

Chemical control of budworm canceled

The local economy will not be affected measurably by a cancellation of the chemical control of the spruce budworm this summer on the nearly 300,000 acres of forest land within the Umatilla National Forest, reports Forest Supervisor John Lowe, Pendleton.

Lowe, advises that economic loss is calculated in loss of growth in the diseased trees over a 100 year rotation period. Growth loss on the 2.4 million acres of infested forest land throughout Eastern Oregon is estimated at 394 million board feet.

"The outbreak is not contained. It continues to expand, and it will probably spread this summer," Lowe warned.

The budworm outbreak, now in its fourth season, is expected to run its course in three to six years. It will be allowed to continue until it collapses or an environmental analysis determines that control action is warranted, he said.

Areas on the Umatilla National Forest affected by the budworm, a needle defoliator which kills tree tops and stunts growth, are located on the Dale, Heppner and Ukiah ranger districts. Infestations are located also on 2.1 million acres of land on the Ochoco, Malheur and Wallowa-Whitman national forests, and on state forest land and private lands protected by the Oregon Department of Forestry. Lands are located in Morrow, Baker, Crook, Grant, Harney, Union, Wheeler and Umatilla counties.

The high cost of spraying is the overriding reason for letting nature take its course, according to Lowe, who points out that anticipated return in timber revenue does not justify spraying costs.

"The Forest Service is now planning for conservative increases in stumpage rates in the next decade," Lowe said.

Earlier assessments of timber values were based on assumptions of expanding building starts and high demand for Pacific Northwest soft pine. On those assumptions, a 7.62 percent increase in timber prices was predicted by 1990; post timber-recession information forecast a rise of only 42 percent.

Increased cost of spraying (from \$9.18 per acre in 1983 to \$12 this season) also had a bearing on the decision not to spray. The use of the biological control agent *Bacillus thuringiensis* (B.t.) in stream-side zones is primarily responsible for the higher cost. Also adding to the spray expense are more rigid monitoring of spraying action and increased safety standards designed to prevent insecticide spills in fish-bearing streams, such as occurred last summer.

Willow Creek, the scene of a chemical spill which killed virtually all fish and aquatic Singspiration

slated

A March Singspiration will be held this Sunday, Mar. 11, at the Lexington Christian Church. It will begin at 7 p.m.

The monthly Singspirations are sponsored by the South Morrow County Ministerial Association at various churches.

insects for approximately 22 miles from the spill site to the town of Heppner, is now recovering, according to recent samplings. The stream will be restocked in late March or early April by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, which plans to move native fish from adjacent streams to Willow Creek, Lowe said. (See related story).

Control and safety features, protecting the environment but escalating spraying costs, include stipulations that pilot cars guide tank trucks; that heliports be located away from meadows or other wetlands; that boundary aircraft marking be intensified; that smaller, slower spray aircraft be used; that the number of observation aircraft be increased; and that coordination between state and federal agencies be increased. These controls will be built into future National Forest spray contracts, said Lowe.

While the outbreak runs its course, current management practices will continue. Budworm activity will be monitored annually to determine the extent and severity of defoliation. Direct action will await an analysis of the long-term effects on an area of the region, and that action will be done in concert with state and national forest planning, Lowe added.

Cardinal Club to meet

The Lone Cardinal Club will be holding an important meeting on Thursday, Mar. 15, at 8 p.m. in the school cafeteria, announced a club spokesperson. Lone school Principal Charles Starr will review the school district's proposed budget, and a film, "Epidemic - Kids, Alcohol, and Drugs," will be presented. Sergeant Verlin Denton of the Morrow County Sheriff's Department is to attend the meeting to discuss and answer questions about the film, the spokesperson said.

Two Trackers to meet

By KRISTI O'BRIEN

The Two Trackers 4-H Club met on March 3 and decided to start having riding practices and work on record books on Sundays. The meeting day was changed to Sundays because some members are not able to come on Saturdays.

Last Saturday members rode horses but not enough people were present to work on record books.

The next meeting will be held on Sunday, Mar. 11. Beginners will ride at 1 p.m., we will work on record books from 2 to 2:30 p.m., and the advanced members will ride at 3 p.m.



The Baltimore Oriole was named for Lord Baltimore, who governed the colony of Maryland, where the bird was first discovered. It is orange and black, the colors on Lord Baltimore's coat of arms.

Fish & Wildlife Annual Report

Since the last annual report, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has, in addition to normal activities, added two cooperative hunting areas in Northern Morrow County, re-introduced Merriam turkeys to Southern Morrow County and begun conducting state-wide elk workshops which seek public input for future elk management.

The new cooperative hunting areas, Boeing Regulated Hunting Area and Boardman Regulated Hunting Area, provided approximately 5,000 hunter days of re-

creation. Boeing Agri-Ind Corporation and S-K Farms Inc., agreed to allow public hunting on their lands, with the condition that ODFW manage hunter access. An added benefit to these programs was the apparent reduction in the number of trespass problems in the area. During the season very few landowner-hunter problems arose and it is hoped that both areas will be expanded for the 1984-85 upland bird and waterfowl seasons.

During January, 48 Merriam turkeys were trapped near Bil-

ings, Montana and transported to Oregon for release. Twenty-one birds were released in Central Oregon, near Metolius and 27 birds were released in Southern Morrow County, near the Ditch Creek Burn. Both release sites were in areas that have a remnant population of turkeys and it is hoped that by introducing new genetic variations to the population, production and the population will increase to provide better opportunities for seeing and hunting turkeys in the future.

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