

Preschool co-op cites openings

Mothers interested in joining a preschool co-op in Sandy are invited to meet at the Sandy Community School at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 19. The co-op is opened to children from 3 (by Oct. 1) to 6 years old.

Mothers already in the co-op are encouraging mothers with young children at home to attend the meeting to find out how the co-op can work.

Those interested in joining the preschool may contact Judy Sheppard at the Sandy Community School, 668-5744.

Part two

Environmentalists fight for water



Joseph and Amy Miller

This is the second part of a series on the controversy surrounding the future of the Bull Run Reserve. This week The Post takes a look at those who filed the lawsuit.

by Sue Lafky
Post editor

Joseph and Amy Miller plan to keep fighting to protect the Bull Run Reserve.

The Millers, who live in Marmot near Sandy, are the ones who took the Forest Service to court for logging in the Bull Run Reserve. Their class action suit was filed on behalf of all City of Portland water users. The Millers were joined in the lawsuit by the Oregon Environmental Council and the Northwest Environmental Defense Center.

U.S. District Court Judge James Burns ruled in favor of the environmentalists in the lawsuit. Burns also ordered outlying areas of the reserve closed to recreation.

"Burns said that the entire reserve (as outlined in the 1904 Bull Run Trespass Act) was subject to the law," said Miller.

The attorney for the Millers, Charles Merten, urged the judge to postpone action on those areas to give Congress a chance to change the boundary. Miller said the Forest Service insisted on equal treatment for recreation and requested that if there was no logging in the reserve, there should be no recreation either.

According to Miller, the Forest Service is dangling the closure of the recreation areas before the public to gain support for its position in the controversy.

The Millers maintain that those who speak only of the economics of the Bull Run Reserve ignore the value of priceless natural resources in the area.

The Bull Run supplies water to one-third of Oregon's population. "If its forests are undisturbed, this water can be of the highest quality available," Miller said.

There seems to be a question as to whether or not logging has affected water quality in the reserve, which serves as Portland's sole water source.

An organization called the Bull Run Interest Group (BRIG) has dedicated itself to fighting for water quality in the reserve.

"Testing and monitoring of the water quality has been terribly inadequate," said BRIG member Martha Gannett.

The Portland freelance graphic designer said there is no baseline data available to determine if water quality has improved or declined since logging began in the reserve in 1959. And she added that the Portland Water Bureau also acknowledges the lack of data.

Gannett and other BRIG members seriously doubt that water quality has been enhanced by logging in the reserve.

obituaries

Esther Wewer

Esther H. Wewer, 1350 W. Powell Blvd., Gresham, died Jan. 5 at the age of 78.

Mrs. Wewer was born in Wausau, Wis., the daughter of Ernest and Martha Gross. She was raised and educated in Wisconsin and moved to the Portland area with her family in 1935.

She married Henry Wewer of Sandy in 1953 and resided in Sandy until 1968.

She was a member of the St. Timothy Lutheran Church, Portland.

Survivors include: her husband, Henry; children, Doris Sabolyk of Clackamas, Robert Schlewitz of Bellingham, Wash., and James Schlewitz of Albany; brothers Fred Gross of Olla, Wis., and Ernest Gross of Portland; sisters Nina Rundell of Hillsboro, Wis., Ella DeHorn of Antigo, Wis., and Mildred Miller of Portland; nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Services were Jan. 8 at St. Timothy Lutheran Church, Portland. Committal followed at Riverview Cemetery, Portland.

Contributions may be made to Lutheran Good Shepherd Home in Cornelius.



CLEAN WATER is one of the issues surrounding the Bull Run Reserve con-

trovery. This week, The Post interviewed Joe and Amy Miller of Sandy. (Post photo)

There could be a slow deterioration of water quality, she said, and added erosion problems often follow logging. She called logging in the reserve a "huge experiment."

Although there is disagreement on the issue, some environmentalists cite the watersheds used for the Seattle water system as an example. Gannett said turbidity (a muddy or cloudy state resulting from sediment being stirred up) sometimes forces the closure of the Seattle watersheds.

Some claim turbidity results from logging in those watersheds; others deny that logging has any connection with turbidity.

Gannett said one of the dangers of turbidity is that it masks bacteria in the water and can interfere with chlorination.

"It takes a lot more chlorine to kill the bacteria," she said.

Miller said the U.S. Forest Service Draft Environmental Statement for the reserve has overlooked the most sensible alternative for the area.

Miller said logic as well as the law support setting aside some portions of the Bull Run Reserve as a scientific and educational area.

He supports opening "any portion of the Bull Run that can be opened to scientific and educational purposes without endangering the water quality."

An ideal solution, he said, would be to keep protecting those portions of the reserve which were opened to the public in 1959. He would like to see that portion reserved for recreation, science, education and wildlife, while excluded from commercial (non-protective) logging.

"There is no other place where recreation and wildlife don't have to put up with the threat of the chain saw," he said.

Miller cited the reserve's availability to the Portland metropolitan area and wide range of elevations as other reasons he supports the scientific and educational potential of the area.

Elevations in the reserve range from 750 to 4,751 feet.

In 1971, U.S. Forest Service Chief Edward Cliff noted that undisturbed natural resource areas in lower elevations in the west are scarce.

"These are the areas where man's influence has been most pervasive, and where a standard for comparing the natural environment with the present one is most important," Cliff said.

Miller also said the habitat in the reserve is highly desirable for many forms of wildlife, including rare and disappearing species.

"If there is anything biologically unique in the Bull Run, it is the low elevation old growth timber stands and associated fauna," said Mt. Hood National Forest field biologist Kirk Horn several years ago. "To the timber manager these stands are decadent and unproductive. However they are prime living conditions for a few animals whose very livelihood is tied to these old growth ecosystem..."

Miller endorses a BRIG proposal allowing only logging which will "genuinely protect the forest."

BRIG supports the present protective law, unchanged except to re-define the area to which it applies to coincide with the 1959 division boundary (the portion of the Bull Run Reserve that has remained constant continuously closed to the public since 1892—even after 1959).

BRIG wants to insure maximum protection of the water resources — both of the Bull Run and Little Sandy rivers. The City of Sandy is requesting the Little Sandy River as a potential water source for the future.

This plan would immediately open to the public those portions of the Bull Run Reserve which they have become accustomed to enjoy since 1959, Miller said.

"There is no logical reason to exclude them, since these portions do not protect the water resource," Miller said.

Miller and other environmentalists claim that the Bull Run managers (U.S. Forest Service and City of Portland Water Bureau) cannot be trusted.

"They have been saying water is their top priority, when their actions indicate timber harvest is in fact their top priority," Miller charged.

Judge Burns issued a supplementary opinion last March which said he had concluded that "the present logging program in the Bull Run Reserve does not protect the

forest, whether from landslide, or blowdown, or insects, or disease, or fire. Plaintiffs have shown, largely from reports and studies of the federal defendants, that large scale logging poses serious dangers to the reserve."

Burns further stated that "to say that large scale commercial logging increases, rather than diminishes, protection of the forest from fires is to say that black is white..."

The Millers live on property adjacent to the Bull Run Reserve.

There have been accusations that the couple is protecting a vested interest in the case and are merely protesting the clear cutting that obstructs their view.

Not so, said Miller. "I'm 66 years old and I won't be here forever."

The couple's present plans are to donate the land to the Audubon Society after their death.

"Then 6,000 birdwatchers can look at clear cuts," Miller said with a touch of black humor.

The retired physician has devoted much of his time and energy to the long and lengthy lawsuit which began in 1973. In fact, he retired so he could devote more time to the lawsuit.

He says his position on the Bull Run Reserve is supported by documents readily available in the BRIG open file located in the Central Public Library in Portland.

The file is open to anyone to add to, or to help run, and is open to all points of view, Miller noted.

Miller called his fight to protect the Bull Run Reserve "one of the most rewarding adventures I've ever had," and praises many people he's met through BRIG, the Portland Water Bureau and the U.S. Forest Service.

And he added that the fight is not over.

Next Week: Timber and water management in the Bull Run Reserve.

Forest seminar set

An evening forest management seminar is scheduled to begin in Sandy on Wednesday, Jan. 19.

According to Dan Green, forestry extension agent for Clackamas County, owners of small tracts of forest land are often poor forest managers.

"Many own the land for much different reasons than large landowners," he said.

"They may pay higher taxes than the law requires, sell their timber for a low price, and make mistakes in their tree

planning or thinning operations."

A series of evening seminars is being held throughout Clackamas County to help forest landowners learn the basics of forest management. A complete series will be held in Portland beginning Jan. 18, Molalla on Jan. 17 and in Oregon City on Jan. 20.

People wishing to attend should call the OSU Extension office in Clackamas County, 655-8631, to preregister.

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