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Timber sale foes want scenic area

Will campaign to stop all logging

WELCHES — Opponents to the proposed Enola Hill timber sale near Rhododendron announced Saturday a campaign for an end to all logging through formation of a Mount Hood National Scenic Area.

The setting for the announcement by "Friends of Enola Hill" was a public meeting they organized to air final concerns over a timber sale of 144 parceled acres proposed for 1989.

Up to 40 persons turned out to have their views tape-recorded as part of public comment on the plan, said organizer Michael Jones, one of the Friends of Enola Hill and a Rhododendron resident. The comment period ended Wednesday.

Those attending were in unanimous opposition to the sale, Jones said. Several Zig Zag Ranger District personnel attended but did not speak.

The Mount Hood National Forest supervisor is expected to decide among five alternatives in November, said Maureen McBrien of the Zig Zag district.

Last month, the district held public hearings on alternatives proposed in the sale's environmental assessment.

Complaining about inadequate time for public comment and that documents were not available in time for study before the hearings, sale opponents succeeded in having the

deadline extended and decided to sponsor their own meeting.

"It's not very usual that we have this intensity of public involvement," McBrien acknowledged.

Preservation of Enola Hill means enough to the group Jones represents that it will appeal a decision to cut any timber there as high up as the Forest Service headquarters, he said.

The group would prefer to see the Mount Hood corridor from Alder Creek to the mountain's eastern side and to Hood River approved by Congress as a national scenic area, Jones said.

The idea for the scenic area was the last of four proposals Jones presented to the Forest Service.

He also proposed that Enola Hill be removed from the commercial timber base and be placed inside the Mount Hood Wilderness bordering it to the north.

His third recommendation was that all Mount Hood National Forest land within sight of Highway 26 be managed for tourism and not logging.

Jones suspects that the federal agency will select the alternative that he said calls for 6.34 million board feet to be removed.

In that case, his group will demand

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Commission changes stance on ordinance

The Sandy Planning Commission has joined other concerned parties in writing to the Sandy City Council about a new zoning ordinance facing possible adoption Monday.

The commission voted unanimously Aug. 5 to change its earlier decision allowing conditional uses of warehouses and distribution facilities in Sandy's downtown, said Chairwoman Kimberley Nelson.

It decided last week to recommend that the council allow warehousing only by small manufacturers who could operate downtown under the proposed zoning ordinance change.

"If you can't warehouse, you have to be shipping out every day," Nelson said about combining the two uses.

The commission stated in a letter to the council its new position, which opposes warehousing or distribution as a separate use but otherwise supports the change, Nelson said.

That letter was among five arriving at Sandy City Hall by the council-imposed deadline of Aug. 11, Reber said. The writers may address the council on the issue before the ordinance has its second and possibly last reading Monday.

The ordinance would amend Sandy's city code to allow in the

downtown area the assembly or manufacturing of small items or food products if done indoors and if compatible with core area businesses.

It also would permit development, research, experimental or testing facilities, and warehousing or distribution businesses to locate downtown if approved by the commission and council.

The commission was too late to make its change of heart a formal recommendation to the council, Nelson said.

"We already approved that," she said of the pending ordinance. "It is up to the council (now) to reject, adopt or change."

Nelson changed her opinion, she said, after learning from Sandy City Manager Tom Reber that a retail chain could site its warehouse here under the proposed ordinance.

Issues raised by Dale Nicholls prompted Nelson to study the matter further, she said.

Yet, she contends that the new ordinance overall will benefit Sandy.

Sandy must broaden its idea of economic growth, said Nelson. "The freeway changed the flavor of the town as did the (Sandy) Marketplace."



Jim Wasson made three of the state's best wines, the Pinot Noir, blackberry and loganberry.

Photo by Christine Bierman

Wasson Bros. wine wins rare award

by CHRISTINE BIERMAN
for The Post

Award-winning wine maker Jim Wasson was on the job Tuesday in Sandy consoling yet another disappointed caller as news of his winery's latest achievement continued to spread.

Unlike others, this caller was one of the fortunate few who will taste the Wasson Bros. Winery 1975 Willamette Valley Pinot Noir that earned a rare gold medal at the recent State Fair Commercial Wine Competition.

The caller was Mary Ross of Chicago, one of the judges at that very competition and the wine master for The 95th and Atwater's restaurants in the Windy City.

But like all others longing to drink the dry red wine, Ross is limited to two bottles.

Word of the Wasson's 1975 Pinot Noir, which earned both a gold medal and Best of Show in the state competition last week, has whittled supplies to 51 cases and prompted Wasson to raise the price by \$4.

"Everyone in the U.S. wants it," Wasson, a former Gresham resident, says. He is thinking about dropping the limit to one bottle so more people can enjoy the wine.

The wine that sells easily for \$19.95 a bottle now was \$8.95 a bottle when 287 cases were released in February.

Conversely, loganberry and blackberry wines that claimed another two gold medals for Wasson remain in far less demand, in plentiful supply and at \$6 a bottle.

The Pinot Noir enjoys more prestige among wine lovers and means more to the industry statewide, Wasson says.

In winning the awards, Wasson's Pinot Noir was rated superior in its class as well as among all gold medal-winners in the vinifera division.

Jim accepted from Neil Goldschmidt Aug. 6 the two Governor's Trophies for Best of Show in the vinifera for the Pinot Noir, and in the fruit and blackberry division for a non-vintage blackberry wine.

The third of five gold medals awarded went to Wasson's non-vintage loganberry wine.

Wasson's success "is a hell of an honor," says Wasson, one of 62 wine makers entering 190 wines for judging.

"I don't like to toot my own horn and say we're the best winery in the state, but the awards speak for themselves," he says.

Like David in the Old Testament, the winery has slain its Goliath, he adds. A tiny producer such as Wasson Bros., run full-time by Jim who learned commercial wine making at Clackamas Community College, has outdone wineries hiring doctorate holders in wine making and bottling 10 times as much wine a year.

Wasson produces superior wine with a keen taste of sense or smell. Suffering from hayfever much of the year, he turns to his wife, Mildred, and sales clerks at Janz Berryland next door in Sandy, to judge when a wine is of age.

Jim shares the credit with his neighbor in Oregon City, Bruce Weber, whose Lealand Vineyards produced the award-winning Pinot Noir grape. The grapes were taken to the Wasson Winery at 41901 Highway 26 in Sandy where they were made into wine and bottled.

"The wine maker can't take all the credit. You have to have superior grapes," Wasson says.

The blackberries and loganberries come from Townsend Farms, Troutdale, and the raspber-

ries, from Music Camp Ranch in Sandy.

Jim's equal partner is his brother, John, also of Oregon City. Project manager at the Willamette Falls Locks, John relieves Jim at the winery on Sundays.

Awards are almost routine for the pair, whose 24 state medals decorate the wall behind the counter of their tasting room at the winery. They captured three gold medals in the 1984 state fair contest.

Jim Wasson says he wished the awards could be translated into profits.

The winery is trapped between being too small to boost production from 6,000 gallons a year and too poor to buy equipment needed to do more.

"We have less (money) than what we came in with" in 1982, he says. "I'm going broke making the best wine in the state."

Wasson says he would rather replace his 1973 pickup truck than spend \$8,000 on 20 more French oak wine barrels.

Mildred earns three times more than Jim as media specialist for Hollydale and West Gresham elementary schools the last 23 years.

Wasson worked as a plumber until 1981 when he left to raise blackberries and, the next year, to start the vineyard. Wine making had been his hobby.

Living in remote areas, the Wassons chose Sandy as the site for their winery since they liked the area, have relatives there and once lived in Gresham.

"This country was ripe for a winery," Wasson said.

Business improved after the winery moved east of Sandy during construction of the Safeway grocery store.

Sewer plant expansion to be costly

Few Sandy residents see it or smell it, but they could face a bill of up to \$2.5 million or more for additions to it in the 1990s, city officials say.

It is the city of Sandy's sewage treatment plant and it is steadily reaching, and occasionally over-reaching, its capacity.

The plant was built in 1972 two miles west of town, where few would see it or smell it and where treated sewage could be dumped easily into nearby Tickle Creek, said plant Superintendent Bob Hornsby.

But the plant's favorable location in a gully off of J. Jarl Road could be its downfall should funding of improvements to the sewer system be decided by voters, Hornsby concedes.

"That's right. I don't think too many people know we're down here," Hornsby said.

Slowing growth trends, though, could buy Sandy more time to study the problem than originally thought, said Hornsby and City Manager Tom Reber. Administrative assistant Ken Reinke could report to Sandy City Council members Aug. 17 on Sandy's growth rate the past five years.

Hornsby and Reber say that a projected deadline of 1990 for expanding the plant could be moved to as late as 1994.

Sooner or later, the city must decide to build an additional plant costing up to \$2.5 million or more, or to agree on a construction

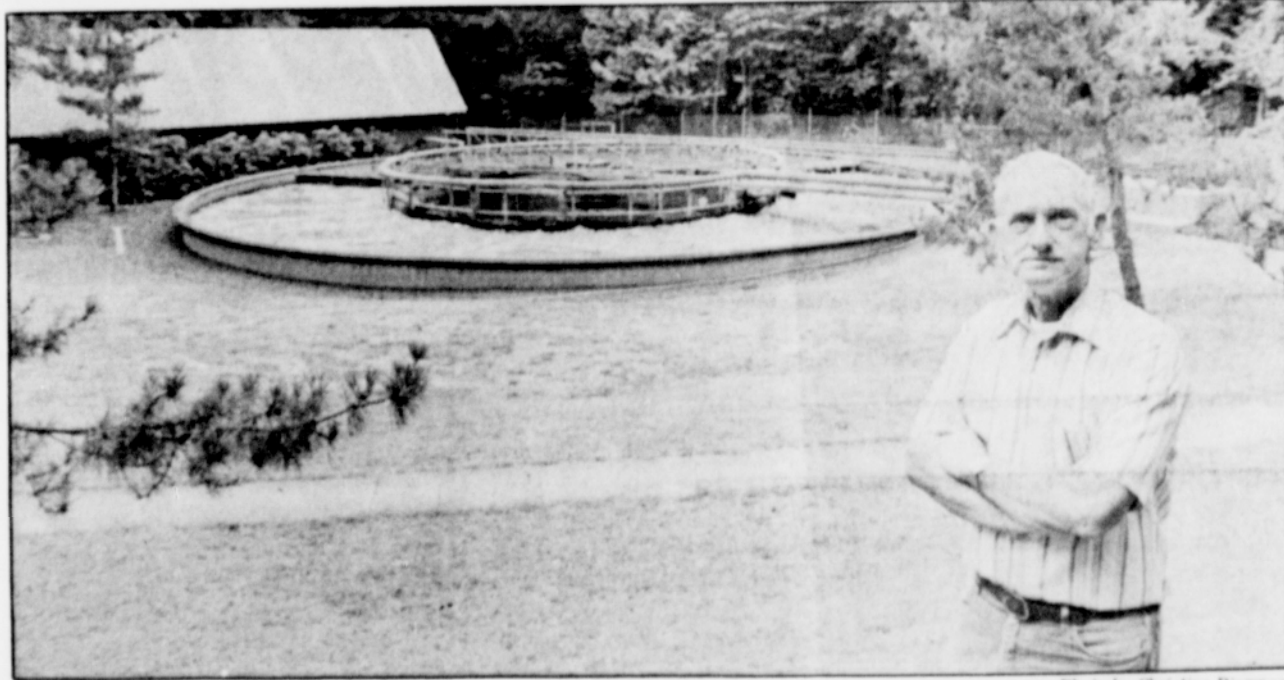


Photo by Christine Bierman

Plant Superintendent Bob Hornsby prepared a preliminary report on replacement of Sandy's sewage treatment system.

moratorium, Hornsby said.

A 14-member citizens task force recently appointed to study city goals, including capital improvements and their financing, will be eyeing the plant.

The council requested the growth study from Reinke and added the plant to the task force's assignments after hearing the results of a six-

month-long study by Hornsby that was presented to the City Council last month.

The council also asked city staff to budget for a sewage facilities plan in the 1988-89 fiscal year, Hornsby said. That plan could cost up to \$50,000, he said.

Hornsby's report lists two alternative systems, one costing \$1.5

million, the other, costing \$2 million to \$2.5 million. Both figures are based on 1986 dollars.

Those costs could more than double if the state Department of Environmental Quality requires Sandy to divert treated sewage from Tickle Creek to land for irrigation or to the Sandy or Clackamas rivers for discharge.

Possible replacement systems listed by Hornsby are the Schreiber activated sludge system, estimated to cost \$1.53 million, or the Rotating Biological Contactor (RBC) process, which would total about \$2.56 million in two phases.

Sandy's current activated sludge system can handle 500,000 gallons a day, the amount of sewage generated by a town of 4,500 persons, Hornsby's report stated.

The summertime daily flow averages 350,000 gallons a day with Sandy's current population of about 3,800.

But the plant already exceeds the sewage-creek water ratio in the summer allowed by DEQ, Hornsby and Reber said.

Wintertime rains another problem on the plant, one that is common to cities west of the Cascade Mountain range, they said. Storm water infiltrating the system through leaky pipes has amounted to as many as 3 million gallons and averaged 1 million gallons a day. Excess wintertime flow is routed into a second but much larger pond for later treatment and discharge, Hornsby said.

The city has never been cited by the state for those slips, Reber said.

And, as long as Sandy regularly meets DEQ standards, the city will find few grant dollars available for expansion, Reber said. DEQ tends to

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Multopor may have new owner

Hanna Car Wash of Portland could buy Multopor Ski Bowl before Clackamas County sells the assets at the ski area on Mount Hood for back taxes, said Jerry Norman of American Guaranty Life Insurance Co. in Portland.

The sale of Multopor to Hanna Car Wash could be finalized this week, Norman said Tuesday. He works as the real property assets manager for the insurance company that is both the chief creditor and court-appointed receiver of Multopor.

Kirk Hanna of Hanna Car Wash could not be reached for comment in time for The Post's deadline.

Multopor owned the Mirror Mountain ski area near Government Camp until the county seized the property last November because of unpaid taxes totaling about \$200,000.

The area stood idle during the 1986-87 ski season as negotiations with a few potential purchasers broke off.

American Guaranty hopes that Mirror Mountain can reopen this year, Norman said. It previously attracted 70,000 skiers a season.