

Spotlight Continued...

Shortly thereafter, the Forest Service consolidated the Butte Falls Ranger District with a neighboring unit, and the town was left with fewer government employees. The town's average per capita income declined substantially, until by 2000 it was \$11,500. (By then, billionaire Harold Simmons, the "corporate raider" whose actions led to the loss of valuable milling and future forest operations, had gained national attention by bankrolling the "Swiftboating" campaign against Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry in 2004.)

Various ideas to rejuvenate the town's economy have been proposed, including selling bottled "mountain spring water" from a nearby spring and a sightseeing railroad train to be pulled by a restored Medco locomotive. The town's traditional "old-fashioned Fourth of July celebration," in which the parade's participants circle through town twice, brings visitors, as does hunting season.

Sources

Egan, Timothy. *The Good Rain: Across Time and Terrain in the Pacific Northwest*. New York: Vintage Books, 1990.

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