

WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMUNITY  
ACTION ORGANIZATION  
FIRST INTERIM REPORT ON  
THE NEED FOR MIGRANT  
FARMWORKER HOUSING  
JUNE, 1980

HAL HEWITT, HOUSING PLANNER  
ROCKY JOHNSON, PROGRAM PLANNER

According to the minimum requirements for obtaining housing funds from the Farmer's Home Administration, the community involvement represented by the FHTF membership is sufficient. However, the FHTF felt that it was important to develop a more comprehensive plan to involve the community. Consequently a strategy was developed to involve Citizen Planning Organizations and local Churches in developing the Farmworker Housing Plan (See Appendix B., Community Involvement Plan.)

Proposed Action 2.1:

Collect and summarize all the available information on the number of seasonal farmworkers, settled out farmworkers, and available farm labor housing:

Varying figures are available on the number of farm labor households, migrant farmworkers, and settled out farmworkers in Washington County. Recently, August, 1979, the Willamette Week newspaper completed a study of migrant housing conditions in Washington County.<sup>1</sup> According to their information between two and three thousand migrant farmworkers worked in Washington County during the summer months. Data generated by the Employment Division of the Oregon Department of Human Resources indicates that the number of migrant farmworkers in Washington County reaches a peak of 2,756 in late June.<sup>2</sup> In 1975 the Columbia Regional Association of Governments (now MSD) reported that there were 4,725 transient and 2,025 permanent farmworkers in Washington County.<sup>3</sup>

Early on in the FHTF deliberations it became apparent that an accurate figure on the number of Migrant (Seasonal) Farmworkers coming into the County on an annual basis was needed in order to proceed with other planning considerations. In addition, the FHTF established planning to address the housing needs of Migrant Farmworkers as its major priority.

1 Willamette Week Newspaper, August 29, 1979, pages 1 & 6.

2 "Estimated Number of Hired Seasonal Agricultural Workers," State of Oregon Employment Division, Department of Human Resources, January, 1979.

3 Summary Report of CRAG Regional Housing Workshops, 1976, page 14.

FARMWORKER HOUSING PLANNING PROJECT:  
FIRST INTERIM REPORT  
WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION  
ORGANIZATION, JUNE 1980

Introduction

There has never been a coordinated broad based community effort to address farmworker housing needs in Washington County. Such a community effort is essential to the long-term solution of farmworker housing problems. Consequently, WCCAO has continued to work with the Farmworker Housing Task Force (FHTF) it established last spring to develop a Farmworker Housing Action Plan.

The following report constitutes the first Interim Report on WCCAO's effort to develop a comprehensive plan to address the farmworker housing needs of Washington County. This report is written to correspond with this work program originally submitted to qualify for this grant. The next Interim Report will be made in September.

Proposed Action 1.1:

The Farmworker Housing Task Force will meet to determine whether or not its present membership should be broadened (e.g. inclusion of someone from the financial community or more low-income representation)

In March, 1980 the Farmworker Housing Task Force voted to expand its membership to include Jack Hert, local Farmer's Home Administration representative; Teresa Brown, a former Migrant Farmworker; and Emilio Hernandez, a member of the Centro Cultural Board of Directors. (for a complete list of FHTF members see Appendix A).

Proposed Action 1.2

The FHTF will meet to consider and adopt a community involvement plan for the duration of the project.

## Appendix E (Continued)

## Existing Migrant Housing Sites continued

Page two

	<u>Grower</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Capacity</u>	<u>Location</u>
13.	Ron Tankersley (Lower) P.O. Box 662 North Plains, OR 97133	42	100	N. Plains
14.	M. Vasquez Rt 2 Box 209 Hillsboro, OR 97123	64	200	Scholls
15.	R. Williamson Rt. 2 Box 720 A Beaverton, OR 97007	8	60-70	Gales Crk.
	TOTAL	380	Approx. 1,491	

## Appendix E

## EXISTING MIGRANT HOUSING SITES

(Seasonal use Only)

	<u>GROWER</u>	<u>UNITS</u>	<u>CAPACITY</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
1.	F. Barby Rt. 4 Bx 176 Hillsboro, OR 97123	40	200	W. Scholls
2.	C. Betoncourt Rt. 4 Box 260 Cornelius, Or 97113	8	32	S. Cornelius
3.	H. Breen Star Rt. Box 628 Banks, Or 97106	13	65	W. Banks
4.	M. Decker Rt. 4 Box 346 Sherwood, OR 97140	28	112	Scholls
5.	L. Duyck Rt. 4 Box 338 Cornelius, OR 97113	37	225	S. Cornelius
6.	K. Fields Rt. 1 Box 315 Cornelius, OR 97113	15	60	P. Ridge
7.	A. Luttrell Rt. 4 Box 192 Hillsboro, OR 97123	10	45	Farmington
8.	D. Norwood Rt. 1 Box 289 Cornelius, OR 97113	7	28	P. Ridge
9.	Bob Tankersley Rt. 1 Box 303-T Cornelius, Or 97113	12	48	P. Ridge
10.	Frank Tankersley Rt. 1 box 301 Cornelius, OR 97113	37	170	P. Ridge
11.	Jerry Tankersley Rt. 1 Box 2563 Cornelius, Or 97113	19	86	P. Ridge
12.	Ron Tankersley (upper) P.O. Box 662 North Plains, OR 97133	50	100	P. Ridge

Appendix D  
GROWER DATA SHEET

GROWER: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

MIGRANT DEPENDENT ACREAGE

	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>
Strawberrys			
Caneberrys			
Cukes			
Other			

LOCATIONS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

LABOR REQUIREMENTS:

	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>
Max. Seasonal			
Max. Regular			
_____ %families;			_____ % singles

Season begins: \_\_\_\_\_ Ends: \_\_\_\_\_

HOUSING

Provided: \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No; Approx. Age: \_\_\_\_\_

No. Units \_\_\_\_\_ Worker Capacity \_\_\_\_\_

Occupancy Period \_\_\_\_\_

Would Use additional units: \_\_\_\_\_

Approx. No. \_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix C (Continued)

## MIGRANT DEPENDENT ACRAGE

Page two

<u>GROWER</u>	<u>CROP</u>	<u>ACRES</u>						<u>MAX LABOR REQ'T</u>		
F. Tankersley	Strawb'y	100						250		
	Rasp'y		20							
	Blk Rasp'y			125						
	Cukes					100				
R. Tankersley	Strawb'y	80						200		
	Raspb'y		150							
	Cukes					100				
Mark Unger *	Cukes					35		70		
	Bluebr'y				6					
Matt Unger	Strawbr'y	30						40		
	Cukes					60				
M. Vasquez	Strawb'y	40						150		
	Raspb'y		20							
	Blk. Br'y			50						
	Cukes					150				
R. Williamson	Strawb'y	34						125		
	Rasp'y		5							
	Blk Rasp'y			34						
	Boysen Bry's				29					
<b>TOTALS</b>		814	210	777	272	108	34	570	500	2457
<b>GRAND TOTAL ACRES</b>		<b>3285</b>								

Max Labor Req't	2,457
- * Non-Peak Season Labor Need	412
- Max Labor Req't During Peak Season	2,045
Existing Migrant Housing Capacity	1,496
Additional Housing Need for 554 Migrant Farmworkers	

## Appendix C

## MIGRANT DEPENDENT ACRAGE

<u>GROWER</u>	<u>CROP</u>	<u>ACRAGE</u>		<u>MAX LABOR REQ'T</u>
T. Amstead *	Potatoes			400 18
F. Barby	Strawb'y 60			160
D. Bishoff *	Blk. Rasp'y Potaotes	140		400 200
C. Betencourt	Strawb'y 40			100
H. Breen	Strawb'y			
A Coussens	Strawb'y 42 Cukes		25	35
L. Duyck	Strawb'y 113 Blk Rsp'y Blk Br'y Boysen Br'y Blue Br'y	49	62 20	225 28
M. Decker *	Blk Rasp'y		100	100
K. Fields	Strawb'y 45			100
D. Jesse				
Carl Krahmer	Strawb'y 30			200
A. Lutrell	Strawb'y 60 Blk Rasp'y Rasp'y Boysen Br'y	15	100 30	125
R. Malinsky *	Blk Rasp'y	149		24
H. Sahnaw	Strawb'y 20 Boysen Br'y		17	60
K. Shanks	Strawb'y 60 Blk Br'y Boysen Br'y		160 12	100
B. Tankersley	Strawb'y 60 Cukes Blk Rasp'y	80	100	175





Appendix B

April 8, 1980

MEMO:

TO: FARM HOUSING TASK FORCE  
FROM: HAL HEWITT  
RE: COMMUNITY INVOLVEMTNT \*

This memo summarizes the community involvement program which the Task Force has previously discussed:

- 1) Active CPO's will be identified in areas to be affected by the Action Plan. We will provide the leadership of each CPO with information on the purpose and scope of our program and invite their comments prior to any final site election. CPO leaders should be invited to attend one or more Task Force meetings and be involved, to the extent it will be practical, in the final site selection process.
- 2) Church leaders in the Hillsboro-Forest Grove area who may be interested in assisting our efforts will also be provided information on the purpose and scope of the program. They will be invited to more Task Force meetings for solicitation of their comments and suggestions in strengthening the program and assuring its success.
- 3) We shall endeavor to encourage each of the above individuals or other interest groups to participate with us in making any public presentations for development permits.

\* Adopted April 9, 1980

## Appendix A

FARMWORKER HOUSING TASK FORCE  
MEMBERSHIP  
MARCH 1980

Theresa Brown                   648-8911  
Rt. 2 Box 325 #94  
Cornelius, Ore. 97113

Lucy Cable                   648-8511  
Washington County Housing Authority  
232 N. Lincoln  
Hillsboro, Oregon 97123

Miller Duris, Chairman 648-8681  
County Board of Commissioners  
150 N. First Avenue  
Hillsboro, Oregon 97123

Lloyd Duyck                   648-6628  
Lloyd-Dene Farms  
Rt. 4 Box 338  
Cornelius, Oregon 97113

Dick Ginsberg               640-4770  
Farmworker Legal Aid  
107 S. E. 2nd Avenue #18  
Hillsboro, Oregon 97123

Emilio Hernandez           357-5420  
1603 "A" St.  
Forest Grove, Ore. 97116

Jack Hert                   648-0621  
215 S. E. 6th  
Hillsboro, Oregon 97123

Candido Morales           620-9317  
Oregon Human Development Corp.  
11654 Pacific Hwy.  
Tigard, Oregon 97223

Mike Sandburg              640-3422  
Washington County Health Dept.  
150 N. First Avenue  
Hillsboro, Oregon 97123

Ron Tankersley           647-2386  
P. O. Box 662  
North Plains, Oregon 97133

MIGRANT HOUSING DATA SUMMARY

MIGRANT DEPENDENT  
ACREAGE

3285

MAX. MIGRANT  
LABOR REQ'T

2,045

EXISTING MIGRANT  
HOUSING CAPACITY

1496

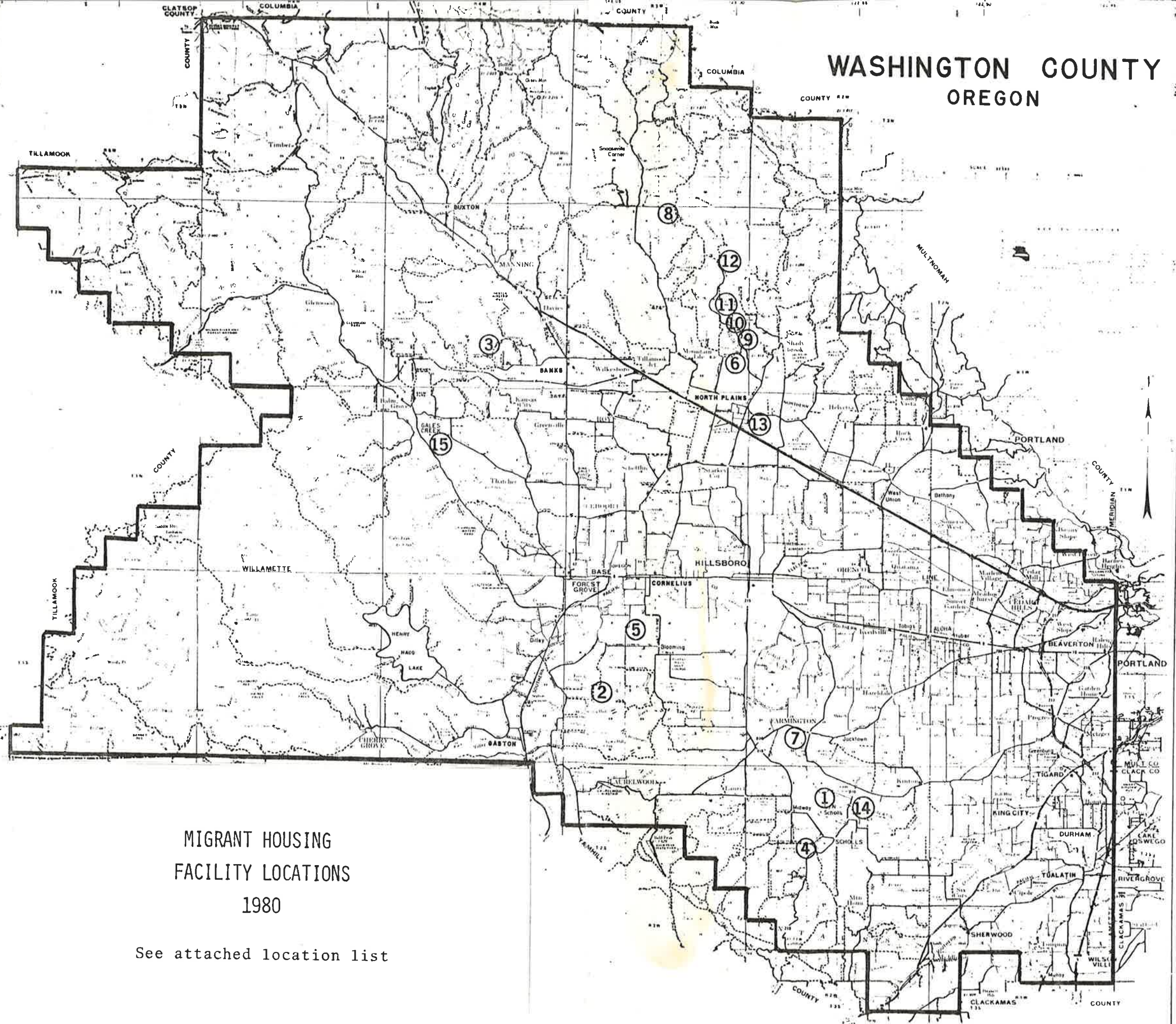
Additional Housing Need for  
554 Migrant Farmworkers.

5-219

2,045  
1,496  
-----  
549



# WASHINGTON COUNTY OREGON



MIGRANT HOUSING  
FACILITY LOCATIONS  
1980

See attached location list

According to the OSPIRG report, the poor housing conditions were caused by inadequate inspection procedures, the lack of strong sanctions for health and safety violations, and weak housing/health standards.<sup>1</sup> The OSPIRG report cited overcrowding as a major problem.

As mentioned earlier, the focus of information gathering has been on migrant as opposed to settled-out farmworker housing conditions.<sup>2</sup> The survey of growers described above, indicates that migrant housing units vary from the typical single unit size of 12' x 15' to larger four plexes in which living space for large families can be accommodated.

Migrant farmworker housing units are typically constructed of stud walls with a single sheet plywood with tarpaper added. Most units have a small sink and a "hot plate" for preparing meals. A window opening, approximately 2' x 2' with a screen is located in one or two walls. Bathroom and laundry facilities are centralized in separate buildings.

Typically migrant housing deficiencies include: lack of adequate space (average occupancy of 4-6 for 12' x 12 unit); lack of adequate lighting, lack of adequate ventilation and old age (most over 20 years old.)

#### Conclusion

It is apparent from the information gathered thus far that deficiencies in both the number and conditions of existing migrant farmworker housing units in Washington County justify the expenditure of funds to construct new migrant housing.

#### Footnotes:

<sup>1</sup>"Migrant Living Conditions," OSPIRG, Portland, 1978.

<sup>2</sup>A Survey of Settled-out farmworker housing conditions will be included in the final report.

In general machine harvest of migrant dependent crops does not hold great promise for growers. It is generally felt that there is a big gap between machine technology and plant characteristics. The growers survey indicated a strong preference for manual labor over machine harvesting. The ability or inability to obtain and house migrant labor will continue to be a significant factor in determining the extent to which growers turn to machine harvesting in the future.

The grower survey identified 44 existing Migrant Farmworker Housing sites with a total of 380 units. According to growers who run these housing sites there is a total capacity to house 1,491 Migrant Farmworkers. (See Appendix F. for map). These results indicate that during the peak harvest season there is a lack of temporary housing for 554 migrant farmworkers.

When growers were asked where these additional workers found housing they replied that "they didn't know". It is suspected that migrant farmworkers unable to find migrant housing settle for old motels, campers, barns, or cars.

Proposed Action 2.2:

Collect and summarize all the available information regarding the adequacy of available farm labor housing.

Some research has been conducted on the condition, choice, and availability of a farm labor housing. In 1978, the Oregon Public Interest Research Group published a report entitled "Migrant Living Conditions". This report concluded that migrant housing conditions in Washington County, were deplorable. At the five migrant housing camps surveyed in Washington County, OSPIRG found 66 apparent violations of health and safety codes.



This was in accordance with the directive from the County (Policy Advisory Board of the Community Development Block Grant) to focus primarily on the need for Migrant, rather than Settled-out, Farmworker Housing needs.

A survey of farmers employing Migrant Farm labor was conducted in April and May, 1980. Two meetings were held with farmers who employ seasonal labor and a comprehensive list of farmers using Migrant labor was developed. (See Appendix C.). Every Farmer on the list was contacted either in person or by telephone.

The survey contained questions on crops, acreage, labor requirements, available housing units. Additional comments were encouraged about the development of new migrant housing projects sponsored by a public agency or non-profit organization (See Appendix D. for complete questionnaire).

The results of the questionnaire indicate that the harvesting of at least 3,285 acres are dependent upon migrant farm labor. The survey also revealed that 2,074 migrant farm workers are needed for the current harvest season. (See Appendix C. for complete results). The maximum labor requirement occurs at peak strawberry harvest, mid June. Most of the migrants remain after strawberry season to harvest other crops i.e., raspberries, black caps, cucumbers, and cane berries. The migrant dependent harvest is completed in late August or early September.<sup>1</sup>

The number of migrant farm workers present during the peak harvest time i.e. strawberry harvest, was used to determine the number of migrant farmworkers needing temporary housing. This figure is somewhat less than the one reported by the State Employment Office for last year, 2,756. This discrepancy is probably due to a loss of some migrant dependent acreage, limited use of machines to harvest cane berries, and possible double counting by the State.

Footnote:

1 An exception to this is the potato growers who maintain migrant help throughout the year. Approximately 50 migrant workers are involved in the potato harvest.