

Hearings focus on resource planning act

Inadequate replanting of logged forest areas and poor planning for future timber resources dominated congressional hearings held in Roseburg Friday.

Oregon Rep. Jim Weaver opened the hearings in the southern Oregon city last week to give congressional direction to the 1974 National Resources Planning Act. Assisting Weaver was California Rep. George Brown.

Criticizing schemes to solve the problem of timber scarcity by increasing cutting on public lands beyond their normal yield capacity, Weaver said he would introduce legislation to halt the practice of deficit forestry. This practice, he said, has "left nearly one-quarter of western Oregon's commercial timberland inadequately reforested."

Summarizing information gathered for the hearings, Weaver said that 3.3 million acres of forest land in western Oregon are unstocked or poorly stocked with young trees. Nearly 23 per cent of commercial land, he pointed out, and 38 per cent of private land is inadequately stocked.

He also cited figures showing that 35 per cent of state lands, 22 per cent of Bureau of Land Management lands and six per cent of National Forest lands are inadequately reforested.

Short-run, deficit forestry, Weaver said, will only intensify the problem. "There is no

shortcut to a sufficient timber supply," he explained.

"The only solution is to redirect American forest policy toward intensifying management of our nation's best public and private timber growing land, with strengthened environmental protection and multiple use on marginal forests," Weaver said.

Intensified management could increase annual timber production by 3.5 billion board feet from the national forests, and by 25 to 35 billion board feet from private lands in less than 25 years.

In other areas explored in the one-day hearing, witnesses agreed on the proposal of better reforestation, but all did not agree on how to approach the task.

Tax incentives for small woodland owners to help manage their lands were urged by John Truitt, a Douglas County commissioner.

Lane County commissioner Jerry Rust agreed with Truitt. "This is one area where we can catch up on the log supply lag," he said.

Rust called for revisions in government contracts for planting trees on national land to keep the price down so more acres can be planted.

Rick Herson, president of Hoedads, Eugene's tree-planting cooperative, urged federal support to give forest workers

under federal employment programs a chance to form cooperatives when the federal programs expire.

Hoedads and other cooperatives, Herson said, have brought stability to the tree planting industry that was once considered migrant work.

Prohibitions on some herbicides brought arguments from industry and agency foresters that reforestation efforts were being hampered by government regulations.

"Foresters must have a full array of tools for site preparation and release if we are to successfully reforest current cuttings and reclaim existing brush fields," Ronald Stewart, Pacific Northwest reforestation project leader for the Forest Service said.

Bans on herbicides 2,4,5-T and 2,4-D used in clearing brush competing with tree seedlings, may reduce revenues in Douglas County by \$11 million a year, with a loss of almost 600 jobs. The number of jobs lost could jump to almost 2,500 if more bans are ordered.

Howard Horowitz, a tree planter working on his doctoral dissertation on reforestation in the Willamette National Forest, argued that removing brush by hand would create more jobs.

"There is an assumption that brush is always undesirable and recourse to extreme toxic chemicals applied repeatedly is the least costly alternative," he said.

Steve Van Strum, president of Citizens



Jim Weaver

Against Toxic Sprays, said that the use of herbicides has brought on harmful effects to people, animals and the forest.

More than 40 witnesses testified before the Weaver hearings, capping a week of activity by the Oregon congressman concerning the problems facing the state's timber industry.

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Amazon

never agreed to stop the rent strike. They did discuss the possibility when vice-chancellor Freeman Holmer proposed that state board consideration of the issue be delayed last month, but they voted against it.

"On June 29 we had a meeting and decided to turn over July rent checks if negotiations proceeded in consideration of their request for a demonstration of good faith," recalls ACT negotiator Walt Sheasby.

"We rejected a total end to the strike but were prepared to wrap up the business of outstanding rent checks when it became evident that definite progress was being made in discussing the issues."

Tenant David Mason says, "If they showed us the \$10 increase would be fruitful — that it would mean insulation under the floors and steps that don't fall through

— we'd call off the strike. He suggests the adversary relationship between housing and tenants is not something new.

"The present situation is the result of several years of housing office insensitivity, neglect and inefficiency. It's not the money. If they could turn those things around, we don't think there would be objections to the increase," he argues. "In our view, Boyd's letter and most recent statements are really unfortunate. He's shut off all communications — that's use of power without constructive purpose."

For the past five years the rent has increased regularly at Amazon, rising almost 100 per cent since 1972. Yet, the insulation still hangs to the ground beneath most buildings and when the cold winds blow, tenants must combat unseasonable air conditioning.

"Most of the maintenance ex-

pense goes to labor and, as Haskins and Sells points out, there is no real way of checking on where the money goes," Mason adds.

But right now the administration seems most concerned with settling past-due accounts that amount to about \$20,000 in withheld rent checks. University legal council advises the strike is illegal. ACT says their lawyers are fairly confident it is not.

Boyd writes that the University "now has no choice but to pursue an investigation of the personal responsibility and possible liability of participants" in what he terms an "illegal action."

Hawk's opinion is that the money has no bearing on the rent increase and because they do not yet pay a new rate, the rent strike functions "as a means to escalate the issue and get a lot of public

attention."

The tenant position is equally firm. In the words of John Lawrence, "This is a bad omen for anyone hoping to deal with the state. If 140 families can't be heard by Boyd because he refuses to listen, how can one?"

Or in the words of Mason, "The real victims will be the kids. Our medical bills run 20 to 50 per cent higher than average due to sickness related to the excessive drafts during the cold season."

"But it's a great community. We of ACT think this place could be a very fine housing project and has a potential long life if the housing department gets its act together. But if they don't, (in reference to the \$70,000 demolition reserve) this place will fall down before the first bulldozer rolls in to demolish it."

Program aids new students

More than 300 persons who plan to enroll at the University this fall, and their parents, will receive an introduction to the campus Monday, through the University's Early Orientation and Registration Program (EORP).

The all-day session is the first of five summer EORP sessions at which entering freshmen and transfer students will have the opportunity to meet with academic advisors and sign up early for fall classes.

Parents attending the sessions meet informally with University faculty members, administrators and students, tour the campus and attend group discussions on topics such as housing options, financial aid, academic planning, careers and campus resources.

According to Neil Murray, University director of orientation, some 1,500 entering students are expected to participate in EORP this summer.

Murray said openings remain for two EORP sessions — July 29 and 30. Other sessions will be held July 22 and 23.

Persons interested in participating in EORP should contact the Orientation Office, University of Oregon, Eugene, 97403.

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