



## Biscuit: It's still hot

(Continued from page 1)

stration, protestors blocked Eight Dollar Road at the bridge early Monday. Once that was cleared by law enforcement, they continued approximately six miles farther past the bridge and found a roadblock.

Along the way they moved other efforts to block log trucks, including rocks, and tree branches from the 2002 Biscuit Fire. However, Fiddler logging was under way Monday by Silver Creek Timber, and was to continue for as long as legal, said USFS.

"We have no legal mechanism that doesn't allow the logging to proceed," said Patty Burel, of the forest service's Medford office.

"We will abide by the law," she said, "no matter what rulings come down."

Members of the media were allowed within about 50 yards of the second block, but no farther because of the site being declared a crime scene.

Protestors were scattered along the road, with a concentration above the road block. It consisted of a red pickup truck with four flat tires, and an "Earth First!" sign.

One woman was chained to the steering wheel with a U-shaped device used to lock bicycles. Two men were chained underneath the pickup, and their chain had been looped through a concrete block beneath the road.

A forest service spokesman noted that on Monday morning, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals issued a mandate to allow logging to begin at the Fiddler, Berry, Steed and Wafer salvage sales, all in old-growth reserves.

"We are here because this is the largest logging project in the history of the modern forest service," according to a protest spokesman, who identified himself as "Laurel."

"What's at stake is the first-ever logging inside designated old-growth reserves," he said, "which exist to keep out logging."

"One way or another, this is an historic moment, because it will set precedent for forest policy for decades to come."

"The Bush forest service," he said, "is selling a lie to the American people. They're trying to tell us that this project will benefit our local communities; they're trying to tell us it will restore the forest."

"The fact of the matter is that people here understand that the future of this local economy is based in tourism and recreation. And people who are coming here internationally, locally and from across the country recognize the incredible botanical diversity and the amazing wild and scenic rivers. And the incredible esthetic beauty of this place."

"They don't want to come see stump fields," said Laurel, "and if the local

forest service really cared about the future economic potential of this community they would not be doing this project."

He indicated Tuesday, March 8 that the effort to halt the logging would continue in some way. He also said that part of the intent is to alert the U.S. public.

He and Agnes Pilgrim, the last surviving member of the Takilma Indians of the Rogue River Tribe, said that the forests "are naturally regenerating." Said Laurel, "There's saplings already sprouting up, carpets of

**'We have no legal mechanism that doesn't allow the logging to proceed. We will abide by the law no matter what rulings come down.'**  
Patty Burel, USFS

early spring wildflowers.

"They're trying to tell us that logging will help this landscape recover, and it's just not true. Commercial logging is not restoration."

"So we're here to be a public voice of opposition to this extreme logging plan. The American public and the local communities are overwhelmingly opposed to continued old-growth logging on public land."

"We've exercised every channel available to us to make vehemently clear the overwhelming public opposition to old-growth logging on public lands," he said, "and still they're pushing through with this."

"We've been left with little recourse; people are absolutely frustrated at being snubbed continuously by their elected officials and the government; and we have two court cases pending."

"One is in federal court Wednesday (March 9), and one is in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals March 22."

"The merits are strong, likely to win. Both the cases at their heart will determine whether or not this logging is in fact legal, and so we've got a legal limbo here where these timber companies are trying to come in and log public land subsidized with taxpayer money at the expense of our local communities before a court can even determine if it's legal for them to do so."

"We have a diverse group of people out here; we're working with the Biscuit Alliance, which is a coalition of locals and old-timers and people who care about this valley and about its future."

He said that the major media are covering the protest. He added that "caravans of people are coming from up north."

"I'm happy to be here to protest the logging that's going on from the Biscuit Fire," said Pilgrim. "I think that they're kind of jumping the gun because they need to

go to court March 22, and they're already trying to log."

"I don't think it is right for them to take out some of the trees that have been here for hundreds of years and destroy the mountainside, causing erosion."

"I think we have one of the most beautiful countries here with all the diversity of plant and animal life that you can't find anywhere in the world," said Pilgrim, "and I don't think it should be disturbed."

"I think that everybody should stand up and try to stop this because they ship the logs out of here and it doesn't benefit the county and doesn't put anyone back to work here or make a product out of it and it's just causing more high unemployment."

"For the last 13 years," she said, "that I've been talking about trying to get people back 'hands-on' the land to clean out the ground floor so that when lightning does strike it doesn't make such a hot fire as the Biscuit Fire."

"My people lived here for thousands of years, and the Takilma women used to do the cool burning. They knew the parameters and the rotation by years, and the cool burnings is what's been left out of healthy forests."

"I don't think they have the right to take down the last standing big old-growth trees because seven generations ahead won't be able to see these beautiful, exotic places, and the wildlife that's in it," Pilgrim said.

At one point, near the second roadblock, a TV reporter's efforts to interview a forest service spokesman were thwarted by a woman protester.

The reporter had interviewed the protester, who afterward indicated that she was not interested in allowing the forest service to state its position regarding the blockades or timber sales.

When the reporter tried to interview the USFS person "to get both sides," the woman shouted and generally caused enough interference to stymie the interview.

## Heritage Foundation commentary

By ED FUELNER

There's a theory that great individuals drive human events.

Larger-than-life figures appear, seize the moment and shape history, for better or worse. It may be time to update the "Great Man" theory, though because today's history-shaping force isn't a person. It's a country: the United States.

Since 9/11, we've led coalitions to oust tyrannical governments in Afghanistan and Iraq. Today some 50 million people are enjoying the fruits of democracy for the first time.

More recently, consider our response to the Indian

Indonesian leader told me recently in Jakarta, "Thank God for the American military. It's the only group organized and able to respond to this crisis."

Clearly the United States is an indispensable force for good in the world. We're doing a good job helping others, but that's not enough. Now we need to do a better job promoting our good deeds.

According to the Defense Science Board, a Pentagon advisory group, our public diplomacy is in crisis. It says our government must do a better job of communicating "to global and domestic audiences in ways

**'We need to do a better job promoting our good deeds.'**

Ocean tsunami. Within days, the American military was on the scene, delivering food and medical aid while providing shelter to an untold number of victims.

So why the brickbats from certain international officials?

Soon after the disaster, a United Nations leader criticized the United States for being "stingy." Hardly. Our government wound up pledging more than \$350 million as the scope of the disaster became apparent. And that excludes private donations, which will far surpass governmental contributions of most countries.

(President Bush recently pledged even more funding).

Keep in mind that the only efficient way to deliver most of that aid was via the U.S. military. It was U.S. ships and helicopters that delivered our help. It was U.S. service members who distributed it. This will cost millions on top of our \$350 million contribution.

This sort of relief mission highlights how remarkable adaptive is our military.

A nation's military, after all, concerned with protecting its homeland. But our military also does an excellent job selflessly helping other lands. As a "senior military officer" told reporters, "We're there to help Indonesians, we're in Thailand to help the Thai, we're in Sri Lanka to help the people there."

In other words, we won't impose our help; we'll provide aid while we're needed, then fade quietly away. "How long they want us there is a sovereign decision," this military official added. "If they want us to go, we'll go."

But for now, they don't want us to leave. As a senior

that are credible and allow them to make informed, independent judgments."

Such messages, it says, "should seek to reduce, not to increase, perceptions of arrogance, opportunism, and double standards."

In the latest edition of The Heritage Foundation's "Mandate for Leadership," we lay out some steps the government should take to improve America's image internationally. They would work to craft effective public diplomacy that would support U.S. foreign policy.

Americans don't want to be thanked, but it's not too much to ask that we be appreciated as a major force for good. Public diplomacy can help. It helped us win the Cold War -- and it can help us win hearts and minds in the global war against terrorism.

(Ed Fuelner is president of The Heritage Foundation (heritage.org), a Washington-based public policy research institute.)



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## Tax News

**SMART WAYS TO USE A CASH WINDFALL**

Are you expecting a cash windfall from an income tax refund, a bonus, or maybe a pay raise? If so, give some thought to how to make smart use of this extra money.

Maybe you're among those battling a mountain of high interest consumer debt -- especially after the holidays. The average household credit card debt is around \$8,400. Why not use your extra cash to pay those balances down? If you're being charged an 18% rate, paying off those balances earns you an 18% return on your investment. That kind of return is hard to beat!

Another key strategy is to build an emergency fund of between three to six months' worth of living expenses in a liquid account like a money market account. This safety net will keep you from incurring steep borrowing costs or being forced to sell long-term investments at a loss if you have a financial emergency.

You may want to consider making a 2004 contribution to an individual retirement account before the April 15th deadline. You can generally contribute up to \$3,000 for the 2004 tax year -- \$3,500 if you're age 50 or older. If you plan on contributing to a tax-deductible traditional IRA, you can even claim the deduction on your tax return and then wait for the refund to help pay for your contribution (as long as the contribution is made on or before April 15, 2005).

Instead of spending your new raise after each paycheck, try saving the extra money in a workplace retirement account such as a 401(k) plan. Many employers will match a portion of your contribution, which is just like getting free money. Plus, your contributions will also reduce your taxable income, resulting in tax savings as well.

Please contact us if we can help you with any of your tax, financial, or business concerns.

**Federal, Oregon, California, and other state tax returns.**

**Karen M. Bodeving, CPA PC**

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