

Forest Code Modernized By 26 Laws

A record high number of 26 forest laws were enacted by the 1953 Oregon Legislature as it modernized the state forest code and sought a favorable future for good forestry and perpetuation of Oregon's billion dollar lumbering industry. Majority of the laws will become operative on July 21, except those carrying emergency clauses which makes them effective immediately.

More than 35,000 loggers and others who work in the woods will be affected by the new laws.

Many of the new statutes appeared as amendments to current laws and provided for improved forest practices in logging operations, fire protection, reforestation, research, and forest administration.

Only One Failed

Only one minor administrative bill—tithing fee on fire patrol assessment—failed to obtain legislative approval. A record minimum of only two negative votes was recorded in the passage of the 23 laws requested by industry and the Forestry Department. Both negative votes were cast in the House. One other bill which provided for the eradication of tansy ragwort received seven negative votes in the Senate.

A number of the laws concerned had appeared on the statute books for 30 years without a major revision until overhauled by forestry and natural resource committees under the leadership of Sen. Philip S. Hitchcock of Klamath Falls and Rep. Loran Stewart of Cottage Grove.

State Forester George Spaur said the new laws made up the most comprehensive forest program enacted since the first compulsory fire patrol law was passed in 1913, and praised the members of the Legislature and the forest industry for outstanding work in modernizing the forestry code.

Strengthens Long-Range Forestry

The recent Legislature strengthened long range forestry in Oregon, said Spaur, by:

1. Improving the fire prevention code in logging operations—advancing the closed season on burning from May 15 to April, since the governor has usually had to proclaim an early start due to hazardous weather; giving the state forester authority to refuse permits during hazard periods; requiring fire-fighting equipment for mills or other plants within one-eighth mile of forest land, as well as for loggers.

2. Placing cost of protecting timberlands from fire upon a current basis—instead of collections being on the basis of past patrol costs.

3. Broadening the logging permit to include Eastern Oregon operators—closures, however, would apply only to the West side and to all of Hood River County; humidity regulations would apply only to Western Oregon.

4. Increasing the bond to insure regrowth from \$8 to \$16 per acre—allowing the Forestry Department to spend this amount to reforest lands cut in violation of restocking standards, with the costs to be recovered from the owner.

5. Continuing forest research at both the Forest Products Laboratory in Corvallis and the State Forester's Office—financed by the severance tax authorized in 1947 and setting up a five-man conservation committee and a director.

Fire Hazard Protection

6. Authorizing the governor to close the hunting season if fire danger exists—eliminating a conflict in administrative authority which has existed in recent years with dry autumns.

7. Modernizing old protection laws to permit stepped-up action on fires—holding that fire burning across an ownership boundary line on forest land is prima facie evidence of uncontrolled fire, with costs of suppression collectible from owners.

8. Creating a forest fire fighting fund of \$750,000—coming from an additional four cents per thousand feet severance tax on timber harvested from Western Oregon lands protected by the state board or private forest patrol associations. This amounts to approximately one-half the total commercial forest land, both public and private, in the state. Of the 8.8 billion board feet harvested in Oregon last year, 5.5 billion was in the western area.

9. Authorizing the establishment of marketing areas for state timber sales—similar to the program on federal O&C grant lands, requiring that, when feasible, primary manufacture (rough sawing) of the timber must be done within the geographical area of the growth.

Fish Assist In Finding Car

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Wilbur Kellison, Sioux City, Iowa, forgot where he had parked his car when he had to leave Minneapolis hurriedly by other means two weeks ago.

But, he wrote police, there were 800 pounds of fish stored in it. Tuesday a parking lot complainant about a fishy odor coming from a car parked for two weeks. Police had the car towed away and sent word to Kellison to pick it up—quickly.

Cicadas do no harm in feeding on plant juices, but when the females gash twigs in laying eggs, the twigs often die.

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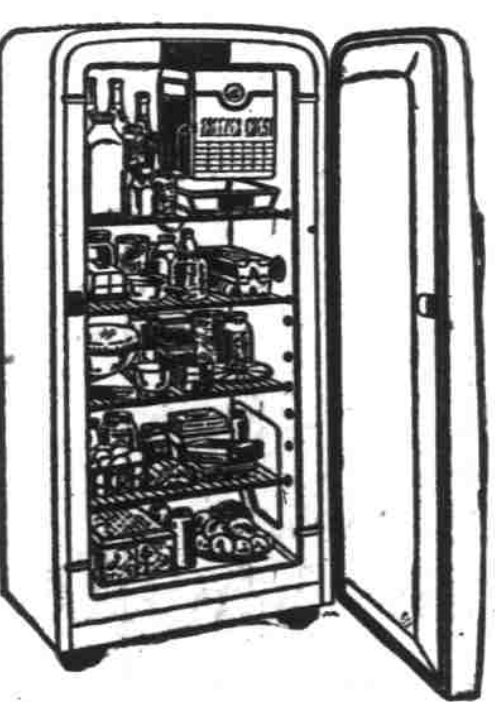
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