

Study shows timber industry employs 110,000

By Cathy Peterson
Emerald Reporter

There are almost 30,000 more jobs in the Oregon timber industry than originally estimated, according to a study by two University business administration professors.

As many as 110,000 people are employed in the timber industry, professors Gerald S. Albaum and Mark Spriggs said Monday. Previous figures, such as those given by the Oregon Division of Employment have been no more than 70,000.

"The purpose of our study was to attempt to assess just what is the 'true' employment situation for the wood products industry in Oregon," Spriggs said.

"If that situation has been underestimated — and our study indicates it has — then the wood products industry's impact on Oregon's economy is much greater than is accounted for in the policy discussion now occurring at the state and federal levels," he said.

Funded by the Weyerhaeuser Foundation and published by the University Forest Industries Management Center, the study, titled "Estimation of Economic Multipliers for the Oregon Wood Products Industry," counts people employed in manufacturing, selling and transporting wood products, as well as other secondary wood products industries. Other studies have counted only people directly involved in timber production as defined by the

U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

The professors surveyed Oregon wood products industries and wood products truckers to determine the number of people employed, total sales revenue and total expenditures.

Albaum said their work differed from previous studies because they used additional job categories to those describing lumber and wood products workers, such as truck drivers who transport timber.

"This information doesn't draw conclusions," Spriggs said. He called the study descriptive, and said it would help other researchers to determine timber employment figures.

Albaum and Spriggs said they were not taking a side on the debate over harvest limits and lost jobs, but that their research might be used to show how many people would be affected by changes in the industry.

"Many wood products industry proponents contend that the industry's overall role in the economy of Oregon is understated," Spriggs said.

Both professors said it made no difference that Weyerhaeuser had funded their research.

"We told them we would do the research and give them the results," Spriggs said. "They bought our expertise."

The study, which the researchers said took about six months to complete, could be helpful both to people who want to decrease timber cuts and to those who want to save

timber jobs, they said.

Rebekah Ledwith of Southern Willamette Earth First said the 'trickle down effect', with one job loss leading to another, made sense to her.

Wendell Wood of the Oregon Natural Resources Council said the timber industry would be the main beneficiary from a study such as the one done by Albaum and Spriggs.

"What is implied but not said is that if jobs are lost, all these people will be affected," Wood said.



Mark Spriggs



Gerald S. Albaum

Student Senate to meet in EMU tonight

MEETINGS

Student Senate meets tonight at 6. Check EMU displays for location. For more information contact Kimberley Heinen at 345-7054.

Alpha Kappa Psi professional business fraternity will hold an informational meeting for pledges at 7 p.m. in EMU Cedar Room E. For information call 346-8129.

The Incidental Fee Committee meets Wednesday

night at 6 in the EMU Board Room. For information call 346-3749.

The Oregon Daily Emerald will hold an information meeting for anyone interested in freelancing for the paper today at 3:30 p.m. in the EMU Oak Room.

Students For Choice, an organization working to preserve reproductive freedom, will hold its first meeting at 7 p.m. in the student lounge on the third floor of Chapman Hall. Anyone interested is invited to attend. For

more information call Sara Stankey at 683-0809.

Deadline for submitting Et als to the Emerald front desk, EMU Suite 300, is noon the day before publication. Et als run the day of the event unless the event takes place before noon.

Notices of events with a donation or admission charge will not be accepted. Campus events and those scheduled nearest the publication date will be given priority. The Emerald reserves the right to edit notices for grammar and style.

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