

to mention an estimated \$3.3 billion in projected annual costs from climate change in Oregon. — *Alan Pittman*

DID DEFAZIO FLIP-FLOP ON JAIL?

Jail deputies used a letter from Congressman Peter DeFazio to bludgeon Lane County Commissioners for not immediately spending federal timber money on hiring back laid-off deputies earlier this year.

DeFazio's letter warned that not spending the money on the jail now could hurt efforts to get more federal timber money.

So where did commissioners get the idea that they should be so fiscally conservative with the money?

Well, perhaps from DeFazio himself. For a November 2008 article, DeFazio told *Eugene Weekly*: "If I were a county commissioner, I would be extraordinarily conservative with these funds as they come in, and I would put as much of it as I could away."

Audio of the full interview is online at tiny.cc/DeFaziojail (the quote comes in after about two minutes).

DeFazio noted in the interview that rising federal deficits will make the timber payments money harder to pass in the future. That appears to be happening right now.

An Associated Press investigation this week made the timber payments a prime target for cuts. The AP found that efforts to pass the timber money by spreading the pork has converted the program into a "sprawling entitlement" with little fiscal logic.

If timber payments don't continue, the jail could now face a precipitous drop in funding rather than having a reserve to cushion a transition. — *Alan Pittman*

UO MINOR IN WAR STUDIES?

The UO's Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) is taking the initial steps to add a military science minor to the UO's course catalogue in the coming academic years, according to Lt. Col. Thomas Lingle, professor of military science.

"There are many students that already take these classes; it would be nice if they could walk away with a minor," he said. "Whether you are someone who just happens to take cadet courses or if you are looking into being a cadet, having this minor is beneficial."

However, some students are speaking out against this new addition. When the UO Student Senate voted to pass a resolution declaring support for this addition, student Sen. Tyler Griffin protested against the university incorporating the ROTC, an institution that enforces the U.S. military's don't-ask-don't-tell (DADT) policy, in its curriculum.

"The idea of a policy implemented in order to require people to deny who they are and how they want to express themselves is the antithesis to what our military purports to fight for: the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," Griffin said. "Why

would we, as university students, pay to take classes that discriminate against our personal lives?"

The DADT measure is a federal law passed in 1993 by President Bill Clinton prohibiting gay men and lesbians from openly serving in the military. This mandate was a compromise from a previous policy that completely barred all gays from military service.

Although the DADT policy is enforced within the university's ROTC program, Lingle did not believe that this is an indication of discriminatory practices against university students. "We follow the current policy because it is the law," he said. "However, any student at the university would be able to obtain this minor and take these 100-200 level classes whether there is military service involved or not."

Christopher Holman, Army veteran and current Arabic instructor at the UO, did not see the university incorporating a military science minor as conducive to its sanctioning of the DADT policy. "I don't see why one shouldn't exist if it's already a de facto minor," he said. "It is a body of ideas, however unpopular, and similar to other fields in that regard."

According to Lingle, it will likely take at least two years until the Military Science Department has its own accredited minor. The proposal for this addition is in its initial stages and is still subject to review at several levels of the university's administration. — *Deborah Bloom*

CLEARCUTS AND CARBON

Saving endangered species or clearcuts for kids? The State Land Board, made up of Gov. Ted Kulongoski, Secretary of State Kate Brown and State Treasurer Ben Westlund, went on a tour of the Elliott State Forest last week led by the Oregon Department of Forestry.

The Elliott is a rare native ecosystem in Oregon's Coast Range that is home to several species listed under the Endangered Species Act including spotted owls, marbled murrelets and Oregon Coast coho salmon. It is also part of the Common School Fund lands that are logged to generate money for Oregon's schools.

"I'm a proud parent, and I want money for schools, but not at the expense of the Elliott," said Josh Laughlin of Cascadia Wildlands.

Cascadia Wildlands was not originally invited on the tour but asked to come along after they were notified of the plans. Along with other conservation groups, they followed the official state SUVs in their own cars.

Louise Solliday, Department of State Lands director, said the tour was publicly noticed via an email list and organized by the DSL and ODF to show the State Land Board "the issues being addressed on the ground, particularly as they relate to the draft Habitat Conservation Plan and the management strategies proposed in the plan."

Cascadia Wildlands has a lawsuit against the 1995 HCP, the plan under which the forest was logged this summer. That plan included "incidental take" permits for spot-

- It looks like the Eugene police auditor does not want the **Taser incident** involving a Chinese student to become a community impact case like the Tasing of Ian Van Ornum that is still unresolved. We hear the Chinese students are OK with a more speedily closed case as long as issues of excessive force are closely examined. Unlike the Van Ornum case, there's not a lot of evidence to investigate. And the outcome of either kind of case is likely the same. Our new auditor and Civilian Review Board merely shrug at outrageous police behavior.

This case is not going away soon. A tort notice against the city is likely to be filed within 180 days of the incident, which happened Sept. 22. KVAL-TV has been denied the few seconds of video footage from the Taser's camera, but we hear there's not much to see, and the Tasered student doesn't want the video of him writhing in his underwear to go public. Meanwhile a fascinating Tim Lewis interview with outgoing CRB member Rick Brissenden is now posted on www.youtube.com/user/PictureEugene In that interview Brissenden talks about why he was ousted by the council. He figures he offended some councilors by telling them their unwarranted restrictions on former auditor Dawn Reynolds violated her charter-mandated independence. He is right, of course.

- Will passing the two **state tax measures** in January mean a net loss of jobs in Oregon or a net gain? That appears to be the big debate so far, at least as defined by the opponents of Measures 66 and 67. But the job loss numbers being batted around by various economists are just speculation based on questionable assumptions. Several variables are being mostly ignored in this narrow debate: Matching federal funding (and the jobs that go with it) will be lost if Oregon cuts back on social services; high-skilled state jobs will be lost with additional budget cuts; and further diminishing of public safety, education and health and human services will make Oregon a less desirable place to live, work and do business for many years to come.

The argument can easily be made that *failure* to pass Measures 66 and 67 will be "job-killing" in the long run. We don't really know, so let's move on to other issues. For example, is it fair for two-thirds of corporations that do business in Oregon to pay only \$10 a year in state income taxes? Is it fair for Oregon businesses with sales that are all outside of Oregon to pay no state income taxes? Is it really unfair to ask the wealthiest 2.5 percent of Oregon's population to pay 1 or 2 percent more in state income taxes?

The people we elected to the Oregon Legislature put a remarkable amount of work into coming up with a modest tax plan that makes sense for Oregon in these difficult times. Let's not let simplistic arguments wreck a commonsense plan and endanger our state's long-term vitality.

- **Time to wear a gas mask** along with a scarf? Cold weather and temperature inversions this week have triggered the Lane Regional Air Protection Agency to issue a "yellow" home heating advisory, restricting the burning of wood stoves at a time when home heating needs are the highest of the year. Our air is so bad that even folks up in the south hills can smell the particulates from local wood product mills down in the valley. LRAPA recently approved a permit for even more pollution from a Seneca biomass generator. We're pleased to see the Oregon Toxics Alliance continue to stand up and challenge an industrial plant that will only add to our valley's deadly poor air quality.

- President Obama's plans to escalate the **war in Afghanistan/Pakistan** puts progressives in a bind. Do we support him or fight him? Obama has always backed the Afghanistan war, so his continued support is consistent. The escalation is disturbing, particularly since Afghanistan has always been a bloody quagmire for any occupying force. Now Pakistan complicates the region's instability. And billions of our shrinking national treasure are being blown up (literally) in the Mideast. So what's a leftie to do? Well, we can support Obama on health care, finance reform, climate action, diplomacy and other progressive issues; and at the same time protest loudly against the folly of military intervention as our predominant foreign policy. We're skeptical that Obama can pull off positive outcomes in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iraq; but he's certainly putting more thoughtful deliberation into it than his predecessor who got us into these messes.

SLANT includes short opinion pieces, observations and rumor-chasing notes compiled by the EW staff. Heard any good rumors lately? Contact Ted Taylor at 484-0519, editor@eugeneweekly.com

ted owls and marbled murrelets. Incidental take in this case is a euphemism for ESA listed species that are killed or lose habitat due to logging.

The lawsuit says the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service failed to reconsider the impacts of logging the forest's old-growth trees on the northern spotted owl in light of new information showing the owl is facing increased threats. "Owl populations are plummeting," Laughlin said.

ODF has been working to create a new Habitat Conservation Plan, but according to Laughlin, "It's looking like the new HCP might not happen." The new HCP, he said, faces criticism from the NOAA Fisheries

Service for fish buffers that are too small and would not protect salmon from the effects of logging.

The State Land Board heard "invited testimony from a number of interests that will provide a range of views about future management about the forest," during its Dec. 8 meeting, Solliday said. The earliest the board would make a recommendation about the forest would be at its February meeting, she said.

Cascadia Wildlands would like the SLB to consider "a whole new vision for the Elliott, looking at the older rainforest through a carbon lens," Laughlin said. In a similar vein to what Lane County Commissioner