

Metro/Politics/Government

Salmon no longer a long shot at golf course

CONTRIBUTED STORY
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Salmon rely on well-shaded areas where the water is cold and there's plenty of cover. At Eastmoreland Golf Course in Southeast Portland, PGE volunteers plant 650 low-growing native plants along Crystal Springs Creek so salmon have a better chance of making it back and forth from their historic spawning areas.

Volunteers from Portland General Electric and their families brought out their picks and shovels for a day of planting low-growing native plants along Crystal Springs Creek at the Eastmoreland Golf Course. It's all part of a larger, ongoing effort to rehabilitate the creek, which was once home to coho salmon, steelhead and cutthroat trout. The Crystal Springs Stream/Restoration Project is the largest-scale fisheries restoration project currently being undertaken within Portland's city limits.

More than 50 volunteers from PGE took part in the planting. Other partners in the Crystal Springs Stream Restoration project include Johnson Creek Watershed Council, Portland Parks & Recreation, SOLV Team Up! For Watershed Health and many community groups and citizen volunteers.

Construction of a fishway on the Eastmoreland Golf Course will allow endangered steelhead, coho salmon and cutthroat trout to return to their former spawning areas above Crystal Springs Lake. For decades, 388 miles of Portland's urban creeks like Crystal Springs have been buried, polluted and blocked, virtually wiping out the salmon that used to thrive there. PGE has "adopted" the site as part of SOLV's new Team Up! For Watershed Health program, designed to get volunteers involved in urban



Wayne Lei, director of environmental affairs at PGE, bores a planting hole on the banks of Crystal Springs Creek at the Eastmoreland Golf Course

habitat restoration. When this project is completed, Crystal Springs Creek may be the only spot in the city where people can see salmon spawning from a city bus line.

Bill Bradbury sworn-in as new Secretary of State

CONTRIBUTED STORY
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Bill Bradbury, Oregon's new Secretary of State, took his oath of office before a small gathering of family, friends, and staff at the State Capitol. Bradbury, who was appointed by Governor Kitzhaber to serve the remaining 14 months of Phil Keisling's term, assumed official duties when Keisling's resignation became effective at 5 p.m. November 8, 1999.

Governor Kitzhaber announced last Saturday that he had chosen Bradbury from among a field of highly-qualified candidates as his appointment to Oregon's second-highest elected office. At Saturday's press conference, Bradbury thanked Kitzhaber and expressed his commitment to earning the trust of all Oregonians. "It is truly an honor to be given the opportunity to serve as Oregon's Secretary of State," he said. "I appreciate Governor Kitzhaber's confidence in me, and I will do my utmost to earn the faith and trust of citizens across Oregon."

Bradbury intends to make integrity, performance and stewardship the hallmarks of his administration. "My priorities include protecting the integrity of Oregon's elections process, improving the performance of government through a vigorous state auditing function, and ensuring the responsible management of state-owned lands," he said.

During the next few weeks, Bradbury plans to meet with his agency's 202 employees and to learn more about the Secretary of State's many programs and services. He will also spend time with Oregon's 36 county clerks who work closely with the state Elections Division to conduct federal, state, and local elections.

Bradbury's appointment as Secretary of State marks a return to public service for this 14-year legislative veteran. From 1981 to 1985, Bradbury represented portions of Oregon's south coast as a state representative for House District 48. From 1985 to 1995, he served as a state senator for Senate District 24. He was elected Senate Majority leader in 1986, and elected Senate President in 1993.



Prior to his tenure in the legislature, Bradbury worked as a television news reporter, director, and producer in Oregon and northern California. To assume his duties as Secretary of State, Bradbury will be leaving his 5-year position as Executive Director of For the Sake of the Salmon...a Portland-based non-profit organization dedicated to finding common ground for salmon restoration in Oregon, Washington, and California. A formal swearing-in ceremony and reception for Secretary of State Bradbury will be held at 1 pm Friday, November 12, 1999, in the Senate Chamber at the State Capitol. Members of the public are encouraged to attend the ceremony and to meet Oregon's new Secretary of State.

Donald Trump proposes anti-rich platform, 14.25 percent tax

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Donald Trump wants to soak the rich, including himself.

Seeking attention and credibility for his potential presidential campaign, the billionaire real estate tycoon proposed a 14.25 percent tax Tuesday on the net worth of wealthy Americans. He said the one-time tax package would:

- Raise \$5.7 trillion to erase the nation's debt and save \$200 billion in annual interest payments. The \$5.7 trillion is about two thirds of the nation's gross domestic product, a figure sure to raise alarm bells on Wall Street.

- Use the savings to save Social Security and slash taxes for the middle class.

- Increase his personal tax bill by at least \$725 million.

"It's a big hit for me, but I think it's worth it," the potential Reform Party candidate said in a telephone interview from his New York offices. People and trust valued at more than \$10 million would be subject to the new tax. Trump, a longshot for the presidency, estimates his net worth at \$5 billion.

The original plan called for collection in a single year but, in a last-minute change, Trump said he would allow more time for people having trouble liquidifying their assets - "let's say 10 years," he said. Financial experts said such a dramatic tax increase could be an economic disaster, even if Trump were somehow able to surmount a slew of technical and political hurdles that would make it virtually impossible to impose.

"If you think this is a bubble in the stock market, this is a sure way to prick it," said Mark Zandi, chief economist of RFA Dismal Sciences, an economic consulting company in West Chester, Pa.

"Even talking about it would risk capital flight out of the country," said Andrew Hodge, senior vice president of the WEFA group in Eddystone, Pa. "It is pretty confiscatory in terms of property rights."

Trump dismissed the doom-and-gloom scenarios. "It would not be a shock to the system," he said, predicting a 35 percent boost in economic activity after he eliminates the debt, cuts income taxes and erases

the inheritance tax.

Economics aside, Trump hoped to build political stature with his first major policy proposal of the presidential campaign. Known mostly for his money, playboy lifestyle and monogrammed buildings, Trump wants to be taken seriously as a potential candidate.

"I think I'm taken seriously. A lot of people are saying so and I can tell," Trump said, though he is still a blip on national polls. Trump said one sign of his popularity is the high ratings he generates by appearing on television news shows. "Gerald Rivera says I'm a hot guest," he said.

Avoiding the traditional scene-setting speech, Trump unveiled the package in a series of telephone interviews with reporters after The Associated Press was provided an outline of his plan.

The package underscores his strategy to appeal to low- and middle-class Americans. Even amid an economic boon, Trump believes his class-conscious message has resonance because millions of voters are leery of America's economic and political elite. Nicknamed "The Donald," Trump also believes he has

a rags-to-riches story that appeals to Americans who dream of following him to the gilded life.

Trump's political base begins with a list of Americans who gambled at his casinos.

He says the rich would benefit, too. He wants to eliminate the tax on inheritance, giving the wealthy a break on the assets they plan to leave for the next generation. Trump said the economy would grow enough to pay for the inheritance tax cut.

Among his rivals, Reform Party contender Pat Buchanan proposed a 16 percent flat tax on earnings over \$35,000 before he left the Republican Party, as well as deep cuts in inheritance and small-business taxes - to be paid for in part with higher

tariffs.

Flat-tax pioneer Steve Forbes and Gary Bauer offer plans similar to Buchanan's on income taxes. At the top of the GOP field, Texas Gov. George W. Bush and Arizona Sen. John McCain have spoken of targeted tax relief.

Experts raised several questions about Trump's plan, including:

- His numbers. Using Federal Reserve Board tables, Zandi said the total net worth of all American households is \$38.4 trillion. If Trump taxed every American at 14.25 percent, he would still not raise \$5.7 trillion, Zandi said.
- Roger Stone, head of Trump's exploratory committee, said his reading of the Fed figures suggests that the total wealth in American is

\$50 trillion.

-The technicalities. Assets fluctuate wildly in America, making it difficult to determine a person's tax bill. Also, huge amounts of assets would have to be liquidated to pay the bills. "What are you to do, send out an appraiser to every house?" Zandi said.

Stone replied that the details would be worked out once Trump took office.

-His chances.

Even Trump conceded the measure has no support on Capitol Hill, but he predicted that voters would force lawmakers into action if he was elected. Trump would not be assured the Reform Party nomination, and ranks low in national polls as a general election candidate.

Senate OKs GOP boost of minimum wage

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

With eyes cast to the 2000 elections, the Senate voted Tuesday to give minimum-wage workers a dollar raise over three years - but tied the increase to \$18.4 billion in business tax sweeteners opposed by the White House. President Clinton immediately denounced the measure as a "cynical tool to advance special interest tax breaks" and renewed his promise to veto it. He urged Congress instead to pass a \$1-an-hour increase over two years without the large tax cuts.

Veto threats notwithstanding, some Republicans viewed the package as a way to neutralize a Democratic political advantage on the minimum wage for 2000 races. Other Republicans were happy to vote for a new round of tax relief, an issue they want to resurrect following Clinton's veto in September of the GOP's signature \$792 billion tax cut.

"This just seemed like the right combination as far as pulling Republicans together," said Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M. "Sooner or later, a very significant tax reduction for the American people is going to be achieved." The vote was 54-44 for the Republican measure. A few minutes earlier, the Senate had rejected, 50-48, a Democratic alternative raising the minimum wage by \$1 over 13 months and providing \$9.6 billion in tax relief. That measure would have also raised other taxes.

If the GOP bill becomes law, the current \$5.15-an-hour minimum wage would rise by 35 cents in March 2000, by 35 cents more in March 2001 and 30 cents in March 2002. About 11 million workers would be directly affected, half of them younger workers under age 24 and many of them holders of part-time jobs. The five-year tax package includes a health insurance

deduction for people who don't have employer-provided coverage and an immediate 100 percent deduction for the self-employed.

It also would increase the business meal deduction from 50 percent to 80 percent and allow higher 401(k) contribution limits.

Although the Ways and Means Committee in the House planned to take up a similar GOP minimum wage and tax package, it is unlikely that differences between the two can be ironed out before next year, if at all. The Senate measure was attached to an unrelated bankruptcy bill that would also have to be approved.

But the political fight was at full tilt on both sides of the Capitol.

Senate Democrats sought to portray the Republican bill as a tax giveaway for well-off GOP business allies that would do little for workers who are struggling despite the booming U.S. economy.

"We are talking about men and women who are trying to do better," said Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass. "They are being given the back of their hand by the Republicans. Their proposal is a sham."

But Republicans said the tax breaks would help absorb the cost to businesses of paying a higher minimum wage that they said could reduce the number of available low-wage jobs by as much as 500,000.

"We're talking about tax relief for small business, not the wealthiest," said Sen. Rod Grams, R-Minn.

The tax cuts would be paid for out of projected non-Social Security surplus dollars in all but the first year. Clinton has repeatedly said he will not accept the bill if it uses surplus dollars before other priorities are met. Republicans contend the president just wants to spend all of the money on government programs.

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