

# South Hills trees left unprotected by city

By Pat Malach  
Emerald Reporter

The unregulated harvesting of a stand of trees in the South Hills area of Eugene has raised questions about regulating lands outside of the city limits, but inside the urban growth area.

The area in question, at the end of Spring Boulevard just south of 30th Avenue, was not governed by any city regulations because it is outside of the city limits. It is not governed by the state forestry department because it is inside the city's urban growth area.

"This is probably the only harvesting of trees in Oregon without regulations," said county commissioner Jerry Rust. "It's a travesty."

At a press conference held Monday on the clear-cut site, Rust pointed out that there are large areas of land in the metropolitan area that could be harvested in the same manner because there are no regulations to protect them.

The lack of regulations leaves the method of harvesting up to the property owner, Rust said.

"As bad as the industry regulations are, we don't even have those," he said. "But it is with the city of Eugene and with Lane County, who I believe have a clear duty to protect these kinds of areas."

The South Hills site should be regulated by the city under the jurisdiction of the Metropolitan Area General Plan, Rust said. He added that the city of Springfield had cited metro plan violations to gain a court injunction halting the harvest of trees outside of the city limits.



Jerry Rust

its.

Rust urged the Eugene city council to use the same tactic to regulate lands that fall outside of the city limits but are not protected by the state.

The city council could have an ordinance in place to regulate the areas in six weeks, Rust said. He added that in the meantime he would try to garner support among other county commissioners to seek an injunction or a moratorium on the tree harvesting.

It is important not to rely on "chainsaw justice" that could cause irreparable damage and harm until an ordinance is passed, Rust said.

If he finds no political support for an injunction or a moratorium, Rust said he would give his support to individuals or citizen groups who sought legal action to force the city to regulate tree harvesting in the metropolitan area.

Randy McDonald, University student and city council candidate, said that while the city needs to make sure it does not stifle growth, it should regulate the land in its urban growth area.

"If it's going to become city land, why not let Eugene administer the land?" he said.

# Service held for Archbishop Romero

By Jane Stelle  
Emerald Contributor

A memorial service honoring a Salvadoran archbishop who was murdered after criticizing United States policy toward El Salvador was held Monday night in the Newman Center on campus.

Archbishop Oscar A. Romero was killed March 24, 1980 while saying mass shortly after writing a letter to then President Jimmy Carter asking him to stop giving aid to El Salvador.

Catholic Bishop Thomas J. Gumbleton of the Detroit Diocese flew to Eugene Monday to give the 7:30 memorial service.

Gumbleton is on the advisory board of Going Home, a group founded in 1987 to help people living in refugee camps in Honduras move back to their villages in El Salvador.

Gumbleton was part of a 25-member delegation that visited the village of Corral de Piedra in February, 10 days after it was bombed in what

he calls a deliberate attack by the El Salvador government. He says the military accused the villagers of being associated with the leftist FMLN, which opposes the Salvadoran government.

The village had been repopulated for about three months and had only one permanent structure, which was destroyed in the attack. Gumbleton said he found pieces of a rocket made in the United States in the wreckage of the building.

While he was in the village, he held a service for the five people killed in the attack. Although only about 200-250 people live in the village, Gumbleton said 2500-3000 showed up for the mass.

"Some people walked 10 hours to get there," Gumbleton said.

Like Archbishop Romero, Gumbleton is a critic of United States policy in Central America. He said aid to El Salvador is used to strengthen the El Salvador military and only prolongs the war.



Thomas Gumbleton

"If the United States would get out, the Salvadoran people would work it out themselves," Gumbleton said.

The United States gives about \$1.4 million in aid to El Salvador daily, Gumbleton said, adding that almost 70,000 people have been killed in El Salvador in the last 10 years, compared to 57,000 Americans killed in the Vietnam War.

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