Long balances state needs

By Andrew LaMar
Of the Emerald

Oregon can and must balance its economical needs with its environmental needs, Douglas County Commissioner Bruce Long said in the EMU Forum Room Monday.

Long, the Republican candidate for U.S. Congress in Oregon's 4th District, is opposing Democratic incumbent Jim Weaver in the Nov. 6 election.

"Can the environment be balanced with the economy — specifically in the 4th District?" Long asked. "I think so."

The economy of the 4th District, which covers all of Linn, Lane and Douglas counties, depends on four industries: timber, agriculture, tourism and fishing, Long said.

"During the last decade, the most heated debate has been about wilderness and timber," he said.

Oregon now has wilderness areas equivalent in size to the states of Delaware and Rhode Island, Long said. "Demand for wood products will eventually be focused on those wilderness areas. I'm proposing to alleviate that," he said.

Long's proposal would allocate $1 to reforest private lands for every 1,000 board feet cut. Long said that this would ensure more wood products from private lands in the future, thus reducing pressure on wilderness lands.

"Four years ago this program worked on a small scale in Douglas County. I know it works," Long said. It also will take pressure off of public land, he said.

Long was named "Outstanding Cooperator of 1982" by three Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and he co-authored an ordinance giving county assistance to small woodlot owners to reforest their lands.

Long also co-authored a land-use bill to return control of land use matters to local governments. That bill was adopted by the 1981 Oregon Legislature after some amendment.

Shortage of water for agriculture is a critical situation, Long said.

"The government must look 20 years down the road," he said. Toxic waste is contaminating water tables and the only practical alternative is to consider surface water, he said.

According to Long, most federal water programs are aimed at large projects and take too long to complete.

Long also stressed the need to enhance fisheries. The federal

Bruce Long

government should provide funds to improve hatcheries on inland streams, he said. He also emphasized the need to reduce soil erosion and to plant vegetation along river banks to keep water temperatures low.

When fisheries and water are improved, tourism will improve, Long said. Reforestation, fishery and water improvement and increased tourism will have a "positive benefit on the land and the economy," he said.

"Each program is inexpensive and each one improves the environment and economy. There can be a balance between both."

Political symposium schedule

Today's ASUO political symposium events feature a panel discussion on human rights in Central America in the EMU Ballroom at 8:30 p.m. The discussion is free and open to the public.

Each day of the symposium, the Oregon Daily Emerald will run a boxed schedule of that day's events. Today's schedule follows:

• **11:30 a.m.** — Debate on Ballot Measure 2: The Effects of Property Tax Limitation. Room 167 EMU.

• **12:30 p.m.** — Candidates Fair: Lane County Commission. EMU Forum Room.

• **1:30 p.m.** — Legislative candidates' debate: Oregon House of Representatives, Districts 39 (Democrat Ron Eachus and Republican Carl DiPaolo) and 40 (Democrat Carl Hosticka and Republican Mitch Hammerstad).

• **8:30 p.m.** — Human Rights in Central America panel discussion. EMU Ballroom.