NEW RC&D MEASURES

The Upper Willamette Resource Conservation and Development Project sponsors have agreed to technical assistance and planning in providing better public access to the Fall Creek area in southeast Lincoln County.

Del Skeesick, Oregon Fish Commission biologist, asked for the help at the quarterly RC&D meeting held September 26 at the Marine Science Center, Newport.

Lane County representatives requested floodplain information studies be done for sections of the McKenzie River (from Hendricks Bridge through the town of McKenzie Bridge), Long Tom River (Upper and Lower to North County Line) and Lake Creek (Horton area to Siuslaw confluence near Swisshome).

Of the three, the McKenzie River study will be given the highest priority. At the present time, the county is attempting to develop and adopt a land-use plan for the McKenzie Valley, and the need for detailed information on flooding is imperative. The second and third projects listed above are also of high necessity.

ANNUAL PLANNING MEETING

The goals planning meeting of the Upper Willamette RC&D Project will be held again this year at Albany, Monday, Jan 29th, at the Linn County Courthouse Annex.

This meeting is held annually for the purpose of reviewing goals and objectives of the six resource committees for the coming year, as well as identifying local and project-wide needs.

OUR NEW PROJECT COORDINATOR

David Bruce Anderson was born in Gresham, Oregon and lived at Fairview where he attended Fairview Grade School and Gresham Union High School. He graduated from Oregon State College in 1951 with a B.S. degree in Agriculture, majoring in soils.

He worked for the Production & Marketing Administration from 1951 to 1956, and joined the Soil Conservation Service in 1956 with his first assignment being in Clackamas County. He began as a soil scientist and then became District Conservationist at Gladstone. February 1973 he was appointed Project Coordinator for the North Coast RC&D Project at Tillamook. On August 19, 1974, he was assigned to fill the Upper Willamette RC&D Coordinator position.

Dave has actively participated in land-use implementation and has been very active in the Oregon Chapter of the Soil Conservation Society of America. His hobbies include fishing and photography. He is married and has three children, one daughter and two sons.
LANE TOUR DAY

Quentin Bowman, (left, kneeling) State Water Resources Board, Salem, and Mel Jackson, City of Eugene Parks & Recreation Specialist, (kneeling at right) were the resource people on the Willamette River Management tour.

About 150 Lane County teachers were given an opportunity on October 11 to choose from forest, agriculture, land use and river management tours arranged by the Lane Outdoor Education Council through Gale Burwell, Educational Coordinator with the Willamette National Forest office of Eugene. River management and land-use planning were newly introduced this year to present firsthand information on two subjects of current concern.

The RC&D Community Planning & Development Committee arranged for these two tours to present information on Willamette Greenway management and recreation development as well as the comprehensive land-use planning currently of interest to residents of Lane County. The 1974 goals developed by this committee included assisting with natural resource information for teachers and increasing public understanding and support of planning.

John Bennett of the Lane County planning office directed the land-use tour, providing teachers with an insight to the processes of citizen committee planning, conflicts and pressures of urbanization, and the preparation of planning maps and reports.

On the river management tour, Mel Jackson (who is chairman of the Lane Willamette River Greenway Assn.), discussed recreation potentials through river access, trails and park sites along the Willamette in Lane County.

Quentin Bowman presented slides and spoke on the many interrelated forces of bank cutting, gravel bar formation, and the need for total management as opposed to letting the river "do its thing" or be contained in a chute between large dikes.

A river management tour stop at the Eugene Sand & Gravel Co. added considerable insight into the problems of an important river resource. As the group stood near the confluence of the McKenzie and Willamette rivers, John Altucker and Jim Covack of the Eugene Sand & Gravel Co. explained the needs for gravel in our society and the opportunities that exist with the industry to improve river frontage environment at the time of gravel removal.

Funds Available for Water-Based Recreation

Project funding in RC&D areas includes public water-based fish, wildlife, and recreation development that could benefit many of the city or county park programs within the Upper Willamette RC&D Project.

Boat docks, fishing facilities, ramps, restrooms, picnic and parking areas are examples of eligible improvements to water-based recreation.

Other project funding is available to assist with stabilization of critical areas such as road and stream banks and the more usual items of flood prevention, farm irrigation, land drainage, soil and water management for agriculturally related pollution control and water quality management.

In most cases, approved RC&D projects include 100% of engineering costs, up to 50% construction costs, and RC&D loan funds of 100%.

According to Upper Willamette RC&D Project Coordinator Dave Anderson, there has been a slowdown of project approvals caused by personnel shortages and also by greatly added time demands to produce project impact statements, environmental assessments, and to obtain land rights and easements.

Delays can be shortened in some cases by going to other loan sources, according to Anderson, such as Farmers Home Administration. A group might be "money ahead" if
they applied for an FmHA/RC&D loan, available at reduced interest rates, which can cover the cost of engineering design, portions of construction and many times permit measures to start several years earlier.

Local governments or public agencies within the Upper Willamette RC&D are welcome to bring needed projects to the attention of the RC&D sponsors--SWCD's and county governments of Benton, Lane, Lincoln and Linn counties.

NEW CHAIRMAN FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Charles Hecht, a farmer from the community of Kingston in Linn County is the new chairman of the Community Planning and Development Committee. Hecht succeeds Tom Kerr of Lowell, who has been acting chairman since 1972. William Gwinn of Albany served 1966-1969 and Cedric Baldwin, Lowell, was chairman in 1970.

The experience and interest of Charles Hecht in community planning stems from his long service on the Linn Planning Commission. He held the chairmanship position of this group the past several years and, during this time, citizen advisory committees were active in developing a county-wide comprehensive plan.

Charles is particularly interested in planned development of residential and business properties that leaves farmable land alone to be farmed and managed in as large contiguous parcels as possible. He feels "prime" farmland should include large parcels of foothill soils that, under irrigation, are in some cases more manageable and productive than the valley floor soils. Also, he has demonstrated the value of hill land for farming.

Currently, Chairman Hecht is excited about the prospects for success of the mechanical strawberry picker that he invented and perfected. It is attracting interest in both the U.S. and Europe. He sees it as a means of reviving much of the sagging Oregon strawberry enterprise.

PRIVATE RECREATION

"How do you see private recreation development in the Upper Willamette Valley?" was the question asked a group of public and private recreation specialists at an October meeting arranged by the RC&D Recreation Committee. Osburn Shaw of Sweet Home, chairman of the committee, asked the question in regard to a committee goal to help expand opportunities for private enterprise in outdoor recreation. Attending were representatives of state and county park programs, national and private forests, Soil Conservation Service and OSU Extension Service personnel.

There was general consensus that opportunities are numerous for private investors in outdoor recreation, particularly as added facilities and services in demand by specialized recreation groups, i.e., hunting, fishing, boating, hiking, power vehicles, skiing, etc.

A ten-year plan of the Oregon State Parks System will be completed soon that includes consideration and encouragement to private investment as a means of expanding services. Also, the National Association of Soil Conservation Districts and the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation have almost completed a survey on private recreation in the United States.

Emphasis was also placed on need for private recreation people to develop an organized approach to deal with common problems of liability, trespass and control that often unnecessarily stymie development.

The committee plans to meet again in January, inviting private outdoor recreation operators to further explore ways their businesses might be improved. They would like to encourage all private recreation operators to be on a mailing list for information or notification of meetings. Send your name, address and kind and location of business to the Upper Willamette RC&D, 1307 Lincoln Street, Eugene, Oregon 97401.
FLOOD INSURANCE

As of July 1, 1975, incorporated towns of Oregon will have had to qualify for flood or mud slide hazard insurance under the Flood Protection Act of 1973 in order to continue to be eligible for federal financial assistance on loans for land acquisition or construction within flood hazard areas. A number of cities and towns have completed applications and are now eligible, including Eugene, Albany, Lincoln City, Brownsville, Oakridge, Toledo, Scio and Springfield.

Application forms, with suggestions for answering the questions, are available from the State Water Resources office, 1158 Chemeketa Street Northeast, Salem.

This newsletter is a quarterly publication edited by the Community Development Specialist assigned to the Upper Willamette RC&D Project by Oregon State University Cooperative Extension Service. The Project is designed to accelerate resource development in the 4-county area of Lane, Lincoln, Linn and Benton Counties.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY FOR WILDLIFE COMMITTEE

Robert Jubber, Lane district biologist with the Oregon Wildlife Commission, is the newly appointed executive secretary of the RC&D Wildlife Committee.

Bob is a 1952 graduate of Oregon State University in Fish & Game Management. He has been a resident of Oregon for most of his life.

A major area of emphasis is the annual and on-going inventory of wildlife species and associated regulations and management.

BOOKLETS

A limited number of copies of the following publications are available by contacting the Upper Willamette RC&D Project, 1307 Lincoln Street, Eugene, Oregon 97401:

"Oregon Forest Consultants & Services"
"Horse Loggers in Oregon"
"Firewood"

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