

In a dateline article out of Corvallis, Ore., in late January, Philip Shabecoff of the *New York Times* News Service describes the growing body of scientific research that now indicates acid rain is developing into a national problem – “not simply a matter of concern to New England and New York’s Adirondack Mountains.”

The story covers the activities of NAPAP (the National Acid Precipitation Assessment Program, with a budget of nearly \$60 million this year and involving 13 different departments and agencies) and within this context it includes references to work by National Park Service scientists. Answers about the causes and effects of acid rain and other pollutants “are starting to be found,” Shabecoff states, “and a good number of them are emerging from the Environmental Protection Agency’s research laboratory here in the Willamette Valley, a continent away from the acidified lakes of the Adirondacks.”

As a result of direct experiments plus mathematical models based on “the flood of data from around the country,” scientists and technicians are now “able to describe some of the chemical and biological processes that take place.” The article includes a look at the intense debate raging over possible effects of acid rain on human health and over what should be done with relation to all the newly acquired information and insights.