

CLOSING THE FOREST TO PROTESTERS?

The Bureau of Land Management has issued a “finding of no significant impact” on its order to close the White Castle timber sale to public access, but the protesters currently occupying the trees in opposition to the planned logging project beg to differ. They say cutting the native trees hurts the ecosystem and doesn’t solve the root problems of lack of money for counties and a lack of jobs. A comment period on the closure ends Aug. 30.

White Castle is a pilot project outside of Roseburg on the O&C lands that are the current focus of a controversial bill in Congress that would split the lands into a timber trust and a conservation trust.

Forest scientists call White Castle a “variable retention harvest” and say logging there will create early seral habitat, with bushes, forbs and hardwoods, and help the wildlife that depends on them. Early seral habitat is lacking in Oregon due to industrial logging and herbicide spraying after trees are cut, according to OSU professor Norm Johnson, who came up with White Castle and other O&C pilot projects together with Jerry Franklin of the University of Washington.

The Cascadia Forest Defenders call White Castle a clearcut and have had a treesit blocking logging in the area for more than two months.

The closure order would be for up to 24 months, according to BLM documents, and would affect 2,167 acres. Its goal is to “minimize user conflicts during implementation of the White Castle Variable Retention Harvest Project,” the documents say, which would involve ending the treesit.

Ben Jones of Cascadia Forest Defenders says the group is “preventing any destruction of this ecosystem and we intend to be there until the sale is dropped.” Jones says the treesit is popular in nearby Myrtle Creek because residents are “concerned about watershed and are not buying the industry part.” He says timber companies try to get richer

by attempting to convince the people they oppress that the logging is to their benefit when those people are not actually getting any jobs.

To comment on the closure order go to wkly.ws/1j6 or write Steve Lydick at Roseburg District, Bureau of Land Management, 777 NW Garden Valley Blvd., Roseburg, OR, 97471. — *Camilla Mortensen*

STUFF YOUR FACE FOR WOMENSPACE

Fill your stomach for the good cause on Saturday, Aug. 17: Dishcrawl introduces “Neighborfood,” an afternoon celebration of food, family and community in downtown Eugene. Dishcrawl will give a portion of the proceeds to Womenspace, a nonprofit organization providing support to women and children in situations of domestic abuse.

Womenspace supports survivors of domestic violence in intimate partner relationships. Though the shelter and the crisis line are still running, the nonprofit had to close walk-in services for survivors earlier this year due to federal, county and city budget cuts.

Eight downtown restaurants will be serving special items from their menus and drink specials to ticket holders from 2 to 6 pm. Participating restaurants include Tokyo Tonkatsu, Bon Mi, Red Wagon Creamery, Sammitch, Off the Waffle and Larry’s Cupcake Café. The Davis will offer roasted pancetta, prawn and beef bourguignon and a Vellox wine tasting. Belly will serve pork confit sliders, house baked gougeres and vin de pamplemousse.

“The idea is to highlight our restaurants and a certain neighborhood, and at the same time give back to the community,” says Rosalie Ruff, Eugene Dishcrawl ambassador, who thought of Womenspace after learning about its funding difficulties.

Dishcrawl Events is a company offering diverse dining experiences for food lovers. This is their first Neighborfood in Eugene. Ruff expects 200 participants, and the

ACTIVIST ! LERT

- **Mobility International USA** in Eugene will launch its new *Brilliant & Resilient Photography Book*, featuring profiles of 50 disabled women activists from 41 countries, at 6 pm Thursday, Aug. 15, at the Ford Alumni Center, 1720 E. 13th Ave. Email sdunn@miusa.org or call 343-1284 for more information.

- **Groundbreaking for Opportunity Village** Eugene will be at 10 am Friday, Aug. 16, at 2nd Avenue and Garfield. Councilor Claire Syrett will be one of the speakers.

- Activist and *Walking Dead* actress **Donzaleigh Abernathy**, daughter of Ralph Abernathy, will speak at 7 pm Friday, Aug. 16, at the Wildish Community Theater, 630 Main St. in Springfield. She will speak on the 50th anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington and its significance today. Music by the Deb Cleveland Band and the Inspirational Sounds Gospel Choir. Suggested donation at the door of \$10. Email tweeler@uoregon.edu for more information.

- A benefit concert for **Opportunity Village** will be from 7 to 10 pm Sunday, Aug. 18, at Cozmic, 8th & Charnelton in Eugene. Music by Steel Wool, Brian Cutean, and the Raging Grannies. Admission is \$5-\$25 sliding scale. Tickets at the door.

- A free showing of *Gen Silent*, an award-winning documentary about LGBT aging, will be at 2 pm Sunday, Aug. 18, at the Campbell Community Center, 155 High St. The film profiles six LGBT seniors and those who care for them as they cope with difficult choices, ultimately offering new hope as they cross paths with advocates working to create positive change. Soromundi Lesbian Chorus of Eugene will sing and light refreshments will be served. Call 682-5318 or visit queereugene.com for information on related events coming up Sept. 22 and Oct. 20.

- Occupy Eugene and **Occupy Bankbusters** will present a benefit showing of *Jekyll Island: The truth about the Federal Reserve* at 7 pm Wednesday, Aug. 21, at EWEB, 500 E. 4th in Eugene. Call 937-3034 for information or go to OccupyEugeneMedia.org.



HAPPENING PEOPLE

BY PAUL NEEVEL

MAGGIE MATOBA (revisited)

September 2003: On a hot August afternoon, master gardener Maggie Matoba shares a patch of shade with Willamette Oaks Retirement Center residents who raise veggies and flowers in the therapeutic garden Matoba maintains as part of her Healing Harvest program. “Maggie’s been such a blessing,” Evelyn Higgins says. “She put in new soil and a watering system.” Matoba witnessed the healing potential of gardening when her father came to stay after a stroke. “Gardening added 15 years to his life,” she says. She started her first garden, for girls at Looking Glass treatment center, in May 2002. “I wanted to work with at-risk youth,” she says. “They learn about soil, biology, ecology. And we address behavioral issues.” Matoba currently commutes to Portland to study horticultural therapy. Healing Harvest also has gardens at Sheldon Oaks, Womenspace and River Kourt.

2013 update: For the past five years, Healing Harvest has been part of the curriculum at the Kennedy School of Sustainability, an alternative high school in Cottage Grove. “I enjoy seeing the kids transformed in the garden,” says Matoba, who volunteers her time at the school. Matoba also teaches ukulele and Hawaiian culture as a youth arts instructor for the Lane Arts Council and as a faculty member of The Shedd Institute’s Community Music School.