

SANE WILDLIFE POLICIES

I want to set the record straight on Congressman Peter DeFazio's efforts with regards to wildlife management. DeFazio has been a staunch supporter for sane wildlife policies for decades. In the early 1990s he fought against aerial gunning of wolves in Alaska.

Just this September DeFazio sent a letter to Secretary of Interior Sally Jewell opposing the delisting of wolves — for all the right reasons as well.

Even more importantly, DeFazio has shown leadership for decades in his continuous efforts to rein in the outlaw federal agency known as Wildlife Services. The euphemistically named Wildlife Services spends taxpayer dollars killing wildlife, including wolves, coyotes, bears and other top carnivores.

When it comes to wolves and other wildlife, we can be thankful DeFazio is in Congress giving voice to those beings who do not have a voice.

*George Wuerthner
Eugene*

DEFAZIO'S INTENT

Andy Kerr [Viewpoint, 11/7] provides a sharp-eyed political analysis of the O&C lands situation. Perhaps his most penetrating insight is that Rep. Peter DeFazio's position functions to keep timber barons off his back. If Kerr backs his claim with empirical evidence it will

devastate DeFazio's political vocation.

It's equally possible that Catholic social teaching motivates DeFazio, who has a Catholic background, to care about people in small rural forest communities — not power. But intent is difficult to establish.

Thinking harder about providing viable, alternative ways of making a living for those in ecologically untenable industries may better serve the environment.

We have a social responsibility to our fellow human beings as well as an environmental responsibility to the environment on which we depend. The challenge is a democratic, egalitarian and just integration of the natural and social ecologies.

Still, I fear if DeFazio's plan is carried out as Kerr construes it, O&C forestlands, already heavily logged, will become deserts. The world history of forestry shows forests have only so much resilience. We need to consent to limits. We must give those lands the Sabbath they deserve.

DeFazio should respond to Kerr. As the ancient Greek playwright Sophocles said, it is through conflict — and sometimes only through conflict — that we learn what our ends and purposes are.

*Sam Porter
Eugene*

AVOID THE CHARIOT RACE

According to your staff pick "Best street to get run over on your bike" [Nov. 7], 18th Avenue looked like a very bad place

to ride. A couple of pages away was "Best way to improve South Willamette Street" (throw in some bike lanes and a center turn lane). I hope you realize that what you are advocating for South Willamette is exactly what is now configured on 18th.

The push for bike lanes on Willamette is a recipe for disaster, especially when it's dark and raining and too many cyclists refuse to wear reflective clothing and/or proper lighting on their bikes. In a collision, regardless of who has the right of way, the cyclist loses. The inordinate number of approaches on Willamette only exacerbates the potential danger. Getting rid of the redundant driveways will not cut down on the number of vehicles trying to get into and out of the parking lots (and possibly cutting off the cyclist as a result). My guess is that it would, instead, create a myriad of choke points for cars, and as a result, up the ante on frustrated drivers in a hurry to get on their way. Not a good environment for cyclists.

Take to the side streets, wear reflective clothing, attach lots of flashing lights on your bike, ride defensively and stay away from that chariot race down on Willamette.

*Bob Silfies
Eugene*

A TASTE FOR VEGGIES

In Karl Stout's letters [10/13 and 10/31] he raises an important point about food waste in cafeterias. He rightfully

points out that "wishing and dealing with reality are two very different things." Our Farm to School Program, the School Garden Project and forward-thinking school district food service departments are dealing with reality by working with children from a young age to increase preference for fruits and vegetables. And we've found that these programs work! Students who have been through our programs are more likely to eat fruits and veggies when offered to them at lunch! And we're working with their families so it continues at home.

Because of limited funding we aren't reaching all students in all schools; however, we do believe we are making a difference to address exactly the problem that Stout is concerned about.

*Megan Kemple
Farm to School Program Director
Willamette Farm and Food Coalition*

BASIC CIVILITY

In 1938, the mayor of New York, Fiorello LaGuardia, proposed an amendment to New York State's Constitution to help those in need, and LaGuardia got the voters to adopt it.

It reads, Section 1: "The aid, care and support of the needy are public concerns and shall be provided by the state and by such of its subdivisions, and in such manner and by such means, as the legislature may, from time to time, determine."

VIEWPOINT BY DONNA TAGGART

Low Risk,
High Gain

KEEPING CIVIC STADIUM IN PUBLIC
HANDS MAKES SENSE

The Eugene City Council has a decision to make about Civic Stadium and it will be made very soon. The question is: Will the city put in an offer, using the city parks bond funds, and allow Friends of Civic Stadium (FOCS) to refurbish and reopen it for use, or will it step back and allow Civic to be demolished? As a longtime citizen of Eugene, I consider demolition to be a mistake. Both the YMCA (which plans to build housing as well as a new facility) and Fred Meyer, the only current bidders, have plans in place that call for tearing down the 75-year-old building. The council and Mayor Kitty Piercy need to hear that Eugene residents support buying Civic and keeping it as a public park, one with numerous benefits for our community.

Let's clear up one major misunderstanding about the funds to be used. The city has a bond fund that was created in order to acquire parkland; it cannot be used for maintenance or operating costs, for either new or existing parks. This is where the money to purchase Civic would come from, *not* the General Fund. The city is hurting financially and many recreation sites will suffer from budget cuts. The purchase of Civic is separate from the operating budget, and FOCS will not be asking for any renovation or operating funds from the city.

Civic Stadium can be reopened with a minimum of work, and its potential as an economic engine for our community is great. "Build it and they will come" applies here: It's already built, and people will indeed come. They'll come when soccer games are played, when concerts are put on, when wineries rent it for events, and when other uses are made of it; FOCS has already received dozens of requests, and we can anticipate many more. The president of the United Soccer League called

Eugene "a great market" for a new team, and Civic can be a focal point for the growing popularity of soccer, especially because it will be available to an audience that exists far beyond our city's boundaries.

When Eugene voted to build the Hult Center, nobody envisioned a world-class Bach Festival, but the existence of the concert halls allowed the festival to grow into the major event that it is today, with financial benefits extending far beyond revenue from ticket sales. Civic, if bought by the city, would provide an affordable place for the whole community to enjoy, no doubt bringing in a similar sort of financial benefit.

Civic Stadium was built in 1938 by the WPA and in 2008 it was added to the National Register of Historic Places. People value history, and we like to see its evidence in our buildings, in historical plaques and markers, in statues and murals. Civic has been the spawning place for more than 200 Major League Baseball players, such as Mike Schmidt, and the great Satchel Paige once pitched there. The historical significance of Civic gives whatever happens there a special quality, one which can be emphasized through the on-site use of photographs, murals and statues, to name a few ideas.

But these benefits to our community can only be fully realized if Civic remains in public hands. If it is sold to private interests, the bottom line changes, and we are no longer in control. The YMCA cannot afford to buy the property outright, so they would partner with a real estate developer. Half of the site would be devoted to housing, and the Y may not have any control over that. Both their plan and that of Fred Meyer would greatly increase congestion in an already congested area, an unwelcome consequence.

Buying Civic is a very low-risk move for the City. If FOCS is not able to rent it out and start bringing in revenue in an agreed-upon time period, it can always be sold, most likely for a profit. It would be managed by non-city personnel, and renovated by funds raised by FOCS.

We have lost so many old buildings in our town, and have learned to treasure what ones remain. Let's not make the irrevocable mistake of demolishing Civic Stadium; please email mayorcouncilandcitymanager@ci.eugene.or.us and let them know that you support a solution that preserves the stadium. So many memories have been generated there; they are a rich part of our community's fabric. Let's not tear that fabric apart.

Donna Taggart has lived in Eugene for 41 years is a member of Friends of Civic Stadium.