

Regional

Lawmakers back monument bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — A bill creating the Newberry Volcanoes National Monument southeast of Bend in central Oregon has been introduced by Rep. Bob Smith and Sens. Mark Hatfield and Bob Packwood.

The three Oregon Republicans introduced the measure in the House and Senate on Monday. The bill has the support of Rep. Denny Smith R-Ore.; Rep. Ron Wyden, D-Ore.; and Gov. Neil Goldschmidt, a Democrat.

The national monument would stretch from Newberry Crater, the caldera of a dormant volcano 25 miles southeast of Bend, northwest to Benham Falls on the Deschutes River. It would encompass 62,000 acres.

The monument would be the biggest of three national monuments in Oregon and would be administered by the U.S. Forest Service. The others are the 14,012-acre John Day Fossil Beds National Monument and the 488-acre Oregon Caves National Monument. They are administered by the National Park Service.

"Oregonians have long recognized the geologic wonders in Newberry Crater, and today we are offering those wonders to the American people for protection and for the scenic and recreational enjoyment of every American," said Bob

Smith.

Introduction of the bill capped nearly two years' work by a 30-member committee of central Oregon residents representing a variety of public and commercial interests. The committee was chaired by Dr. Stuart Garrett, a physician from Bend who developed the idea of protecting the area through designation as a national monument.

"Throughout the drafting of this bill I have insisted on only one thing — that all Oregonians with an interest in this legislation and who wished to be a part of it be included in the process," Bob Smith said.

"While others talk about multiple uses in land designations, this local group has actually done it," Hatfield said.

The legislation would compensate geothermal energy interests which possess leases within the crater by exchanging them for leases outside the monument boundary. It would establish an advisory council to advise the secretary of agriculture on preparing an initial management plan for the monument.

Bob Smith represents Oregon's 2nd Congressional District, which includes Deschutes County.

Company outlines gorge hauling contract

PORTLAND — A trucking company has defended a controversial plan to haul garbage through the Columbia Gorge to an Eastern Oregon dump.

Gary Goldberg, executive vice president of Jack Gray Transport Inc., told the Public Utility Commission on Monday the company planned to buy new tractors and specially designed, leakproof containers for the job.

A 20-year, \$208 million contract with the company to haul Portland-area garbage to a new landfill at Arlington has sparked strong opposition from citizen groups and gorge communities west of Arlington.

Critics have argued that the

contract with the Metropolitan Service District places an unneeded burden on Interstate 84 and poses a threat to tourism in the gorge.

Jack Gray must obtain a permit from the commission to meet its contract with Metro, which calls for the company to begin hauling garbage to Arlington in January.

The commission plans to make a decision by Dec. 31, said Allen Scott, hearings officer.

In other testimony Monday, Metro officials defended the agency's bid procedures and said the truck traffic would have little effect on I-84.

The contract requires the company to make 30 two-way

trips a day initially, increasing to 65 trips a day in 1991 when the St. Johns landfill in Portland closes.

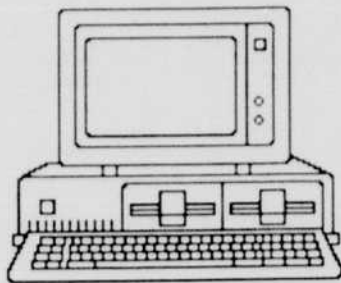
In addition to the commission permit, Jack Gray must secure land-use permits for staging areas in Biggs and The Dalles. The staging areas are needed because drivers will not be able to make two round trips to Arlington within the federal 10-hour limit.

Goldberg said Jack Gray was considering several other sites for staging areas in case present plans fell through, but he would not reveal actual locations.

"As we get these staging areas sited, we go under attack," he said.

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