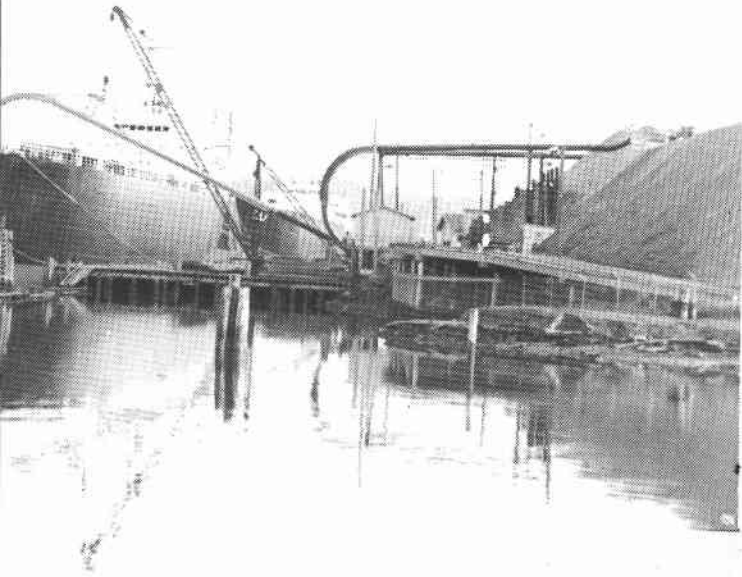


# COOS COUNTY LOOKS TO THE FUTURE



**1968  
Long Range  
Planning  
Conference**



# Coos County Looks To The Future

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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# Foreword

The 1968 Coos County Long-Range Planning Conference was sponsored by the Coos County Extension Advisory Council and the Cooperative Extension Service of Oregon State University. Plans for the conference were first developed in December, 1967, when committee structure was formulated and the first committee chairman named.

Beginning in January, 1968, 17 different study committees were organized. Serving on these committees were over 200 Coos County lay citizens plus numerous resource specialists from county, state, and federal agencies. These committees are listed in the last section of this report.

The purpose of the committees was to take a close look at Coos County and its many natural and human resources. Various problems and needs were identified and recommendations developed to help insure the county's being a better place to live in the future.

The major concern in the future will be to implement many of the recommendations resulting from this planning conference.

Bob Detlefsen, Chairman  
Coos County Extension  
Advisory Council

This is the fifth time Coos County has embarked on a long-range planning conference. These conferences span nearly one-half century of community planning for progress. The first was held in 1925; similar conferences were held in 1936, 1947 and 1956.

For many years, Extension advisory and planning committees have provided leadership and guidance to help improve the economic and social conditions of the county. Groups such as the Coos County Soil and Water Conservation Committee, the County Weed Advisory Committee, and various crop and livestock committees have spelled out some of the needs of the county and worked toward their accomplishment. This 1968 conference includes several new committees concerned with new fields of interest in the county besides bringing up to date activities of the planning and development groups.

The Oregon State University Cooperative Extension Service, through the County agent staff and specialists, has cooperated with the citizens in Coos county for more than 40 years in conducting educational programs in agriculture, farm forestry, resource development, community affairs, family living and youth. If we are to realize our greatest potential, continual planning is necessary to meet changing conditions.

Fred Hagelstein, Chairman  
Coos County Extension  
Staff

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# Coos County, Oregon

Coos County is located along the coastline of southwestern Oregon and includes a total area of 1,031,040 acres. About two thirds of the county is privately owned and one third publicly owned, the primary resource being timber.

The privately owned land of Coos County includes 248,716 acres of farmland, representing about 25 percent of the total land area. According to the 1964 Census of Agriculture, there were 1,058 farms. Average farm size is 235 acres, and farm income is derived primarily from dairy, livestock, farm forest products, and cranberries. Annual farm income is around \$7,000.00.

Public land ownership in Coos county includes 77,450 acres of national forest land, 171,430 acres of Bureau of Land Management land, 73,640 acres of state-owned land, and 21,010 acres of land owned by local county and municipal branches of the government.

Coos County climate is mild with few extremes in temperature. Minimum winter temperatures below 25 degrees are unusual as are maximum summer temperatures of over 90 degrees. Rainfall averages around 65 inches annually, with approximately 60 percent of the total precipitation coming during the winter months. Less than 2 percent of the precipitation comes during July and August.

Approximately 87 percent of the land area of Coos County is hill land and supports a large timber industry. Being located on the Oregon coast, the county also has a rapidly growing tourist industry. The local economy is based on timber, agriculture and tourism.

Much of Coos County's future economic growth is dependent upon water resource development. Future expansion in pulp and paper processing in the area depends upon continued water supply. Further expansion of irrigation in the county is also dependent upon water storage. Tourism and recreation can also be expected to benefit from such development.

The population of Coos County has leveled off to around 54,000 people, following a boom period in the 1950's. Much of the industry in the county is centered in the Coos Bay area. Here, around a natural deep-water harbor, lives an urban population of 30,000 people. Much of the rural population of the county is nonfarm and is employed in the industrial labor force in the county.

The composition of the population of Coos County is much the same as that of the State of Oregon. About 39 percent of the county's citizens are under 18 years of age, 54 percent are between 18 and 64 years, and 7 percent are 65 years and older. The median age is around 28 years.

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# Agriculture Committee Report

Altogether, approximately 24 percent of the land in Coos County is in farm ownership, according to the 1964 Census of Agriculture. This amounts to a total of 248,716 acres. A large proportion of this area, however, is in farm woodlots and pasture, with about 50,000 acres classified as bottom land.

As in all agricultural areas, the number of farms in Coos County has decreased while their size has increased. According to census information, Coos County had 1,058 farms in 1964.

The value of farm products sold in recent years has been gradually increasing, as shown in the accompanying table. Dairy products account for almost half of the agricultural income in the county; other livestock products, cranberries and farm forestry are also important contributors to local farm income. The year-round mild climate gives the area a natural advantage for forage-crop production, both on valley croplands and on an increasing acreage

of high-producing hill pastures. Pole-bean production on a commercial scale was introduced into the area in 1967, which may indicate new opportunities for cash crops.

The fertilizer needs of forage crops grown on local soils has received intensive investigation in recent years by the Extension service and Oregon State University research personnel. Practically all Coos County soils are deficient in phosphate, and it has been demonstrated that the production of clover on phosphate deficient soils can be more than doubled through the annual application of phosphate fertilizers. Other work has shown that some soils are also deficient in sulfur and molybdenum for forage production.

The use of fertilizers has greatly increased as a result of these investigations. Fertilizer tonnage used in the county has increased from 650 tons in 1959 to over 2,000 tons in 1967.

## COOS COUNTY FARM MARKETINGS 1963-1967

LIVESTOCK	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967
Dairy products	\$ 2,617,000	\$ 2,598,000	\$ 2,684,000	\$ 3,086,000	\$ 3,550,000
Cattle and calves	974,000	767,000	1,167,000	1,389,000	1,563,000
Sheep and wool	264,000	272,000	288,000	286,000	346,000
Poultry and eggs	169,000	153,000	135,000	126,000	152,000
Misc. (hogs, furs, bees, rabbits, etc.)	149,000	245,000	221,000	177,000	136,000
All livestock and products	\$ 4,173,000	\$ 4,035,000	\$ 4,495,000	\$ 5,064,000	\$ 5,747,000
CROPS					
Cranberries	480,000	451,000	560,000	593,000	822,000
Other fruit and truck crops	23,000	18,000	28,000	36,000	101,000
Hay	82,000	81,000	80,000	99,000	92,000
Nursery and greenhouse products	172,000	177,000	185,000	190,000	210,000
Farm forest products	850,000	860,000	840,000	750,000	750,000
All crops	\$ 1,607,000	\$ 1,587,000	\$ 1,693,000	\$ 1,668,000	\$ 1,975,000
TOTAL	\$ 5,780,000	\$ 5,622,000	\$ 6,188,000	\$ 6,732,000	\$ 7,722,000

Dairy products continue to be the major source of agricultural income in Coos County, accounting for over \$3.5 million in farm income in 1967. Income from dairy products has shown a gradual increase during the past few years, following an earlier decline during the 1950's. Dairy cow numbers in the county have declined from an estimated 17,000 head in 1947 to around 10,000 head in 1967. Stabilization in dairy cow numbers during the past couple of years, coupled with increases in production per cow and improved markets, has accounted for these recent increases in dairy income.

There are several indications of renewed vitality in the local dairy industry. Among changes are increases in herd size, a larger percentage of cows enrolled under DHIA, and improvements in dairy housing and equipment. Emphasis toward increased forage production and utilization in recent years has also been notable.

Marketing and processing of dairy products have also changed in recent years. A merger of dairy cooperatives in the state during the past year, which included a local cooperative, is expected to result in greater efficiency in processing and distribution. A large cheese-manufacturing plant in the county also converted to manufacture of an ice cream base during 1967. Local markets for dairy products have remained quite stable during these changes.

Economic factors, particularly inflation and increases in costs of goods purchased in relation to the prices received for dairy products, have had a significant impact upon the dairy industry. Dairy farm numbers have decreased also as herd sizes and production per cow have increased. The number of market outlets, too, decreased. These trends can be expected to continue.

Although demands for milk and milk products will continue to increase, imitation milk and other imitation dairy products pose a serious threat to the dairy industry. Since increased sales of these products point to greater competition, both dairymen and processors will be faced with the problem of successfully competing with a growing number of these imitation dairy products. Cooperation within the entire dairy industry is needed during the years ahead.

## Recommendations

The dairy committee, after considering the problems of the dairy industry, makes the following recommendations:

- In the area of marketing, the committee emphasizes the importance of promotion and advertising to the dairy industry and the fact that the industry must be willing to support financially the promotion of dairy products.
- Dairymen should produce a uniform, high-quality milk to help compete against imitation products.
- The dairy industry in the county, the state, and the entire nation must devote continued research to determine the best pricing method for milk.
- More dairymen should use the Oregon Dairy Enterprise Analysis Report program offered by the OSU Cooperative Extension Service to assist them in making sound managerial decisions and in improving efficiency.
- Availability of qualified help for dairymen employing hired labor is recognized as being a problem of increasing concern. Programs such as the occupational training program for dairy herdsmen being conducted by the Clatsop Community College should be explored further by local dairymen, and young people should be encouraged to enroll in such programs.
- Dairymen might also consider recruiting help from other dairy areas to help develop an adequate local labor pool.
- Continued attention should be given by the Coos County Extension Service and Oregon State University researchers in the area of soil fertility and fertilizer requirements of forage crops grown in the county. Fertilizer needs of forage crops grown on Coos County soils have received intensive investigation in the past five years, and as a consequence it has been demonstrated that fertilizers can increase forage production greatly at an economical cost. Additional follow-up work also needs to be devoted to forage utilization.
- The Coos County Extension Service should consider holding educational programs, such as short-courses on feeds and feeding and possibly disease and health control, including certain veterinary practices that can be handled by the producer.
- Dairymen should keep more complete breeding disease, production, and feed records and use them to guide everyday managerial decisions. Increased herd size and narrow profit margins make this a necessity for maximum efficiency and highest possible net income.

## Livestock and Forage

Livestock is the second most important segment of Coos County agriculture based on farm marketings. Livestock marketings have increased from \$1 million in 1957 to nearly \$2 million in 1967, with beef cattle providing the greatest portion of the increase.

The increase in beef numbers is due to both increased carrying capacity of hill pastures and the

change of many bottom-land dairy operations to beef cattle production. The change from dairy to beef operations has slowed in recent years, and the trend seems to be toward fewer dairy operations changing to beef operations in the future. A steady increase in the use of fertilizer should continue to increase the carrying capacity of much of the hill land used for beef and sheep production.

## LIVESTOCK MARKETING IN COOS COUNTY

Item	1957	1967
Value of cattle and calves marketed. . . . .	\$754,000	\$1,563,000
Value of sheep and wool marketed. . . . .	261,000	346,000
Beef cow numbers. . . . .	2,700	10,219
Sheep numbers. . . . .	20,800	24,000

Over 145,000 acres of hill land in farm ownership is used for grazing cattle and sheep to some extent. Production on some of this land is being increased by seeding subclover and grass and by applying commercial fertilizer. The production cycle of subclover is well adapted to the climate of the county and provides high forage production from April to July. Sheep are well adapted to utilizing this production since this is the period when lambs are fattened.

Sheep numbers have not increased greatly, primarily because of losses to predatory animals, even though sheep are better adapted than cattle to the forage-production cycle. The predators accounting for most sheep losses are coyotes, bears, eagles and bobcats.

### Pests

The weed tansy-ragwort, a serious pest on hill pastures, is toxic to cattle, but does its greatest damage by crowding out desirable plants in hill pastures and reducing the total forage production. The weed is a native of Europe and since introduction has spread throughout western Oregon. Seeds of tansy-ragwort are lightweight and are spread very rapidly by wind, water, and animals. The weed quickly infests logged-over lands, providing a seed source to infest pastures. For this reason chemical control, while possible, is not economically feasible on Coos County hill pastures.

The most satisfactory control measure to date is to graze the infested area with sheep, since they are not harmed by the plant. Sheep, however, do not eradicate the weed but merely hold it in check.

The cinnabar moth, a biological control for tansy-ragwort, was first introduced into the county in 1964 by the Extension service, in cooperation with the entomology research division of the USDA. Additional releases of the insect were made each year since 1964. The moths have survived at 75 percent of the release sites but have not made significant increase in numbers to date. However, releases at Fort Bragg, California, did not make their rapid increase in population until 6 years after the initial release of cinnabar moth larvae.

### Land Use

The land-use determination for hill land is difficult for ranchers, since the land is adapted to either forage or timber production. Forage production can be increased through the use of improved production practices, and the value of timber is increasing. These facts make it difficult for hill-land owners

to determine the areas of hill-land to be developed for forage production and the areas best suited for forest production.

Forage production on hillland has improved greatly through the establishment of clover and the application of fertilizer. Problems are still encountered on some sites in establishing clover and grass.

Livestock producers in the county feed very little hay to their stock from November to March and are dependent on pasture production during this period. Subclover production comes primarily in the late spring and does not fill this need. The carrying capacity on most ranches is determined by the number of livestock they can carry through the winter. Consequently, if enough stock are to be carried to fully utilize the increased subclover production in the spring, the November to March carrying capacity of the ranches must be increased.

The fertilizer needs of forage crops grown on Coos County soils has received intensive investigation in the past 5 years. As a result of this work, aerial application of fertilizer to hill pastures was started in 1964, and in 1967, 103 tons of fertilizer were applied to over 1,500 acres by airplane.

### Marketing

Marketing of calves is limited to on-farm buyers and one livestock auction yard. Buyers coming to ranches often make several trips to the county to see different lots of cattle. Coordination between ranchers could improve the efficiency of calf marketing. Lamb markets are well provided for in the county with onfarm buyers, lamb pools, and central markets available to sheep producers.

Foot rot has been brought to some farms through the purchase of sheep from infected areas and is difficult to control.

Crossbreeding is being used by some commercial livestockmen to increase production through hybrid vigor.

### Recommendations

The Livestock and Forage Committee considered the problems and needs of the livestock industry and made recommendations designed to help solve these problems and meet the educational and research needs of the industry. The recommendations are as follows:

- Research to develop a biological control to regulate the coyote population should be continued and intensified by the Division of Wildlife Services.

- The use of repellent sprays on sheep should be investigated.

- The trapper program in the county should be continued and every effort made to increase its efficiency through the use of improved equipment and personnel management.

- Efforts should be continued and increased to establish and develop the cinnabar moth as a successful biological control for tansy-ragwort in Coos County. The search for other means and other biological controls of this weed should be continued by Oregon State University and the United States Department of Agriculture.

- Data on cost of developing hill lands for forage and timber production should be developed to help land owners determine the best land use. Enterprise data sheets for pasture development and forest development are recommended. Further investigation should be made to determine the amount of grazing that is compatible with forest production.

- Further investigation into ways of better utilizing the increased spring forage production obtained from the use of commercial fertilizer should be made. It should include:

Research to determine the winter-growing grasses best adapted to the area.

Investigation into the feasibility of fall calving for some beef operations.

Winter feeding of hay to cattle, leaving the pasture for winter sheep feed in cattle-sheep operations. This possibility should be considered by farmers.

Part of the excess feed to be harvested as hay or silage, either to be sold or used in the livestock program.

- The county Extension service should give greater publicity to disease control measures and good livestock practices should be sent as a reminder to ranchers just prior to the time the practices are normally carried out.

- The Coos County Livestock Marketing Association should help coordinate calf marketing in the county.

- Further research should be conducted to develop more efficient and less laborious method of controlling foot rot.

- Research should be continued into the fertilizer requirements of forage crops grown in the county, with special emphasis on sulfur and minor element requirements.

- Forage-crop-variety research and demonstration work should be continued and the results of this work well publicized.

- The county Extension office should work with fertilizer dealers in the county to make available TVA 0-40-0-20S fertilizer for use by ranchers in 1968.

## Cranberries

The southwestern Oregon cranberry industry has seen an increased rate of growth during the past few years. Currently there are approximately 600 acres producing cranberries in Coos and northern Curry counties. An estimated 250 additional acres have been established in the past 2 or 3 years. Considering the intensity of production of this crop and the required investment, this increase constitutes a significant development in the local agricultural economy.

Only 15 to 20 larger commercial growers derive all or most of their income from cranberries. In addition, there are approximately 100 smaller part-time producers. Because smaller sized units are often less efficient in production, the increase in cranberry acreage can be expected to result in more full-time operators and higher producing bogs.

All local cranberry production is marketed through Ocean Spray Cranberries, Inc., a national marketing cooperative which handles over 80 percent of the United States crop. Ocean Spray's volume of sales has more than doubled since 1962 because of emphasis in new product development and promotion; this, in turn, has resulted in considerable acreage expansion in the five cranberry-producing states of Massachusetts, New Jersey, Wisconsin, Washington and Oregon. Currently, there is considerable concern in the industry over possible overexpansion in cranberry acreage.

Farm income in the county from cranberries has increased significantly in recent years, mainly be-

cause of better prices and improved yields per acre. The estimated gross farm return from cranberries in 1967 was \$822,000, compared to an annual return of around one-half million dollars during three previous years. This was largely due to a record crop of 105 barrels per acre, whereas the average yield for the area has been between 70 and 80 barrels per acre (100 pounds per barrel). New acreage which has not yet come into production should increase income from the crop in future years.

New developments and use of new herbicides, better insect control, proper fertilization, and more efficient harvesting methods have all led to improved per acre yields of cranberries. Oregon State University research personnel and the Coos County Extension Service have conducted a number of field research trials and held educational meetings for growers.

## Problems

Certain problems still face the local cranberry industry. Undetermined causes for a number of cases of dead or dying vines is of immediate concern to growers. Lack of an efficient and effective control for bog rats (coastal meadow mice) is another problem of concern, as is that of malformed fruit, or "monkey-faced" berries in many bogs, especially in certain years. Also of importance to growers, because it affects quality and yields, is the need for better information regarding fertility, especially with regard to optimum levels of nitrogen.



As to the long-term outlook for the local cranberry industry, some concern is being expressed over possible overexpansion in acreage, both locally and nationally. Oregon is the smallest cranberry-producing state, yielding about 3 1/2 percent of the national crop.

Increases in acreage are allowing many growers to expand their operations to full-time units and can be expected to increase materially local production and possibly result in more efficiency in marketing and handling. There is sufficient land for considerable further increase in acreage, although water supplies for irrigation, frost protection, and harvesting are becoming limited in some local areas and may require construction of dams and other water-impounding structures. Maintaining a favorable market situation must continue to be of prime concern to the industry, however, and caution must be exercised to avoid serious over-production.

## Recommendations

The Extension Cranberry Advisory Committee, after considering these problems, makes the following recommendations

- That the Oregon State University Agricultural Experiment Station continue investigations to determine the cause and, if necessary, help develop a suitable control for certain undetermined cases of dead or dying cranberry vines in bogs. Along with this, better fungus-control recommendations are

needed for Guignardia and certain other fungus diseases that are becoming more prevalent in the area and are possibly related to this problem.

- That research be started regarding optimum nitrogen levels for cranberry bogs. Possibly this might be done by developing a procedure for determining nitrogen levels through leaf analysis.

- That efforts begun in 1968 by the Coos County Extension Office and personnel at Oregon State University to determine possible associations between cyclamen mites and malformed cranberries be continued.

- That the Soil Conservation Service continue to work with interested groups of cranberry growers regarding potentials for developing small reservoirs to add to water supplies in those areas experiencing water shortages, for cranberry irrigation, frost control, and water harvesting.

- That the cranberry industry, locally and nationally, continue to concern itself regarding providing stable market supplies in relation to market demand to avoid severe fluctuations in prices for cranberries. Cranberry growers should participate in current efforts being made by the industry to develop an acceptable and workable method to avoid overproduction.

- That the Coos County Extension Service hold a short course for cranberry growers concerning soil fertility, soil testing and leaf analysis, choice of fertilizers, time of application and other related topics.

## Other Horticultural and Specialty Crops

Opportunity undoubtedly exists for limited expansion of vegetable, fruit and certain specialty crops in southwestern Oregon. Although commercial cranberry production is well established in the area and income to growers is approaching nearly \$1 million annually, new vegetable crops, such as pole beans, have recently been introduced and may offer similar opportunity for expanded production.

Markets for such crops must be developed before sizable acreage can be produced. Although there is limited opportunity for supplying local markets with locally grown produce, efforts must be made to interest processors and other market outlets regarding opportunity for horticultural and specialty crop production. Persons interested in producing such crops should be aware that market development and production of high-quality products are two important requisites in the production of such crops.

## Recommendations

Recommendations regarding future development of vegetable, fruit and other specialty crops are as follows:

- Pole beans were successfully produced by two local growers in 1967 under contract to a Willamette Valley processor. Yields ranged from 11 to 12 tons per acre, and the quality of the crop was generally

good. It is recommended that interested local growers, the Extension service, processors, and other interested persons continue with their efforts to establish this crop in the area.

- It has been demonstrated that pole beans offer tremendous opportunity for summer employment for youth of the area; however, it is felt that harvest labor will be of major concern should pole-bean acreage be greatly expanded. If this happens, growers may wish to consult with school officials regarding the possibility of starting school 1 or 2 weeks later in the fall so that an adequate labor supply of pickers will be available during the latter part of the picking season. As such further employment opportunity for youth develops, growers and the Coos County Extension Service might also consider the possibility of conducting pickers' schools for training harvest help.

- Several artichoke trials have been established on the Oregon coast, including the southern coastal area. The Cooperative Extension Service and grower cooperators should continue with these trials to determine feasibility for commercially producing artichokes in this area.

- It is recommended that the Cooperative Extension Service and local interested growers establish additional trials to evaluate potentials for the production of new crops on the Oregon coast. It is felt that production of such crops as broccoli, corn, lettuce, and several other crops may be feasible.

# Farm Forestry

Commercial forests occupy 900,000 acres of land in Coos County, over 87 percent of the total county. About one third of the commercial forest land is in public ownership, with BLM administered, O & C, and Coos Bay Wagon Road lands representing the bulk of the government-owned land. Private ownership is divided about equally between the forest industry and farm and small private ownership.

Public land, while representing only one third of the commercial forest land, contains 55 percent of the 28 billion board feet of standing sawtimber in the county. The forest industry owns 29 percent of the standing sawtimber, with the remaining 16 percent in farm and miscellaneous private ownership. These figures illustrate the faster harvest rate on private forest lands and the dependence of the forest industry on government timber for the operation of its plants in the years ahead.

The average annual production of logs in the county is 585 million board feet. The stumpage value of these logs is nearly \$15 million and the value of the manufactured products over \$60 million. The wood-products industry provides more than 6,100 people with jobs in the county.

## Ownership of Commercial Forest Lands

	Acres
Public ownership. . . . .	303,000
Forest industry.. . . .	288,000
Farm and miscellaneous private. .	309,000
Total. . . . .	900,000

The increase in demand for wood products has resulted in the development of a market for smaller logs which provide small private ownerships with outlets for timber thinnings which were not available in past years. The market for small logs should continue to improve. Christmas tree production can be a valuable crop for interested small owners if they realize it is an exacting culture requiring careful supervision and management.

Marketing timber products from small woodland operations to obtain the highest possible return is not fully understood by all owners. Changes in markets for small sized timber have been rapid in recent years and will continue. Taxes on timber grown on land assessed for higher use can be prohibitive. The 1968 law allowing landowners to apply for designation as forest land can relieve this problem.

Interest of woodland owners in replanting forests has resulted in a shortage of forest seedlings. It appears that the shortage will continue until new forest nursery facilities, either government or private, are developed. Private forest nurseries find it unprofitable to grow forest-tree seedlings at the price at which the State Forest Nursery makes them available.

Forest-tree seedlings available to small woodland owners in the county are grown from seed sources other than Coos County. The use of local seed could insure that trees replanted in the county are best adapted to the area.

The grand fir (white fir) in the county is being attacked by the balsam woolly aphid and is being severely damaged by this insect pest. The grand fir is a good species for pulp production and one that is adapted to many forest sites in the county. Its continued use for timber production will be dependent on the development of an effective and economical control for this insect pest.

## Recommendations

The needs and problems of the small woodland owner were considered by the forestry committee, and recommendations were made to help solve the problems identified to meet the educational and research needs of the small woodland owner in the county.

- The committee recommends that the Coos County Extension Service sponsor a forestry short course on marketing in 1968 and that additional short courses be sponsored in the years ahead to keep small woodland owners informed of the changing market for timber and the management practices to meet the market needs.
- The committee recommends that the price of tree seedlings at the State Forest Nursery be increased to \$18 to \$20 per thousand to make it possible for private nurseries to start producing forest seedlings which will be needed to relieve the shortage of tree seedlings expected in the next decade.
- The committee recommends that the cost and procedures for getting seed extracted from cones and stored for growers be obtained from commercial seed companies and that this information made available to small woodland owners in the county.
- The committee recommends that research be continued to develop an economical control for the balsam woolly aphid. Efforts to develop a biological control for the insect should be continued.

# Weed Control

A large number of weed and brush species are a problem on the 200,000 acres of hill land and the 50,000 acres of bottomland in farm ownership in Coos County. Some of these same weed and brush species are a problem on an additional 700,000 acres of forest land in public and private ownership.

## Weeds Of Importance to Agriculture

### Tansy-ragwort

The most serious weed to agriculture is probably tansy-ragwort, which infests a large portion of the more than 125,000 acres of hill pastureland in the southern part of the county. Hill land provides a continuing source of seed to introduce this weed to the bottomland pastures, especially along the Coquille River. The weed is toxic to cattle but does its greatest damage by crowding out desirable plants thus reducing the total forage production.

The weed is a native of Europe, and since its introduction, it has spread throughout western Oregon. Seeds of tansy-ragwort are lightweight and are spread very rapidly by wind, water and animals. The weed quickly establishes on logged-over lands, providing a seed source to infest pastures. For this reason, chemical control, while possible, is not economically feasible on Coos County hill pastures. The most satisfactory control measure to date is to graze the infested areas with sheep, since they are not harmed by the plant. Sheep, however, do not eradicate the weed but merely hold it in check.

The cinnabar moth, a biological control for tansy, was first introduced into the county in 1964 by the Extension service in cooperation with the Entomology Research Division of the USDA. Additional releases of the insect have been made each year since 1964. The moths have survived in 75 percent of the release sites but have not made significant increase in numbers to date. However, releases at Fort Bragg, California, did not make their rapid increase in population until 6 years after the initial release of cinnabar moth larvae.

### Poison oak and others

Poison oak is a serious problem in some hill pastures. Chemicals are available which will control this shrub, but because of the need for reapplication of the chemical, the process is quite expensive. Furthermore, the chemical applied to control poison oak can damage the subclover seeded in hill pastures.

The weeds buttercup, dock, tussock and Canada thistle are continuing to be a problem, primarily on bottom-land and tideland soils.

### Goose

Goose is a severe brush problem for both forestry and agriculture because of its persistent growth. The plant is spread primarily by seed produced in large numbers but also by an underground root system. The seed, which is similar to that of hairy vetch, is produced in seed pods which on warm days pop open

and spread the seed for a distance of several feet. The seed is spread by animals, cars, trucks, and logging equipment.

A survey of the gorse situation in the county was made in 1967 and revealed that there are 45,375 square miles (29,400 acres) of gorse. Of this total, 8,600 acres were considered to be covered with heavy stands, and 20,280 acres are infested with a light to medium concentration.

Gorse growing in the Bandon area is primarily located on land of low quality for either agriculture or forestry production, and the ownership of this land is often absentee and speculative in nature. The cost of the initial removal of gorse and the follow-up control measures essential to the success of the control program, together with the ownership situation, makes control of the gorse in the Bandon area difficult, if not unfeasible, at this time.

Gorse in Coos County is located mainly in the Bandon area, with Fourmile Creek the southern boundary and Five Mile Creek the northern boundary of heavy gorse concentrations. The plant is found primarily on the marine terrace soils of that area.

Chemical control of this weed is difficult because of the large accumulation of seed in the soil, which reseeds the weed even though the growing plants are killed. Preliminary results of research work being conducted by Dr. Mike Newton of the OSU forest research laboratory indicate that the chemical Tordon is quite effective in controlling the growing plants and remains in the soil for several years to control re-growth from newly germinating seeds. The objective of the program is to control the gorse until forest seedlings grow above the gorse and shade it out. This means of control is possible, since gorse will not tolerate shade and does require open sunlight for its growth.

Control measures to prevent the spread of gorse to areas outside the present infestation of the plants does hold some promise, primarily through the application of chemical control measures on new patches of growth before they have built up a dense growth and fostered a heavy crop of seed. Equipment which has worked in the gorse area should be cleaned before it is moved outside the gorse area, to prevent spread of the weed.

The gorse seed weevil was introduced into the gorse in the Bandon area in 1956 and has survived and spread to many areas of the gorse. The weevil attacks seeds of the plant and greatly reduces the number of viable seed produced by gorse. The weevil, however, does not provide a means of eradicating the gorse plants that are already present but does reduce the amount of seed produced.

## Forest Weed and Brush Pests

Large areas of land were not reforested after logging, and numerous brush and grass species have invaded the land, making it difficult for forest seedlings to establish. Some of the species which are a problem are manzanita, alder, blue blossom Ceano-

thus, and bentgrass. These plants combine to form a ground cover which shades and competes for moisture with the forest seedlings.

Although control of the brush species is possible through the use of chemicals, the remaining grass cover makes it difficult to establish trees except by planting seedlings, which is relatively expensive. Land reverted to weedy brush and grass species produces very little livestock feed and is very slow to be restocked with Douglas-fir trees. This results in a low economic return from the land, both to the landowner, and to the county economy. With over 50,000 acres of farm woodland in this category, if the annual timber production loss is projected at 600 board feet per year per acre, it means an annual loss of 300 million board feet of timber with a stumpage value at present-day prices of about \$9,000,000.

## Other Weed Problems

There are approximately 660 miles of county roads and 171 miles of state roads in Coos County. The rights-of-way of these roads provide areas for weeds to grow and are difficult areas on which to maintain weed control.

The county weed district is inactive, and no weeds are designated as noxious. Landowners are not required to eradicate any weeds on their property at this time.

The weed advisory committee met in April, 1964, to consider the weed problems of the county. The recommendations of that committee were that the county weed district be reactivated for the control of gorse outside of the Bandon area and for other troublesome weeds which might enter the county and

for which control is both feasible and economic. The committee at this time agreed that chemical control of tansy-ragwort on hill lands is not practical.

## Recommendations

The county needs an organized system of identifying and bringing about the control of weeds when they are first introduced to the county, to prevent their spread to other areas. The committee considered to some extent all weeds in the county but gave priority to those that are of county-wide concern and of the greatest economic importance. The recommendations of the committee follow:

- Oregon State University should do research in Coos County on methods of controlling dock and buttercup in improved pastures.
- The Extension service should import cinnabar moth larvae from the Fort Bragg, California area, in large numbers for release in Coos County during 1968 and thereafter as long as the larvae are available at Fort Bragg.
- Continued support to the predatory animal program should be provided by Coos County, since sheep are the only feasible means of holding tansy-ragwort in check at this time and the control of predatory animals is vital to the sheep industry.
- The weed advisory committee should meet in early 1969 and further investigate the possibility of reactivating the Coos County Weed District for control of gorse outside of the present gorse-infested areas.

# Tourism and Recreation Committee Report

## I. Tourism and Recreation in Coos County

Coos County is unique in Oregon for its potential to attract tourists and is presently among the more popular recreational areas of the state. The scenic coastal stretches and river valleys of the county are richly endowed with many opportunities for outdoor recreation. Coos County is the hub from which radiate highways, north, south, and east.

The principal attraction is the Pacific Ocean, with approximately 45 miles of shoreline dotted with state and county parks, waysides, and other tourist attractions. Coos County also offers inland mountain and other fresh-water streams and fresh water lakes which provide fishing. The forested areas covering the slope of the coast range of the inland area provide hunting for many people each year.

Much of the recreational activity within the county, however, is centered around fresh-water and off-shore fishing. The county has many different species of game fish, approximately 32, more than any other area in the state. Of primary importance for sports fishing are the salmon and winter steelhead. Salmon rate first, both in economic value and in numbers caught, and attract approximately 37,000 anglers annually. Other fish include trout, shad, perch, halibut, and many other non-game marine fish.

Boating is also a popular recreation and is generally associated with sports fishing. A survey of licensed boat owners in Coos County shows that over \$2 million is spent annually on auxiliary boating equipment, fishing equipment, and gas and oil for the boats. The State Marine Board of Oregon lists 50.9 pleasure boats per 1,000 population in the county as of January 1966, the second highest ratio in Oregon.

In terms of dollars and cents, tourism and recreation are of primary importance to Coos County and all of Oregon. Tourism, at the present, is the third-ranking industry in Oregon and ranks even higher in Coos County. In terms of employment, tourism is the second largest and fastest growing industry in Coos County. Only the forest-products industry accounts for greater employment.

Although the county has a full-time parks director and several other public agencies have programs designed to provide recreational facilities for the resident and the tourist, the supply has not kept pace with the demand. In 1967 over 18,000 parties were turned away from parks in Coos County for lack of facilities. Of these, approximately 40 percent were overnight campers. The Oregon State Highway Department estimates (results from recent surveys taken at state parks along the Oregon coast) that overnight campers spend an average of \$12.14 per day, and stay (if facilities are available) an average of 2.6 days, giving a total of \$36.56 per night camper. This means that in 1967 approximately \$650,000 of

revenue was lost because of lack of facilities for overnight campers alone.

Many socio-economic and technological changes in America have combined to intensify the demand for recreation. Primary factors increasing this demand have been the enormous increase in leisure time for many Americans, substantial gains in per capita income, and rapid expansion of population. Secondary factors stimulating interest in recreation are rapid urbanization and industrialization, improvements in household appliances, foods, and clothing which free the housewife from time consuming chores, improved health and extended life expectancy, progressively higher levels of educational attainment, improved transportation capabilities, and a conspicuous thrust by governments in the development and management of recreational resources.

Although the demands for recreation are increasing, Coos County, like many other areas, is not keeping pace. There is a need countywide to provide more recreational attractions for the local residents and also for potential tourists. Prime recreational sites should be set aside for future development, and zoning appears to be the most feasible method. As the demand increases, Coos County must plan for the growth of the tourist business.

## Recommendations

- It is recommended that, because fishing is the most important recreational enterprise, a unified effort should be directed toward maintaining and improving fish resources in the county. Several factors presently have detrimental effects on the county's fish resources. Efforts should be directed toward reducing these effects and providing a fish hatchery for the Coos County area.

One of the major problems is pollution. Logs rafted in the streams and bays produce chemicals and trash, and the chemical reaction in rotting reduces oxygen content. Sewage also reduces oxygen content, as do industrial wastes.

Loss of habitat is another concern. Channel dredging, which deposits sand along banks, and stream erosion in spawning areas often destroy habitat.

High water, depending on the time of year, washes away eggs and deposits mud and soot, smothering eggs and leaving eggs, fingerlings, and adult fish stranded on dry land when water recedes to the stream channel.

Concentrated large-scale net fishing in the bay area weighs heavily on the fish population in that area.

- It is recommended that county-wide zoning be initiated as the most logical method of setting aside land for its best use, not only for recreation, but for all other uses in the county. The committee recommends that the county planning commission and all other agencies, private and public, cooperate on one plan for full development of the county. The plan should provide a blueprint for future development for the whole county and should include recreational and all industrial and residential uses.

- It is recommended that efforts be increased to sell Coos County as a recreational area to outsiders and also to local residents. The committee recommends that this effort be accomplished through the establishment of a county-wide organization to coordinate all publicity and advertising for the county. It is hoped that this county-wide organization will alleviate duplication of efforts and coordinate these efforts into a professional advertising program for the entire county.

- It is recommended that a county-wide tourism and recreation committee be formed to coordinate the

programs and efforts of all groups, organizations, and agencies concerned with tourism and recreation as an industry. Efforts of this committee should first be directed at developing a comprehensive plan for present and future recreation development for the county. Specific areas that this committee should consider include: beach access; transportation facilities, both highway and air; tourist facilities; publicity; water-resources improvement and control; resident hospitality, and coordination of all agencies, private and public, involved in tourist-facility and natural-resource development.

- It is recommended that all groups, organizations, and agencies concerned with recreation and tourism develop and carry out educational programs directed at residents in the county. The major emphasis of these educational programs should be directed at informing local residents of the importance and the value of tourism and recreation as an industry for Coos County.

## II. Tourism and Recreation: Bandon Study

The purpose of this report is to explore recreational resources in the region surrounding Bandon-by-the-Sea, Oregon. Recreation may never be the primary source of income in the Bandon area, although eventually it could rival the lumber industry. An increase in traffic and the desire of more people to visit Bandon are evident.

This report will attempt to help Bandonians prepare for this increase in tourism during the immediate years ahead. How big an impact recreation makes on the Bandon area is largely up to those who have a hand in planning and developing the area.

### History of Bandon

The history of Bandon is a long and interesting one: Bandon has been burned twice; Indians have camped near Bandon; and several other historic events have happened in the vicinity. This history should be publicized.

Ways to do this are numerous. A boat tour up the Coquille River would tell the history of the river back to the time when regularly scheduled boat runs supplied the people along the river with food and supplies.

Several pictures exist of the Bandon fire of 1936 and of Bandon prior to the fire. A publicly financed museum in the Bandon area which would collect Indian artifacts, old paintings and photographs, and other such historic items could add much to the historic flavor of the town. The museum could be located in one of several buildings which are not being used.

### Location

Bandon is on a main arterial highway on the coast between Washington and California, and much of the

summer tourist traffic comes from these two states via this route, Highway 101. Some comes from Salem, Eugene, and the Roseburg-Myrtle Creek areas via highways through Drain and Myrtle Point.

Southwestern Oregon has been pushing for a new highway. Bandon stands to gain, like other coastal cities, when this highway is realized, by increased traffic on the coast. Whether the east-west highway meets the ocean at Gold Beach or at Coos Bay would probably make little difference to Bandon traffic.

### Timber Industry

The production of logs and lumber products has risen sharply in the Bandon area in recent years with the addition of a growing sawmill operation, Rogge Lumber Sales. The mill purchases most of its timber from government timber sales, though it does not anticipate running out of logs.

Moore Mill and Lumber Company has produced about the same amount of lumber for several years, and there is no reason to believe that it will cease to do so in the next 10 years. The mill, although not on a complete sustained-yield basis, does have a considerable amount of its own growing-timber seedlings. The bulk of its timber for production also comes from government purchases. Moore Mill has kept running mainly on the strength of its quality control and its ability to saw long timbers for shipment.

### Cranberry Production

The production and growth of the cranberry business in Bandon continues at a fast pace. New acreages are being put into cranberries at the rate of more than 10 percent per year, and although a cranberry bog takes as many as three years to begin producing a sufficient amount of cranberries to be harvested, new technology has been largely responsible



Cranberry acreage in Southwestern Oregon has increased over 40 percent in the past five years with farm income from this crop now expected to exceed \$1 million annually. Above picture shows newly developed bogs ready for planting.

for more and more production per acre from older, well-established bogs.

This growth is expected to continue as long as the market is stable. It may be slowed eventually by the use of all available fresh water in the area for irrigation and frost control. A study of the use of water and its future in Bandon is needed to provide this continued growth.

## Recreational Development

Bandon's future growth will depend mainly on its development as a beach community. Population growth will depend on tourism and the attraction Bandon has for older persons who might find the area an agreeable place to live in retirement.

A need for tourist development is seen by this committee to be essential for the continued growth of the recreation industry. Bandon, because of its location, is the only coastal city in Coos County which borders both on the Pacific Ocean and on a main arterial highway and is therefore in an exceptional position for highway access to the beaches, which are lauded throughout the country as some of the most scenic anywhere.

As the State of Oregon continues to develop the highway along the coast, which it is sure to do in time, Bandon will become more and more in demand for beach recreation.

## Beach Accesses

At this time access to the Bandon beaches is limited to undeveloped areas except for a county-city area at the south jetty and further south on the Beach Loop Road.

Bullards Beach State Park is a recently developed park near Bandon which does provide access to the beaches, but Bandon's most scenic beaches are west of the city of Bandon business district and south of the jetties of the Coquille River. In order to reach this area, travelers must wind through congested, improperly marked city streets.

Two recommendations to help this problem follow:

- Probably the most important problem is access to Coquille Point, just west of Bandon near the end of Eleventh Street. This street should be widened to provide a straight, attractive road to the ocean and to eliminate stop signs and other obstructions. A tight curve inside the city park, which poses a traffic hazard, should be eliminated to allow traffic to flow easily through the city to the beach. There have been several attempts to straighten this road. Although some have complained that the straightening would make a speedway out of the road, it would also open up the beaches, a prime need for tourist development. The strict enforcement of speed limits might be an answer. Further, other streets inside the city have been straightened and paved without an accompanying speeding problem. Alternatively, development of Thirteenth Street would avoid disruption of park facilities inherent in straightening Eleventh Street.

- Another access to the beach might be the use of Second Street downtown as a through access to the south jetty parking area. The trend to move merchandising businesses to locations on the hill would make way for tourist-oriented businesses downtown. This atmosphere would lend itself to a well-marked easily executed route to the beach. This route could eventually be lined with stores serving the tourist. The city should zone this area "recreational-commercial" to encourage this development.

## Parking and Development

Beach parking at the most scenic portion of the Bandon beach is poor and undeveloped. At this time, a parking area at the end of Eleventh Street is unpaved and unkept. A trail to the beach from this parking lot is inadequate, though it does provide access to the beach for those agile enough to negotiate it.

This area is a natural setting for a tourist-oriented development. A flat bluff reaches out to the northwest from the parking lot to Coquille Point, a vantage point with a view of some of the most beautiful beaches in Oregon and by far the most beautiful in the Bandon area.

The westernmost portion of this bluff is owned by the City of Bandon. It is one of the recommendations of this committee that this scenic area be developed by providing a paved road from a redeveloped parking lot at the west end of Eleventh Street to the tip of Coquille Point. This access road might link with the Beach Loop Road again near the Table Rock Motel or go north up the beach to connect with the county-city parking lot at the south jetty.

This development when finished would provide access from the downtown area west to the south jetty, then south to the west end of Eleventh Street and back to the highway via Eleventh Street. Traffic might also then travel around the Beach Loop Road, going south to Beach Junction.

Somewhere on the access road to Coquille Point a suitable monument should be constructed telling the Indian legend of the Cat and Kittens.

Since this access will be for the purpose of tourist development, and since the area is zoned "tourist-commercial," a large motel-restaurant facility might be encouraged to locate there. The above improvements and development might help to attract such an enterprise. Further, a tramway to one of the off-shore rocks would be an exciting novelty for Bandon tourists. It could be built by the motel-restaurant complex or by other private developers.

The City of Bandon and the Bandon Chamber of Commerce should be taking steps now to begin such a development. As a start, some access to Coquille Point might be provided by the construction of a gravel road and by paving the Eleventh Street parking area. Because most of the county parks are located in the north and east portions of the county, the county should help the city and the chamber with this tourist development.

## Signs

With the completion of the Eleventh Street project, adequate signs should be constructed both at Second Street, and at Eleventh Street and Highway 101. The state has indicated that it would install an overhead "To the Beach" sign if the citizens support this project. Although this may cost local organizations something, the number of visitors up and down the coast visiting the Bandon beaches would increase. It is probable that the increase in tourist income would justify the expense.

## Accommodations

As tourism along the Oregon Coast Highway continues on the upswing, and as the people of Bandon plan for this, a need will develop for more lodging and overnight accommodations. At the present time there are only 107 rooms in seven motels in the immediate area. In the summer months most of these motels are full most of the time. In the winter off-season months, business is slow, not unlike other tourist areas. Most of the motels are neither glamorous nor shoddy; they fit the in-between traveler.

If no development of the tourist industry is realized, the present number of rooms may be adequate. However, future years are expected to see a growth in the use of Bandon beaches by the traveler. All statistics and all conjectures about population increases in the state show a continued increase in the number of people using our highways and recreational areas.

According to information from the tourist, he is looking for more complete overnight accommodations which include eating facilities. If this trend continues, Bandon will be bypassed for the bigger motels with more amenities, such as those that have been built

in the Coos Bay area in the past five years. Scenery is not enough to stop the tourist; he wants to be pampered.

## Bullards Beach State Park

Bullards Beach State Park has proved to be a real asset to the community of Bandon. In 1964, its first year of full operation and before camping facilities were built, 104,428 cars were recorded as visiting the park. In 1966, it passed both Shore Acres and Cape Arago state parks in day-visitor attendance with a record of 181,316 cars. Figuring two people to a car, the number of people comes to about 362,632, or about 200 times the number of people living inside the city limits of Bandon.

At this time the park has only 128 camping spaces. The state has plans to expand camping facilities as necessity demands and financing becomes available.

When the camping area first opened, however, the camp manager indicated that campers were not satisfied to stay at the park in Bandon. In many cases they had been routed to Bandon from Sunset Bay, which was full when they arrived. Many of them waited for an opportunity to get into the Coos Bay parks again because the Coos Bay area offered campers more to do. Campers wanted to be closer to charter boating over the bar at Charleston, and when the opportunity arose, they returned to the Coos Bay area. Other campers, however, seemed satisfied with the slower, easier pace at Bandon. Some of them tried fishing on the Coquille River; others visited the Bandon beaches; and still others just enjoyed camping in the beautiful setting at Bullards Park.

It is not known yet whether Bullards Beach State Park will appeal to the same clientele that enjoys existing pleasures in the Bandon area. This committee believes that a certain segment of the traveling public is satisfied with a little less excitement and will come to Bandon just to see and enjoy it, without the necessity of "tourist traps" and other circus-type antics by local businesses.

If Bandon can develop an expanded fishery in the Coquille River and thus provide greater success in angling, this, together with the eventual development of the small boat basin with safe access across the bar for deep sea fishing, may well provide enough recreation to cause the State of Oregon to complete the development of the park to its entire 1,200 acres within the next few years. The benefit to be derived from its development will mean several hundred thousand dollars a year in business to Bandon merchants.

## Golf Course

Bandon's nine hole golf course is a definite asset to the community of Bandon. Though a tough course, it offers Pacific Ocean views, well-kept greens and a location across the road from a motel which overlooks the sea.

A problem exists in its location, however, in that it cannot be seen or easily found from the highway. This problem, the committee feels, will be somewhat alleviated when access to Coquille Point is completed.



This will open up the Bandon beaches to a greater extent and will get more traffic out on the Beach Loop Road, where the course is located.

A well-known, highly publicized recreational facility either at Coquille Point or elsewhere on the Beach Loop Road would also increase business for the golf course. The golf course needs this increase in traffic to provide a reasonable income for its owners.

## Harbor Improvements

The development of the Coquille River entrance to the Pacific Ocean for consistent safe travel for lumber barges, commercial fishing boats, and sports boats is considered a matter of prime importance to the future growth of Bandon as a recreational community.

At this time the inconsistency of the bar conditions, even in summer (relatively calm) months, has prevented any charter boating from Bandon, which would otherwise be ideal for such an operation.

Further, the commercial fishing industry is hampered by this same problem and must truck the bulk of its fresh fish to Bandon from other ports which can be entered more frequently. Commercial fishermen are able to unload their boats in Bandon in the summer months during exceptionally good bar conditions and for longer periods of time following considerable dredging.

This committee feels that the development of the Coquille River entrance is most important and should be given first priority. A continued organized effort is essential for the eventual success of this project. Other ports on the Oregon coast have received attention by proving that all of the people concerned were united in their desire to see a port project completed.

The Corps of Engineers has taken the position in the past that Bandon needs to prove that more benefits would accrue in order to justify the improvements. There may be a need to find new uses for the port to add to the benefits, but it is also felt that enough need exists now to justify Corps action. New projects are difficult to initiate when harbor conditions prevent their induction.

The entire community of Bandon must be willing to sacrifice, if necessary, for an all-out campaign to get action after many years of effort.

## Port Planning

The Port of Bandon has no long-range plan for port development, although it owns property in several places on the waterfront suitable for recreational boating and commercial boating development. At this time the boat basin is often over-crowded when bar conditions permit commercial fishing vessels to enter the port.

Further, the dock area and present small boat basin are not in good shape. The piling is rotting out, few mooring hookups exist in the boat basin, and dredging has been late and inadequate within the basin. The overall appearance of the dock is unsightly and the large parking area is filled with chuckholes most of the year.

This committee feels that the Port Commission should take a look at the future and spend what is needed to improve the dock and parking area. Further, it recommends that the commission go back on the tax rolls, if necessary, to finance any study and/or development of the basin.

It is felt that this activity on the part of the port district will have a favorable effect on the Corps of Engineers, which will determine the future of the Bandon Harbor.

## River Fishing

Fishermen who have fished the Coquille River for silver and chinook salmon have decreased each year, beginning with 933 in 1960 and decreasing to 541 in 1964. It is generally felt that fish in the Coquille River have not been as plentiful as in previous years. According to statistics from the Oregon Game Commission, however, there were nearly as many fish caught in 1964 as in 1960, though fishermen numbered about half as many in 1964. The actual fish count was 271 fish caught in 1960 and 236 in 1964.

An analysis shows that nearly every two fishermen brought home a salmon in 1964. The 1960 fishermen were less fortunate: it took four fishermen to bring home one salmon. It is not known if more fish would have been caught had there been more fishermen.

At least two recommendations come from this committee. Although nearly as many fish were caught in the later years, the lack of fishermen might be attributed to the lack of favorable publicity regarding the fishing of the river; therefore, this should be rectified. Fishing successes on the Coquille are relatively unreported, while the other rivers north and south of Bandon are getting television (KCBY-TV) and daily newspaper (Coos Bay World) publicity. An all-out effort to report successful catches should be made by local groups.

Development of the Coquille River fishery might also be improved through the construction of some sort of hatchery. Perhaps it could be similar to the project at Alsea Bay up the coast, where small salmon are reared in salt water. Increased stocking of the river would draw more fishermen and would benefit those businesses in Bandon which supply their equipment. Eventually, a small marina might be built in the area to serve this increased fishing development.

## Cranberry Display

One natural attraction in the Bandon area that is not developed from the standpoint of tourist interest is the many cranberry bogs located in the area surrounding Bandon. These bogs elicit many questions from travelers who stay in or go through Bandon. Cranberry growers report that they do not have the time to stop their work and give tours of their cranberry bogs, in spite of the considerable interest displayed by travelers.

It may be that a group of cranberry growers who have been concerned with this problem would be able to develop and plant a small cranberry bog on public property close to the highway or other accessible roadway for the purpose of a display. The bog would not have to be more than a few hundred square feet,

with adequate parking facilities for travelers who would like to see the rare berry in its growth setting. A pay-type tape recording could be installed to give planting procedure and harvesting information as well as the uses of cranberry products.

Perhaps Ocean Spray Cranberries Inc. would cooperate in such a project. The interest might well be staggering, and the cost of the bog could be deducted as advertising. The genuine contribution from the standpoint of tourist interest to the community could be great. This committee recommends action on this idea while available land is still relatively inexpensive.

## The Image

In a recent article in the travel section of a Sunday paper, the writer said: "They are finding here in this quaint seaport along and around the mouth of the Coquille River, some of Oregon's friendliest people, and a paradise for the artist, the writer, the beachcomber, rockhounder, fisherman, or just one who likes to get away from people and the problems of the job and the world, for a quiet interlude of mediation."

The writer also stressed the miles of deserted beaches and the sea stacks; the glass floats, agates, and driftwood to be discovered on the beach; the variety of flowers and shrubs, including azaleas, rhododendron, Irish furze (gorse) and Scotch broom.

No license is required for surf or jetty fishing, clam digging, and crabbing. Fishing for many ocean bottom fish, such as perch, flounder, ling cod, and others is popular and rewarding.

Among attractions for sightseers are the historic lighthouse, the fish hatchery, cranberry bogs, a cheese factory, Myrtlewood shops, the harbor, and the scenic beach areas.

Perhaps the image of Bandon that its citizens should promote is one of quiet, easygoing, recreational enjoyment. The landscape lends itself to this concept, with the Coquille River winding through the area next to Bandon, where it reaches the sea: a place to relax and enjoy the good life rather than a circus of tightly scheduled events.

## Need for a Development Manager

Because developing an area for recreation and tourism is a major enterprise, and because it takes the almost constant attention of those involved, it is felt that a development manager should be hired to head up these projects and to correlate them with local businesses and outside interests.

Such a manager would be available to meet with the City Council, the Port of Bandon, the Bandon Chamber of Commerce, and others interested in the development of the Bandon area, including county, state, and federal groups and boards. A manager could contact potential charter-boat operators, work for the Port in developing a plan for the harbor, meet with political representatives in the interest of Bandon's future, and possibly promote shipping over the Bandon bar to increase revenue from the Port.

The manager's salary might be paid by the Bandon Port Commission and the City of Bandon on a 50-50 basis. The Port Commission would have to go on the tax rolls to support this added expense, but it would be repaid by activity in the harbor. The City would benefit by being represented at meetings throughout the state in regard to Bandon business and industrial promotion.

It is felt that Bandon and its Port Commission cannot move ahead without someone in this capacity who has the time to further the recommendations of this report and future reports. Other towns, Prineville, for example, have done well with this type of manager.

Although the expense of such a position would be felt in the first few years, it should soon benefit the entire community.

## Recommendations

- Because the timber industry and its many facets cannot be depended upon to carry the full load of employment and activity needed in the Bandon area to stabilize or increase the population, this committee feels that the City of Bandon and the Bandon Chamber of Commerce, as well as the Bandon Port Commission, should devote considerable time and effort in developing the area for future tourist business.
- Bandon should develop the image of a peaceful little out-of-the-way place to relax and play. This area needs better facilities and activities that will not destroy its present attraction for those seeking quiet pursuits.
- A major tourist development should be encouraged at the end of West Eleventh Street. Action should be taken now by the city or county to raze dilapidated buildings in this area and to provide suitable parking lots, descriptive monuments, and an access road to the Bandon beaches in the Coquille Point scenic area.
- The above development and improvement may well encourage a motel-restaurant complex to locate in this area. If this opportunity arises, local interests should cooperate in every way possible to encourage such a complex to locate here. More modern, up-to-date accommodations are needed in the Bandon area.
- The Bandon Chamber of Commerce should work closely with the Oregon State Game Commission in providing an expanded fishery in the Coquille River for sports fishing. A project similar to the Alsea project is highly desirable in the Bandon area (or some other location on the Coquille River) and should be backed by the port commissions on the Coquille River as well as chambers of commerce from Bandon to Powers. A concentrated effort to publicize angling successes in the Coquille River is needed.
- Dedicated citizens should continue to study harbor-development needs which have thus far been turned down by the Corps of Engineers. It is felt by this committee that if local citizens acquaint themselves with the problem and continue to assemble facts, the Corps can be shown that not only does Bandon need harbor improvements in the Coquille River, but that Bandonians are going to continue to press for them until they are realized.

- In order that the above plan may be successful, it is clear that the Bandon Port Commission should develop the small boat basin. Some of the things needed may be a paved parking area, tie-downs for commercial fishing vessels, and a replacement of rotting piers. If necessary, the Port Commission should make every effort to get on the tax rolls before its funding capacity is depleted.

- Further, the Port Commission should make a long-range development study, such as this one, to submit to the people of the Port District. Consideration might also be given to the possibilities of consolidating the ports of Bandon and Coquille so that the Coquille River system would be under the jurisdiction of one port commission.

- Provision of platforms from which visitors can fish at the north and south jetties appears possible, with some local effort. Perhaps the county would be interested in such a project.

- A cranberry bog could be planted close to the highway, with the tourist in mind. Possibly it could be financed by the Bandon Cranberry Club or a similar group. This would become an enjoyable stop for tourists who continually ask to see how cranberries grow. Further, it would keep growers from having to take time to explain how cranberries are raised.

- Signs directing people to Bandon's scenic beaches are badly needed. Dilapidated signs, both public and private, should be condemned if necessary. More complete and visible highway and beach access direction signs are needed.

- A tourist newspaper guide circulated up and down the coast is desirable. Travelers on one end of the coast will stop at advertised portions of the other end of the coast. Present publicity for the Bandon Cranberry Festival and the July 4th celebration has been a valuable asset to Bandon-by-the-Sea, but other publicity should be increased.

- The City of Bandon and the Bandon Port Commission should hire a "development manager" who would work to carry out the needs presented in this report and to promote the development of the area for recreational and industrial uses.

- Chambers and other public bodies should continue to look for new ways to encourage tourist-commercial business to locate in Bandon. A case in point may be the installation of a tourist-oriented flat-bottomed boat trip up the Coquille River, keeping the history of the river boat as a theme.

# Fisheries Committee Report

The commercial fishing industry has, in the past, made a significant contribution to the economy of Coos County. Fishermen have prospected off-shore waters adjacent to the county for half a century. Despite the thousands of tons of raw materials which they have harvested, many valuable marine resources remain today, virtually untouched. No farmlands or forests of the area can begin to match the potential wealth available to fishermen's hooks, pots and nets.

Coos Bay is one of the premium deep-water harbors on the Pacific coast. Charleston, 15 ship minutes from the ocean, has been -- and will probably continue to be -- the center of commercial fishing activity on the bay and in the county. Four of the five major seafood processing establishments on the bay are located in Charleston. The fifth is situated in Empire. Most of the commercial fishing fleet of the area is also moored at Charleston.

A harbor at the mouth of the Coquille River at Bandon supports a limited commercial fishing industry. A small fleet of salmon trollers fish out of

the port. One crab- and shrimp-processing plant is currently operating in the area but depends entirely on imports of raw products which have been landed at other ports for its production. Development of Bandon as a major fishing port has been retarded by the small size of the harbor and treacherous bar conditions at the mouth of the river.

Coos Bay, in 1967, ranked second to Astoria as the major fishing port on the Oregon coast, with 16,666,174 pounds of fish and shell fish landed. Fishermen landed 319,334 pounds of fish at Bandon the same year. Principal species landed at Coos Bay were coho and chinook salmon, dungeness crab, pink shrimp, albacore tuna and various bottom or trawl fish species. Salmon comprised the majority of fish landings at Bandon.

Approximately 450 commercial fishermen reside in the county. An additional 700 persons are employed in the six processing plants of the area. Roughly 2 percent of the total population of the county, therefore, are directly employed in the seafood industry.

## Commercial Fisheries

Coho and chinook salmon, dungeness crab, albacore tuna, bottom or trawl fish, and pink shrimp provide the foundation of the seafood industry of the county. The first four mentioned are traditional fisheries -- ones on which fishermen have depended for many years. The latter, the pink-shrimp fishery, was exploited by Coos Bay fishermen in 1952. It has only been in the past several years, however, that this fishery has expanded to a position of prominence in Coos County.

Many species available to the fishermen in commercially harvestable quantities are at present unexploited or underexploited. Some of these include saury, hake, anchovy, tanner crab, black cod and -- possibly -- scallops. Development of a fishery on each of these species has been retarded by absence of adequate markets and or lack of efficient or economical harvesting methods.

A review of the fishing industry in Coos County must also include the commercial fisheries of the estuaries -- those for oysters, bay clams, striped bass and shad. Of these, oysters seem to offer the greatest opportunity for future expansion and development.

## Problems of the Fisheries

Today's methods of fish harvesting, processing, and marketing are not vastly altered from those used 10 years ago. Modern miracles of science and technology which have transformed agriculture and so many other industries into viable segments of our economy have hardly brushed our fisheries.

This problem, like many others which plague our domestic fishing industry, is not unique to the commercial fisheries of Coos County. It is one which pervades almost every segment of the industry from coast to coast. We need to undertake a thorough reevaluation of our national interest in the food resources of the sea. When the importance of this industry and the factors impeding its progress are recognized, the task of solving major problems should proceed.

The following discussion provides some insight into some of the key problem areas associated with the three major phases of the commercial fishing industry -- harvesting, processing, and marketing. Not all of the recommendations emanated from the commercial fisheries committee. Other members of the local fishing industry identified several of the problems and provided appropriate recommendations. Many of the problems and recommendations are of a rather general nature, not relating specifically to the fisheries of Coos County but rather to the United States commercial fishing industry in general.

### Harvesting

Total United States fisheries landings have failed to advance over the past 30 years. The United States 1967 landings of 4.1 billion pounds of fish and shellfish were the lowest in 24 years. This country dropped from second place in world fish catch in 1954 to sixth place in 1968.

Although our fishing-fleet production has failed to maintain the pace set by other world fishing powers, the failure of our fisheries is not entirely due to poorly equipped fishermen. Coos Bay and

other Pacific Coast drag fishermen can presently harvest a much greater poundage of high-quality bottom fish than they can sell at a fair price. Burgeoning foreign fish imports have created severely depressed domestic market conditions -- conditions and associated prices with which United States producers cannot possibly compete.

The efficiency of our fishing fleet has been questioned by many. Yet reliable estimates reveal that West Coast drag fishermen are approximately three times as efficient (in catch per unit of effort) as their Russian counterparts who fish the same grounds for identical species but with much larger vessels and crews.

Our fishing fleet does need to modernize, however. Government subsidy and loan programs designed to revitalize our fishing vessels have failed, in many cases, to meet the demands placed upon them. More adequate funding is necessary if these programs are to be helpful to commercial fishermen and the fleet.

Regarding fisheries harvesting, the committee makes the following recommendations:

- The U. S. Bureau of Commercial Fisheries should increase its fisheries loan fund budget to meet the demands of the industry. Transferral of funds from the fishing vessel construction differential subsidy program -- one which has not benefited the average fisherman -- the loan fund might provide an avenue for more adequate funding. It is also recommended that the Oregon State University Extension Fisheries agent investigate other sources of low-interest loans available to the fishing industry.

- Local fishermen feel that an extremely acute problem is the lack of adequate protection furnished our offshore stocks of fish and shellfish. Recent extension of United States exclusive fishing limits from 3 to 12 miles has not provided needed protection for many of our valuable marine species. Russian trawlers operating off our coast have severely depleted available stocks of Pacific Ocean perch, one of the important bottom fish species. Stocks of other species have also been affected. It is recommended that the federal government enact legislation to extend this country's exclusive fishing jurisdiction from the present 12-mile zone to the edge of the continental shelf and that the United States take the initiative in seeking solutions to this and other international fishery conflicts.

- The Oregon Fish Commission and the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries should conduct a comprehensive survey of coastal commercial fishery resources with special emphasis on the effect of foreign fisheries on these stocks.

- Development of new fisheries for some of the aforementioned unexploited or underexploited species is needed to diversify the industry in the Coos Bay area. Diversification would provide more jobs throughout the year, thereby reducing present seasonal unemployment. Efficient methods of harvest must be unfolded if these fisheries are to develop. Markets for these products must also be established. Therefore, it is recommended that the Oregon State University Fisheries Extension agent and the respective research agencies make available to the fishing industry information on abundance and potential fisheries on presently unexploited or underexploited commercial fish resources.

- The Bureau of Commercial Fishing should undertake a stepped-up program on gear research and efficient harvesting techniques for such species as saury, anchovy and tanner crab.

## Processing

The spread between price at which fishermen sell and that at which consumers buy is largely a matter of processing costs. In order for our industry to compete with imported fish products and their lower costs, modernization is necessary.

New processing machinery has shown in several instances that not only will it pay for itself but revolutionize the industry. Introduction of automatic peeling machines to the shrimp industry is a good example. Local shrimp canneries have, in the past, employed a large labor force of women to peel shrimp. Quality of the finished product is high but so are the number of problems which accompany manual processing methods -- rising labor costs, availability of experienced labor, and problems of sanitation -- to mention a few. Automated peeling machines have eliminated many of these problems.

Manual labor is currently being used in processing dungeness crab and trawl fish species. Although none are in use in processing plants in the county, machines have been and are being perfected to process these species.

The seafood industry is currently being pressured to meet the relatively undefined sanitary restrictions imposed by the Federal Food and Drug Administration. Conformance to these standards by local fish processors and fishermen has been commendable. Nevertheless, more explicit regulations must be forthcoming to insure complete understanding and compliance by the industry.

The committee makes the following recommendations regarding fisheries processing:

- The Federal Food and Drug Administration should establish a comprehensible set of sanitary standards and guidelines for the commercial fishing industry.

- The Federal Food and Drug Administration in cooperation with the State Sanitary Authority, the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, the Oregon State University Department of Food Science and Technology, and the Oregon State University Cooperative Extension Service should arrange yearly workshops for members of the commercial fishing industry of Coos County to keep them up to date on sanitation practices and procedures.

- Grades and quality standards should be established for seafood products. At the present time the fish and shellfish the consumer buys varies greatly in color, texture, odor, and flavor. It is recommended that our national seafood industry establish mandatory quality standards for all seafood products. It is further recommended that until these standards are established, the seafood industry of Coos County or of the Oregon coast prepare and adhere to quality standards for all species of fish and shellfish.

- When certain fish and shellfish are prepared for eating, three-fourths of the weight is frequently discarded. Locally, this is true of dungeness crab, shrimp, and trawl-fish species. The committee

recommends that the Oregon State University Seafood Laboratory in Astoria conduct research on methods of utilizing shellfish waste. It is also recommended that the Coos Bay Port Commission or local development groups contact fish meal, pet-food processing, and other industrial development groups about possible utilization of fish and shellfish waste.

## Marketing

Local fish dealers have traditionally geared their marketing efforts toward west coast retail outlets. Taking advantage of recent reductions in air-freight rates for seafood products, processors have discovered virtually untapped markets for fresh fish and shellfish in inland areas. Although problems have arisen -- irregular supply due to inclement weather on the fishing grounds and loss of quality through poor handling at transfer points -- dealers are enthusiastic about the potential offered by air shipment.

The following recommendations are made regarding marketing:

- That the Coos Bay Port Commission and the local seafood industry cooperate in a study to determine the feasibility of establishing regular air shipments of fresh fish and shellfish from the North Bend Airport to distant markets.
- That import controls, in the form of either a quota system on certain species or some sort of "border tax," be implemented to protect United States fishermen and processors. Imports have created depressed market conditions for certain domestic fish products. United States imports of seafood products hit an all time high of 10.1 billion pounds in 1967. This represented 71.2 percent of the total United States fishery requirements.
- That the Oregon State University Fisheries Marketing specialist, in cooperation with Bureau of Commercial Fisheries Marketing personnel, conduct market potential and analysis studies in some of the larger urban areas of the western United States.
- That the Oregon State University Cooperative Extension Service conduct annual workshops on proper handling, packaging, and care of fish and shellfish for retail seafood dealers of Coos County.
- That the Oregon State University Cooperative Extension Service organize a series of seafood preparation and cookery clinics for the county, for the purpose of acquainting housewives, home economics groups, school lunch personnel, and other interested parties in how to select, handle and prepare fish and shellfish.

## Research and Development

In the area of research and development, the committee recommends:

- That the Oregon Fish Commission place high priority, in future planning, on establishing a salmon hatchery in Coos County.
- That the Oregon Sanitary Authority, in cooperation with the Federal Water Pollution Control Administration and Oregon State University, conduct

a thorough investigation of the effect of industrial pollutants on the marine resources of the estuary and ocean.

- That one of the fisheries research agencies or institutions establish a small research facility on Coos Bay, at which studies on some of the problems peculiar to commercial marine species of that area might be studied.
- That the Corps of Engineers review the need for a jetty extension at the mouth of the Coquille River.
- That the Coos Bay Port Commission work more closely with and give strong consideration to the commercial fishing industry in future planning and development of lower Coos Bay.
- That investigations be conducted of the advantages of establishing a partial processing law for the state, under which certain fish and shellfish products landed in the state can be partially processed before being exported.
- That the quality of ice available to fishermen be improved, especially during the peak salmon and tuna months of July, August and September.

## Demonstrational Needs, Education, and Technical Assistance

The commercial fishing industry of the United States and of Oregon is greatly in need of means by which technical information can be applied to the industry. The committee recommends:

- That shortcourses or workshops on the following subjects be arranged for local fishermen: marine electronics, refrigeration, and fishboat sanitation.
- That Southwestern Oregon Community College include in its curriculum vocational and technical courses for members of the fishing industry.
- That fishery research agencies -- the Oregon Fish Commission, Oregon Game Commission, Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, and Oregon State University -- keep members of the fishing industry better appraised of research being conducted in areas of commercial fisheries.
- That local fishermen, possibly through advisory committees, be consulted by research and-or regulatory agencies for their points of view on problems relating to the fisheries.
- That the Fisheries Extension agent, in cooperation with manufacturers, set up trial demonstrations of new fishing or processing gear and equipment for the local fishing industry.
- That the heavy influx of new and inexperienced fishermen entering the fishing industry, especially salmon trollers, some means of training these recruits in proper handling and care of fish, navigation, safety requirements and communications be implemented.

● That the U. S. Weather Bureau, in cooperation with the O. S. U. Marine Meteorology Station at the Marine Science Center in Newport, provide more accurate up-to-date weather information to the fishing industry. Specific areas of concern are more accurate correlation of warning flags with actual weather conditions, more accurate and up-to-date information on weather conditions, and information for fishermen on ocean currents and water temperatures.

## Long-Range Forecast

Although the future of the commercial fishing industry on the national scene is clouded by many problems, the commercial fisheries of Coos County present a more optimistic outlook.

Funds provided Oregon State University under the National Sea Grant Act of 1966 will aid in developing a more healthy and competitive posture in the com-

mercial fisheries of Oregon. Broad-based programs of research, training, and education, and advisory services relating to development of marine resources are planned.

Success in the fishing industry has been dependent upon hard physical work and trial-and-error methods. Tomorrow's fishing will be characterized by decisions based on sound economic principles. Revolutionary changes in harvesting and processing techniques and narrower profit margins will add new dimensions to fisheries business management.

The goal of the fishing industry is to harness the full potential of the Pacific Ocean. Past generations had this dream, but because of rapidly advancing research in marine fisheries and more sophisticated methods of harvesting, processing and marketing, we are the first to have the opportunity of realizing this goal.

# Natural Resources and Public Affairs Committee Report

## Water Resource Development

All the streams of Coos County head in the Coast Range and drain into the Pacific Ocean. The two major stream systems in the county are the Coos and Coquille rivers and their tributaries.

The drainage area of the Coquille River, with its main tributaries the south, middle, north and east forks, encompass a total area of 975 square miles, or 60 percent of the county's total area. The principal tributary of Coos Bay is Coos River, whose main branches are the Millicoma River and the Coos South Fork. This stream system drains 582 square miles (36%) of the county.

Streams of Coos County are comparatively steep and short, having their steepest gradients near their headwaters, and gradually flatten toward their mouths. Only a few streams are more than 50 miles in length, the longest being the Coquille River, extending 99 miles from its mouth to the headwaters of its south fork.

The seasonal pattern of runoff of Coos County streams follows closely the pattern of precipitation because the soils and rock formations are tight and provide only a minimum of retention. Snowfall is small and does not remain long enough to significantly influence the pattern of runoff.

The highest runoff months are November through April, which are also the highest precipitation months. With decreasing precipitation in the summer, flows become extremely low in the months of June through October, reaching their minimum in August and September. Generally, about 90 percent of the annual yield occurs in the six-month period of November through April, and one third to one half of this occurs in the months of January and February. Less than 1 percent of the annual yield occurs in the months of August and September.

Much of Coos County's future economic growth is dependent upon development of its water resources. Following is a discussion of the impact of water resources on various aspects of the local economy.

### Irrigation

The rapidly approaching critical state of late summer water supplies in the Coquille River system are evidenced by recent Bureau of Reclamation studies tied in with an overall U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Coquille River basin study. An estimated 5,000 acres of land are presently irrigated in the Coquille and adjacent tributary valleys, and the bureau's study has shown that only about an additional 2,250 acres can be irrigated without having to depend entirely upon stored water supplies. The report indicates that about 8,500 additional acres, now

dry, are suitable for irrigation, although the feasibility of irrigation on some of this land is dependent upon at least partial flood control.

### Flooding and Drainage

Flooding poses severe problems in the Coquille Valley and on much of the other low-lying agricultural land in the county. Floods are most apt to occur during the November-to-March heavy rainfall period, but may occur as early as September or as late as May. Past records show that major floods causing severe losses occur about every 10 years.

Several drainage districts have been organized in the county to facilitate drainage of bottom lands located within district boundaries. Acreage assessments are made to provide for construction and maintenance of drainage channels, tide gates, and, in certain cases, pumping facilities. Following is a list of drainage districts currently making assessments for these purposes and acreages of each district:

DRAINAGE DISTRICTS	ACREAGE	TOTAL ASSESSMENT 1967-68
Beaver Slough . . . . .	1,718	\$5,154.72
Catching Inlet . . . . .	311	311.43
Fat Elk . . . . .	2,240	6,159.40
Fish Trap . . . . .	251	502.84
Haynes Inlet . . . . .	361	361.35
Larson Slough . . . . .	321	962.49
Libby Slough . . . . .	459	1,837.72

### Domestic and Municipal Water Supplies

Approximately one half of the county's population rely on either individual or small-group systems for their water supplies. The primary sources of water for these domestic supplies are springs and shallow wells, most of which utilize surface drainage. Domestic water shortages often occur during the summer months. Many wells have both mineral and bacterial contamination problems.

All incorporated cities in the county are served from municipal supplies. All systems utilize surface water, and in most cases several sources are used to supply the quantity of water needed. Supplies are adequate except in Bandon, which experiences shortages during September. Quality problems consist





Bank erosion on Coquille River following Christmas week flood of 1964. Besides flood control, there is increasing concern over need for water storage projects on the Coquille River to augment late summer stream flows.

mainly of turbidity during high-flow periods and, in the case of Bandon, algae growth in the reservoir during low-flow periods. Chlorination is provided in most cases, while the larger systems provide more extensive treatment such as sedimentation, filtration, aeration, and taste and odor control.

## Industry

Considerable future economic growth in the county is expected to result from increased emphasis in the conversion of waste wood materials to pulp, paper, and other wood by-products. Because of such factors as deep-water port facilities, water supplies, and waste-disposal factors, railroad facilities and location, this expansion of the wood-products industry is expected to occur around the Coos Bay area. Whereas present pulp and paper production is around 200 tons per day, this amount is expected to reach a minimum of 2,000 tons per day in the next 30 years, according to estimates by the U.S. Public Health Service. Assuming that pulp and paper manufacture would be accomplished by the Kraft process, an estimated 53,000 gallons of water would be required per ton of pulp produced.

Industrial and municipal water supplies for the Coos Bay area must be supplemented to provide for such future growth. The coastal sand dunes area north of the bay area are presently being tapped to supply some of these additional water needs. Although this source provides a current reserve for some future growth in industrial development, other supply sources will be needed in the future.

## Recreation

Water plays an important role in the recreation of Coos County; fishing and boating on the rivers, bays, and lakes, and in the Pacific Ocean. The county has a number of lakes, ponds, and reservoirs, some of which, including the Tenmile Lakes, are well known both within and outside the county for their recreational attractions.

Few problems exist in regard to recreational water use in the county. Most of the water enjoyed for recreational purposes also serves other water uses, but conflicts with these uses are relatively few. Turbidity is a problem on many streams during the high-flow winter months. Pollution of the water of Coos Bay has reportedly lessened the recreational attractiveness of portions of that area.

## Fish Life

The streams and bays of the county provide habitat for a wide variety of both anadromous and resident species of fish. In general, chinook salmon are found in the main stems of the larger stream systems, while silver salmon and steelhead and cutthroat trout ascend the smaller tributaries of the large streams and the smaller independent systems. Shad and striped bass are found in the tidal reaches of the Coos and Coquille Rivers.

Fall chinook enter the rivers in late September and early October and spawn from mid-October through January. Silver salmon also enter in late September but do not spawn until November or December or later. Steelhead start their upstream migration in late October and November, spawning from December through May. Anadromous cutthroat migrations usually start in July and continue through March.

The Coquille River system has important runs of steelhead, fall chinook, silver and cutthroat. Much of the Coquille main stem and the lower reach of the north and middle forks are primarily bedrock. The smaller tributaries in the headwater areas contain the major portions of spawning gravels. The deep, slow-moving waters of the lower Coquille are ideally suited to rearing silver salmon and steelhead trout which have been spawned in the headwater areas. Stranding of young fish because of flooding is a constant threat, resulting in heavy losses in the valley lowlands as the floodwaters recede.

## Pollution Abatement

Pollution problems in the county include heavy turbidity resulting from erosion, intrusion of salt water into tidal stretches of some streams, and the contamination of surface and groundwater from improper sewage disposal. Heavy turbidity occurs during periods of high runoff as a result of normal erosion and is sometimes aggravated by poor road building and logging practices.

The intrusion of salt water into the tidal reaches of the Coquille River and the estuaries (inlets) of Coos Bay constitutes pollution in that it affects the usefulness of these waters for most uses. Con-

tamination of both surface and ground water in many areas results from inadequate methods of sewage disposal by individual, community, and industrial systems.

## Power

Although no major hydroelectric developments exist in the county, preliminary surveys of streams within the county indicate several potential power sites. Hydroelectric energy is supplied to the area by public utilities served directly by the Bonneville Power Administration.

## Water Resource Feasibility Studies

The concern over water-resource development needs in the county has stimulated considerable investigation. The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers is currently completing a Coquille River basin study, the completed report of which is expected in 1968. However, it is not anticipated that a favorable benefit-cost ratio will be found to justify major storage facilities on the Coquille River system.

The Coos Bay-North Bend Water Board has been active in studying sources of future water supply needs for the bay area. In addition, the Soil Conservation Service is currently investigating feasibility of small water storage projects in the Bandon area to supplement water supplies for the county's growing cranberry acreage.

## Recommendations

The Water Resource Committee, after considering the various water resource problems of the county, makes the following recommendations:

- **Multipurpose use and joint planning.** Present and future water supplies must be shared through multiple use where possible. This includes agricultural, industrial, municipal and domestic, recreational, pollution abatement, fish and wildlife, navigational and power development needs. Emphasis should be given to joint planning by the numerous federal, state, and local agencies involved in local studies to assure maximum utilization of our water resources and to enhance feasibility by giving careful consideration to multiple use benefits.

- **Feasibility Studies.** Additional water supplies must be developed to fully utilize Coos County's economic potential. Therefore, it is recommended that efforts should be continued to determine feasibility of water storage projects in both the Coquille and Coos River watersheds. If larger projects are not feasible, investigation should be made to determine feasibility of smaller water-storage or water-control projects through such means as Public Law 566, special ACP projects, or possibly, combined efforts of local legal entities such as port, drainage, and other water-control districts. These small projects should be planned so as to be integral with an overall larger system of river development.

- **Watershed Management.** Timberlands release the bulk of the water flow in the county. Generally the management of public and private timberland has been good, but more care can be exercised through planned logging operations to minimize debris accumulation along streams, the construction of well-planned roads to prevent erosion, the prevention of forest fires, and the reforestation of logged-over areas. Small woodland owners need to recognize the need for good watershed management just as do large private owners and governmental agencies.

- **Stream Debris Removal Program.** Log and debris jams in streams and rivers during periods of high water are a major problem. Severe erosion to stream banks and adjacent land can occur as a result of flash floods caused by these jams, and downstream damage can occur when logs pile up against bridges and other improvements or are deposited on agricultural land. Larger jams can also block passage of migratory fish. The committee commends the county, fishery agencies, port commissions, and others who have cooperated in debris-removal programs in various streams in the county and encourages continuation and expansion of these programs.

- **Water Rights.** An Oregon State Water Resources Board water-use policy for the South Coast Basin in 1964 prompted considerable activity in obtaining water rights by water users in the area. Approximately 300 water right applications have been filed with the state engineer's office since that time alone. In order to protect their water supply needs, farmers using irrigation, domestic users, and other persons using water from surface water supplies are urged to obtain water rights if they have not already done so. Requests should also be made to the state engineers for adjudication on those streams in the county where water supplies are presently becoming critical. The Coos County Extension Service will assist landowners in filing for water rights.

- **Recreational Use.** The committee recognizes that the tourism and recreation industry is growing rapidly along the Oregon coast and that use of water is important in providing recreation for our growing population. Also, because many recreational facilities can be provided along reservoirs and many of the county's rivers, streams and lakes, the committee recommends that, when developing water resource projects, areas be made available for parks and other recreation facilities.

- **Land Use Planning.** The Corps of Engineers has indicated that 50 to 60 percent of the cost of dams at two different sites in this county would be involved in land acquisition and relocation of roads, power substations, and other facilities. Because certain of these costs can be avoided through planning, and because such costs greatly affect feasibility, it is recommended that the local planning commission and other local, state, and federal agencies take into consideration the need to protect designated potential reservoir sites from developments that would be costly to relocate.

- **Drainage of Farmlands.** A report made in 1962 estimated that 25 percent of the total arable soils in the South Coast Drainage Basin are subject to excessive wetness and that nearly half of this (35,000 acres) is in need of drainage. It is recommended that intensive efforts be made to improve these lands and that the Coos Soil and Water Conservation District,

Soil Conservation Service, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, Extension Service and other similar organizations and agencies emphasize this problem in their programs.

- Improving Irrigation Efficiency. Most of the 9,000 acres of irrigated land in the county is irrigated by sprinkler systems. However, even with the best

designed systems, there is evidence that better water management can be gained by giving careful attention to the amount and frequency of water application. Emphasis should be given to improving irrigation efficiency through education programs sponsored by the Extension service and through technical assistance offered by the Soil Conservation Service.

## Land Use

Coos County is located along the coastline in Southwestern Oregon and includes a total area of 1,031,040 acres. About two thirds of the county is privately owned and one third publicly owned. The primary resource is timber.

The privately owned land includes 248,716 acres according to the 1964 Census of Agriculture. This farm ownership represents about 25 percent of the total land area of the county. Average farm size is 235 acres, and farm income is primarily derived from dairy, livestock, farm forest products, and cranberries. Gross farm income in the county in 1967 was \$7,722,000.

Public land ownership in Coos County includes 77,450 acres in national forests, 171,430 acres of Bureau of Land Management land, 73,640 acres of state-owned land, and 21,010 acres owned by county and municipal branches of government.

Approximately 87 percent of the area of Coos County is forest land and supports the large wood-products industry situated in the area. This important industry employs 58 percent of the local working force. Agriculture, commercial and sport fishing, and a growing tourist industry also play prominent roles in the local economy.

The population of Coos County has leveled off to around 53,000, following a boom period in the 1950's which was due to rapid growth in the timber industry. An urban population of around 30,000 live in the Coos Bay area. The balance of the county's population live in and around the small cities in the Coquille River Valley or in more scattered rural areas throughout the county. Because much of the land is steep and thickly wooded, most homes and farms occupy the remnant river terraces widespread along the streams and inlets of the area.

Various land-use problems exist in the area. Some of these as identified by the Land Use Committee include the following: Loss of productive farmland to small tract and housing subdivisions, dilapidated houses and buildings in many urban and rural areas of

the county, inadequate sewage disposal and domestic water supplies in some areas which are being aggravated by intensification of population and which, in some cases, may pose health problems, increasing problems of air and water pollution which accompany many types of industrial development and intensified land use, and severe economic losses caused by flooding in the Coquille Valley.

## Recommendations

The Land-Use Committee, after considering these problems, makes the following recommendations:

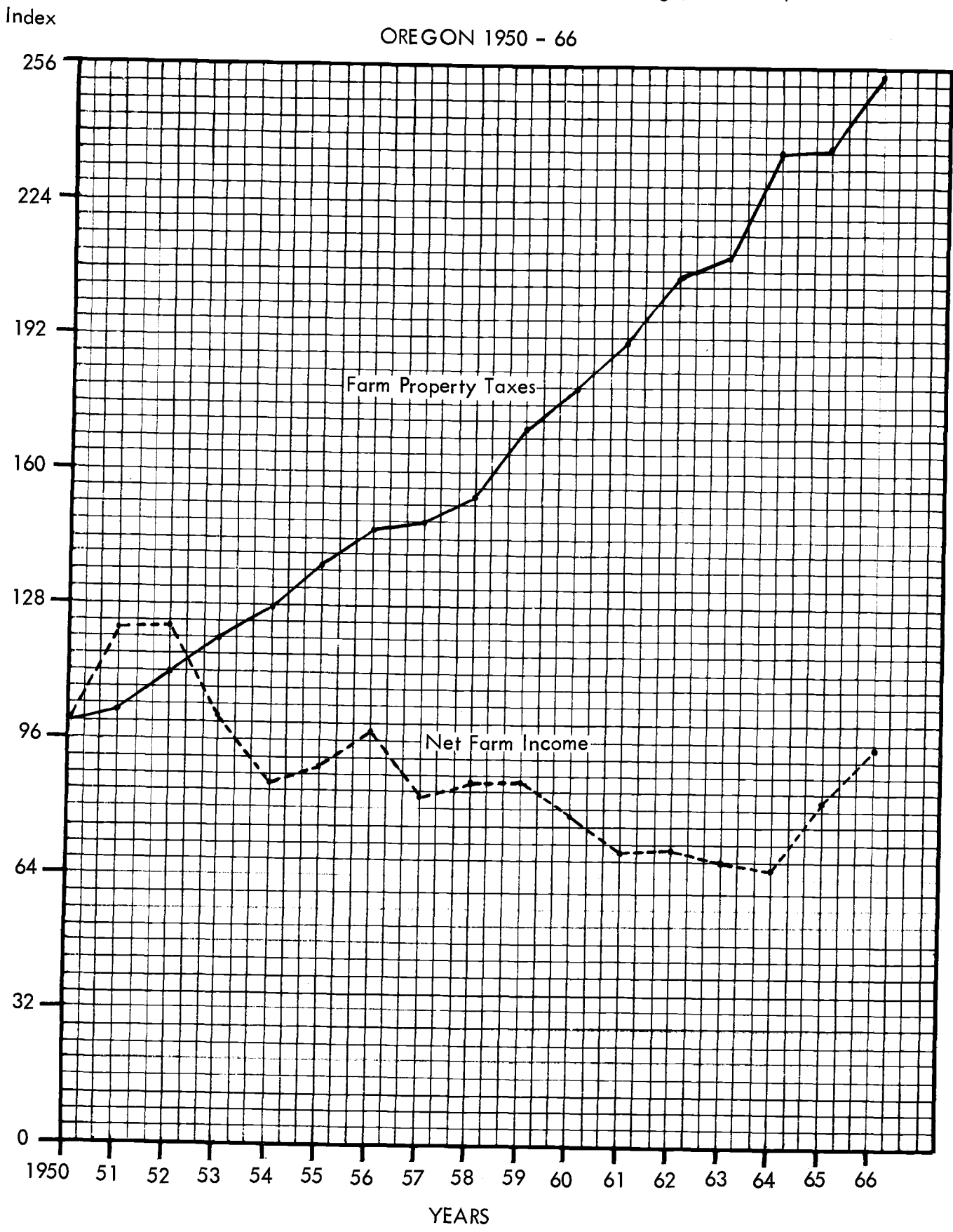
- A county zoning ordinance needs to be developed and adopted to promote orderly land-use planning. The specific purpose of such an ordinance should be to prevent diversity of land uses which could result in blight, congestion, and reduction of property values; and to reserve adequate and suitable land for homes, businesses, industry, agriculture and recreation. The intensification of our population will bring about increased problems associated with more land use, and it is recommended that the Coos County Planning Commission and Board of County Commissioners implement hearings and other procedures necessary to the adoption of an acceptable zoning ordinance for the county.
- The committee recognizes that an educational program must accompany any efforts in the area of land-use planning. It is suggested that the Cooperative Extension Service join the County Planning Commission in sponsoring public forums and other educational programs to point out the importance of land-use planning and to acquaint the public with provisions of a zoning ordinance currently under the consideration of the planning commission.
- It is recommended that federal, state, and local agencies do more coordinated long-range planning to assure maximum utilization of resources as larger expenditures are made for the development of public facilities.

## Taxation

Farm property taxes in Coos County have increased so steadily in recent years that they represent a threat to the economic well-being of Coos County farmers and ranchers. If the trend of increased property taxes and lowered farm prices continues, the situation will become progressively worse in the next 10 years.

The net income of farmers has not increased with that of the nonfarm population of the county, state and nation; yet, the property tax load as illustrated in the accompanying table has increased at a rapid rate since 1950.

Index of Ad Valorem Taxes Assessed To Real and Personal Farm Property  
And Total Net Farm Income to Farmers From Farming (1950 = 100)



Ad Valorem Taxes Assessed to Farm Property, Total Net Income from Farming<sup>1</sup> and Property Taxes as Percent of Total Net Income Before Deduction of Taxes and Rent to Non-Farm Landlords.

OREGON 1950 - 65

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Year	Farm Property Taxes Levied	Net Rent Paid to Non-Farm Landlord	Total Net Farm Income	Total Net Income to Farmers Before Property Taxes	Taxes as a % of Income Before Ded. of Taxes	Total Net Inc. before Property Taxes, Rent	Percent Property Taxes
			Million Dollars		Percent		
1950	18.9	13.0	157.9	176.8	10.7	189.8	10.0
1951	20.2	13.6	195.7	215.9	9.4	229.5	8.8
1952	22.0	17.4	192.1	214.1	10.3	231.5	9.5
1953	22.8	13.6	159.9	182.7	12.5	196.3	11.6
1954	24.2	11.8	135.8	160.0	15.1	171.8	14.1
1955	25.9	9.6	144.4	170.3	15.2	179.9	14.4
1956	27.7	8.3	159.7	187.4	14.8	195.7	14.2
1957	28.0	7.6	134.9	162.9	17.2	170.5	16.4
1958	29.4	6.9	140.4	169.8	17.3	176.7	16.6
1959	32.2	6.8	141.6	173.8	18.5	180.6	17.8
1960	33.9	5.6	129.1	163.0	20.8	168.6	20.1
1961	36.9	4.4	116.4	153.3	24.1	157.7	23.4
1962	40.0	2.8	123.1	163.1	24.5	165.9	24.1
1963	40.8	1.8	115.2	156.0	26.2	157.8	25.9
1964 <sup>R</sup>	44.9	1.5	105.5	150.4	29.9	151.9	29.6
1965 <sup>R</sup>	44.9	2.0	138.3	183.2	24.5	185.2	24.2
1966 <sup>P</sup>	48.1	2.1	160.7	208.8	23.0	210.9	22.8

<sup>1</sup>Total net income from farming includes an imputed rental value of farm dwellings, value of farm produced products consumed in households and inventory changes.

<sup>R</sup>Revised

<sup>P</sup>Preliminary and subject to revision

Source: Economic Research Service, USDA, Farm Income, FIS Supplement 207 (August 1967)

The opinion of many farmers is that property tax levies are becoming confiscatory and that some means of relief is needed. Farmers recognize their duty as citizens to support local schools and government which are dependent on property taxes for their funds, and farmers do want to pay their fair share. The call for relief is not a call for special treatment, but rather a call for equal treatment in property taxation based on the agricultural productivity of the land. The high level of farm property taxes is illustrated by the fact that some Coos County farms pay over 35 percent of their net income before deduction of state and federal taxes in property taxes. Most farmers know that property taxes are high but do not know the cost of property taxes for their farms or per acre or on a percent-of-income basis.

The increase in farm property taxes has resulted from the rise in local tax levies and the increased value of land for taxation purposes as set by the county assessor and the State Tax Commission. Coos County hill lands, in a 1967 reassessment of agricultural lands, increased in value an average of 188 percent with some classes increasing in value 220 percent. The average increase in value for all farm lands in the reassessment was 74 percent. The determination of the true cash value of farmland has been based upon sales which do not reflect the value of the land for agricultural production; the result has been that bona fide farmers are bearing too large a share of the local tax load.

Sales used to establish the true cash value of the land have been made at prices that do not reflect the productivity of the land, but rather reflect a tax write-off for another business, a hobby farm, or the action of an out-of-state buyer unfamiliar with land productivity in Coos County. Many sales to out-of-state buyers have resulted in foreclosure or resale due to the inability of the operator to make the farm operation profitable. Crop value is exempt from taxation, but the value of the crop as set by the assessor is limited to the cost of establishing the crop depreciated over the life of the crop, even though the crop is considered of far greater value by some.

In the face of this problem, many farmers from throughout the state have worked to inform the state legislature of the farm property tax situation in Oregon, and the regular and special sessions of the legislature passed the farm-use assessment law. The intent of the farm-use assessment law is to provide a means of taxing farm land based on its productive capacity. In the initial stages of administering this law, it appears that the county assessor and the State Tax Commission have administered a law in a manner that does not provide any property tax reduction for Coos County farmers.

## Recommendations

The taxation committee makes the following recommendations:

- That the method of determining crops value under ORS 307.320 and Tax Commission Regulation 308.235 be revised to reflect more accurately the value of the crop for taxation purposes.
- That the research and Extension staff of Oregon State University make a study to determine the true value of forage crops for taxation purposes.
- That Coos County farmers become more familiar with the cost of property taxes for their farms and more familiar with the method of determining property values for taxation purposes.
- That the farm-use assessment law be administered by the Coos County Assessor's Office to provide a reduction in farm property taxes as intended by the 1967 legislature and thus bring farm property taxes back to a level comparable to other classes of taxable property based on the ability of the land to produce income.
- That the Coos County Agricultural Tax Association continue its efforts to obtain equitable taxation for farmers and ranchers.

# Human Resources Committee Report

## Population

The population of Coos County reached a peak of 54,000 people in 1960. There has been a gradual decline since that time: the present county population is around 52,500, with a total of 14,387 families. About 39 percent of the county's population is under 18 years of age, 54 percent are between 18 and 64 years and 7 percent are 65 years and older. Composition by sex shows 51 percent males and 49 percent females. The composition of the population is much the same as that of the state and nation.

## Income

In 1960 the median family income was \$5,816. Twenty-two hundred families had an income of less than \$3,000. The median income of rural farm families was \$5,073, with 237 (23 percent) families having an income of less than \$3,000. A comparison of Douglas and Curry counties with Coos County reveals that Douglas County has a total of 16.3 percent and Curry County 13.4 percent of families with less than \$3,000 income. Coos County falls in between, with 15.3 percent according to the 1960 U. S. census.

According to Sales Management, June 1964, almost 25 percent of the households are in both the \$7,000 to \$10,000 and the \$10,000 and over brackets.

## Employment

Approximately 22,000 people are in the labor force, of which 24 percent are skilled, 30 percent semi-skilled, and 32 percent unskilled. The balance hold clerical positions in Coos County, 2,800 people are self-employed, and 2,360 are in government service.

In private industry there are nearly 10,000 in nonmanufacturing and 7,000 in manufacturing employment.

Types of employment in Coos County include;

Service -	2,050
Construction -	550
Transportation -	1,540
Retail -	2,750
Finance and Insurance -	670
Food Processing -	400
Lumber and Woods -	6,070

Women are finding employment in the expanding seafoods processing industry by picking shrimp and crab, though this is relatively seasonal. Nearly one third of the women are in the labor force.

Employment opportunities for young people in this area have been confined mainly to yard care and baby sitting. However, since snap beans were introduced in the county, this past year, some 350 young people and adults found employment in harvesting this crop during the summer of 1967.

The Coos County Employment Service points out that unemployment can be as much as 12 percent during the winter months.

## Education

The educational facilities of Coos County range from privately financed kindergartens and parochial schools to the publicly financed Head Start program, elementary and secondary schools, and a community college.

There are 5 first-class school districts and 1 second-class school district. Forty-five schools are maintained by these 6 districts for 15,160 students. Southwestern Oregon Community College, Coos Bay, has a total enrollment of 1,750 students. Forty-nine percent of the students transfer to an upper-division college. The average age of the female student is 28.4 years. Eleven percent of the students are over 50 years old.

Upper division classes are offered through the Division of Continuing Education, and the Institute of Marine Biology is operated by the University of Oregon at Coos Bay.

According to the 1960 census, 3,735 persons, or 12.8 percent of the total number of persons 25 and over in Coos County have less than 8 years of education. High school dropout figures are based on those students who drop out during the school year. In the 1963-64 school year, 134 dropped out.

## Welfare

Underprivileged families, especially those whose members are largely the aged, the unskilled, or the disabled, are poor because the dependents lack ability or have not been given an opportunity to exercise their potential.

Community Action Service Centers were established in Coos Bay and Coquille in 1967 for the purpose of helping the poor to help themselves and to know the resources and opportunities available to them.

According to the report of the State Public Welfare Commission for February 1966, \$86,000 was paid out in direct assistance and medical-care payments to Coos County residents under old-age assistance, aid to the blind, the disabled, to families with dependent children, and for general assistance and foster care. This amount averages \$80.80 per month to each of 841 direct-assistance cases and \$46 per month to each of the 341 medical-assistance cases. Some 3,000 people receive surplus foods during the winter months, with a tapering off during peak employment periods.

## Medical Care

Coos County has four hospitals, located at Coos Bay, North Bend, Myrtle Point, and Bandon, with a total of 190 beds. The number of beds may be adequate for normal requirements, but not for special cases such as pediatric or mentally disturbed patients. Basically, the county lacks modern medical facilities which would attract physicians to the south coastal area of the state.

Three long-term facilities are located each at Bandon, North Bend, and Coos Bay, with a total of 155 beds. These facilities do qualify under Medicare.

## Health

Though Coos County's population has remained fairly stable in recent years, there has been a decrease in the total number of physicians. Southwest Oregon medical facilities are not up-to-date and therefore do not attract new physicians.

The public-health nursing service is making a gradual shift in its nursing visits from communicable diseases, such as infectious hepatitis, to those patients with chronic, long-term illnesses, such as heart conditions, stroke, cancer, and diabetes.

At present Coos County has 191 known cases of tuberculosis. In 1966 there were 11 new cases with one death. That same year 12,713 TB skin tests were given at county-wide clinics. The mobile X-ray unit serviced the county four times in 1967 and twice in 1968. The public-health nursing staff made 1,079 home visits on tuberculosis patients between July 1, 1966 and June 30, 1967.

The Coos County Public Health Department administers immunization for smallpox, diphtheria, paratyphoid, typhoid, tetanus, polio, and measles by vaccinations. Immunization clinics are held twice monthly for pre-schoolers and adults on a very limited income. Under the supervision of the Public Health Department, five trained home-health aides go into the homes of the elderly to help maintain them in their homes or during convalescence.

County statistics available on the number of cases of venereal disease do not show a true picture of its prevalence. Sixty-three cases were reported for the fiscal year 1966-67 and 37 cases for the first half of the fiscal year 1967-68. About 11 percent of the cases are reported by physicians.

Obesity is a major health problem among adults, since nearly half of them are overweight. Doctors also estimate one fourth of the youth are overweight. These persons are more susceptible to degenerative diseases of the heart and circulatory system, diabetes, and foot and back problems.

## Nutrition

The diets of teenage girls are inadequate nutritionally, low in vitamins A, C, thiamine, and riboflavin, as well as in protein, calcium, and iron.

Coos County has 43 physicians, or about one physician for every 1,100 people. However, several physicians have left the area and none have replaced them. Few doctors are going into general practice. The community of Powers does not have services of a physician or a pharmacist. The closest medical and hospital services are 18 miles away at Myrtle Point. An ambulance is available, but the road is winding and relatively slow to travel.

There are 29 dentists and 1 orthodontist serving Coos County, with offices located in all communities except Powers. There are also two osteopathic physicians, eight chiropractic physicians, six optometrists, and one ophthalmologist.

Boys' diets are low in the same nutrients with the exception of protein.

Nutritional information is taught at the elementary school level. At the secondary school level girls receive nutritional training in home economics classes and some in health classes. Boys may receive some training in physical education classes. However, many teenagers do not relate the information on nutrition to themselves, for they make very poor food choices, especially for lunch and snacks.

Under the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, Market Street School of District 9 participated in the program "Morning Snack" (breakfast) starting in January, 1967. For ten cents, children received fruit, toast or rolls, or coffee cake, and milk. Prepared cereal and scrambled eggs are served once a week. Over 30 children participated, 20 percent of the enrollment. Benefits of the program for the children include gain in weight and greater alertness during school. The majority of children who participated are from low-income families. Children in other schools and districts could benefit from this program.

The school hot-lunch program serves the elementary level quite adequately throughout the county, but quite a small percentage of junior and senior high-school students participate because of inadequate lunch room facilities at Marshfield High School, a short lunch period and independence exerted by students.

The dental program in the county includes an educational program by the dental auxiliary in the elementary grades. The Coos Bay Lion's Club provide free care of teeth for those with low-income families. The Public Welfare Department will provide for emergency dental care for aid to dependent children.

## Mental Health

The Coos County Family Service Clinic has been in operation since 1961 and is administered through the County Public Health Department. At present the staff includes a full-time psychiatric social worker and a psychiatrist and psychologist one day per week. The case load as of April, 1968, was 100 cases, with a four-week waiting period for new applicants.



The clinic offers evaluative, therapeutic, and consultive service to any individual, family, or agency residing in Coos County. The clinic offers the following basic services: Evaluation and treatment of a child and-or parents in cases where one member or all members of a family are experiencing interpersonal difficulty; evaluation and treatment of a husband and wife who are experiencing marital difficulty; and evaluation consultation and community mental-health information in cooperation with schools, the Juvenile Department, the Public Welfare Department, and local physicians.

Since 1963 a group program has been established for helping ex-patients from the State Hospital to reestablish themselves in family and community living. This program was instituted by the nursing staff of the County Public Health Department.

## Mental Illness

During 1967, 105 persons from Coos County were admitted to the Oregon State Hospital. Of this number 33 were committed through the district court. An increase of court commitments has been noted during the first four months of 1968. It is estimated that the monthly cost of keeping a patient at the Oregon State Hospital is \$400. A county treatment program would not only be of benefit to the less severe mental patient but would be less costly to operate.

Coos County has a high rate of alcoholism and an increasing use of drugs, according to the county psychiatric social worker.

Recently a chapter of the Oregon Mental Health Association was organized for the purpose of educating the public regarding mental health; informing the public of the resources for the mentally ill; distributing films, and carrying out service projects for state hospital patients.

Through Alcoholics Anonymous, 150 people in Coos County receive help weekly. Two additional groups -- Al-anon for families of alcoholics and Al-ateen for teenagers -- meet weekly.

Another lay group, Recovery Inc., was organized in June, 1968. The purpose of this group is to help those who have had emotional or psychiatric problems to help themselves. Eighteen groups have been formed since 1964, when the first group organized in Eugene.

In order to meet the needs in a comprehensive mental health program in Coos County the following need to be provided: (1) Preventive programs in schools, churches, home extension programs, adult education, and public health. (2) Additional trained personnel and more services available through the Family Service Clinic. (3) In-patient psychiatric facilities for holding patients in local hospitals during examination and court hearings, since present facilities in the county jail result in a traumatic experience for the person concerned. (4) Facilities for children with mental illness who need to be housed and treated separately from adults at the state hospital. (5) Additional facilities incorporated into nursing homes for aged persons with problems. (6) Rehabilitation and treatment for alcoholics.

## Mental Retardation

At present the Millington School of District 9 has elementary classes for retarded children of ages 6-1/2 to 16-1/2 years. Sixty are enrolled, 49 are on the waiting list, and 169 have not been interviewed. Other school districts in the county have special education classes for the slow learner. Students are given practical experiences as well as reading, writing and arithmetic.

The Coos Association for Retarded Children has a sheltered workshop for those 16 years of age and older who have either gone as far as possible in school or who are not able to attend school at all. Expenses for the school are met through work projects by the students.

## Sanitation

The sanitation department of the Coos County Public Health Department is responsible for inspection of eating establishments, tourist facilities, and foster-home sanitation conditions; testing of water supplies, inspection of septic tanks not served by city water and sewage departments; and investigation of complaints concerning sources of contamination from sewage, water, and garbage.

For the protection of urban residents, each city water department sends water samples to the State Board of Health for a monthly test. Results are filed with the county Public Health Department. The cities of Coos Bay, North Bend, and Coquille add fluorides to the water supply.

Garbage disposal throughout the county is handled by private disposal companies. City garbage dumps are provided by all cities, and sanitary landfill sites at four locations are operated throughout the county by the County Health Department.

Anti-litter campaigns need to be continued to improve urban and rural areas in beautification as well as sanitary conditions.

## Recommendations

The Family Health Committee makes the following recommendations:

- That a comprehensive mental-health program be established in Coos County to meet the needs listed under the mental-health section.
- That the public become more aware of all of the county health services available.
- That a diabetic program be instituted by County Public Health Department and other educational agencies such as the Extension service. This would include an educational program as well as screening and follow-up.
- That nutritional programs be continued by the Extension service to improve the understanding of the nutritional needs of the body in making daily food selections, and to provide information about weight control and meal planning.

- That nutritional information be a part of all levels of the school curriculum so that the student learns to relate food selection to the needs of his body.
- That educational programs in cancer detection, dental health, smoking and health, and the use of drugs and alcohol be continued or expanded as the need occurs.

- That a coordinated program for families with retarded children and adults be established.
- That communities expand the educational programs (both in school and out of school) for the mentally retarded.

## Housing

According to the 1960 census there are 18,489 housing units in Coos County. Of this number 16,756 are occupied and 1,378 vacant the year around. Some 18,114 homes have the water supply piped inside, 17,330 have toilet facilities, and 17,382 have bathing facilities. The condition of the homes are rated as follows: sound - 13,600; deteriorating - 3,562; dilapidated - 1,267.

The percentage of homes declared unsound in comparison to Douglas and Curry counties is as follows: Coos - 30.1 percent; Douglas - 27.5 percent; Curry 26.1 percent. The poor housing conditions exist in the Charleston-Empire section of the bay area, in Lakeside, Coquille, and widely scattered rural areas. Some of the reasons for poor housing are absentee landlords, the mobility of the population, and the fact that improvements would mean higher property taxes.

Coos county has 38 mobile trailer home courts with 1 each in Bandon, Bridge, Hauser, Myrtle Point; 2 each in Powers and Lakeside; and 4 in the Coquille area. In the Coos Bay-North Bend area there are 26. Average number of spaces ranged from 25 to 30 per park. The smallest park has 10 spaces and the largest, when completed, will have 145 spaces. This park plans to include a recreational center and putting green. Trailer homes range from 8' x 45' to 12' x 65' to the expandable, which may be 20' - 24' wide. Not all parks can accommodate large mobile homes. Many trailer homes are being placed on individual lots in rural Coos County.

Rural families get their water supply from springs and wells. Water conditions in the county include a shortage in the summer, so their families may have to haul water, and rusty conditions in the Greenacres, Hauser, Lakeside, Broadbent, Lee Valley, Bandon and various other isolated areas in the county. The rusty condition causes problems by turning laundry yellow, staining cooking utensils and dishes and discoloring kitchen and bathroom fixtures.

In areas of housing and population concentration, a public water system would help alleviate water shortages, improve water treatment and sanitation, and also increase the value of the property.

### Cost of Housing

Suitable, inexpensive housing for newly married, single, or retired people on limited incomes in Coos County is rare. Rentals in the bay area for a two-bedroom apartment or home vary from \$65 to \$215 per month. Utilities increase housing expenses \$25 to \$35 per month.

Professional people who are somewhat mobile, such as teachers, desire suitable housing. In order to provide it, builders are erecting housing with multiple units, but adequate housing is still short. Young families have a need for three-bedroom homes which would sell for \$12,000 - \$14,000, since this is the amount that those with median incomes in Coos County can afford. Quality built into a home of this price range is very poor.

Low-rent housing is coming to North Bend with units of 1, 2, and 3 bedrooms. A total of 150 units will be built by the Federal Housing Authority, but will serve only a small segment of the low-income populaion.

### Electrical Problems

Among the problems faced by homeowners with pre-World War II homes, or some built even since, is the electrical system. Electrical defects and abuses cause serious fires. Often fires are caused by the inability of home electrical systems to cope with "modern electrical living."

In recent years there has been a tremendous increase in the number of appliances, large and small. Some small appliances such as griddles, fry pans, irons, broilers and rotisseries have a much greater electrical demand than larger appliances such as washing machines and refrigerators. Add to this the increased use of hand power tools, portable hair dryers, and the load of a color television set or an extra black and white set. The result is a house that cannot provide the electrical power required by its residents.

Another problem is the fact that many homeowners do their own repairs, remodeling or building. An example is the installation of a hot water heater, which demands skill both in plumbing and wiring. Faulty work can mean real problems.

### Other Problems

Homes in Coos County have problems with moisture condensation, dry rot, improper venting of exhaust fans and poor storage for the family's necessities and hobbies. Planning for either remodeling or building a new home is often inadequate.

Homeowners and renters (urban and rural) need to take pride in the appearance of their homes and surroundings by keeping homes in good repair and condition and the yard and surroundings attractive, free of unsightly rubbish and weeds. In rural areas a

number of abandoned buildings have deteriorated to the point of collapse. Also blighting the scene are old abandoned cars. Removal of abandoned buildings and cars would improve the appearance of the countryside.

Homeowners, in many cases, lack the understanding of how their property is valued and the tax assessed. Some senior citizens are unaware that they can apply for tax relief on property.

## Recommendations

- Through educational programs by the Cooperative Extension Service and other public agencies such as the Farmers Home Administration, rural communities should be assisted in developing public water systems to lessen the problems of water shortage, treatment and sanitation.

For rural families on an individual water system with mineral problems, the Cooperative Extension Service should conduct an intensive educational program to help alleviate these problems.

- With the combined efforts of the Cooperative Extension Service, contractors and lending agencies, a series of housing workshops should be held to help families in house planning, furnishing, remodeling, financing, and landscaping. Special emphasis in house planning would be placed on individual family needs for

space and storage, ventilation to prevent moisture condensation and mold, as well as on fire hazards and adequacy of wiring for modern appliances.

- With the tremendous increase in both mobile-home parks and trailers placed on individual lots, landscaping to increase attractiveness and function needs to be stressed. Also, through zoning regulations and efforts of the Coos County Health Department, adequate sewage disposal to prevent sanitation problems should be required.

Ways to reach the mobile population in Coos County, for the purpose of pride in home and surroundings needs to be promoted, such as spot announcements on television and well-advertised cleanup campaigns in each community.

- The public should be made aware of educational information on housing, furnishings, and landscaping accumulated by the Cooperative Extension Service and other public and private agencies.

- County zoning regulations concerning the clean-up of abandoned cars and dilapidated buildings should be enforced to improve the appearance of Coos County.

- Educational meetings should be held jointly with the county assessor and the Cooperative Extension Service on the methods of property valuation and tax assessment.

## Family Stability

Stability of the family is challenged in Coos County by many social forces. Coos County has an annual high rate of divorce in proportion to the number of marriages. However, the number of filings for divorce decreased from 418 in 1966 to 348 in 1967. During the same period the number of marriages remained the same, 469.

Lack of effective communication among family members is the biggest cause of an increasing breakdown of the family unit, according to the psychiatric social worker of the Coos County Family Counseling Service.

The median age at marriage continues to decline in the state. In 1966, about 50.8 percent of the brides married for the first time were age 19 or under. The median age for grooms was 22.5 years.

## Counseling

The Coos County Circuit Court has employed a part-time conciliation counselor for couples who make application for this service. Many couples seen by him are young, have been married for a short time, and often are poorly equipped educationally. Minor children were affected in about 65 percent of all divorces in Oregon. Almost one fourth of the divorces occur in the first three years of marriage. The divorce rate is highest among those where the girl was under 20 at the time of marriage.

In addition to the counseling services of the Family Service Clinic for young people, one school

district in the county, Marshfield High School, employs a home counselor to bridge the gap between students, parents, school counselors, and teachers. His responsibilities include the following: (1) Counseling with parents and students with behavioral problems; (2) assisting families who may need a specific service, such as additional counseling, housing, food, or clothing; (3) working closely with the school counselor to help with understanding of students and their problems; (4) counseling and arranging for services of a home teacher for students with special health problems; (5) cooperating with other agencies working with the family and student concerned, and providing in-service training for teachers and school counselors.

Other school districts (administrators, school boards, parents, and interested individuals) could benefit by studying the results of this preventive program in District 9.

## Major Concerns

According to the State Board of Health figures, illegitimacy has been increasing since 1950, not only in Oregon but in the nation. At that time, 18.5 births per 1,000 were illegitimate in Oregon. This increased to 71.8 births per 1,000 in 1966. However, in Coos County, the illegitimacy ratio was 56.7 births per 1,000. These figures may stem from less emphasis on forced marriages, and the fact that Coos County does not have facilities, as such, for unwed mothers.

According to local utility companies, Coos County has a high rate of mobility, especially during June

## Recommendations

and September. This trend occurs among both professional people, such as teachers and bank employees, and the nonprofessional, such as loggers, mill workers, and the persons of low income. Youngsters who move during the school year may have difficulty with the school curriculum as well as with social adjustment.

The number of juvenile offenders in Coos County is about 2 percent of the population, most of them in the 14 to 16-year age group. In 1967 Coos County had a total of 2,400 juvenile referrals. Of this number, 1,464 cases were exclusive of traffic violations. Referrals include possession of alcohol, use or possession of drugs, runaways, burglaries, and shoplifting. A positive step in administering counseling and guidance to the juvenile offender is being established with the building of the Judge Belloni Boys' ranch.

Social opportunities for the senior citizen in Coos County are available in the senior citizen centers in Myrtle Point, Coquille, and Coos Bay. There are fraternal, social, service, and hobby organizations to which many belong and in which they are active. However, for some of those who have no transportation, are in ill health, and in some cases, have low income, social opportunities are very limited.

According to the 1960 census, Coos County had over 4,000 people 65 years or older. It is found that the marital status for older people in Oregon is estimated as follows: For every 100 women age 65 or over, 36 are married, 54 widowed, 2 divorced, and 7 have not married.

A little over 7 percent of the county population is separated, divorced, or has lost a spouse through death. The organization "Parents Without Partners" is fulfilling a need for these adults, not only socially, but in gaining an understanding of their problems and helping solve them. However, this organization is reaching a very small percentage of the total group.

About 30 percent of Oregon's population is affiliated with a church. In Coos County there are 27 denominations and a total of 80 churches. Church attendance is low due to the high rate of mobility of the population and the recreational opportunities Oregon affords in fishing, boating, camping and hunting.

## Consumer Competence

According to U. S. District Court records for 1967, 200 Coos County residents filed for bankruptcy for an average amount of \$3,500. In the last 10 years, bankruptcy throughout the United States has increased 350 percent. Coos County has a high rate of bankruptcy in comparison with the size of population. In 1965 on a national level, installment loans accounted for \$68 billion. Eighty percent of the families use consumer credit. Many of the low-income young adults are main installment debtors. In 1968, 12 million teenagers will spend \$13 billion.

A survey of the consumer needs of 300 families in Coos County revealed that the young marrieds, ages 17 - 25, have the least skill in spending their income, and lack managerial skills in homemaking. In

The committee submits the following recommendations:

- That a broad program in family life, not just sex education, be a part of the school curriculum from the elementary level through high school. The curriculum should focus upon the needs of the various age levels to help students understand their physical, mental and social development.
- That a family-life program be implemented by the Extension Service for parents to help them increase their knowledge of and insight into their children's behavior; recognize the impact of social and cultural changes and their values; and understand the feeling and attitudes of people and their effect on everyday living.
- That greater opportunity be provided for such organizations and groups as PTA, Parents without Partners, AAUW, Coos County home economists, and churches to study the school curriculum as it is related to family life so that more support may be obtained from parents and others.
- That school districts seriously consider the employment of counselors or social workers at the elementary level as well as the secondary level to counsel parents and youngsters who have emotional or behavioral problems.
- That the Extension Service, in order to alleviate family breakdown caused by lack of managerial skills, conduct educational programs in home economics concerning management of time, money, and the home; planning, preparing and serving attractive nutritious family meals; and providing adequate clothing through cautious purchase, construction and repair.
- That counseling services through the Coos County Family Service Clinic be expanded in order to develop a comprehensive mental-health program.
- That the general public be made more aware of the needs of the senior citizens' centers and the elderly confined to their homes or to nursing homes.

1963, 288 Oregon teenagers were granted divorces. Since 50 percent of the brides in the state are teenagers, this indicates a need for training in consumer competence. However, education at all age levels is needed, since consumers in the United States spend over \$1 billion each day.

Some of the needs in order to achieve consumer competency for Coos County residents include ability to live within their incomes; ability to determine best buys of consumer goods and services; better understanding of the market place; better understanding of the use of credit and the cost of credit; ability to evaluate consumer information to make wise decisions in buying consumer goods and services; and better understanding of present legislation

regarding consumer protection and legislation that is needed for the future.

In Coos County, counseling facilities for those with financial difficulties include the local banks, the Farmer's Home Administration, and some credit unions. Coos County has 11 banks, 6 small finance companies, and a number of credit unions which make loans.

Educational programs and literature in consumer competence are available through the county extension service. 4-H Club work and home economics classes in schools are the only opportunity for young people to receive training in consumer competence. Home economics teachers and 4-H leaders have developed programs in purchase of food, fabric, and clothing, home furnishing, and budgeting for needs and desires. However, a curriculum is being developed and expanded to be used at the elementary and junior high level.

## Recommendations

The consumer competence committee recommends:

- That educational programs in consumer competence be expanded and conducted in our public and private elementary, junior, and senior high schools, at the community college and by the Extension service. These programs would include intelli-

gent purchase of goods, money management, and consumer credit.

- That the Extension service conduct programs for families in consumer competence in the following specific areas:

- (a) The use and cost of credit as it applies to acquiring desired goods, services, housing, or housing improvements.
- (b) Evaluating information concerning purchase of appliances, home furnishings, clothing and food according to families' needs.
- (c) The present legislation for consumer protection and identification of unethical sales practices.
- (d) Financial planning for acquiring and spending money for housing, insurance and medical expenses, savings and investments, education and recreation, as well as food, clothing and transportation.
- (e) Financial planning for estates after death.
- (f) Understanding that public spending is an important part of family spending.

- That special programs in all areas of money management be presented by the Extension service to young marrieds and to those with low incomes.

## Youth

The youth of Coos County are faced with many problems during their maturing years. These problems are of concern to the entire county because, unless proper guidance and help are offered and proper control exercised, they are costly to all in terms of taxes, environment, social well-being, community and commercial attractiveness, safety, and wasted education and abilities. Although these problems are not unique to Coos County and are experienced across the nation, they are present here and need to be confronted and solved with the best of our ability.

More than 52,000 people live in Coos County. About 19,000 are under 19 years of age. This is approximately 30 percent of the total population. Every day nearly 16,000 youngsters between 6 to 18 years of age attend school in the county. This leaves 3,000 not yet in school. It is estimated that organizations such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H Clubs, F.F.A., and other youth organizations serve only about 4,000 youngsters in the county, or less than 25 percent of those eligible.

Coos County ranks 11th out of 36 counties in the state in number of high school dropouts. From 1963 to 1964, 4,069 students were enrolled in the 10th to 12th grades. Of these, 134 students dropped out for a 3.3 percent dropout rate. This dropout rate does not include those students dropping out during the summer months, and if this number were taken into consideration, the percent of dropout rates undoubtedly would be even higher.

In 1965 the county ranked second in the percent of young men rejected by the local draft. The county had 8,739 young men registered for the draft, and of these, 1,040, or 11.9 percent, were rejected. Some of the reasons for young men being rejected for the draft include educational, physical or social deficiencies.

## Problems

The main problems with regard to youth and youth programs, as determined by the committee are (1) parents' interest. In order for any youth activity to be successful, parents must support the activity in which their children are participating. (2) Shortage of activities appealing to older youth. Often youth activities are planned with only incidental consideration given to the paramount interest of teenagers, while important fields of interest that develop as young people grow are overlooked. (3) Shortage of recreation facilities. (4) Overparticipation. Efforts should be directed more toward reaching those not participating in youth activities than toward those already active. This would reduce overactivity and at the same time, should result in greater participation on the part of those in need. (5) Inequitable publicity. Too much attention is focused on misconduct and not enough on worthwhile accomplishments. (6) Need for a youth-employment service. There is a lack of job opportunities and an even greater lack of coordination be-



Each year over 1,000 local school children participate in the annual Sixth Grade Forestry Tour. The event, sponsored by the Extension Service with the assistance of local timber companies and state and federal agencies, emphasizes wise use and conservation of our natural resources.

tween employers and youth, particularly outside the Coos Bay area. (7) A general unawareness, or even unconcern, on the part of the public, and particularly parents, regarding youth situations and problems.

## Recommendations

- A youth-adult committee from the county should be established and it should represent all segments of the population. This committee should be composed primarily of young people and should be responsible for the direction, supervision, and programs of youth in the county.

- A clearing house should be established to provide better communication between agencies concerned with young people in the county. This would serve to coordinate the help available to young people in Coos County and assure more efficiency in handling problems.

- Special orientation or welcoming programs should be developed for new students as well as a special educational program on the acceptance of disadvantaged youth by other young people. A program of this type would be directed towards arousing the interest of youth in those who are less fortunate than they and involving them in joint activities.

- A program should be developed that would motivate and educate parents to become aware of youth problems. Such a program could be started by even a small group of parents who would sponsor speakers at P.T.A., church groups, civic groups, and other organizations interested in young people.

- An effort should be made for greater cooperation among parents, students, and teachers with regard to educational and school-related youth problems and programs. This effort could best be implemented through a parent-teacher-student association.

- A listing of all organizations concerned with youth, the purpose of the organization, and the names of persons in charge and their phone numbers should be compiled for each school and community in the county. These listings would be available to schools, and distributed to new families in each district throughout the year.

- Teaching of responsibility should be one of the major educational programs for young people. The increased use of young people in administering their peers and programs is a suggested solution for lack of responsibility.

- All schools and informal educational programs should provide equal opportunities to disadvantaged young people as well as to superior students. Not all students can or will attend schools of higher education; therefore, vocational programs should be initiated and stressed in all educational programs.

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