

## Forest

continued from page 1

were affected, 21 firefighters were killed and tens of thousands of families were evacuated from their homes, according to a United States Department of Agriculture fact sheet. It was the worst fire season in recent history.

In response to the devastation left behind by the fires, and the desire to avoid a similar situation in the future, President George W. Bush introduced the Healthy Forest Initiative to Congress in August. The plan is a four-part process that the Bush administration calls "common sense" and "sensible."

According to Bush administration officials, successful implementation of the plan would change how forests and rangelands are managed in regard to fuel treatment.

The plan would quickly open doors for agencies to enter into areas and perform logging exercises in the name of fire fuel reduction. It would remove many of the overlapping environmental laws and guidelines that mandate review of the impact of logging. Instead, it would develop an integrated system for weighing the short-term risks and the long-term benefits of logging an area in the name of fuel reduction. HFI would also remove the existing appeals process, which currently allows citizens and the administration to place hold orders on questionable timber sales.

"We are trying to expedite our processes in order to prevent catastrophic damage to our forests and rangelands by returning these lands to good health, which will protect lives, property and home," Interior Secretary Gale Norton said in a statement. "Needless delay closes the narrow window of opportunity we have to do essential fuel treatment work between fire seasons. Forest ecologists and the land managers know the truth: We cannot afford to wait any

longer. If we fail to act, we will continue to see millions of acres of forests go up in smoke every year."

HFI would affect federal forested areas, wilderness and rangelands bordering communities and high-risk areas like watersheds. These areas would be opened to logging agencies and other fire reduction crews, who would travel into the area and snags — trees, brush and snags — that could turn a small natural fire into a roaring uncontrollable burn.

Hal Salwasser, Oregon State University forestry dean, said the main goal of the plan was to reduce fire hazards in areas where a burn could threaten a community or other important resource. Salwasser said the HFI was a step in the right direction but did not go far enough. He said forest systems have been managed under a no-fire policy, and because of it, small amounts of fuel that accumulate each year have not been removed from the forest floor, leaving piles of combustible material that are essentially tinder boxes waiting for a spark.

"Fire is a natural part of an ecosystem, but the ecosystem we have created is not natural for fire," Salwasser said.

Rod Nichols, Oregon Department of Forestry Public Affairs manager, said federal forestlands in Oregon are facing a forest health crisis due to a lack of management.

"Lawsuits and appeals brought by environmental groups against nearly every timber sale proposed on forest service lands have impaired the agency's ability to thin forests and maintain health," Nichols said. "As a result, stands have become overly dense."

Nichols said forest management on privately-owned and state-owned land has been much more successful than on federal lands.

"The owners are motivated to thin their forests and keep the



Adam Amato Emerald

Across the nation last summer, fires burned more than 7.1 million acres of land and killed more than 21 firefighters.

stands healthy and resistant to disease, insects and fire because they are dependent on these lands for a livelihood," he said. "It is similar on state-owned forestlands. Oregon Department of Forestry actively manages its 800,000 acres of state forests to maintain good forest health."

Not everyone believes the HFI and increased levels of management are good things for forestlands, however.

Rick Gorman of the Native Forest Council, a nonprofit organization seeking to "end all industrial extraction on natural lands," said no amount of logging, even in the name of fire prevention, will be acceptable on public lands until commercial logging is put to an end and the USDA Forest Service is restructured.

"We're talking about the last vestiges of natural wild land," Gorman said. "They'd take every last tree if they could. We cannot let them into the areas because we cannot trust them to act only in the name of fire prevention — and not their own interest."

Gorman's not alone in his distrust. Thanks to a coalition of activists, this summer's battle over the Healthy Forest Initiative may not be easily won.

Contact the senior reporter at [aimeerudin@dailyemerald.com](mailto:aimeerudin@dailyemerald.com).

## Patriot II

continued from page 1

advocates, crippling civil liberties.

"The new Ashcroft proposal threatens to fundamentally alter the constitutional protections that allow us to be both safe and free," said Timothy H. Edgar, an ACLU legislative counsel. "If it becomes law, it will encourage police spying on political and religious activities, allow the government to wiretap without going to court and dramatically expand the death penalty under an overbroad definition of terrorism."

However, government officials have cautioned that citizens should not be alarmed by the draft legislation. After the Center for Public Integrity revealed "Patriot II" to the public, Barbara Comstock, director of public affairs for the Justice Department, released a statement affirming the Justice Department's commitment to home-

land security.

"During our internal deliberations, many ideas are considered, some are discarded and new ideas emerge in the process along with numerous discussion drafts," she stated. "Department staff have not presented any final proposals to either the Attorney General or the White House. It would be premature to speculate on any future decisions, particularly ideas or proposals that are still being discussed at staff levels."

But organizations critical of the legislation, such as the LCBORDC and the ACLU, are cautioning citizens of the threats on their personal liberties, warning that "Patriot II" endangers such constitutional guarantees as personal privacy and freedom of speech, association and religion.

For example, under Section 501, Americans can be stripped of their citizenship for providing support to any group the government designates as a "terrorist organization."

The ACLU said it objected to this provision because under such a definition, domestic protest organizations such as People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals could be targeted. Sections 301-306 contain language for establishing a DNA terrorist identification database, which the ACLU claims will "allow for the sampling and cataloging of innocent Americans' genetic information without court order and without consent."

The Eugene Middle East Peace Group is sponsoring a forum entitled "Civil Liberties in a Time of Crisis," at the First United Methodist Church at 7 p.m. on Thursday to address perceived threats to constitutional protections. The event will include personal stories, discussion, opportunities for action and a panel of speakers from the LCBORDC, the ACLU and the Network for Immigrant Justice.

Contact the senior news reporter at [jenniferbear@dailyemerald.com](mailto:jenniferbear@dailyemerald.com).

## 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

**MAY 2-4**  
FRIDAY - SUNDAY

**10% DISCOUNT**

Save 10% on any one item purchased during anniversary weekend

**REGISTER TO WIN**

Prize drawings throughout weekend  
Special Grand Prize drawing on Sunday

**GIFT W/BOOT PURCHASE**

Buy any Birkenstock boot over \$200 & receive a free fleece vest or day pack

**ANNIVERSARY HOURS**

Fri May 2, 10-8 After 20 years,  
Sat May 3, 10-6 what's a few  
Sun May 4, 11-5 more hours?

**MUSIC & REFRESHMENTS**

Friday evening 5-8

**FOOTWISE**  
THE BIRKENSTOCK STORE

181 E Broadway • Downtown Eugene • 342-6107  
Mon-Fri, 10-6 & Sun 11-5

## Reading and Writing FICTION



15:00-16:50 P.M.  
June 23 - July 18  
CRN 42044 Professor Henry Alley

SUMMER 2003 • HC 421H

You do not have to be an honors student to take this course.  
Open to all students with sophomore standing or above.

This course will begin with the journal, move to autobiography and fictionalized first-person accounts and will conclude with third-person short stories.

In class, the stories of Welty, Carver, Porter, Woolf, O'Connor, and Walker will be discussed to highlight technique, as well as concerns of characterization, style, tone, and plot. When appropriate, we will listen to recordings of authors reading their own works.

Writing assignments include several stories and a writer's journal. Class enrollment is limited to twenty-two.

benefit concert by  
**on the rocks**  
&  
**divisi**

Friday May 2nd 7:00 pm  
Central Presbyterian Church  
15th and Ferry  
Admission \$8 Students \$5  
Tickets at Door  
Proceeds benefit Central  
Presbyterian Nicaraguan Trip