

TIMBER

Continued from Page A1

National Environmental Policy Act were key in the late 1980s and early 1990s to halting the intensive, widespread logging that had prevailed for decades on federal forests in western Oregon, western Washington and Northern California.

The Northwest Forest Plan, implemented by the Clinton administration in 1994, has severely restricted logging on federal lands in the region ever since.

But undoing the Northwest Forest Plan and rolling back environmental laws are not necessarily easy tasks — even with a Republican in the White House and a GOP-controlled House and Senate.

'Cautiously optimistic'

Timber interests in Oregon welcome Trump as president.

"We're cautiously optimistic it's going to present some opportunities for us to put people back to work in rural communities and certainly to improve the health of our forest," said Jim Geisinger, executive vice president of the Associated Oregon Loggers. "For the last two decades, we've just seen too many catastrophic wildfires, too many mills close, too many rural communities fall apart socially and economically, and I think this will be an opportunity to restore some of that."

The Salem-based trade association represents 1,000 logging companies in Oregon.

For 40 years, Geisinger has been a voice for logging in the state, traveling to Washington, D.C., to speak about how federal policies

affect the industry.

Cause for concern

The worry among environmental groups contrasts the optimism of timber interests in regards to how Trump and the officials he appoints will manage public forests.

Possibilities for agriculture secretary, who oversees the U.S. Forest Service, include Texas Agriculture Secretary Sid Miller, and possibilities for interior secretary, who oversees the Bureau of Land Management, include former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin and Lucas Oil co-founder Forrest Lucas, according to news reports. All of them lean toward resource extraction rather than preservation.

Federal forests in western Oregon are split between the Forest Service and the BLM.

"We don't think Trump has a mandate to weaken environmental protections or return to old-growth clear-cutting on public lands," Arran Robertson, spokesman for Oregon Wild, wrote in an email. The Portland-based nonprofit group advocates for old-growth protection.

"Clearly, those were not major issues in the presidential campaign," he wrote. "However, there are certainly folks in the logging industry who feel the time is ripe to repeal the Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, etc. ... and prioritize their interests in public lands over other values (like tourism and recreation, clean drinking water and wildlife)."

For decades, environmental groups brought and won lawsuits based on the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, the National Environmental Policy Act and other environmental laws. "Everything appears to be on the table at this point," said Josh Laughlin, executive director of environmental group Cascadia Wildlands in Eugene. "I would like to think that the decades of progress that have been made, in terms of safeguarding the values that these unique landscapes in the Northwest and that the laws provide, will be upheld

Keith Chu, a spokesman for the Oregon Democrat, wrote in an email.

Resistance in Congress could be enough to stop changes to environmental laws, Travis Joseph, president of the American Forest Resource Council, wrote in an email.

The Portland-based association advocates for sustained-yield timber harvests in public forests.

"Even under Republican control, it's difficult to imagine Congress will make major revisions or changes to (the) ESA or the Clean Water Act," he wrote. "Those changes

by federal regulations, right?" Trump said. "Oregon lost three-fourths of its timber mills since 1980. Is that possible? Three-fourths? That is a lot of timber mills, right?"

Since then, Trump has provided no specifics about how he would change regulations.

Protection of the northern spotted owl — which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act in 1990 — and old-growth timber contributed to the timber industry's drastic decline in Oregon.

Ruling in a lawsuit brought by environmental groups, a federal judge halted most logging on federal lands west of the Cascades. Then, the federal government put the Northwest

Forest Plan in place to protect the owl and other wildlife, prioritizing preservation of old-growth forests on which the owl relies.

Facts 'incomplete'

Trump's choices for public-lands posts will lead that revision.

"It's too early to tell what a Trump administration will look like, who will serve in key positions and what the priorities will be," wrote Joseph of the American Forest Resource Council. "But the Northwest Forest Plan is already being revised by the Forest Service, and the Trump administration will play a significant role in the development of a new plan."

The numbers Trump used about timber when he visited Oregon — three-fourths of the mills closed since the 1980s and half of the timber jobs cut since 1990 — are reasonably correct, "but they are incomplete," said Ernie Neimi of Natural Resource Economics in Eugene.

For decades, Neimi has followed the timber economy in Oregon. He said the state used to have many more smaller mills. As the industry moved to larger mills and more automation, the number of mills and jobs dropped. Even if Trump, his Cabinet and lawmakers change federal forest regulations, Geisinger said he doesn't expect to see new mills opening around Oregon.

Instead, he said timber companies would likely first add shifts and then upgrade their existing mills if the federal government allows more harvest on public lands. It typically costs millions of dollars to build and equip a new mill.

"People are not going to make that investment with a veiled promise that the timber is going to be there," he said.

“Timber is a crucial industry but it has been hammered by — oh, why are we surprised? — by federal regulations, right? Oregon lost three-fourths of its timber mills since 1980. Is that possible? Three-fourths? That is a lot of timber mills, right?”

President-elect Donald Trump

through the power of the people.”

Oregon's delegation

Both senators and four out of five Oregon congressmen are Democrats. U.S. Rep. Greg Walden, R-Hood River, is the lone Republican representing Oregon.

Some in the past have carefully calibrated their positions, calling for more logging on federal lands, but also increased environmental protections — two seemingly contradictory goals.

"Sen. (Ron) Wyden will continue to stand up for clean air and clean water, will keep working to find real solutions to bring jobs back to rural areas and continue fighting to protect Oregon's and the nation's treasured public lands,"

es would take 60 votes in the Senate, and those votes aren't there. However, federal timber harvests can be meaningfully increased in a manner that is entirely consistent with the ESA and Clean Water Act."

The GOP held onto its slim majority in the Senate in last week's election. Republicans have 51 out of the 100 seats and may win one more in a December run-off in Louisiana. Democrats have 46 seats, and independents hold two.

Trump talks timber

During his May visit, Trump read to the audience at the Lane Events Center facts his statisticians compiled for him about Oregon. Timber topped the list.

"Timber is a crucial industry but it has been hammered by — oh, why are we surprised? —

AWARD

Continued from Page A1

She said people with family or neighbors who are elderly or immobile should take care to look out for them.

Part of her service includes training local volunteers to set up disaster shelters and responding to house fires, in-

cluding the September 2015 Mt. Vernon Motel fire, which displaced seven people who resided there.

"That was probably the biggest residential fire we've had," she said.

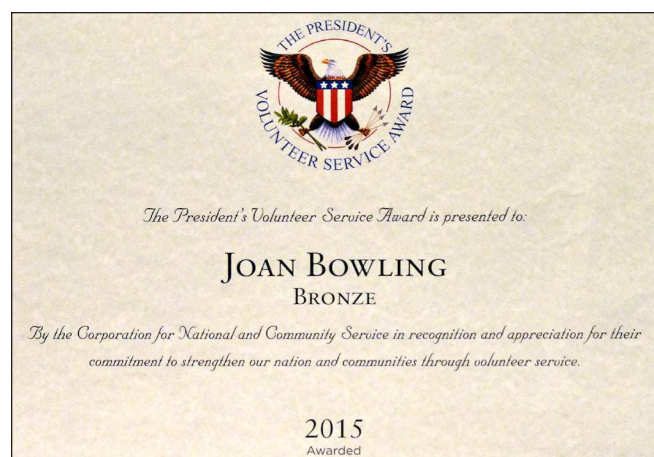
"There have been very few instances where I didn't just have a good feeling about the service that was being done," she added. "You walk away

feeling you're a better person for doing it."

Bowling said the blood drives have brought in some "top notch" people.

"I've enjoyed the association with the people who've come in," she said. "I've come to enjoy the many things the Red Cross does to try to prepare us which has been part of my life, all my life. Looking back, I can see where Red Cross is trying to prepare people — that's what got me started, and I have totally enjoyed it."

The president wrote in his award letter to Bowling,



This is the President's Volunteer Service Award that Joan Bowling received for her volunteer work for Grant County through the American Red Cross.

Contributed photo

Christmas in Mt. Vernon Bazaar

Nov. 25 - 26 • 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Crafters are having a special "Christmas in Mt. Vernon." Opening our homes and businesses to give you the opportunity to continue to shop for those special gifts.

Look for red & green balloons outside our shops and businesses.

- Maudean's** - 1/2 mile N on Hwy. 395 on left
- Patricia's Art Studio** - 311 Ingle St.
- Shiny Thimble** - Corner of 26 & 395
- Julie Powell's Home** - 1/4 mile N of Mt. Vernon on right
- Silver Spur** - Hwy 26 & Ingle
- Suds Pub** - Behind Shiny Thimble

04840

A MAN WAKES UP in the morning after sleeping on... an advertised bed, in advertised pajamas.

He will bathe in an **ADVERTISED TUB**, shave with an **ADVERTISED RAZOR**, have a breakfast of **ADVERTISED JUICE**, cereal and toast, toasted in an **ADVERTISED TOASTER**, put on **ADVERTISED CLOTHES** and glance at his **ADVERTISED WATCH**. He'll ride to work in his **ADVERTISED CAR**, sit at an **ADVERTISED DESK** and write with an **ADVERTISED PEN**. Yet this person hesitates to advertise, saying that advertising doesn't pay. Finally, when his non-advertised business is going under, **HE'LL ADVERTISE IT FOR SALE.**

Then it's too late.

AND THEY SAY ADVERTISING DOESN'T WORK? DON'T MAKE THIS SAME MISTAKE

Advertising is an investment, not an expense. Think about it!

Blue Mountain Eagle MyEagleNews.com

Don't get left behind, call today! Kim Kell 541-575-0710

and our country. ... we need a new era of responsibility — a recognition on the part of every American that we have duties to ourselves, our Nation, and the world. These are duties that we do not grudgingly accept, but rather seize gladly, firm in

the knowledge that there is nothing so satisfying to the spirit than giving our all to a difficult task. Your volunteer service demonstrates the kind of commitment to your community that moves America a step closer to its great promise."

the corner's HOT SHOT OF THE WEEK

TREJAN SPETH

School: Grant Union
Grade: 12
Parents: Steve and Shae Speth
Sport: Cross Country

What I like best about my sport: "I enjoy running with my team. I like running through different areas around Oregon and getting to see all the beautiful wildlife in our state."

Coach's Comment: "Trejan has been a great team leader this year. He stepped up and took charge to get the athletes to the starting line up. He finished the season strong and had a personal best at the district meet."

-Coach Sonna Smith

PROUD SPONSOR OF GRANT COUNTY ATHLETES

100 E. Main • Stoplight in John Day 541-792-0425

The Corner Cup 04849

There's No Place Like Home For The Holidays

We'd like to deliver our sincere best wishes to your door this holiday. May the season bring much happiness, health and good fortune to you and your loved ones.

If you're looking for a home for the holidays and beyond, please keep us in mind. We've been helping area residents find the perfect place to call home for over 10 years.

331 W. Main, John Day
541-575-2710
1-800-575-2710
Fax 541-575-2610

www.RMLS.com
eastoregonrealestate.com
cbjohnday@centurytel.net

Amy Denman
Principal Broker
503-577-7029

Mike Moore
541-620-1645

Al Denman
503-709-0425

Fred Winegar
541-820-3589

Michael B. DesJardin Dentistry, PC

Preventive, Restorative & Endodontics

New Patients Welcome!

208 NW Canton
John Day
541-575-2725
mbddental@live.com
michaeldesjardindmd.com

Timber Truckers Light Parade

December 10th at 6:00 pm
Downtown John Day

Parade Theme
Hometown Christmas

Preregistration is encouraged by calling
Leslie Talor at 541-620-4032 or
541-575-1862
\$10 entry fee

Winner's will be announced at the Elk's Lodge following the parade.

Register day of 3-5:30pm @ Grant Western