

Satellites aid scientists' quest for wind power

The search for wind power sites in the Pacific Northwest has taken researchers to a higher level. It has led them to use satellites and aircraft pictures to help identify areas with strong and steady enough winds to justify the placement of turbines that turn wind into electricity. Satellite images contain enough detail of earth features to provide an initial big-scale screening of areas, Oregon State University scientists say. Lower level plane and helicopter pictures give additional details from which wind turbine site selection decisions can start to be

made. After that, continuing ground measurements are used to pinpoint the best places for the turbines that could produce five to 10 percent of the nation's energy needs by the year 2000. Wind measurements must be made over an extended period before a particular place passes the test as a site for wind turbines that may cost millions of dollars. Satellite and aerial photos speed up the search. John Wade helps head a new \$70,000 OSU study for Battelle Pacific Northwest Laboratories on "Applications of Satellite and Remote Observation to Wind Energy

Prospecting." The wind power prospecting work was launched on a small scale 10 years ago in Oregon has become nationwide in its scope. In the new research this year, aerial searches and studies for wind power sites will be conducted in southern California and northern New York as well as selected spots in the Northwest. "By the end of 1981, Oregon and Washington will have more utility-sized wind machines, five, in test operation than any other country or part of the world," Wade said. "Three of the world's largest will be in eastern Washington where Columbia

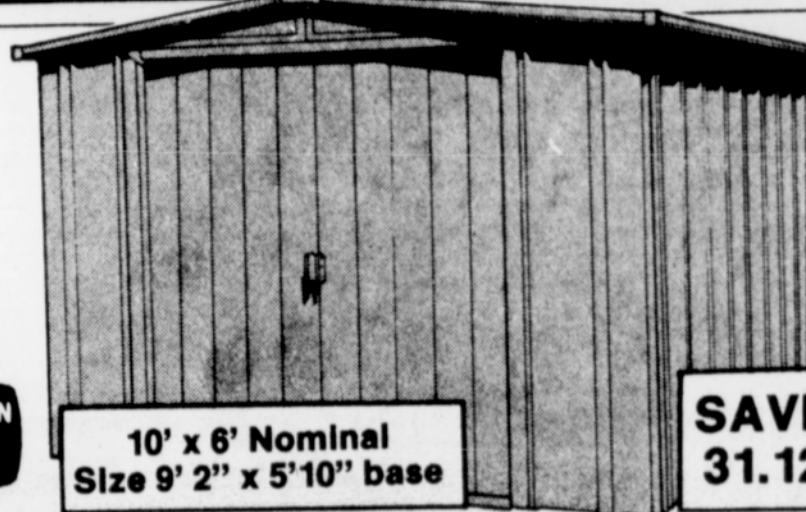
Gorge winds are exceptional. And two are on the coast, another prime wind power region in the Northwest." All five of the sites were identified by OSU wind prospecting researchers, who began work nearly 10 years ago. Wind-deformed vegetation helped the researchers spot some likely potential sites for the wind power machines. Calibration techniques were developed to let researchers locate windy places with a high degree of accuracy based on the bending of trees from the winds. Aerial photography can

quickly identify wind-deformed trees and other natural wind indicators such as sand dunes. "The Northwest has some of the best wind power sites in the world, without question," Wade said. But there are good sites in the New England area, the northern plains, parts of Wyoming, the Oklahoma Panhandle and in many coastal areas where winds sweep in from the ocean. Oregon areas with secondary promise for wind power developments include some sites in and along the Coast Range and the Steens Mountain area of southeastern Oregon.

Though the economics of wind power have yet to be established, researchers see great things ahead for wind power. It is not overly optimistic to see wind power producing five to 10 percent of U.S. needs by the turn of the century, however. "Wendell Hewson is the person who should get the bulk of the credit for Northwest wind power developments," Wade said. "He had the dreams and vision that opened the door for research that has helped establish the worth of wind power as a supplemental energy source for the Northwest."

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Center OK'd by state

A state agency that last month denied a request to build a 34-bed alcoholism treatment center in Gresham has reversed its decision. The State Health Planning and Development Agency Monday announced approval of the \$2.4 million center, saying the reversal was based on new information not available when it first reviewed the application.

That new information led to revised figures of both the number of beds needed and the number available in the region, said Bob Brevoort of the health planning agency.

The application by Raleigh Hills Hospitals had been denied because of "lack of need" and because of the center's proposed fees, which would have been "significantly higher than all but one area alcoholism inpatient treatment facility."

Those costs have not changed, said Brevoort. "It's a question of weighing need versus cost in this particular situation. The cost is high but the need also is high," he said.

The only other facility with higher costs is the Raleigh Hills treatment center in southwest Portland.

The need was originally estimated at 236 bed spaces by 1985, with an already available supply of 332 beds, he said.

It is now seen as 313 beds with only 263 beds available in the region, which includes five Oregon counties and five Washington counties.

Those numbers were revised, based on a just-published formula from the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, said Brevoort. The state agency also eliminated from the list beds it had counted from Riverside Psychiatric Hospital, he said.

MHCC offers plethora of new spring classes

More than 400 evening class sections are being offered for the spring term by Mt. Hood Community College.

The college's spring term class schedule lists 134 Monday, 119 Tuesday, 74 Wednesday and 59 Thursday classes available after 5 p.m. The "After 5" schedule of classes is available now from MHCC.

Spring term classes begin March 30 and registration is in progress in the admissions and records office on the Gresham campus. Part-time students, those registering for eight credit hours or less, may register in person or by telephone.

To register by phone, students simply call the college's dial-a-class number 667-7238 with the necessary class information. Telephone registration hours will run until March 20 from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays and from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Fridays.

Evening classes are offered in most subject areas including business, art, office skills, reading and writing development, literature, music, mathematics, physical fitness, science and welding.

A majority of the spring term classes are offered at the MHCC's Gresham campus at 26000 SE Stark St. The remainder of the classes are offered at the MHCC Maywood Park Education Center, 102nd Avenue and Northeast Prescott Street, and nine high schools in the college district — Centennial, David Douglas, Cascade Locks, Gresham, Sandy, Sam Barlow, Parkrose, Reynolds and Columbia.

Most of the evening classes meet once a week for 10 weeks followed by final exam week. Spring term 1981 runs from March 30 through June 5 followed by final exams from June 8 to 12.

Grant aimed at aiding youths with problems

A federal grant totaling \$54,184 has been awarded to the YMCA of Columbia-Willamette to fund a youth diversion project in East Multnomah and Clackamas counties.

Two counselors will be employed in Clackamas County and one at the East County Youth Center to staff the project.

"The goal of this project is to reduce youths' involvement with the juvenile justice system," said John Youngberg, director of the

Clackamas County YMCA. "Counselors will deal with status offenders such as runaways, minors in possession or youth beyond parental control."

The YMCA was one of three agencies to make a bid for the project with the Tri-County Youth Consortium, Youngberg said.

In addition to youth diversion, the three counselors will also be meeting educational and recreational needs of youths, Youngberg said.

Nominations sought for volunteer award

The Oregon Human Development Corporation is seeking the names of individuals and community organizations to be nominated for outstanding volunteer service.

The deadline for nominations is March 16.

The awards are to highlight accomplishments during 1980 by community groups and by individuals whose efforts markedly contributed to the betterment of life for low income people and improvement of inter-cultural relations.

Any member of the public can nominate a person or organization for either category of award.

Nomination forms and information are available by contacting Sylvia Estrada, Administrative Assistant, P.O. Box 23937, Tigard, OR, 97223, or at any OHDC office.

Estrada will accept telephone calls regarding nominations and suggestions for the awards at 620-9317. Awards will be presented at the OHDC Annual Recognition Dinner on April 10 at the Western Forestry Center.