

Ike Says . . .

From page 2

1917 navigability declaration because people no longer moved logs down streams. In 1973, the Oregon Legislature (Agriculture Committee) quietly repealed the Montana Access Law. In 1984, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that just because the purpose of a navigability declaration is no longer needed, that does not mean the stream is no longer navigable.

For many people, the defini-

tion of a river being navigable conjures up images of stern-wheelers or large log rafts, but that is not so. Federal and U.S. Supreme court rulings have defined much broader interpretations. All findings come back to the tenet that the river was, or could have been, used for commerce at the time of statehood. Did or could have native Americans used the river to catch fish or travel by canoe? Did or could have a fur trapper used

the stream to move his catch? Did or could have a survey team floated the river to determine its feasibility for log drives? In almost all instances the answer is "yes" on Oregon streams.

The courts have ruled that fishing and recreational boating is a form of commerce. So the issue of whether most of Oregon's streams are navigable, or not, is really not in question. The issue is whether Oregon's

legislators will get off their rears and do the right thing, or will Oregonians have to go to the ballot box to correct this injustice. This problem needs to be resolved, not only for the legal owners (the citizens of Oregon), but also for all the property owners who may be paying taxes on land that may not be theirs.

A new group, CORR (Coalition for Oregon River Rights), has been formed and is spear-

heading the effort to get the use of Oregon streams resolved. CORR's fundamental principal is to reestablish Oregonians' rights to "float, anchor, walk and wade to the high water mark" on all Oregon streams that would be deemed navigable under current law. CORR does not feel it is necessary that navigability is determined and thus title to the rivers may stay as they are. CORR is pre-

See page 16

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