

## Land Use Report

### I. Committee

The Klamath County Land Use Committee was first formed 20 years ago and has been active in urging the best use of our lands and natural resources ever since.

The 1958 membership is:

George Stevenson, Chairman — Farmer, Olene

E. M. Mitchell, Co-Chairman — Farmer, Merrill

John L. Stewart, Secretary — Klamath Irrigation District, Klamath Falls

Charles Mack, County Judge — Klamath Falls

Lloyd Hankins, Farmer — Bonanza

Henry Semon, Farmer — Henley

A. M. Collier, Businessman — Klamath Falls

Frank Jenkins, Publisher — Herald and News — Klamath Falls

Hugh Campbell, Lumberman — Klamath Falls

Dick Henzel, Farmer — Klamath Falls

Henry Gerber, Cattleman — Bly

Nelson Reed, Sportsman — Klamath Falls

E. A. Geary, Farmer — Klamath Falls

Ira Orem, Cattleman — Fort Klamath

C. A. Henderson, County Agent — Klamath Falls

Additional Advisory Membership is:

Vern E. Smith, U.S. Forest Service, Rogue River

Clayton H. Weaver, U.S. Forest Service, Fremont

Don Baldwin — Soil Conservation Service

Don Gray — Bureau of Reclamation

Tom Garrett — Fish and Wildlife Service

R. C. Burgess — Bureau of Land Management

Tom Watters — Indian Reservation Specialist

Sam Ritchey, The California Oregon Power Company

Harry Mitchell, Sprague River — Farmer

Chet Langsett — Klamath Sportsmen's Association

Arthur Schupp — Legal — Willis Building, Klamath Falls

William Ganong Sr. — Legal — 540 Main Street, Klamath Falls

### 2. Land

Klamath County contains 3,812,760 acres of which 2,897,275 acres are forest land, 290,000 acres are crop land, 170,000 acres are water or marsh areas, and the balance, 455,485 acres, are classified as range land, a substantial part of which is arable land which will be cropped in the future. Much of the forest land is also used for pasturing cattle and sheep.

There are over 13 billion board feet of saw timber and much pulpwood.

Over two-thirds of all this area is publicly owned.

### 3. Income

Lumber and agriculture are the major sources of income. The lumber income for Klamath County in 1956 was \$28,315,480, while the agricultural income for the Upper Klamath Basin, which includes Tule Lake and part of Butte Valley, was \$28,231,136, the same year.

### 4. Assessed Valuation

Assessed valuation of Klamath County 20 years ago was \$31,500,000. Today it is \$51,300,000.

The proportionate value was divided as follows:

	1938	1958
Timber Industry	29%	25%
Utilities	29 1/2%	29%
City, Residential & Business	22 1/2%	25%
Agriculture	19%	21%

The bonded indebtedness in 1938 was \$2,401,000 — in 1958, None.

### 5. Cropland

	1935	1957
Total cropland	145,000 acres	290,000 acres
Long-time goal	200,000 acres	Over 400,000 acres
Harvested acreage	109,000 acres	250,000 acres
Goal	185,000 acres	400,000 acres

### 6. Indian Reservation

There are 862,663 acres of land in the Klamath Indian Reservation, of which 684,000 acres are tribal timber land with 554,000 acres of saw timber cruised at 4,600,000,000 board feet, and 140,000 acres of pulpwood cruised at 1,600,000 cords. There are 80,000 acres of private timber land.

The balance consists of farm and range land and water or marsh areas.

A Land Use subcommittee is making a continuing study of the reservation problems looking

towards the best solution of a very difficult and complex problem.

### 7. Wildlife Refuges

There are over 220,000 acres in marsh or water in the Upper Klamath Basin all available for waterfowl use. About 65,000 acres of this is in federal wildlife areas and 4,000 acres in state wildlife areas.

The committee would like to point out that the 160,000 acres of grain grown annually in the Upper Klamath Basin is the magnet that attracts and holds migratory waterfowl. Ninety per cent of this grain is grown by private operators.

Too much water is wasted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife because most of their water areas have not been developed at all and they have no control over the water levels. With proper development they have ample water areas.

There are no adequate public shooting grounds. At least one-fourth of all U.S. Wildlife Refuges should be open and the entire area opened one day each week for public hunting.

The local management of federal areas is very good, but the lack of proper development might be charged to policies of the Washington office.

### 8. Water Resources

Water is our most valuable asset. The Sprague River is a good example of multiple use of our waters. It flows out of the hills where fish and wildlife and thousands of campers have used it. Around Bly it is used to irrigate thousands of acres of our fertile land. The waste water and the surplus flow on down the river and are used and returned several times until they reach the Upper Klamath Lake where they are again used to irrigate marsh lands and are then stored for use on lands below. All this time the water in the river and lake are being used by fish and wildlife and for recreation. Water is then turned into the Main Irrigation Canal, where it is used over and over again to irrigate land, finally gathering in the Tule Lake Sump where millions of waterfowl use it and it is then diverted into the Lower Klamath Lake Basin where it irrigates more land and is used as a water area for more millions of waterfowl. The surplus is then returned to Klamath River above Keno, where every foot of drop to the California line will develop power. Many thousands of acres not now irrigated will be put under irrigation in the future.

The U.S. Army Engineer's report made at a hearing at Klamath Falls, February 20, 1945, recommending the diversion of waters of the Upper Klamath Basin into Pitt River created great alarm, and a lot of thought and effort was given by the Land Use Committee toward the protection of our water supply for our own present and future use. In 1953, the committee made a preliminary survey of all irrigated and irrigable lands and of all available water in the Upper Klamath Basin. In 1953, they also helped greatly in drafting and getting through the Oregon Legislature a bill creating an Oregon Klamath River Commission. At the same time, California created the California Klamath River Commission. The committee submitted a carefully selected list of qualified

men from which the governor appointed the commission members. After a great deal of research, helped greatly by the USBR 1954 Report on the Upper Klamath River Basin, the two commissions ascertained that there was plenty of water for the following preferential uses: (a) domestic and municipal use, (b) irrigation use, (c) recreational use, including use for fish and wildlife, (d) industrial use, (e) generation of hydroelectric power, and (f) other uses.

While working on the major problem of allocation of surface water,

the Oregon Commission was able to initiate considerable investigation of the groundwater resources of Klamath County. This shows a great deal of available groundwater not now being fully used. There is in the neighborhood of 30,000 acres now being irrigated from wells and a very substantial increase in future irrigated acreage will come from wells.

In 1957, the Klamath River Basin Compact between Oregon and California became a law.

This Compact, dealing only with surface waters, protects the use of these waters for our future use and permits the use of all waters running by the Keno shelf for fish life and the generation of hydroelectric power. The power use will also provide a storage of all flood waters flowing into Upper Klamath in the adjacent basins of Aspen and Round Lakes. This is not a part of the Compact, however. The Compact will provide a use and re-use of nearly all of the waters of the Upper Klamath Basin with a clearly named order of preferential use. Existing water rights in the Upper Klamath Basin are recognized and will take precedence over any future filings. This Compact prohibits the diversion of any water out of the Upper Klamath Basin but does not deal with the water in the Klamath River channel below the State line.

### 9. Recommendations of Klamath County Land Use Committee

These are the most important recommendations that have been fulfilled in full or in part and are still in effect.

a. That ranges be improved and fully utilized with cattle and sheep. That cover be improved and prevent washing and that best and most adapted shrubs and forage plants be used.

b. Better pasture land improvement practices be followed with improved grass and clover varieties on irrigated lands.

c. A normal acreage of potatoes be maintained in a crop rotation program.

d. Seed production be increased.

e. Continued expansion and development of good agricultural lands.

f. That the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management work toward the betterment of ranges and forests by reseeding grasses and trees and toward the better pasture use of their lands.

g. That landowners give attention to improvement of native pastures by plowing and planting of improved grasses and legumes and that the use of fertilizers be demonstrated and thoroughly studied.

h. That all farmers of irrigated land strive to eliminate the waste of water and to gain the most benefit from water by correct and timely use.

i. That there be no bonded indebtedness in Klamath County.

10. 1938 Recommendations Not Attained But Still Recommended

a. That no more sanctuaries for wildlife be established on good or potentially good agricultural lands.

b. That all lands be used for that

purpose for which they are best adapted. The Land Use Committee continues to approve all the above recommendations.

### 11. New 1958 Recommendations in Addition to Those carried in the Body of the Report are:

a. That the land leveling, improved drainage, and the addition of more humus material to the soil be encouraged.

b. That more research work be initiated in the study of plant and animal diseases and in the control of insects and rodents now causing serious losses.

c. That experimental efforts to develop new crops adapted to conditions in the Klamath area be intensified.

d. Nearly all of Klamath County is now included in Soil Conservation Districts and it is recommended that an active soil conservation and improvement program be carried out on all lands, including both range and crop land.

e. The maintenance of high supports to so-called basic commodity groups, by acts of Congress, permitting land taken out of these crops, under marketing quotas, to be planted to other crops, not so supported, has created surpluses of these crops, and great loss and hardship to these producers. Land taken out of wheat in the northwestern states and cotton in California has been planted to barley, potatoes and alfalfa, all major crops in this area, causing overproduction and consequent loss of income to local growers of these crops. In the Klamath Basin, gross income from these crops has dropped over 50 per cent since 1952.

The Klamath County Land Use Committee recommends the following in an effort to create an equitable situation as between basic commodity and non-basic commodity producers:

That lands taken out of basic commodities under government programs and planted to other crops be returned to their original crops or remain idle.

That no further such transfer of acreage be permitted.

If supports must be continued for political purposes, it should only be on a basis of equality to agricultural producers.

f. Since much of the water supply of the Upper Klamath Basin originates upon or runs through the Klamath Indian Reservation, it is recommended that adequate soil and water conservation practices be maintained. Removal of the timber on a sustained yield basis is paramount to maintaining this condition.

g. The proposals of the Klamath Basin water users association in letter under date of April 14, 1957, and the Klamath Sportsman's Association, letter under date of February 14, 1957, to the Secretary of the Interior, for uses of public land of the Klamath Basin were approved in principal by the Klamath County Land Use Committee.

h. Since the growing of Christmas trees and other timber prod-

(Continued on Page 3)

## ONE STOP SHOPPING FOR VETERINARY SUPPLIES

## THOMPSON LIVESTOCK SPRAYS ROPE HAWSER BACK RUBBERS FOR CATTLE

## Franklin VACCINES & SUPPLIES ...

Protects the Stockman's Profits

## CUTTER VETERINARY SUPPLIES

- SHEEP BRANDING PAINT
- SHEARING EQUIP.
- REPAIRS FOR SYRINGE and SHEARING EQUIP.
- WORMING REMEDY
- RUBBER STOCK TROUGHS
- AUTO-BACTERIALS
- INSECT POISON
- PEST REPELLENTS
- DR. HESS PRODUCTS

## AS WELL AS VITAMINS PHARMACEUTICALS and SUNDRY NEEDS FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

## MERRILL PHARMACY

Phone TU 2451 MERRILL, OREGON

## Sherwin-Williams

### EXTERIOR PAINTS

For Farm Buildings

- RANCH RED • WILLOW GREEN
- PLANTATION WHITE • BARN RED

### KEM LUSTER For Farm Machinery

PROVED BY THE MILLIONS OF GALLONS USED BY MANUFACTURERS

Here's fresh, gleaming beauty in a long-lasting full-luster finish for wood and metal products of all kinds — with more advantages than ever before formulated into a single enamel!

## A&B PAINT STORE

1229 E. Main Klamath Falls TU 4-3324