

REGIONAL BRIEFS

Group says habitat justified

EUGENE (AP) — Citing an economic impact of more than \$450 million from sport fishing alone, the Oregon Rivers Council on Tuesday called for preserving and restoring river habitat for salmon and steelhead, especially on national forests.

"The argument for protection is simple," said Bob Doppelt, executive director of the Oregon Rivers Council. "The economics depend on healthy fish runs, and healthy fish runs depend on healthy rivers and streams."

"In the long run, even the hatchery fish depend on wild fish in healthy rivers, because the wild fish are the only source of the genes for the future."

The council cited a 1988 Sports Fishing Institute of America report stating sport fishing in Oregon accounted for \$449.7 million in expenditures and \$174 million in earnings.

The council also pointed to a 1990 Oregon Department of Agriculture study finding commercial fishing and processing of all species accounted for \$261 million in annual personal income and a 1980 Washington State University study finding that the Columbia River salmon-steelhead fishery accounted for \$79 million in income.

While it is unclear exactly how much of the commercial fishing economic impact is derived from salmon and steelhead, it is a "big chunk," said David Bayles, research director for the council.

"We are looking at a degraded fishery today," he said. "If we start to get hold of some good restoration strategies, those numbers could go up sharply. The reason is salmon and steelhead are very resilient and opportunistic fish. They've got a lot of bounce-back in them."

Echoing reports earlier this year from the U.S. Forest Service and the American Fisheries Society, the council said the loss of habitat was a major cause of the extinction of some salmon runs and declines in others.

The American Fisheries Society study released earlier this year found 214 salmon, steelhead and trout runs were in danger of extinction in the West.

The Forest Service surveyed large pools on Columbia Basin spawning streams, a critical element of good fish habitat. They found that streams in untouched wilderness showed practically no losses of large pools in the past 50 years, while streams in areas that were logged for timber had losses from 37 percent to 85 percent.

The council particularly endorsed recom-

mendations from four leading scientists who told Congress on Tuesday that the Forest Service has overestimated its ability to log Northwest forests without harming the ecosystem and wildlife.

Their recommendations include setting aside large areas of forests for the northern spotted owl, a threatened species, which would also serve as fisheries habitat.

Ex-Policeman Indicted

SALEM (AP) — A retired state policeman in charge of finding office space for misconduct charges, Marion County District Attorney Dale Penn said Tuesday.

Penn said Robert Moine turned himself in and was released pending arraignment on the charges in circuit court next week.

The indictment was handed down after a four-month investigation by a special grand jury, according to Penn. It also alleges Moine misused confidential information.

Moine retired from the state police in September 1990 shortly after being put on administrative leave pending an investigation of off-duty business deals.

He held the rank of major and was commander of the support services bureau.

The district attorney said the charges arose from Moine's dealings with developers who built state police offices between 1988 and 1990.

Moine is accused of receiving bribes and gratuities from individuals on behalf of Schroth Realty Inc. of Hermiston and Northwest Commercial Construction Co. of Salem.

Penn said those companies have agreed to pay civil fines to avoid criminal prosecution under the state's anti-racketeering laws.

Moine is accused of receiving a law condominium, a used car and used motor home, trips to Reno and Hawaii and tickets to National Basketball Association championship games, and other items, the prosecutor's office said.

Penn said Northwest Commercial Construction, which helped develop a regional police office building in North Salem, has agreed to pay \$250,000 in penalties plus \$65,000 in attorney's fees and costs.

Schroth Realty has consented to paying \$250,000 plus \$50,000 in attorney's fees and costs, Penn said.

The construction company also has agreed to forfeit 3.5 acres of commercial property to the state that it purchased in relying on inside information from Moine, Penn said.

Big quake predicted to hit Oregon coast



PORTLAND (AP) — The state's earthquake specialist said Tuesday that a major quake is likely to hit the Oregon Coast, causing destruction and death.

Ian Madin of the state Department of Geology and Mineral Industries said coastal residents should start preparing now to survive a major quake, stocking food, water and making provisions for emergency shelter.

However, a spokesman for Gov. Barbara Roberts said the state already is taking steps to prepare coastal residents and other Oregonians for an earthquake.

"We need to take it seriously but there's no need to start driving inland from the coast now," said Steve Corson, a Roberts aide.

Corson said the 1991 Legislature created the Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission, which is charged with planning for earthquake preparedness and taking "a common sense approach."

Madin said he spoke about earthquake dangers last week in Newport at a conference on coastal hazards to help educate the public. "It's no surprise but it was the first time many coastal residents have had a chance to hear about it," he said.

Madin admitted that it's impossible to predict when a major quake might strike.

"In the next five minutes or in the next 150 years — take your pick," he said.

Madin said the quake could be 10 to 100 times stronger than the 1989 San Francisco

earthquake, which registered 7.1 on the Richter scale.

It likely would be caused by movement of the Juan de Fuca plate, a huge section of the Earth's crust that is colliding with the West Coast.

"Some scientists say that it's about 500 to 600 years between earthquakes," Madin said. "But the best record from northern Oregon suggests that it's between 340 and 380 years between earthquakes."

Several large offshore earthquakes have been recorded this year, the most recent pair coming in August. No major damage has been reported in Oregon, but the two quakes on Aug. 17 triggered rock slides, downed power lines and knocked a house off its foundation in Northern California.

The first quake measured 5.8 on the Richter scale and was centered in the Pacific Ocean about 65 miles west of Crescent City, Calif. The second hit 6.4 on the scale and struck about 70 miles west of Gold Beach.

Madin and other scientists believe that coast marsh sediments that show a sudden swamping of marsh plants by ocean muds indicate major quakes struck the coast in the past few thousand years.

Other evidence includes core samples of mud slides on the ocean floor and tree ring studies on the Washington Coast that showed trees died suddenly 300 years ago when submerged by a tsunami.

Many of the state's leading geologists have warned the state is unprepared for a major quake and have urged tougher construction standards for houses, large buildings and bridges.

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