

## Study on air pollution opens eyes

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Oregon's 183 largest chemical users reported 32 million pounds of toxic releases in 1988, including 20 million pounds of air pollution, according to a report issued Wednesday by the Oregon State Public Interest Research Group.

The study of 85 chemicals found little change from the 31 million pounds reported released during 1987.

OSPIRG's research was based on industry filings under the federal Community Right to Know Act, which requires companies that manufacture or use large quantities of any of 325 chemicals to disclose the amount released into the environment or transported off-site as wastes.

The releases reported in 1988 included 20 million pounds of air pollution.

"The sad fact is that virtually none of this industrial air pollution is even regulated under the current Clean Air Act, which covers only seven of more than 200 known air toxics," said Joel Ario, executive director of OSPIRG.

He said the Clean Air Act reforms passed by the U.S. Senate on Tuesday would improve the situation but don't go far enough.

"The most glaring problem is that the Senate bill focuses on pollution control, when we should be looking much more to pollution prevention strategies," Ario said.

OSPIRG said toxic releases were reported in 23 counties and 55 cities. Releases exceeded 1 million pounds in five cities: St. Helens, Portland, White City, McMinnville and Clatskanie.

Columbia County had the highest amount of chemicals released, with 9.8 million pounds, followed by Multnomah, 5.2 million pounds; Jackson, 3.8 million pounds; Yamhill, 2.5 million pounds; Linn, 2.1 million pounds; and Washington, 2 million pounds.

Most of the 85 chemicals are linked to health threats, OSPIRG said. Cancer has been linked to chemicals reported in 4 million pounds of releases and reproductive problems to those reported in 19 million pounds, the group said.

The two industries reporting the most releases were paper and associated products, with 13 million pounds of the total, and metals, with 5 million pounds.

## Protection of owl will cost jobs in Northwest

By Scott Sonner  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pacific Northwest lawmakers, concerned about the economic impact of a new plan released Wednesday to save the northern spotted owl, say efforts should begin to compensate the region for the anticipated loss of thousands of jobs.

The committee of government scientists led by U.S. Forest Service biologist Jack Ward Thomas recommended that harvests in national forests be reduced 25 percent to save the owl from extinction.

Rep. Les AuCoin, D-Ore., said a reduction of that level suggests a loss of a minimum of 10,000 timber-related jobs in Oregon and Washington.

"If the policies of the inter-agency report are implemented,

Oregon's timber communities will be absolutely devastated," said Sen. Bob Packwood, R-Ore.

Rep. Bob Smith, R-Ore., said human needs are ignored in the report, which was directed solely at the biological status of the owl.

"Unless we find a balance between protecting the owl and protecting jobs, we are going to put the Northwest out of business," he said.

"Are we going to destroy people to save owls? That is the question."

Others said the proposed strategy to save the owl has some merits, but may need to be revised to lessen the pain on the region's economy.

"The plan they have developed probably makes sense, but it is going to have a very serious impact," said Rep. Norm Dicks, D-Wash. "It's a substantial loss of the timber base and that's going to be felt out there."

Sen. Brock Adams, D-Wash., said decisions regarding the management of forests "must be based upon scientific evidence."

"If those decisions pose problems for our society, then we as members of Congress must work with the states to minimize the impacts on our communities," he said.

Sen. Mark Hatfield, R-Ore., said the potential impact of the report was far greater for Washington than Oregon because 40 percent of the Oregon land proposed for owl conservation areas already is protected.

"If and when the spotted owl is listed as an endangered or threatened species — and I believe it will be — and if this plan is adopted, it will be an unprecedented application of the Endangered Species Act with devastating economic and social effects," he said.

Rep. Denny Smith, R-Ore., called the recommendations "a giant 'pink slip' for thousands of Oregon timber workers and their families. It's a slap in the face to the very people whose hard work and family values built Oregon."

Adams said earlier Wednesday that the U.S. Forest Service has reneged on its promise to put environmental protection of old growth forests on equal footing with timber harvest goals.

The senator said the compromise he helped write last year as a temporary solution to the timber supply crisis "raised a false hope that we could sustain high timber sale levels and protect old growth."

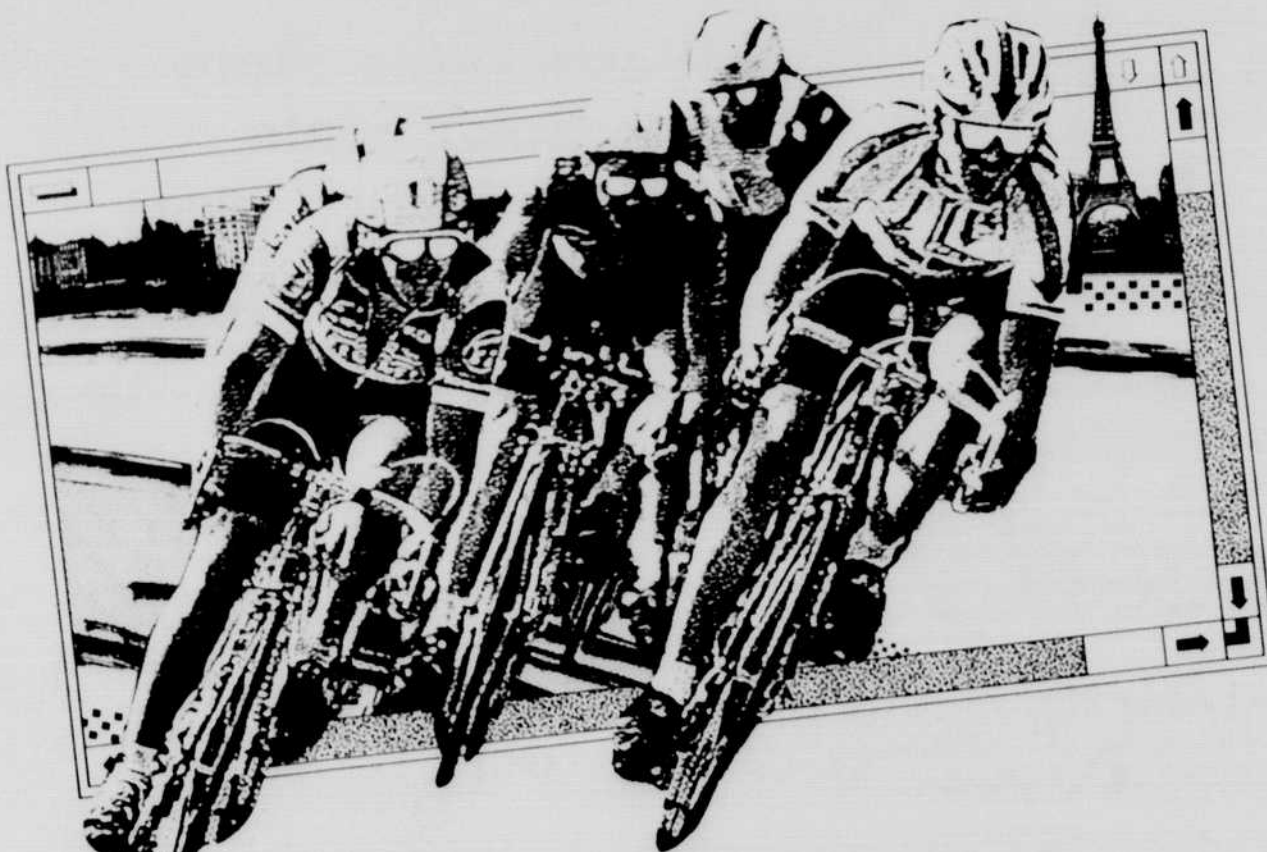
"We now understand that is not possible," he said. "We now realize that the level is too high and has been too high."

"We asked the agency (Forest Service) to tell us what we could harvest while retaining the ecological values. Since last summer we have learned that the harvest level is not consistent with the maintenance of those values," Adams said.

"The protection of significant old growth areas has not been put on equal footing with the timber target as the legislation is intended. The Forest Service has not emphasized this goal as it had committed."

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