

Interior Secretary is hopeful for Oregon forest plans



NORTHWEST

GRANTS PASS (AP) — Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt's visit to Oregon this week leaves no doubt that there is a new attitude in the White House about spotted owls and timber.

The same bottom-up approach the Clinton administration has brought to the health care crisis was evident as Babbitt toured a plywood mill and an experimental forest, talked to community leaders, and sat in a cramped log cabin to hear about environmentalists and timber interests getting together.

"It's not about a victory for one side or defeat for another," Babbitt said Saturday. "It's about coming together and building a new kind of West."

Babbitt returns to Oregon on Friday with President Clinton and other Cabinet members for a conference aimed at break-

ing the logjam in the Northwest's national forests.

Logging has been choked off by lawsuits to protect the habitat of the northern spotted owl until the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management develop plans to protect the threatened bird.

Jeff DeBonis, director of Public Employees for Responsibility, said Babbitt's visit offered tremendous encouragement to Forest Service and BLM employees.

Past logging quotas were set by Congress and district rangers had to find a way to turn out the cut. They now feel they can do what's best for the forest, DeBonis said.

"Employees are just really excited," DeBonis said from his office in Eugene. "We are seeing these agencies become environmental stewards instead of resource exploiters."

Babbitt made it clear there is no turn-

ing back to the status quo, and decisions would be based on science rather than politics.

"It's not going to be like it was in the past," Babbitt said after hearing from 16 community leaders at Riddle High School in Douglas County, the most timber-dependent county in the Northwest.

But he made it clear there still would be room for an industry dependent on timber from the national forests.

"That does not mean we cannot make an investment in the future," he said.

Babbitt's tour included a look at the Roseburg Forest Products plywood Plant No. 4 in Riddle.

When his predecessor, Manuel Lujan Jr., toured the same plant in December, he told reporters he voted for the Endangered Species Act while a New Mexico congressman in 1974 thinking it would protect exotic species such as lions and rhinos, rather than domestic species such

as the spotted owl.

After Babbitt toured the plant, he marveled at how every scrap of wood that went through the mills was put to use, recalling that teepee incinerators so familiar in his youth in Flagstaff, Ariz., were nowhere to be seen.

Babbitt was particularly impressed with a southern Oregon organization called the Applegate Partnership, which has brought together environmentalists, timber interests, the Forest Service and BLM to develop a plan for restoring health to a forest made sick by mistakes of the past.

He liked the bottom-up approach.

"The change can't come from 3,000 miles away," Babbitt told them as they sat together in the small living room of a log cabin. "It has to come from that point where the conflict generates the creative response."

Geologists hope quake will warn

SALEM (AP) — Geologists said Monday they couldn't have designed a better earthquake than last week's to raise the public's consciousness without inflicting much damage.

"This was the best of all possible earthquakes if we're going to have one," John Beaulieu, deputy state geologist, said at a special Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee hearing on earthquake preparedness.

Beaulieu said Thursday's quake was large enough to be widely noticed but was centered in a relatively isolated area.

Matthew Maybe, also of the state Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, said all indications are that the earthquake occurred along the Mount Angel fault east of Salem.

Several small earthquakes were

detected near the fault in 1990, he said.

"There are numerous faults of the same type in northwestern Oregon that could give us a repeat or worse," Maybe said. "This is by no means the maximum event that we should be planning for."

He said his agency recorded the earthquake at a magnitude of 5.6 on the Richter scale. Each point on the scale is 10 times stronger than the number below it and represents as much as 35 times as much energy released.

Maybe said more than 63 aftershocks had occurred since the earthquake.

Beaulieu said reinforcing structures and taking other steps to prepare for earthquakes takes time.

"To mitigate problems is not a quick fix," he said. "We need a long-term commitment."

The earthquake caused superficial damage, mainly cracks, in the Capitol and moved the 23-foot high, 10-ton pioneer statue atop the building.

Officials disagree about whether the gold statue should be taken down.

"I urge you very strongly to get the gold man off the top of this building," Beaulieu said.

He said the statue, which shifted an eighth of an inch in the earthquake, could crash to the bottom inside of the building in a stronger quake.

But Bill Leach, Capitol administrative services manager, said engineers have advised him to leave the statue as is because its weight helps stabilize the rotunda area.

Leach said repairs to more firmly anchor the statue are to begin in about a week.

Plane crash kills four in Mount Hood Forest area

ESTACADA (AP) — A twin-engine plane slammed into a mountain in the Mount Hood National Forest, killing four people, authorities said Monday.

"The plane was flying in a climbing position and did not clear a peak at the 4,000 to 5,000-foot level. It flew straight into it," said Bob Girard, the search and rescue coordinator for the aeronautics division of the Department of Transportation.

The Piper Aztec 23 took off from the Troutdale airport about 9:30 p.m. Sunday. The wreckage was found at 12:46 p.m. Monday by the National Guard, said Dick Meyer, a spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration in Seattle.

The four were identified as pilot Larry Ryan of Eugene and his wife, Carla, and Michael and Sue Lawrence of Corvallis, Girard said.

Crews started searching for the plane, which did not file a flight plan, about 5 a.m. after a babysitter alerted authorities that the Corvallis couple was overdue.

The plane crashed near the Fish Creek drainage area, about 15 miles east of Estacada.

The National Transportation Safety Board was investigating the accident.

LATE NIGHT WITH SUBWAY

95¢ Sub

Buy any sub and a beverage after 9 p.m. and get a sub of equal or lesser value for 95¢.

Valid at campus location only through 4/30/93. Not valid with any other offer.
1304 Hilyard. 484-6955.

OPEN UNTIL 2:00 A.M. EVERY NIGHT

SUBWAY

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON BOOK STORE

Art & School Supply

35% OFF!

GOING, GOING, GONE...

We are getting out of the poster & fine art prints business to make room for exciting new products.

We will continue to sell frames & mats.

Posters Closeout!