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## COMMUNITY

# Groups rally against forest plan

By Stephanie Sisson  
*Oregon Daily Emerald*

Six local environmental groups rallied to protest President Bill Clinton's forest plan Wednesday in front of the Federal Building.

The rally was in preparation for a public hearing about the Clinton Forest Plan in Salem to be later that day at the Oregon State Fairgrounds. Citizens were urged to attend the hearing to speak out against the Clinton administration's preferred forest plan, called Option 9.

"As it stands now, that recommended plan Option 9 sacrifices our ancient forests for un-sustainable timber harvests," said Mike Purcell, representative of the Western Ancient Forests Campaign.

Purcell demanded changes in Option 9 that "must include a plan that puts all remaining ancient forests and ancient forest reserves completely off-limits to logging. That protection must be inviolate and clear."

Option 9, criticized by the timber industry as going too far to protect the spotted owl, has caused just as much turmoil with environmental and grassroots organizations. They call the plan inadequate, saying that it does not do enough to protect forest reserves, watersheds and endangered species of fish and wildlife.

The Clinton administration's preferred option, one of 10 alternatives in the Environmental Impact Statement, would decrease logging to 1.2 billion board feet each year on federal lands that include spotted owl habitats in the Northwest. It



MICHAEL SHINDLER for the Emerald

Six environmental groups rallied Wednesday in protest to President Bill Clinton's forest plan at the Federal Building.

would also give communities in Washington, Oregon and California \$1.2 billion over five years for economic redevelopment.

Speakers at the rally approved of most of the plan, but called for changes that would strengthen the protection of old growth timber and endangered species.

"Option 9 does not protect one stick anywhere on our national forests," said Mark Hubbard, staff attorney for the Oregon Natural Resources Council. "Under this plan, the ecosystem and the species that depend on it will be sacrificed. If the Clinton administration truly wants to protect the forests of the Northwest, they must improve this plan."

Art Farley, Lane County Audubon Society Conservation chairman, said the plan was a "lose-lose compromise."

"Option 9 sacrifices half of the

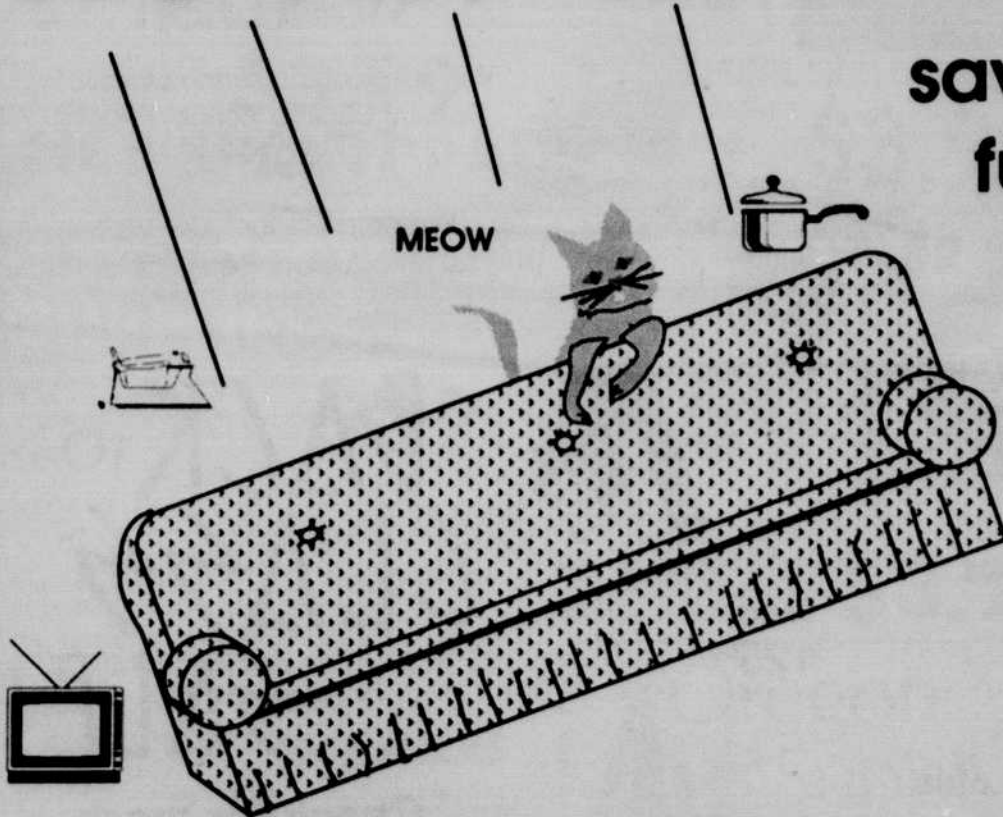
last remaining 10 percent of native, old-growth forests for short-term timber employment and profits," Farley said. "This plan will not work."

The conviction that Option 9 will not work was shared by every group represented at the rally.

"While we all have similar goals and objectives, we do not always agree on the fine points of the issues that concern us," said Charlie Ogle, chairman of the Sierra Club Many Rivers Group. "We do not all agree on the fine points of Option 9. We do, however, agree that Option 9 is not up to the task for which it was designed."

The Clinton Administration encourages public comment on the plan until Oct. 28, when the final draft of the Environmental Impact Statement will be submitted to the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management.

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