


# The Runoff

JULY/AUG 1992

Vol. 14 No. 6



Newsmonthly of the Many Rivers Group of the Sierra Club

MEMBERS IN COOS, DOUGLAS AND LANE COUNTIES

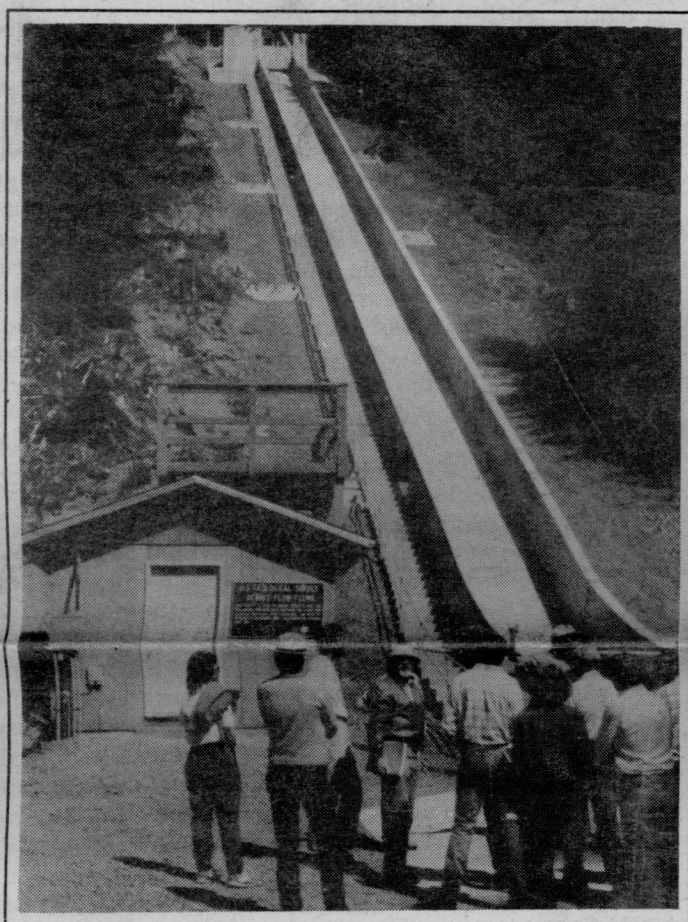


PHOTO BY DAVID CLARKE BURKS

Debris-flow Flume built by the US Geological Survey at H.J. Andrews Experimental Station

ON THE GROUND AT

## The Andrews

A day at the H.J. Andrews Forest Research Station gives insight into changing forest management practices

BY DAVID CLARKE BURKS

*Summer has arrived. It's time to brush off the field guides, waterproof the hiking boots, and take to the woods.*

**A**s you sit down to plan your summer outings to remote lakes and mountain peaks, you might want to include in your itinerary a trip to the H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest near Blue River. Spending a day at this forest research station can yield important insights into the debate currently raging over forest management practices.

At *The Andrews*, scientists from major universities, forest scientists from the National Forest Service, geologists from the US Geological Sur-

vey, social scientists from the Consortium on Social Values for Natural Resources, and a host of others, confer and collaborate on projects related to forest and stream ecosystems. Their explicit goal is to share information concerning methods of preserving biological diversity while ensuring maintenance of the social and economic values of our national forests.

Field tours, lectures, and workshops are offered to a variety of groups throughout the spring and summer. Persons interested in finding out more about forest structure, habitat preservation, and riparian values within the framework of the "New Forestry," and about applications of these concepts within the context of the Forest Service's "New Perspectives" program, can contact the Cascade Center for Ecosystem Management (see *Directions to the H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest*, Page 6) to arrange for a first-hand look at the latest research on these subjects.

*where to go,  
what to do, and  
how to get to  
Summer in Oregon*

**Activities,  
Outings & Events  
Calendar Page 8**

Environmentalists have a continuing responsibility to keep themselves informed in order to inform others. The debate over new forest practices is heating up; value judgments are being made. Politicians are leaning on scientists to give them direction in the debate over "owls versus jobs." It is critical that the environmental constituency play a solid role in establishing the priorities. Our ability to respond effectively to proposed initiatives is contingent upon a clear understanding of the issues and the terms of the debate.

*The Andrews* continues on Page 4

## Slippin' into Summer

Discover some of the best Hikin' and Campin':  
Outings to Oregon's unique natural wonders

Aaron  
Braatz  
cools off  
in  
Siuslaw  
Falls,  
near  
Loraine.



See  
page 5  
for  
details  
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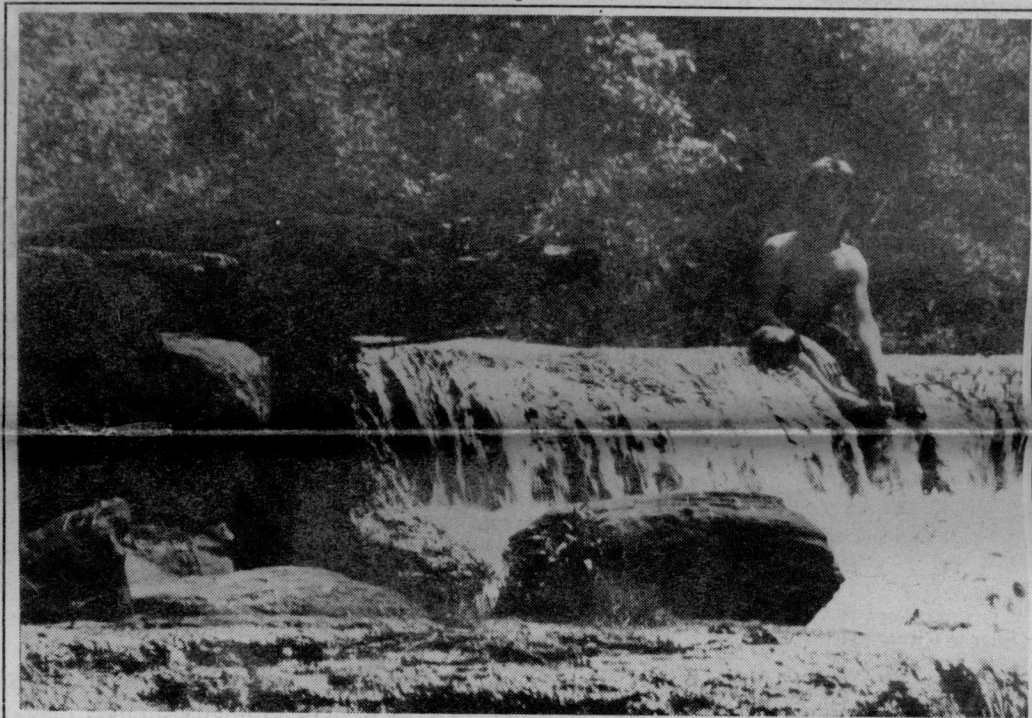


PHOTO BY ANNA M. HENRY

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The Sierra Club is a nonprofit  
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conservation of the natural  
environment by influencing public  
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For 100 years, Sierra Club has  
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## FROM THE CHAIR

Hal Hushbeck

What is the nature . . . ?

The month of June was filled with meetings and travel for me. I traveled to Bend for the Chapter Excomm meeting. The town has grown to become a strip mall along Highway 97 surrounded by creeping ranchette developments. There are still parts of downtown that feel quaint. And on a warm Summer night it's easy to ignore the sprawl by lifting your eyes to that beautiful Cascade Range backdrop.

I traveled to San Juan Island to experience the rain we had been missing here, spent a day with my son, and made the two-day Regional Conservation Committee meeting in Seattle. This trip took me through Portland and Seattle twice which really impressed on me the extent to which the Pacific Northwest has been paved over and developed. The human tendency to escape the fouled nest has created an inevitable migration to the once spacious Pacific Northwest with its wonderful quality-of-life image. But the image and the reality are no longer the same as I knew instinctively but have re-confirmed in the images floating through my mind. The images and a few questions:

What is the nature of our imagined self-respect if we attribute to ourselves superior intellect and willful capacity, while over-populating our beautiful country?

What part do Sierra Clubbers play in this scenario?...

I'm looking forward to getting out this Summer.

I won't be escaping though.

I will be carrying those questions, Through the Ancient Forest of the Cascades,

Through the juniper-sage-bunchgrass Serengetti of the John Day,

And into the pine forest alongside the marshes of the Williamson.

In those places I'll be most open

To finding the strength I need to answer.

See you there maybe.

But see you when we get back, for sure!

TAKE A HIKE!

## Wanted: Advertising Coordinator

Volunteer sought to coordinate advertising

The MRG is looking for a volunteer to coordinate the inclusion of various new advertising entries by talking with businesses about advertising in the *Runoff*. In the past, revenue from advertisements has met roughly half of our newsletter production costs. So far, we have been able to make up the rest with our quarterly dues allocation from the Oregon Chapter. Charlie Ogle, the previous coordinator, has taken on a number of other issues and responsibilities in the group. Although he doesn't have time to do justice to the position, he has offered to help another volunteer take on this essential task. I want to thank Charlie for covering this job in the past.

We encourage someone to step forward, to fill the position. Hal Hushbeck

**The Runoff will return in September.  
We hope you enjoy your summer**

## REGIONAL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE (RCC) MEETING

BY HAL HUSHBECK

The Regional RCC meeting in Seattle on June 13 - 14 provided valuable information on the progress of various conservation campaigns in the region. Delegates from Montana, Idaho, Washington State, and Oregon were present. Progress reports from each delegate sets the stage for conservation strategy and policy formation for the Sierra Club in the Pacific Northwest. Though many issues were covered at this meeting, a few were of special interest for the Many Rivers Group.

### POLITICS

Though many RCC delegates had favorable things to say about Gov. Clinton's environmental staff, the Sierra Club has not endorsed him. Nor have they endorsed the "environmental president," or H. Ross Perot as yet.

In an election year the Sierra Club is interested in building bridges with viable candidates, and providing campaign assistance to those who have demonstrated a progressive environmental agenda. RCC Chair John Albrecht encouraged everyone to get personally involved rather than contribute money in campaigns of candidates who are environmentally active. This offers them a better value than money, and we get better exposure for our environmental perspectives in their camp.

### FORESTRY

Both Oregon's Representative Peter DeFazio and Western Washington's Representative (Speaker of the House) Tom Foley are stonewalling the Miller-Vento Ancient Forest bill (the better of the two likely House bills) in the Interior Committee. Given their easy re-election races and key positions in the House and the northwest congressional delegation, both congressmen appear to be out of reach for appeals for appropriate forest legislation.

Unfortunately, the entrenched political power in the Northwest is associated closely with the resource extraction industries (except in the large urban areas of Portland and Seattle.) Even though volunteer Ancient Forest activists in Rep. Foley's dis-

Continues next column



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Now is the time to take action to protect our home planet. For 100 years, Sierra Club members have been at the forefront of environmental citizen action. Through effective Congressional lobbying, education and litigation, Sierra Club members shape public policy on issues like global warming, wilderness and rainforest protection, toxic waste, clean air and water.

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**Continued from page 2 Report: RCC MEETING**

trict have bought billboards, and covered the populated areas of his district with door hangers educating his constituents to his sellout to the timber interests on the Colville National Forest, Congressman Foley persists in obstructing the passage of a credible Ancient Forest bill through the House.

Our own Rep. Peter DeFazio has not been able to find a way to lead his political-power base (timber industry, unions, forest management agencies, and county governments and taxpayers addicted to federal timber receipts) away from an unsustainable timber cut on public lands. Though Rep. DeFazio's substitute Ancient Forest legislation might be considered a serious attempt at compromise; consensus at the RCC was that the bill's last minute timing, lack of specific reserve designation, and failure to provide the protection afforded by current law (if adhered to), left no room for our support. We are still open to discussions with Rep. DeFazio and encourage him to find some accommodation with Interior Committee Chair, Rep. Miller on the Miller-Vento bill.

**WATER, ELECTRICITY, SALMON RECOVERY**

Jim Baker has joined the Club's regional staff to work on the Save Our wild Salmon (SOS) campaign. At the RCC meeting he briefed delegates on the current state of the Columbia main stem and Snake River campaigns. In short, Jim explained that the test Snake River draw-down to flush the salmon smolts through the dams was successful, while losing a minimal amount of the area's potential electricity and demonstrating the repair and hardening needs of facilities associated with the affected reservoirs.

Changes in governorships in November's election may favorably change the make-up of the Northwest Power Planning Council. This should allow for more progressive changes in the Northwest's power generation regime and its effect on the natural environment, especially salmon habitat.

Some aspects of the salmon issue have been introduced through various Runoff articles by our own Salmon Issue Coordinator Mari Baldwin, and Energy Issue Coordinator Marriner Orum. At the RCC meeting Jim Baker agreed to present a program this fall or winter here in Eugene to bring us up to date and help organize our wild salmon efforts.

**PUBLIC LANDS GRAZING POLICY**

The Sierra Club's Public Lands Grazing Policy is up for review. A draft policy statement drawn up by Rose Strickland of the Club's Grazing Committee has been circulating through the Northwest but hasn't been voted up or down, or modified for submission to the National Board for approval. Members of the Oregon Chapter Excomm discussed the draft policy one week prior to the RCC meeting, and determined that they were not ready to offer a consensus draft alternative to the RCC. At the Excomm, various Groups offered tentative language changes, but there was insufficient time for discussion.

Those suggested policy changes were also distributed to RCC delegates. Initial responses revealed differences in opinions and awareness. All of the responses were intelligent and appropriate for developing a regional perspective.

RCC Chair Albrecht advised interested parties to submit responses to the draft directly to Rose Strickland, and to the interested grazing network in the region to develop agreement on language and subsequent policy endorsement by Chapters and the RCC. As a result, the Oregon Chapter will hold a grazing policy discussion on July 12, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., at Charlie Ogle's residence in Eugene (683-4499).

Obviously much more was discussed at this RCC meeting. The Club's regional staff reported on their efforts in the region and in Washington D.C. These meetings are a rare opportunity to gain perspective from the grassroots in all these states and the National Sierra Club at one time. The Oregon Chapter is represented by Chapter Chair Dave Mazza and At-large members Liz Frenkel, and John Albrecht. Hal Hushbeck is the Chapter's designated alternate.

All members are always invited and welcome.

**JUNIPER GROUP SIERRA CLUB INVITES US TO HELP THEM ADOPT-A-LAKE**

The Juniper Group has been rejuvenated of late, and is getting a lot of positive publicity through their volunteer activity in natural areas around Bend.

Recently they participated in a major river clean-up with various other concerned groups, dragging everything from car bodies to grocery carts out of the deep Crooked River Gorge.

Following up their successful restoration of the camper impacted area around Moraine Lake last year, they are inviting us to join them in adopting the area around Horse Lake, an area also suffering from extensive overuse. This will take more than one trip, so you can pick and choose your opportunity to share some time with Juniper Group members. Check the calendar for July's date, and call Chuck Engle (388-2537) for more information for this and future Adopt-a-Lake outings.

The September *Runoff* will focus on East-side forests, and Desert issues

The October *Runoff* will cover Urban Ecology, Forestry, and other environmental issues

# Outdoor Adventures Start Here

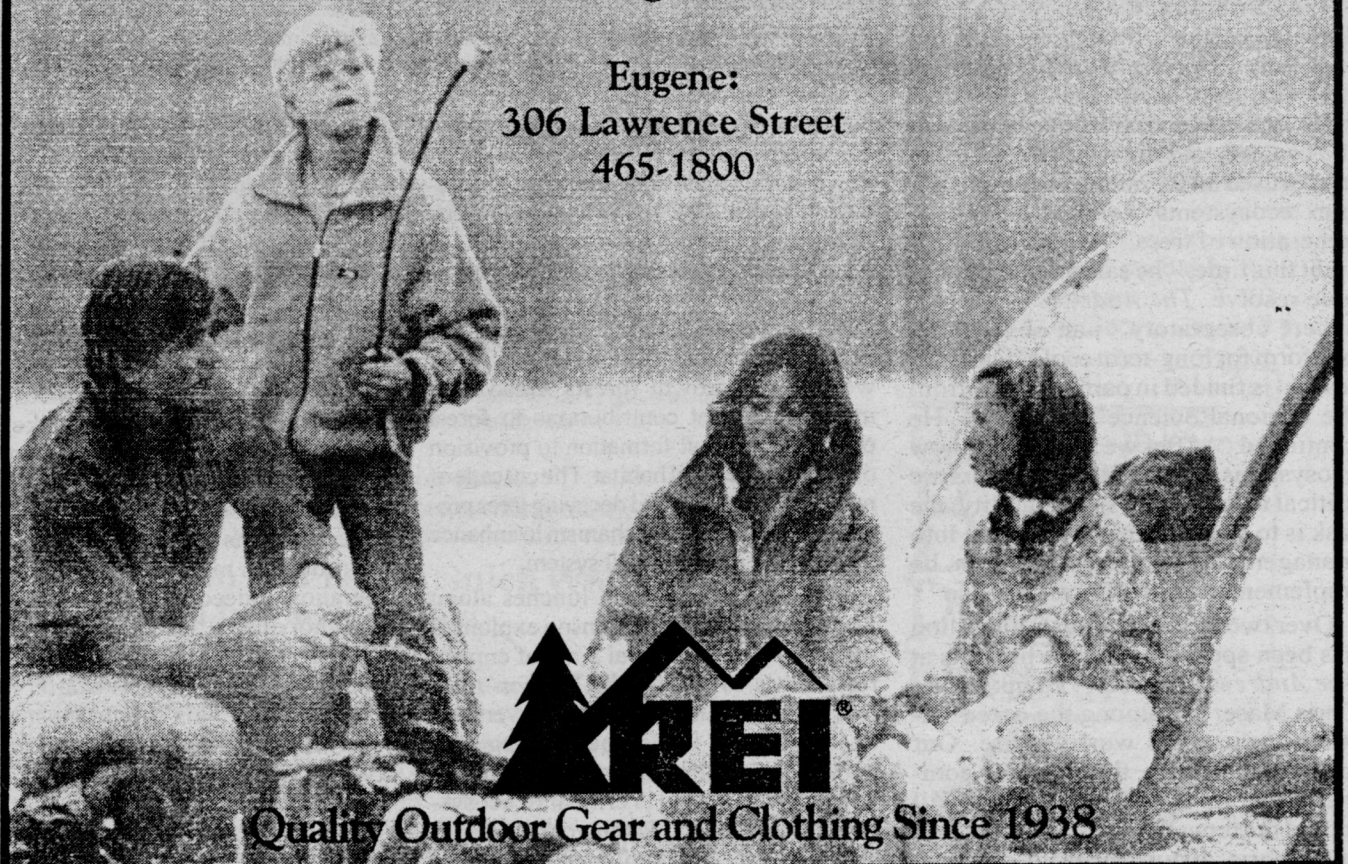
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AUG 15 Many Rivers Group

## ANCIENT FOREST OUTING

### Shale Ridge Trail

Hal Hushbeck will lead a day trip to the Shale Ridge Trail on Saturday, August 15. We will carpool from the Amazon Community Center parking lot at 8 a.m.—return around 5 p.m. Bring your lunch, water, weather gear, bug repellent, and \$'s for gas if you need a ride. Call Hal (933-2415) for information.

### An Excerpt from Wendall Wood's *A Walking Guide to Oregon's Ancient Forests*

BY HAL HUSHBECK

You may find a few places while exploring the National Forests that have only been names in the news. Often these communities have been associated with the closing of a mill, or

serious reduction of timber related economic activity.

Westfir, near Oakridge, is one such community. The town's mill workers tried to keep their mill open by organizing a buy-out. That effort has failed for many reasons. The dislocated timber workers have had to find new jobs, and form different life goals in our fast moving and highly competitive world.

These folks were instrumental in removing and processing much of the natural forest in the valley of the North Fork of the Middle Fork Willamette River before the Westfir mill was shut down. A trip up this valley will expose the traveler to forest conditions that

exemplify the arguments used by both

sides in the Ancient Forest debacle. Between clearcuts and fire, the watershed has been converted to primarily second-growth Douglas-fir monoculture. Now it is becoming an eye-pleasing green carpet of potentially high-value commodity. Except for the

more recent scars, the ragged angular clearcut patterns in the landscape, and the displacement of the natural old growth ecosystem, it would not be hard to see why this could be considered an appropriate use of the land.

For contrast though, it would be best to see some of the original forest that is left at the top of this drainage.

We referred to Wendall Wood's *A Walking Guide to Oregon's Ancient Forests* for a guide to this area. Wendall spent two years racing all over Oregon looking at what is left of our natural heritage. In the book's dedication to his wife Kathy he writes:

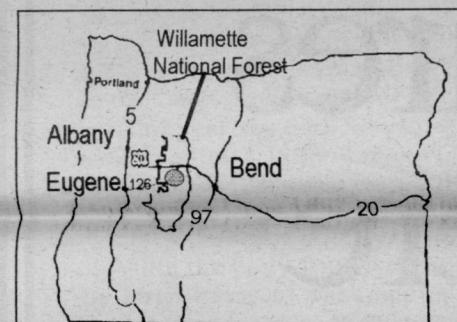
*"The breakneck pace at which we often travelled from one place to the next is not the way the reader (or any sane person) would seek to spend their vacation or to fully enjoy the ancient forest groves, trails, wildflowers, waterfalls and other places of beauty described herein. Yet the descriptions contained in these pages are, in too many cases, still a race against time. The question remains: will our society and the nation come to appreciate the irreplaceable value of North America's and the world's only remaining temperate rain forests, before most of these last cathedrals are forever gone?"*

### Shale Ridge Trail

Continued on Page 8

Continued from Page 1

## The Andrews



The Andrews—Located within the Blue River district of the National Forest

A recent field tour of the H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest on a warm Saturday in May is loosely sketched in the following commentary.

### A Day in The Andrews

Fred Swanson, the ecosystem team leader with the US Dept. of Agriculture Forest Service Research Station, met our party at 10 a.m. at the field station headquarters. He explained that the projects underway at *The Andrews* are focused on the maintenance of complex ecosystems, not just on the regeneration of trees. "We want to do it right this time," he said with considerable resolve. *The Andrews* is a "biosphere observatory"—an observation platform for long-term ecological studies that is funded in part by grants from the National Science Foundation. He continued, "After we understand how ecosystems work, and what factors are critical to landscape sustainability, the task is to translate that knowledge into management standards that can be implemented by the Forest Service."

Over two decades about \$30 million has been spent on research projects at *The Andrews*. Drs. Jerry Franklin and Chris Maser are among the noted scientists who have worked here. Our group was shown the recently completed Debris-Flow Flume, which will model the repercussions of avalanches and debris disturbances in streams. Funding for this project came from the US Geological Survey.

**Patchwork management must be replaced with an understanding that biological processes are truly interdependent. . . what occurs on one site will have lasting repercussions across the landscape.**

### Owls, the bellwether

Our second stop, about two miles from headquarters, was in an old-growth grove comprised of Douglas fir, western hemlock, and Pacific yew. Keith Swendel, of the Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit at Corvallis, offered an overview of studies currently underway on the northern spotted owl (Photo-Page 6). Projects studying the owls' foraging behavior and reproduction in relation to prey abundance, habitat needs, etc. are underway to develop an integrated picture of this bellwether species. Understanding why and how owls use old-growth forest habitats is necessary in order to frame appropriate measures to protect this important "indicator species."

Mark Harmon of Oregon State University is working on a 200-year study of the contributions to forest ecology of down woody material—fallen logs and decaying snags. The earlier viewpoint that old-growth, mature trees, and down logs were merely useless artifacts in a decadent biological desert is being challenged, and conclusive evidence points to the fact that rich biological processes are at work in old-growth forests. Dead trees make significant contributions to forest ecology, from soil formation to provision of insect and animal habitat. The cascade of nutrients from dead and decaying trees provides a slow release mechanism to enhance the viability of the overall system.

While we ate our bag lunches along Lookout Creek, Fred Swanson explained that one of the principal aims of current research is to extend the horizon from local, small-scale management oversight to larger-scale landscape and regional perspectives. The linkage between watersheds and basins is critical to ecosystems preservation. Patchwork management must be replaced with an understanding that biological processes are truly interdependent, and that what

occurs on one site will have lasting repercussions across the landscape. Streams and riparian corridors are key examples of this observation. Vegetative cover, temperature, turbidity, structural elements—such as logs in streams, and other factors affect a host of interactions that impinge upon forest ecosystems.

The afternoon was spent with Blue River District Ranger Lynn Burditt and Assistant Ranger John Cissel. They demonstrated how the Forest Service is attempting to apply the results of studies undertaken at *The Andrews* on the ground in the Blue River District of the Willamette National Forest.

As we drove up the ridge bordering the Mona Creek basin drainage we were shown recent cuts that left more structure (standing green trees and down, woody debris) on harvest sites in order to attempt to maintain natural conditions. The Forest Service is attempting to reorder its management practices to recognize values of bio-diversity and long-term site productivity. Balancing society's desire for wood products while maintaining ecosystem viability is not an easy task.

The current prescriptions for timber harvest must be overhauled to sustain forest health and diversity. "Adaptive management" is the watchword. The old economic model of sustained yield must give way to a new model based on ecosystem sustainability. As John Cissel remarked, "The landscape should tell us where, and if, cutting should take place. Prescriptive harvest levels are no longer meaningful."

If the New Forestry is to have any utility as the new cornerstone of forest management practices, it will take open-minded and thoughtful people like Lynn and John to lead the effort on the ground. An essential prerequisite to their effectiveness is a societal acknowledgment that ecosystems come first and commodity production must be a secondary consideration. Indeed, as recently stated by a co-author of the "Gang of Four" report, OSU Professor Norm Johnson, this will entail the creation of a new charter for the Forest Service. This charter must codify a reordering of priorities to engrave preservation as the foremost principal guiding actions in our nation's National Forests. Without such a clear mandate, timber interests will continue to harvest our future for short-term gain. —END

See also *Directions to The Andrews*, P 6

PHOTOS BY ANNA M. HENRY



## Summer exhibits at WISTEC: Unique

BY PHYLLIS BURKES

During the summer when the weather is not right for a hike to the Science Museum, offers visual displays that provide unique a

Birders and others who frequently use binoculars on demonstrates the mechanics of three-dimensional vision. You scientific principles governing how we see the world. The cur

**A Walk Through**—A journey through the interactive exhibit display in the series, *Illusions of Depth—the Stereo Photographs* of the same image from slightly different angles. You see both views simultaneously. The brain creates an illusion of

As you look at an object, each of your eyes sees that object from your true eye, is focused straight ahead, while the other, called different angle. This difference in visual perspective allows you to create a perception of depth.

Now look carefully at the *Wall of Cubes* on the opposite wall. inverted. Your eyes are fooled by misleading "shadows" past three-dimensional solids. The related exhibit, *Faces*, shows how reality the face is inverted. The inverted face seems to follow

**Other interactive displays** demonstrating illusions of depth: *Distorted Room*, and *Impossible Figures*. The *Color and Contrast* our perceptions of color are regulated.

**Binocular Vision**—Binocular vision is the ability to create simultaneous on an object. The eyes create different images from same direction. Binoculars aid your vision by magnifying the perception, because the lenses are more widely spaced than your more clearly where the object is in relation to its surroundings and without the aid of your binoculars. You'll find you not only perceive where it is more accurately.

**WISTEC INFO:** 2300 Leo Harris Parkway, next to Auto Mall. Members - Free, Families - \$6., Adults - \$3, Youth - \$2, A



## Explore Oregon's High Desert: Guano Creek

Mule deer find cover along the juniper-clad rimrock, pronghorn roam the sagebrush expanses, and raptors patrol on outstretched wings in search of the three "R's": rodents, rabbits, and reptiles.

BY ELAINE REES

So you've hiked Steens Mountain, birded Malheur Wildlife Refuge, and explored Diamond Craters. Maybe you've even driven the extra miles to photograph Leslie Gulch on the Owyhee River. You've gotten the scent of sagebrush in your nostrils, and a hankering for that lonesome landscape of eastern Oregon. Where do you go now?

Well, there are many special places on the high desert—places more secret and solitary, where the city-dweller can re-tune the ear to the sigh of the wind, and the eye to the subtle movement of cloud shadows on the landscape, or a coyote loping along the rimrock, and grasses nodding in the breeze. One of these special places is Guano Creek in Lake County.

### Guano Creek

Guano Creek originates on Hart Mountain at an elevation of about 7,000 feet and flows southeast to the open basin of Guano Valley. Its journey begins in the Hart Mountain National Wildlife Refuge, administered by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. After approximately 12 miles the creek flows onto Bureau of Land Management

(BLM) land, and into an impoundment—Jacobs Reservoir. Below this reservoir Guano Creek enters a picturesque canyon studded with juniper. During spring and early summer, and in years of normal rainfall, the canyon is decorated with blossoms of wild iris and checkermallow. Delicate ferns nestle in damp shadows of the basalt.

Guano Creek Canyon is surrounded by over 10,000 acres of roadless high desert country. The BLM identified this area as a Wilderness Study Area (WSA) at the beginning of its wilderness scoping process. Now with the process complete, the Guano Creek WSA has been recommended by BLM to the Secretary of the Interior for inclusion in the Wilderness Preservation System. As described in the Oregon High Desert Protection Act, the WSA, the east portion of Hart Mt. National Wildlife Refuge, and acreages to the south and east make up the proposed 219,850-acre Pronghorn Wilderness.

### Rare Plants and Endangered Species

Guano Creek WSA, though relatively small in size, is home to two rare plants and an endangered species of fish. On the eastern side of the WSA, both *Eriogonum crosbyae* (Crosby's buckwheat), an attractive plant with flowers like bright yellow pom-poms, and *Ivesia rhypara*, a pincushion-like member of the rose family, can be found on tuffaceous soils. Both of these species have evolved on, and are especially adapted to substrates that are uncommon, hence they have special status. The Sheldon Tui chub, which inhabits Guano Creek, also has a very limited distribution, but is threatened with extinction by the effects of livestock grazing. The fish is a candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act, as is the sage grouse, another resident of this area. The profusion of grouse droppings along the rim of the canyon attests to the high concentration of these

(game) birds during the winter months.

The uplands to the north of Guano Creek, in particular, are excellent wildlife habitat. Mule deer find cover along the juniper-clad rimrock, pronghorn roam the sagebrush expanses, and raptors patrol on outstretched wings in search of the three "R's": rodents, rabbits, and reptiles. There is a prairie falcon nest on one of the white cliffs in the eastern half of the study area.

Several years ago the two natural sink lakes north of the canyon were proposed as a Research Natural Area (RNA). The emergent vegetation attracted mallard, pintail, gadwall, shoveller, Canada geese and other waterfowl to nest and feed during the wet years. Recent drought and ongoing livestock grazing have impacted the vegetation, and interest in RNA designation has flagged. Still, these sink-like depressions are of interest to "desert rats" if for no other reason than that they lack the bulldozed waterholes that mar almost every other ephemeral lakebed in eastern Oregon.

Jacobs Reservoir, just above the Guano WSA, is one of the less offensive water impoundments on the Lakeview BLM District. The reservoir is large enough to be scenic, and small enough to look natural. In wet years a healthy border of emergent vegetation at shoreline can mean ducks, insect hatches, and consequently beavies of swallows, and other insectivorous birds. Listen, too, for the chance to hear and see the spotted sandpiper.

### Grazing

The southern boundary of the Hart Mountain Refuge is beyond the reservoir. Until last year cattle routinely grazed in the refuge. Drought conditions in 1991 prompted the refuge manager to suspend grazing. A lawsuit filed by the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, National Wildlife Federation, Oregon Natural Resources Council, Oregon Natural Desert Association, and other conservation groups challenged the Fish and Wildlife Service's policy of allowing grazing without having assessed the impacts to the wildlife species for which the refuge was established. This lack of assessment brought a court injunction against the grazing of domestic livestock until an Environmental Impact Statement has been prepared.

As this is the second cow-free season on the Hart Mountain Refuge, it is an especially good time to visit. Grasses are growing lush and tall, and riparian areas, like Guano Creek, are rebounding. However, the effects of continued drought on the ecosystem are apparent. Those who wish to compare grazed and ungrazed portions of the sagebrush steppe ecosystem have an excellent opportunity in the Guano Creek watershed this year, and probably for a couple of years to come. —END  
See also, *Getting to Guano Creek*, P 7

## Searching for Summer

*"For a moment, the beauty before you is the only thing that exists"*

There is fun in searching for those out-of-the-way places. Siuslaw Falls is one of those places worth finding. Siuslaw Falls is a natural fish ladder—the rocks are layered in stair-step fashion. Broadleaf and fir trees line the waters edge. The roar of the water cascading over the rocks captures your attention, and your mind begins to wander—for a moment, the beauty before you is the only thing that exists.

To find the falls head to Loraine, Oregon on Territorial Road. Territorial intersects Highway 126 in Veneta, and Loraine Highway west of Eugene. Bear right at the second gas station in Loraine, heading west. Follow this winding road through open farm land and low hills. You will cross several low bridges. After the third bridge watch carefully for a small sign on the right that says "Siuslaw Falls." A quarter-mile down this narrow road, a wide area under some tall firs allows for parking. A lone picnic table sits near the short trail to the falls. Walk slowly and look closely off the beaten path to find yourself surrounded by an abundance of native wild flowers and berries. Be adventurous, pack a lunch, and discover some real Oregon beauty.

Writer Anna Henry is a native Oregonian who has a great respect for the outdoors.

### Siuslaw Falls

### ue, interactive visual displays

to Kentucky Falls, don't fret; WISTEC, the Lane County and useful insights into natural phenomena.

outings will especially appreciate this exhibit, which don't have to be a rocket scientist to understand the exhibit is perfect for some hands-on experience.

*Illusions of Depth, Seeing in 3-D.* Step up to the first graph. Each image on the screen is composed of two most people see a three-dimensional image because they of depth because the photos are slightly different.

om a slightly different angle. One eye, sometimes called the following eye, observes the same object from a e to see depth, just as the slightly different photographs

What appears as a set of large cubes in relief are actually ited on the cubes, and by an expectation that cubes are ow shadows give the illusion of a face in relief when in our gaze as you move from right to left, or low to high. th and three-dimensional viewing are *Wide Eyes*, the *for Vision* exhibit demonstrates what color is, and how

ghtly different images in each eye while both eyes focus because the eyes are relatively close and pointed in the e image and by providing better stereo-scopic depth ur eyes. As a result you see a larger image, and you see Next time you're hiking test your depth perception with see that osprey or ruffed grouse more clearly, you also

en Stadium in Alton Baker Park—Wed - Sun, 12-6 p.m. ge 3 and under-Free. 484-9027 (recording).



## Take a Hike

The High Desert Wilderness Committee invites you to join our wilderness study trips to the high desert of southeastern Oregon. Our objectives are to photograph, take notes, and explore Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Wilderness Study Areas (WSA's) and non-WSA's for future Congressional action.

Contact the trip leader listed for each trip for details.

The free *High Desert Checklist* will help you prepare for these trips. Contact Lew Curtis, C/O Sierra Club, Oregon Chapter, 1413 SE Hawthorne Blvd., Portland OR 97214.

### Blue Canyon and Leslie Gulch WSA's July 2, Thursday to July 6, Monday

This trip will focus on two WSA's with special features:

- The rugged topography of the Blue Canyon WSA, with dramatic rock outcrops, cliffs, spires, and incised canyons provide excellent nesting habitat for raptors.
- Upper Leslie Gulch WSA offers spectacular geologic formations. It supports Rocky Mountain elk and bighorn sheep. We will car camp, and do some day hiking.

Trip leader: Bill Hart - Work: 222-1661 Home: 236-8058

### Rincon • Basque Hills • Blitzen River WSA's September 12, Saturday to September 20, Sunday

Contact Lew Curtis - Work: 226-3099 Home: 234-3405

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# Sandy's corner

by Sandy Tepfer

- Outings and the Sierra Club
- "explore, enjoy, and protect"

Perspectives of a former Director

## Outings and the Sierra Club

When the Club was founded 100 years ago by John Muir and a group of his friends, it was a love of the wilderness that motivated them. That small group of outdoor enthusiasts, finding that civilization was encroaching upon their cherished wild places, realized that there was no need to sit back silently and watch their beloved mountains be destroyed as development in California proceeded. They reasoned that unless the good people of the state would get to know the natural beauty and excitement of the magnificent Sierra Nevada, there would be no demand to slow down or prevent this encroachment. Thus, in the summer of 1901, an excursion to Yosemite National Park was organized by William Colby to show people the pleasures of the mountains, and to educate them on the need for their preservation. This was the first of an annual series of "High Trips" that continued past the middle of the century.

In later years many additional choices of outings were offered each year, and finally the old High Trips were discontinued because of limitations on the size of parties established (properly) by the National Park Service, the Forest Service, and other agencies. In view of the Club's celebration of its centennial this year, the Park Service cooperated to allow a "reenactment" of the original trip.

## Centennial Yosemite Trip

While the early trips were serviced by large trains of pack animals, and included as many as 150 participants, this reenactment will be limited to a more reasonable size and will be serviced by vans on regular roads. Base camps will be set up first in Yosemite Valley, and then in Tuolumne Meadows, as in the original trip, but only a few participants will make the 24-mile trip between those points on foot, climbing 3,000 feet in 12 miles each day. The others will be transported by van or bus. Through the years that followed the first High Trip, strong beliefs developed that citizens would not support preservation and limitations on development unless citizens had developed an appreciation of the values that would be lost with destruction of the wilderness.

The statement of purpose of the Sierra Club is to "explore, enjoy, and protect" the mountains and the wild places. Outings relate to all of our reasons to exist! Today, we are better known nationally as the outstanding, all-purpose environmental organization. However, to some of our members outings are a side alley—to be followed or not in our pursuit of protection of not only the wild places, but of the environment in all of its meanings. Our list of priority issues today includes all of the traditional public lands areas, but it also includes the problems of pollution, and degradation of our planet. Our most experienced activists firmly believe that members who joined the Club in order to participate in outings are the ones who stay on board the longest, and who become the most ardent protectors of the environment—our activists and our leaders.

During the first half of the century, the Sierra Club was primarily a California organization. While serving in the army in the Second World War, stationed in the San Francisco Bay Area, the center of Sierra Club history and activity, my wife Bert and I found ourselves participating in several Club activities, including hiking, skiing, and rock climbing. In 1945 we became members.

## Chapters' History and Goals

The first chapter of the Club outside California, the Atlantic Chapter (the name survives now only in the State of New York) was formed in the early '50s covering all of the states east of the Rocky Mountains. It was soon followed in 1954 by the Pacific Northwest Chapter that included every state, province, and territory north of California up to Alaska and extending east to Montana and Alberta. By that time a number of chapters were established in California, and after 20 years the Club had membership coverage in all 50 states and in Canada.

Now there are 58 chapters including Delaware, the latest to be formed and recently split off from the Potomac Chapter, which now consists only of Maryland and the District of Columbia. Long ago, the Board of Directors decided that we would not encourage the formation of more than one chapter in any state, but would allow existing multiple-chapter states to continue that arrangement. Now only two chapters include more than one state: Dakotah (2 states), and New England (5 states).

Most chapters have formed local or regional groups as we have in Oregon. Many chapters and groups also have established activity sections, which specialize in skiing, ski-mountaineering, scuba, river rafting, etc. Each chapter, activity section, and most groups also have extensive outing programs, well advertised and attended. In addition, the National Outing Program has grown so that in 1992 there are about 350 trips with a total capacity of 5,085 participants. Through the past month 28,491 requests for detailed brochures for individual outings were requested. In many chapters and groups there are a large number of outings each WEEK!

In the Oregon Chapter only a few chapter outings are held each MONTH, and in the Many Rivers Group only a

## Directions to H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest

(Related story: The Andrews, P1)

If you are interested in a first-hand look at what issues are framing the ongoing debate about forest practices, follow up with a visit to the H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest. A visit to The Andrews provides one opportunity to understand how we might be able to do it right this time.

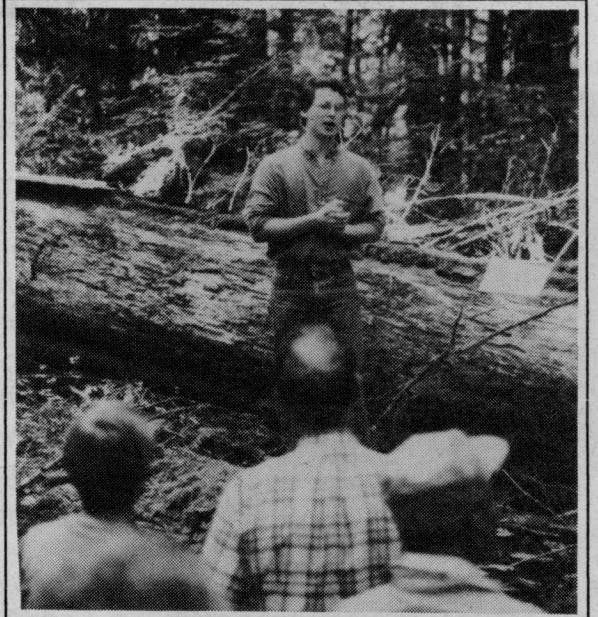


PHOTO BY DAVID CLARKE BURKS

Keith Swendel speaks with group at The Andrews.

The H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest is 50 miles east of Eugene, located within the Blue River Ranger District of the Willamette National Forest. From the intersection of Interstate 105 and Highway 126 East in Springfield, proceed east 50 miles up the McKenzie River Valley. Approximately 2 miles beyond the community of Blue River, turn left at the sign to Blue River Reservoir on Road 125. Signs at the reservoir's north end lead you to headquarters.

You can arrange to join a group, to receive published materials, or to receive answers to questions you have concerning specific projects. Write or Call:

**Blue River Ranger District, Blue River, OR 97413 (503) 822-3317**

John Cissel

Cascade Ctr for Ecosystem Management

Lynn Burditt, District Ranger

Blue River Ranger District

A valuable resource person on research projects at H.J. Andrews:

Frederick Swanson, Ecosystem Team Leader

Pacific Northwest Research Station, 300 Jefferson Way, Corvallis 97331 (503) 750-7355

## An exquisite 2 mile day-hike into an old-growth forest:

Follow Forest Service Road 1506 approximately 10 miles east from the north end of the reservoir to a spot beyond Cold Creek (watch for a sign on the right). A well-maintained trail leads into a splendid grove of 400-500 year-old Douglas fir, western hemlock, and western red cedar. Bring lunch, wear sturdy boots, and leave no trace. A map is available at the Blue River Ranger Station.

## Sandy's Corner

Continued from previous column

few are held each YEAR. What I am leading up to is to urge our chapter and group to greatly expand our outings list. By not doing so we are losing the best established method of increasing our membership and therefore our influence, and additionally depriving ourselves of the best quality members, based on overall Club experience that tells us the outing enthusiasts remain active for the longest time, frequently throughout their lives. In order to encourage people to become activists for the environment, outings should not be limited to visiting troubled areas. We should provide the means for our members to explore and to enjoy they will learn to protect.

The Tepfer family has always been a hiking, backpacking, and skiing family, with significant loss of frequency during times of raising small children, and in our later years, but we are still at it. Bert and I take local walks for an hour five days each week, and in addition hike for a half day or full day at least one day of most weekends. One day during the 3-day Memorial Day holiday we climbed Iron Mountain to see the spring flowers; another day we hiked from McKenzie Pass to South Mathieu Lake for the intellectual stimulation of the natural beauty of the area, and for conditioning us for the Centennial Outing to Yosemite. We will depart for that outing before this appears in print. [Outing 92227, catalog page 75, January/February issue of SIERRA.]

In recent years I have been co-leader of two Club outings to Paris, France, and a third is planned for September 1993—to be announced for the first time in the next issue of SIERRA.

**Hope to see you all soon on outings!**

## Notable Book

### International Banks and the Environment Growth to Sustainability: An Unfinished Agenda

Authors: Raymond F. Mikesell  
Lawrence F. Williams


Sierra Club Books, © 1992, \$30  
100 Bush St., San Francisco CA 94104

**"Bank bashing is not the purpose of the book. . . We believe that these institutions are making progress in safeguarding the environment in the projects they support, but that this process is moving too slowly."** — Mikesell and Williams

Co-author Professor Ray Mikesell is an MRG member. He teaches economics at the University of Oregon, and is chair of the Sierra Club's Economic Committee. Lawrence Williams is director of the Sierra Club's International Program. He was a staff member of the White House Council on Environmental Quality during the Carter administration.

Description excerpted from cover jacket.

Mikesell and Williams review in detail the ecological and human consequences of projects supported by development banks over the past three decades. They analyze the problems associated with agricultural projects, forestry programs, and development initiatives for mining, livestock, power, infrastructure. The authors explain not only how environmental principles can be integrated with traditional development policies and practices, but also how the banks can actively promote sustainable resource development in programs initiated by Third World governments and non-governmental agencies.



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## EXPLORATIONS

Peggy Robinson

## Biological Diversity Conference, Part II

Last month I wrote about the new scientific information that came out of the Biodiversity Conference (April 25), sponsored by the Cascade Center for Ecosystem Management. This month I focus on presentations by Forest Service managers.

## The New Scientific Information

Lynn Burditt, the district ranger in Blue River, spoke on "Applying New Information to Forest Management." She said, we know that "what you leave behind is as important as what you take from the forest." We have learned that clearcutting doesn't mimic wildfire very well (a change in thinking confessed by many of the expert speakers at the workshop). Most natural fires leave more woody debris on the ground than is usually left after clearcutting. Snags used to be removed for safety reasons, but now some snags are retained along with green trees, down woody material, and some understory. Burditt showed some slides illustrating the new forestry—clearcuts that left from 8 to 23 live trees per acre. The best slide, in my estimate, showed 23 trees remaining per acre, plus most of the understory. I preferred this slide, and Burditt said so much remained because this clearcut was in a view-shed.

I talked with Burditt, and John Cissel of the Cascade Center for Ecosystem Management. I mentioned that I saw a big gap between the worthy ideas expressed at the workshop (such as "sustainable ecosystems" and "keeping options open") and what I see on the ground while traveling around the forests. They answered that a time lag is inevitable between the cutting-edge of forest research and what is happening on the ground. When I expressed my worry that the remainder of the forest will be destroyed in the meantime, Burditt pointed out that our options are now being kept open by default because so little timber has been sold in the last couple of years due to Judge Dwyer's injunctions.

Karen Barnett, an anthropologist and district ranger in Sweet Home, gave us some good news about economic transitions for timber-dependent communities. She spoke of the major evolution in thinking by Forest Service employees in the ranger district, from the time when timber dominated all other resources. She described the active role her staff is taking to help local communities with

**"What you leave behind is as important as what you take from the forest."**

—District Ranger Lynn Burditt

economic diversification. For example, the ranger district is applying for a grant to study the feasibility of a processing plant for "special forest products" (non-timber products) in Sweet Home. Although some local people still hold to the prospect that timber harvests will return to previous high levels, Sweet Home has already made a good deal of progress. Barnett gave an example of the former "Sweet Home Saw Shop" (fortuitously located on the shore of Foster Reservoir) which overnight cleaned up its parking lot, planted some flowers, and became "Sweet Home Saw & Marine."

## The Mushroom Industry

Randy Molina, a Forest Service mycologist, spoke about one of the "special forest products" dependent on healthy forest ecosystems. As forests decline, fungi including edible mushrooms are declining as well. \$20-30 million worth of chanterelles from the Pacific Northwest are exported to Europe each year to meet demand, which can no longer be met there because of the degraded state of European forests. Molina suggested that perhaps during the time span of an 80-year tree rotation on a particular parcel of land, the dollar value of mushrooms might someday exceed the dollar value of the timber to be harvested!

More information on the importance of the local mushroom industry was imparted by a panel on wild crafting which I attended during Earth Week. While the US market for wild mushrooms is small, the global market is large, especially to Japan and Europe. However, as in many other industries, our mushroom pickers are competing with pickers from the third world who will work for less money. In addition, our pickers have the expense of purchasing permits.

An anonymous picker in the audience had a number of complaints about the mushroom business. He was angry about competition from out-of-state and Canadian pickers working in US forests, and suggested a system of licensing similar to hunting licenses with a much higher permit price for out-of-state pickers. He felt that some knowledge should be required to get a permit. Another problem is that currently all the revenues raised through the sale of permits has to go toward policing the pickers rather than toward research into sustaining and improving the yield of wild mushrooms.

John Donahue of Northwest Mycological Consultants informed us that most wild mushrooms being harvested are mycorrhizal fungi associated with trees. (Chanterelles are the most important example of these in this area.) Such mushrooms cannot be cultivated. Morels, on the other hand, can be cultivated, because they are saprophytic rather than mycorrhizal. Morels commonly appear in the spring at the site

## Getting to Guano Creek WSA (Story, Page 5)

Guano Creek WSA is approximately 2 hours east of Lakeview. Take Highway 140 through Adel, up Greaser Canyon, and over Blizzard Gap to BLM Road 6106A heading north. This junction is 23.2 miles from Adel. This dirt road is nearly impassable after a heavy rain. Three miles north of the highway the road forks, keep left (the right fork leads to the Barry Ranch). Cross the streambed, drive through the gate and keep heading north. The road becomes somewhat braided, but it comes together before the next gate at 11.5 miles. Eight-tenths of a mile beyond this gate is another fork at the Shirk Ranch.

The Shirk Ranch is a historic site managed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service as a part of the Hart Mountain Refuge. A left turn takes you along the WSA's southern boundary, but this road becomes rocky, and requires a high-clearance vehicle. Take the right fork through the ranch and you immediately find a gate. Go through it, and follow BLM Road 6106C seven-tenths of a mile to a dirt track on the left. Park by the new fence at the gate you find here, which is the WSA's eastern boundary. (If you plan on more than just a day hike, don't block the gate.) From here you can follow the dirt track down to the creek. It's about 8 miles to Jacobs Reservoir, and another 3 miles to the refuge boundary. Overnight camping is permitted on BLM land; camping on the refuge is restricted to designated campgrounds. Some good tent-sites lie beneath juniper trees above the canyon on the north side.

**Note:** On the way back to the highway, stop at the small knoll just west of the Shirk Ranch. (Park at the junction, and walk west on the WSA's southern boundary road to a dirt track that leads to the top of the knoll.) You will find a bit of wild West history—the grave of two outlaws shot by Mr. Shirk back in 1887.

of last year's burns. (The Warner Creek Fire site in the Oakridge Ranger District is a good example.)

Our forests yield many other special forest products besides mushrooms, providing an industry well-suited to rural communities. Rolf Anderson, in charge of rural development activities for the Forest Service, told us that twenty-six different products provided a dollar return in 1991. The supply of these products needs to be inventoried to plan for sustainability. The only inventory done so far has been a "drive-by" inventory on the Sweet Home Ranger District. More and more people are starting to harvest these products so that regulation is becoming necessary. Each ranger district has its own policies and regulations, therefore, there is little consistency in management. The Forest Service is trying to get the three national forests and the BLM in Lane County to agree on uniform management practices.

Matthew Hull, from the Approvecho Institute in Cottage Grove, advocated some ingenious commercial uses for brush, or what he called "small roundwood"—table legs, chair legs, bentwood furniture, bean poles, charcoal, and fencing. He showed us a catalog from England illustrating moveable fences made of small diameter poles. A silviculturalist from the Blue River Ranger District recently told me that when pre-commercial thinning of young forest stands is done these days, the trees and boughs taken out are no longer wasted but are marketed as Christmas trees and ornamental boughs.

It is most heartening to hear about ways people can make a living in the forest without destroying it!

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## Sierra Club urges partnership of civil rights, environment

**"While the rich are busy creating the poisonous by-products of our economic system, the poor are the ones who have to live submerged in them."**—Michael Fischer

The head of the Sierra Club used the hundredth anniversary of the group's founding to advocate a "long-overdue partnership" between the environmental movement and the civil rights movement in a battle for "environmental justice."

In a May speech at Harper's Ferry, W. Va., Michael Fischer, executive director of the Sierra Club, called the two movements "the major grassroots movements of the 19th and 20th centuries."

Fischer said the two movements must work together to protect minority communities from "environmental racism." He cited the fact that 60 percent of all African and Hispanic Americans live in communities with one or more uncontrolled toxic waste sites. Also, 60 percent of the nation's largest hazardous waste landfills are situated in their neighborhoods, he said.

"People of color bear a disproportionately large share of the economy's toxic burden," Fischer said. He called the nation's inner cities "the world's high-risk toxic environments."

Fischer also said that recent actions by the federal government—such as the decision to eliminate the public from safety hearings for new nuclear power plants—demonstrate the need to join the two movements.

"We [Sierra Club] must join with communities of color to use environmental protection as a vital step toward industrial and economic revitalization," he said.

Fischer blamed the growing gap between the classes as a root cause of environmental injustice. "While the rich are busy creating the poisonous by-products of our economic system, the poor are the ones who have to live submerged in them," Fischer said.

While only 7 percent of the Sierra Club's members are people of color, Fischer said the Club is working to increase its ethnic diversity through hiring more people of color and putting more effort into battling environmental problems in cities and on Native American reservations.



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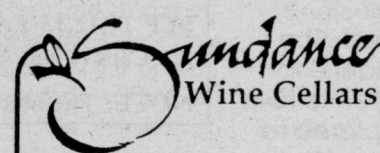


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