



Bighorn Sheep

## OREGON NATURAL RESOURCES COUNCIL

# Salsa and Slides to Celebrate 15 Wild Years

by Jim Stiak

**A** DECADE AND A HALF after it was formed to protect the state's remaining unspoiled lands, the Oregon Natural Resources Council is ready to party. Friday evening, October 9, the Hult Center's Studio I will ripple to the Latin beat of Caliente and the scenic slides of Al Minor's Earth Mass, as ONRC presents its 15th Anniversary Celebration.

Since its inception in 1972, ONRC has grown to represent some 90 different conservation, outdoors and business organizations, from local fishing clubs to the Audubon Society. They've labored in Congress and in court, in the field and in federal agencies, to steadily increase the size of Oregon's wilderness areas. Over two million acres in 36 different areas have now been designated by the U.S. Congress as wilderness, protected from the chainsaw and the cattle hoof. Most of that has happened since ONRC came into being.

"We feel that saving pristine land is the greatest calling," says the ONRC's Wendell Wood. "We fight tooth and claw to get these areas protected."

The 1984 Wilderness Bill was one of their most conspicuous successes, but many of their other accomplishments are not so obvious. Being involved with the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management in timber sales and rangeland appeals—"just being there," says Wood—has helped protect many roadless areas. "We're there," says Wood, "to hold the mirror up if they make the wrong decision."

They've had considerable success in court, and are currently involved in several federal lawsuits. One has temporarily

blocked the completion of Elk Creek Dam on the Rogue River. Another is pending against Secretary of the Interior Don Hodel's plan to open up his native state's coastline to oil drilling. A third has stopped logging on one timber sale near Breitenbush. ONRC's unrelenting efforts have helped make this last issue—Old Growth—one of national concern.

Despite being told that it couldn't be done, the organization recently helped push through a state Endangered Species Act which strengthens the protection of hapless animals. They also, to the displeasure of dune buggiers, succeeded in closing 45 miles of coastline and 12 natural estuaries of the Oregon coast to motorized vehicles. "We've been called a few names over that one," says Wood.

The group is now involved with the BLM in their review of the roadless areas of eastern Oregon. They estimate that there are five million acres of such land—twice what the BLM recognizes. Pressure from the timber industry and the Reagan administration has federal agencies so biased toward commodity values, says Wood, that they see roads even where there are none.

ONRC has some 2500 individual members, who, for \$25 or more a year, receive the quarterly journal *Wild Oregon* and are invited to attend several conferences, including an

annual one which Wood calls "our major educational revival event." Most of the Council's funding comes from these individual contributors, with lesser amounts from benefits such as their annual auction—and an occasional birthday party.

For their fifteenth anniversary, ONRC is presenting the cross-cultural sounds of Caliente, fresh from an enthusiastic reception at Seattle's Bumpershoot Festival. The core of this seven-member band is composed of three boyhood friends from Mexico City who came to Eugene to study music at the University. Enrique Rios plays sax and flute, Alejandro Gonzales handles bass and vocals, and Fernell Lopez sings lead and flails the congas. Rounding out Caliente is Rich Glauber, who composes many of the group's songs, on keyboards and vocals; Edwin Coleman III on drums; David Bender on trumpet; and Jack Cuelo, debuting on guitar.

Caliente, who describe their music as Latin-dance-Caribbean, will take the stage at nine, after Al Minor's Earth Mass, which opens at 8. This 20 minute show, originally conceived as a Thanksgiving celebration, consists of two projectors illuminating slides of "natural scenes of wildlife and landscapes," says Minor. Accompanied by the music of Paul Winter, it is a "hymn of joy and praise," says the creator, an expression of the wonders of life on earth.

Admission to the affair is six dollars, which goes toward preserving what's left of pristine Oregon. Various and sundry refreshments will be available to contribute to an event that's planned to be almost as wild as the lands it will help protect.

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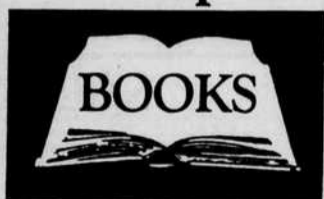
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