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years 99.9 percent of Oregon's old growth will be gone if we continue to cut at the same rate," Richardson said.

Conversely, Bugaboo Timber Co. owner Jim Morgan, cited a report that proves old-growth timber still will be present at the current rate of cutting 10 years after the turn of the century. For Morgan, the issue is a financial one, he said.

"I'm tired of this wilderness hassle with the environmentalists for the past 15 years," he said. "It's already cost me \$50,000 out of my own pocket to deal with this (the Devil's Ridge protests)."

He cited attorney fees, hiring additional employees and moving equipment as additional costs.

Morgan owns five timber companies, Excel Timber, North Santiam Plywood, Green Veneer, Young and Morgan Lumber and two car dealerships, Stayton Ford and John Lucas Chevrolet.

"I paid good money for that contract," Morgan said. "They should have done something during the planning if they don't like this. Things shouldn't be run by special-interest groups."

The Forest Service must balance these myriad interests in managing the land, Fertig said. "We can't please the spectrum of public — there are too many different attitudes."

Essentially, the ONRC would like to see the Forest Service initiate a land swap with the Bugaboo company, Monteith said.

A land swap would entail exchanging equal-value timber for the logs in the Devil's Ridge area, Monteith explained.

"The Forest Service modifies contracts hundreds of times a day. It would take five minutes of paperwork," he said.

If the ONRC suit forcing the Forest Service to re-examine the area is unsuccessful, the ONRC



*Jes Richardson, a member of Friends of Breitenbush Old Growth, yells out support for protesters in treetops.*

Photo by Deborah Jones

will continue lobbying Congress in efforts to include Devil's Ridge in a wilderness area.

The area originally was included in the 1984 House Wilderness Bill, but Sen. Mark Hatfield, R.-Ore., succeeded in removing 350,000 acres from it, Monteith said.

"Hatfield made those changes after being pressured by the timber companies that pay for his political campaigns," he said.

"I wonder if they'll make all of Oregon a state park," Morgan said. "Most people don't go into an area where they can't

drive. It's a small minority that uses a wilderness area; we shouldn't run this country for minorities."

But ONRC maintains the issue goes beyond protecting the wilderness area.

"Once these old-growth trees are gone, Oregon has lost its opportunity to diversify its economy," Wood said.

The Breitenbush community, which runs a resort drawing 160 persons a day, is one such way of expanding the tourism industry, Wood said. It is located five miles downstream from the Devil's Ridge clear-cutting site.




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