

The Sandy Post

Editorial & Opinion

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Woodlots could bolster economy

The state legislature is taking another calculated look at forest management on small woodland lots as means to expand the local timber industry.

In the case of Clackamas County, this move could mean a lot of fresh money for a slumping economy.

Of the state's 3.5 million acres of woodland in private, non-industrial hands, some 133,502 acres are located in Clackamas County. This acreage is broadly distributed in the hands of 1,813 owners.

The largest group — 1,423 landowners — own small woodlots of 10 to 100 acres in size. That accounts for 57,578 acres of underproductive county forest land.

There are 377 county landowners with 100 to 500 acre parcels. That accounts for 64,192 county acres.

Only 13 county woodlot owners have parcels larger than 500 acres. That accounts for 11,732 acres.

Both sides of the state legislature are working, with little hope for immediate funding, to encourage forest management on small woodland ownerships. Sen. Charles Hanlon's Forestry Task Force is pressing hard to find a management plan that won't dip into the depleted state general fund.

Legislators last year trimmed a proposed \$5 million Woodland Management Act with attractive 50 percent tax credits to a fundless shell of a dream.

The tapered bill finally passed the Senate with only 10 percent income tax credits for woodlot owners instead of proposed 50 percent credits and direction for the State Forestry Department to operate a seed bank (without funds).

Speculation that the legislature will resurrect a costly woodland management bill overlooks economic realities. Legislators were brought to their knees earlier

this month in emergency session to rebalance the budget against declines in state revenue.

Still, the payoff from stimulating forestry on idle private lots could be big. Not only is the amount of land great — 14 percent of total commercial forest land — but the money basically would remain at home. Fresh money on the local economy, socio-economics say, can circulate up to six times.

The trick, of course, is how to stimulate forest management on non-industrial private woodlots without a costly state program. That's where crafty Senator Hanson comes in.

He's examining everything from leasing of small woodlots to professional foresters to a statewide forestry district to sell revenue bonds.

He's listening to technical advice from government experts, forest management people and even woodlot owners. Timber company people are putting together feasibility figures now for Hanson's committee.

We wish them luck.

Only 20 percent of the state's 3.5 million acres of private woodlots is being managed at all. With a projected decline in the state's harvest, the new business from woodlots takes on growing importance.

The state forester hopes to see harvest from non-industrial, private lots play a bigger role in Oregon. He's set as a goal 14 percent of the total harvest volume in 1985.

A stronger Woodland management Act could fulfill that dream and bolster this timber state's slumping timber economy — if Senator Hanlon has his way.

Residents interested in seeing the Senate Forestry Task Force through the woods should contact local State Sen. Ken Jernsted subcommittee member. (VB)

Whole town pulls for girl to live

It's heart-warming to see a whole town pull together to save a girl in distress. In this case, it's 14-year-old Sandy High freshman Dawn Davidson who's undergoing critical brain surgery in San Francisco.

Next time, it could be your daughter or your neighbor's little girl.

Donations are helpful, but personal involvement means so much more. Here, Sandy Community Players, Lions, Kiwanis, Optimists, Chamber of Commerce, churches and school groups plan to donate their time and energy in a series of Dawn Davidson benefits.

For instance, the local theater group will present a Cole Porter musical revue September 13 with proceeds earmarked for Dawn.

Tickets at \$10 each can be reserved by calling 661-0219 or 668-6182.

Medical expenses for parents Gary and Sharon Davidson escalated when it was decided that a top specialist at Univ. of California Medical Center at Moffitt Hospital, San Francisco, should be hired. Removal of a critical tumor was the reason and a life was at stake.

Any parent faced with a similar emergency would probably opt for the same expert care — whatever the cost. Neighbors can help bear that cost with donations through Sandy Community Players, P.O. Box 221, Sandy 97055. But attendance at community fundraisers would serve just as well. (VB)

Salem scene:

Labor bill would make it 'illegal' to go broke

by JACK ZIMMERMAN
Assoc. Oregon Industries

Organized labor wants a law that would require businesses to forecast precisely when they plan to go broke.

After such failure dates are announced, unions want the government to step in and force failing companies to continue unprofitable operations or adequately compensate everyone who stands to lose something — wages, taxes and so on.

Aimed specifically at businesses that manufacture products, five such bills are now pending before Congress. Two states have enacted laws embracing this philosophy, and legislators in at least nine others are considering similar legislation. Two major factors contribute to the current spate of statutory socialistic mandates. One involves declining trade union membership, and the other is the present economic recession that is causing layoffs and plant closures.

Most agitation for this type of legislation is coming from highly industrialized states. The movement has come to Oregon, too, much to the consternation of those who have

strived to expand and diversify this state's industrial base.

Now the Oregon AFL-CIO has proposed legislation to be introduced when the legislature next convenes in January. This bill will require a one-year prior notice of business reductions that result in full or partial closure of a workplace.

It asks for compensation to affected communities for lost taxes, as well as compensation to employees in the form of severance pay, relocation expenses and transfer rights. It asks public services to laid-off workers, including job search, training, relocation assistance, temporary employment and social services.

It would mandate government investigations of failing businesses, disclosure of operating and financial records, offers of sale to community groups, employee groups and government agencies. It provides tax penalties if a business operation relocates outside Oregon.

Altogether, it involves intercession by a variety of state agencies and adds significantly to regulation by government that already contributes to the difficulties encountered in the operation of any

profitable enterprise.

Karl Frederick, employee benefits director for Associated Oregon Industries, claims the bill would place an impossible burden on the state. Speaking for the Salem-based association of private employers who employ more than half of the state's private workforce, Frederick said:

"It would place our state at a serious disadvantage from an economic development standpoint."

"Such a bill certainly wouldn't create jobs that generate payroll and taxes on which state government depends," Frederick said. "On the contrary, potential employers would go elsewhere to establish their businesses."

He recited reasons for recent closure of a specific Oregon wood products firm as an example of the futility of such legislation when it comes to avoiding business failure. That mill simply ran out of logs. Although it was purchased by another group after the previous owner shut it down, the new owners also were unsuccessful. The plant closed again.

EDIT. NOTE: Mr. Zimmerman writes a column for Associated Oregon Industries.



Innocent Bystander:

J.R. Ewing perfect for president?

WASHINGTON — Now that both major parties have nominated their candidates, a band of us do-gooders, concerned for the future of the Republic, have gathered here to launch an exciting new political cause: The National Committee to Elect J.R. Ewing President. Our slogan:

"Why Not the Worst?"

There can be no question that the incredibly popular star of the television series "Dallas" is the man for the times. His handsome, square-jawed face under his cowboy hat currently graces the cover of Time magazine, which describes him as a "human oil slick." And his despicable record is known to one and all.

We feel we have best captured J.R.'s universal appeal with the message that appears on our buttons and bumper stickers: "The Candidate You Love to Hate." For the fact of the matter is that J.R. — and

by
ART HOPPE

J.R. alone — can deliver America from the groundswell of political apathy that is raging through the grassroots like a brushfire.

The problem with Reagan and Carter, of course, is that the majority of their fellow citizens merely dislike them. "I don't like Reagan, so I may vote for Carter," they'll say with a yawn. Or vice versa. And they clearly relish their

feelings of superiority over the candidates.

But if the electorate considers the election a choice between evils, we fervent supporters of J.R. demand, why not choose the greatest of all? No one could possibly make the voters feel better than our man.

When it comes to sex, no more devious philanderer exists than J.R. And talk about corruption! No brother of J.R. would ever sell out to a foreign country. No brother could beat J.R. to the punch. And just for icing on the cake, think what a marvelous first lady, J.R.'s wife, Sue Ellen, would make — she being an alcoholic adulteress.

Needless to say, we are counting on millions in campaign contributions from the television networks. As it stands now, they lose a bundle every time they dutifully bring us the uninterrupted platitudes of Carter or Reagan. Not only is J.R. far more intriguing, but

there's no doubt that, for a cut, he would be delighted to pause at least half a dozen times during his Inaugural Address for commercials.

Domestic scandals aside, what about foreign policy? At present, Carter and Reagan are each hawkishly contending that he could instill more fear abroad with new bombers, missiles and nuclear war plans than the other. But when it comes to scaring friend and foe alike out of their wits, who better than an unscrupulous, Machiavellian, power-mad plotter like J.R.? With President J.R. Ewing in the White House, America will be respected once again.

So leap on the bandwagon. J.R.'s bound to win. For his ace in the hole is this campaign promise: if he's not elected, he will never tell who shot him.

That's how rotten he is.

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Letters to the editor:

Readers eye politics, athletes

Athletes' fund

I am proud to live in Sandy. I met many nice, generous people this summer as I tried to raise funds to go to Lincoln, Neb., for the AAU Grand National Junior Olympic Championships. I found most people were happy to help me, some were irritated that I bothered them, and some couldn't help but wished me luck.

I was surprised to learn how often the business people and clubs and organizations are asked to help and how seldom they were thanked. But they still will help

usually. It's too bad that the kids aren't aware of how much support they do get from the business people.

Anyway, I did have a good time. I didn't place as high as I would have liked, coming back with a sixth place medal in Greco-Roman and seventh place in Freestyle. I learned a lot, though, and next time I probably won't be so nervous.

I brought back \$21 from donations that I gave to Ed Story at Clackamas County bank to help start a fund for Sandy kids who are going to national or international competition and need help.

We hope the fund grows through donations from private people, business, clubs and organizations and maybe some fund-raising activities.

This will help kids and keep business people from having to support so many kids who need sponsors. I hope I will have some kind of job, so I can pay my own way next year — but just in case, I'm glad the fund is getting started.

I tried to personally thank every sponsor, but in case I missed any I want them to know I did appreciate the help. A special thanks goes from me to the following businesses and organizations:

Sandy Lions Club, Sandy Optimist Club, Paoia's Pizza Barn, Williams Thirtway, Sharon's Pantry, Dr. H.H. Hazelett, Sandy Truck Lines, Clackamas County Bank, Nick Roth, Ferguson's Power Equipment, Sandy Chamber of Commerce, Babes Big Boy Pizza, Mac's Feed and Equipment, Pioneer Realty, Baert's Metal Products, The Health House, Larry's Sporting Goods, Timberline Glass and Mirror and Sandy High School.

Sincerely,
Larry Topliff
52545 E. Cherryville Dr.
Sandy

Get involved

I want to thank the people who supported me in the race for Republican candidate, county commissioner position 3. I gained invaluable knowledge about our democratic process, great insights into county government and some real concerns about our election process. The best part of the

campaign was the good friends (Democrats and Republicans) I made across the county.

I am pursuing an investigation of the mistakes and inaccuracies of elections and election laws and hope to make the process better for all voters and candidates.

One concern is citizen involvement in elections. I believe people should vote only after they have investigated the issues and studied the candidates. Voting without knowledge is very dangerous, as it lets big money or subtle smear campaigns have the greatest influence. (The formation of more than 100 political Action Committees, whose identity is not always clearly defined, can have great influence, and the public is not really aware of where the influence is coming from.)

Here are some suggestions for becoming more knowledgeable and involved as a voter:

First, pick a candidate now for November and get really involved in his or her campaign — both raising money and especially giving time. The process only works if the candidate is the people's choice, and this means ordinary people running their campaigns.

Then, attend at least once during the year your school board, city council, county commissioners', zoning and several legislative meetings and sessions. You will be amazed at the decision-making process, and seeing incumbents in action is invaluable in deciding for whom you should vote. All meetings are public. Insist that your local paper list these meetings. You may request to be notified by the government body, and by

law they must notify you.

We have a unique and exciting system. People can make a difference; it's just learning how to do it.

If you need help or have any comments, I would appreciate hearing from you.

Ginny Brewster
53205 E. Marmot Rd.
Sandy, Ore. 97055

'Post insults'

I am writing in reference to your Aug. 7 editorial, "Time for commissioners to resign?"

The first part of the editorial was informative, but I was amazed at the second part — that a newspaper of your integrity would resort to mud-slinging tactics overshadowing good journalism.

I would hope a follow-up editorial on Commissioner Groener's recommendation of a 9 percent decrease in salaries received this same sensationalism.

Responsible journalism should educate the public, not insult their intelligence.

The voters in Clackamas County are knowledgeable people. We know who is running in November. It's Commissioner Schumacher versus Bev Henderson and Commissioner Groener versus Atkins.

We do not need the Sandy Post to insult our intellect by suggesting two candidates that lost in the primary.

It may be true that there is tarnish and a loss of credibility at the commissioner level, but so is true of the Sandy Post.

Mrs. Kenneth Quick
10100 S.E. Walnut Drive
Portland