

Olympia Ecology Center's Newsletter: THIS WEEK IN TREES

By "Dirt"

This week in the Pacific Northwest and beyond:

In Eastern Washington a the Fisher Fire caused much ecological improvement to fire suppressed stands amid rare patches of old growth forests. These last ancient forests don't burn to ashes like young human-made plantation forest so they don't fit into what Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest Service considers healthy. So lawsuits have been filed and loggers are logging as fast as possible to ensure the courts have no control over the hauling of 4,000 log truck of fire adapted forests. It's called an "Economic Emergency."

<http://www.cascwild.org/>

On the Westside of Washington the salmon keep moving to extinction and the State is proposing to help with a habitat conservation plan for 9 million acres on state and private lands. As always they will improve fish habitat by logging along streams that they call "protected" areas. They say they are actually doing all they can do to help the fish. The Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, the Olympic Coast Alliance the Washington Environmental Council, and many tribes are planning on suing to stop them

http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/225916_forests26.html

Also in Washington the greatest forest destroying empire of all time is trying a new way to promote the destruction of whole mountain ranges in 18 countries across the world: "Call it enlightened self-interest," Weyerhaeuser said of his plea to help the environment by helping his company's recycling business. "Weyerhaeuser sees mountains of discarded waste that aren't being recycled."

http://www.denverpost.com/business/ci_2762986

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Further to the South in Oregon along the Columbia Gorge in the town of Hood River a tree sitter took to the top of a tree in the middle of the town. He says: "In July 2004 the Bush Administration decided to ignore the sentiment of the American citizens by eliminating the Roadless Area Conservation Rule and in its place put a meaningless process that will not necessarily protect anything. We the people, need to remind Bush that we have already told the government loud and clear how we feel about this piece of legislation. A record number of Americans wrote to the federal government, 1.6 million, and over 95% supported the Roadless Rule." A rally to support this treesitter is planned for Friday, June 3rd, at 7 pm. For more info:

<http://publish.portland.indymedia.org/en/2005/05/318439.shtml>

Following the Rally The Blue Mountains Biodiversity project is hosting a field checking Blitz in the B & B fire in Deschutes National Forest. Even the inexperienced are invited to show up (call Karen: (541) 385-9167) and help save this forest from the loggers who set it on fire in order to support a George W. Bush publicity stunt visit to the area Summer before last. Back then Bush had to "change his travel plans" in order to avoid the "ferocious" fire that was fueled by "unhealthy" trees that needed to be clear-cut. This PR trick, along with setting the forest on fire in Los Angeles ensured the passage of his "Healthy Forest Initiative."

Further to the south Umpqua Watersheds, Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center and Cascadia Wildlands Project filed an appeal against the BLM against the logging of any trees that still have green needles until the appeal of the Bland mountain salvage sale is reviewed. <http://www.newsreview.info/article/20050527/NEWS/105270067> . As always the questionable practice of cutting much needed dead habitat trees is not good enough and they want to cut all the live green ones too. "We regret to have to appeal this salvage sale. We simply want them to do what they say they're going to do," said conservation director Francis Eatherington. "We will do our best to stop this sale because of the green trees they're logging. Green trees will help this forest heal."

Also on the coast of Oregon a deal has been struck to preserve 1,300 acres of forest as compensation for the estimated 30,000 lost tourist trips caused by a shipwreck and oil spill several years ago. By buying

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the land, fixing some trails and making pathetic attempts to restore habitat for ducks, puffins, gulls, petrels and many other birds, the ship's insurance company doesn't have to haul their broken ship away. In other words tourist get to marvel at their wasted ship forever and they shipping insurance company saves money. The insurance guy who swindled us even earned a promotion.

<http://www.oregonlive.com/news/oregonian/index.ssf?/base/news/1117015194252140.xml&coll=7>

Further to the South in the Klamath National Forest in California the sound of Old Growth falling and chainsaws sawing is running wild in the Jack Timber sale. The bright side is the Beaver, Westpoint and Whittler old growth sales have been saved thanks to the efforts of many who work tirelessly to battle the evildoers. Please help them and call the evildoers, pressure them stop cutting old growth native forest: Klamath National Forest Supervisor, Peg Boland (530) 842-6131

Still further South in San Francisco, what once was the 'Gateway to the Redwood empire' they are hosting the United Nation's World Environment Day <http://www.wed2005.org/> . Among other things they are looking into ways city's destroy forests and ways to change this bad habit.

Treesitter Julia Butterfly <http://www.circleoflifefoundation.org/> and others are at this event doing their best to help the world regain some sanity. Also in San Francisco this week is a women's eco-oriented leadership conference

http://www.pacificenvironment.org/women_HTML/index.htm

Further outside of Cascadia to the East in Idaho: loggers are celebrating the 200 year anniversary of Lewis and Clark by hiking 45 minutes along the Lewis and Clark trail into a roadless area to kill a wild stand of old growth forest. The loggers goal: destroy all green trees on the Wendover timber sale before a judge finds them in violation of the law and orders a stop to logging. The loggers are confident that they'll be able to come back later and cut down the dead trees, which are legal to cut, once the judge rules that logging the green trees is illegal.

http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/apocal_story.asp?category=6420&slug=ID%20Lewis%20Clark%20Logging also <http://www.nativeforest.org>

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In the rest of the world, activists in China are disputing the Government's claim that they no longer log native forests. Zhong Yu, director of the Greenpeace forestry protection division, said the Jinhai company, which has an annual capacity of 1 million tons of pulp, needs 2 million mu (133,000 hectares) of forest for its raw material. But APP has so far planted only 960,000 mu (64,000 hectares) on the island, and only 100,000 mu (6,000 hectares) is available for logging, she said.

Zhong also said many ecotypic (native) trees had been cut down and replaced with eucalyptus trees, APP's major raw material

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/english/doc/2005-05/26/content_445865.htm

In the mideast our supposed enemy is showing they are way smarter than our greedy lustful ways: "AHVAZ, Khuzestan Province – Iran will not have to import paper by 2013 if only one half of the money that is spent every year on paper imports is used for turning bagasse into pulp. To produce each ton of wood, some six cubic meters of wood is needed. That's why the forest area in the country has shrunk from 18 million hectares in 1979 to 7 million hectares. The volume of bagasse that is collected from one hectare of a sugar cane farm will be enough for producing the same amount of paper that is made up of a pile wood collected from 6.2 hectares of forest trees. In the next ten years, Iran should spend 1.5 billion dollars each year to import paper while a bagasse-based domestic industry would only need 600 million dollars of investment per year.

<http://www.mehrnews.ir/en/NewsDetail.aspx?NewsID=190343>

In the Amazon Greenpeace on Tuesday nominated President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and five others for its first "Golden Chainsaw" prize — to be awarded to the Brazilian deemed to have contributed most to the Amazon's destruction. Figures released last week showed deforestation of the Amazon rainforest reached the second-highest level on record in 2003-2004 — an area of 26,130 square km (10,088 sq miles), driven by logging, ranching and farming interests.

<http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/wireStory?id=787646>

In Mexico an ambush killed two sons of a longtime anti-logging activist who was part of a campaign by local political bosses to crush environmental campaigners in the western state of Guerrero, according to Amnesty International, Greenpeace and Mexican rights groups. Farmer

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Albertano Penalosa, a leading environmental campaigner, was apparently the target of last week's attack but he escaped with slight injuries.

Two sons were shot dead.

<http://www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/30980/story.htm>

Last but not least in India activists have taken to rock-sitting to stop a giant Buddha sculpture project that's designed to be a tourist trap that will require a huge facility that will destroy a rare forest.

"After climbing and sometimes crawling their way up to the rock to a half-way height, they held on to the 1,050 feet rock to display their opposition to the project, shouting slogans of 'Buddham Sharanam Gachami, Buddha Vigramam Na Ichami'." The article goes on to quote a Buddhist teacher who says: "According to Lord Buddha, the whole experience of life is momentary. Nothing in life is permanent. In that case, a Buddha statue too is pointless."

<http://www.deccanherald.com/deccanherald/may302005/city2142492005529.asp>

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