



ZANE RITT | PHOTOGRAPHER
ASUO President Adam Petkum speaks in favor of the resolution.



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Eugene City Council member Bonny Bettman, right, speaks on the resolution to protect mature and old growth forests in the McKenzie River watershed as Mayor Kitty Percy listens

Local resolution asserts need for limit on logging

OSPIRG and other groups attended the meeting to support the protection of old-growth forests

BY PARKER HOWELL
SENIOR NEWS REPORTER

In a symbolic gesture aimed at protecting the McKenzie River watershed as a source of clean water and maintaining the local economy and preserving outdoor recreational activities, the Eugene City Council on Monday night approved a resolution requesting greater government protection of federal old-growth forests along the river.

Resolution 4836 calls for congressional legislation to prohibit road building and logging in mature and old-growth forests within the watershed and for the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service to make changes to its forest management as necessary.

University community members involved in the Oregon Student Public Interest Research Group and the Outdoor Program participated in the campaign to pass the resolution. Proponents of the resolution touted McKenzie River forests as a

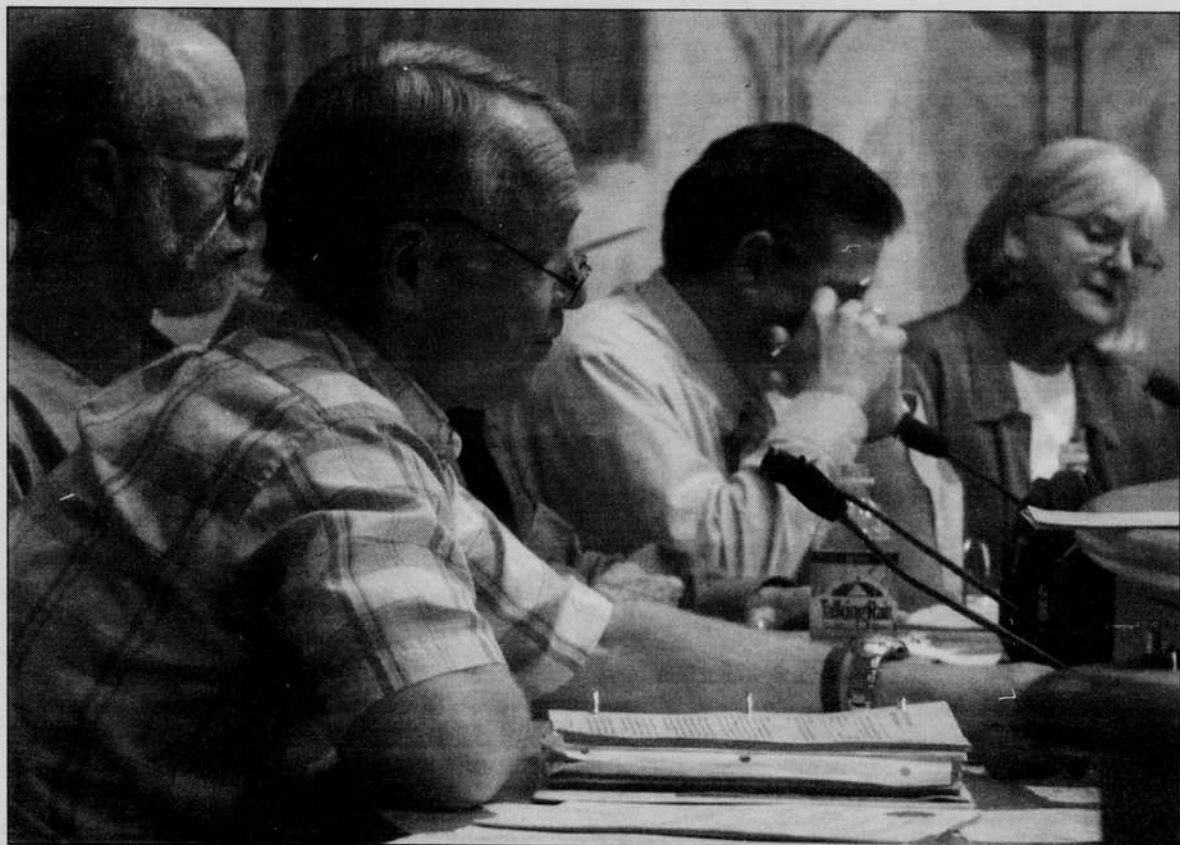
draw for students and a valuable natural resource.

Old-growth forests are defined as forest stands at least 180 years old, according to the resolution. Mature forests are stands between 80 and 180 years old.

Forests in the area, which are part of the Willamette National Forest, are currently managed under the 1994 federal Northwest Forest Plan. It provides a management blueprint for forests in Oregon, Washington and California and is governed by several federal agencies, including the Forest Service. The plan's aims include maintaining old-growth species and habitats and maintaining biological diversity on federally managed lands.

The plan includes about 24.5 million acres of forest land designated for different uses, according to the federal Regional Ecosystem Office's Web site. About 16 percent, or roughly 4 million acres, of the total land is designated as

MCKENZIE, page 12



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Left to right: Eugene City Council Members David Kelly, Gary Papé and George Poling and Mayor Kitty Percy listen to arguments for and against the McKenzie Watershed Resolution.

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