

uming up the river bottom” and says while millions of dollars are being spent on habitat restoration and salmon protection, the mining is destroying that habitat.

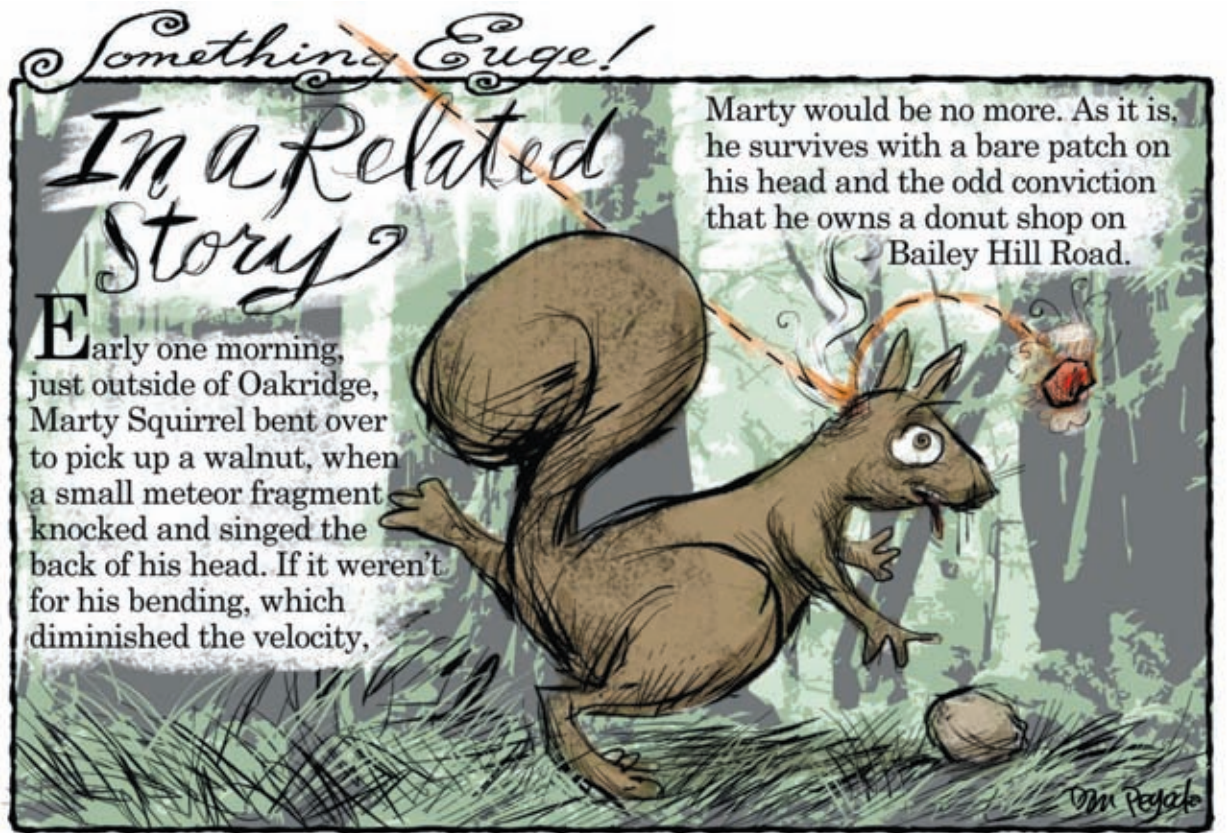
Frank Armendariz of Eugene-based River Trail Outfitters says SB 401, introduced by State Sen. Alan Bates, would protect the water and fish, as well as the businesses that depend on rivers. “I’m a river guide; a lot of what our business does is fish and raft on the McKenzie.”

There is currently a moratorium on suction-dredge mining in California, and as a result, Laughlin says, more mining is coming to Oregon’s rivers and their native salmon runs. Though at this point the mining impacts have been felt more strongly in southern Oregon, Armendariz says there have been mining applications on Quartz Creek, a tributary of the McKenzie River.

Portions of the McKenzie are already protected as an Oregon Scenic Waterway, but Armendariz says SB 401 would protect the lower McKenzie, its water and its summer steelhead, endangered spring Chinook salmon, endangered bull trout, rainbow trout and cutthroat trout.

Scenic waterways protection means that the Oregon Parks

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