listing will be used as a guideline in implementing what EPA characterizes as its "problem-solving program aimed at obtaining answers for identified, high priority needs." A region-wide survey conducted by EPA during the second half of 1971 produced the priority listing.

It might be of interest to the reader to consider the top three problems in each category as identified by EPA:

### 1. Water

- A. Paper mill effluent influence on bacterial water quality.
- B. Recovery and utilization of lignosulfates in water pollution.
- C. Evaluation of potential pollution problems in South Puget Sound.

### 2. Air

- A. Determination of properties of emissions from various stationary air pollution sources.
- B. Develop method to remove SO<sub>2</sub> emissions from paper mills.
- C. Eliminate kraft mill recovery odors.

### 3. Solid Waste

- A. The effects of solid waste leachates on water quality.
- B. Identification, collection and treatment of leachate from landfills.
- C. Develop guidelines to abate pollution from sanitary landfills.

### 4. Pesticides

- A. Research and monitoring of pesticides in region.
- B. Development of a biological pesticide monitoring program.
- C. Pesticide and pesticide container disposal techniques.

### 5. Noise

- A. Transportation noise system analysis.
- B. Freeway noise monitoring and prediction.
- C. Truck traffic noise abatement.

### 6. Radiation

- A. Study to determine effectiveness of radioactive waste management at AEC-Hanford.
- B. Disposal of radioactive wastes from nuclear power plants.
- C. Study to determine total population dose in areas adjacent to national reactor test station.

### 7. Environment-Wide

- A. Continuing research on best forms of environmental protection institutions.
- B. Land use models for projection of point and diffused pollutant and nutrient loadings.
- C. Land use planning studies.

## CONSERVATION GROUPS

A recent report in "Science" magazine states that support for many of the environmental action organizations has been less enthusiastic in 1971. Membership in or contributions to most of them are not tax deductible, and it is the non-deductible groups in particular which are hurting. For the older, non-political conservation groups such as the Conservation Foundation, the Izaak Walton League, and the National Wildlife Federation, last year brought moderate growth.

Rita McDonald  
Library, General Reference Dept.



Non-Profit Org.  
U. S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 200  
Corvallis, Ore.

Oregon State University  
WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH INSTITUTE  
AIR RESOURCES CENTER  
Cove 11 Hall 115  
Corvallis, Oregon 97331

ANIMAL WASTES

The impact of animal wastes in the runoff from agricultural lands has been studied by a team of scientists from North Carolina State University. Twelve typical areas were studied, involving three types of waste management ---- lagooning, direct discharge into streams, and land spreading.

Study results point to the superiority of land spreading for the disposal of animal wastes. Good soil and water conservation practices should be used to minimize the movement of wastes into streams. Higher rates of runoff result in heavier pollution. The location of disposal areas away from streams is important in controlling the amount of entering wastes. Even when land disposal areas are poorly located, the amount of pollution entering streams is usually low; and watershed factors, such as surface culture and ease of erosion, are of primary importance in governing the magnitude of pollution which reaches the streams.

Effluents from swine waste lagoons were found to exceed raw domestic sewage in strength and should not be discharged without further treatment. Direct dumping of animal wastes into streams is completely unacceptable and should be prohibited. (*"Role of Animal Wastes in Agricultural Land Runoff"*, U.S. Government Printing Office, Price \$1.25)

\* \* \* \* \*

FISH PROTECTION

As this issue goes to press, an interesting confrontation has begun between Oregon and the federal government regarding who shall set standards for nitrogen control at dam sites in the Columbia River.