

Dr. Sheppard is helping to interest some great speakers for Friday and Saturday.

Inland Empire Beekeepers are sponsoring this year's conference. Check www.millershomestead.com for the conference committees and people serving on these committees.

Cost per person is to be determined after the speakers are finalized.

Suppliers booths will be part of the meeting at the back of the meeting room.

There will be mailings with the registration forms attached late winter or early spring.

The DoubleTree Conference Center is located in lovely downtown Spokane next to the river.

2003 NW Corner Conference:



Steve Sheppard, Michael Burgett (behind Marina), Jamie Strange, Marina Meixner, Sally Hasher and Deb Delaney, at the dinner Friday evening. Isn't Levi cute?

WSBA Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Hood River, OR

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Meeting called to order 4:05pm

Secretary's minutes from last meeting approved as written. Treasures Report read and approved.

Newsletter Editor Mike Stanley is retiring after many years as WSBA's newsletter editor. Mike has done a wonderful job for a long time. Thanks for all your hard work.

We are lucky to have Paul Lundy volunteer to take Mikes place. Thanks for volunteering Paul! We know you'll do a fantastic job.

Committee Reports:

National Honey Board: The vote passed to keep the Honey Board viable.

Advisory Board: No meeting

Master Beekeeping: A list was turned in of all the journeyman beekeepers in the Spokane area.

Research and scholarship: Two requests were made for donations from the scholarship funds. The first was for \$1,000.00 to Jamie Strange to help pay for the student workers that help in the research and to help with travel expenses. This request was approved by vote, to be paid out of the Thurber fund.

The second was a request made by Deb Delaney for \$1,000.00. This request will help pay for travel to the queen breeders in California to collect information. The

request was approved by vote, to be paid out of the Timmons fund.

A \$5,000.00 donation was made to the Timmons fund.

Audit Committee: Arlene Massey and Sue Olsen were asked to audit the books and report to the general meeting tomorrow.

Gift Committee: Lisa Knox and Connie Bueler were asked to supply officer gifts.

Honey labels: It was approved to allocate \$500.00 to the production of the honey labels.

The labels are now available for \$7.00 a roll. They have turned out very nice and make a great statement about our honey being produced in Washington State.

Beekeeper of the year: We have a long over due nominee chosen for the award tomorrow night.

Nominations: The two candidates that were nominated for president are Jerry Tate and Eric Olsen. Two candidates were also nominated for vice president John Timmons and Lee Massey. There is one nomination for secretary...Linda Carney. Treasure will stay Lisa Knox. Area reps up for reconsideration are area #3 and #4.

Old Business:

The outline for the TAP Tech. Advisory Program was approved as written. This is the first phase of building this program. It outlines that the State level will be an elected position and must be a certified Master beekeeper. The local level will be a volunteer and must be a least a certified Journeyman beekeeper. It was also approved to continue on with the next step of planning.

New Business:

Section 18 for Thymol (API Life-Var) is under way.

Sugar Ester is registered and will be marketed by Dadant in January under the label name Sucroicide. A motion was passed to have WSBA reapply for the section 18 on Coumaphos.

A motion to bring the idea of a "6 steps for ethical beekeeping creed" for WSBA to the general meeting for discussion was passed.

There was discussion regarding the convention in Spokane for next year.

Complaint from Organic farmers regarding pesticide strips removed from hives and left on ground in their farm. This could cause a farmer their Organic labeling for seven years. Please be careful to discard of used strips per labeling.

WSBA bylaws need to be reviewed. Several people will look for copies.

A motion was approved to keep hive registration in place.

A four person committee will be formed by the president elect to look into the possible use of this money.

Appointed by the President to review state registrations are the following:

- John Timmons
- Eric Olsen
- Bob Arnold
- Jerry Tate
- Bob Stump as advisor

Meeting adjourned 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Connie Bueler, WSBA Secretary



Kenny Williams of OSBA and Pat Heitkam at Friday's dinner.

WSBA General Business Meeting Minutes

Hood River, OR

Friday, November 7, 2003

Meeting called to order 4:30pm.

Secretary's report approved as read.

Treasurer's report approved as read.

President's report: Pres. Robert Stump has been promoting WSBA teaching beekeepers why this organization is critical to the industry. He also attended the Agricultural Presidents group meeting. Discussing the shortage in funds for WSU and how that can hurt agriculture.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mike Stanley for the great job he did as newsletter editor for many years. Thanks Mike. And thanks Paul Lundy for recognizing the opportunity to volunteer. We look forward to MANY years with you at the press.

Area reports were given.

Audit Committee: The audit reports that the books are again in wonderful condition and all is in order. Lisa Knox does such a wonderful job that they are not only in great shape but its easy to determine they balance. Thanks Lisa! The discussion on the 6 ethical steps for Beekeepers was tabled after some length. The steps will be printed in the newsletter so everyone can read them and bring their opinions to the next meeting for further discussion.

Next years convention in Spokane was discussed.

Old business: WSBA made a donation of \$609.62 To Dr. Steve Sheppard for research at WSU. The money was raised from the picnic and short course at WSU last summer. It was a great surprise to everyone that we actually raised funds the first year.

New business: A motion was approved to move forward with the TAP program. Jim Miller volunteered to lead TAP and will be continuing the outline for the program. A motion was approved to give honorary WSBA memberships to WSU Entomology scientists and staff; Marina Meixner, Jamie Strange, Deb Delaney, and Sally Hasher.

The meeting was turned over to the Election of officers committee chairman Bob Zahler and we held the election. The results are as follows:

President is Jerry Tate. Vice President is Lee Massey.

Secretary is Linda Carney.

Treasure is Lisa Knox. Area 3 is Arlene Massey and Area 4 is Miriam Bishop.

TAP advisor Jim Miller. Bob Arnold was voted into area 6 to complete Jerry Tate's term.

All other positions remain the same.

A motion was made and approved to make outgoing President Robert Stump a Lifetime honorary member. The vote was unanimous. Meeting Adjourned 6:00pm.

Respectfully submitted

Connie Bueler, WSBA Secretary



NEW TECHNICAL ADVISORY PROGRAM

WSBA Executive Board approved a new service for Washington State Beekeepers. We seek to provide the best technical assistance to all beekeepers in the State of Washington. This program is just one of many ways we wish to be of service.

TECHNICAL ADVISOR PROGRAM (TAP)

1. PURPOSE

The Washington State Beekeepers Association, WSBA, would like to assist the local Washington Beekeeping Associations with the scientific procedures of care, treatment, and management of honeybee hives for the hobbyist as well as the commercial beekeeper.

2. MEMBERS OF THE TAP.

a. The Washington State Beekeepers Association will be in charge of the TAP program and will provide one Master Beekeeper, certified by the Washington State Master Beekeepers Program, to manage the program at the direction of WSBA. This office will be referred to as Master Beekeeper TAP, MBTAP. The office of Master Beekeeper TAP will be for one year. At the annual meeting in the fall the WSBA will elect the person(s) to fill the position for the following twelve months. The Master Beekeeper TAP may resign at anytime during the twelve months and/or be removed by the WSBA.

b. Each local Association within the State of Washington will be advised of this program and will be asked to provide at least one Certified Journeyman Beekeeper. The Journeyman must be certified by WSBA and will be referred to as Journeyman TAP, JBTAP. The local association can have as many Journeyman TAP as they so desire. The local associations should consider the area that they serve and the distance people will have to travel to assist in this program.

3. PROGRAM

a. The MBTAP and the JBTAP will develop of program that will assist beekeepers with the scientific procedures of care, treatment, and management of honeybee hives for the hobbyist and the commercial beekeeper. WSBA will have final decision on the program.

4. TRAINING

a. The MBTAP will establish an annual training session for the JBTAP. The training shall be of such quality that the TAP is current with scientific developments that affect the Honey Bees of the Northwest. The new Technical Advisory Program (TAP) will assist local beekeeper's and Washington Beekeeper Associations with up to date scientific procedures of care, treatment, and management of honeybees for the hobbyist as well as the commercial beekeeper.

The Washington State Beekeepers Association will provide a Master Beekeeper, certified by the Washington State Master Beekeepers Program (WSMBP), to manage the program at the direction of WSBA.

Each local Association within the State of Washington is asked to provide at least on Certified Journeyman Beekeeper. The Journeyman must be certified by WSMBP. The local Association may have as many Journeyman TAP as they desire.

Your Area representatives will be visiting your Association to tell you the details of the program and solicit your most pressing beekeeping care and treatment concerns.

The TAP will establish training for the Journeyman TAP that will be of such quality that the TAP is current with scientific developments that effect honey bees of the northwest.

Scholarships

Two new scholarships have been awarded for bee research!

- Jamie Strange a graduate student in the department of Entomology at WSU was granted a \$1,000 scholarship.
- Debbie DeLaney a graduate student in the department of Entomology at WSU was granted a \$1,000 scholarship.

Mite Treatments update:

- Jim Bach from the WSDA announced the continuing effort to obtain a Section 18 approval for Api-Life VAR for the treatment of Varroa mites.
- The WSBA will also apply for a section 18 so Washington State beekeepers can continue to benefit from the use of Coumaphos for the treatment of mites. This is another proactive program sponsored by your State Association.
- Sucroside will soon be sold by Dadant. This is the sugar ester formula that the WSU Entomology department has developed.

Evergreen State Fair

Next year's theme is Land of Milk & Honey, Bee There!
This should be a fun one!
August 26th to September 6th, 2004
We'll keep you posted.



Regional Updates

OSBA has been kicking around a "Guidelines for Oregon Beekeepers" that both Oregon and Washington discussed at our general meetings at the NW Corner Conference in November. Here it is as published by the OSBA :

The following is a bare-bones starting point for discussion of the guidelines.

1. *Public safety is priority #1 in all beekeeping operations.*
2. *Local, State, and Federal laws and rules, regarding beekeeping and hive product handling, should be adhered to.*
3. *The wholesome image of honey and other products of the hive must be maintained.*
4. *Honeybee colony health shall be maintained in a manner consistent with acceptable and legal, current practice.*
5. *Unfair trade practices, such as pricing at or below the cost of production are unacceptable. The Oregon Pollination Survey should be reviewed for local prevailing expenses and average revenues.*
6. *Beekeepers should make every effort to continue and support ongoing education of apiculture statewide.*

So... Here is what Oregon has open for discussion! Now what do you think? Don't be shy. Oh...that's right you're a beekeeper. Send me letters!



Dept. of Health is changing the rules

By Tim Bueler

Falling under the category "very boring but very important", under Washington State Dept. of Health proposed guidelines beekeepers will probably maintain their rights.

The Washington State Dept. of Health (DOH) has been ordered to update to Federal Standards. That means, with a

few changes, WA State will be adopting the FDA Food Code according to Ned Therien, Washington State Department of Health, Office of Food Safety and Shellfish Programs. DOH held meetings in September to get public input for the early drafting stage.

On September 15 there was a meeting, attended by over half a dozen beekeepers, at the Snohomish Health District Auditorium in Everett. According to the two DOH officials at that meeting they had contacted WA State Dept. of Agriculture (WSDA) and all entities are under agreement that beekeepers fall under WSDA jurisdiction. The rules governing beekeepers can be found in the Revised Code of Washington, chapter 69.28 and Washington Administrative Code, chapter 16-600, both titled "Honey". When questioned further the DOH became quite adamant that DOH has no interest in the beekeeper/honey producer. In fact it appears that anyone producing non-ready-to-eat food is exempt. Even fresh fruits and vegetables are exempt because it is generally known they must be washed prior to consumption thereby classifying them non-ready-to-eat.

However, one rule currently on the books that will not change is in RCW 20.01 Agricultural Products – Commission Merchants, Dealers, Brokers, Buyers and Agents. Paragraph (2) under RCW 20.01.030 states "Any person who sells exclusively his or her own agricultural products as the producer thereof," is exempt from these regulations. Paragraph (9) under the same chapter states "Any producer who purchases less than fifteen percent of his or her volume to complete orders;" is also exempt. This means if you buy more than 15 % of what you sell, according to the State of Washington, you are a packer and not a producer and therefore subject to DOH rules.

Attending recent WSBA meetings were several beekeepers who fall under this category. This category will probably become more important as the Federal Bioterrorism Act comes on line. An article in ABJ October 2003 says basically the same thing...if you are a producer you are probably exempt...for now. If you are a producer/packer you may soon be getting a visit from your local health inspector.

To learn more you can view a draft of the proposed changes at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/sf/foodrulemain.htm>. Future public workshop dates will also be posted on this web site. The best way for you to protect your rights is to attend these meetings. Changes are coming...your attendance may steer the changes in your favor.



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National Updates

National Honey Board

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Your customers will love these new marketing tools from the National Honey Board — from gardening gift packs to brochures to cookbooks to hang tags. Items are all available to order now. Items will be available at cost or discounted for quantity purchases. Visit the NHB industry Web site NHB.org for information and ordering forms.

American Beekeeping Federation

The 61st Annual American Beekeeping Federation Convention and Trade Show

The 2004 ABF Convention will meet in Jacksonville, Fla., Jan. 14-17, at the Sawgrass Marriott Resort and Beach Club. Actually, it is south of Jacksonville at Ponte Vedra Beach on the oceanfront Florida highway A1A between Jacksonville and St. Augustine.

The Program Committee is lining up the best speakers available. Already committed are Diana Sammataro, Gordon Wardell, and Gloria DeGrandi-Hoffman from the Tucson Bee Lab; Patti Elzen and Frank Eischen from Weslaco; Mark Feldlaufer and Jeff Pettis from Beltsville; Tom Rinderer and John Harbo from Baton Rouge; Eric Mussen from UC-Davis; Roger Hoopingartner from Michigan State; and Tom Sanford, Laurence Cutts and Larry Yee from Florida.

For information on attending the convention or exhibiting your products and services in the ABF Trade Show contact the ABF Office, P.O. Box 1038, Jesup, GA 31598, ph.



Food and Drug Administration

The following abbreviated information the WSBA has provided concerning FDA registration may be found at the FDA's Bioterrorism web site;
<http://www.fda.gov/oc/bioterrorism/bioact.html>. Although this issue may not affect most hobbyist beekeepers, registration can be required of commercial operations. Read on.....

FDA'S New Food Bioterrorism Regulation:

Interim Final Rule - Registration of Food Facilities
The Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002 (the Bioterrorism Act) directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to take steps to protect the public from a threatened or actual terrorist attack on the U.S. food supply. To carry out the provisions of the Bioterrorism Act, FDA published, on October 10, 2003, an interim final regulation, **Registration Of Food Facilities**, which requires domestic and foreign facilities that manufacture/process, pack, or hold food for human or animal consumption in the United States to register with the FDA. Under this interim final regulation, all affected facilities must register by **December 12, 2003**.

Facilities can register online via the Internet, by completing a paper form, or submitting to FDA a CD-ROM with relevant registration information. The online registration system will be available for use on October 16, 2003. For assistance with online registration: in the U.S call 1-800-216-7331 or 301-575-0156; from elsewhere call 301-575-0156; or send a fax to 301-210-0247.

Requests for assistance also may be emailed to furls@fda.gov. Beginning October 16, 2003, the Online Registration Help Desk will be staffed on business days from 7 AM until 11 PM U.S. Eastern Time.

This new regulation pertains *only* to facilities that manufacture/process, pack, or hold food, as defined in the regulation, for consumption in the U.S. Examples of "food" include:

- Dietary supplements and dietary ingredients
- Infant formula
- Beverages (including alcoholic beverages and bottled water)
- Fruits and vegetables
- Fish and seafood
- Dairy products and shell eggs

- **Raw agricultural commodities for use as food or components of food**

- Canned and frozen foods
- Bakery goods, snack food, and candy (including chewing gum)
- Live food animals & Animal feeds and pet food

Who must register? The owner, operator, or agent in charge of a domestic or foreign facility that manufactures/processes, packs, or holds food for human or animal consumption in the U.S., or an individual authorized by one of them, must register that facility with FDA by **December 12, 2003**.

What types of facilities do not have to register?

- **Private residences of individuals**, even though food may be manufactured/processed, packed, or held there.
- **Farms**, i.e., facilities in one general physical location devoted to the growing and harvesting of crops, the raising of animals (including seafood), or both. Washing, trimming of outer leaves, and cooling of produce are considered part of harvesting. The term "farm" also includes facilities that pack or hold food, provided that all food used in such activities is grown, raised, or consumed on that farm or another farm under the same ownership, and facilities that manufacture/process food, provided that all food used in such activities is consumed on that farm or another farm under the same ownership. A farm-operated roadside stand that sells food directly to consumers as its primary function would be exempt from registration as a retail food establishment.
- **Restaurants**, i.e., facilities that prepare and sell food directly to consumers for immediate consumption, including pet shelters, kennels, and veterinary facilities that provide food directly to animals. Facilities that provide food to interstate conveyances, such as commercial aircraft, or central kitchens that do not prepare and serve food directly to consumers are not restaurants for purposes of the rule.
- **Retail food establishments**, such as groceries, delis, and roadside stands, that sell food directly to consumers as their *primary function*, meaning that annual sales directly to consumers are of greater dollar value than annual sales to other buyers. An establishment that manufactures/processes, packs, or holds food and whose primary function is to sell food directly to consumers, including food that the establishment manufactures/processes, from

that establishment is a retail food establishment and is not required to register.

- **Nonprofit food establishments**, which are charitable entities that meet the terms of § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and that prepare or serve food directly to the consumer or otherwise provide food or meals for consumption by humans or animals in the U.S. Central food banks, soup kitchens, and nonprofit food delivery services are examples of nonprofit food establishments.
- **Facilities regulated exclusively and throughout the entire facility by the U.S. Department of Agriculture**, that is, facilities handling only meat, poultry or egg products.

Do all foreign facilities that manufacture/process, pack, or hold food for consumption in the U.S have to register? No. If a foreign facility that manufactures/ processes, packs, or holds food sends it to another *foreign* facility for further manufacturing/processing or packaging before the food is exported to the U.S., only the *second* foreign facility is required to register. **However**, if the second foreign facility performs only a *de minimis* activity, such as putting on a label, *both* facilities would be required to register. Also, any foreign facility that *packs or holds* food after the last foreign manufacturer/processor of the food must register.

How often must you register? Registration is required **only once** for each food facility. However, required registration information must be updated if it changes.

What does the registration number mean? It means that the owner of the facility has complied with this rule by registering with FDA. Assignment of the number does not convey FDA approval or endorsement of the facility or its products.

Is there a fee for registration? There is no fee for registration or for updates of any registration.

How can a facility register? Registrants must use **Form 3537** to register or update a registration. Facilities may register online via the Internet at www.fda.gov/furls, which will operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week, beginning October 16, 2003. This web site is available from wherever the Internet is accessible, including libraries, copy centers, schools, and Internet cafes. In addition to the online help registrants can access at www.fda.gov/furls, there is also an Online Registration Help Desk:

- In the U.S call 1-800-216-7331 or 301-575-0156
- From elsewhere call 301-575-0156
- Fax questions to 301-210-0247
- Email questions to furls@fda.gov

Beginning October 16, 2003, these phone numbers will be staffed on business days from 7 AM until 11 PM U.S. Eastern Time.

If a facility does not have reasonable access to the Internet, a paper copy of the form may be obtained from FDA by calling 800-216-7331 or 301-575-0156 or by mailing a request to:

U.S. Food and Drug Administration
HFS-681
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville MD 20857
USA

When the form has been filled out completely and legibly, it should be mailed to the above address or faxed to (301) 210-0247.

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International Updates

Canadian Honey Council

The 63rd Annual Canadian Honey Council and 98th Manitoba Beekeepers' Association plus the Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists are holding their Annual Convention at Hotel Fort Garry, Winnipeg, Manitoba January 26 - 30, 2004

Beekeepers Violate Pesticide Regulations
Bee colonies belonging to two Alberta beekeepers who winter bees in southern British Columbia were found to have Apistan strips present in January 2003. Leaving Apistan in the hive for longer than 42 days is a violation of the Pest Control Products Act. The PMRA recently issued a notice of violation and the beekeepers did not contest the finding.
The CHC advises beekeepers to be careful with the use of Apistan and use it strictly according to label instructions. Mites can become resistant to the chemical when they are exposed to low doses for a long period of time.
with provincial apiculturists to address the concern of trace ability.

New Zealand

Te Awamutu company Honey New Zealand has developed an antibacterial honey product that can withstand gamma irradiation sterilization required of medical grade products. Using gamma irradiation sterilized manuka honey, Honey New Zealand in conjunction with Southwest Technologies has patented a manuka honey based gel for dressing wounds.



Your Newsletter is changing

The newsletter will be published every other month, starting in 2004. For those of you with email I will publish the newsletter in pdf format and will email you your edition. When you receive your *ecopy*, please email me with your thoughts. If you like the way it looks and reads, why get a print copy? Obviously an emailed newsletter saves your association money. This money can be put to more pressing needs.

From your editor

A little about your new newsletter editor.

I have been a hobbyist beekeeper since 1997 along with my wife Lisa. I have always been interested in agriculture and beekeeping sure has a tremendous influence on the agricultural industry.

I originally became interested in beekeeping after Jim Bach referred me to June Aploks, then the current President of Puget Sound Beekeepers Association. After attending meetings and participating in Van Sherod's basic beekeeping classes we were finally cajoled into getting our first package. I will never forget the hours spent watching our first backyard bees.

My other interests are building bird houses, watching Lisa run the organic gardens, chasing those darn chickens around and repairing old trucks. My latest truck is a 1939 Ford farm truck from Montana.

I look forward to providing you with insight, timely information, and opinions on beekeeping in Washington State and throughout the nation. I am always interested in hearing your opinions so please do write me.

Paul Lundy



News from the Treasurer

The audit of the 2003 books came out just fine. Thanks so much to Arlene Massey, Judy Pefley, and Sue Olson for sloggng through all the paperwork!

However, an item that is not audited has shown how the treasurer can make mistakes. I reported in the 2003 NW Conference Syllabus that the Northwest District Beekeepers had not paid Associate Memberships since the year 2000. Was I wrong! The NWDBA is current with regard to Associate Member dues through the year 2003.

Lisa Knox

Associate Memberships	Year	Associate Members
Pierce County Beekeepers Association	2003	71
Skagit Valley Beekeepers Association	2003	23
Stanwood/Camano Island Beekeepers	2003	18
West Sound Beekeepers Association	2003	71
<i>Northwest District Beekeepers Association</i>	<i>2003</i>	<i>26</i>
 Total Associate Membership 2003	 203	
 Inland Empire Beekeepers Association	 2002	 119
Olympia Beekeepers Association	2001	49
Puget Sound Beekeepers Association	2001	80
Methow Valley Beekeepers Association	2000	3
Mount Baker Beekeepers Association	2000	6

In The Next Newsletter;

- Local, Regional and National updates
- Want more? Write me with your suggestions
- WSU's Sucrose Octanoate study
- Michael Burgett's Pacific Northwest Honey Bee Pollination Survey

NEXT MEETING!

**WSBA Executive Board Meeting
March 6, 2004 Starting at 10AM
Cattlemen's Club in Ellensburg, WA
Everyone is Invited,
especially your local Association Presidents.**



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WSBA Executive Committee

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425-334-9684

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Area #4:

Miriam Bishop (2006)
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509-997-9699

Area #5:

John Pettigrew (2004)
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509-545-1501

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Robert Arnold (2004)
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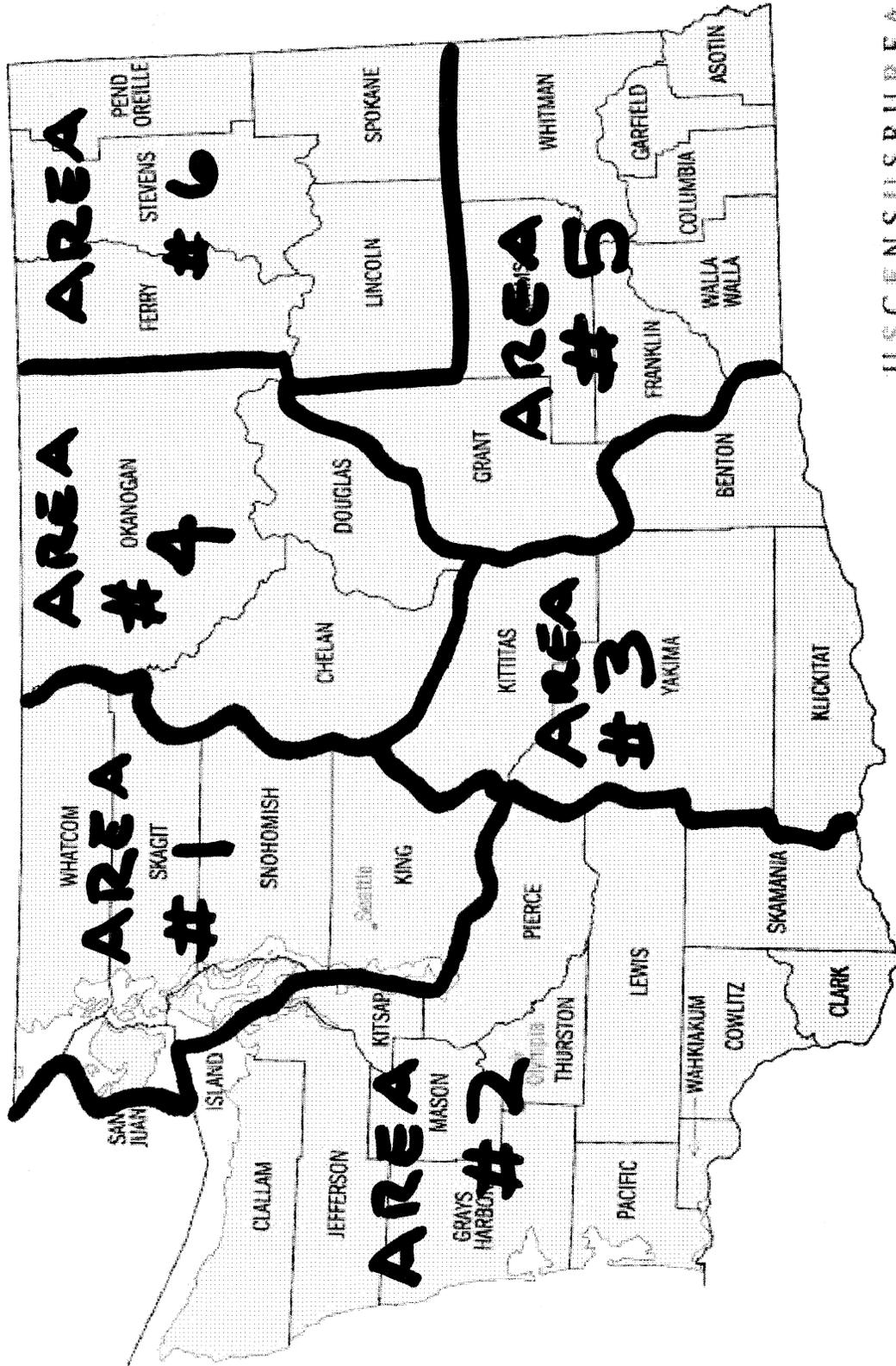
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