



Record support for forest initiative sent to Forest Chief


CONTRIBUTED STORY
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The public demonstrated board support for prohibiting road building in 60 million acres of national forests, OSPIRG announced, as the U.S. Forest Service ended its public comment period today. The plan has the potential to effect 4 million acres in Oregon's national forest. "With public sentiment in favor of increased protection of our national forests, the Forest Service plan, as it now stands, falls far short of what President Clinton and the public are asking," says Tieman Sittenfeld, OSPIRG Spokesperson.

While the Forest Service's wild forest initiative places a moratorium on road building in pristine wilderness areas of national forests, the Tongass National Forest, the largest temperate rainforest in the U.S. has been left completely out of the draft plan. "Leaving the Tongass out of a forest protection plan would be like leaving the Grand Canyon out of the National Park System," notes Sittenfeld. Furthermore, although road building would be stopped under the

plan, logging, mining and other destructive activities would not be prohibited, and may continue.

OSPIRG announced that they had gathered more than 50,000 of the postcards voicing these concerns that were collected by and submitted to the Forest Service, as part of a larger effort by all of the State PIRGs, which have generated over 500,000 postcards. These numbers reflects the greatest public participation ever in any comment period by any government agency. "OSPIRG staff and volunteers have gone door to door and spoken with thousands of Americans about what is important to them - clean drinking water, wildlife habitat protection, and outdoor recreation. The majority of people we have spoken to about this issue have consistently supported increased protection of our national forests, not logging and road-building as usual," says Sittenfeld.



HOME FOCUS

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BY DEBORAH FOSTER
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Interviewing an Agent

Because you sign a contract to work with an agent to sell your home, it is important to choose the right one. You may want to interview more than one before making your choice. Here are some questions to ask a prospective agent:

1. Do you work full-time or part-time as a real estate agent? Full time is preferable.
2. Is your license in good standing? You can check an agent's certification yourself with your state's department of real estate. Avoid working with an agent whose license is not in good standing.
3. How many years of education and experience do you have? Experience and continuing education are desirable attributes.
4. How well do you know the area(s) I am interested in? An agent who specializes in the area in which you are interested is preferable. Definitely interview the agent who knows your market.
5. How many other sellers are you representing now? The busiest agents are often the most efficient agents.
6. Will you handle all aspects of my transaction or will you delegate some tasks to a sales associate or administrative assistant? Although a knowledgeable assistant can be invaluable, make sure that you can connect with your agent when you need to.
7. How much can I expect to pay? Commissions are negotiable depending on what kind of listing arrangement you have with your agent.
8. Can you give me a comparative market analysis (CMA) of recent sales in the area and homes currently on the market? This should contain listing and sales prices for recently sold homes as well as sales prices and the listing data of homes currently for sale. It should also include detailed property descriptions (such as square footage and numbers of bedrooms and baths).
9. What does your marketing package contain in addition to a comparative market analysis? Listing presentations should also include a suggested asking price; information on the local housing market; advertising plans; a discussion of various listing agreements; and eventually an analysis of sale proceeds at various price points.
10. Can I list the house with you for 60 to 90 days? Most consumer experts agree that a three-month listing is best. You can always renew the listing agreement at that time.

If you have any suggestions for future articles or questions regarding the sale of your residence, please contact Deborah of Equity Group Realtors via phone at 706-0037 or email at deborah@equitygroup.com Also visit her website at equitygroup.com/deborah.

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week, Katz joined other elected officials in asking the Forest Service to reconsider the Eagle Creek timber sale. "They've been extremely cooperative," Scarpitti said of city officials. "Unfortunately, our Forest Service has sold us out."

Rex Holloway, a Forest Service spokesman, said Monday that the agency made no concessions to get Scarpitti to end his protest.

Even so, protesters were jubilant Monday afternoon.

Joe Keating, chairman of the Sierra Club's Oregon chapter, said his group doesn't subscribe to such tactics but supports others' rights to nonviolent civil disobedience. Keating was in the street Monday, leading the cheers for "Tre."

By Monday night, activists who had joined the protest, including a woman who had begun a liquid fast three days after Scarpitti climbed the ledge, had left the sidewalk where they had been camping.

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