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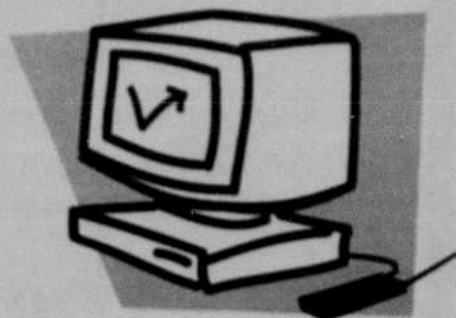
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REGIONAL

NEWS FROM THE NORTHWEST

Environmentalists block logging, cite bird's peril

■ **TIMBER:** Advocates are questioning the accuracy of the methods used to locate the birds' habitats

PORTLAND (AP) — Lawyers for environmental groups asked a federal appeals court on Tuesday to overturn guidelines that relax logging restrictions on old-growth coastal forests inhabited by a threatened sea bird, the marbled murrelet.

U.S. District Court Judge Michael Hogan of Eugene ruled earlier this year that in order for logging to be banned, there needed to be physical evidence, such as egg shells, that murrelets were nesting within a timber sale.

Patti Goldman, an attorney for the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, told a three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals that scientists had determined guidelines using physical evidence would not adequately protect the bird.

Marbled murrelets often nest in high branches that are diffi-

cult to spot, Goldman said. A better guideline for nesting would include areas where the murrelets are spotted circling, she said.

The 9th Circuit has blocked logging on 74 timber sales pending a ruling on the appeal. Forests frequented by the murrelet range from Northern California through Oregon into Washington's Olympic Peninsula.

Hogan's guidelines adequately protect the bird while allowing logging to continue, said Scott Horngren, an attorney for Scott Timber Co., which has a third of the sales.

Hogan threw out the previous scientific protocol used by the U.S. Forest Service to determine where the threatened bird nests in coastal forests. His more stringent standard makes it harder to declare tracts off-limits to logging.

Applying Hogan's standard to 147 pending timber sales in murrelet forests, the Forest Service found evidence of nesting in 48 sales, precluding logging.

POLICE BEAT

■ After two students appeared to be fighting at Hayward Field on April 23, the track coach from Mt. Hood Community College in Gresham, told one of the students, a 23-year-old, to stop picking on the other student. When the coach grabbed the 23-year-old, the student then flipped the coach over and grabbed him by the hair, allegedly biting the coach's finger, "trying to chew it off," according to police reports. The incident occurred between 4:45 and 4:50 p.m. The student is scheduled to appear in court May 17.

■ A 10-foot stick was used to break a window at the ASUO offices in EMU Suite 4 on April 27 between 3:05 and 4:29 a.m. Five people were seen leaving the scene wearing baggy clothes, according to a witness' statement from police reports.

■ A 21-year-old female had her backpack stolen from a study room at the Knight Library last Thursday between 1:30 and 3 p.m. Included in the backpack was a Mandarin/English electronic translator valued at \$300.

■ A car sustained key scratches on its hood, doors, roof and trunk last Wednesday between 4 and 4:30 p.m. at 1390 Alder St. The car's windshield was also broken, causing a total of \$1,500 in damage.

■ A clerk at 7-Eleven, 1316 Alder St., was assaulted by a person with a glass bottle inside a sock, which was tied in knots on Tuesday at 1:40 a.m., according to police reports. The clerk was treated for lacerations.

— compiled by Brian Womack



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