

1918: Railroads & logging threaten newly established Corvallis water system.



The Corvallis water system is established in 1905, as city draws pure water from the Rock Creek Watershed. Railroad logging threatens drinking water as lumber mills exploit "endless supply" of old-growth forests.

By 1948, Water Commissioner W.F. Groves had succeeded in protecting Corvallis Forest from logging.



This watershed is a priceless asset.

Groves

Groves works with Congress to transfer thousands of acres of forest land into the Siuslaw reserve to protect the Corvallis water supply from the timber industry; water quality is excellent & free from sedimentation.

1952: City starts transition from watershed protection to revenue-driven logging.



City Council

This watershed is a piggy bank.

When Corvallis adopts a city council form of government, the Water Commission is abolished & city council takes control of the water system; A 1952 windstorm blows down big trees & the City builds first logging roads in Corvallis Forest to salvage log 20 million board feet of timber.

1962: City's clearcutting hey-day begins as it partners with Siuslaw National Forest.



Siuslaw Natl. Forest

City

City signs contracts with Siuslaw Natl Forest to manage logging on city lands, beginning a new direction of annual revenue-driven timber sales in the Corvallis Forest. The Forest Service policy was to maximize timber production.

1973: Corvallis Forest sparks nationwide spotted owl controversy.

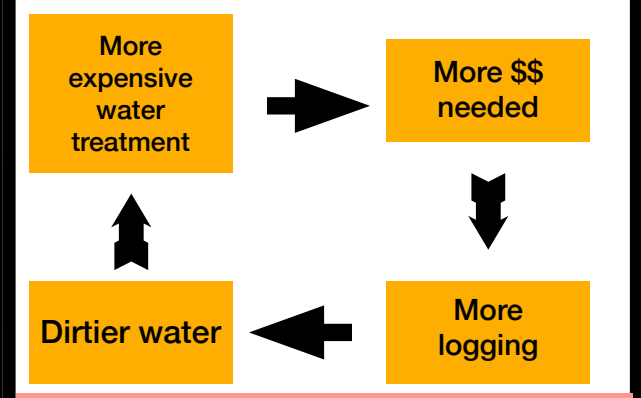


Please protect the owls!

Forsman

OSU grad student Eric Forsman finds three spotted owl nests amongst old-growth trees in the Corvallis Forest. He pleads with the city to hold off logging old-growth to protect the owls, but city council refuses & approves a 5.5 million board feet timber sale to net \$1,143,866 to subsidize Corvallis water rates.

1986: Vicious circle as city continues logging old-growth & water treatment costs increase.

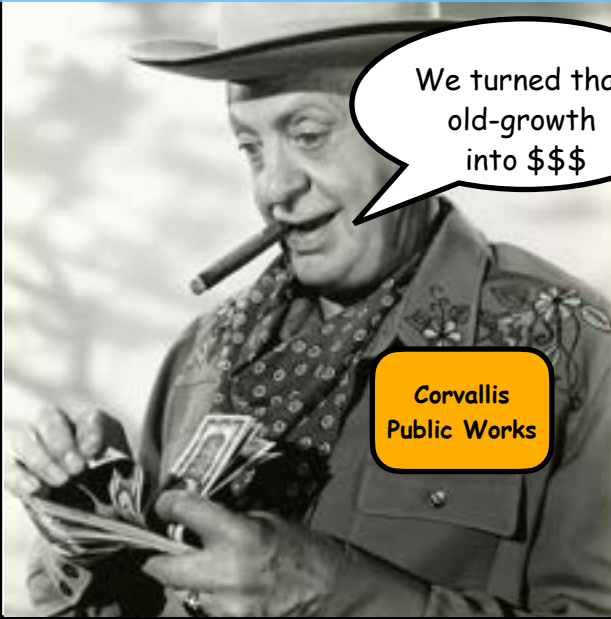


City needs \$13M to upgrade water treatment plant as water quality degrades; and it looks to timber sales to pay for it. Without timber revenue, monthly water bills could increase 30 to 40 percent, says the local paper.

1955-1989: City's \$30 million in revenue from clearcutting Corvallis Forest used to upgrade water system.

1990: Marys Peak proposed as park, but city doesn't want to give up logging revenue.

1991-2006: Spotted owl legal protection halts logging in Corvallis Forest.



Corvallis Public Works



"If the peak is declared a park, then the city will be prohibited from harvesting timber, which contributes an average of \$500,000 a year to the city's water fund," says Mayor Vars. He also claims, "Excessive park use near the watershed could harm the water quality, which could lead to higher water rates."



Federal Court (Judge Dwyer: Seattle Audubon Society v. Evans) ruling stops timber sales in spotted owl habitat; prevents further logging in Corvallis Forest & Siuslaw Natl. Forest until 2007. City finds other ways to fund its water system.

2007: City resumes logging in Corvallis Forest for "forest health..."

2013: City fails to value Corvallis Forest as natural infrastructure for drinking water.

2023: Surely city council will change the way they manage the Corvallis Forest due to climate change...



Forest health... Yeah, right.



Corvallis Public Works

Tom Penpraze, manager of Corvallis Utilities, says, "It was common practice to do clearcut logging up until 1988 on Forest Service land & city land...There was no impact on our ability to treat the water" (with treatment plant funded by timber \$\$)



"My last comment appeared to invite feedback. Do not be fooled."

The 80 loads of logs from the city's first logging operation in years could bring between \$240,000 and \$400,000 for city coffers, according to a local news article.

But alas, city council and public works staff shut down public comment that didn't agree with their endorsement of logging. Stay tuned. .