

University

Survival Center fights to save coastal areas

By Brian Bloch
Emerald Associate Editor

Students from the University Survival Center are fighting to preserve Oregon coastal lands and waters through a unique state task force.

The Oregon Ocean Resources Management Task Force was set up in 1987 under Senate Bill 630 to gather public input on coastal preservation issues and develop a plan to implement protection laws in 1990.

About 15 University students attended two public forums hosted by the task force in the past two weeks to voice their concerns about coastal preservation.

Survival Center member Frank Ordway said the task force is developing an initial draft of a preservation and improvement plan that will be implemented through various projects, laws and regulations.

"It's great because the workshops allow us to see the people who are making policy," he said. "They really wanted to know what we were saying."

The draft is a comprehensive plan outlining goals and identifying areas of coastal lands and state and national waters to be protected. The draft covers issues including conservation, animal habitats, off-shore mining and oil drilling, water quality and fishing regulations.

"This document covers ev-

erything involving resources use on the Oregon coast," Ordway said. "It's here to keep the natural beauty and resources of the coast intact."

Ordway commended the formation of the task force and its stance on preserving delicate coastal areas and wildlife.

"This is some of the only legislation of its type in the country," Ordway said.

The Survival Center groups that traveled to Lincoln City last week took a strong stance on preventing off-shore oil drilling off the Oregon and Washington coasts, Ordway said. They also advocated the creation of a national energy plan that will focus on alternative energy sources.

"The time for fossil fuel usage is gone," Ordway said. "It's time to move on."

Survival Center representatives also recommended the task force include a conservation representative on a committee that will later be responsible for implementing the protection plan.

In addition, the draft calls for controls on ocean dumping, drift-net regulations, increasing animal habitat buffer zones, establishing marine parks and examining the role of tourism on the Oregon coast.

"They're trying to balance economic and environmental concerns," he said.

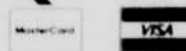
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