

responsibility for modifying livestock behavior and use of riparian vegetation rests with ranchers, land management agencies, and the public.

The return of the wolf represents an ecological fork in the road. Its presence leads to recovery of water lush landscapes, abundant with wildlife and fisheries, and economically sustainable and vibrant communities. Its continued absence gives us the status quo — small fish struggling to survive in overheated waters, rivers that go dry during drought, stunted plants and starving livestock and wildlife. How we choose depends on the future we prefer and our willingness and courage to coexist.

Suzanne Fouty
Baker City

EDITOR'S NOTE: The film will be showing in Eugene April 8. See Activist Alert this week.

CAFO BLUES

I am surprised that *EW* did not have much to read during the past weeks, considering David Kirby's, author of the book *Animal Factory*, talk at the Public Interest Environmental Law Conference Feb. 27. There was no coverage in either the Feb. 28 or March 1 *R-G*.

Kirby said that intensive, commercial meat production causes diseases, especially through the animal's excrement. These concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) are responsible for the swine flu, the bird (chicken) flu and the bacterial infection MRSA.

Organic meat is not in itself a solution. Horizon organic meat is CAFO-produced. The never-elected "President" Bush blamed swine flu on the small producers, which are really much cleaner than CAFOs. Cheese and milk are almost always from CAFOs. Factory dairy farmers criminally collude with one another.

Obama likely won the Iowa caucuses because Clinton was simply too close to the CAFO operators; Iowans knew better. Three boys who were in the same school classroom caught the rarest form of testicular cancer due to arsenic, most of which is excreted by CAFO chickens; so arsenic isn't so much in their meat. The operators have the money to write their regulatory laws.

Kevin Russell
Eugene

EDITOR'S NOTE: We ran a half-page book review of *Animal Factory* in our Feb. 25 issue just before PIELC. One of the sources in the book is Eugene environmental attorney Charlie Tebbutt.

RAILROAD PATH

How can we use the railroad tracks (from Veneta to West Eugene) as a bike path?

Linda Wagner
Noti

RIGHT TO BIKE

Bicycling is popular in Eugene. It is fun, inexpensive, enhances well-being and reduces oil consumption. No wonder local trips by bike are on-track to hit an all-time high in the next decade.

Surprisingly, while citizens and City Council are focusing on environmental sustainability, public health and social equity, and while we are set to spend federal money to entice more bike ridership, we are also about to spend millions of public dollars to build roads that will deny hundreds of citizens the opportunity to bike near their homes.

Crest Drive, Storey Boulevard and Friendly Street near Morse Ranch handle all local traffic. They are about to be rebuilt with narrow, nine-foot wide lanes with numerous blind curves. News reports over the past several months have pointed out the

unsuitability of the street design for buses and emergency vehicles. Without more lane width or a designated lane for bikes on the uphill portions, these streets won't allow cars and bikes to safely and comfortably coexist and will deprive most residents of the option to ride a bike to school, work, a restaurant, a store or the park.

Common sense tells you it's wrong. The Oregon Bike Bill, passed in the 1960s does also. The recent Public Interest Environmental Law Conference (see news story, 3/25) inspires legal action to put Eugene's actions in line with its commitments and to defend your right of transportation choice. Speak up and get involved by contacting right2bike@arrivingbybike.com

Paul Moore
Eugene

EWEEB BULL

Paying this monthly EWEB utility bill (\$104.46) is painful, considering that these funds maybe directed towards destroying treasured river space and scenic views.

I attended some meetings and asked about the missing Millrace in the three represented choices on "raping an innocent landscape." Mind you, it could be worse, given the shortage of sites for prisons, riverfront casinos and medical waste disposal. On some level it was novel: eating slippery pizza, washed down with smooth talk of empty promises, while toying with a hand-held voting light bulb. What bull!

Having anticipated a plan for restored native plants, flowers and trees, the Millrace running to wetlands for returning toads, turtles, natural animal and human paths, flowing seasons of life and change — not this time!

EWEB, continue what you do best:

water and electric. When you finish with our space, clean it up and leave. There are many, many skilled landscapers, consultants and shovel-ready citizens who can direct the restoration to its native, natural environment.

John T. Egan
Eugene

STRUT YOUR STUFF

Eugeneans like to think they're unique. Recently we've been upstaged by a rare bird. Wandering in the hills of south Eugene is a wild turkey with white feathers. The ends are dipped in black and she sports a flashy brown, buff and copper tail.

The long-legged Rio Grande turkey can run a four-minute mile. It was introduced to Oregon in the 1970s, about the time bands of hippies showed up in costumes and colorful vans for the Oregon Country Fair. A researcher estimates one in 500 turkeys have rather peculiar feathers. ODFW claims we now have over 25,000 Rio Grandes in the state.

Other colorful birds of Oregon include Steve Prefontaine before he was branded and stuffed inside a shoe box; Ken Kesey, who helped start the Country Fair and invited some of the flock to stay at his farm; and Former U.S. Sen. Wayne Morse, an early principled opponent of the Vietnam War.

The Tea Party is rocking and talking these days. It's time for cultural creatives and people of conscience to rise up on the political stage. Spread your wings and start strutting. Fill the world with beauty and the streets with artistry, before they're soaked in blood by angry patriots spoiling for a fight and looking for some poor turkey to blame.

Chris Piché
Eugene

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