

# Forest Service defends permit

HELENA, Mont. (AP) — Next week's planned gathering in a Montana forest by members of the environmental group Earth First! will be easier to control under a permit issued by the Forest Service, an assistant U.S. attorney argued Tuesday.

"Without a permit, the Forest Service says the impact on the environment would be even more unpredictable," said Bernie Hubley. "The concentration of this particular group mitigates the impact on the environment."

Hubley argued before U.S. District Judge Charles Lovell, who indicated he will decide later this week whether the Forest Service legally issued a permit allowing Earth First! members to gather in southwest Montana's Beaverhead National Forest.

The Denver-based Mountain States Legal Foundation and 77 other groups representing ranchers, loggers, miners and off-road vehicle users say the Forest Service should not allow Earth First! in the forest because of the group's alleged advocacy of "monkey-wrenching" — illegal acts of sabotage against developers of the nation's wildlands.

"We know who these people are; we know what they want to do," said William Pendley, an attorney for the foundation. "They (the Forest Service) do have an option, your honor — they can shut down the forest. They can keep Earth First! out."

Lovell took under advisement the foundation's request for an order barring the Forest Service from issuing the permit.

Several hundred Earth First! members from across the country are expected to begin arriving this weekend for the week-long Round River Rendezvous about 25 miles south of Ennis.

Hubley said the Forest Service not only followed the law in issuing the permit but also decided it would be in the public's best interest to have Earth First! members meeting at one controlled site.

If the permit was denied, Earth First! members could legally meet at assorted spots throughout the forest as long as each gathering had 25 or fewer people, he said. Madison County Sheriff Lee Edmisten has said it would be much harder to police scores of small groups as opposed to one large gathering, Hubley added.

He disagreed with Pendley's contention that Earth First! has historically incited violence against forest users such as miners and loggers.

"The history of Earth First! has been one of civil disobedience away from the forest," he said. "This group does not have a documented history of doing these types of (illegal) activities in the forest."

Pendley argued that Earth First! encourages tree-spiking, the spiking of motorcycle trails, harassment of survey crews, destruction of logging equipment and other acts of sabotage. He presented copies of pages from an Earth First! publication that contained detailed instructions on these acts.

"When we look at the Earth First! manual ... what becomes very clear is that they do not merely tolerate these activities ... but also instruct and engage in them," he said.

Pendley said the permit was issued illegally because Earth First! members may be lawbreakers and because the Forest Service did not consider damage that might be caused to other forest resources, such as a nearby timber sale.

Lovell agreed that tree-spiking and other acts of sabotage were serious crimes, but asked Pendley for evidence that those attending the gathering planned to commit such acts.

"If they were going to rob a bank downtown, that would be a bad thing, but where is the evidence they would do that?" Lovell said.

Pendley said he had no evidence that illegal activities would occur at the gathering, but said "what we have is evidence of what they have done in the past."

# No initiative to re-name King Boulevard

PORTLAND (AP) — A group of conservative activists seeking to change the name of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard has failed a second time to put an initiative on the ballot.

The Portland City Council voted in April 1989 to rename Union Avenue after King, prompting opposition from Rosalie and Walter Huss.

In their first effort, the couple and their supporters gathered more than 51,000 signatures for an initiative to allow the public to vote to change the name back.

But the measure was never put on the ballot because the courts ruled that the name change was an administrative act, not a legislative one. The public cannot demand a vote to change an administrative act through the initiative process.

The couple's effort to put a similar initiative on the ballot failed when they failed to submit the required 29,662 signatures by 5 p.m. Tuesday.

The new initiative challenged the entire street-naming process. The public would vote

on every change, from January 1989 into the future. If it had passed, Portlanders would have voted on the King name change.

The Husses insisted during the campaign that race was not a factor. They said they were upset about the way the City Council renamed the street, not that it honored the late civil rights activist.

However, City Council members said the debate would divide Portland and bring the city bad publicity. Many who supported the King name felt the Husses were directly attacking a hero.

Both groups are relieved that the fight is over and that the Husses and their supporters failed to get enough signatures.

"They probably ran out of steam," said Betty Roberts, a former judge and co-chairwoman of the campaign to keep the King name. "I also would like to think the citizens of Portland became wise to their bigoted purposes and wouldn't work with them and sign their petitions."

Commissioner Mike Lindberg said Portlanders realized that the city process was not the issue. Lindberg noted that a leading white supremacist visited Portland to lend the campaign his support. "I think most Portlanders thought the Husses were racist."

Ron Herndon, co-chairman of the Black United Front, said Portland must stay alert to any signs of racist attitudes. He said King supporters did not take the Husses seriously at first.

"We went to sleep," Herndon said. "They are a perfect example of what happens when you go to sleep."

Roberts, active in Oregon politics for 30 years, remembers the Husses from years ago, when they ran an anti-communist bookstore, and when Walter Huss briefly was chairman of the state Republican Party. She said they probably would surface again.

"The Husses were here when I arrived," she said. "I just believe they're going to be here when I'm gone."

# Chronic fatigue linked to depression

SEATTLE (AP) — Chronic fatigue syndrome, often referred to as the "yuppie flu," appears to be more closely linked to depression than to a virus, University of Washington researchers say.

A study published in this week's Journal of the American Medical Association found a greater rate of depression among those with chronic fatigue than a control group. But it found no evidence that the patients were infected with the Epstein-Barr virus, originally tabbed as the culprit behind the illness.

One of the scientists stressed Tuesday that the study should not diminish the seriousness of the fatigue syndrome.

"This is a syndrome associated with biochemical changes in the brain," said Dr. Wayne Katon, one of the investigators in the study and a UW professor of psychiatry. "It's a very real physical disease."

Chronic fatigue syndrome is characterized by sudden prolonged weakness, muscle pain, headaches, loss of concentration and other symptoms that

can persist for months and even years. It has been labeled the yuppie flu because it is often diagnosed in young professionals working in fast-paced cities.

There are no specific figures on how many Americans are afflicted with the mysterious malady.

The UW study was designed to measure and track the presence of the Epstein-Barr virus in 26 chronic fatigue sufferers. Nine of these said the illness was so bad they were unable to work.



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