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New ASUO Executive Coordinator eager to get involved

By Alice Thornton
Emerald Reporter

Cheryl Hunter, the new executive coordinator for the ASUO, said she is pleased to be part of what she calls "a well-established situation" in the student executive office.

This week, Hunter is starting her position as executive coordinator with a sense of enthusiasm and an expanding knowledge of the officers and operation of the ASUO.

Hunter's primary responsibility as the ASUO executive coordinator is to act as a resource and consultant for the executive office and assist in the implementation of policies and

goals of the student officers.

Hunter said her primary concern is to reinforce the decisions made by the ASUO as a whole while addressing the goals of individual officers. She will provide necessary backup for the decisions of the ASUO officers, but she emphasized that her position does not allow her to make policy.

"It's not up to me to make policy. I will take my lead from the student officers," Hunter said. "I want to make sure the goals of the officers are implemented."

Hunter's diverse background in human services and political activities will help her fulfill her duties as executive coordi-

nator. Most recently, Hunter held the position of Political Education Coordinator for the Oregon chapter of the AFL-CIO.

She has also served as president and legislative chairwoman for the Oregon Women's Political Caucus. In 1983, she was sent on a fact finding tour to Nicaragua by the Council for Human Rights in Latin America.

Moreover, Hunter has been a volunteer for Lane County American Red Cross and is member of the Oregon Child Care Education and Advocacy Project.

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Photo by Mark Vless
Incoming ASUO Executive Coordinator Cheryl Hunter plans on working to aid the ASUO achieve its goals for the year.

Group files appeals to stay cougar hunting

Conservationists claim permits violate protection laws

By Josh Miller
Emerald Contributor

A conservation group filed simultaneously appeals Monday in the Eugene and Portland Forest Service in hopes of staying the commercial hunting of cougars and black bears in four Western Oregon National Forests.

Citizens Concerned for Wildlife, a Eugene-based group, initiated the appeal process. The group's attorney, Kerry Rydberg, filed the appeal at the downtown Eugene Federal Building.

CCW and other appellants, such as Wildlife De-

fense Northwest, Southern Willamette Green Assembly and Jerry Rust, Lane County commissioner, are appealing a decision by Michael Kerrick, Willamette National Forest supervisor, allowing the commercial hunting of cougar and black bear.

The group's appeal is based on the grounds that the decision of the Forest Service to issue hunting permits for cougars and black bears violates the National Forest Management Act. The act requires the National Forest Service to insure and maintain a diverse population of species within its forests.

CCW claims the Forest Service did not study the cumulative and secondary effects on the environment

of killing 200 cougars a year, the amount allowed for the two-year period.

The organization states the Forest Service has violated the National Environmental Policy Act by neglecting to fully research the effects that these killings would have in the respective forests.

"The purpose of the appeal is to let the Forest Service know that issuing such a permit is illegal without knowing the population," Rydberg said.

In addition to violating these mandated laws, the appellants claim the Forest Service has broken the public's trust by permitting and indirectly sponsoring these commercial trophy hunts when no one who knows the current cougar population in the related national forests.

A commercial guide in Veneta was issued this special-use, two-year permit that gives him and his client 70 tags to kill 70 cougars in the Willamette National Forest. It is still not confirmed, but the CCW estimates there are between 40 and 50 cougars in the Willamette forest.

One hundred seventy tags were issued for the Umpqua National Forest and 195 tags for the Siuslaw National Forest. Excluding The Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, due to their decision to further investigate the living cougar population before allowing kills, 400 cougars are subject to be slain within the next two years.

"I'm not sure if we know as much about the cougar as we ought to," said Rolf Andersen, acting supervisor for the Willamette National Forest. "I'm not aware of anyone who knows the cougar population."

Catherine Koehn, spokeswoman for CCW, believes "The Forest Service is more interested in allowing commercial trophy hunting than protecting these animals, as mandated by law."

At the press conference, great concern was expressed about the potential future problem of poaching. Poaching, which is the illegal hunting of protected animals and carries a \$500 fine, is another problem conservationists and Forest Service officials anticipate since the State of California recently outlawed cougar hunting.

"Who's to stop Californians from coming to Oregon and paying a high price for a chance to get a cougar hide," said Karen Wood, an Earth First representative.

The nature of the hunts are being protested as well. "We're protesting the 'sure kill' aspect of the hunts," said Lucinda Muniz, from the Southern Willamette Green Assembly. "The cougars don't have a chance."

According to Muniz, dogs, each tagged with a radio device, are sent out to find the cougars. The hunters wait behind in vehicles until they have detected that the dogs have chased a cougar up into a tree. Then, by using the intricate system of forest service roads, the hunters simply drive in and shoot the cougar from the tree.

Hunters are required to bring their kill to a Forest Ranger's office in order to verify that they have not ex-



Feeding Frenzy

On a recent sunny day, this young boy took time out from his "busy" schedule to feed the ducks in the Millrace. He also was fortunate enough to catch a few of the sun's elusive rays before fall comes into play. In addition to the ducks and sun, the Millrace offers the outdoor person numerous activities, including canoe rentals.

Photo by Andre Ranieri

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