

Bills: Budget problems are a big concern for lawmakers

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forest management.

"There's probably going to be bills on both sides of the issue," Rep. Paul Holvey, D-Eugene, said.

Republicans in the House of Representatives have said they will reintroduce a bill that would double the amount of logging in the Tillamook and Clatsop state forests.

Holvey said it is important for the state to take a strong stance on what to do in Oregon forests because of the balance that must be created between the need for forest conservation and the need for increased logging and the jobs it brings.

"There's a balance there that we do need to recognize and I don't think we're going to get that direction from our federal government," Holvey said.

Barnhart said the Oregon Board of Forestry should handle the controversy surrounding Oregon's forests.

It is crucial to reach a balance between logging and conservation, Barnhart said, but allowing political motives to govern what happens in the forests is a mistake and has devastated state forests in the past.

"We have a failure in politics on that issue," Barnhart said. "We need to get a scientifically managed plan for our forests."

There is need for logging in some roadless areas because of an overabundance of trees but it is necessary to control the logging to prevent overcutting, Barnhart said.

"That way we can preserve beautiful Oregon and we can also get some money out of it, too," he said.

Prozanski agreed that the Oregon Board of Forestry should regulate state forests.

"We should try to allow these state agencies, boards and commissions to do the work that they are in place to do," Prozanski said.

Also on the legislative agenda is an examination of Measure 37, which has been the subject of much conversation at the city level, lawmakers say, because of how complicated and ambiguous the measure is.

The measure, which went into effect Dec. 2, requires the government to compensate property owners for any

property value reductions they may face because of a zone change or land development.

"There's no doubt that there's some ambiguity that needs to be reviewed and addressed," Prozanski said. "Cities, counties and other governmental entities need to have that uniformity on how they're going to define, interpret and implement Measure 37."

Lawmakers will also be grappling with bills concerning civil unions and the discrimination of people in work and housing situations based on sexual orientation.

Prozanski said he is in support of civil unions and doesn't feel the ban on same-sex marriage includes civil unions.

"It's hard for me to understand how we can discriminate against fellow Oregonians based on their sexual orientation or sexual preference," Prozanski said.

Prozanski also discussed the importance of improving the health care system in Oregon by doing as much as possible on the state level to mitigate problems.

"We need to level the playing field," Prozanski said.

A recent survey by the Oregon Progress Board reported that one in six Oregonians don't have health insurance. The number of people covered by the Oregon Health Plan has been decreasing and both Barnhart and Prozanski identified the state health care crisis as an important issue that must be addressed.

Ackerman also stressed the need to tackle the health care crisis but emphasized that many issues cannot get the attention they deserve this legislative season because of state budget problems.

"You can drop a bill and ask for a lot of stuff but unless you identify a revenue source, you might not even get a hearing this session," Ackerman said.

Lawmakers agreed there is a need for a bipartisan effort to accomplish all their goals.

"We're trying to work together to bring our best ideas forward," Holvey said.

meghanncuniff@dailymerald.com

Connecting: Web site allows for easy 'social bookmarking'

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and research purposes.

del.icio.us, a "social bookmarking" tool, is one site that allows users to save any noteworthy bookmarks onto their account. At first glance, it may not seem too important to users and students in particular to simply place a link on a site unless they are in a different location from where the site was originally bookmarked. But beyond seeing what links have been saved, users can also put keywords on the links that apply to the Web site, which makes del.icio.us a powerful tool.

For instance, a student doing research on political current events can find links from every other del.icio.us user on categories as vague as "politics" to links pertaining to specific countries or politicians.

Joshua Schachter, creator of del.icio.us, said he initially started the program to simply store bookmarks, but he has since added features and let others modify the site to fit their needs.

As for keywords and the potential to make personal content more searchable, Schachter said, "It's a

useful technique and can be abused, much like every other way to organize data for other people; attention is valuable and people will always seek to deflect or divert it."

But organizing life through technology is not always a better solution; one burnt-out student who no longer depends on technology to schedule his life is computer and information science major Derek Baker.

"At one point I had a Palm for a year but (organizing) faded out — I'd always be concerned with battery life or having to write it down separately," Baker said. "But now I scribble on my hand and I see a lot of people do that. You'll never lose the note but it might fade out."

While some students may not jump on the bandwagon to organize and profile their identity on the Internet, Hennessy said many students are now embracing the practice.

"People use blogs where they talk about everything that's happened in their day and their persona is public," Hennessy said. "Maybe it's a generational thing."

anthonylucero@dailymerald.com

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