Forest road construction cut fails

WASHINGTON (AP) — A House-Senate conference committee has rejected a proposal by Georgia Sen. Wyche Fowler to reduce logging in national forests by slashing the Forest Service's road construction budget.

Fowler's proposal, adopted by the Senate in July as an amendment to the $10.9 billion interior spending bill for fiscal 1990, would have given the Forest Service only $140 million next year for road building into timber cutting areas of national forests.

That was $65 million less than had been approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee and $25 million less than the House had allocated for road building in national forests in its version of the interior spending bill.

But the conference committee, as part of an agreement aimed at resolving the dispute over logging in the national forests of the Pacific Northwest, decided late last week to permit the Forest Service to spend up to $185 million for road construction.

The agreement gives the Forest Service the $165 million that was approved by the House, and it also provides up to $20 million more for road building if revenues from national forest timber sales in fiscal 1990 exceed the Forest Service's $920 million projection by $97 million.

The Forest Service had about $100 million in excess timber receipts last year. The agreement allocates the first $77 million of such excess receipts next year to specific programs, including implementation of the Pacific Northwest logging agreement.

The next $20 million in excess receipts can be used for road building to facilitate timber sales in national forests, under the agreement, with any excess revenue beyond $97 million reverting to the U.S. treasury.

The two-part road construction spending deal was put together by conferees to win the support of Sen. James McClure, R-Idaho, for the Pacific Northwest logging agreement, according to a Senate aide who asked not to be identified.

That agreement lifts for one year a court injunction against logging in the ancient forests of the northwest but reduces the amount of timber that can be sold well below previous Forest Service and House and Senate allowances.

McClure, the ranking Republican on the appropriations subcommittee that wrote the original interior spending bill for the Senate, had opposed the Fowler amendment on the Senate floor and had insisted throughout the conference that the road building budget be increased.

Fowler, who serves on the Senate Appropriations Committee but was not a member of the conference on the interior spending bill, was not available Monday to comment on the agreement.

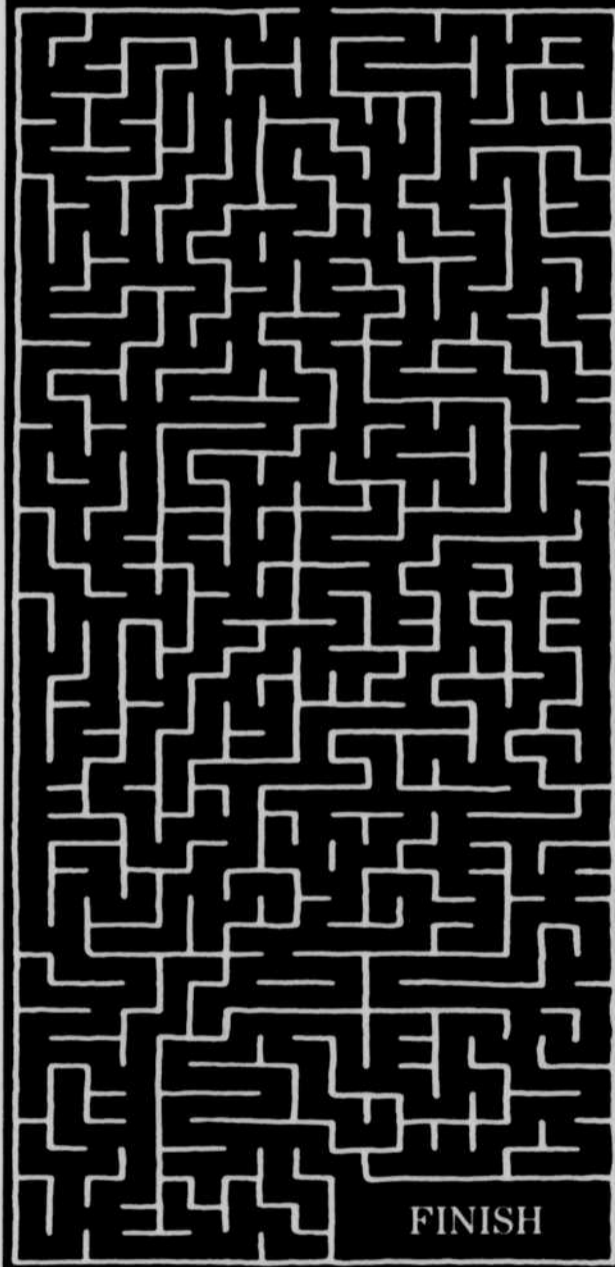# Hearing is delayed on soliciting charge

EUGENE (AP) — Attorneys have agreed to delay a hearing for a New York couple cited on prostitution-related charges for allegedly conducting a phony research project during a sex tour of West Coast college campuses.

Rodney Thorp Wood, 60, faces a charge of promoting prostitution while his wife, Nancy Steffen Wood, 44, faces a prostitution charge, Eugene police say.

The Woods originally were ordered to appear in court Monday, but Lane County assistant district attorney Sean Hoar said attorneys agreed to delay the appearance while the investigation continues.

The couple from South Hampton, New York, visited the University of Oregon campus last month, telling male students they were "evaluating the sexual potential of the mature female" and would pay participants for taking part in research sessions, police said.