



Century of Failed Forest Policy — will argue that fire suppression and control is a result of mismanagement and misunderstanding of wildfires.

Fires are a monetary issue and a land use issue, according to Wuerthner.

Last week five former Forest Service chiefs sent a statement to Congress that read, “We wish to express in the strongest way that the Forest Service has been put into an untenable financial situation due to the way fire suppression funding is being handled in the federal budget.”

Last year the agency spent almost 50 percent of its budget on fire suppression.

Wuerthner said the Forest Service proposes to treat firefighting as if it were an emergency and fund it out of a separate emergency fund.

According to Wuerthner, this drive to suppress wildfires can be reduced. “Most fires would burn out without burning very much,” he said, but the Forest Service is compelled to try to control fires that threaten houses. The increase in the numbers of houses in remote areas means the Forest Service feels the need to protect those houses.

“Global warming,” Wuerthner said, “may increase the drought conditions and wind speeds that drive fires.” His talk will discuss the need to minimize the potential conflicts with nature that he says will occur if people continue to build houses in remote places.

“Historically Oregon’s land use laws have

made Oregon better than other Western states,” Wuerthner said. “But if Measure 37 is allowed to stand, the monetary cost and cost of firefighters’ lives will increase.”

Wuerthner said, “People should live in closer, compact communities and let fires burn in the backcountry.”

Wuerthner will be speaking and giving a slideshow at 7 pm Tuesday, May 15 in 180 PLC on the UO campus. The event is free.

— Camilla Mortensen

GUNS, MOMS AND PEACE

Mother’s Day weekend is inspiring at least two events in Lane County with a theme of world peace.

A big turnout is expected for the **Million Mom March** for Family Gun Safety & World Peace. The event begins at 2:30 pm Sunday at EWEB Plaza and includes short speeches, music, a one-mile walk along the bike path to Owen Rose Gardens and pie sharing. A free shuttle bus will run back to EWEB.

The march this year includes a book drive. Organizers are gathering used children’s books in English and Spanish to send to Nicaragua.

Advocates for a U.S. Department of Peace are organizing the third annual **Mother’s Day National Action Day** “on behalf of mothers everywhere” at noon Friday at the new U.S. Courthouse.

The theme of the gathering is “Peace Wants a Piece of the Pie!” referring to the huge federal budget for warfare. The event is being organized by The Peace Alliance (ThePeaceAlliance.org), a national organization supporting legislation to establish a Department of Peace. The new agency would



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Please join us for an evening with

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photographer and editor of

Wild Fire: A Century of Failed Forest Policy

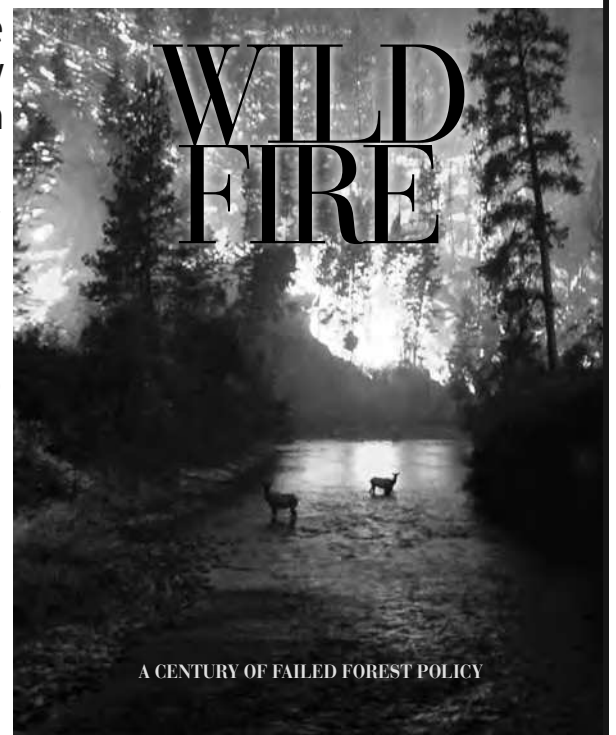
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forestcouncil.org



Tuesday May 15 • 7PM • 180 P L C

Prince Lucien Campbell Hall (PLC) is on the University of Oregon campus
at 14th and Kincaid Streets, near Knight Library

Happening people BY PAUL NEEVEL

MARTIN ACKER

“During the war, my job was to interrogate enemy soldiers,” says Brooklyn native Martin Acker, who served in military intelligence in Europe in WWII. “When I came back, I got a job as a veterans’ counselor, talking to American soldiers.” Taking classes part-time at NYU, Acker earned a doctorate in counseling psychology and moved west to work at the Stanford Medical School. In 1961 he came to the UO to train counselors for work with disabled people. He retired as a professor in 1986 but taught part-time until 1995. Always politically engaged, he chaired a UO committee against the war in Vietnam and started a Congress of Racial Equality chapter in Eugene. “During elections I’m out ringing doorbells,” he says. Currently, at age 85, Acker volunteers as a counselor in PeaceHealth’s Volunteers in Medicine program and teaches classes in communication for men at OASIS. “I’ve organized five different men’s groups,” he says. “Four of them are still going on.” Acker is one of six inspirational older Americans to be honored in a public reception at 4 pm Thursday, May 17 at the Willamalane Adult Activity Center in Springfield.

