

**CINEMA I**  
co-feature "The Landlord"  
Beau Bridges-Lee Grant  
LANDLORD 7:30 WOMEN 9:15

ALAN BATES OLIVER REED  
GLENDA JACKSON JENNIE LINDEN

**D. H. LAWRENCE'S  
"WOMEN IN LOVE"**

**CINEMA II**  
Frank Zappa's  
"200 MOTELS"  
7:30

Ario Guthrie  
"Alice's  
Restaurant"  
9:15

**Oakway CINEMA**  
COMBOS ROAD

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WALTER MATTHAU TATUM O'NEAL  
"THE BAD NEWS  
Bears"

co-feature  
"PAPER  
MOON"

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MATINEES DAILY AT  
12:15 - 2:40 - 5 P.M.  
7:30 - 10:05

**JAMES COBURN**  
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THEATRE 363-1822

A widdle in her hips.  
Larceny in her heart of gold.  
It's **GOLDIE HAWN**  
as **The Duchess**.

A card up his sleeve.  
A noose around his neck.  
It's **GEORGE SEGAL**  
as **The Dirtwater Fox**.

Times  
8:15 &  
9:55

co-hit  
Elliot  
Gould  
in  
"Little  
Murders"  
at  
8:15

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# Extinction...

## Northern spotted owl in danger if old-growth firs harvested

Editor's Note: This story is the last of a five-part series on species extinction and biotic diversity. The series has been presented in observance of Earth Week, which extends through Sunday.

By E. G. WHITE-SWIFT  
Of the Emerald

Going, going, but not gone yet are Oregon's old-growth Douglas fir forests. If they are all cut as planned, Oregon may lose the northern spotted owl and all the species of plants and wildlife dependent on the old-growth ecosystem.

Projections by the Pacific Northwest Range and Experiment Station indicate that by the year 2,000, practically all the timber on federal lands in Oregon will have been converted to forests less than 200 years old. Where old-growth has already been greatly reduced, such as in the Coast Range, conversion will undoubtedly be completed before the year 2,000.

Most private lands have been converted to second growth forests. After conversion, average rotation ages (ages at which forests will be periodically harvested) of 56-77 years on private lands and 75-80 years on federal lands are anticipated.

This is bad news for the northern spotted owl, one of Oregon's unofficial endangered species. Their habitat consists of old-growth Douglas fir, 250-400 years old. They need old, decadent stands of "wolfy" trees with dead or dying tops that are hollowed-out for nesting. These stands are characterized by relatively high-canopy closures and dense understories of shade-tolerant plants.

These owls have not been located outside of the old-growth ecosystems in the young second growth stands or clearcut areas. They depend on old-growth for nesting and hunting, and a developed understory of conifers or deciduous growth for rearing their young. Each owl requires an estimated 200-1,000 acres of old-growth to survive. If it is cut, they will wander out until they find similar habitat. As cutting continues, these areas to escape to are becoming fewer and farther apart.

The specific habitat requirements of the owl together with



Photo by Jerry Mines

This owl, along with his brothers and sisters, may become extinct if the rapid harvesting of the Douglas fir continues. The harvesting destroys the old-growth ecosystem, which this owl, as well as other species of wildlife and plants, depend on for food and shelter.

strong site tenacity and poor dispersal ability make it more vulnerable to elimination with less chance of recovery than many other species. The present management policy of short-term rotation and monoculture currently in practice is the single largest threat to northern spotted owls.

What happens to the northern spotted owl is an indication of what is happening to the whole old-growth ecosystem. It is the top carnivore of the ecosystem. It feeds on canopy mammals such as the red tree vole, dusky-footed wood rat, and the flying squirrel. They in turn feed on fir needles,

cones, seeds, and buds. The female red tree vole spends its entire life cycle in the canopy.

There are plant associations with the old-growth ecosystem that are unique, too. In the upper canopy are nitrogen-fixing lichens. On the branches of the canopy are fungi and micro-organisms that are carried by rain to the ground where they aid in the development of the soils. At the base of the tree are wildflowers restricted to old-growth stands, including root parasitic orchids of the Heath family.

The soils of this ecosystem are unique not only for the animals and insects that make their living there, but also by the method the soil is turned over. In a natural stand, a process of churning occurs when old trees fall. The impact of the immense weight of the tree moves different soil to the surface nearby. As the tree rots, insects feed on it, plants grow on it, and eventually the tree becomes soil supporting another tree.

In the clearcut areas, this natural process has been altered. After the trees are down, the soil is often scraped or burned and eventually compacted. In most cases, herbicides are sprayed in the clearcut areas to prevent the growth of non-commercial competing species. These actions facilitate the rapid replacement of commercial conifers in an area that formerly was highly diverse.

Even the trees that are planted are not quite the same as what may have been on the site. Douglas fir have adapted locally to grow in the environmental conditions (soils, altitude, annual rainfall) that

(Continued on Page 7)

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