

# SHORT REPORT

## Keeping Tabs on City Workers

BY ALAN PITTMAN

Just a few months ago, a resolution allowing city employees to live outside the city barely squeaked through a City Council vote, at which time hundreds of workers must have breathed a big sigh of relief...suddenly they didn't have to worry about adhering to city law by moving into Eugene boundaries or quitting their jobs.

But at the time of the vote, councilors were told that one-third of city staff—about 400 workers—live outside city limits. But city records for 1,318 permanent workers show that more than half of city staffers (a total of 688) live outside the city. That includes 40 percent of all Eugene police officers and 58 percent of all Eugene firefighters.

Those high numbers bother Barbara Keller, who feels the city would be better off if all employees lived within city limits. "If you say, 'I can always leave this town at the end of the day,' it isn't a personal concern for you," says the councilor.

**The large number of police officers living outside the city—four out of 10—may prove an obstacle to the city's "community policing" plan that calls for officers to become a part of the community in order to solve crime problems.**

This story started last November, when a revelation in a *Eugene Weekly* story surprised the city staff, who said they didn't realize the Eugene City Charter, a document spelling out the laws governing the community, stipulated that employees of the city shall reside in the city.

Within days the staff rushed before the City Council with a resolution that allowed all but a few top staffers to live outside Eugene. After a lengthy debate, a 4-4

### Most City Workers Don't Live in Eugene

Percentage of Workers Who Live  
Outside and Inside Eugene  
and by Council Ward

Ward	All	Police	Fire
Total Out	52%	40%	68%
Total In	48%	60%	32%
1	8%	6%	2%
2	7%	5%	6%
3	3%	1%	3%
4	6%	14%	4%
5	9%	20%	9%
6	5%	4%	3%
7	4%	2%	1%
8	6%	7%	5%

SOURCE: EW COMPUTER ANALYSIS OF 1,318 CITY EMPLOYEE RECORDS.

council deadlock on the resolution was broken by the mayor, who voted in favor of allowing workers to live outside the city.

The higher number of city staff non-residents, however, has raised new concerns. For instance, the large number of police officers living outside the city—four out of 10—may prove an obstacle to the city's "community policing" plan that calls for officers to become a part of the community in order to solve crime problems. Only 3 percent of police live in the downtown and Whiteaker wards (council Wards 3 and 7) where the police have focused the new plan. About one-third of the city's police live in wards in North Eugene that include some of the lowest crime neighborhoods in the city.

Also, City Councilor Tim Laue has said the large number of employees living outside the city contributes to the sprawling growth and transportation problems the city council is trying to avoid. Only 3 percent of city employees live in the downtown ward (Ward 3), and according to one city survey, about 70 percent of city employees drive to work alone. Other downtown employers, such as Symantec, have reported higher percentages of employees using alternative transportation.

Living in Eugene "would help police officers understand their neighborhoods," agrees Eugene Public Safety spokesman Brian Terrett. "Ideally it would probably be best if all the officers could live in the city." But he maintains the cost of housing is so high that some police officers can't afford to live in the city.

Keller suggests another look at the residency requirements for the city—a tighter policy, she says, could be phased in or applied only to new hires. "We need to deal with the issue."

## Hacking Away at Clear-Cutting

BY MAYA MUIR

This winter's torrential rains and massive flooding caused a long-time hot-button issue to land, once again, on the front pages of the state's newspapers. The issue is the clear-cutting of forests, and through the past several months some of Oregon's leading scientists and foresters have confirmed what many suspected: clear-cutting is a practice that greatly increases flow into waterways, creating downstream flooding and letting loose landslides that devastate fish habitat.

The winter's destruction has prompted some decisive action. Members of Oregonians for Sustainable Forestry (OSF) are currently gathering signatures for a ballot measure initiative that would ban clear-cutting as well as the use of agricultural chemicals, including herbicides and pesticides. OSF's initiative proposes the use of "sustainable" practices for all state, federal and private land in Oregon.

Some timber and chemical companies are already coming out strong against the initiative. "What petition backers really want," says Terry Witt of Oregonians for Food and Shelter (an organization for agricultural chemical producers and users) "is to bring timber companies to their knees. It would be the end of commercial logging as we know it, and catastrophic for the state."

Timber operations have long grown even-age, same-species tree plantations. Those types of tree "farms" are clear-cut about every

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60 years. After the cut, replacement trees are planted. Competing vegetation is removed through the use of herbicides.

But other timber growers, such as Bob Jackson of Joseph, Oregon, are using what are called "sustainable" practices—managing timber lands "to look like forests." Jackson and his partner, Leo Goebel, encourage trees of all ages and species on the lands, leave old

BLM plants and we don't use pesticides, so, overall, our expenses are far lower."

OSF members claim that if the initiative becomes law, thousands of new jobs will be created to maintain the programs, and will replace jobs dependent on clear-cutting's boom-and-bust cycles. "We're talking about creating jobs for foresters who would work continuously with the whole forest ecosys-

tem," says OSF staffer Gary Kutcher.

But Witt believes OSF is "masquerading behind saying they're for a labor-intensive economy. The bottom line is this bill will not provide jobs in the forest. No way can you cut mature timber and leave behind the numbers of trees they're talking about."

Paul Barnum, communications manager at Weyerhaeuser Co., says that the initiative attempt is too late. "Laws have already been changed to address a number of problems people have with clear cutting," says Barnum. "They are kicking a dead horse."

Barnum says recent amendments to the Oregon Forest Practices Act limit the size of clearcuts to 120 acres, prohibit the harvesting of adjacent units until a "green-up" period has begun (about four years), and create wide buffer zones in riparian areas.

Barnum also says it's roadbuilding, not clear-cutting, that is most apt to cause landslides in forested areas. The material removed to make the road is usually pushed down the hill, creating a greater load on the slope. Current law mandates that the material removed during road-building operations now be trucked out and deposited elsewhere.

"There's no question that management practices can contribute to land slides and erosion," says Barnum. "If we didn't know that there wouldn't be the rules and requirements we currently have on the books to keep those kinds of things from occurring."

Yet, a growing number of woodlands owners are turning to the more sustainable techniques. For instance, Ed Eddington manages nearly 300 acres of sustainable forest near Eugene for a cooperative of six landowners; the Collins Pine Co., headquartered in Portland with lands in northern California, has been selectively cutting since the 1940s; and Scott Ferguson of Individual Tree Selection Management has around 24 clients with 3,500 acres in the Eugene and Cottage Grove area alone.

The initiative battle lines are clear. Agriculture and timber industries continue to maintain that clear-cutting is acceptable and necessary, while a disparate group of ecoforesters, environmentalists and community activists are making a stand against practices they say just don't work anymore. As James Monteith, one of the petitioners for the initiative says, "the only thing you get from clear-cutting is a pile of capital and dead fish. And that ain't forestry."



and dead trees where they are and don't use herbicides.

Jackson says their forest reproduces itself without human help. The two have removed 450 board feet per acre—an exceptional yield—from their 160-acre forest every year since 1970. Over the past two-and-a-half decades the partners have sold 1.6 million board feet of timber—and still, 2 million board feet of larger, healthier timber continues to grow on their land. To top it off, their forest is rich with plant species, birds, animals and clear-running streams.

**C**urt Mitchell, who manages 300 acres of timberlands in Lorane, maintains that with selective cutting, "you can get the same amount of board feet per acre—and up to 50 percent more over a period of, say, 60 to 100 years." Mitchell says big timber companies insist that selective logging can add from 6 to 30 percent to the cost of harvesting. But half the Bureau of Land Management budget, asserts Mitchell, goes for planting, herbicides and burning slash. "We don't have slash to burn, we plant maybe one-tenth of what the

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## Just Lines on Paper

We're back with some late-breaking acting awards. Best Acting In The Line Of Duty goes this year to Eugene's Officer Berger; unfortunately no one is on hand to accept. Best Acting Like You Know What You're Doing goes to the City Council, with Best Acting Up to Kevin Hornbuckle. Best Acting Locally, Thinking Globally, no surprise here: Hyundai . . .