



1,020 YOUNGSTERS LEARN OF CONSERVATION — The story of forests, of the soils in which they grow and of the wildlife that seeks shelter and sustenance within their confines was presented to some 1,020 sixth graders of Klamath County in the second annual Conservation School presented Oct. 8 through 10 at Doak Mountain. Above, pupils of Roosevelt, Conger, Pelican and Shasta schools arrive at the site of the one-day course which was repeated for other county sixth graders during the following two days.

Students Learn About Wonders Of Woods

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Features

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WILDLIFE, PLANTS IN DELICATE BALANCE — Dan Eastman, Oregon State game biologist, tells Mark Caldwell (left) and Douglas Grimm, both Fairview School, of the perennial competition among wildlife for the limited supply of forage born anew each year in the forests. Various factors influence the rate of growth of plants and brush used as forage and include the quality of soil, moisture, sunlight and the competition of other plants.

Rocks that float, spacemen's suits worn by "smoke jumpers," and a chemically coated seed that produces a stomachache in rodents were several of many exhibits which held some 1,020 sixth graders spellbound during the second annual one-day conservation course held Oct. 8 through 10 at Doak Mountain.

The course was sponsored through the cooperative efforts of businesses, non-profit organizations, and federal and state agencies which are primarily concerned with the preservation of the nation's natural resources.

Instructors came from as far as Crater Lake National Park and Portland to address the more than 300 students who were brought to Doak Mountain daily to hear lectures on the subjects of fire control, the forests as a site for recreation, reforestation, wildlife, harvesting of Christmas trees, timber management, tree identification, and conservation of soils.

Each group attending the outdoor school was divided into eight sections and each section, in turn, was assigned to one of eight booths (or exhibits) located at the site.

Instructors at each of the booths lectured their respective classes for approximately 15 minutes, when the sounding of a whistle indicated that the classes were to move along to another booth.

At the first exhibit, youngsters saw the tools used by fire fighters as they combat forest fires. The pupils also learned how to properly extinguish a campfire and observed a "smoke jumper's suit" designed to protect a fire suppression crewman from heat and fire as he parachutes from an aircraft into the vicinity of an isolated forest fire.

While those students were learning how to extinguish a campfire, a group at another booth was learning how to start one, in addition to taking note of a variety of paraphernalia, such as tents, pack boards, and sleeping bags used by campers staying overnight in the woods.

Foresters stressed that hiking was the No. 1 outdoor activity throughout the country and list-

ed picnicking and boating as almost as popular.

At the next lecture station, pupils learned that seed eating rodents are a serious obstacle to the success of reforestation programs throughout the country.

Such rodents feed on seeds of evergreens planted by foresters in those areas to be reforested. To discourage these depredations, foresters now coat the seeds with a silver colored chemical called Endrin. The coating induces a king-size stomachache within the creature that swallows it. Thereafter, that mammal keeps a wide berth between itself and other silver colored seeds so that many of the pods which formerly had been eaten by rodents now grow into tiny seedlings.

Still greater obstacles bar the way of such plants in their growth into mature timber.

Animals foraging on the tender needles of the young tree may strip off too much of its new growth, killing it. Saplings also compete for food and sunlight with other plants, brush and trees within its surroundings. A seedling which competes with a hardy bush for such nutrients is too often the loser.

Animals that feed on the forest's plant life were the subjects of lectures in another part of the outdoor school.

Officials of the Oregon State Commission and state game biologists pointed out that animals, as do trees, compete with one another for food and shelter provided in the forests.

The land is capable of producing a limited amount of food which will sustain a limited number of animals. When there is too little food for the number of animals living in the forests, the weakest ones die off.

In addition, plants which form the forage for an over-abundant animal population are frequently overbrowsed and those weaker specimens also die. In effect, nature is the source of a never-ending struggle to maintain a balance between plant and animal life.

In another section of the school, foresters told of improved methods of harvesting Christmas trees and explained how, with special care, those



SPACEMAN'S SUIT AWES TOTS — A "spaceman's suit" similar to those worn by smoke jumpers who are parachuted into isolated forests to fight fires is nudged up- Forest. Impressed with the outfit that provides the user with protection from fire are Andrea Massey and Darrell DuBois, both pupils of Mills School. right by John Grove, dispatcher for the Winema National



NOT BY WATER ALONE — Youngsters learn from George Wardell, supervisor of the Klamath Forest Protective Association, that fires are frequently combatted and extinguished without the use of water. Wardell describes the tools, such as the Palaski, shovel and double bitted axe

that firefighters use to build fire lines which halt the progress of a rampant fire. The tank on the toolbox is a water pump that may be carried on the back of a firefighter.

trees would survive better in homes during the yuletide season.

Nature requires about 20 years to grow an average size Christmas tree from a seed, but such a tree may be cultivated from a mature trunk in about eight years, foresters said.

The multiple use concept of forest resources was the topic of lectures from a team of Weyerhaeuser Timber Company employees.

The lecturers pointed out that timber, wildlife, range, and soil were among the resources which were being conserved through research and

proper management of the forests.

The last on the list of resources was discussed by a two-man team of the local office of the Federal Soil Conservation Office. They said that the conservation of soil was dependent upon the proper cutting of timber, maintaining an adequate cover of foliage on the land, turning under of crops, and preventing the leaching away of top soil. The soil conservationists also demonstrated volcanic pumice that floated on Lake

Park was represented by two rangers who identified six specimens of trees, including Douglas fir, white fir, sugar pine, ponderosa pine, incense cedar, lodgepole pine and a number of common shrubs.

Instructors participating in the three-day course were John Grove, Winema National Forest; George Wardell, Klamath Forest Protective Association; Bob Stockton, Winema National Forest; John Aegerter, Klamath District, Winema Forest; John Schulte, forester, U.S. National Bank; Harry Marshall, forester,

State Department of Forestry; Austin F. Hamer, Oregon State Game Commission; Art Gerlach and Dan Eastman, biologists for the State Game Commission; Cal Giesler, hunter safety supervisor, Portland; Leo Morstad, Fir - E - Nuff Farms; Dick Olson, State Board of Forestry. Also:

Ken McAndrews, Jack Zimmerman and Lewis Wourk, foresters, Weyerhaeuser Timber Company; Glen F. Kaye and Paul Smith, Crater Lake National Park; John Tribe and Richard Wylie, Soil Conservation Service.



FORESTS PROVIDE RECREATION — Bob Stockton, supervisor's office of the Winema National Forest, discusses two of various foods that are light in weight but provide more nutrients than most foods. Such foods are sought by backpackers in order that they may keep their loads light during overnight pack trips in the wilderness country. Stockton tells Cecelia Pisan (left) and Kaye Badley, both of Fairview School.



FLOATING ROCKS AWE PUPILS — Floating volcanic pumice was one of a number of specimens that drew the attention of Riverside School students to John Tribe, Federal Soil Conservation Service, who discussed the importance of soil conservation and how soil is formed from rock. Tribe was assisted by Richard Wylie, also representing the local soil conservation service office.



NOTE PRICKLY PINE CONE — Glen F. Kaye, Crater Lake National Park Service, discloses the name of a giant pine cone to three pupils of Fairview School during a lecture on the identification of trees and shrubs most common to Southern Oregon. Margie Bretton observes the specimen as her classmates (left to right) Robin Carlson and Sandra Purkiser take notes.