

C. B. Ward 4/21/73

Hunter Creek Bog Withdrawal Approved

Coos Bay District Bureau of Land Management advisory board Friday approved a recommendation that the Hunter Creek Bog area in Curry County be withdrawn from mining claim assessments and the area involved be managed for recreation and botanical values.

The action followed a report by Jack Schutte on the status of the area which was described as fragile and unique because of soil and rock types and plant communities.

Schutte said that the area is a result of a landslide which created the bog and the conditions conducive to the growth of more than 25 plant families, unique flora such as cobra lilies or *Darlingtona* and timber species.

Various mining companies filed claims in the area, with the objective of developing nickle ore production. Len Ramp, Oregon Department of Geology spokesman, urged that the min-

(Continued on Page 2)

ing resource be recognized and the land not be withdrawn.

William D. Arbus, board member, pointed out that the bog area is valuable to biology students. He said it could never be replaced if it were destroyed by mining.

The Hanna Nickle company of Riddle is one of the major interests in the mining development. Ramp said that the low grade deposits might be a source of augmenting higher grade ore in the Riddle area.

The board also acted in support of a BLM program of tansy ragwort weed control. Members Bob Geaney and Sam Dement explained the status of the ragwort problem and urged the board action which called for immediate action by the BLM on BLM lands, and alerted the Oregon legislative task force to the crisis.

The board elected Bob Van Leer, Curry County newspaper publisher, chairman. He replaces Charles Foster, Reedsport. Vice chairman is Darald Andrews.

The next meeting was tentatively set for September for a field trip in the south end of the district with emphasis on logging operations.

In Process