



PHOTO BY TODD COOPER

As the camp made ready to move, word was out that City Manager John Ruiz was not going to let campers remain at the park past hours, per city park rules against overnight camping. However, Ruiz instead brought a proposal to grant the Occupy Eugene an exemption to the city's ban on camping in municipal parks. Had the city voted against the exemption, the previous informal policy of allowing the occupation to continue without a confrontation between the demonstrators and the police might have been tested.

Occupy Eugene has been having weekly marches, in addition to its massive almost 3,000-person protest Oct. 15, and the marches have been marked by a lack of

the conflicts between protesters and police that Eugene has had in the past.

The Eugene City Council voted 5-3 on Oct. 24 to allow the exemption. Councilors George Brown, Chris Pryor, Andrea Ortiz, Betty Taylor and Alan Zelenka voted to allow the camp to continue while Councilors Mike Clark, Pat Farr and George Poling voted against it.

The Occupy camps in Eugene and across the country have been compared to depression-era "Hoovervilles," homeless encampments that sprung up in places such as Seattle and Central Park in New York City. The name "Hooverville" was a political criticism of government policies that led to the economic crisis.

Civil Liberties Defense Center attorney Lauren Regan, who has been involved with Occupy Eugene, which is a decentralized group ruled by consensus, says the composition of the campers "definitely varies." She says, "There are certainly folks that have been there every night since the beginning, but some folks come and go." In addition to the committed core group, Regan says, there has also been a fluid coming and going of other participants.

Occupy Eugene supporters and marchers run the gamut from students and grad students to activists to business owners. Its Facebook page has close to 3,000 followers who engage in lengthy discussion threads about the movement. The group has committees for everything from childcare to sanitation to morale and peacekeepers. For more information go to [occupyeugenemedia.org](http://occupyeugenemedia.org)

— Camilla Mortensen

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## CORRECTIONS/ CLARIFICATIONS

In our Oct. 20 story on Occupy Eugene, John Flanery was described as "a facilitator of general assemblies," but he tells us his role was "merely that of a consultant on meeting procedure – the consensus version of a parliamentarian. This is not a leadership role, and on no account should my remarks be taken to represent the views of Occupy Eugene."

## BETTER NEWS FOR FOREST PROTECTIONS

It's been a good week to be a treehugger with positive forest news coming out of the courts and Congress.

On Oct. 21 a three-judge panel of the 10th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeal unanimously upheld the Clinton-era Roadless Rule, which proposed cordoning off millions of acres of federal lands in the West from road development. In August 2009, the 9th Circuit made a similar ruling.

The Roadless Rule, which affects about 60 million acres of National Forest land, sparked debate about wilderness versus human uses of the land. Sean Stevens of Oregon Wild called the most recent ruling "good news" and says Oregon Wild has been working on the wilderness issue for 40 years, since Congress passed the Wilderness Act in 1964. He says federal wilderness and roadless