

Legislation may add trees to state forest

By David Brown
Of the Emerald

A wilderness bill that would add 1 million acres of roadless land to the National Wilderness System in Oregon passed the House Interior Committee Wednesday by a 26-17 vote.

However, a date for a House vote on the Oregon Endangered Forest Wilderness Act of 1982 has not been scheduled yet, says Ron Eachus, legislative aide to Congressman Jim Weaver, D-Ore.

Under the bill, one-third of Oregon's three million acres of roadless territory would be added to the National Wilderness System. This would make state wilderness areas total about 3.5 percent of Oregon, according to figures from Weaver's office.

Democratic Reps. Les Aucoin, Jim Weaver and Ron Wyden introduced the bill to avert possible lawsuits that threatened to tangle up three million acres of Oregon's roadless land in court.

Court proceedings would protect those acres from use by loggers during a recessionary economy, according to Weaver.

The 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals recently decided the "second Roadless Area Review and Evaluation" process, which the U.S. Forest Service uses in evaluating California's roadless areas, is inadequate.

The court's decree raises the possibility of a similar RARE lawsuit against Oregon's review process of roadless acres that are managed by the Forest Service, Weaver says.

Gov. Vic Atiyeh disagreed last week, writing that no urgency to avert lawsuits exists for the next two months.

In a sharp response to the bill, Atiyeh accused the three congressmen of subverting Republican Sen. Mark Hatfield's Timber Contract Relief Act and

of breaching a working relationship between the governor's office and the state's representatives.

Atiyeh says Weaver's office assured the governor's staff the bill would not be introduced.

"That is categorically not true because the congressman (Weaver) talked directly for over a half hour with Atiyeh's office in Salem," says Greg Skillman, staff director of the House forest subcommittee.

He says the 2 million acres open for multiple use by H.R. 7340 constitute the highest timber-yield areas of the three million acres considered.

"I don't think (the Timber Contract Relief Act and H.R. 7340) are mutually exclusive at all," says Skillman.

Because of the Wilderness Act, the Oregon Natural Resources Council postponed filing a RARE suit against the Forest Service, says Andy Kerr, ONRC associate director for conservation.

The bill falls far short of the 3.4 million-acre designation recommended by the ONRC, Kerr says. He urges public support of H.R. 7340, calling it an excellent measure towards compromising between timber industry and conservationist concerns.

The industry's best bet is to be supportive of this bill, he says. In the coming 1983 House, Representatives sympathetic towards conservationist interests will have a stronger influence, he says.

The bill "protects only one quarter of the eligible roadless lands as wilderness," said ONRC Executive Director James Monteith during earlier testimony on the bill to the House Public Lands Subcommittee. The bill gives Oregonians a "minimal supply of native wild forest lands," Monteith says.

Former Utah politician joins state higher ed staff

Beth Jarman, a former Utah "Woman of the Year," has been appointed assistant to the vice chancellor for public affairs.

Jarman will work with Wil Post, acting vice chancellor for public affairs, and with whom ever fills Post's position at the beginning of the year.

She will work on behalf of higher education with members of the Oregon Legislature, agencies, state system colleges and universities and the State

Board of Higher Education, according to the state system's information office. She will start at a salary of \$32,004.

Jarman is familiar with state politics. She has served as a member of the Utah House of Representatives and as an administrative assistant to Utah Gov. Scott Matheson in 1976-77.

Jarman earned her doctorate, master's and bachelor's degrees from the University of Utah in Salt Lake City.

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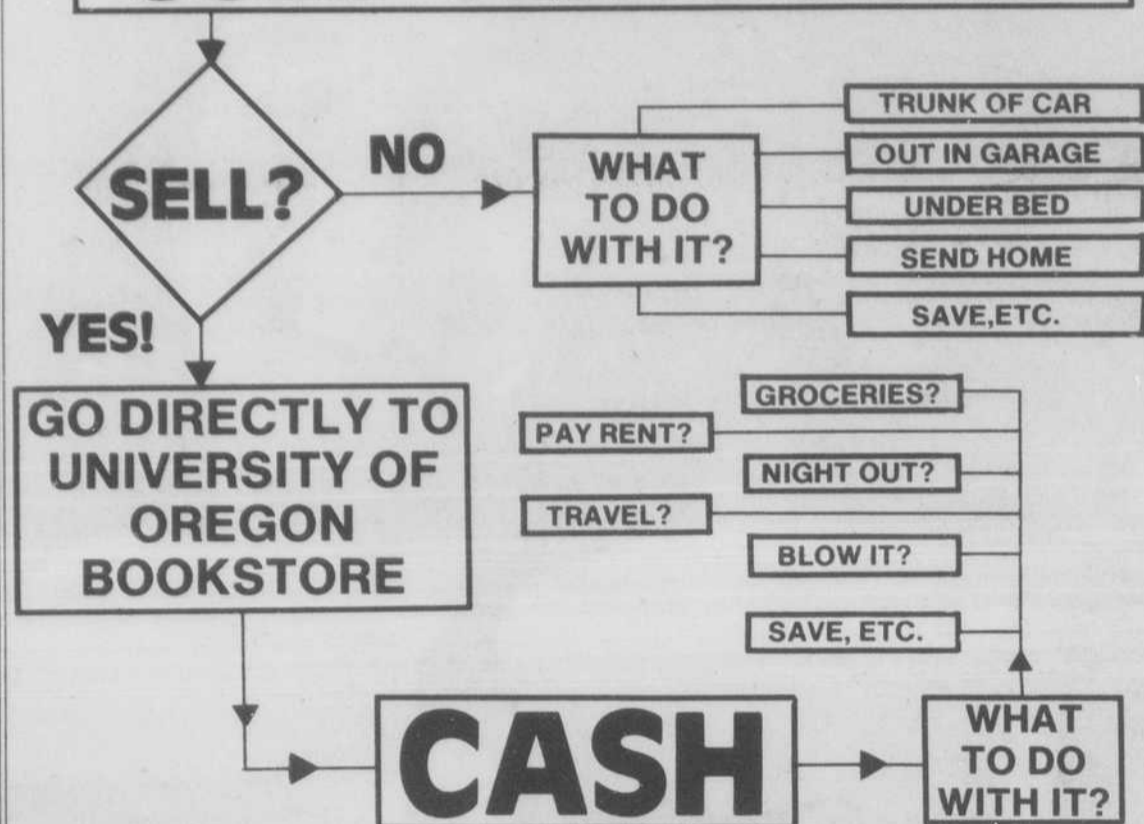
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The Oregon Daily Emerald is published Monday through Friday except during exam week and vacations, by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, OR, 97403.

The Emerald operates independently of the University with offices on the third floor of the Erb Memorial Union and is a member of the Associated Press.

News and Editorial 686-5511
Display Advertising and Business 686-3712
Classified Advertising 686-4343
Production 686-4381
Circulation 686-5511

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