

Community acts locally and globally for environment

By Jacqueline Woge
Emerald Reporter

While large environmental groups such as Greenpeace are suffering budget losses and have to turn their magazines into newsletters, prominent local environmental groups are growing.

Reasons for their success are numerous.

Becky Riley, fund raiser for the Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides, said NCAP's income has continued to rise modestly during the last few years.

"Grant income is down a little, but overall, we're hanging in there," she said.

Riley said large groups rely on direct-mail solicitation, but NCAP gains its support locally. She said when people have less money to donate, they prefer to give it where they can see tangible results.

NCAP's continued viability may also be explained by the experiences of other local groups.

Dianne Alves, fund raiser for the Oregon Rivers Council, said ORC is also financially stable.

"We have programs that we don't seem to have trouble getting funds for," she said, "such as our river restoration programs."

Wetland issues used to receive a lot of attention, Alves said. Now with the drought in California and idea of exporting Oregon and Idaho water, rivers have received a lot of attention, she said. This attention on rivers and fish has made

ORC's three river restoration programs more "marketable" with the private granting agencies that give ORC most of its money.

A small portion of ORC's budget comes from direct-mail solicitation. However, as with national organizations, this fund-raising method is not working as well as in the past. Alves said this drop may be because such solicitations are aimed at people who are not familiar with the organization.

ORC is not the only environmental organization aided by media coverage.

Sally Cross, fund raiser for Oregon Natural Resources Council, a statewide group with offices in Eugene, Portland and Bend, said she believes people continue to donate to local groups because environmental issues are so close to home and so much in the news.

"Reading about people in the paper gives you credibility," she said. "If you call people and they say, 'Who are you with?' they're less likely to give to you."

Wendell Wood's work for ONRC's Eugene office on issues surrounding the Pacific yew tree has raised media attention and contributions, she said. The yew is noted for its potential cancer-curing properties.

Eighty percent to 85 percent of ONRC's budget comes from individual contributions. Fifteen percent to 20 percent comes from private foundations.

Cross adds other factors to the list of reasons why major local environmental groups are faring well.

"People in Oregon are more optimistic

'Now that we have a new administration that, hopefully, will be more environmentally pro-active, we should take advantage of the opportunity.'

— Erin Bonner,
AFSEEE staff member

about their financial status," Cross said. "California is hitting unemployment rates it hasn't seen since the Depression. Oregon hasn't been hit as much. California and Washington have been hit by defense cuts, while Oregon has never had a defense industry."

A lot of contributions are tied to education, Cross said. ONRC receives more contributions for its ancient forest and river programs than for its High Desert Act and other Eastern Oregon programs because it has been working on the issue for more than 10 years.

Also, people respond to issues they identify with, Cross said.

"We're uncompromising protectors of the environment, have been doing it for 20 years, and people respect that," she said.

The Association of Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics, a three-and-a-half-year-old national group

based in Eugene, can attest to the importance of respect.

"It isn't normal for people to give to a young group," said AFSEEE staff member Erin Bonner. "But we've had very tangible wins in our short existence."

As a result, AFSEEE's budget has more than doubled each year. AFSEEE provides support for U.S. Forest Service employees who speak out against agency misdeeds, monitors improvement of degraded sites, organizes Forest Service employees and conducts regional speaking tours.

Bonner said AFSEEE has also grown because it is unique — government employees holding their own agency accountable for its actions.

Bonner said it is important for people to support environmental groups now more than ever.

"Now that we have a new administration that, hopefully, will be more environmentally pro-active, we should take advantage of the opportunity," she said. "Who knows what will happen in four years."

The Native Forest Council, another Eugene-based national environmental group, points out another reason that may explain the success of local groups — no confusion.

"We have a single issue — to protect and restore America's forest environment," said executive director Tim Hermach. "We do nothing but education and outreach. We have nothing to compromise by not trying to be something to everyone."

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Annual smokeout

The American Cancer Society is urging smokers to take part in this year's "Great American Smokeout," today as the first step in permanently ending the habit.

The annual event is designed to show people that if they can give up smoking for 24 hours, they can quit for good. ACS reports that tobacco use is the single greatest cause of premature death in the United States, and lung cancer is the number one cause of death from cancer.

Locally, volunteers at McKenzie-Willamette Hospital have teamed up with Albertson's grocery stores to help "quitters." Smokers can trade in a pack of cigarettes for a slice of a turkey submarine sandwich as a reward for going "cold turkey."

Albertson's stores on Coburg Road in Eugene and at the corner of 58th and Main Street in Springfield are participating.

Sacred Heart Hospital in Eugene is offering the

opportunity to win a Thanksgiving turkey to smokers willing to quit for a day.

Professor to speak on election

The director of Labor Education and Research at the University will be the featured speaker today at a luncheon meeting sponsored by the League of Women Voters.

Margaret J. Hallock will speak on "Lessons of the Election for Oregon" at the Black Angus restaurant. Salad buffet starts at 11:45 a.m., and the program will run from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m.

Hallock has worked as a member of Gov. Barbara Roberts' staff for tax reform. Her presentation will emphasize the effects that voters' choices will have on the state's finance system, work force, development and educational reform.

The program is free. Lunch is available for \$7.50.

POLICE BEAT

The following incidents were reported to the University Office of Public Safety and the Eugene police department from Nov. 11-18

• A burglary at a building on the 2700 block of Columbia Street was reported on Nov. 11. The four items taken were a weed eater, a chain saw, a bushwacker and a blower. The items were valued at \$950.

• A burglary at the the University music building, 961 E. 18th Ave., was reported on Nov. 11. A saxophone valued at \$2,005 was reported missing. The suspects gained entrance to the building after hours and cut a lock off a locker to get the instrument. There was no sign of forced entry on the

exterior doors to the building. A similar incident was reported two weeks ago.

• A burglary at the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity was reported Nov. 12. The burglary occurred late at night after the residents had gone to bed in the sleeping porch. A stereo, two speakers, a compact disc player, 54 CDs, a watch, a drill, four shirts, a television and assorted other electronics equipment were taken from two separate rooms. The total value of the items was \$3,040.

• A University student was arrested for assault on Nov. 12. The student is suspected of punching another student at the Public Enemy concert at the EMU Ballroom Nov. 6.

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