

# Tillamook Burn Reforestation Plan Awaits Arrival of Spring

By Winston H. Taylor  
Staff Writer, The Statesman

When this spring's sun melts the snow from the northwest corner of Oregon, the final experimental phase prior to reforestation of the great Tillamook burn will get underway. In the snow now is poison bait to kill the area's mice, who otherwise would eat the seed to be broadcast from a helicopter.

If this 1,500-acre test gives the same results as past experiments in seeding, said Nelson S. Rogers, state forester, the state forestry department will be ready to spend the bond money which Oregon voters approved at the November, 1948, election. That constitutional amendment allows floating of bonds not to exceed three-fourths of one per cent of the state's assessed valuation, a limit of approximately \$10,000,000.

**Asking for Legislation**  
The department is asking for legislation to put into action the people's mandate, with a desire to bond up to \$500,000 during the coming biennium. This would be spent principally for equipment, seed, nursery stock and labor, according to John Woods, assistant state forester.

The work will begin after the fall rains start. The job of paying off the debt will begin as funds come in from the sale, exchange of use of state forest lands and from disposal of their products.

**Extent of Burn**  
In the Tillamook burn 220,000 acres are to be reforested, of which about two-thirds will be by seeding and about one-third by planting of nursery-started trees. The huge burn, at its extremes, is 33 miles across from north to south and 29 miles from east to west. It includes portions of Tillamook, Clatsop, Washington and Yamhill counties.

The department's plan is a 10 or 12-year program of renewing one of the state's richest resources on some of its best timber-growing land. Figuring most heavily in the plan is the Tillamook burn, which includes some 360,000 acres burned in huge fires in 1933, 1939 and 1945.

So far the state has replanted about 3,200 acres of the burn in experimenting on types of trees and methods. More than 10,000 other acres have received the benefit of private companies' reforestation programs. First air-seeding included fir, Sitka spruce, hemlock and Port Orford cedar. The fir did well, the cedar fair and the others showed hardly any results.

**3 Methods Used**  
Three principal methods are employed—hand-planting of small trees raised in nurseries, hand-

seeding with a tool developed by the department and broadcasting seeds from aircraft. At first crop-duster airplanes were used, but were limited by lack of nearby landing strips.

Seeding by 'copter' is how the however, need only small landing fields and can hover close to the ground.

Seeding by 'copter' is now the department "beats the brush" which comes up each year. While an acre a day is good progress for planting by a man working on the ground, a helicopter has sowed 1,350 acres in 2½ hours of flying time. Hand-seeding would take about one-half as much time as hand-planting.

**Helicopter Also Cheaper**  
The helicopter is also cheaper, with a total cost of about \$7 per acre compared to \$15-\$20 for planting, Rogers says. However, not all spots can be seeded in this manner, because some ground is covered by litter too deep for the seed to penetrate to the required soil and because some is too exposed to direct sun.

Even the rodent control is by air, with bait dropped to kill an estimated 8 to 12 mice per acre.

Four steps comprise the overall program for reforestation—acquisition of property, cutting and sale of salvageable timber, construction of firebreaks and restocking.

The department has already bought about 53,000 acres at an average of \$2 per acre. Bonds issued for this purpose have all been retired. Some of the lands were sold by private firms and others were donated by the counties involved.

Private farms, of which more than 50 are located in or adjacent to the burn, are conducting the salvage operations, both in their own and in state holdings from which they buy timber rights. In addition to their cost of buying stumpage, or cutting rights, they pay a fee which covers the state's cost of replanting. So far this runs about five cents per 1,000 board feet, of which 40 per cent goes to the department and the rest to the forest products research laboratory.

# 'Copter, Hand Method Used to Reseed Forests



Helicopters have it "all over" other means of planting in restoring the forest to burned-off areas of Oregon, both in time and in cost. The helicopter above has dropped down to a low level over the Tillamook burn to broadcast tree seeds. But in some areas, the exposure to direct sun is too much for "baby" trees or the ground litter is too thick for seeds to reach the soil. To overcome that problem, Oregon direct seeding hand tool shown below was developed by John Woods, assistant state forester in charge of conservation. It penetrates the litter, loosens the soil and drops in a seed held in the handle. It is shown in operation by Brice Hammack of St. Helens Pulp and Paper Co., formerly with the state forestry department.



Silverton—Mr. and Mrs. Charles Seibals were called to Los Angeles this week by the death of his mother. They own a ranch in the Bridge Creek area above Silverton and came here a few years ago from southern California.

## Valley News Briefs

**Silverton**—Marion Circle No. 314 Neighbors of Woodcraft, Mrs. Mabel Talbot guardian neighbor, meets Monday at 8 p. m. at the Legion hall.

**Monmouth**—Mrs. Julia Altonis recovering from a fall on an icy sidewalk, Friday while en route to an all day meeting of the Dorcas society at the Christian church.

**Roberts**—Jack Everly took his son, John, to Wickenburg, Ariz., where he attends school. John spent the holidays here with his family. Everly was accompanied on the trip by his brother-in-law, Jim Smith of Portland, and they returned Monday. The trip was made by airplane.

**Silverton**—E. P. Hitt, real estate agency, is now located in new quarters in the Lammers building. Space occupied by the Hitt agency was created along with another similar one of Gaub Radio in an expansion of Mac's place. Both firms were formerly in the Adams building next door.

**Monmouth**—Polk county Odd Fellows Visiting association meets with Valley Lodge of Independence Friday night, January 21.

**Hubbard**—"Growing Old Carefully" will be the extension project topic Wednesday, January 19, at Mrs. A. L. Murphys Mrs. Kenneth Miller will lead the discussion.

**Silverton**—Mr. and Mrs. Norris Ames will leave early this week

for Palm Springs, Calif., for several weeks. Plans to leave a week ago were postponed because of weather conditions both here and there. They hope winter is now over in southern California.

**Monmouth**—W. B. Egelston is recovering from surgery undergone last week at a Salem hospital.

**Hubbard**—Pythian Sisters will meet Tuesday, January 18, at the KP hall.

**Brooks**—Annual budget meeting for the Brooks school district will be held in the school house Monday night, Jan. 17, at 8 o'clock.

**Ballston**—Mr. and Mrs. Homer Kirkwood have moved to a place near Ballston in Polk county where they have purchased property. They recently sold their place near Willamina.

**Union Hill**—Rollin Heater and Marvin LaRud have returned from a business trip to Prineville.

**Turner**—Mrs. Bradley Burkland, 375 Fawk st., Salem, will entertain the Turner home extension unit Wednesday, January 19. Mary Thomas of Elfstrom's interior decorating department, will discuss new fabrics and interior decorating problems.

**Silverton Hills**—Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Maulding who have been visiting their daughter in San Diego are expected back within the next week.

## Lansing Neighbors Extension Meeting Held

EAST SALEM—Eighteen women attended the Lansing Neighbors Home Extension unit meeting at Mrs. I. G. Lerman's, Sunnyside avenue, Thursday, Eleanor Trindle conducted the lesson in sewing with six blouses nearly finished in the day.

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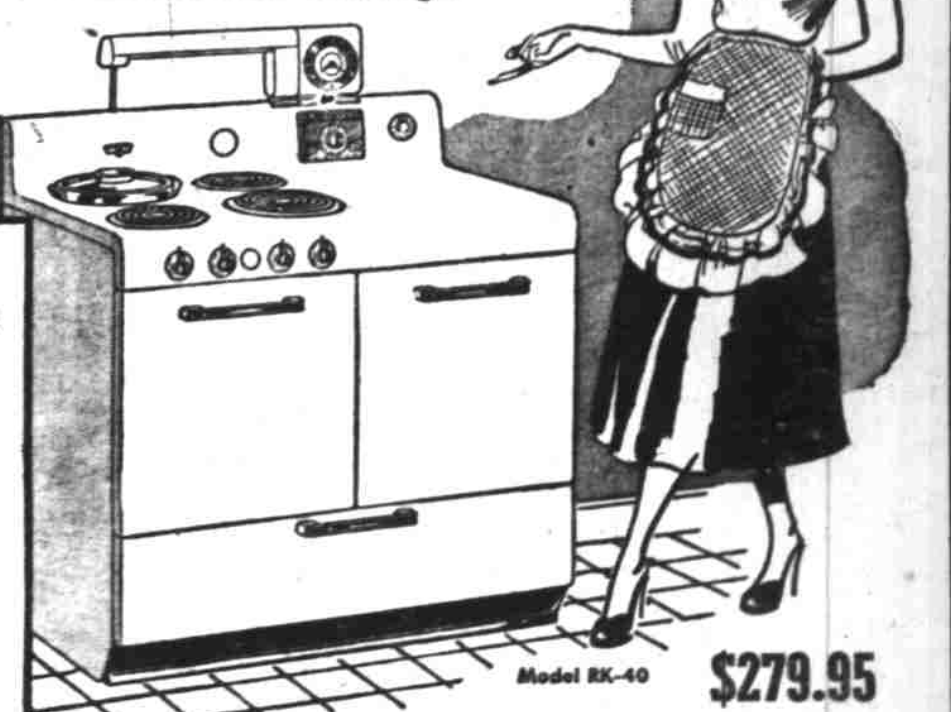
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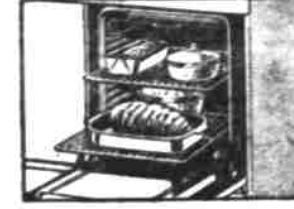


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