

Legislation to encourage biofuel production led by Rep. Gordon Anderson

Legislation was passed last week to provide tax incentives for production facilities, research and development, and the growth of agricultural materials to be used in biofuel production.

The legislation came through action of the Oregon House of Representatives Environment Committee, under the leadership of Rep. Gordon Anderson (R-Grants Pass), committee chairman.

"This legislation recognizes the importance Oregonians place on environmental standards while promoting economic growth for

the state," he said.

"We have a great opportunity to continue the environmental practices that Oregonians have become so well known for while also providing a needed boost for agricultural market," said Anderson.

Two areas that have been hit hard by the economic downturn and environmental regulations are the agriculture and timber

industries. This bill is a step toward supplementing Oregon's energy supply with Oregon products while developing environmentally friendly practices, said Anderson.

Renewable energy sources, like biodiesel, will supplement the overall energy demand and reduce dependence on foreign markets, he indicated.

"Our goal is to keep

Oregon competitive," he said, "while also creating new jobs for Oregonians through the expanded market of products we grow right here in Oregon that can be used in biofuel development. I think this package of legislation does just that.

"This legislation aims to meet the environmental interests of urban Oregon with the resources the rural community can provide.

"This is a smart way to boost and diversify our economy. Biofuels keep money in the local economy and provide farmers with much-needed extra income. This is a situation where everyone wins," he said.

Biodiesel, known for its lower hazardous emissions and biodegradable makeup, is a step toward alternative energy that supports the needs of rural Oregon. Sev-

eral small co-ops have started in the Portland area. They offer biodiesel to their memberships in an attempt to mitigate the higher cost of producing biodiesel.

Current legislation, which will now be sent to the House floor for a vote, attempts to address this lack in current availability by creating incentives for further development, production and research, Anderson

USFS lists \$1 million in forest work

More than \$1 million in grants to fund forest biomass projects in Oregon, thanks to a provision championed by U.S. Sens. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) and Gordon Smith (R-Ore.) have been announced by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS).

Under Section 201 in the 2003 Healthy Forests Restoration Act, \$5 million annually until 2008 is authorized to improve research and processing of smaller-diameter wood from forests, to create commercial value from this woody debris for Oregon's forest-related businesses and communities.

The grants are the first awarded under the Healthy Forests law.

"These biomass projects will boost economic fortunes, fire safety and environmental protection across Oregon's forests and forest communities," said Wyden. "Creating commercial value for smaller-diameter wood and woody debris helps Oregon businesses, aids in the completion of hazardous fuels reduction projects and focuses more attention on the environmental health of our state's precious natural resources."

"Oregon's mills and timber towns should have an active role in protecting forests from wildfire," said Smith. "Nobody knows better than Oregonians the value of defending our natural treasures, and to realize economic opportunity while doing so is the best case scenario."

Projects funded by the grants will help Oregon businesses and other entities create more commercially valuable products from small-diameter wood and woody debris harvested from forests.

This will occur, the senators said, by expanding their ability to use all parts of wood and woody debris, by upgrading technology and equipment to process more such biomass, and by ensuring a steady supply of small wood and debris to businesses that wish to process it.

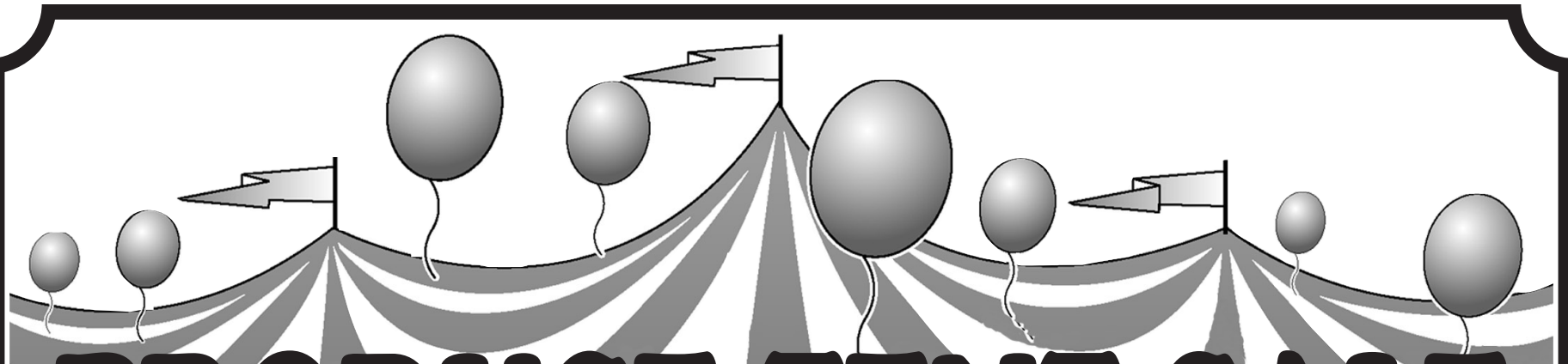
The first funding is for projects in Wallowa County, Warm Springs, Deschutes County, and Boardman.

Free fish Sat.

Free fishing at Lake Selmac for residents and visitors is offered from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, June 11.

No license is required, said Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife. The free program is in its 17th year.

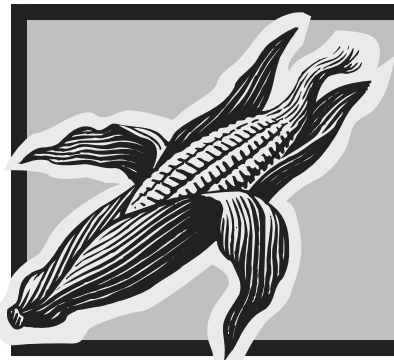
The intent is to encourage more people to utilize the state's attractions.



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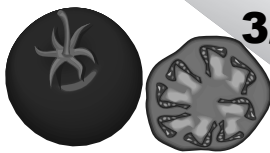


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