

Salt Caves Dam will be damaging

The proposed Salt Caves Dam Hydroelectric Project on the Klamath River is a bad idea, and here's why:

- The Oregon Department of Energy and other governmental agencies have evaluated the project and determined that its 80 megawatts of hydroelectric power are currently not required, either by the Klamath Falls region or elsewhere in the Northwest. In fact, the federal Bonneville Power Administration has stated that the region has a power surplus.

- World-class whitewater rapids used for recreational purposes would be completely destroyed.

- Although \$10 million would be spent to improve the trout's situation, the \$131 million project would still harm a wild rainbow trout fishery, damaging what many fishermen claim to be one of Oregon's best trout fishing rivers. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality ruled in August that the dam would harm the river's fish population by increasing water temperatures as much as 2.5 degrees Fahrenheit.

- Wildlife, such as bald eagles and blacktail deer, may be affected adversely by the construction of the dam.

Klamath Falls proposes to sell energy generated from the dam to relieve property taxes in the city and to implement an economic development program in Klamath County. Klamath Falls has a valid interest in attempting to stimulate its economy; however, the Salt Caves Dam should not be built to benefit the residents of Klamath County at the cost of destroying a recreational resource that serves the residents of Oregon's other 35 counties. The proposal displays an attitude of self-interest that disregards the valid concerns of other Oregonians who actively use the river.

Although residents of the Klamath Falls region claim the dam is necessary to stimulate the county's depressed economy, the resulting economic growth also will be at the expense of damage to the environment.

Furthermore, the economic benefits from the construction of the dam will be primarily short-run gains as contrasted with the relatively long-term environmental damage it will entail. The economy of Klamath Falls should not be stimulated at the expense of permanent damage to the ecosystem.

Oregon Gov. Neil Goldschmidt announced his opposition to the Salt Caves Dam last Thursday. This led residents of Klamath Falls to question whether Goldschmidt's economic "comeback" campaign is sincere and whether his drive to generate jobs is serious.

Goldschmidt countered this criticism by stating that other, more feasible strategies should be adopted to boost the economy in the Klamath Falls region. This response is appropriate, and should be heeded by the residents of Klamath Falls.

For example, the rafting and fishing recreation industries along the Klamath River currently generate more than \$2 million a year in revenue. The river as a recreational resource could be marketed to enhance the local economic situation. But if the project is constructed the revenue generated from recreational activities will be lost.

If the Salt Caves Dam is allowed to be built, it will not only supply unneeded energy at the expense of environmental damage, but also decrease the recreational facilities of the Pacific Northwest.

Things you thought you'd never live to see:



TAMPA WINS THE SUPER BOWL



TAMMY BAKKER KEEPS HER MOUTH SHUT FOR FIVE MINUTES



WHITE HOUSE AND CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS WORKING TO REDUCE THE DEFICIT

Letters

Assumptions

While I am glad to see the Emerald giving coverage to the Central American Peace Plan, I feel it is important to note that several statements concerning El Salvador in the editorial "Central America: is peace keeping pace?" (ODE, Nov. 6), were based on false information or assumptions.

1) The Salvadoran government has not "lifted its state of siege" as the editorial stated.

For example, in the short time since the Guatemala Peace Accords were signed, there have been 39 documented human rights violations carried out by the Salvadoran military.

In October, the president of the non-governmental human rights commission was assassinated in front of his children; in September, a university union leader disappeared. The Los Angeles Times reported Monday that political violence is escalating.

2) The "rebels" in El Salvador do not receive military aid from Cuba, as the editorial stated. In fact, a CIA official who was sent to El Salvador specifically to investigate sources of funding to the FMLN/FDR found no evidence of aid coming from Cuba or the Soviet Union.

3) It should be remembered that it was the Salvadoran government which signed the Peace Accords, not the FMLN/FDR. The responsibility to make peace thus lies squarely with the government.

I encourage the Emerald and anyone else interested in learning more about the situation in El Salvador to contact the UO/UES Sister University Project here on campus in Suite 1 of the EMU.

Susanna MacDonald
English

Free zone

Except for the Register-Guard which supposedly "did not think anything was going to happen," the media were well represented on Oct. 19 at a packed public hearing before the Eugene Nuclear Free Zone (NFZ) Task Force, of which I have been a member.

We listened to three hours of moving and often eloquent testimony by citizens from diverse backgrounds and professions. All but three spoke in support of the comprehensive nuclear free zone law passed by voters a year ago. Most also specifically referred to the "minimally revised version" or "MRV" as the only ordinance revision which resolves the minor legal problems of the original law without "watering it down."

As a direct result of the public outcry at the hearings and in letters (over 1,500), the Task Force voted on Nov. 6, appropriately near the one-year anniversary of the NFZ approval by voters, to send not only a watered-down version with loopholes, as had been anticipated, but also the "minimally revised version" to the City Council for a decision in December.

Of all versions considered for referral to the council, the NFZ Task Force gave the MRV the most votes, 11-0.

Thanks to all who helped the task force realize the overwhelming support of the MRV. I urge you and others who want to defend your nuclear free zone to contact Mayor Obie and the City Council, and help them come to the same realization. They should adopt the

"minimally revised version" because only it preserves the integrity of the nuclear free zone law you had the wisdom to approve one year ago.

David F. Zupan
Eugene Nuclear Free Zone
Task Force

Planning

I am writing in regard to the recent "Unjust view" letter (ODE, Nov. 11). Ms. Foutts says that, "He can't possibly be informed on what it is really like to suffer an unwanted pregnancy, because it is my guess he has never been a woman faced with this tragedy" (referring to Mr. Moore's letter).

My position is that of pro-life. I literally disapprove of the medium of abortion. I, as many others, have been taught that it is more important to preserve life, rather than exterminate it!

What is the value of human life? What if you had just been "aborted?" Ms. Foutts has the point of view that if you have a special "strain" in your life, such as financial, emotional, or physical, why then you should have the power to abolish a human life itself (such as abortion).

My main grievance is that people like Ms. Foutts, who think they have the power to destroy a human life, are getting away with murder, and may possibly themselves be misinformed.

Planned Parenthood, from support of United Way, has moral services, which do not have immoral consequences. For one, Planned Parenthood offers the distribution of condoms, which are not merely used to avoid pregnancy, but to combat AIDS.

Both United Way and Planned Parenthood are doing what they have to do. I would like to recognize them for the good they are doing, for we need some of their services to combat this epidemic of the '80s... AIDS... it kills!

Trevor R. Solander
Eugene

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