

Consider benefits of timber stands

Conflicts between logging interests and environmentalists, fishermen, homeowners, water system users and people involved in the tourism industry have been in the headlines all year.

A spokesman for Portland General Electric Co. described the situation well last week. He said people who move out to rural areas expecting to live in the woods are sometimes surprised to realize they are really living in an area zoned for timber harvest.

While that description is a fair summary of what is occurring all over Oregon, it does not go far enough.

The U.S. Forest Service, Clackamas County, PGE and others who are guardians of large tracts of timber need to give extra consideration to the value of timber stands in sensitive areas.

The short-term economic benefits of logging are undeniable. We hope forest lands in Oregon are being managed in such a way that a sustained yield will be possible indefinitely.

But when it comes to old-growth timber and logging in sensitive areas, governmental entities and private corporations need to look just as hard at the economic damage caused as they do at the short-term dollars.

Although we may not always agree with the forest service's priorities, we must admit that the forest service has an in-depth process for studying the tradeoffs between logging, tourism and recreation. But we have to wonder whether other entities have given their logging programs the proper amount of review.

The conflicts will grow as people debate the need for short-term employment over the value of a tourism industry that may be some time in developing.

Water quality, scenic beauty, the availability of steelhead, and the long-term economy of the Mount Hood corridor all hang in the balance.

Tourism, in the long run, will have more economic value than the timber that is logged in the Mount Hood corridor. The guardians of large tracts of timber should keep that in mind and avoid logging sensitive areas.

Council should follow law

Members of the Sandy City Council might not have realized it, but they violated the state's public records and meetings laws when they voted by secret ballot Monday night.

The councilors used secret ballots to select a new City Council member from a field of three applicants.

The councilors probably were trying to be sensitive to the feelings of the applicants and therefore decided not to take a public vote. Their sensitivity may be a noble motive, but it is not justification for ignoring the law.

The public meetings law requires that all official actions by government bodies with fewer than 26 members be taken by public vote. Written ballots are allowed, but each ballot must identify the member voting and the vote must be announced. Secret ballots, such as those taken Monday in Sandy, are prohibited.

In addition, the council does not have the option of going behind closed doors to fill such a vacancy. Executive sessions are allowed only to fill staff positions, not public offices.

So the Sandy council was correct to make its selection in public session, but it was wrong to take the vote by secret ballot. The council should rectify the error at its next meeting by announcing which council members cast their ballots for which applicants.



Poor choices make for poor causes

Call me Scrooge. In the shower lately I've been muttering about the homeless, the trendiest of our causes this Christmas.

It's interesting that there are fads in causes. And our concern goes up and down like hemlines. But I've become a bit grouchy about it all because I think many fashionable causes often are misrepresented.

Take missing children, for instance. We have a nationwide campaign with pictures on grocery bags and milk cartons seeking lost children. We see horrible movies in which helpless children are snatched and murdered by strangers. We have scared our little kids to death about the possibility of being carried away from a shopping mall. But when you look at the numbers, most missing children are stolen by parents. Only a tiny percentage are abducted by strangers.

It is still a problem, certainly. But it is not the problem that the fund-raisers often represent it to be.

I feel the same about the campaign against drunk drivers. We all got deeply into the problem of driving and drinking and a great many well-meaning people, who rarely have more than one drink before dinner, looked closely at their habits. There is nothing wrong with that. We are probably all healthier as a result, but the drunk drivers are still on the road.



Sharon Nesbitt

Because most of the problem, as it turns out, is not with social drinkers, but with chronic alcoholics who drink and drive routinely. Who are known to every judge and cop in the community. Yet we still are not able to get them out of their cars.

This year the cause is the homeless. The homeless, we hear, are folks just like you and me who are down on their luck. And those of us who sit smug and complacent in our carpeted houses should not rest easy until they are fed and warm. We could easily be in the same boat — or under the same bridge.

What keeps nagging at me is that I have met and interviewed a few homeless people, and what strikes me on each occasion is that they are people who have chosen to live by dif-

ferent rules than the the rest of us do.

Now right here, I want to make two exceptions — families with children and the mentally ill. Children and others who cannot help themselves need the best of our resources.

What strikes me on each occasion is that they are people who have chosen to live by different rules than the the rest of us do.

But there are a host of others out there who, if not on the street by choice, are there because they have made bad choices. They have told off one too many bosses. Scorned a free education. Chosen alcohol over sobriety. Or refused to adhere to an eight-to-five lifestyle that calls for rolling out of bed before dawn to pay dreary things like dentist bills and mortgages.

They are often ornery and irascible, like the old man in southeast Portland who refused to live

anywhere but a in bus shelter. Or bull-headed, like the crippled woman who came through Wood Village a couple of years ago and would accept help, but only on her own terms. Or rebellious, like the man who wrote The Oregonian last week and said he had no interest in holding down a job so long as society required silly things like wearing a tie.

A tie, it seems to me, is a small price to pay for what a friend jokingly describes as "three squares and a flop."

All of us folks here in the great American middle class wear all kinds of ties around our necks every day. Ties like taxes, and sewer assessments, car payments and insurance bills and our obligation to help others. It is a burden we mostly bear gladly, but it makes me mad when somebody tries to tell me we have our nice houses and our good meals because we are lucky.

The campaign for the homeless, like those for drunk driving and missing children, seems to cloud the issue by dishing out guilt in all the wrong places.

Hubby and I will help the homeless this year. We always do. But it won't be because of guilt over what we have worked so hard for. It will be because it hurts to see another human being, no matter how much he might deserve it, living under a bridge.

State plans role in timber planning

by GOV. NEIL GOLDSCHMIDT
Special for The Post

Oregonians can and must have a decisive voice in determining how federal timber lands in the state are managed. These timber resources are too important to the state's economic well-being to be left to the federal government alone.

Our state is the top lumber producer in the United States — we produce 24 percent of all softwood lumber in the country. We are first in plywood production, and 20 percent of the country's total softwood sawtimber inventory is here.

More importantly to Oregonians, about 37 percent of all our manufacturing jobs are in the wood and paper industries. That doesn't account for the fact that each timber industry job supports about two others. Many of these jobs are in the small towns and

rural areas that have not yet benefited from the diversification of Oregon's economy.

Moreover, more than half of Oregon is federally owned and more than half the logs processed in Oregon come from federally owned lands.

That's the reason we are becoming more involved in Forest Service and BLM forest planning. And that's why some of you may have seen Norm Johnson and other representatives from my office in John Day, Grants Pass, Gold Beach and other towns and communities around the state.

We are in the process of reviewing the federal forest management plans that are due out for each National Forest and many of the BLM lands in the state. And we want to know what local residents see as their vital interests.

My goal is to present a coordinated state response to each Forest Service

Oregonians care about a steady supply of logs to our mills, sustained yields, well-managed fisheries and high quality wilderness recreation areas.

and BLM plan. During the campaign I said that it

is critical to the state's economy to maintain a healthy forest products industry, while at the same time maintaining our high environmental standards. That's still the case and that's why we're working hard to develop plans that are both economically and environmentally sound.

It bears repeating that Oregonians care passionately about their federal forests and the way those forests affect our future...and not just over the short run.

Oregonians care about a steady supply of logs to our mills, sustained yields, well-managed fisheries and high quality wilderness recreation areas.

And we care about long-run stability in our timber-based communities. That's why we're finally making ourselves heard in the federal timber management process.

Letters

Blue Marlins say thank you

The Blue Marlin Aquatic Club would like to express its appreciation to parents and friends for making our Winter Holiday meet on Dec. 5 a great success.

A special thanks to the following businesses for their participation. They are: Gardner Plumbing, Sandy Decor, Sandy Country Florist, Senger Food Inc., Alder Creek Kayak Supply Inc., Sandy Animal Clinic, the Elusive Trout Pub, 7-Eleven, Cascade Cleaning, Sandy Auto Body and Towing, Sandy Office Supply, Safeway, Les Schwab, Shorty's Corner, Sandy Machine Auto Parts, Hickory Farms, Pioneer Electric, Mount Hood Tires, Action Auto, Sandy Thriftway, Sandy Fast Print, Por-

table Hydraulic Dredging Inc., Triple XXX, Sandy Sentry, Carlson Chevrolet, Dairy Queen, Taco Time, Country Donut House and Joe's Donuts.

Lois Drill
meet director

Thanks for football game

I would like to thank the Sandy Post and all the local sponsors of The Post's football contest.

I thoroughly enjoyed playing the game each week, and, of course, being "in the money" was fun, too.

I hope you will be able to do it again next football season.

Peggie Hodge
Sandy

The Sandy Post

(USPS 481-180)

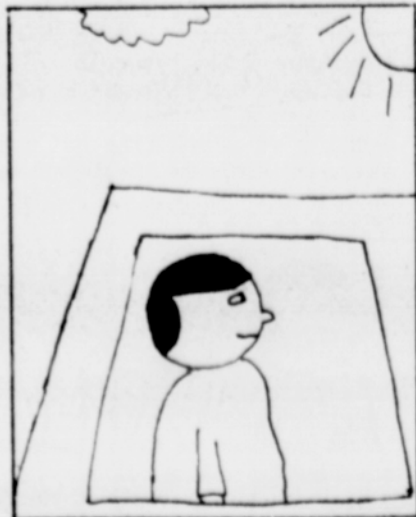
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Bobcats



Adam Kraft

