

# NWF opposes 'watering down' clean air laws

In a letter calling for the renewal of the Clean Air Act without crippling amendments, the National Wildlife Federation has urged key members of Congress "not to be misled by the false argument that Americans are weary of laws and regulations that protect their health—the air they breathe and the water they drink."

Citing five recent public opinion polls, Dr. Jay D. Hair, executive vice president of the conservation group, reminded members of three Congressional committees that "a vast majority of Americans of all political persuasions are strongly opposed to any watering down of our basic environmental protection laws."

The most topheavy poll cited by the NWF executive was a Louis Harris survey indicating that 80 percent of the American people like to keep the Clean Air Act

just as it is or make it stricter, while only 17 percent favor a less strict law.

Harris testified before a House subcommittee on Oct. 15 that "not a single major segment of the public wants the environmental laws made less strict."

Hair also cited a New York Times/CBS News poll published Oct. 4, in which 67 percent of the respondents wanted to "maintain present environmental laws even at a cost in economic growth."

A Minneapolis Tribune poll published Oct. 18 reports 62 percent of those surveyed thought "protecting the environment is more important than economic growth—even if it slows the economy and costs some jobs."

In a recent survey of voter opinions in eight mountain states, conducted by a Phoenix research firm and reported in the Chris-

tian Science Monitor of Nov. 12, "fewer than a third of the Westerners interviewed felt it was necessary to sacrifice environmental safeguards to have sufficient economic growth," Hair said, adding, "and this group included many Westerners who rated themselves as political conservatives."

NWF was not surprised at these "topheavy, pro-environmental" figures, Hair said, because in a Federation survey earlier this year, at the height of the national debate over "over-regulation," only

11.5 percent of NWF's members thought the country had "too much" environmental regulation.

Eighty-seven percent thought the country had either "just about the right amount" or "too little" environmental regulation.

NWF has 4.5 million members and supporters throughout the U.S. and a total of 38,927 participated in the poll.

"The evidence is overwhelming," Hair said, that Americans want to maintain environmental

safeguards. "We hope that members of Congress will remember this when they are asked, in the guise of 'fine tuning,' to make the Clean Air Act less effective than it now is."

Hair addressed his appeal to 98 members of the

three Congressional committees handling clean air legislation, which includes the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, the House Committee on Science and Technology, and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works.



## January

1	2
3	4
5	6
7	8
9	10
11	12
13	14
15	16
17	18
19	20
21	22
23	24
25	26
27	28
29	30
31	

- Order seed catalogs and begin to plan this year's vegetable garden.
- Have soil test performed on garden plot. See your county Extension office for instructions.
- Western Oregon: where soil is well-drained and workable, plant peas. Suggested varieties: Aspen, Aurora, Corvallis, Dark Green Perfection, Green Arrow, Laxton Progress, Little Marvel, Oregon Sugar Pod.
- Western Oregon: plant sweet peas.
- Too early to start seeds for vegetable transplants.
- Gather and store scion wood for grafting fruit and nut trees. Wrap in damp media and place in plastic bag. Store in cool place.
- Spray cherry trees for bacterial canker; use a copper fungicide with a spreader-sticker.

- Mid-January: second spray of peach trees with lime sulfur or approved fungicides to combat peach leaf curl.
- Western Oregon: consider planting dwarf fruit trees.
- Take hardwood cuttings of deciduous ornamental shrubs and trees.
- Dormant sprays of lime sulfur or copper fungicide on roses for general disease control.
- If moss and lichen on trees and shrubs are objectionable, they can be controlled with copper spray.
- Water landscape plants underneath wide eaves and in other spots protected from rain.
- Watch for damage on lower trunks of trees and shrubs by field mice. Control measures include approved baits.
- Moss appearing in lawn means too much shade, poor drainage, low fertility, soil compaction, or thin stand of grass.
- Western Oregon: gather branches of quince, forsythia, flowering cherries and bring inside to force early bloom.
- Monitor houseplants for correct watering, feeding; guard against insect infestations, clean dust from leaves.

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