

# The Sandy Post Area News

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Home & Garden  
Features

## Near Rhododendron

# Enola Hill logging studied

by MICHAEL P. JONES  
Post Correspondent

Enola Hill, a 2,768-foot knoll snug-gled above the town of Rhododendron at the base of West Zig Zag Mountain, is currently being studied by the U.S. Forest Service for logging.

The small mountain, its terrain etched with a lucrative history of ancient Indian pony trails, an old wagon road and the remains of two of the area's earliest known homesteads, was the subject of a meeting held Friday evening between representatives of the Zig Zag Ranger District and members of the Rhododendron Neighborhood Group.

The ranger district has proposed to open the area up for a timber sale in 1986, which would allow the removal of an estimated 1.5 million board feet of timber. The RNG is opposed to the logging, fearing it could disturb the water quality of Henry Creek, which is the domestic water source for 350 households.

Joel Holtrop, the district's forester, told the small crowd in attendance that public input is needed in this sale, as well as in future sales, because logging operations "are now beginning to move into more sensitive areas." He said he hoped the meeting would be a beginning for getting the public involved.

Holtrop, and Zig Zag Ranger Chuck Smay, say the Enola Hill timber sale area has already undergone extensive reconnaissance. This area is comprised of roughly 600 acres, but not all of this will be logged.

In the near future an intensive reconnaissance will be conducted by a interdisciplinary team comprised

of a silviculturist, a hydrologist, a geologist, a wildlife biologist and a cultural resource person.

Once this has taken place, an environmental assessment will be drafted and the boundaries of the specific units to be cut will be established, as well as the fragile areas identified.

Retired Colonel Jack Baker, a RNG representative who also serves on the board of directors of the Rhododendron Summer Home Association, a non-profit corporation that operates the water system, objects to the logging operation. He claims by logging the mountain's steep northern slopes the water system's source, Henry Creek, could be affected by the increased turbidity that would result.

In this area of the Henry Creek watershed, Baker said the slopes average anywhere from 35 to 37 percent. In one quarter mile there is a 400-foot drop.

Baker told Smay and Holtrop that a new 100,000-gallon water tank, which cost each of the system's customers \$175, was recently installed at the request of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on account of turbidity. The tank would accommodate water users for up to two days during periods of high turbidity.

"If that was to happen we'd be forced to dig wells," said Baker. "Of course we'd expect the Forest Service to pick up the tab if we have to go to any extra expense on our (water) system."

Baker said since the trucks would be using Zig Zag Mountain Road for hauling out the timber, he calculates the logging would be taking place one

mile or less from the water system's intake.

Mabel Griffin, a retired school teacher whose family has lived on Henry Creek Avenue in Rhododendron since 1941, had similar concerns.

Griffin said in 1961 Elsie and Walt Creighton had their family's 160-acre homestead on Enola Hill logged. After the logging had been completed the amount of water draining into Henry Creek increased substantially. The result was high water, which eroded and threatened to wash out stream banks.

"If it's a bare, open slope, the water will just gush down and we will have problems," said Griffin.

Prior to the Creighton's logging operation, Griffin said the banks along the creek were quite stable.

"There is no doubt that logging will have an impact on the (Henry Creek) watershed," agreed Holtrop. "There will be much more of a chance of soil infiltrating the stream."

Holtrop, however, said this problem would be mitigated by such things as planting grass to stabilize the slopes.

Another concern was the disturbance of numerous springs that feed Henry Creek from Enola Hill, as well as the potential adverse affect on the salmon, steelhead and resident trout populations that inhabit its waters.

"Henry Creek, in our terminology, is a class I stream," said Holtrop. "By class I it get more protection."

Holtrop said the report of the hydrologist would be thoroughly studied before making the decision on the method of logging the area, determining whether it will be a clear cut or a partial cut.

Holtrop said if clear cutting is decided upon for Enola Hill, it will be limited to an area 10 to 15 acres in size. In sensitive areas there could be smaller tracts. However, he added that due to the climate and species of trees in the district, clear cutting is considered the best method to employ for the best timber management results.

Dale Lamoureux, a Rhododendron homeowner, questioned whether it would be profitable for the district to log Enola Hill. He said the steep terrain would provide less of a return than logging a flat or rolling terrain.

Holtrop responded that timber management has been mandated through legislation, and the timber on Enola Hill has to be cut sometime. He said, however, the sale would have to prove to be "an economically viable opportunity for a timber company to get involved."

"It is not (an) absolute that we have to cut it now," said Holtrop. "It is not absolutely impossible that we can't go somewhere else and cut the timber. But these somewhere else are getting rare. Eventually we'll have to come back and log it."

"Mother Nature has been managing it for thousands of years," said Beth Baker, RNG secretary. "We didn't begin to get into trouble until man started managing it."

"If you didn't cut on the north side of Enola (Hill)," said Baker, "then you wouldn't have to be concerned about anything."

If it was just a little creek that horses and cows drank out of it would be another story, said Griffin. "But we have a water system with real clean water and it must be protected."



Photo by Scott Newton  
Lt. Steven Maryek, left, played by Dan Brown, and Lt. Barney Greenwald, his attorney, played by Rick Matter, perform a scene from "The Caine Mutiny Court-Martial." On Aug. 21 the Mountain Players will serve dinner along with the performance. Aug. 28 is cabaret night. For more information call 622-3150.

## Welches board rejects factfinders report

by MICHAEL P. JONES  
Post Correspondent

The conclusion of the contract dispute between Welches Grade School teachers and the district has been prolonged by the school board's unanimous vote to reject the recommendations of an independent factfinder.

Last Monday, Aug. 9, the school board rejected the recommendations contained in a factfinding report prepared by John H. Abernathy. The report was prepared after listening to both sides air their differences in a hearing July 1.

Earlier that same day, the report was unanimously approved by the Welches Education Association, after much discussion.

The bargaining team was comprised of chief negotiator Tom Well, Jeanine Boldt and Kathleen McDougall, who report 21 full- and one half-time certified teachers voted to approve the recommendation in attempt to avert a strike.

Dick Hoffman, school board chairperson and chief negotiator, said the findings were close to what district was seeking but not quite close enough. He refused to specify what problems the board had with the report.

Hoffman said for the next 30 days the district and the WEA are in a "cooling off" period. During this time the district's negotiator, Russell B. Grange, a labor relations specialist with the Oregon School Board Association, will request the state mediator call the two parties back together in an attempt to reach a settlement.

Well said the negotiating team would happily meet with the board, but only to listen. He said the WEA will stand fast on its demands.

"We will have nothing to negotiate," said Well. "We will listen to what the school board has to say but we've given up enough."

This same concern was echoed by Boldt, who said the teachers have already compromised as much as they can.

"We have already given away more than we originally intended, and that is 1.2 percent of our own salary," said Boldt. "We accepted the factfinder's report only with the hopes the school board would also accept it."

In future negotiating sessions, Boldt said "unless the school board wants to give us more than the factfinder" it will be difficult to accept anything less.

"It seems the negotiations are getting to a point of give and give and give from our side," said Well. "It

seems the board doesn't want to give a little on what they are negotiating."

The WEA was seeking a three-year contract with a 6 percent increase plus increments. The factfinder recommended a 4.8 percent increase with only a two-year contract.

Beginning in the second year the salary schedule will be tied to the Portland consumer price index.

Based on the factfinders recommendations, Well said the salaries for the Welches teachers, as compared to the rest of the school districts in the state, would have still been low, even if the district had accepted the recommendations. The average settlement reached this year was 6.2 percent of base pay.

Well said the average teacher's salary in the state is \$20,000. The 4.8 percent increase would have raised the average teacher's salary at Welches from \$16,127 to \$17,100. This would still put them \$2,900 below the 1981-82 statewide average.

When school opens Sept. 7, the teachers could be entering their 69th day without a contract. The original contract expired on June 30 after numerous negotiating sessions between the WEA and the board failed.

The WEA anticipates the teachers taking a vote on the course of action they wish to take, either on Sept. 1, 2 or 3, when they return for in-service. At that time, said Well, if a settlement has not yet been reached, the teachers will make a decision based on one of three options available to them.

The negotiating team reports the first option would be to continue working without a contract for an undetermined period of time.

The second option is a teacher slowdown. What this actually means no one on the negotiating team would specify.

"Option three, if worse comes to worst," said Well, "is a teacher's strike."

Well said the board's decision to reject the factfinder's report is a ploy to see how far the WEA can be pushed. He said they are determined to stand their ground and secure a good contract so the teachers can begin earning a salary comparable to those being paid in other districts.

"The board is really pushing us," said Well. "Whatever will come out of this push, whether it be a slowdown or a strike, will have the greatest impact on the kids if a settlement isn't reached soon."

"It's 'too bad we have to get into this position,'" added Boldt. "The school board has said for the past seven months we're so close, and that a settlement is right around the corner."

## Feds close loan file on hydro project

by MICHAEL P. JONES  
Post Correspondent

The loan application filed for a hydroelectric facility proposed for South Boulder Creek has been closed and the conditional use permit application for the project has been canceled, according to state and Clackamas County officials.

The project's developer, Steven Sweitzer of Wemme, had sought a federal loan of \$1.2 million for the construction of a 1,957 theoretical horsepower micro-hydro, located approximately one mile above the mouth of South Boulder Creek.

The proposal called for the construction of a hydroelectric plant on a stream on Huckleberry Mountain that flows into the Salmon River near Brightwood. The hydro would have been the first project of its kind in Oregon to have been built with a federal loan.

The state is administering funds as an incentive for private developers to find alternatives to nuclear or coal-fired power plants.

The interest rate for the loans are currently 12 percent. It is expected it will be increased to 13.5 percent next year.

Dave White, of the small energy loan program, said Sweitzer's "loan file" has been closed due to a lack of communication. The developer had not responded to the letters sent to him by state officials.

In addition the answers to questions raised by a hydrologist at an Aug. 12 hearing before the Board of Water Resources were not provided as requested.

**FEASIBILITY QUESTIONED**  
Testifying on behalf of the Sierra Club and the Environmental Committee On Suitability, Dr. Robert L.

Beschta, a forest hydrologist and water quality expert who teaches in the school of forestry at Oregon State University in Corvallis, questioned the economic feasibility of the project. Such proof is required of any project receiving small-energy loans.

Beschta disputed Sweitzer's claim that his hydro would produce an estimated 2.3 million kilowatts. He said his own calculations showed 37 percent less energy production. He raised questions concerning the amount of water available for such power generation.

The feasibility question raised by Beschta played a major role in Sweitzer's pursuit of his loan, according to White.

White said he wrote Sweitzer earlier this year requesting information on the stream's water volume, which he is supposed to be gauging in order to determine the financial feasibility of the project.

After receiving no response, White said he wrote to Sweitzer a second time requesting the same information.

Sweitzer was to have monitored the stream during the high-flow period this winter.

According to White, he was to take readings on the stream twice daily. The state requires a device that is placed in the stream and automatically measures and records the stream's flow.

"We wanted to know its instant characteristics, not its daily characteristics," said White.

The cost for such a device is high, admitted White. The rental ranges anywhere from \$2,000 to \$3,000, or it could be purchased for about \$20,000.

Due to the unusually high amount of rain and snowfall this year, the in-

formation would not have shown the "true" average volume of water.

In the second letter, dated March 11, White said he warned the developer that if the information was not received the fate of his \$1.2 million loan would be in jeopardy.

When Sweitzer failed to respond to a third letter from White's office the loan file for the Boulder Creek hydro was officially closed.

White said he could not understand why Sweitzer had not responded to his letters as he had gone through the major portion of the loan process, a task White admitted is not an easy one.

"If he (Sweitzer) wants to pursue a loan someday on his hydro project," said White, "he'll have to reapply."

**APPLICATION WITHDRAWN**  
Sweitzer's pursuit of constructing his hydro facility on South Boulder Creek has been further complicated by the Clackamas County planning department withdrawing his application for a conditional use permit.

Gary Naylor, a senior planner for the department, said that Sweitzer has not requested a hearing and so after this long, it has in effect "been withdrawn."

All communications concerning

## Mt. Hood CPO meeting set

The Mt. Hood Citizens Planning Organization will meet Aug. 23 at 7:30 p.m. at the Hoodland Women's Club.

Topics include discussion of the Clackamas County Commissioners' presentation of the Mt. Hood Comprehensive Plan to the LCDC. There will be a report on the sewer,

and selection of a new CPO secretary.

The Ferndale subdivision partition application will be considered, as well as a zoning request from American Guaranty concerning the building of condominiums on the east side of the golf course below Salmon River Road.

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