

EDITORIALS & LETTERS

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Douglas fir grow like weeds

From the publication BLM Facts, Oregon and Washington, 1987 (U.S. Department of the Interior), we quote:

"An important aspect of the BLM administration is that BLM returns a profit to the federal Treasury for the investment made in it by its shareholders — the American taxpayer. During fiscal year 1987, we reported receipts of \$154,290,184 against expenses of \$82,043,283. As always, those receipts were shared with state, county and local governments. A total of \$78,675,755 was distributed in Oregon and Washington."

Twenty years ago, that is the way we, the American taxpayer, supported our local governments. On these same pages, many writers — so called eco-friendly foresters — totally have disregarded the facts as recorded in the historical records of Bureau of Land Management history.

We all also have read in these same pages that our local governments are in the process of near collapse for lack of funding. The resources to fund our government bodies are there in the forest that now contains more board feet of timber than when Eugene Skinner first arrived.

Just look at pictures of Skinner Butte then and now. Those silly old fir trees grow like weeds here in Oregon and Washington.

W. REX STEVENS

Eugene

Wise logging will create revenue

The July 28 article in The Register-Guard on the timber talks included one of the best graphs that I have seen. It shows the public how our timber receipts have declined over the years.

It is time for the citizens of Lane County to step up to the bar and let this process start, because we cannot rely on federal dollars to bail us out anymore. I was in the logging and con-

struction industry for 38 years, and I watched this debacle as the timber sales dried up along with our county funds.

It is time that we use the proper logging procedures and get this money flowing into the counties so we are not having this constant problem of cutting back on our services, especially law enforcement. This has gone on long enough. We need to fix the problem, and it is out there in our backyard.

BOB FISHER

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