



By KATHLEEN MONJE  
Of the Emerald

# Of environmental concern

**THE FRENCH PETE CREEK,** Kalmiopsis and Wild Rogue wilderness areas officially became part of the Endangered Wilderness Act when Pres. Carter signed the act into law Friday.

The bill added 1.3 million acres to wilderness areas in 10 states. Thirty percent of the addition is in Oregon.

"This bill is critical to preserving areas that are a vital part of our national herit-

age and will be enjoyed in their natural state by millions of Americans today and in future generations," Carter said at a White House bill-signing ceremony.

The 36,500-acre Wild Rogue Wilderness is newly created. The remaining Oregon additions are the Zig Zag, with 33,000 acres, and the new Wenaha-Tucannon Area, with 185,000 acres.

The French Pete area in the Willamette National Forest increases the Three Sisters Wilderness by 46,900 acres, an expansion endorsed by the Carter administration. The Kalmiopsis Wilderness near Grants Pass gained 92,400 acres.

**SEN. MARK HATFIELD, R-Ore.,** criticized the Carter Administration Saturday for slowing down studies on

Army Corps of Engineers projects in Oregon.

Some 40 public works projects in Oregon are scheduled to receive \$376.5 million in the 1979 fiscal year. But the proposed national public works budget has been cut by the administration to 90 percent of last year's budget.

"Congress must revise its authorization procedures to put an end to these pointless delays on worthwhile projects," Hatfield said.

He expressed particular concern with the level of funding for "vital Oregon projects."

"This past week's hearings (of the Senate Public Works Appropriations Subcommittee) clearly indicate a real need for additional appropriations for

Oregon projects aimed at providing power, flood control and navigation benefits while expanding job opportunities throughout the state," Hatfield said.

**OREGON'S ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION (EQC)** intends to try again for Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approval of the 180,000-acre burning allowance for grass seed growers.

A temporary one-year field burning plan will be submitted in early April, to the EPA which rejected the 180,000-acre limit in January.

The EQC ordered preparation of the temporary plan by the Department of Environmental Quality Friday, at a meeting in Salem.

## New rules aim to aid endangered species

By MELISSA HILTON  
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New regulations will require all federal agencies to consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service if their activities affect endangered or threatened species.

Philip Lehenbauer, staff biologist in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Endangered Species Program in Portland, said that the new regulations require consultation not only for federal projects that might threaten listed

species or their critical habitat, but also when a project is designed to benefit an endangered species, so restoration projects will be well-coordinated, Lehenbauer said.

If a federal agency requests consultation with the fish and wildlife service, it must first provide the service with sufficient data on numbers of endangered species present in the area.

Lehenbauer says, "We may feel that their data is not adequate. We may suggest they make addi-

tional studies."

Within 60 days after receiving adequate information, the fish and wildlife service must determine whether the proposed activity would have no impact, harmful effects or benefit for the endangered species.

If the service determines the proposed project would have a harmful effect on a listed species or its critical habitat, it recommends a modification in the project.

The new regulations were designed as a procedure to make sure federal agencies comply with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973. That section prohibits federal agencies from authorizing, funding or carrying out any action that might jeopardize the existence of listed species or modify their critical habitat.

During the five years before the establishment of the new regulations, federal agencies operated

under voluntary guidelines. The new regulations were agreed upon after some controversy by an ad hoc committee of representatives from 12 federal agencies, as well as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

"Some agencies felt that they had in-house capabilities to meet the requirements of Section 7 without a formalized process," Lehenbauer said. Other agencies favored separate regulations for different kinds of agencies.

## Rust urges changes in timber harvesting

Using CETA workers to clear brush from Oregon forests and salvaging cedar for production of hot tubs and high quality furniture can help improve Oregon's forest industry, Lane County Commissioner Jerry Rust told a forestry conference Saturday.

Rust spoke at the Oregon Student Public Interest Research Group (OSPIRG) day-long conference, "The Forests and Oregon's Future," held at the University.

In his keynote speech, Rust said clearing Oregon's brushfields would free them for timber production and yield potentially salvagable materials.

"With a commitment from federal, state and local governments and the private sector, we can clean up the state and move forward," he said.

Representatives from Boise Cascade, the Sierra Club, the Hoedads, the state Department of Forestry and the Lane County Council of Governments participated in seven conference workshops.

University Survival Center Director Janet Gillaspie addressed the problem of wood wastes at the

"Other Forest Resources" workshop. "The current open burning of slash is a health hazard in already polluted airsheds, such as the Willamette Valley," she said.

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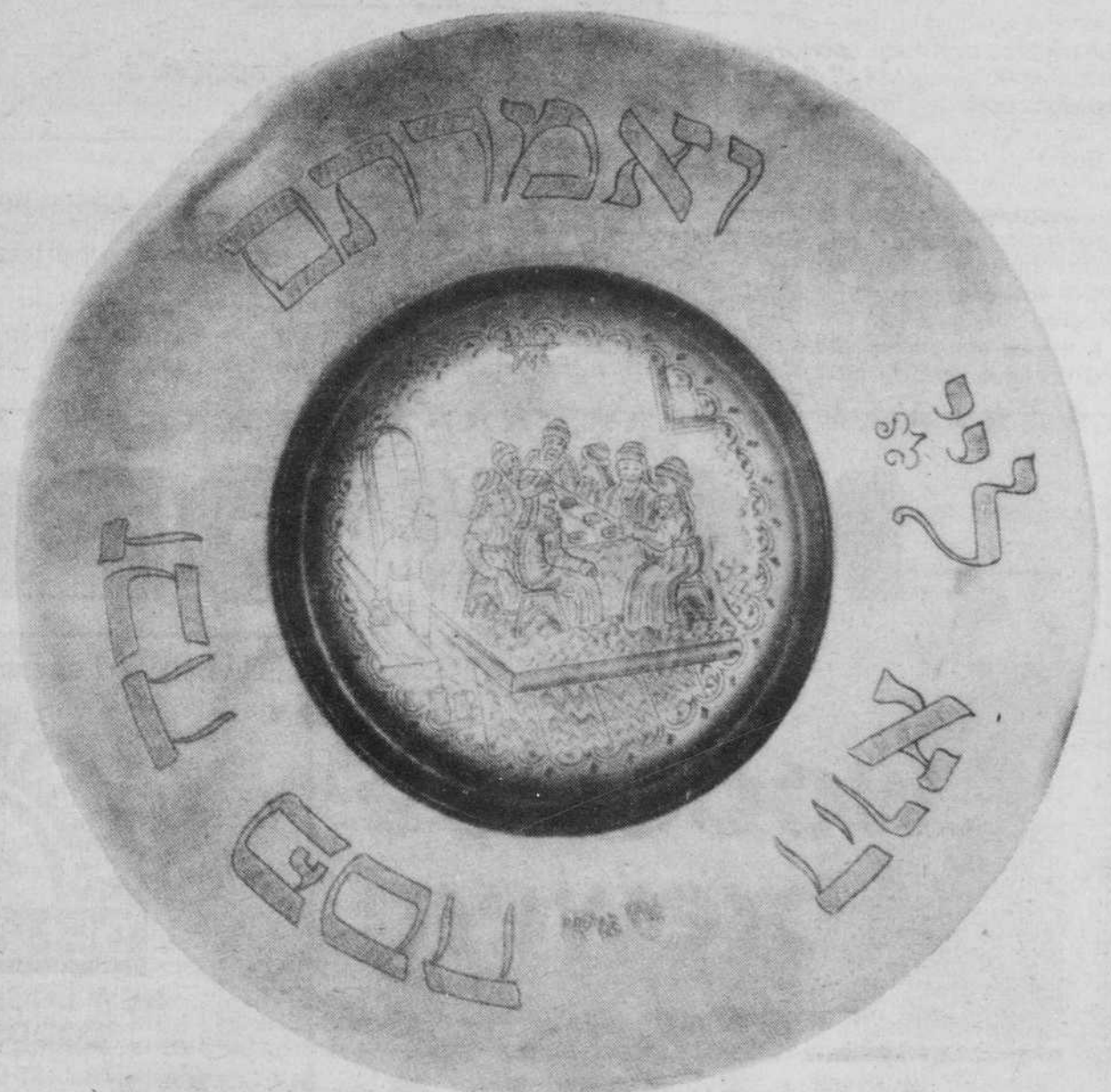
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