

Updated map of Three Sisters available

Editor's note: Environmental footnotes is a regular Emerald feature appearing each Wednesday. It is compiled each week from the mailbag and phone calls by environmental editor E.G. White-Swift.

By E.G. WHITE-SWIFT
Of the Emerald

THREE SISTERS MAP UPDATED: On a clear day a hiker on Spencer's Butte or a jogger along the Willamette River can view the Three Sisters mountain peaks hugging the eastern horizon.

The snow-capped, dormant volcanics are the center of the 196,708-acre Three Sisters Wilderness Area. In 1975, over 73,000 visitors were recorded on the prime Willamette National Forest wilderness area, second only to visitation on the Mt. Jefferson Wilderness area a few miles to the north.

An updated map of the Three Sisters Wilderness Area is now available from the offices of the Willamette National Forest. The topographic map costs 50 cents, the same as the older 1973 version.

While appearing unchanged by its cover and text side, the map has been extensively revised to indicate new trails, more accurately display old trails, show new trailheads, and have more accurate trail mileages.

Although most of the changes are small, the new map includes the relocation of the heavily

traveled Pacific Crest Trail. Over 20,000 copies of the map have been printed at a cost of several thousand dollars.



SPOTTED OWL UPDATE: Last month, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land managers and biologists from throughout western Oregon met to consider the Northern Spotted Owl. The group assembled reports showing that 193 pairs of the rare owls have been counted on BLM western Oregon lands, with about 63 per cent of the owl's potential BLM Oregon habitat now inventoried.

A total of 325 pairs have been counted, altogether, in the western part of the state. The Oregon Endangered Species Task Force Group has recommended maintenance of 400 pairs in Oregon. The task force believes this total would make official listing of the Northern Spotted Owl as an endangered species unnecessary and would allow the bird's removal from the Oregon threatened species listing.

The secretive owl inhabits large tracts of old-growth Douglas Fir, depending largely on the dense upper canopy of the trees for its rodent food supply. It also uses the broken tops of decaying trees for nests, as the hollows provide cover from its chief predator, the Great Horned Owl.

In the last few years, the chain saw has become the chief threat to the owl, as large stand of old-growth timber are rapidly being liquidated forest lands. At current harvest rates, the BLM estimates that all its old-growth stands will be eliminated by the turn of the next century.

Later this spring the BLM will have public meetings to gather input concerning the Northern Spotted Owl. The amount of public concern will help determine the acreage of old-growth timber left standing as owl and recreation habitat. Watch this space for more details.

The BLM is also co-sponsoring a workshop on non-game bird habitat management at Portland's downtown Thunderbird Inn Feb. 7-9. It is expected to draw up to 200 wildlife biologists from throughout the west coast.

The session will emphasize principles and techniques of managing habitat for non-game birds in the coniferous forests of the west while maintaining a diversity of natural biological communities.

MOST USELESS PRESS RELEASE OF THE YEAR AWARD: For excellence in consuming paper and postage for releasing useless information, this year's award goes to the Siskiyou National Forest, which sent me the following trivia gem:

"The best asphalt paving job on a forest road in the state in 1976, was done on the Siskiyou National Forest, according to the Asphalt Pavement Association of Oregon. "The award winning, 12-mile road, Forest Service Road No. 333.4, goes from Quosatana Campground to Agness in Curry County. Mike Huddleston, manager of the Association, noted the

quality construction was evident in the smoothness of ride experienced on the road."

With chuck, chuck, holes on Interstate 5, and an accelerating energy crunch, how can we afford to waste gasoline to discover the state's newest and smoothest forest highway?

ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLICATION: News of the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is available now in a free DEQ newsletter labeled Ambience. To be put on the mailing list, just write the DEQ, Office of Public Affairs, 1234 S.W. Morrison, Portland, 97205.

ASUO

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Tyler charges that the ASUO support for UFW is a "violation of trust." "It was unfair of them to hide it from us when they made the proposal," he said.

"We have worked hard to remove politics from the IFC," Oliver says. Now they're trying to take politics out of the Executive. "The ASUO Constitution states that the IFC will only act in fiscal matters.

"It wasn't very intelligent of the ASUO to run the ad on Friday," says Tyler. If they had waited until Monday, the time limit for us to reconsider the allocation would have expired, he says.

Oliver says Tyler's action lays the way for "a lot of madness from politics in the budget process." He should concern himself with whether we have a television show and whether students watch it, she adds.

Burns says that the student association is using TV to search out new media to take issues to students. "Gallo will be the first segment and could create an audience for the remaining shows," he says.

Production on the shows to be broadcast on station KOZY, channel 11, has already begun, according to Eric Bellman, ASUO press officer. Bellman says he has already made commitments for the series.

Tyler plans to make a motion which includes a stipulation that there be no television show production of the Gallo-UFW debate. The motion will include a second stipulation that in case the first stipulation is declared unconstitutional, funds for the whole series would revert to the general fund.

Tyler predicts that his motion to reconsider will pass, even though "it would be unfortunate" if the remainder of the series did not get air play.

But IFC member Janet Eggleston calls the motion for reconsideration "a lot of crap" and claims it

will fail. She admits that a reversal in the vote could make the IFC look like kids, but dismissed it, saying, "We're just playing at student government anyway. Just look at the power we have."

Eggleston voted against the original allocation for the series and says she would not change her vote if a second tally is necessary at Wednesday night's meeting. "I think that for \$260 we could get more than six shows," she says.

"I don't think students will watch TV on Sunday (when the shows are to be aired)," Eggleston says.

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