

PGE

ENERGY
UPDATE

Passive Solar Folder Offered

Hot off the press is PGE's new passive solar folder which is full of information on how to catch the sun and make it work for you in your home. Passive solar systems in buildings and residences go beyond conventional energy-conserving features such as insulating, double glazing and weatherstripping. These sunshine systems use the building, the site and landscape design to collect, store and transfer solar heat to produce energy savings well beyond those found in conventional energy conserving homes. The folders are available at all PGE offices free of charge.

Trojan Providing 50%
Of PGE Customer Needs
During Low-Water Period

The Trojan nuclear generating plant has been operating very well and during July had a total net output of more than 668 million kilowatt hours while operating at a capacity factor of 83.2 percent. In August the plant has continued to operate at near or full power, supplying up to 50 percent of the needs of the company's 470,000 customers during the low water period.

Pressure Cookers Are Back

You are realizing substantial energy and time savings over conventional saucepan cooking when the little round gauge on top of the pressure cooker does its little dance and starts hissing small streams of steam. Pressure cookers have been around a long time, but now they're making a come-back as time and energy savers. Not only do they cut cooking time as much as one-third to one-half, but they tenderize the less expensive cuts of meat—all this with 26% to 42% less energy.

U.S. Senate Passes
Northwest Power Bill

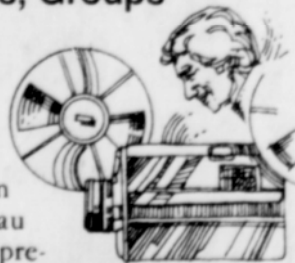
A power bill that places emphasis on conservation, provides rate relief for residential and small farm customers of investor-owned electric utilities, such as PGE, and creates a governors' council to guide the future of energy in the Northwest was passed by the U.S. Senate in early August. It's an important first step toward lower power costs for residential and rural customers. The bill will go to the House in the next few weeks for consideration. Of the bill, Senator Mark Hatfield told the Senate: "Without any doubt, I predict (the legislation) will be viewed in the future as the most important bill ever to have affected the Pacific Northwest." PGE agrees. Write your U.S. Congressman and urge his support.

What You Don't Know
Can Hurt You

With more and more utility lines being placed underground — especially in new residential developments — it's a good and safe idea to know what you're getting into before you start digging drainage ditches or fence holes, for example. Electric cables could be buried without warning signs and digging into them could mean unnecessary and expensive service interruptions or worse — it could hurt you. We surely don't want that to happen. If you have underground service in your area, call your nearest PGE office before digging — it's better to be safe than sorry.

PGE's Speakers Available
to Clubs, Groups

Looking for a program for your service or social club? PGE has a number of knowledgeable speakers in its Speakers' Bureau who are available to present a wide assortment of subjects, ranging from energy conservation to zucchini freezing, for luncheon, dinner or evening meetings. To arrange for a speaker, a film or slide presentation, program chairpersons are invited to call 226-8501 or write PGE Speakers' Bureau, 121 S.W. Salmon St., Portland, OR 97204 for a folder describing the programs that are available.



Thought for the Day

"Life is a progression from the helplessness of infancy to the independence of youth to the interdependence of adulthood." Frank Tyger

PGE

Portland General Electric

Bull Run fires can cause problems

The U. S. Forest Service has learned to expect the unexpected in controlling fires in the Bull Run Reserve.

During a controlled burn last year, for instance, crew members one night clocked the southwest wind at a steady 5 mph.

Two hours later they were leaning into 60 mph gusts from the east.

Two hundred people were on the scene and kept the burn in control.

"But we ate a lot of smoke for a couple of hours," said Jack Neumin, a forest fuels specialist for the Mt. Hood National Forest.

The Bull Run watershed is the sole domestic water source for the city of Portland, as well as surrounding cities such as Gresham which contract with Portland for water.

The reserve is soaked with an average of 90 inches of precipitation a year in its lower elevations, and receives up to 170 inches a year in the higher areas. In contrast, Portland receives an average of 38 inches of precipitation a year.

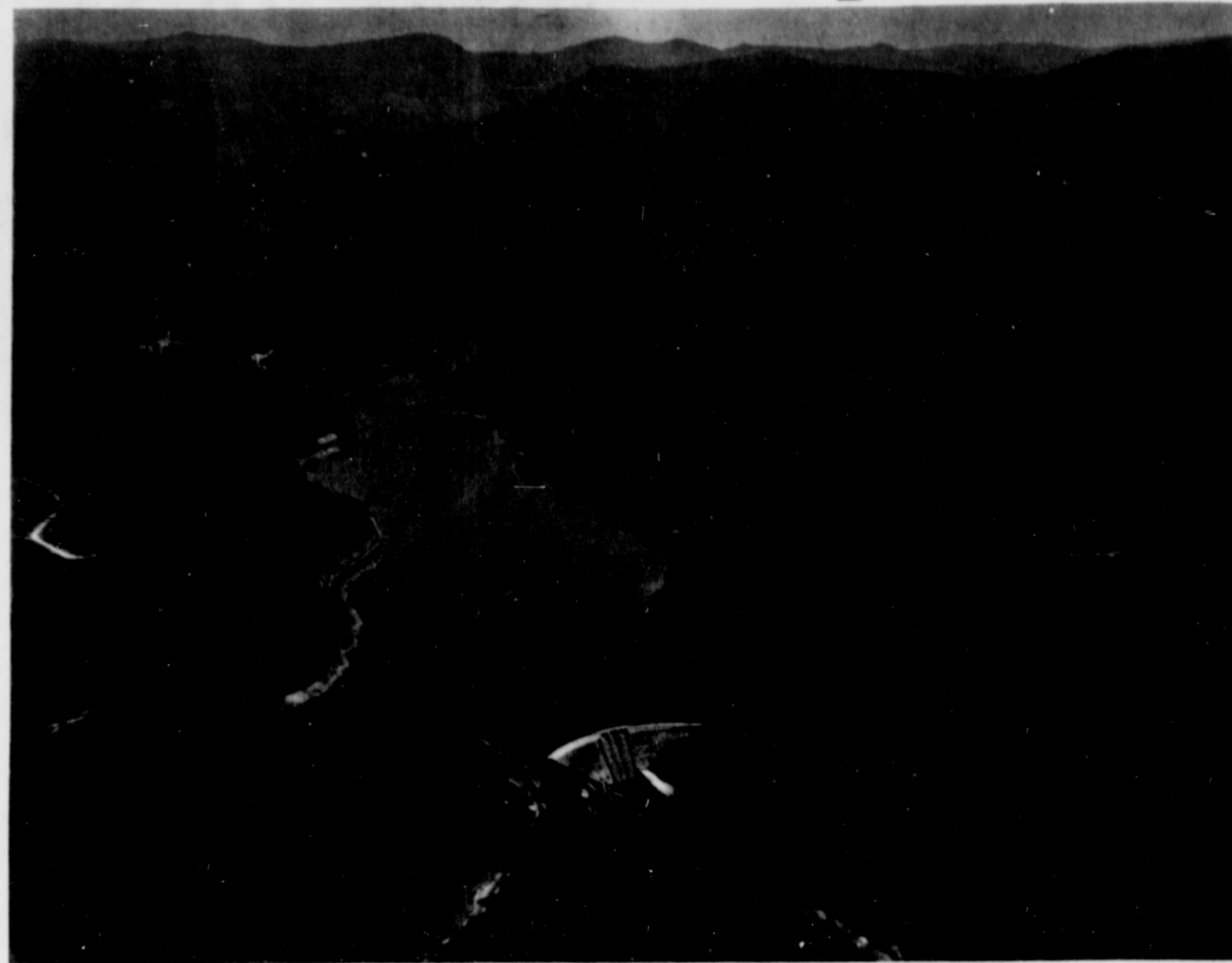
This abundance of water is what led President Benjamin Harrison to set aside the area as a reserve in 1892. The 95,382-acre watershed is managed cooperatively by the U. S. Forest Service and the city of Portland Water Bureau.

Those agencies have outlined a management plan which includes the protection of water through fire prevention.

"The driving force behind timber harvest is fire control," said Stan Kunzman of the aviation and fire management staff for the Mt. Hood National Forest office in Gresham.

In turn, the driving force behind fire prevention is protection of the watershed. By law, the Bull Run management objective is the "continued protection of pure, clean, raw potable water."

One of the challenges the forest service faces is



THE U.S. Forest Service has established a program of fire prevention, detection, attack and fuel management to protect the Bull Run watershed in the Mt. Hood National Forest. The watershed is the source of domestic water

supply for the city of Portland, which is under contract to supply water to Gresham.

keeping fire retardant away from the streams which provide Portland with its unfiltered water.

Fire fighting chemicals are dropped parallel to a stream — no closer than one-eighth of a mile — to keep the wind from blowing retardant into the water. In addition, a lead plane is used to "help target the site a little bit better," Kunzman said.

"An effective program of

forest fuels management is our most promising long range fire management tool," said a study quoted in the Bull Run Planning Unit Final Environmental Statement published in January.

Kunzman said old growth forest especially is susceptible to catastrophic fire because fuel loads due to dead materials alone exceed 200 tons per acre in some areas.

Mt. Hood National Forest loads to between 30-50 tons

per acre.

"If we have fire in decadent old growth, our chances of controlling it are very limited," Kunzman said.

Locked gates limit the reserve's human visitors to forest service and water bureau personnel, law enforcement officers and employees of logging firms working in the area.

Lookout stations virtually are a thing of the past, except for one at the southeast end of the reserve on Hickman

Butte. That post is manned during lightning storms and other extreme fire danger conditions.

Most fire detection now is done by observation plane. During the June 15 to Oct. 15 fire season, an observation plane which flies out of Hood River covers between 12,000 and 15,000 miles a year.

The forest service also has organized a dispatch system which provides quick assignment of firefighting personnel as fires occur

and maintains 40 helispots in the reserve for access by helicopter crews.

If reinforcements are needed, additional support is obtained through the forest service or through cooperative agreements with the city of Portland, state of Oregon and logging contractors.

"In the forest service, everyone has firefighting as a second job," added Pat Kelly, an assistant fire staff officer for the Mt. Hood National Forest.

Groener seeks new county tax base

An antiquated tax base greatly contributes to the budget problems facing Clackamas County today, Commissioner Ralph Groener said Sunday.

"I do think Clackamas is in worse shape than Washington and Multnomah counties," he said on KRDR radio's Eastside Report.

The county's tax base was passed more than 50 years ago — the same time the 6 percent limit on how much a tax base may grow was approved, according to Groener. Property owners pay \$1.27 per \$1,000 assessed valuation to the county, about 3 percent of their total tax bill, he said.

While most anti-tax

feelings are directed against the county because it assesses property and collects the payments, the county is a minor recipient of the dollars, the commissioner said. Most of the money goes to school districts and cities.

"It costs us as much to collect taxes as we clear," he said. "When you add the cost up, we have not netted a dime in terms of money coming into county funds."

The county will seek a new tax base at next year's May primary election, Groener said. "If we can pass that, I think county government will survive. If not...I can only predict we will have continued calls. Why isn't this being done?"

With county revenue remaining constant and with the rising cost of materials and personnel, the only thing the county can do is cut personnel, he said. Perhaps the most noticeable staff reductions have been in the sheriff's department where 22 positions have not been filled, Groener added.

"One of the things we have

to come to grips with is just what level of services we can provide with the amount of dollars we have available," Groener said.

"I certainly support deputies responding to burglaries, physical violence and those (calls) that are of a criminal nature, but you can't believe the calls that come into that department."

"And in a management sense, I think we're going to have to discontinue — and be very candid about it — providing that service (answering minor calls) unless the public says we want that very high level, very sophisticated level of service."

While passage of a special levy to fund the sheriff's department may have helped that office, the increased number of arrests

overloaded the court system and the district attorney's office, creating a huge backlog of cases.

He said what happens to one department has a drastic effect on other departments. A new tax base would give the county money

to hire deputy district attorneys and court clerk staff to handle the increased caseload, he explained.

If the proposed tax base fails, then Groener plans to pursue a criminal justice levy to get the necessary money.

The lack of a home-rule charter also contributes to the county's budget problems, he said. Clackamas County doesn't have the flexibility of the other metropolitan counties to take action, but must wait for the Legislature to meet.

He said for example, the county should have the right to hold a vote on a road repair bond — such as Washington County did — but can't without the Legislature's approval.

"The lack of home rule, and therefore the dependence every two years upon legislative mandates out of Salem, causes us some unique managerial problems," Groener said.

Funding helps
school program

The able and gifted program will continue this year in the Sandy Elementary School District. The program which started last year received \$8,800 in the form of a state grant and local funds.

The \$28,300 total will enable the district to hire one full-time and one part-time teacher to serve the students in all the district schools.

Ralph Branson will administer the grant. He is the district's new special education coordinator.

Lorna Roehm who wrote the previous grant and managed the able and gifted program last year, will teach the gifted students in the main, Firwood and upper-grade buildings. Linda Verdoorn will handle the duties at Kelso School when it opens in January. She is a new teacher.

Students will be selected for the program on the basis of a parent and teacher referral pertaining to time management, study skills and an efficient use of the thought process.

The funds will be used for the new staff and materials.

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