

Alternate Property Tax Relief Plan Submitted

A bipartisan effort to solve the problem of burdensome property taxes in Oregon was launched in the House of Representatives in Salem Wednesday. House Minority Leader Jason Boe, D-Reedsport, stated that an alternative plan to the 3% sales tax has been worked out to provide property tax relief to every home and farmstead in the state. "The proposal would grant the equivalent of a \$5,000 reduction from the true cash value of all homes and farmsteads. Figures from the Oregon Tax Commission indicate that this bill will provide an additional \$50 million a year to the state for the purposes of property tax relief," Representative Boe explained.

As a result of this alternative plan an owner of a \$10,000 home would receive 50% property tax relief and the owner of a \$20,000 home, 25%. It would also keep a substantial amount of tax money here in Oregon that presently is going to Washington D. C. in federal income taxes. The funds necessary to accomplish this program would be raised by simplifying the Oregon Income Tax form and eliminating the federal deduction on Oregon income tax forms.

The person living in Portland, for instance, and earning \$5,000 a year would pay \$32 as a result of the loss of his

federal deduction and gain \$150 in property tax relief—a savings for him of \$118 a year in total taxes. "This represents true property tax relief," the Minority Leader emphasized. "In addition, provisions have been made as a separate part of this package for 50% property tax relief to the elderly retired persons in Oregon. This portion of the package is not dependent on approval of any tax program and can be funded from present state revenues."

Rep. Richard Eymann, D-Springfield, Rep. Morris Crothers, R-Salem, Rep. Richard Groener, D-Milwaukie, Rep. Robert Dugdale, R-Portland, Rep. Keith Skelton, D-Portland, Rep. Jack Ripper, D-Coos Bay, Sen. George Elvers, R-Clackamas C., and Sen. Al Flegel, D-Roseburg all joined with Rep. Boe to sponsor the alternative proposal. Both the Democratic and Republican sponsors hoped that the leadership of the House would immediately commence hearings on this and other alternatives to the 3% sales tax. Speaking for the group, Rep. Boe said that they felt "the public will demand that this legislature stand ready to pass a soundly financed property tax relief program in the event that the sales tax issue is defeated on June 3."

Gold Beach District Describes Season Reforestation Activities

The Gold Beach Ranger District plans to reforest about 2,300 acres of clear-cut units this season, Ranger Ted Burgess announced. About 2,100 acres of contract tree planting are planned and about 200 acres of natural seeding, he said.

Contractor Harland Selmer, Salem, Oregon, was low bidder at \$23.90 per acre to plant 934 acres this fall. Ray Vega, the contractor's representative, used a 12-man planting crew and was able to plant 360 acres before unusually early snows forced suspension of work in December. The crew planted 3-year-old Douglas-fir seedlings on 8x8 foot spacing. This crew was commonly able to plant 2 acres per man per day and still show excellent planting quality.

Mahlon Hale, Contract Administrator and Reforestation Forester, reports that A & C Reforestation of Salem, Oregon, is the contractor currently planting on the Gold Beach Ranger District. The contract or bid \$22.85 to plant 1142 acres. This contract calls for using either 2-year or 3-year old Douglas-fir seedlings to be planted on 8x8 foot spacing. About 800 acres of this contract require planting in slash and brush. The contractor is still expected to plant between 400 to 500 trees per acre in these areas. At the present time the Forest Service road crew is removing slides, trees and snow from primary access roads to allow the planters to reach primary planting sites. "Mert" Langley, foreman of a 12-man crew, is currently supervising planting on the Lower Shasta Costa Sale units, and Stephen Petrie, foreman of a second 12-man crew is supervising planting on the Lower Raspberry sale units. Both crews are planting about 30 acres per day, and the planting quality is very good, Hale reports.

Ranger Burgess announces that a third contract has recently been advertised for planting 398 acres of these units that were not completed this fall because of early snow. The apparent low bidder is Harland Selmer. Planting on this contract will begin once snow begins to melt from most of the high elevation planting areas on the Foster Creek and Greenknob timber sale areas. About 100,000 Douglas-fir seedlings scheduled for both these planting areas are held-in at the Agness Guard Station and Gold Beach Ranger Station.

Mr. Hale states that natural seeding is being attempted on about 200 acres of inaccessible or non-plantable cutting units on the older Frieda Blow-down, Panther Mountain, and other sales. A high rodent pop-

ulation was found in these areas. This necessitated temporary rodent suppression work to prevent rodents like the White Footed Deer mouse from eating most of the natural seeds. Wind-blown Douglas-fir seed coming from the adjacent timber stands in expected to aid reforestation on these non-stock-ed areas. Stocking surveys taken next fall should indicate how successful the program was.

Ranger Burgess says fall cone harvesting was not as successful as hoped for. Only about 440 bushels of Douglas-fir seed cones were collected by the contractor. One of the causes for poor collection is a serious lack of cone pickers. Ranger Burgess says the district is also handicapped by having only a few primary cone picking areas and that all harvesting must be done by hand picking, rather than finding squirrel caches as is commonly done in the Cascade mountains.

The district has barely the minimum amount of tree seed to sustain its planting program, Ranger Burgess explained. For this reason direct seeding has not been used extensively by the district as might be desired. It is hoped, he said, to develop more seed production areas, such as the current one on Sugarloaf. Seed production areas are natural stands of potential cone collecting trees in the essential elevation bands. Once located, these areas would be thinned and fertilized to stimulate the production of seed cones. During good seed years, the district can harvest a large quantity of cones from needed elevation bands, thereby increasing the quantity of pickable cones and available seed. Areas currently under consideration are in the Little Silver Creek, below Skookum-house Prairie. Layout in this area is hoped to begin next, he said.

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SPOT ADS ARE READ

Chetco Fish Hatchery Off

BROOKINGS — Plans for a fish hatchery on the Chetco River have been scratched, but research will continue on a suitable hatchery site in Curry County.

The Winchuck River, south of Brookings is under consideration, according to Curry County Commissioner Gene Colegrove.

"Temperature flows on the Chetco are too warm," he said. Figures indicate the temperature goes to 81 degrees at times in the summer and it should run between 55 and 65 degrees, Colegrove said.

Other possibilities include damming up one of the creeks that run into the Chetco and cooling the water. "We hope the Winchuck River will have cool water comparable to Elk River," he added.

Colegrove revealed that a researcher from the Oregon State Fish Commission will be in the area next summer taking water tests.

Sorority Works On Convention



SORORITY girls search for driftwood items.

The E. S. A. Convention will be held at the Pony Village Lodge April 18, 19 and 20, with the local Chapter Alpha Psi and Beta Delta of Coos Bay hosting the State Convention. Theme of the convention is "Sea Fare" and all decorations will be based on things from the sea. Local members have been collecting drift-

wood, shells, agates and sand dollars to use in the making of favors and table decorations. Every girl attending will receive a driftwood favor and a sand dollar along with a tote bag.

There will be 400 in attendance and members want them to know about Port Orford.

Spray For Disease On Cane Fruits

If you want a good crop of raspberries or blackberries this season you will need to spray before the buds start to burst, advises Walt Schroeder, Curry county extension agent.

A dormant spray of lime-sulfur should be applied to all raspberry and trailing berry plantings. The dormant spray is a very important one since it aids in the control of pests and diseases such as rust, anthracnose, powdery mildew, cane blight, spur blight and leaf can spot. Lime-sulfur is obtainable through most garden and farm supply stores. Directions should be followed closely. If directions are not available, it should be used at the rate of one part lime-sulfur concentrate to ten parts water. This may be applied safely to raspberries until the leaves have obtained one-half inch of growth, and to the trailing berries until these are approximately three-quarters of an inch long.

A delayed dormant spray is also necessary for several small fruit diseases. Lime-sulfur at lesser concentrations will generally do the job here. Again be sure to follow directions,

cautioned the agent. An Extension Circular with a spray schedule for diseases and insects of cane fruits is available free at the County Extension Office.

securely. All you do is remove the backing and put them on in any arrangement. Buy them at variety or department stores. A rubber suction-type mat on the bottom of the tub or shower stall also helps prevent falls. Press it down firmly when the surface is wet in order to keep it safely in place.

BATHTUB: DANGEROUS The bathtub may be more dangerous than an automobile—if it's slippery. Colorful adhesive-backed appliques can be attached to the bottom for safer footing. These decorative designs grip the surface of the tub

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