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Environment: 2002 Biscuit Fire frames current concerns

Continued from page 1

"Unless we go and clean up, there's going to be another fire," he said.

However, other candidates support the roadless rule.

"We need to protect our roadless areas," said Paul Holvey, the Democratic 8th district state representative candidate. He added that the state must practice "sustainable" forestry that will not only ensure jobs, but also forest health.

"I really believe that there is a balance there, that we can have an economy that uses natural resources in a sustainable manner and that protects the environment," he said.

He said fellow Democrat Peter DeFazio, who is running for the U.S. Congress, has proposed an "excellent plan" for forests that will adequately address forest practices and jobs.

This plan, named the Northwest Rural Employment and Forest Restoration Act, would require the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management to prioritize forest management by thinning and treating nearly two million acres of crowded second-growth stands and to protect native old-growth timber, according to a press release from DeFazio's office.

The plan would also ensure about 500 million board feet of federal timber harvest a year and avoid the appeals and litigation associated with old-growth logging, according to the release.

"It's ridiculous that we continue to fight over the small amount of old-growth left in the Northwest while workers, mills and communities struggle to hang on," DeFazio said in the press release. He also said the Forest Service estimates there are six billion board feet of commercial timber in second-growth stands that need to be thinned "and most of it could be done with little or no controversy".

Apart from forests, Holvey said he is also concerned about land management and the state's watersheds. He said he will work for efficient systems that prevent the contamination of water in the state.

"We really need to do a better job

of monitoring the water system," he said.

Democratic candidate for state Senate Floyd Prozanski said he also supports DeFazio's plan, which would not only stifle fires through thinning and proper management of stands, but would also boost the economy. Prozanski said he would also encourage alternative materials to make paper, such as industrial hemp instead of wood fiber.

Prozanski said he is also concerned about working for high air and water quality.

"We want to make sure we have clean drinking water and clean air to breathe," he said. He added that he may also consider revising the recycling law in the state so that it is more inclusive of different types of containers.

On the other hand, the Republican state Senate candidate Jim Feldkamp campaign believes the amount of litigation on environmental cases is hindering progress.

"The courts are supposed to be used to resolve disputes, but there's a lot of abuse of the system," said Scott Jorgensen, Feldkamp's spokesman. He added that the Forest Service is spending a huge chunk of its budget dealing with lawsuits.

Citing the Biscuit Fire case, Jorgensen said lawsuits have prevented the Forest Service from cleaning up the affected area.

"Dead timber is laying there 'til now because the case is tied up in court," he said.

Jorgensen said there is a need to use common sense approaches that balance the needs of the environment and people's ability to make a living and that previous policies have harmed both people and animals. Giving the example of the Klamath Basin water wars in 2001 — where the federal administration turned off irrigation water to more than 1,400 farmers, leaving it for suckerfish and coho salmon — Jorgensen said people were not only deprived of their livelihood, but thousands of fish died as well.

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Bei Dao: Reading organizers hope poetry inspires listeners

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worried about my writing. When I first showed my earlier works to him, he was scared and asked me to burn it. I did burn it, but I kept another copy. Most parents were very scared at that time," he said.

Because of his outspoken writing, Bei Dao was exiled from his homeland China for many years. Since then he has traveled to many different countries, teaching and introducing Chinese literature to the Western World.

"I had taken part in a conference on Chinese culture in San Francisco in the spring of 1989," he said. "That was a month before the Tiananmen Square incident. But when it took place, I was not allowed to return to China. I was separated from my wife and daughter for six years. So for six years we kept constant contact through phone and writing."

This reading event was organized by the Mountain Writers Series, an organization that is sponsoring Bei Dao as he travels around America, giving readings of his poems. They had contacted the head of Asian studies at the University of Oregon, Maram Epstein, last spring.

"When I heard the name Bei Dao, I was all over it. I mean, this man is an important cultural figure. He alone represents something to someone," Epstein said. "He represents the ideal of poet statesmen, for his poetry established a whole new school of poetry ... that becomes the voice of descent and is filled with modern images."

"I am hoping that people who attended this reading will take away the responsibility of artists who speak for themselves. And for all of us scholars, it is not just about scholarships and being in the same room as Bei Dao. But rather it is understanding the political power of literature. I hope that people will be inspired and speak their conscience," she said.

Professor Larson said she hoped people who attended Bei Dao's Tuesday lecture, "Underground Literature in Late 60s China," would reach a greater understanding of his poetry.

"I hope that people can contextualize the history through his poems, for it is not easy for people to understand."

Rachel Lee is a freelance reporter for the Daily Emerald