

## Venture

### Old growth

#### WHAT IS OLD GROWTH?

How old growth is defined is in the eye of the beholder, as these official 1988 definitions from the so-called westside national forests in Oregon show:

- **MOUNT HOOD:** Stands 200 years of age or older.
- **ROGUE RIVER:** Stands 10 acres or more in size with mature and overmature trees, a multi-layered canopy and several age classes, and no significant evidence of human activity.
- **SISKIYOU:** Stands 10 acres or more in size showing mature and overmature trees, multi-layered canopies and trees of several age classes, dead and downed woody material, and no significant human impact.
- **SIUSLAW:** Stands more than 10 acres containing four or more large old trees and a younger understory.
- **UMPQUA:** Acres of forestland which have no record of harvest activity.
- **WILLAMETTE:** Stands with diameter breast height 21 inches or greater.

**Source:** Ancient Forests of the Pacific Northwest

## Andrews area open for hiking

By Joyce De Monnin  
Gazette-Times reporter

**BLUE RIVER** — A rare grove of old-growth trees that had been previously accessible only to forest researchers is now open to the public.

Volunteers have built 1.5 miles of Lookout Creek Old-Growth Trail that traverses "classic old growth," said John Cissel, research liaison for the U.S. Forest Service at the H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest near Eugene.

The Andrews is a nationally known old-growth research forest managed cooperatively by Oregon State University, the Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Stations and the Willamette National Forest.

Lookout Creek trail is moderate to difficult in some places, said Cissel. While sections of it are relatively flat, there are several steep pitches that make climbing more difficult, he said.

But the trek will be worth it, he said. Groves of Douglas fir and Western red cedar trees with diameters of four or more feet in diameter abound. One tree of a similar size that had been felled nearby was born about 1276, said Fred Swanson, a researcher with the Forest Service in Corvallis.

The trail is located east of Eugene, three miles east of Blue River. Head north 3.5 miles on Road 15, which goes towards the Blue River reservoir, turn on road 1506 and travel 10 more miles to the trailhead.