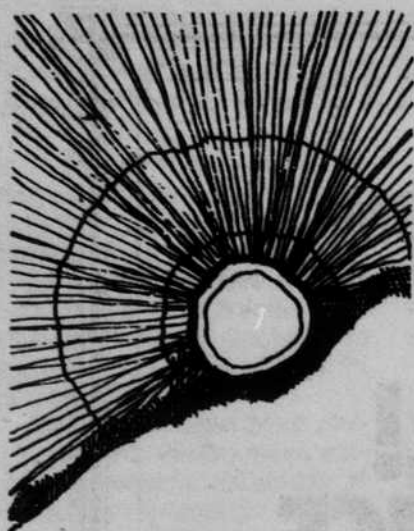




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Environmental footnotes

By E.G. WHITE-SWIFT
Of the Emerald

EAGLES THREATENED: The bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) is about to join the endangered species list. It has been proposed for listing in 43 states as endangered, and as threatened in five states (including Oregon) by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

Endangered species receive complete federal protection. None can be killed, placed in commerce, or possessed without a special permit. Permits are issued only for scientific purposes or to enhance the propagation or survival of the animal. Threatened species regulations can be as stringent as endangered species controls, or more relaxed.

Many people believe the bald eagle is already listed as endangered. The species is protected by the Bald Eagle Protection Act of 1940, but only the southern subspecies is listed as endangered by the Endangered Species Act of 1973. The 1973 Act prohibits any federal agency from authorizing, funding, or carrying out any action that would jeopardize the existence of listed species.

The eagle, which barely beats out the wild turkey in the contest for America's national symbol, may now become the unfortunate symbol of what is happening to much of our native wildlife.

"As we pause and reflect about the progress this country has made in the last two centuries, many of us in the wildlife field find that the plight of the bald eagle is common to many other forms of wildlife in America," states Keith Schreiner, USFWS associate director.

Civilization has drastically reduced the available habitat to wildlife, threatening its living space. Not only the concrete, but also the guns. Shooting continues to be the leading cause of premature death among adult and immature eagles. Some people misidentify them for other species while hunting and others deliberately kill them because of an ingrained prejudice against all birds of prey.

"In addition, in some areas of the country, the eagle can't even hatch its own eggs," Schreiner said. "Pesticide residues have so contaminated its body that egg shells become thin and break when it tries to hatch them."

Interested persons may participate in the rulemaking for the en-

dangered eagle by submitting their written comments by Sept. 10 to the Director, USFWS, P.O. Box 19183, Washington, D.C., 20036.

SEATTLE/SPRINGFIELD: In the last week, Seattle has voted a nuclear "no" while Springfield has

Councilman Paul Kraabel summed up their position by saying, "What we are talking about is committing the ratepayers to \$100 million-plus for the period between 1985-2020, and my answer to that proposition is no!"

The public utility (Seattle City Light) superintendent was unhappy with the decision, labeling the three votes as "bum decisions" and charging the city with abdicating a position of leadership in Northwest power planning.

Briefs:

- Herb Epstein, a citizen action co-ordinator for Critical Mass (a citizen movement to stop nuclear power), will talk to Eugene persons interested in learning how to become involved in the energy decision making process of government. Sponsored by the Survival Center, the meeting is Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. in the EMU Forum Room unless posted otherwise.

- Honey Lakes backpacking and huckleberry-picking trip is Saturday and Sunday. It is a 14-mile round trip, costs \$5 and is sponsored by the Eugene Parks and Recreation Office.

- Utility poles made of scrap glass and fly ash material (foamed glass) will be researched by ECP, Inc., Los Angeles, with a \$1.5 million grant from the Electric Power Research Institute. It's predicted that the 32-month study will show that the poles will be considerably cheaper than wood, concrete or steel.

- For those people interested in studying forestry issues, a new booklet has been published that makes terms like annual allowable cut, even-flow management, NEPA and shelterwood cutting easy to understand.

The booklet, "The Citizens Guide to Forestry and the Environment," was written by the Cascade Holistic Economic Consultants (CHEC) and is available from them for \$1. CHEC is a tax-exempt organization, providing low cost technical services to Oregon and Washington conservation groups. CHEC's address is 3544 S.E. Washington, #6, Portland, Ore. 97214.



voted yes. Both votes were by public officials on participation in two proposed nuclear plants to be built by the Washington Public Power System.

The Springfield Utility Board (SUB) decided to join 90 public utilities in underwriting the sale of a \$100 million bond which will enable construction of the two plants to begin. The plants will be located near Olympia and Richland, Wash.

The SUB reluctantly approved the district's participation which may eventually cost it more than \$5 million a year. The board was not so much concerned about the use of controversial nuclear power, as the increased costs to utility consumers that will result.

The board apparently decided that it has no other alternatives if it wants "to assure Springfield an adequate power supply in 1980s."

The Seattle City Council, which oversees the public utility that serves all consumers in Seattle, voted against joining the nuclear consortium of public utilities that would build the plants, according to a report in *Willamette Week*.

On three separate votes it rejected decisively any city participation in the two nuclear plants. Council members voting against participation did so chiefly for economic reasons.

Herbicide hearing reset

Long-winded arguments on two unrelated zoning change requests forced the postponement of a scheduled public hearing on herbicide use in Lane County last Wednesday. The hearing is rescheduled for next Wednesday at 7 p.m.

An overflow audience of herbicide opponents, proponents, and interested Lane County residents waited for two hours before realizing there would not be enough time for a tired Board of County Commissioners to hear all the debate.

The commissioners wanted to allow the county staff (which has already given a presentation to the commissioners in support of the herbicide program) and "all

those that because of the long distance they've traveled won't be able to testify at a future hearing" to testify before adjourning. The legal counsel for the four citizens groups that had requested the hearing objected, stating that a disjointed hearing could prevent the commissioners from receiving all the information in a balanced forum.

The commissioners, after a period of verbal sparring with attorney Lawrence Young concerning a just remedy for the hearing dispute, set Aug. 4 as the date for a special hearing on the herbicide issue. They guaranteed there would be no other agenda items to interfere with a complete hearing, after which they have promised to make some decision.

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