



## EVALUATING YOUR OAK'S NET WORTH

Obviously, we believe oaks are priceless treasures. Nevertheless, some people would maintain that everything has its price, so we thought you'd be interested to see a work-up on "The Value of an Oak Tree", courtesy of Rosi Dagit and the Topanga-Las Virgenes Resource Conservation District. (Written in 1993 and published in the Newsletter of the California Oak Foundation.)

There are, apparently, two ways or methods of evaluating the worth of an oak tree. The first assesses yearly savings for enhancements to your living environment. Consider:

Oxygen production	\$ 625
Air pollution control	\$1,240
Soil erosion control and increased soil fertility	\$ 625
Enhanced groundwater recharge and storm runoff control	\$ 750
Food and shelter for wildlife	\$1,875
Reductions in heating/cooling costs by half when correctly placed (based on an all electric 2,000 square foot home)	\$5,790

The other alternative is to calculate the actual replacement value of an individual tree. Here goes:

$$\text{Assessed Value} = (\text{basic value})(100)(\text{condition rating})$$

$$\text{Basic value} = \$4,700 + \$2,700 (d-7)(d=\text{diameter in inches of trunk at 4.5 feet above ground})$$

Condition rating = based on visual evaluation of the tree

- 90-100% . . . . . Excellent
- 70- 89% . . . . . Good
- 50- 69% . . . . . Fair
- 25- 49% . . . . . Poor
- 0 - 24% . . . . . Very Poor

Example: Coast Live oak in good condition with 25 inch diameter  
 $(\$4,700 + \$2,700 (25-7) (.100) (.80) = \$42,640$

***Fight inflation and depreciation. Invest in oaks.***