

BLM BACKING OFF LOGGING OLD-GROWTH?

Fall Creek, long the site of treesits and logging protests (see *EW* 6/11) looks like it's getting a reprieve from a proposed BLM clearcut, as are other proposed timber sales in Oregon, thanks to an Obama administration change in focus from clearcuts to thinning projects.

The Fall Creek site, an area of mature and old-growth forest near popular fishing and hiking spots an hour outside Eugene, was the site this summer of a treesit organized by Cascadia Summer. The area was also targeted for litigation by a separate local conservation group, Cascadia Wildlands. The site was a proposed sale under the now-dead Western Oregon Plan Revisions (WOPR), says Dan Kruse, legal director for CW. But even with the WOPR out of the picture, the site was still slated for logging under the Northwest Forest Plan, which would have clearcut the site as well, but with a larger buffer between the logging and nearby waterways and a few more trees left standing in the clearcut site.

Kruse says this isn't the only timber sale to be put on hold. Sales in the Coos Bay and Salem district BLMs have also been canceled or suspended.

According to Doug Huntington, the Eugene District BLM spokesman, the Eugene District's decision to "postpone indefinitely" the timber sale planning at Fall Creek was a local decision, "based on some of the direction we have had from this administration."

Huntington says the Eugene BLM will look into thinning projects, where smaller trees are thinned out and many are left standing, "sales that would not be controversial."

The Eugene BLM, Huntington says, "will try to move forward with sales that will not be taken to court and not be held up by litigation or protest."

Kruse welcomes the switch from clearcuts to thinning, which he says "allows people to work in the woods without the agencies getting sued in the process."

Trip Jennings of Cascadia Summer says the activist group "couldn't be happier" about the Fall Creek area's logging reprieve, "but in the face of potentially catastrophic climate change and rapid decline in spotted owl populations," he still urges the Obama administration and federal agencies to stop all old-growth logging.

— Camilla Mortensen



CASCADIA SUMMER

TWENTY YEARS AT MOUNT PISGAH

The Friends of Buford and Mt. Pisgah are celebrating 20 years of work at the popular recreation area on Oct. 8. The group has been improving the trails and habitat at the park since 1980, including the ever-popular hike to the summit.

The 2,300 acre Howard Buford Recreation Area, a Lane County park, is stewarded by the Friends of Buford Park & Mt. Pisgah and by a separate organization, the Mt. Pisgah Arboretum. Friends of Buford and Mt. Pisgah care for the 2,100 acres outside the arboretum's smaller 200 acre section.

The area, popularly known simply as Mt. Pisgah has a diversity of native habitats in a relatively small area. According to Chris Orsinger, executive director of FBMP, among the native habitats the group has been working to restore are upland prairie and oak savanna, wetland prairie, wet floodplain forests, river backwaters and grand fir forests. The group uses seeds and plants from the native plan nursery it has at the park. At one point Orsinger says, the whole area was used for grazing. Now cattle are only grazed on a very small portion of Buford.

These native habitats, once restored, provide food and housing for many of Oregon's native species, from Oregon's state bird, the western meadowlark in the oak trees, to threatened western pond turtles in the waters. The black cottonwoods volunteers have been planting in the floodplains give homes to great blue herons, which have their rookeries in those trees. Their habitat has been in a decline, Orsinger says, due to the reduction of flooding that is the result of dam building and manmade changes to the watershed.

Orsinger says the anniversary celebration's theme centers on the idea that restoration efforts on the land—pulling weeds, planting native seeds—heals not just the land, but the spirit. Carolyn Scott Kortge, author of *The Spirited Walker*, will give a talk about her experiences healing through walking. After being diagnosed with cancer, the hike up Mt. Pisgah's summit trail became one of her daily healing walks.

The celebration, which will be at 6:30 pm Oct. 8 at the Veteran's Memorial building will also feature music by the Nettles. Cost is \$5 to \$25. For more information on the celebration, or on volunteering with the FBMP, contact office@bufordpark.org or call 344-8350 or go to www.bufordpark.org — Camilla Mortensen

news Briefs

SOLAR JOBS SEE CLOUDY FORECAST

News that the South Korean Uni-Chem company could buy the closed Hynix plant for a solar panel factory and hire a thousand or more workers may sound great in the down economy. But the prospect of actual local jobs remains unclear with many unanswered questions:

- How does a company that manufactures leather goods — one of the world's oldest low-tech products — have the expertise to branch out into high-tech solar cells and panels?

- How does a company with a reported \$75 million in annual sales spend as much as \$1 billion on a new factory?

- Why would investors or banks give so much money to this particular company to branch out into a highly competitive high-tech field it has little experience with?

Even if the factory is actually built, it's unclear how long the jobs would last.

Because of low wages and little regulation, most products consumed in the world are made in China or other undemocratic and/or third world countries. It's unclear why solar panels would be any different.

Already, China has increased its solar market share about 10-fold in the last three years, *The New York Times* reported last

month. Trade publications describe solar manufacturing as a chaotic, crowded, free-for-all right now with allegations that the Chinese government is subsidizing dumping below-cost products to seize market share from western competitors. Already, panel prices have fallen in half in the last year.

Asian manufacturers may try to get around anti-dumping regulations by building in the U.S., or not. Anti-dumping regulations are difficult to enforce, requiring proof of below-marginal-cost sales and evidence that a U.S. company is losing money because of them.

U.S. computer memory chip maker Micron spent years pursuing an anti-dumping case against Hynix (then Hyundai). The case may have been a factor in the Korean corporation's decision to build its short-lived factory in Eugene. But those jobs soon moved back to lower-wage facilities in China and Korea.

Short-lived jobs can be worse in some ways than no jobs. People who move here for the work will be left burdening local unemployment roles and social services. Taxpayers subsidize expensive infrastructure for the factories that wasn't needed.

Some federal stimulus money includes a provision that could block the money going to solar cells from China because of its lack of fair labor standards. But the clean energy stimulus money is limited, competitive and supposed to be used up before Uni-Chem would start production.

It's unclear if any future federal stimulus for solar would pass and if it did include the labor standard. The U.S. hasn't protected the millions of other American manufacturing jobs lost to China.

Asian companies could also try to evade dumping and buy-American laws by manufacturing the solar panels almost entirely in China and then just putting on some wires

IT'S ABOUT TIME

BY DAVID WAGNER



According to some traditions, October is the month the gods take vacation, so it behooves us to see that sacred places are kept secure and tidy. As the gods have taken care of our surroundings, we must help take care of theirs.

There seemed to have been fewer flies than usual this past summer. Perhaps it was because the spiders were so plentiful? Are they not like arctic foxes and hares, whose populations cycle up and down in opposition?

A change of seasons is taking place. The rains blow down from the north, carried in on cold air. The cold air produces what fall color we enjoy, most of the reds coming from vine maple and poison oak. In good years the bigleaf maple turns a lovely yellow gold. As the maple leaves turn brown, notice little green islands sporting black spots on many leaves. This is the tar spot fungus, a living antibiotic hosted inside the maple leaves. It becomes visible only at the end of the season, when it borrows a small piece of the leaf's food factory to reproduce: The black dots are its spore bodies.

While the cold air is shutting down the deciduous trees and flowering herbs, the rain is stimulating the fungi under the forest canopy into action. This is the season of most prolific growth of mushrooms. The favorite of the region, the golden chanterelle, reaches its best in October. Remember the wonderful mushroom show at the Mount Pisgah Arboretum on the 25th.

Golden chanterelle
Cantharellus formosus

