

1,250 Trained Lookouts in Oregon's Woods Are Backed Up by 40,000 Industry Workers

Portland - Throughout Oregon a vast well-disciplined army is manning battle stations, its alert lookouts scanning the horizon for the common enemy.

For this is forest fire weather.

The first line of defense consists of some 1,250 trained members of private and state patrols, plus federal agency personnel, who stand guard at remote fire lookouts or remain poised in headquarters units to be flung instantly into fire lines.

They are backed up by reserves of more than 40,000 industry foresters and loggers whose bulldozers, tankers, trucks and other heavy equipment can quickly put real muscle into a thin line of fire fighters.

Stored Warehouses

Warehouses bulging with shovels, back pumps, hose and other equipment are situated strategically throughout Oregon to equip an even more greatly expanded army in case of real emergency.

Airwaves across the state

are crackling with a radio communications network tying the whole sprawling fire organization together into a versatile, mobile defense force that would draw an admiring whistle from a Pentagon general.

The protective wings of this formidable array spread over 11 million acres of forest industry tree farms and state and private timberlands, plus some 15 million acres of federal forest land.

Forest landowners are contributing \$1.3 million in annual assessments to help finance the private patrol associations and state fire districts that are the first bulwark against the outbreak of fire on private and state lands.

Protect Own Land

Forest industries and many other private timberland owners are also pouring an estimated \$3 million more annually into protecting their own forest acreage. This covers such items as salaries for company fire wardens, maintaining pumper trucks, keeping fire access roads open, falling snags, stocking tool caches, building water ponds and taking other protective measures.

The yearly cost of organized forest fire protection on private forest lands adds up to a minimum of 15 cents an acre in the Douglas fir region, although forest industries with

certified tree farms are spending an average of more than 50 cents an acre on their own lands.

Individual timber companies maintain elaborate fire plans, some of them bound volumes which detail emergency assignments for individual personnel, show locations and inventories of equipment caches on maps, and set out a complete "battle plan" blueprint. Company plans are usually integrated with those of neighboring forest landowners, and all are worked into a master plan by the local protective association or state district.

'Project' Size

If an uncontrolled fire assumes "project" size, a cadre of trained association, state or federal leaders is rushed to the fire scene, and the sprawling network of men, bulldoz-

ers and equipment is galvanized into instant action by radio.

Several special fire fighting schools were held for industry personnel around the state earlier this year.

Advanced fire fighting techniques in Oregon now include aerial borate drops and forest service smokejumpers.

But stopping the big fires in their tracks calls for heavy equipment and plenty of manpower. Timber company falling teams using their chain saws are invaluable in dropping snags in the path of a fire, since standing snags will flare as punky torches and throw sparks for great distances.

Industry bulldozers are the backbone of the key job of scooping out fire lanes. In addition to furnishing big pumper trucks, some companies have designed special water tanks that can be slipped quickly into dump trucks to convert them into a fleet of auxiliary tankers.

On federal lands, the bulk of heavy equipment used in fighting fire is provided by forest industries under terms of their timber harvest contracts.

"The men and equipment which can be put on the spot in a short space of time when fire breaks out usually spells the difference between a small fire and an uncontrolled fire, according to Jim Corlett, secretary-manager of the Oregon Forest Protective association, Portland.

Private Associations

Corlett's organization is comprised of the private forest protective associations that - together with state districts and federal forces - make up the front line of fire defense.

The industry-operated groups include the Douglas Forest Protective association, Roseburg; Western Lane Forest Protective association, Veneta; Eastern Lane Forest Protective association, Springfield; Clackamas - Marion Counties Fire Patrol association, Molalla; Coos Forest Protective association, Coos Bay; Klamath Forest Protective association, Klamath Falls; Lincoln County Fire Patrol association, Toledo; Linn County Fire Patrol association, Foster; Walker Range Patrol association, Gilchrist; and Northwest Oregon Forest Protective association, Forest Grove.

"A basic objective of the

Oregon Forest Protective association is to promote cooperation between private industry, the state forestry department and federal agencies in providing forest fire protection throughout Oregon," Corlett said. "Cooperation is the key to success in cutting fire losses."

Corlett also had praise for the work of the Keep Oregon Green association in enlisting the cooperation of the general public in helping to prevent forest fires.



EMERGENCY CACHES - Emergency tool caches, such as the one above maintained by Willamette Valley Lumber company near Foster, are being kept in constant readiness at strategic points throughout Oregon as the specter of forest fire stalks the state in current hot, dry weather. Backing up fire lookouts and first-line crews are some 40,000 industry foresters and loggers whose equipment can quickly control fires. (AFPI Photo)

Borate Bombing To Be Used by Klamath County

Klamath Falls - Borate bombing - the rabbit punch of fire fighters for stopping forest fires in their tracks - is about to be unleashed here by the Klamath Forest Protective association.

The move marks what is thought to be the forest industry's first use of the aerial fire-bombing technique in Oregon.

The industry association has stockpiled 10 tons of borate and is setting up mixing equipment, according to George Wardell, KFPA district warden. It will utilize a PBV, an ex-Navy amphibian aircraft, and two Steerman planes for making borate drops on fires. The PBV can jettison up to 1,000 gallons of borate mix in one drop, while the Steermans have a capacity of 125 gallons each.

Protects 877,000 Acres

KFPA protects more than 877,000 acres of private and public and Indian timberlands in the Klamath Falls area. Largest single private holdings under the association's protection are Tree Farm lands of Weyerhaeuser company and Crown Zellerbach corporation.

James Corlett, manager of Oregon Forest Protective association, Portland, said that while the final fire must still be delivered by ground crews and their equipment, aerial borate drops offer real promise when used under certain conditions and on certain fuel types.

"Forest industry groups have watched closely the experiments that have been conducted to date with borate in air-drop techniques, particularly in initial attack phases on a fire," he said. "We feel that borate has earned a distinct place among our fire-fighting tools."

Capitol Memo Oregonians Hope For Relief in Taxes

By DOUGLASS GRIPP United Press International Salem - 07P - Will there be tax relief in Oregon next year?

No one knows yet.

Many a taxpayer lifted his sweaty brow this spring when Gov. Mark Hatfield predicted that no raise in taxes will be necessary for the 1961-63 biennium.

A state surplus, partly because of a surge in Oregon's economy, is expected to be healthy and has added to the speculation.

Current state tax commission estimates of the surplus are \$27-\$28 million.

State Finance Director Freeman Holmer hopes another \$5 million will be realized from operational economies - mainly in public welfare, the tax commission, and the military department. Some \$509,000 in higher education funds is being held up because of anticipated enrollments which may or may not materialize in the fall.

State Rep. Clarence Barton (D-Coquille), chairman of the legislative interim committee on taxation, feels some tax relief is in the offing - especially in the field of personal income.

He would like to cut this tax and offset it with a tax on tobacco.

The committee is concentrating on ways to broaden the state's income tax base, to bring as many people under the law as possible while removing as many current inequities as possible.

Plans under study include:

1. A tax credit system: Removal of the \$600 deduction, replacing this with a straight dollar credit or discount applicable to all taxpayers and their dependents regardless of bracket.

Workers to Salvage Old Treasure Ship

Philadelphia (Science Service) - When workmen salvage a cargo of bronze implements and ox-hide-shaped copper ingots from a ship sunk 1,450 years before the birth of Christ, they will be taking part in what is reported to be the first scientifically organized exploration of an ancient wreck. The ship was evidently on its way from the mines of Cyprus. The ingots, some bearing stamped impressions, served as the currency of that time. The wreck was found along with 46 other ancient wrecks off the southwestern coast of Turkey. Taking part in the exploration is George Bass of the Mediterranean section of the University museum, here. Expert divers, photographers, and underwater draftsmen will also participate in the exploration.

2. Removal of all deductions, or a combination of this and the tax credit.
3. Repeal of the property tax on inventories, or possibly all personal property, replacing with a net income tax on business.

Removal of federal deductions would result in payment of more state tax and less federal tax, especially in higher income brackets. Many states do this, including California.

Richard Eymann of Mohawk, executive secretary of the committee, says there doesn't appear to be any sentiment on the committee for a sales tax. Barton is flatly opposed to it.

The 1959 law to remove the federal deduction and reduce income tax rates was designed to bring in \$12 million thought at the time to be needed to keep the state from going into the red before the end of the current biennium.

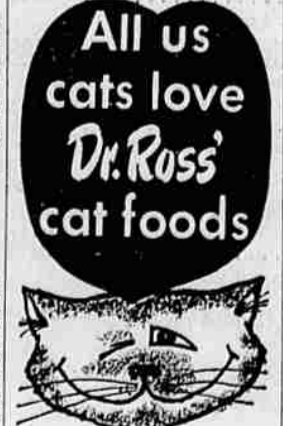
This was referred to the people by an Albany group and will be on the November ballot. Eymann says the law will "undoubtedly be repealed."

Barton says the committee is determined to find a formula for tax relief acceptable to the voters. Policy decisions on tax proposals before the group are expected Aug. 15-16 in Salem.

Hatfield so far is mum on possible relief. Holmer backs this up by saying a definite statement now would be premature.

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