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JUMP - Blowup one Hum by ARTICLE. © ecotopia updown  
BT

# Earth



# First!

Yule 1991

Vol. XII, No. II

THE RADICAL ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNAL

December 21

THREE DOLLARS

## Freedom for Fur Farm Prisoners

BY ROD CORONADO

Crawling up to the guard fence surrounding the mink barns, I wiped the dew from my camera lens and began filming the 300 cats at Fraser Fur Farms in Ronan, Montana. Lynx and bobcats that have been live-trapped in the Bitterroot Mountains, spend everyday pacing the narrow length of their prisons while the very mountains of their ancestral homelands lie visible beyond the wire.

Only after nine months of infiltrating the fur ranching community had I gained the trust of ranchers that allowed me to witness the atrocities I observed last December. What began as a simple quest for video and photographic documentation slowly turned into an investigation of this grey area of animal and earth abuse.

After having been arrested for smashing up fur shops in Vancouver, I decided to trade in my wrist-rocket and paint-bombs for a video and 35mm camera. With so little evidence available about fur ranching, I decided that more could be done to destroy the industry with film than with bricks...at least for now.

So began what became an eleven month investigation of fur ranching. Since the Spring of 1990, several other Earth First!ers and I have traveled across the country documenting conditions of fur ranches.

Mink, which are naturally aquatic and fiercely territorial, with a range of more than ten miles when free, are forced to spend their short lives in cages 16 inches by 20 inches. For fox, also natural roamers, cells tend to be three feet by four feet, if they're lucky. Bobcats and lynx are forced into a wire box five feet square.

Virtually no laws exist granting protection to fur ranch prisoners. Wildlife protection regulations do not apply to captive-bred fur animals. Even though the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species recognizes the threatened status of American wild cats, states such as Montana allow bobcats and lynx to be raised and trapped for fur. It is quite likely that more fur animals, such as mink, exist on fur ranches than in the wilderness.

Once wild populations of fur animals reached a level of economic extinction, the fur industry concentrated on captive breeding as a source to satisfy the demand for fur. In the 1930s the discovery of mutations was made, allowing humans to produce the color phase most in demand by the fashion industry.

This was the opening of a new age, as the fur industry was able to take a greater role in the destruction of nature by taking animals from the wild and turning them into fur-producing machines.

Then, in the early eighties came the mink crisis, and with it the bankruptcy of fur ranches as supply outgrew demand. The success of anti-fur forces also greatly affected an already shrinking consumer demand. Now the fur industry has created a public-relations group, the Fur Farm Animal Welfare Coalition (FFAWC) that serves to convince the public that fur ranching is not only humane but environmentally sound. What most people fail to recognize as the greatest wrong with fur ranching is the ecological and psychological abuses related to domestication of native predator species such as bobcat, lynx, fox and mink.

As a final solution to livestock predation fears, society has created an acceptable role for predators to fulfill. Since the beginning of fur ranching in the 1920s, the majority of biological research into fur animals has related to them as fur-bearers or as a threat to domestic livestock production.

The psychological torture associated with the confinement of fur animals, naturally accustomed to solitary wanderings is beyond our comprehension. On virtually every fur farm I visited, I saw animals wasting away the hours continually trying to escape from their cages. Never before have carnivores been successfully raised in intensive confinement conditions and as a result there are many abnormalities seen on fur farms that aren't in the wild. On top of numerous diseases associated with the unsanitary conditions of crowded cages and genetic defects from inbreeding, I saw psychotic disease as well. Captive mink, out of sheer boredom will bite their own tails or chew on their fur until many die of infections. This is a concern to fur farmers because it ruins the pelts.

During the investigation into the raising of felines on fur ranches, I discovered that most have only been in captivity for no more than four generations. The wildness is alive and well in these prisoners of the war on nature. The public is led to believe that ranch-raised means humanely raised. Take my word for it, there is no such thing as a humane fur farm.

With a cover as a potential fur rancher, I began to hear stories from other ranchers about the killing season. For mink, fox and cats



Photo: Rod Coronado

this begins on or around Thanksgiving.

One fox rancher I know in Butte, Montana simply rigs a hose to the exhaust of his all-terrain vehicle (who says the things are only good for destroying the environment?) with duct tape and runs it to a 3x4 foot box with a door. After starting the engine, he fills the box with two or three foxes and waits until the scratching and barking stops. Anyone for a full-length arctic fox coat?

Other techniques used to kill fox and mink include anal electrocution, neck-breaking, carbon dioxide gassing, crushing. Bobcats and lynx are either shot in the head at point-blank range with .22 caliber short bullet or darted with a blowgun with an overdose of drugs.

By December, we had obtained over 300 photographs and over ten hours of videotape of conditions and killing techniques on fur ranches. After convincing Bruce Campbell, a fur rancher from Lakeside, Montana, of our desire to videotape his neck-breaking of mink as an instruction aid for us budding new fur ranchers, we were ready to conclude our field investigations.

Then on December 9th, I was contacted by Bruce Campbell. Believing my cover of being interested in starting my own mink ranch, he had an offer. With the market in decline, he wanted out of the fur business. For \$6,000, Bruce would sell me forty of his best breeder mink and all the equipment to start a fur ranch. I agreed to the deal. Then I thought, if we were to surrender movement money, I wanted to be assured it would not be used to refill the cages. Bruce had also mentioned selling the remainder of his mink to other fur ranchers for further propagation. I called him back to ask if he wanted to sell me all his mink, his four bobcats and two lynx as well. He agreed to hold off any further pelting and instead sell me the animals alive.

Ten days later I pulled up to his ranch with a truck to begin the liberation. \$9,000 had been bor-

rowed from California Animal Defense and the Anti-Vivisection league for the expenses, and I had located land to house the animals until their release. The first guerilla fur ranch rehabilitation project had begun. Everything comprising Campbell's fur ranch was disassembled and loaded into our truck. Montana Game Farm #2113 was out of business.

With no experience in wildlife rehabilitation, I called on a friend of mine who has been a rehabilitator for eight years. With her assistance we would attempt to give every animal an opportunity to be what they really were; wild animals. The Coalition Against Fur Farms (CAFF) as we now called ourselves, believe that the only rightful home for a lynx, bobcat or mink is in the North American wilderness. No cage is big enough to hold the spirits of these animals, and despite offers to permanently house them at a sanctuary, we refused to sanction further imprisonment for any reason.

No regulation, law or guideline would be used to determine these animals chance at freedom. If they could prove efficiency in hunting and were in good health, we would give them the liberty they had been denied.

It made little difference whether we followed the law or not. Already we knew it to be illegal to rehabilitate captive-bred animals. You could gas, electrocute, crush, shoot, trap or poison them, but release them back into the wilderness and you are a criminal. In a society where it is illegal to protect wildlife, we choose to be outlaws. It seemed that only the Director of Wildlife (an oxymoron) a white man with white man's papers, could legally determine their fate. His was the same agency that legitimizes the slaughter of wildlife for sport. No regard would be given to the murderer of my sisters and brothers.

We also found few supporters in the animal right's movement. The issue of live-feeding meant no help from animal-rights groups. For

Continued on page 12

AMM

And: Subverting species diversity?

# EARTH FIRST!

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Ok, but in what way.

## The Party Line

By Allison Slater

An environmental movement with no president, no dues, no headquarters in DC, no party line? Like many people, I suppose, the social anarchic tribe vision of Earth First! drew me to it as much as the nature defense stance. I had enough of huge organizations proclaiming their desire to make change and yet mirroring society, accepting much of the dominant paradigm; hierarchies that put words into the mouths of their mostly passive, dues-paying membership.

Earth First!ers, so I believed, are not members, but activists, drawn together in the belief that the destruction of nature has to end now. Everything else, I assumed, is up for debate. We don't have to agree with each other. We don't even have to like each other.

Over the past few months, working on the journal in Missoula, I have read letters and answered phone calls from people who said they are "quitting" Earth First! because they don't like something they read in the journal. Some animal rights activists don't want to read about shooting cows. The "Haydukes" don't want to think about feminist issues. People don't want to see cartoons that offend them or read articles that reflect values other than their own. They seem to want the very party line that I (and, I imagine, many others) joined EF! to escape. And so they "quit."

I wonder, first of all, what it means to "quit" Earth First! Does it only mean not reading the journal anymore? If so, they are mistakenly equating a subscription to the journal

## Earth First?

By Sprout

Being an editor on the journal this issue, I have been both slightly amused and extremely disgusted at people's various reactions to an article in the previous issue entitled "A Hunting We Will Go." Reactions ranged from an entire section of the contact list "quitting," to the more rational approach of individuals drafting letters expressing their views in order to further continue communication and discussion.

But by far the most extreme response was that which occurred at the southern Oregon No Thanksgiving gathering. There, during a discussion of the journal, individuals considered establishing a "journal policy." I realized a group of 20 or so folks couldn't seriously establish policy for an entire movement. Yet the more I considered the reasons behind such strong reactions, the more outraged I became. Why were people so deeply disturbed at a single article which, in a rather off-hand way, mentioned the idea of shooting hunters?

In the past few issues of the Journal, the topic of shooting cows has arisen on several occasions, with mild reaction on both sides of the fence. So, obviously isn't the use of guns which

with membership. A person can be an Earth First!er and never read the journal, never go to a rendezvous, never own a shirt with a fist on it.

I doubt any of the people who have announced that they "quit" will stop being activists or will suddenly decide to join the Sierra Club. So the resignations are simply public statements that they don't want to read anything they disagree with.

The fears that motivate people to react so violently to certain opinions and factions within EF! are justified. Radical movements throughout history, as they have gained any power or influence, have either become mainstream and compromised their values, or have seized power violently and adopted the same oppressive paradigm as the previous regime.

Some people are also afraid, even though there has been no serious discussion of military tactics, that satirical reference to violence will be used in a media smear campaign against us. Some people are afraid that the article printed in the last issue, "A Hunting We Will Go", will cause a backlash and endanger activists. I think using that as criteria for what to print and not print in the journal is tying our hands behind our back. Censoring articles to prevent pissing off the opposition could turn the journal into a

tame, faint-hearted, boring newsletter. The opposition is pissed off anyway. We can't bend over backwards to appease them. All the members of the collective that decided to print that article (of which I was a part) are activists, also in the field and also in danger. I don't feel that a hunter or logger is going to react based on an article in the journal. We can't convince them that we're not a threat to them, because we are.

I don't want to see the journal define itself a narrow mandate of what's acceptable to print, either by excluding any reference to violence (especially humorous ones) or by excluding issues some people claim are irrelevant, such as sexism and racism.

Part of the problem, I believe, is that there are different ideas of the function of the journal. Some people see it as a forum for the movement to talk to itself, air dirty laundry, debate, throw out off-the-wall ideas, criticize ourselves, etc. and we aren't writing it for outsiders who may eavesdrop. Others see the journal as PR for the movement, to recruit new activists, show what wonderful things we're doing and make public statements of policy. I don't see that as a very realistic task to place on a rotating staff, or an appropriate role for the newspaper of such a diverse movement. We have no official policy,

continued on page 36

offended people, nor was it the idea of killing cows, as this has been discussed as a viable tactic for quite some time. It could only be one thing, therefore, which would create such fear and anger...shooting humans.

Yet, support within our movement for shooting humans is nothing new. I doubt there is any opposition to anti-poaching patrols in Africa shooting poachers to protect non-human animals. Friends of Animals (FOA), a mainstream animal rights group, even gives them vehicles to support these activities. So why are things so different here? Perhaps it's that, historically, shooting people of color has always been accepted and even encouraged. ...something to seriously consider.

But I see two real possibilities to explain people's (over)reaction to this article. The most obvious is fear of repression. During the meeting in S OR, concerns for people's safety were brought up again and again. One individual even went so far as to phone one of the editors on that issue, asking

if she would feel responsible if a hunt saboteur was shot. Well, a hunt sab has already been intentionally murdered underneath the wheels of a hound truck. If people are psychotic enough to shoot activists, they're going to do it, regardless of a single article in the Journal. And if we allow our fear to rule not just our actions but even our ideas, hasn't the state won? They have successfully curtailed the movement without even having to directly do anything. We are paralyzed, our effectiveness stagnated from a fear imposed by, to a certain extent, the external, but also from within our own minds.

The other reason for such extreme reaction, one more easily denied, is our inherent speciesism. It is so easy to take the life of a non-human animal. It is an accepted part of our culture and something our culture is based upon and supported by. We eat them, wear them, torture them in laboratories and "own" them. They are the Other. Their realities are removed through

Continued on page 36

EARTH FIRST!

Yule

December 21, 1991

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Although we do not accept the authority of the hierarchical state, nothing herein is intended to run us afoul of its police power.

Submissions are welcomed and should be typed or carefully printed, double spaced, and sent with an SASE if return is requested. Electronic submissions are even better, either on Macintosh disks or via Econet (send to "earthfirst"). Art or photographs (negatives are best, prints are good, and slides are so-so) are desirable to illustrate articles and essays. They will be returned if requested. Please include explicit permission to reprint slides.

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Printed on recycled paper (65% recycled fiber, for now, but we're still aiming for 100%).

## Corrections

The following ending was inadvertently left off of Karen Pickett's article, "In Their Own Words" in the Samhain issue:

Foreman continues to distance himself from the EF! movement of which he was once an integral part. Unfortunately he has also been critical of the movement and unsupportive of the EF! Journal. Although I think his assessment of why the FBI attacked him and EF! is fairly correct, his public critical comments have also been a subject of opportunism by those trying to disrupt the movement. He claims to have his own support network and declined to comment for this article.

In Bill McCormick's review of *The Greening of the Church* in the Mabon issue, Thomas Berry was incorrectly listed as the author. In fact, the book was written by Sean McDonogh



F. Dale Robertson

Yo...  
SHIT  
FER  
BRAINS!!

All letters will be printed, unless they are a travesty. We will print a representative sample of letters expressing the same views. Contact us if you feel your opinion was not expressed. Type or neatly print and double-space your letters. Please keep letters brief. Indicate if you wish to remain anonymous. Send letters to POB 5176, Missoula MT 59806. The opinions expressed here represent only their authors, and are not official positions of the Earth First! journal staff or movement.

Dear Editors:

I am announcing that I withdraw my support from the new Earth First! Journal

I make this decision reluctantly and with sadness.

I now understand that the new Earth First! Journal has become counterproductive to the deep, long-range ecology movement, to authentic grassroots activism and to the wilderness protection, biodiversity movement.

I have supported the Earth First! Journal in its many reincarnations for many years.

I supported the new Earth First! Journal along with Wild Earth after the split.

I have continued to raise many thousands of dollars to support the new Earth First! Journal channeled through the Earth First! Foundation (now the Fund for Wild Nature).

I encouraged people to subscribe to the new Earth First! Journal during my speaking tours across the continent.

I had some reservations about the direction the editorial collective seemed to be taking, but I wanted to give the collective the benefit of the doubt.

I no longer have doubts.

After reading the Mabon, 1991 issue of the Journal, especially the article entitled "A British Perspective on Green Philosophy" by George French (a real name I assume and not a pseudonym by a member of the new Earth First! Journal collective), I see that the Journal is destructive to the deep, long-range ecology movement.

If the editorial collective wants to engage in character assassination why don't you do it directly with your names attached rather than hiding behind a hired gun from England?

If you want to spread more disinformation then do it under your own names, again, not from the poison pen of an unknown author.

If you claim ignorance and say that you did not appreciate the intense disgust that this article would bring to activists in the deep ecology movement, than you are not competent to edit a newspaper which is distributed nationally.

I have requested that the Fund for Wild Nature (formerly the Earth First! Foundation) cease funding the new Earth First! Journal and eliminate the Journal as a project of the Foundation.

In my opinion the editorial collective of the Journal should return the most recent donation given by the Fund for Wild Nature (formerly the Earth First! Foundation) so that those funds could be allocated to a grassroots organization which is working to protect biodiversity, big wilderness and is engaging in educational efforts. I consider it ethical for the editorial collective to return the funds, but I do not insist on that.

I have informed potential large

donors of my concerns and and told them that I can no longer recommend that they donate to the new Earth First! Journal.

When asked by students and by people in various places where I speak what journals I recommend, I will tell them to subscribe to newspapers of various grassroots groups listed in the "new conservation movement" section in issue two of Wild Earth.

I hope that any persons in the editorial collective of the new Earth First! Journal who are supportive of big wilderness, biodiversity, bioregional diversity, grassroots activism will join us in the new conservation, deep ecology movement.

For the earth first,

—BILL DEVALL

*Ed. note: The Fund for Wild Nature in toto does not concur with Bill Devall's wishes that the EF! journal return funds given to it by the Foundation. Therefore, the journal will keep the cash.*

Dear Folks—

The Fund for Wild Nature (formerly Earth First! Foundation) board has voted to not consider future projects requests from the Earth First! Journal. The Board does not wish to support groups that compromise deep ecological values.

This decision is effective upon the completion of the current Letter of Agreement stipulations between the Foundation and the Journal.

Sincerely,

—ED GRUMBINE, FOR THE FUND FOR WILD NATURE

Dear SFB,

After years of refusing to write any more "Cat Tracks" columns for the Journal, I want to set the facts straight. From one furry woman's point of view:

Kudos to Steve Marsden! Someone finally tells it like it is. In an effort to keep the "high ground" in the fray, the real activists of EF! have been biting their lip for too long. There never was a split down the middle. The movement left behind its self-inflated "leaders," their sexist-racist-imperialist attitudes, and their attempts to "purify" their hoped-for version of a monocultural, monotheistic EF! (Dave Foreman) himself, back when he was a long-haired party animal (I used to roll in the mud with that naughty boy), described EF! as an anarchistic tribe. He said anyone who "put the Earth first" belonged. He touted a non-hierarchical structure, then pulled strings, manipulated, and censored the movement. There were never more than a dozen of his so-called "rednecks for wilderness." The front lines have always been "manned" by mostly women and the alternative fringe he calls "hippies." While they did all the work, a few alleged leaders got all the glory, the high-paying speaking engagements, and the multi-page spreads in national magazines. Dave used to say all decisions were made at

our rendezvous circles. It was that circle that took back our Journal from the "true believers," while Dave takes the money, computers, back issues, and contacts. That the Missoula staff were able to borrow the money for equipment, work out the dynamics of a rotating staff of activists, make do with the reduced mailing list, overcome Dave's bad-mouthing in every imaginable magazine, and still put out an incredibly potent EF! Journal is a feat of miraculous proportion. We can't thank them enough. Now anyone can have input. It's finally true what the "old" Dave said: Anyone, black-red-gay-anarcho-ecofem-rainbow-rowdy who puts the Earth first, and acts on it, is welcome!

We weren't infiltrated by "leftists and hippies." We haven't been taken over by "humanists." We've integrated our critique of the patriarchal system and of social injustice into our understanding. It's all connected! But we know they depend on the continued health and evolution of wild ecosys-

tems. Some people don't recognize the oppression of women and the Mother Earth go hand in hand.

In the throws of post Arizona paranoia, and anxious to follow Dave's lead, some activists here in the East have disavowed the EF! name. It's hypocritical to censor the tree spike on the new PAW shirt, then end an article on PAW/USES with a plug for "60-penny nails." It's hypocritical to take so much from the movement, then turn your back on the name. We've always supported not just fellow monkey-wrenchers, but those into civil disobedience or legal appeals. We've worked under banners of convenience ("Bonnie Abzug Feminist Garden Party" or "Cathedral Forest Group"), but never disavowed the EF! tribe.

Only a few of the real activists quit and moved on! 95% of the core (read, "works 24 hours a day") activists are still at it. What we really lost was in the perception of the fringe, the paid subscribers and financial benefactors that fund the core's efforts, and swell the

Continued on page 30

## Earth First! Journal, Count Us Out.

BT  
This is not obviously true

The Earth First! journal is supposed to be the national newspaper of the Earth First! movement. In the past, we at Ecotopia Earth First! have had several disagreements with the Journal over some of the things they have printed. But this last issue goes right off the scale for us. It includes an article that, in thinly veiled language, suggests that we should shoot hunters. According to journal staff, this article was hand delivered by a man who identified himself as an ex-CIA agent. The article talks at length about what kind of guns and ammo to use, and how to destroy evidence that could link a bullet to your gun. And it gleefully relates an anecdote about a mass murderer who dresses as a hunter and goes out shooting other hunters.

If this was supposed to be humor, we are not laughing. In fact we are appalled. In the eleven years of Earth First!'s existence no one from any faction has ever advocated such a stupid, violent and sociopathic position. What possible political agenda could be served by publishing such this article? We are not even opposed to hunting in general, although we do oppose some hunting practices, such as helicopter shoots and hunting endangered species. And here lies the danger of the Journal article.

The hunt saboteurs are engaged in courageous non-violent actions to actually stop these practices. In our area they have successfully disrupted the Tule Elk hunt each year by going out with air horns and frightening the elk away before the hunters can shoot. They are unarmed facing armed hunters, and their safety depends on the moral authority of knowing that they are unarmed. Hunt Sabs have already been beaten, captured and left locked in a hunting trailer in a remote wilderness area. In England a Hunt Saboteur was even killed by a hunter. The Journal article directly endangers the lives of these true eco-warriors.

The Journal also endangers us here in the redwood region, where our mass non-violent actions have been directly responsible for saving Cahto Wilderness and Headwaters Forest, as well as making an international issue of the destruction of the redwoods. Because of these successes, tensions in our area are very high, and we are certainly not exaggerating to say that lethal force is being used against us. There have been two assassination attempts on Judi Bari, including the car bomb that nearly killed her. Dozens of other activists in our area have also been punched, beaten, shot at, forcibly shaved, run

down with trucks, lost their jobs, or been threatened and harassed. The timber companies have a very well financed campaign to try to marginalize us and portray us as violent in order to incite violence against us. This article in the EF! Journal plays right into their hands.

When the Journal moved to Montana, we tried to set up an editorial structure that would produce a paper that represents the EF! movement. We have failed at that. The current Journal bears little resemblance to the real Earth First! movement that we are part of. Earth First! is opposed to violence against humans and other living beings. This may be a lark to the Journal staff, but for us it is a life and death struggle. We are literally putting our lives on the line to defend our ecosystem, and we cannot afford the luxury of associating with people who either don't understand this or don't share our views on non-violence.

For these reasons, Ecotopia Earth First! has decided to take the following actions: (1) We are immediately withdrawing our names from the contact list in the Earth First! Journal until such time as we can gain some accountability and trust of the Journal staff. (2) We are mailing this statement directly to the other local Earth First! groups, and asking them to communicate with us directly. (3) We are calling for an Earth First! activist conference to decide how the movement can regain control of the Earth First! Journal.

We are involved in a serious struggle for change in our region. At great cost we have made progress towards saving the forest and gained credibility in our communities. We condemn in the strongest terms possible the Earth First! Journal's lack of judgement for printing such an inappropriate and incendiary article.

—ECOTOPIA EARTH FIRST!

- Mickey Dulas, Northcoast EF!
- Darryl Cherney, Southern Humboldt EF!
- Rick and Cathi Clonginger, Laytonville EF!
- Todd Cinemmon, Laytonville EF!
- Judi Bari, Willits EF!
- Naomi Wagner, Willits EF!
- Lynda Aubrey, Mendocino Coast EF!
- Betty Ball Ukiah EF!
- Pam Davis, Sonoma County EF!

CHB BSA MB [ ] (NANCY WILSON LATER CLAIMS SHE WAS DAVE FOREMAN, AND THAT THIS IS AN UNDERSTANDING)

# Oil Giants Stalk Chesapeake Bay

BY RON HUBER

Not content with ravaging other coastlines, Texaco and Exxon have cast their evil eyes on the Chesapeake Bay region.

What is emerging in bits and pieces is a stealthy campaign to fill the coastal plain surrounding Chesapeake Bay with suppurating oil and gas fields and poisonous drilling waste dumps crisscrossed with pipelines and industrial highways. For the benefit of—who else?—the oil companies as well as land speculators who stand to reap gas and oil royalties on whatever gets drawn from the ground. Some government regulators will get a shot at the revolving door into

to their will. A law was passed by the Maryland General Assembly that relieves them of the burden of paying any royalties to state or county governments. A bill was pushed through to permit drilling within the 'critical area' (land within 1,000 feet of tidal water), over the strong objections of the state Critical Areas Commission.

The state's Water Resources Administration announced it would follow the federal lead in weakening its wetlands protection laws, to allow drilling on no-longer legally-wetlands.

Maryland's Dept. of the Environment exempted Texaco from state air pollution laws for their smog-creating drilling rigs, each capable of daily putting out as much air pollution as 5,000 cars driving 50 miles in a day. This despite the fact that commuter swarms invading coastal Maryland habitat and establishing sub-division style settlements have raised the amount of airborne pollution in large areas to levels that exceed EPA limits.

Department of Natural Resources (DNR) wildlife officials pronounced the degradation of habitat for dozens of plant and animal species acceptable; state tidewater biostitutes gave the nod to possible fouling of spawnhomes of migrating striped bass, menhaden, alewives, herring, eels and shad in the lower reaches of Pope's Creek, a three and a half mile long stream that rises in the land Texaco proposes to drill on and empties into the tidal Potomac shortly before it reaches the Bay.

Popes Creek's lower reaches, lush with tidal marshes, are protected by state regulation as a Natural Heritage Area. Its middle reaches are surrounded by "Nontidal Wetlands of Special State Concern." Texaco is leasing a large part of the upper reaches.

## Opposition

The biggest conservation group in Maryland, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, after first being a compromising player in the debate and helping draft guidelines to regulate oil and gas drilling, is belatedly taking a stronger public position in opposition to the plan, after criticism from Earth First! and other grassroots activists. Activists, despite extreme reluctance by the press to cover the issue, have been hounding the politicians, regulators and biostitutes as they try to pave the way for Texaco and its allies.

At the final public hearing on whether or not to issue Texaco its drilling permit, 45 anti-drilling activists showed up, much to the surprise of the Texxonoids, who had hoped to have a quiet affirmation of their plan by staging

the public hearing at a fire station far out in the boonies. Not a single voice in favor of the proposed drilling was raised as Earth First!ers, Sierra clubbers, students and plain old pissed off locals demanded that the state government deny Texaco permission to drill. Who, they asked, owned the leases? Which politicians were being bought off? A pack of oil company reps, men and women alike clad in charcoal suits, gaped in shock and surprise as person after person denounced their scheme.

A week later 30 students and Earth First!ers demonstrated in front of the MD Department of Natural Resources in opposition to the drilling plan. We then trooped into the building, accompanied by anxious flacks and nightstick clutching cops, and took the stairway up to the headman's office.

When we reached it, Torrey Brown's office was blockaded by a wall of his assistants and police, so we confronted his lieutenants in the hallway outside it instead. The state regulators held to the 'Nuremberg Defense' line: just following orders and regulations! Don't like what we are doing? Change the regs. We demanded to know the ownership of the oil and gas leases. Don't know, they said. Ask Texaco. Had the regulators received any gratuities from Texaco? Well, er.....yes. Free lunches. More than one? Uh huh. They began sweating in front of the reporters from the Annapolis daily paper and the University of Maryland paper.

The demonstrators were passionate and well informed, but the government types had experience in double speak, which finally settled into repetitive evasion. We left after ordering copies of useful files.



## Strategy

The enemy has had the initial advantage of surprise. Texxon managed to keep its plans out of the media, including dates and times of public hearings. Nearly all the necessary permits had been gained by the time activists got wind of the plan. The oil companies clearly hope to gain final permits on the first Maryland well and use it as a precedent for blanket authorization for hundreds or thousands of other wells. Once they drill 'exploratory' wells, they will achieve 'momen-

tum': Can't stop us now. We've invested millions of dollars into the project. Politicians regrettably tend to buy such nonsense.

The Chesapeake EF! plan of defense involves a layered strategy. Suspicion is being sown via radio talk shows, letters to ed and CB chatter that state politicians and bureaucrats have been buying up land with oil and gas potential; casual conversations with state legislators' lower echelon staffers on the corruption question to send whispers throughout the Statehouse; demonstrators marching in to bureaucrats offices; letters to the governor demanding to know whether he's got a personal stake in drilling.

At the same time, Greenpeace furnished information detailing the extraordinary array of cancers and other disorders linked to coastal drilling is being disseminated. Should Maryland become a cancer sink like Louisiana?

Appeals are also being made to isolationist sentiment. Despite recent interstate invasions, much of southern Maryland is populated with rural people still speaking with a touch of the King's English. They resent the intrusion of suburbanoids with their faceless housing tracts and daily rush hour traffic jams. The oil companies are yet another demon come to ruin "Su'Mellin," as they pronounce it.

## Legal

Texaco's biostitute prepared an Environmental Impact Assessment riddled with flaws. The plan is to take them to court and require the Federales to perform an Environmental Assessment of their own, followed by an EIS. This should take years, and will also make it clear that exploratory oil drilling cannot be looked at in isolation from the impacts of actually extracting oil and gas, and that the ecological impacts of the hundreds or even thousands of wells that will follow successful exploration must also be taken into account.

Earth First! is also pressing for full disclosure of oil lease ownership. If any pertinent regulators have an economic stake in furthering oil and gas drilling, we will call the whole process 'tainted' and thus null and void. Ditto for state legislators.

**Direct Action** It appears the press will ignore the issue unless there's some ritual violence-like CD, or other physical opposition to the oil companies. So it goes.....

**What You Can Do:** If you have ever fought the oil companies drilling plans, please send us info on your successes and failures. What works, what doesn't. Remember: this is ONSHORE drilling, not offshore, and mostly on private lands, although some may be on state controlled lands.

Write to Governor William Donald Schaefer, Statehouse, Annapolis, MD 21401

Tell him that turning coastal Maryland into an oil field is one of the worst things he can allow. No royalties will accrue the state and no jobs for local residents (Texaco is import-

Continued next page



corporate salary-dom if they kowtow enough to the rapacious oilmen.

Since 1985, the two companies have quietly gained the necessary permits for running seismographic tests throughout Maryland's and Virginia's coastal plain. Texaco, happy with the results, has purchased oil and natural gas leases on 65,000 acres of land both public and private within Maryland so far, as well as 135,000 acres in Virginia. The government claims it has no idea who owns the leases. Now they are trying to win an okay to begin 'exploratory' drilling.

Tidewater Maryland is a network of forests, farms and marshes interwoven with hundreds of brooks, streams and tidal creeks that empty into the Chesapeake or its tributary rivers. Humans have settled in progressive waves since before the last ice age, but the area has changed little since the 1600s in terms of land usage, when English kings granted large plantations to tobacco growers.

Then in the 1980s came an onslaught of developers, as babyboom business majors were told to 'make their first million' by buying farms and forests and turning them into office parks, townhouses and subdivisions. They set to it with a vengeance, growing in political influence as they did so, packing county governments with their associates to ease rezoning and minimize governmental interference with their destructive actions.

Then came the Texxonoids from Hell. Since they first decided to plunder the area, the oil giants have been busy bending politicians



# Maryland Activists Fight for Second-Growth State Forests

BY GLEN BESA, FORESTRY COMMITTEE CHAIR, SIERRA CLUB - POTOMAC CHAPTER

By virtue of their size and ecological significance, the National Forests have been the primary battleground between forest activists, logging interests and forest administrators. But many states also have extensive public forest holdings. In Maryland, a very small state with no National Forests, our struggles to preserve Maryland's State Forests have mirrored much of what has been happening across the country.

The state forests of western Maryland, like much of the Appalachian forests, consist of second growth stands which have come back quite nicely after 100 years or so of benign neglect. Now that the timber is reaching commercial maturity, the local timber industry is anxious to log these public lands and the state forest administrators have been only too willing to oblige them.

One significant factor that both the industry and administrators have exploited to justify logging our state forests is the gypsy moth infestation which has been with us in Maryland for the past decade. Using isolated examples where the gypsy moth damage has been particularly severe, loggers and administrators reason that all that timber will go to waste if it is not logged before the gypsy moths kill the trees. And of course by logging these forests, the foresters maintain (without any scientific basis) that a more vigorous, gypsy moth resistant forest will grow back.

While the gypsy moth is a most unwelcome pest, this exotic of European origin has been extending its range from New England for the past 100 years and we are not about to eradicate it. Still, as it expands into new areas in advance of its natural predators, the pesticide manufacturers and the forest administrators do their best to alarm the public and justify their "man-

agement" of the pest through the indiscriminate spraying of pesticides and encouraging a "cut it before you lose it" management policy on public and private forests alike. Forest activists from regions in the path of the gypsy moth, particularly the southern Appalachians and the mid-west, should take note that logging interests will use the impending gypsy moth infestation to justify what they wanted to do anyway, and that is to log our public forests.

Since the tactics of loggers are much the same where ever there are forests, the remainder of this article will focus on the local reform measures which have been put into place in Maryland and how we got there. It is hoped that this information may serve as an example for activists working on state forest issues in other states.

The first thing we noticed in Maryland when we challenged several proposed cuts in the State Forests was that the state agency responsible for managing the forests, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, practiced a "seat of the pants" approach to forestry. So-called management plans for the state forests either didn't exist or were outdated and consisted of little more than a vague description of the resource and how much of it they planned to log. Even the records of where they had logged previously were poorly maintained and generally incomprehensible.

Public participation consisted of irregularly held public meetings at which a Five Year Timber Management Plan was presented with no supporting documentation and little opportunity for real public involvement in decision making. Whereas with National Forests there are written procedures that are more or less followed, in Maryland, the Department of Natural Resources tended to make up the rules as they went along, and there

were no laws or regulations requiring them to do otherwise.

Fortunately for Maryland forest activists, several of the cuts proposed over the past several years involved areas of recognized ecological or recreational significance. First, state forest administrators chose to ignore the recommendations of their own Natural Heritage program not to log a particularly significant area known as Puzzley Run in the Savage River State Forest. Then state forest administrators chose to log an area known as Herrington Manor, offering some of the best cross-country skiing in the state.

After intense letter writing campaigns, numerous negative articles in the press, and a memorial day demonstration in front of Herrington Manor State Park, an image conscious Governor suggested that the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources initiate a dialogue with the forest activists. After several intense face to face meetings, the Department decided either that there were real problems that needed to be addressed, or at least that Maryland's forest activists, led by Sierra Club "hardliners", would continue to batter the agency in the media.

Initial token efforts to placate the activists were ineptly managed by unreformed stump jumpers in the Department. This process, which included an effort to develop a Ten Year Management Plan for Maryland's largest state forest was so badly handled that even timber industry representatives complained that the effort was a waste of their time. A departmental reorganization brought in some new faces, and an ad hoc advisory committee was appointed to develop a reformed planning process that included meaningful public participation. As might be expected, the advisory committee that was appointed had majority representa-

tion from the timber industry, but there was strong representation from the environmental community, and a commitment from the new administrators to develop a real planning process for the state forests.

The process that was finally hammered out is far from perfect but it is providing the public with advanced notice of proposed annual timber sales for each state forest with annual public hearings and opportunities for written comment. The bright light of public scrutiny has caused forest managers to moderate proposed logging plans and to consider the impacts of timber sales on the forest ecology and on recreation.

Of course, these process reforms have not stopped logging on our state forests, and more than half the Savage River State Forest, our largest, is still classified as a timber management zone. With an administrative process in place, the Department expects environmentalists to play by their new bureaucratic rules and accept the decisions of the department as fair and just. But we know the game is still rigged in favor of the loggers, and while participating in the process, we will continue to publicly criticize agency decisions and use the political process and the media to publicize the continuing destruction of Maryland's State Forests. At best, we have bought some time for the forests while we continue to build a solid grassroots organization with the political muscle to stop this short sighted exploitation of our public lands. Our work has only just begun.

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# Kalmiopsis Road Blockade

BY ROBERT "BOB" BOBIGLIANNI

Like awakening from an erotic dream into an unpleasant reality, my comrades and I found ourselves surrounded by a diverse group of people, mostly timber industry beasts, under the auspices of the "New Perspectives" "scoping process". Just minutes earlier myself and three other Canyon Conservation Corps members had greeted the school bus load of happy campers on one of the multitude of clearcuts, en route to the meeting which was to occur near the trailhead of the Canyon roadless area, slated for destruction by the U.S.F.S.

We sprang out of the 20 year old clearcut dressed in our everyday Grim Reaper garb, equipped with cardboard scythes in case things got ugly. Upon blocking the school bus local activist Bald Mountain W.E. Bill Horado found that even his death mask and long purple robe were almost ineffective against the

honed foot muscles of the anxious bus driver, as she persistently nudged him with the multi-ton yellow phallus she was piloting.

A train of Forest Circus vehicles and logger muscle wagons followed the packed bus, forming the perfect captive audience for our antics. At each window we sincerely thanked industry members and F.S. clones for all the wonderful Death they provided, and would continue to dole out if the current plans for Canyon devastation are implemented.

Several angry industry advocates pasted our car with Timber jive bumper stickers and a passionate "fuck you assholes" as they drove past. One mill owner had the gall to ask what we thought food stamps were printed on through the window of his immaculate 91 Bronco. Back at the big scoping meeting, some still in costume,

CCC representatives posed questions of global importance, i.e. desertification, deforestation, habitat loss, unprecedented species extinctions and global warming. However, "the forest plan has already dealt with those issues" we were told. Oh, ok. They wanted to discuss the alternatives of the Canyon Integrated Resource Project, all of which are shit except for the No Action, of course.

At one point I looked around at the surroundings through that baking plastic mask and thought, what an incredibly beautiful place this is, here at the edge of the wilderness. We were sitting in one of the most diverse ecosystems on the planet, and yet virtually every question from the timber industry was concerned with economics.

At that moment I realized that for the most part, the dominant paradigms present at the meeting

might just as well have been in the florescently lit air-conditioned Kalmiopsis Room of the Siskiyou National Forest Headquarters in Grant's Pass, Oregon (it's the climate). Luckily there were not many insects out that day.

The one industry fellow who had earlier decorated our truck and flung some profane verbosity in our direction was now shooting some secret messages to me across the expanse whenever I happened to look his way; finally his wife angrily insisted that he stop pestering me and listen to what the scientists were saying, he might just learn why it is o.k. to road and log the south Kalmiopsis roadless area.

# So Soon? Mining Reform After Only 120 Years

By Allison Slater

Back in the glorious pioneer days of our history, this continent spread out before the eager, gleaming eyes of white men who had never seen so much land ripe for exploitation. The resources seemed inexhaustible. The US government, having managed to overcome the forces of decentralization in the Civil War, was eager to get on with the fulfillment of its Manifest Destiny. Irresistible offers were being made to those willing to go out and squeeze the juices from the fruit of the land.

On May 10, 1872, Congress passed "An Act to promote the Development of the mining Resources of the United States" (note the words they chose to capitalize). The act said, in the usual vague, flowery language, Go Get It, Boys. It allowed anyone who found a deposit of commercially valuable mineral to claim the land and patent it as private for only \$5/acre. Prospectors could hold the land indefinitely before deciding to buy it by making \$100 worth of "improvements" (roads, fences, test drill sites) each year. 3.2 million acres of once-public land have been made private under this act.

The Mining Law of 1872 still stands, with few amendments made over the ensuing 120 years. The price per acre is still \$5 (it's nice to know inflation hasn't hit everyone!) Anyone finding valuable minerals on public land can still patent it as private. Mining companies can hold hundreds of claims, waiting to start the digging until market prices are favorable. To hold the claim, they still only have to do \$100 worth of work on the land, which in today's economy amounts to little more than mending a hole in a fence. Public lands are littered with these unpatented time bombs, and since Wilderness and Roadless Area Protection Acts (what few of them exist) are not retroactive, the holders of old claims can decide to patent them and begin mining them even after areas are set aside as wilderness. In the Kootenia National Forest in the Cabinet Mountain Wilderness of Montana, for example, Borax used two test holes drilled before the deadline of the 1964 Wilderness Act to retain its mining rights in 1986, and in 1988 to sell the mining rights to another mining corporation. (see *Earth First!* Feb. 2, 1991, p. 22)

The amendments made over the years have only worsened the situation. The Multiple Mineral Development Act of 1954 allows the US to lease the rights to non-valuable minerals such as sand, gravel and pumice. The Surface Resource Act of 1955 gives the US government the right to "dispose of" the vegetative resources, (that's trees to you and me) on patented land before mining operations begin. One especially interesting clause says that if after the forest service clearcuts the land, the miner then decides he needs timber for his mining operation, the government is required to provide it *free of charge* from the nearest area ready for harvest. All of these laws still stand.

Despite pressure from the mining lobby and reassurances

from our hero F. Dale Robertson that the 1872 Mining Law is doing just fine, two mining reform bills were finally introduced to Congress this year. The House bill, (HR 918) was introduced by Representative Rahall of West Virginia and the Senate bill (S 433) by Senator Bumpers of Arkansas. Both bills are dragging, as Congress hardly sees reforming archaic bills as a priority, but they could come up for vote some time next year.

Although naturally the bills don't begin to make the changes EFlers would like to see (as in, the end to mining on public lands) there are a few pretty major reforms proposed that environmental activists groups fighting proposed mines or trying to get old ones cleaned up might find helpful. The most significant change would be the end to the patenting system. This wouldn't really make much headway in protecting our public lands because mining companies could still buy mining rights, similar to timber or grazing rights. It would prevent mining companies from taking land out of the public domain, strip-mining it, and then selling it to a private developer for several hundred thousand times what they paid for it.

The system proposed to replace the patents is not exactly the same as that for timber and grazing rights, and shows the lingering attitude that favors mining. Congress' Office of Technology issued a statement in 1979 that "...mineral production is the best use of any tract of land and thus makes mineral activity the preferred use on any federal land that is open to such activity." When the Forest Service or BLM decides to open a tract of land to logging or grazing, timber companies competitively bid for the rights. Under the proposed mining reform acts there would be no bidding and it would not be up to the FS or BLM to decide what areas to sacrifice to the mineral gods. Any prospector can look for minerals on public land (with the exception that there is no new exploration in wilderness areas—unless Congress decides it's OK of course) and if they find the booty they can stake the claim.

The "myriad of red tape" the mining lobby is bemoaning consists of a Plan of Operations a prospector must submit to the Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of the Interior. While waiting for approval they would pay \$1.50/acre/year and have to do \$20 worth of work per acre for the first five years (\$40 for the next five years, etc.). This is the system set up under the House bill. The Senate bill does not explain exactly what happens while waiting.

Once the plan is approved (and we can't expect Lujan or Madigan to turn down many requests) the mining must pay a \$5/acre/year rental fee. There is a graduated "diligent development" requirement under the House bill, begin-

ning with \$20/year for the first five years. The Senate bill has a graduated rental fee, beginning with \$5/acre/year, plus a 12% royalty. The mining lobby is furious about the royalty, never having had to pay one before. The House bill includes a clause allowing all these exorbitant fees to be waived by the sympathetic Secretaries if the miner can prove undue hardship (not making a big enough profit). Since modern mining operations are high tech and extremely expensive, it is doubtful that any miner unable to pay \$5/year would be able to buy the equipment to mine. This clause only highlights the reluctance of the House to acknowledge that the days of Yosemite Sam pecking away with only his pick and shovel are over.

Both bills do suggest that the Secretaries consider some environmental impacts when doling out the mining rights. They give the secretary the right to modify or even (that unspeakable word) *reject* mining proposals in order to protect areas of critical environmental concern, habitat for endangered species, riparian areas, wetlands and areas where surface or groundwater might be contaminated. Min-



ing companies must also be able to prove (or at least convince the secretary) that the mine is reclaimable to its former level of productivity. Since this would effectively all but end mining on any land not already decimated if these res-

trictions were taken seriously, we can safely expect that Lujan will generally ignore them. They do offer activist groups trying to bring law suits or injunctions against mining operations something to point to, though, which is a big improvement over the 1872 *Have At act*. The Senate bill, in fact, has a whole section on citizen suits, specifically allowing citizens to bring action against the US government or the guilty secretary if the environmental regulations aren't followed. This omission in the House bill is a troublesome loophole because both bills lay the principle duty of enforcement on the Secretaries. After the bang-up job they've done of enforcing environmental regulations (such as they are) against abuses by timber companies and ranchers, I'm sure the mining company CEOs can sleep soundly.

Both bills also set up an Abandoned Hardrock Mine Reclamation Fund. The money for the Fund would come from the rental fees and, in the Senate proposal, from part of the royalty. Since mining operations do considerably more than \$5/acre/year worth of damage, the rental fees alone will barely make a dent in cleaning up the disastrous legacy of mining in this country. Although still woefully inadequate, the Senate bill at least set aside a bit more money for clean up. The basic structure of the Recla-

mation Funds are the same. They leave it up to individual states to come up with specific clean up plans. Some states already have these, and would be much more likely to get grants. Neither Arizona nor New Mexico have reclamation programs, so even though both are big mining areas, it would be difficult for them to get money to clean up mines. Grants from the Fund can be made directly to the secretaries or the the chief of the Forest Service, if they feel an area without a state plan is in imminent danger, but chances are the states with already operating programs will get the bucks.

The priorities set up in the bills, not surprisingly, put human health and safety at the top of the list and long-term environmental damage at the bottom, so the money will be used to fill in holes that kids and stupid backpackers fall into first and the leftover change will go to cleaning up groundwater or revegetating stripmined areas.

Another serious loophole is that the state is protected from being sued for damages resulting from action taken *or omitted* in an approved state plan. So when states propose and the secretaries approve half-assed clean-ups, and a few years later people are upset to discover that cyanide is leaching into their drinking water, they can't sue either the state or the secretary unless they can prove gross negligence or intentional misconduct. The idea is to lay liability on the polluter, not the government agency that allowed the mining or oversaw the clean-up. This would be fine if it weren't for the fact that many of these still toxic mines were left by miners long-dead or companies long-since dissolved and there is no one left to be held accountable. Certainly the citizens with poisoned drinking water can ask their representatives to request more money from the Fund to finish the job, but funds, especially under the House bill, will be tight and any site, once given any token reclamation attempt, will probably be moved to the bottom of the waiting list.

I suppose this is the part where I'm supposed to tell everyone to write to their Senators and Representatives and encourage them to pass these bills. Well, if you want to do that, you're more than welcome, because they're certainly better than what we have right now. But the bills are in no way putting an end to the destruction of land in pursuit of nice shiny metals. A magazine called *Minerals Today* ran an interview with F. Dale Robertson about the implications of the bill. (There was a nice photo with it of Fucking Dale snowmobiling through a National Forest.) He basically told the mineral industry not to worry. Of course, now they will mine in an environmentally sensitive way. It's the mining industry's answer to New Perspectives. "The Forest Service is in the mineral business in a big way and I don't see that changing." I don't either, F. Dale, but we sure will try to make it harder on you.



# Fishing Industry Decimates Steller Sea Lions

By STELLA C. LYONS

The Steller sea-lion, also known as the Northern sea-lion, truly resembles a majestic lion with its broad head, deep throaty roar and golden color. Like the lions of the African plains, the Stellers are also on a fast road to extinction. Their population is dropping at an alarming rate and their recent classification as threatened may soon have to be updated to endangered.

Stellers range throughout the Pacific rim from the Channel Islands of southern California to north Honshu, Japan and Korea, northward to the Bering Strait. Alaska is the center of the world's population with 47% of the world's estimated population of 200,000 born at four rookeries.

In the 1800's the Stellers were hunted throughout their range by white man. Large numbers were killed for "trimming" sold primarily in Asia, as well as for animal food and oil. The hide was used to make gloves and coverings for boats. The intestines were used for waterproof clothing. They were a staple in the diet of coastal residents in the Aleutian and Pribilof islands. By the mid-19th century, the population had been severely depleted and didn't begin to increase until the 20th century. Since 1972, only subsistence harvests by natives have been allowed. The number taken by natives is not reported, but during the late 1950's and mid 1960's the Stellers occupied their full range and by the 1970's their numbers were considered to be at pre-exploitation levels. Now the number of sea-lions, observed on certain rookeries in Alaska has declined by 63% since 1985. Only in southeast Alaska have the numbers remained relatively stable. Declines are occurring in previously stable areas and are accelerating. If the rate of decline observed between 1985-89 persists, by the year 2000 the population in the area from Kisha island to the Kenai Peninsula will be reduced to about 1% of its 1960 level.

Under natural conditions, not influenced by humans, the size of an undisturbed population would likely fluctuate around the carrying capacity of the environment. Human activities are driving the population to unstable levels. Declining numbers have been recorded throughout all of their range, although factors influencing the population size differs from region to region.

In California, rising water temperature may be the reason for the loss of the southernmost rookery on San Miguel Island. The biggest factor causing the declines in Alaska and the USSR is the overfishing by factory trawlers. Food shortage, climatic changes, marine debris from fishing operations, incidental and direct mortality from fishing, past and current harvest, disturbance at rookeries from visitors and researchers, oil and gas development, nearshore development, oil spills and other pollutants are all factors in sea lion mortality. It is the fisheries interactions that are causing the greatest ecological imbalance, messing up the interrelationships and dependencies within the food web.

Steller sea-lions often try to take fish trapped by gear or nets near the fisheries, and are often caught and killed for damaging the equipment. For example, they like to swim inside purse seine nets and eat the salmon before the nets are closed. Live sea-lions, caught in nets, are usually shot. In the groundfish trawl fishery, they become entangled in the gear and are often shot rather than cut free. In the 1980s, an estimated 305 sea-lions were killed annually either by becoming entangled in nets and drowning or by being shot at the Spring Copport River Delta salmon gillnet fishery.

Foreign groundfish trawl fisheries have killed a reported average of 724 marine mammals each year between 1979 and 1981, 90% of which were sea-lions. Most were entrapped in gear when nets were being lowered or brought to the surface. In the early 1980's, Shelikof Strait joint venture trawl fisheries have been estimated to have killed between 216 and 1,436 sea-lions each year, most of which were reproductively mature females. In 1982 trawls with as many as 100 dead

sea-lions were reported by fishery observers. Estimates do not take into account sea-lions killed at sea, at haulouts, as target practice or just out of sheer malice.

Besides direct kills caused by fishing operations, entanglements in discarded gear and materials injure and kill additional sea-lions (and many other marine animals). Closed packing bands, used to hold boxes of bait together, and net material and ropes can encircle the neck of growing animals, cutting into the tissue and leaving an open wound. These mortalities and injuries are rarely reported but they may result in restrictions for the fisheries.

The massive new factory trawlers that are



Photo: Mark Hipher

scouring the North Pacific are also competitors for the Stellers' food supply, causing starvation, malnutrition, decreased fertility, decreased ability to carry a pup to full-term and decreased ability to successfully wean a pup. This is perhaps the major factor in the population crash.

Other marine life that rely on pollock are also suffering. Harbor seals are declining at a dangerous rate, parallel to that of the sea-lions and may be next on the endangered species list. Fur seal populations are in trouble, as are seabird species such as kittiwakes and murrets. The sea-lion is at the top of the food chain, and the condition of this animal should give us an indication that there is something wrong in the ecosystem.

In the same five year period that the sea-lion population has decreased by 63%, the number of factory trawlers has increased six-fold. In 1986, twelve factory trawlers worked Alaskan waters. Today more than 70 of these ships drag 1000-foot nets more miles over the ocean floor every day. The number of fish they bring up is astronomical and is playing hell with the natural balance of the area. The trawler nets also sweep up fish that are not targeted species or are too small for the processors. Most of these unwanted fish are dumped back into the sea, dead. 600 million pounds of bottomfish will be tossed over by the end of 1991. In the spring, the trawlers concentrate on the roe-bearing pollock. Though stripping the roe is now illegal, trawlers still target the roe-bearing females and dump the males and other fish.

The sea-lions' heavy reliance on species of fish of similar size/ class to those sought by fishers, and their tendency to use regular feeding areas, conflict with the profitable fishing industry- the number one employing industry in Alaska. The fisheries are "managed" by the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council, a body comprising industry representatives and political appointees. Seven of the eleven voting members are either owners or are on the payroll of the industry. Few people on the council speak for the long term health of the ecosystem.

With sea-lion populations still decreasing, the Fisheries Council wants to raise the Gulf of Alaska pollock quota by 82% this year. The Council claims the increase is warranted because supposedly new survey data shows more pollock in the gulf than they previously expected. This data is sketchy at best. This is only the second year that observers have been on board to document the waste.

Greenpeace sued the Secretary of Commerce and assistant administrator of fisheries for NOAA and NMFS charging that NMFS had been negligent in setting the pollock quota for 1991. Their suit said that the allocation endangered the

supply of pollock which the Steller sea-lions depend on for food. They asked US District Judge John Coughenour to block the remaining pollock harvest in the Gulf of Alaska. However, the judge rejected the suit on the 10th of October, and the fishery opened. The judge said that the government had sufficiently protected Steller sea-lions, freeing up the pollock allocation that had been held back pending the decision in the case. Greenpeace immediately appealed the decision and asked for an emergency stay order pending appeal of the case. The emergency stay request and opposing stand were denied and NMFS announced on October 17th that the fishery would proceed as planned, another blow to the Stellers, rendering their threatened status useless in the face of reality.

Steller sea-lions were classified as threatened in November of 1990. As a result, the protection given included prohibiting shooting at or near Stellers, and establishing a three nautical mile buffer zone around certain rookeries in Alaska in which all vessel traffic is banned. Individuals are prohibited from approaching on land closer than a half mile or within site. The number of Stellers that are killed incidentally to commercial fishing is supposed to be limited, although no specific, enforceable regulations are given. As ever, there are exceptions to the rule, and these include the taking of sea-lions "for the protection or welfare of the animal" and/or "the protection of the public health and welfare". Buffer zones can be entered to "perform legitimate governmental activities." Federal agencies are permitted, under the Magnuson Act, to log, mine, drill for oil and gas both on and off shore and develop the outer continental shelf near rookeries and haul-outs.

The public is prohibited from discharging a firearm at or within 100 yards (91.4 meters) of a Steller. Also in the threatened regulation is an incidental kill quota of no more than 675 in any one year within Alaskan waters and adjacent areas of the US Exclusive Economic Zone. NMFS instituted a monitoring system to make sure this limit is not surpassed; foreign processors and domestic groundfish vessels 125 feet or longer now carry observers on all of the operation. Groundfish vessels of 60-125 feet carry observers 30% of the time. The total incidental take of sea-lions will be *estimated* monthly. If their data indicates that the quota is being approached, the agencies will issue emergency rules to establish closed areas, allocate the remaining quota among fisheries (something that the industry will clearly not stand for, being such a huge political and economic force in Alaska) or they will take "other action" to ensure that the commercial fishing operations do not exceed the quota.

These regulations may well help reduce some Steller sea-lion mortality, but they are just putting a small band-aid over a large, festering wound. The sea-lions are dying in fishing nets, being shot, disturbed by spook counts and harassed by helicopters but the overall population decline stems from a lack of a proper food supply. The government agencies are choosing to ignore this problem because it is profitable to do so. It is much easier to throw out a few regulations that look effective and satisfy the public that something is being done.

The system needs to be overhauled totally. Things like the Magnuson Act need to be changed. Trawling needs to be banned. All fishing needs to be limited to daylight hours because sea-lions are night feeders and most run-ins occur at night. Fishing for pollock when they are carrying roe needs to be banned, as does the overall quota for groundfish. Critical habitat for the Stellers needs to be designated and their classification needs to be updated to endangered.

Forget the romantic images of the fishing industry in Alaska. The North Pacific ecosystem is being raped by the huge factory trawlers who are clear-cutting the oceans. They are cutting their own throats while cutting the throats of hundred of other marine animals. The Steller sea-lion is one more victim of insatiable human greed.

# Shawnee Update

By STEVE TAYLOR, BIG RIVER IN EXILE

On November 13th, President Bush signed into law the 1992 appropriations bill. This bill includes legislation that pertains specifically to the Shawnee National Forest in southern Illinois. Originally, the bill, which was sponsored in the House by Illinois congressmen Glen Poshard and Bill Yates, stipulated that no form of even-aged silvicultural management including group selection (a form of patch clearcutting) could be used in the Shawnee.

Although the bill prohibits the use of clearcutting and limits the size of individual cuts to no more than two thirds of an acre, valuable language was expunged from the motion as it went to conference in the Senate. Among those who fought most ardently against the house version of the bill, were Senator Danforth of Missouri and the infamous Senator Byrd.

Despite the bill having been rendered virtually toothless regarding direct legal enforcement, it does set standards of public policy that has the timber companies and the forest service reeling in fear of being gummed to death. As compromises go, it is a progressive one. Some interesting excerpts of the legislation are as follows. Sic.

"The forest service shall conduct a below cost timber sales study on the Shawnee National Forest, Illinois in fiscal year 1992."

"To the greatest extent possible, and pending final approval of the Draft Amendment to the Shawnee National Forest plan, none of the funds available in this act shall be used for preparation of timber sales using clearcutting or other forms of even aged management in hardwood stands in the Shawnee National Forest."

"Under the plan, uneven aged management is to be the predominant silvicultural practice on the Shawnee. Given the strong concern for the decline in neotropical migratory bird species and

the role of dwindling forest resources such as those on the Shawnee in this process, the managers encourage this shift towards low-impact timber management practices for this forest such as those included in its 1991 draft amendment to the plan."

The draft amendment plan has yet to be adopted in its final form as the forest service searches for new and even more creative means to eak out an honest days wage.

The plan now being revised, was adopted in 1986. It is being replaced a decade prematurely due to irreverent public protest and the forest service's failing reputation.

Necessitated in the DFA, by an act of congress signed into law last year, is the addition of 30,000 acres of wilderness area to augment the 1000 acres of wilderness previously recognized by chainsaws. Also promised is a reduction by two thirds of the amount of board feet allowed to be harvested.

Obviously these are ploys to placate Illinois' more rambunctious earthy types. But Earth First!, RACE and other environmental groups are demanding an immediate halt to all commercial logging in this national forest despite what the forest service plans. We believe this is the only rational response due to their inclination not to be held to their own plans, DFAs, EISs or any other anachronym.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, a states attorney and various county prosecutors are wagging a litigious finger at Earth Fistie! types. On November 14th, eleven defenders rejoined the ranks of potential felons when they refused to plea bargain on their charges which were previously mitigated to misdemeanors. They now again face charges of conspiracy to commit mob action, illegal restraint (of numerous logging trucks for approximately three hours) and some-

thing else. One is charged with the felonious theft of a milk crate. A group of thirteen are still to go to trial on criminal trespass charges. Some are charged with resisting arrest. There seems to be a concensus not to plea bargain, irrespective of the authorities' threat of book throwing.

Both groups feel there is a potential for winning a necessity defense since this sale was cut before the end of the DFA public commentary period and was done against an appeal by the Illinois congressional delegation in a letter to Chief Dale Robertson requesting a suspension of this and other sales.

On November 13th, a grand Jury found no grounds for criminal intent in the injury of Chris Van Daleen of Save America's Forests. Chris was run over and injured by timber purchaser Brian Unnerstall, when Chris attempted to blockade the entrance of the Fairview sale area on the 26th of August. Obviously the state is being quite phallic and prejudicial in its prosecution.

Protests continue, bolstered by the recent deferment of a sale at Cripps Bend, an area near Fairview the forest service and East Perry logging company promised tauntingly to cut by the end of this year's season. Also through the magic of the Freedom of Information Act, it has been recently disclosed that the forest service spent \$350,000 in law enforcement expenses during the three weeks of harvesting at the Fairview site. East Perry paid \$50,000 for the sale in 1989.

If you are interested in providing help in the acquisition of legal assistance for those who have not as of yet received the council of one who speaks legalis fecundi, send check, money order or negotiable bonds to The Shawnee Defense Fund, Rt. 1 Box 313, Brookport, Ill. 62910. Earmark for legal defense.

## Solidarity Hunger Strike

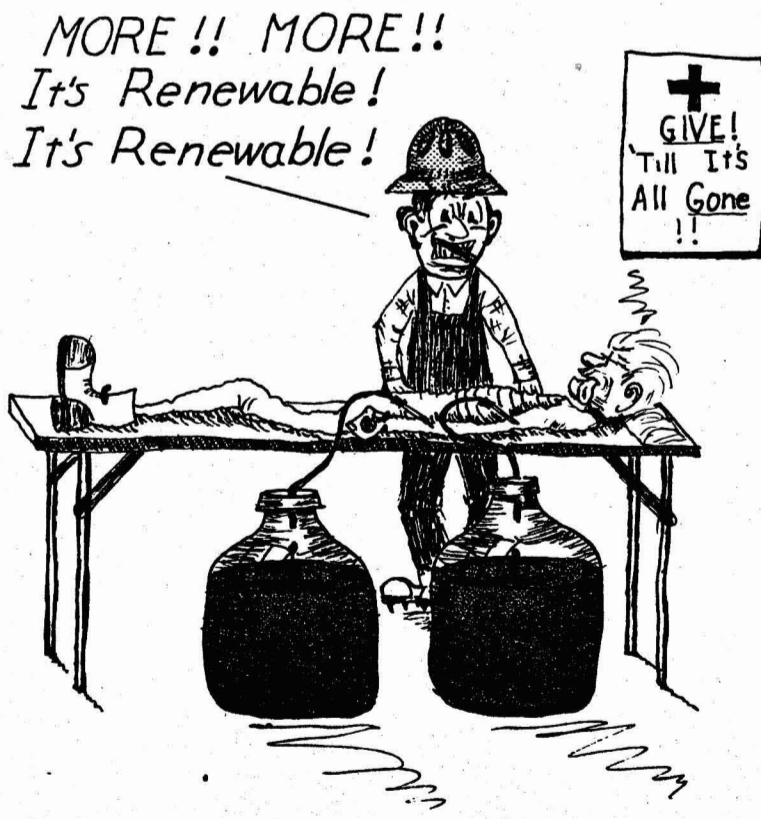
By JAN WILDER-THOMAS

Calling Earth First! forest lovers who are fed up with the destructive Forest Service corporation, a government agency which is ignoring environmental law, the will of sensible people and the warnings of scientists:

On September 3, 1991 Jan Wilder-Thomas, Jason Jacques, Joe Czuba, and Mike Meesig began the Shawnee Solidarity Hunger Strike to focus attention on the senseless cutting that compromises and threatens to destroy the Shawnee National Forest. The strikers refused to eat solid food for 21 days while Fairview was being destroyed. By that time, while talking with concerned citizens who wanted to help stop the Dozers but couldn't afford to be arrested, the original four had signed up 24-hour solidarity hunger strikers for every day in September and October.

Shawnee activists took the pledge calendar to the Student Environmental Action Coalition national conference, circulated the strike flyers, signed up more pledges, and were gratified to learn that Region 8 SEAC (Illinois, Indiana and Michigan) had voted to make the Shawnee their

#1 priority for cooperative action. Since that time, many universities have participated in the hunger strike. Dayton, Ohio SEAC students have continued the effort by pledging the entire



Having depleted the timber supply, sawmill owner, Homer "Buck" Farnsworth finds a job running the local Blood Bank.

month of November, with the help of students at Illinois State University, Normal, IL.

The pledge applies to all the last Forested Wild lands which President Bush (whacker) has given the orders to liquify. The Shawnee Solidarity Hunger Strike is an effort to inspire hundred of people to act in solidarity for their favorite last

wild places in their national forest. By making the same phone calls, applying pressure on every Senator and Representative who have overlooked the Forest Service scandal and those who have contributed to it, and the news media which has failed to investigate it, the people's voice will be heard. Over 250 citizens have participated in this effort.

It is hoped that the people of this nation will win out over corporate greed, and the Forest Service will be redirected before the remaining 5% of America's native forests are annihilated!

### SHAWNEE SOLIDARITY PLEDGE

Please mail or call in this pledge to your US Representatives, Senators, (202-224-3121 capitol switchboard) and George Bush (202-456-1111):

I am joining in this last ditch effort to rally any and all of the moral and ethical forces needed to displace the negative forces which are destroying the Shawnee national Forest in Southern Illinois. I feel that the Shawnee is symbolic of the few remaining habitats of native biodiversity which the Forest Service is intent on eliminating from coast to coast (include the name of your front line) They have a multitude of armed federal agents prepared to enforce the liquidation of the Shawnee hardwood ecosystem. With this understanding, I make a personal pledge to strike with the Shawnee Solidarity Hunger Strikers for at least one day in November and December and will ask my family and friends to participate. I will phone in my commitment dates to 618-564-2878 and call my local TV and radio stations to record my support for stopping the reign of terror in the Shawnee and the National Forest System. Shawnee Defense Fund, Rt. 1 box 313, Brookport, IL 62910, (618) 564-2878

# Trapping: Technology and Theory

BY ROBERT MARTEN

In this issue, we will resume the rather painful subject of trapping as begun last spring. Perhaps by now many of you have already acquired camouflage clothing, face cover, gauntlet-style gloves, a gunny sack, a firearm for mercy killing, and hopefully even a metal detector. If you did, you have a head start. Since many outdoorspersons kayak, canoe, raft, dive or snorkel, you will receive special attention finding water-set traps. From here on, we will be examining genres of trapping, trapping theory, trappers' tools and their techniques. In future issues, there will be discussion of natural and artificial sets, where to find them, and comprehensive primers on countermeasures.

Not wanting any trapper to gain more expertise from these articles, I have obfuscated certain details which could possibly make him the wiser...hopefully without sacrificing your learning. After all, he wants fur, and you want steel. The illustrations show trap placement very clearly for your benefit. In the real world, however, they are carefully camouflaged and are often difficult to find visually.

Please indulge me in one sociopolitical comment regarding this all-male profession. Preserving habitat is mocked when its creatures are summarily removed for vain, sexist commerce. It is one of the most painful areas of confrontation we face. So, live out your convictions...carefully!

## TYPES OF TRAPPING

Profitable trapping takes place where fur grows densest. This is either an aquatic or winter environment. For the sake of simplicity, it will be presented by environment:

- A. Dry land
- B. Water

This is all one would encounter in southerly climates. We add several variables for those up north:

1. Snow on land
2. Ice on water
3. Snow and ice on water

All of these combinations provide trappers (and you) with unique problems in executing their goals. Each specific solution is called a "set" or "booby trap", which conforms to specific environmental conditions.

## TYPES OF TRAPPERS

**SUBURBAN:** Surprisingly, a great deal of trapping is encountered on the outskirts of city limits. Wildlife entering this zone become disoriented by human activity and experience great difficulty finding their way out again. For a city-slicker trapper, this provides a unique opportunity some other trappers overlook. Swamps, streams, ponds and rivers are common in the suburbs. Muskrats, skunks, o'possums, and raccoons are commonly found there. A short drive and the trapper can make money with a minimum of equipment and work.

**FARMLAND:** For the farmer or younger autoerotic with a few spare hours on his hands everyday, local trapping can be significant. They can set up operations on their own private estate and accomplish two things: eliminate "vermin" and

produce income. Operations are out of the comfort of their own homes.

**AUTO:** The most common trapper today is mobile. He can carry a great deal of equipment in his vehicle and his range is vast. He commonly solicits permission to trap on private farmland, usually with great approval. His explorations adjacent to highways may reveal animal tracks which suggest the area is a "fur pocket"...an area untouched by trappers for some time. When the auto trapper can find a number of these pockets along a driveable circuit, the practice is termed "spot trapping." Frequently, they will also pull a camper for longer circuits of over 100 miles, so camp will be readily available on each tour. Inevitably, he will attempt to conceal his vehicle while making his rounds on foot. Look for him with or without a camper...he's there, and not necessarily in a redneck pickup!

**BOAT:** For truly profitable results with mink, otter, muskrat and beaver, the boat trapper has the edge. Though canoes are often used up north, the craft is usually a shallow draft Jon-boat. Water sets can be made along shores, an entire trapline set along a certain length of river; access to ponds and lakes is gained, and beaver dams and lodges as well as muskrat lodges can easily be reached. A redneck in a boat without much fishing gear, but carrying wicker baskets or gunny sacks, is often a dead giveaway.

**SEMI-WILDERNESS:** Transportation to more remote areas is provided by four-wheel drive, motorcycle, bicycle, horseback, dogsled, or snowmobile. Barely passable backroads give access to more pristine country. Camping is usually necessary due to distances from inhabited areas. Much more equipment is required for the trapper using this system. It also requires more hiking and snowshoeing (Fig. 1). This is the mainstay of country trappers and assimilated Native Americans to the north.

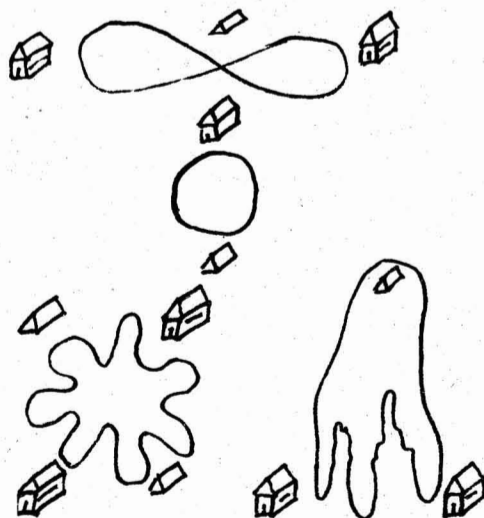


FIG. 1: Sample Trapping Circuits

**LONG-LINE WILDERNESS:** The rarest type of trapper, usually found in the remotest areas, particularly the Rocky Mountains, the Canadian Boreal Forest, and northern tundra near the tree-line. The trapline is covered on foot or by snowshoe, and is impractical virtually everywhere except in the far north. Living a tough lifestyle, this

trapper requires heavy supplies and equipment he must bear himself, hiking many miles, establishing food caches, and camping at overnight cabins. Once thought of as the singular domain of the "Sourdough", it is seldom practiced anymore by anyone but a handful of caucasians and unassimilated Native Americans, far from the influence of nylon and polyester fill.

## THEORY OF OPERATIONS

**BOOBY TRAPS:** Government Ordinance manuals define a booby trap as "...a dirty-trick device". We shall take them at their word, having proven to be experts. Dead bodies, firearms and even toys are rigged to produce that most unpleasant surprise of all...deadly entrapment. In trapping animals, the goal is precisely the same; entice and kill. (If this smacks of yellowbellied, flaccid terrorism to you, go to the head of the class...in an androcentric world, the cutting edge of technology will always be found in the armories and torture chambers!)

**MANIPULATE AND INTERCEPT:** Knowledge of the common, everyday behavior and travels of wildlife permits emplacement of booby traps where they will most likely be effective. (The same goes for your knowledge of trappers' daily behavior.)

**FAMILIARITY WITH TERRITORY:** Thorough knowledge and observation place the trapper well ahead of his prey and competition. It is a sad epithet to Robert Frost that, like you and I, many a trapper will take "...the path less travelled by...". An efficient trapper can, to some extent, track and target specific animals. You must hone such counter skills in the area you wish to purge.

**CLEANLINESS:** While you'd never know it by looking at them, trappers generally take great pains not to contaminate their working territories with human scent. Of particular concern are human urine and excrement, spitting, breathing on equipment, consumption of alcohol, the use of smoking or chewing tobacco, flatus, gasoline, various fumes or taking the dog along. (How these bozos can avoid doing any of the above for any length of time is utterly beyond comprehension!)

**CAMOUFLAGE:** Before use, traps are disinfected and stained dark by boiling in woodchips and then wax. In setting the traps, the trapper is careful to keep his surroundings appearing natural so as not to arouse suspicion in his prey (or you). Under water, he will lightly cover the trap with mud. On dry land, dirt, grass, moss, leaves or feathers are used. In snow, wax paper or white tissue sprinkled with sifted snow works every time. Frequently, to keep the bait or lure from freezing in cold weather, the trapper will utilize a layer of peat moss on the pan as a natural antifreeze and camouflage.

**NARROWS:** Theory holds that any animal, including man, can easily be directed towards danger by gradually constricting its path. In trapping, this takes place on trails (Fig. 2) or streams. The obstruction

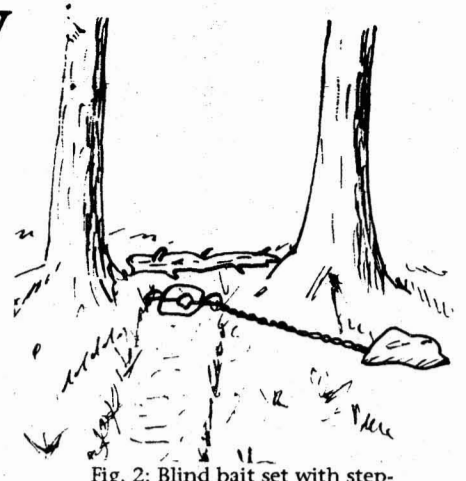


Fig. 2: Blind bait set with step-stick...branch is a drag to prevent animal from going far.

may occur naturally, and the trapper, recognizing its potential, will simply place a trap or two near the narrows. It may also be constructed artificially (Fig.3), and yet appear perfectly natural. Barricades and obstacles can be created using rocks, sticks, logs, brush and peg guides. Chicken wire or fencing are often stretched across streams and small rivers, with only a small out-

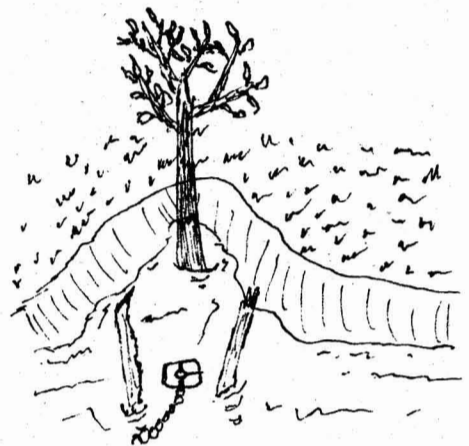


Fig. 3: Bait pen set for beaver—guide sticks direct beaver to trap

let for animals. Large rocks are also used for that purpose, and their formations are easy to spot. Here, the trapper will make his sets. Other narrows easily exploited are pipes, drains and culverts (Fig.4).

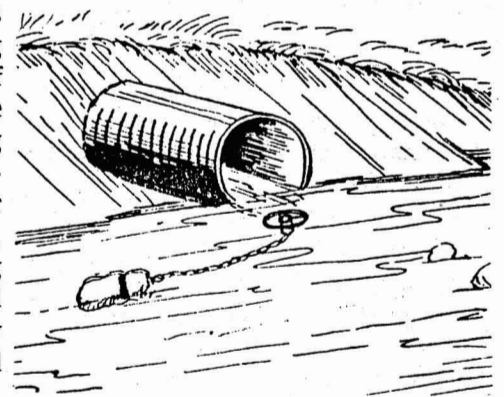


Fig. 4: Drain set for mink, muskrat or raccoon

Never overlook a topography that provides him this opportunity.

**GUIDE STEPS:** Once an animal has been lured or constricted to a specific spot, the trapper can direct its paw placement exactly by the use of step-sticks or medium sized stones. Sometimes vertical pegs are driven into the ground to form a "V" and accomplish the same thing. Animals, like people, travel the path of least resistance. If a rock or stick lies in its path, the victim is likely to hop over it...and land precisely where the trap is set.

**BAIT:** This is simply the attraction of food. Hunger is universal, and proper placement of bait produces fur for the trapper. Com-

monly used successful baits are: housecats, fish (dead on land or live on a hook underwater (Fig. 6), chicken (sometimes a single-chicken henhouse is placed in the woods surrounded by traps), rabbit,

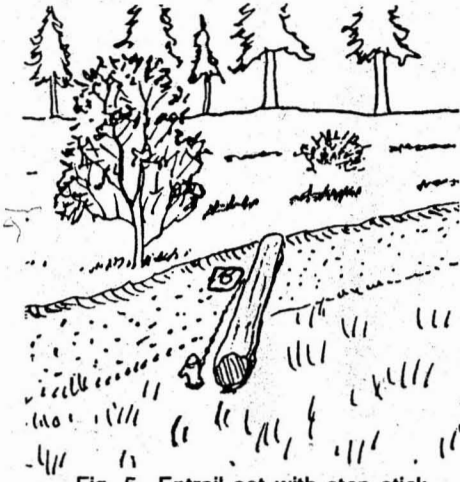


Fig. 5 Entrail set with step stick

skunk, muskrat, a deer or cattle carcass, cheese, eggs, cracklings, canned catfood, or a live mouse in a tiny cage. Baits are set partly or completely buried, laid upon the surface, hanging from a tree branch,

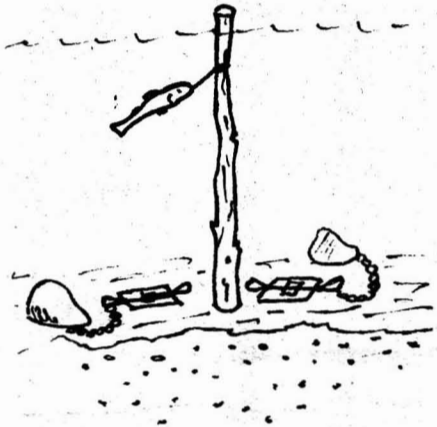


Fig. 6 Live bait set

staked to the ground, posted (on a pole or tree trunk (Fig. 7), underwater, and even under ice.

**LURES:** Similar to baits are lures, except here we are mostly dealing with food odors and sexual attractants. Simple lures are animal excretia (Fig. 8), salt licks, and musks (musks only attract differing species). Trappers make their own lures by salvaging body part of their victims, such as the meat, internal organs and scent glands. These homemade lures are quite effective and tell us a great deal about the trapper as well. Some sample ingredients are: housecat urine and genitals, juice from rotted mice, wild duck or squirrel blood, deer brains, muskrat musk glands, beaver castors, skunk essence, badger anal glands, o'possum gall bladder...and gee whiz, just lots of other neat stuff like that! These goodies are mixed with mineral oil,



Fig. 7 Squaw set for wildcats

glycerin or fish oil as a suspension medium. In each formula the parts are mixed in a jar, covered with mesh or a nylon stocking, and allowed to stand for 60 days before use. (Eat your heart out, Dr. Mengele!)

**SCENTS:** A variation on lures, these are designed to imitate the

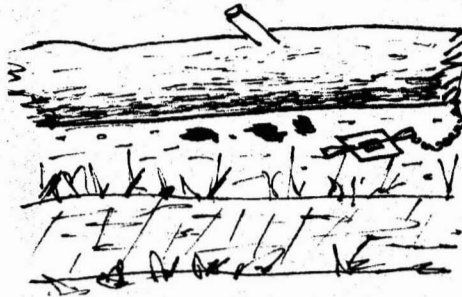


Fig. 8 Toilet set for wildcats—feces attract cats to trap

common odors of the wild and remove suspicion from the wary. Urine posts (Fig. 9) and manure piles work quite well. However, fox urine seems to utterly remove all fear and suspicion from most species. Trappers often purchase it by the bottle from trapping supply houses. Many humans can recognize the odor once exposed to it. If



Fig. 9 Scent post set

you live near a zoo or wildlife "exhibit," go take a whiff of the red fox display. The odor is reminiscent of skunk, but with a dry, gamey flavor. Once you catch a sample of their odor, you will most likely recognize it afield.

**KILL:** It is in the trapper's best financial interest for his victim to die as soon as possible. Aquatic mammals can be forcibly submerged upon capture by drowning wires and rock weights (Fig. 10). Often, a drowning pole is substituted, where the trap is attached by a ring which slides along the pole into deep water. These simple techniques prevent wringing the foot out of the trap and the subsequent loss of a pelt. The Conibear trap restrains and kills within five to ten minutes. On dry land, the trapper usually administers a blow to the back of the head and kneels on the animal's ribcage until its heart is punctured. This technique produces the least damage to the fur. Skunks are often killed by sticking an ether-soaked swab at the end of a long pole under its nose. If the trapped animal is particularly obstreperous, a .22 bullet to the head is administered.

**PROCESSING:** This is the final step of the trapper's operation. Several means of pelt preparation are used, depending upon the species. Mink, for example, are slit open at the vent and legs and then carefully turned inside-out like a glove. A drying board or wire frame is in-

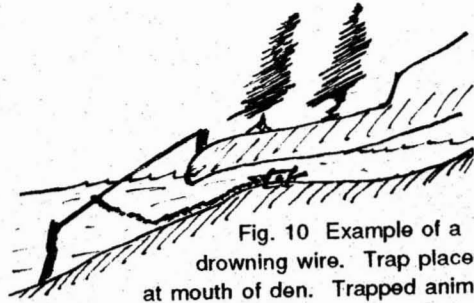


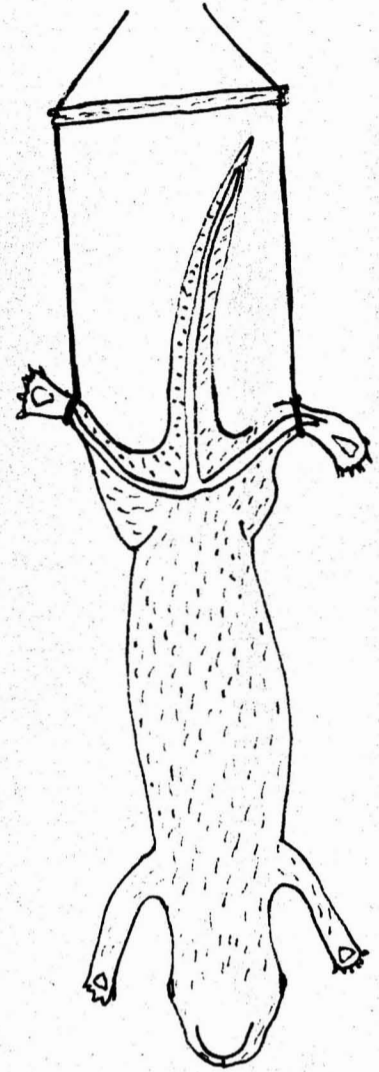
Fig. 10 Example of a drowning wire. Trap placed at mouth of den. Trapped animal drowned by weight of trap.

serted and then left to dry in a cool, dry shed. This produces a "cased" pelt. In processing a beaver fur, however, the animal is cut open along the abdomen from head to tail, with slits up each leg. The hide is then "stretched" into a nearly circular pelt for drying. Careful skinning and processing the fur perfectly is the goal of every trapper, for this may make the greatest difference in his profits.

As you can sense, there are many steps along the way where this operation can be interrupted; all the way from preventing trapping afield (the best choice, of course), to the drying shed. From there, the bloody trail leads to gaudy boutiques, then finally to the Daughters of the American Revolution, pimps and call girls...who together account for virtually all the demand.

Our next trapping discussion will involve the trapper's tools, techniques and where he goes to find the most fur. Meanwhile, review, review, review and think.

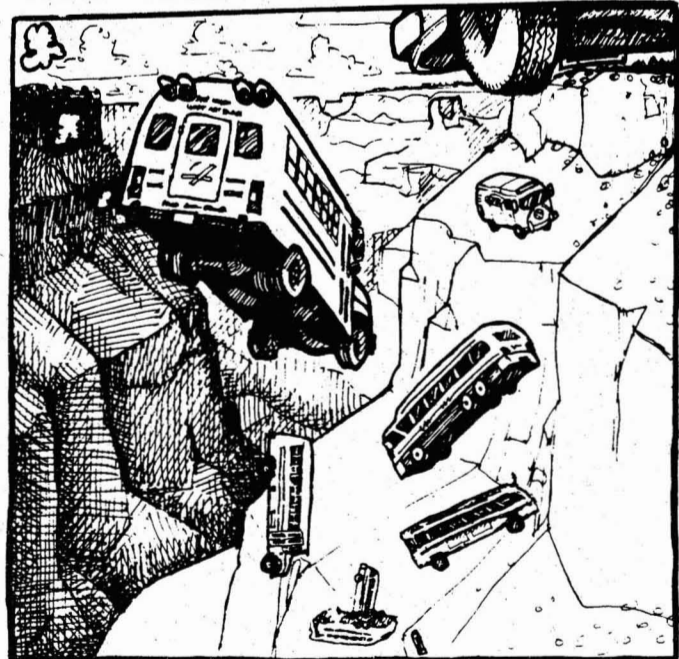
Take in a trapping rendezvous if you can. Keep hiking and look at your environment afresh (or is "afoul"?) through the trapper's deadly, greedy eyes. It will come to you, however painfully.



They say the '90s will make the '80s look like the '50s, but what with the '80s also looking like the '20s, which in and of themselves were quite similar to the '10s (which were nothing at all like the '50s), we say the '90s will start out looking like the '60s, begin looking like the '40s after just one year, then wind up being just like the '70s. So...

#### **THIS IS WHERE THE NINETIES BEGIN!**

A Mississippi non-violent pacifist direct action civil rights Juniper/Pinon environmental Redwood Summer on the Colorado Plateau....



#### **A CALL FOR FREEDOM RIDERS TO THE GRAND CANYON**

This summer, students, civil rights activists, environmentalists, ranchers, Tupperware activists, workers, computer programmers, colorists, post-modernists, industrialists, labor leaders, retired army generals, insurance fraud detectors, truck drivers, yuppies, and everyone else for that matter will be piling into busses, freight trains, tractor trailers, and cattle trucks to make that ultimate symbolic and final direct action statement. In an ultimate act of coalition building, we will all unite to become one, one whole cosmic entity, one whole mass of metal and bodies in a pile at the bottom of the greatest canyon on earth. So let's shoot our war guns in '91, send Columbus to Timbuktu in '92, and let's make North America...

**Human-Free by '93!**

SACKED ANIMALS  
INDURE ANIMALS  
Be sure you don't pollute the secret stock of  
captive animals

# Predator Releases continued...

CAFF it was an ecological issue, not a moral one. Human morality should never take preference to ecological integrity. These would be only temporary visitors, and live-feeding was the only way of knowing whether they were capable of survival outside the cage. We would do whatever was necessary to encourage independence in these predator species.

By the end of January, we had all the animals adequately housed and eight mink rehabilitation pens almost complete. A donation of \$2,000 from the Society Against Vivisection meant enough food and materials for a couple months. Now we could begin the process of rehabilitation. The three goals would be instilling a fear of humans, building up of muscular strength and health and reintroduction of a natural diet.

In February it was time for the Seattle Fur Exchange's annual auction. We agreed it necessary to attend the auction and document the distribution of mink pelts into the world market from animals I had seen over the past year. It was also a chance for me to learn more about mink from ranchers.

The next six days were spent posing as a fur rancher, grading the 1.2 million pelts being offered for auction. If Bruce Campbell had pelted out the animals now on our sanctuary, they would have made less than one full-length coat. Instead they would be returned to an ecosystem where a niche for them existed. They would hunt and be hunted. Maybe the mink would be eaten by a great-horned owl. At least then they would be playing a role in the ecological society they were stolen from.

During the auction, I conversed with fur ranchers, buyers, industry spokespeople, and the staff of the Seattle Fur Exchange (SFX). I met the Board of Directors of the FFAWC. At the Doubletree Inn in Tukwila, I had an in-depth discussion with Jim Leischow, of Leischow Mink Farm in Kenosha, Wisconsin, about mink genetics. After 70 years of captive-breeding, mink had become genetically altered to obtain various color phases.

I asked ranchers, who spent their lives raising mink about the threat escapees pose genetically to wild populations. With an under-

standing of mink genetics as a prerequisite to obtaining the most commercially popular color phase, mink ranchers know more about mink than most biologists.

Mink are native only to North America. Although there is an Eurasian species, these are believed to be travelers across the ice bridge between this continent and Asia. For the most part, every mink population outside of North America is introduced. For countries like the Soviet Union, Scandinavia, western Europe, and Britain, mink populations in the wild have almost all originated from escapes from fur farms. Because of the lack of wild populations to gauge impact, it's hard to determine the degree of genetic polluting outside America.

Here in the Northwest it's another story. One farm in Utah simply live-trapped a few chicken-killing wild mink in 1925 and bred them in captivity. Today, the Vernon family operates five fur ranches in the state and consistently tops auction sales. Mink on fur farms must be fed a scientifically controlled diet.

There are over 30 color varieties of mink fur recognized, ranging from black to white, and even pink. Of these, black is the closest genetic variation to wild mink, which are shades of brown and black. Black is also the most popular color phase on the market today. Our mink were darks, and if sold through the SFX, would have carried the trade name of Blackglama. Dark mink are the best candidates for reintroduction, because they have a minimal amount of genetic manipulation in their breeding.

Mink ranchers emphasized to me the importance in maintaining a scientific diet, otherwise the color phase and fur quality would be lost to the dominant wild genes that still exist in every mink. In order to maintain the recessive genetics that alter a mink's color you must not allow them to eat a natural diet. I asked ranchers what would happen if one genetically altered mink entered a wild mink population as a breeder. The answer was that, due to the overall small percentage of recessive genes evident in only one member of the wild population, in just two or three generations all traces of genetic impurity would be wiped out, bred out of existence by

the dominant and well-adapted genetics of a native, wild population.

We decided to only release one mink at a time, and we would never release a male anywhere near the range of another non-wild female. Our goal is to return fur animals to their native home, not one adulterated by humans. The case would be different if many genetically altered mink of both sexes were released in one area. The results might then be fore the recessive genes of this large exotic population to over power the wild, dominant gene pool of a smaller native population.

Armed with this information, I returned to the sanctuary in mid-February. Once Spring began we hoped to begin releasing mink. Already we had eight males in larger enclosures complete with logs, rocks and baths, subsisting on a diet of mice, rats and any domestic cat-killed rodents. The first live-feedings were an indication of what to expect from an animal raised in captivity but never domesticated. The mink had dug into their instinctual memories to remind themselves how to first seize the prey with one bite, then without releasing it, crush down until the skull or neck was pierced. Then the mink would release its prey and scour the logs and rocks for others that might have gone unnoticed. Once assured of no other prey present, the mink would return to the kill and eat everything, or just the head and place the remainder in its nest for later.

With the introduction of live food, the minks' dispositions changed dramatically. By the middle of March, we had eight very angry mink who, when our live-food supply ran low, would refuse to eat pellets any longer. We began to scout out release sites.

Another measure taken to prevent a threat to any wild populations of lynx, bobcat, or mink was to have the animal's blood tested for any disease. Only if the results proved negative, would we release the animals. Every animal tested was found to be disease-free.

We established general rules for release. 1) Animals would only be released into areas of native habitat. 2) All animals would be released in areas of little or no human intrusion. 3) No two mink would be released where they might find each other and reproduce. We only wanted our mink to breed with wild mink, and their genetic difference from them to disappear. With these rules in mind, we prepared for the criminal act of releasing an animal into the wilderness without the consent of the Department of Wildlife.

Once we recognized a possible release site, we would scout the area for signs of prey. We decided to release all the animals near a water source. We did not want them to have to travel far for water after the long journey in a vehicle.

At this point we were concentrating on the mink. Our financial situation prevented us from buying the chain-link fencing necessary to build large enclosures for the cats. Eventually our patience ran out, like our cash, and we stole enough material to build two 28 foot by 20

fencing from a state-owned facility, feeling it only appropriate considering the state's attitude towards fur animals.

Due to the possibility of our female mink becoming impregnated during the breeding season for wild mink, we decided to delay releases until the end of March. If our mink were burdened by searching for food for young, as well as themselves, their chances of survival would be lessened.

Prior to our first releases, we had the animals blessed by a Blackfoot Medicine Woman from Montana.

In the first week of April, we began releasing the mink. The night prior to release, the mink would be fed two or three mice or rats. At the release site we opened the first cage and the large male mink sniffed his new home. Fifteen minutes later, he was busy scanning his territory and playing in a stream. Not wanting to distract the mink's attention, we backed away and left the area. The euphoria was quickly washed away when, on the way home, we passed a mink farm.

The next five weeks were spent driving thousands of miles delivering mink to wilderness areas across the Northwest. Routinely we would drive as far as roads would take us, then hike in with the mink on our backs, one person always on watch for hikers or hunters. As we searched for release sites, it became evident how little we could guarantee safety for the animals once freed. There were logging operations to be avoided, hunting and trapping to be considered, and campsites with spring vacationers.

The sober reality of just how little true wilderness still existed made us sick with disgust for the destructive nature of the white man's society.

But there were good days also. On one release, a mink quickly found an animal's burrow. The mink entered, and as we left, we saw its head watching our departure from its new home. Another time, a young female mink burrowed under a log and began gathering twigs and grass to build a nest. The memory of animal-rights activists crying, "But they'll starve to death!" made me laugh as I watched another female mink burying its nose in a mouse hole, digging frantically. Even if some of them did starve, we felt the recognition of true freedom, if only for one day, was still better than a life surrounded by wire and bad or good-intentioned humans.

With the knowledge that mink escaping from fur farms have survived in places like Iceland without rehabilitation, we believe that our mink have an 80% chance at survival. On one occasion a mink escaped from the sanctuary. A few weeks later, while hiking along the creek running through the area, I found fresh mink droppings with hair in them. Due to logging, wild mink had not been sighted in the area in five years. Obviously this was one of our mink that had found prey and was rehabilitating the area.

As every mink successfully completed our rehabilitation process and began a real life, we shifted our focus to the four bobcats and two lynx. *Felis lynx* and *Felis rufus*

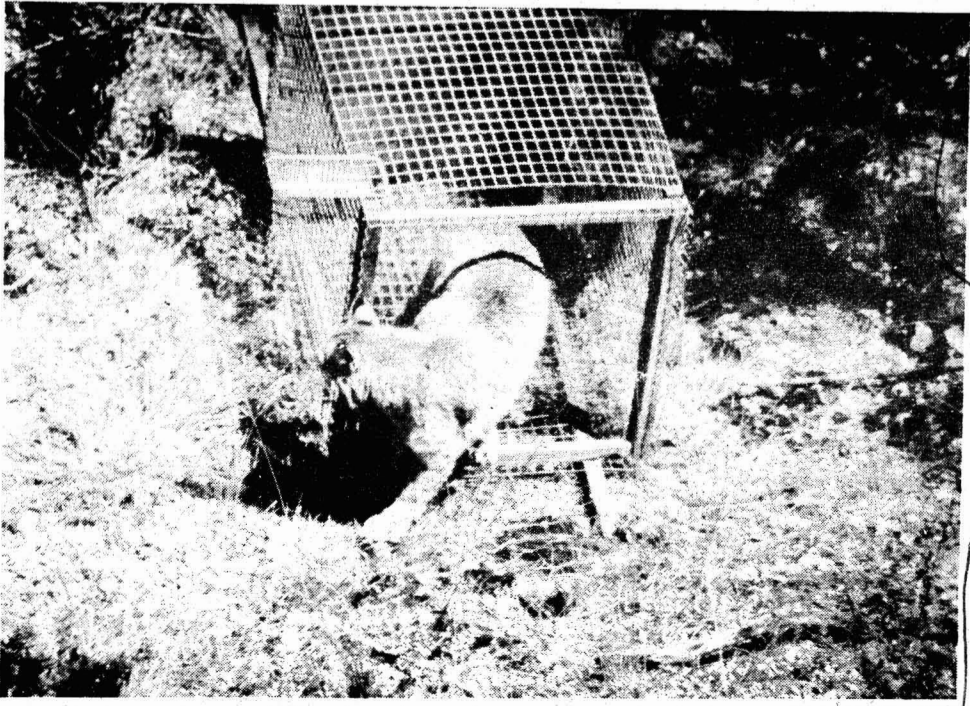


Photo: Rod Coronado

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□□: How much mutual influence between act & bio-centrism?  
X for Coonabo: motive - killed/hunted an animal when young.

America. Habitat destruction and the fur trade have reduced lynx to a fraction of the animal nation they once were. Unlike the mink, the cats we liberated had yet to be genetically altered through generations of captive breeding. Our lynx's grandparents were born into the wilderness. One of our bobcats was born in the Bitterroots of Montana and captured as a kitten. The remaining bobcats were three and four generations out of the wild.

The sub-species of bobcats we were dealing with were *Rufus pallescens*, whose range included western Montana. For the lynx, the subspecies, *Lynx canadensis*, inhabited boreal forests as far south as the Cascade mountains of what is now northern Oregon. Slowly, they have retreated north as the genocidal war on their kind continues.

We contemplated the possibility of reintroducing the lynx into an area where they had been exterminated. But without a substantial number of each sex, the chances of survival for just two were not favorable. Instead, we would release them in an area where their grandparents roamed.

The cats' reclamation to a natural diet was slower than the minks' had been. The lynx immediately killed the rabbits fed to them, but did not eat them until four days later, just as we were beginning to worry about their health. By the time each cat was transferred to the large enclosures, all they would eat was live animals. This was the first time all the cats but one had touched the earth. For the first time, they were able to bury their feces as well as scratch the bark of live trees.

The lynx diet consists mostly of snowshoe hares. The snowshoe hare population peaks every ten years or so followed by a natural die-off. Along with it comes the decline of the lynx population. The year 1991 comes on the upswing of this cycle, so hare populations for our lynx should be at an optimum level. We fed the lynx a diet consisting of 80% rabbits and 10% quail. The bobcats received 50% rabbits, 40% quail and 10% rats.

After a period of three weeks in the large enclosures, the cats began demonstrating increased strength and activity. In the beginning of May we began releasing cats. We searched out release sites with minimal human activity as our priority. This led us to the discovery that almost all areas of bobcat habitat are open to bobcat hunting. National Parks were to be avoided, due to the high level of human traffic. We opted for isolation in low-use wilderness areas. Bobcat hunting would not begin until Fall, so we could only hope by then the cats would be wary of all humans. We also would release the bobcats one at a time, near a water source.

The first bobcat release was a young female who had developed a reputation for stealing quail from the neighboring cat on the sanctuary. We leaned the transport cage against a young cedar tree and flung open the door. We withdrew a quarter mile, and when we returned half an hour later she was nowhere to be seen.

For the cat releases we con-

structed a carrier box four feet by two feet, covered with a tarp, and with a removable wall. Once we carried a cat to a release site, we would cut back the tarp and allow the animal to become acquainted with the surroundings before opening the door. Within fifteen minutes of every release, the cats would disappear into the forest. As we hiked out of one release site, I caught a glimpse of motion. When I turned to look, all I saw was the south end of a bobcat, as it galloped through the forest, gazing upward at the old-growth douglas fir trees. I yelled and threw rocks at her, reminding her of the threat all humans pose. On one bobcat release, we were puzzled at a junction in the dirt road, looking for a good location for a large male bobcat. Just then I spotted a cottontail rabbit beneath a tree and followed the direction it ran. I'd like to think that it was that cat's first wild meal.

The lynx had been housed together at Campbell's Fur Ranch with the hopes of breeding them. Lynx do not become sexually mature until two years of age. To monitor individual responses to rehabilitation, the lynx were separated with a wire partition. Spring 1991 was their second birthday, so it was decided that we would release them together. We had located a region of lynx habitat that had been isolated due to a bridge washout the previous winter. The area was perfect. Not only did the area harbor a high population of snowshoe hares, which darted across the road as we approached, but it also bordered the largest roadless area in the state.

Five Earth Firsters and animal liberationists were recruited for the thirty mile hike from the end of the road. On top of the cats in two separate transport cages, we also had to carry all our own gear and a couple dead rabbits as a last free meal. We would also distribute the lynx's own fecal matter in a radius of the release site to mark this territory as theirs now.

While four people began the trek, I rode ahead on my mountain bike to scout the trail. Four people carrying two large boxes in the middle of the wilderness might draw attention if seen. Ten miles along the trail, I skid to a halt as I saw fresh tracks below me. The space between the toes left no doubt that they belonged to lynx. With the region isolated by the road closure, lynx had begun to reclaim their homeland. After twelve hours at a horribly slow pace, the three women and two of us men had only covered twelve miles. We camped that night near a river and fed the lynx their last free lunch. I hiked a mile further along the trail and discovered a hair trail and lynx tracks only hours old, where some critter entered back into the great food chain.

The next day the lynx were restless. We could not carry them a hundred yards without them lunging against the walls of the cages, their huge furry toes slowly pulling away the tarps. We wrote it off as their impatience to be free. By midday, we had covered the remainder of the trail until we were blocked by a huge fallen grandmother tree. We positioned the cages alongside each

other near a meadow along the river. I stood between the cages with one hand on each door and pulled them open. By the time I ran to an observation point, the cats were on their way out of the area, one following the other. The male waded through a glacial stream, drinking from running water for the first time. After less than 15 minutes, the only trace left of the ex-fur farm prisoners were the two empty boxes and their tracks leading north.

That night we camped before the long hike out the next day. Our campsite was littered with the empty boxes smelling of urine, the empty bags used to carry the rabbits and the plastic bags used to distribute the feces. We did not think of the scent siren we presented to the locals. Suddenly, yet quietly, I heard a sound just feet away. GGGRRRRrrr... My eyes widened and my heart raced, surely the river had produced this strange sound. Then again, GGGRRRRrrr... This time it was unmistakable. A lynx was prowling our campsite, attracted by the scent of another lost cousin. For what seemed an eternity, the animal roamed our campsite, banging on cages and ripping plastic.

Everything I tried to explain to my animal-rights friends about true animal liberation and biocentricity was best paraphrased with the growl around my head. Native American Wilderness and the spirit of freedom was rolled up in the forty pounds of fur and flesh that made me feel like a mouse in a mink hole.

With the conclusion of our fur farm rehabilitation project came a new dimension in the war against the fur trade. For the first time, as far as we know, native American wildlife imprisoned on a fur ranch had been returned home. Now came a challenge to the fur farm industry never presented by the animal welfare movement. If fur farmers are really environmentalists, then why not return all hostages to their natural habitat to fulfill their ecological importance as predators? There is no question about it, the fur farm industry must be abolished. The only point of contention is how it should be done.

As the fur industry declines, we must not declare victory too soon. The 400 year old monster is mortally wounded, but we cannot rest until it is dead. As more fur ranches go bankrupt, the supply of fur declines. This has allowed an opportunity for the demand from Asia to capitalize on the situation. The world's top quality mink pelts come from American fur ranches, I was told by buyers from Japan and Korea. This is due to the large amount of livestock and poultry by-products available to fur farms as feed from the animal agriculture industry. This is a vital ingredient in a mink's scientifically controlled diet.

As the surplus of mink pelts from the overproduction era of the last decade are reduced, those fur farms that survive the next two years will begin to reap the benefits of a decreased supply and increased Asian demand. Pelt prices will begin to rise and the 600 remaining fur ranches in this country may survive. Research funded by the Mink

Farmers Research Foundation is underway that, if successful, would lower the costs to raise mink, thus widening the profit-margin for fur ranchers. Also, a handle on diseases occurring on fur farms due to intensive confinement is just around the laboratory corner.

The Coalition Against Fur Farms is not a protest group, nor are we an animal-rights group. We are a warrior society, dedicated to fighting for the ecological integrity of America's last wild places. We recognize all animals on fur ranches as political prisoners of the war on nature and shall strive to rescue them by any means necessary. CAFF does not recognize laws that justify the destruction of fur animals, and we encourage others to disregard the ineffective methods of protest in favor of direct action in defense of the last wild animal nations.

The animal rights movement refuses to recognize the ecological injustices committed on fur ranches, and for this reason we need to launch a more biocentric anti-fur project. We do not have any money and still are in debt from the rehabilitation project, so if you want to help give fur ranchers nightmares, send money. Or, more importantly, launch your own campaign of sabotage against the fur industry. We have lots of names and numbers available to fur-farm fighters.

CAFF is one hundred percent behind any illegal direct action directed against the fur ranching industry and willing to speak on behalf of any actions that do not kill anybody. For the lynx, bobcat, mink and fox nations, act now. Find a fur shop in your area and smash or etch its windows. Liquid steel ruins locks and bomb threats cost only a quarter. If you live in an area where furs are worn, fill a squirt bottle with red dye or battery acid and let fly. If you're presentable enough to get into a fur shop department store, take a razor blade and slash the coats. In Britain, direct action has reduced the fur industry by 70%.

The FBI has launched a major investigation into the anti-fur movement and the \$35,000 reward for ALF members attests to the fact that direct action is hurting the fur industry. Fur ranchers in Oregon and Washington have announced that they have armed themselves against the ALF and are prepared for further attacks. Last week I received a death threat, and ranchers have told me they would kill any activist found on their property. I am currently wanted for questioning by the Feds and my family is being harassed by the FBI in their attempt to locate me and shut me up. This year Montana passed the toughest anti-ALF law, making it a felony to photograph or release fur farm animals. If you get caught, you face ten years in jail and a \$100,000 fine. We must stand up against the government's threats and not be intimidated by their anti-nature rhetoric. We must remind ourselves what it means to put the Earth first. It's more than a slogan, it's a way of life. Now let's stop talking and get to work.



# BEARS BEARS BEARS BEARS BEARS

## The Ugly Realities of Black Bear Hunting

BY RANDALL RESTLESS

Black bears (*Ursus americanus*) are the more numerous of the three species of bears found in North America. They are wide-ranging omnivores which are relatively tolerant of the presence of humans and are beloved by Americans as one of our best-known wildlife species. Unlike the grizzly, they have not yet been extirpated from large portions of their range. Also unlike the grizzly, they are widely hunted in the Lower 48 states. Controversy is building in many western states over the methods employed by hunters to find and kill black bears and over the very concept of black bear hunting. The Predator Project is focusing considerable energy on black bears and human activities which may threaten them, particularly hunting. So far we have been tracking bear management in Idaho, Wyoming and Colorado.

Black bears are hunted in a variety of insidious ways. Hunters use radio-collared dogs to track and corner bears. Besides, the usual Fall hunts, black bears are hunted in the Spring in some states, when bears are vulnerable and in poor condition after hibernation and there is a high likelihood of females with nursing cubs being killed. In what may be the most unsavory method, black bears are also hunted with "bait stations," where rotten food, dead animals or garbage are left day after day to lure bears in. The bears become habituated, even dependent on the handouts, then are shot. Bow hunters commonly use this technique.

We are beginning our black bear hunting campaign by focusing mainly on baiting, which presently seems to be generating the most controversy and opposition. We have uncovered ethical, legal and biological problems with the practice of baiting.

**Ethics of Baiting:** There are none

In a letter to the Duchesne District of the Ashley N.F., The Utah Wilderness Association wrote "The notion of placing rotting garbage on public lands to lure a hungry bear emerging from its den into shooting range is unusually repulsive and stands the concept of "sportsmanship" on its ear. We can't imagine the Forest Service being party to such an obnoxious act." The Utah-based Bear Net wrote in their summer newsletter that "We do not hunt any other big game species during its annual young rearing season, nor do we tolerate bait hunting of deer, elk, antelope, ducks or geese, or allow fishermen to chum for fish. Yet we refuse to allow the same standards of sportsmanship and ethical hunting (which we) extend to almost every other game species."

**Forest Service Opposes Baiting**

Concern over baiting has also come from some unexpected quarters. In a letter to the Chairman of the Idaho Fish & Game Commission, Stan Tixier, Regional Forester for the Intermountain Region of the US Forest Service, outlined five reasons for which the Forest Service felt that baiting should be banned in Region 1 (Northern) and Region 4:

1) Public Attitudes and Ethics of Bear Baiting: Increased public scrutiny of and opposition to sport hunting, and the precedent of illegality of other wildlife attractants (such as salt blocks for elk).

2) Undesired Potential Conflicts for Other Wildlife: Bear baits could attract other wildlife, namely grizzly bears, mountain lions and wolverines, to the area, thus inviting undesired conflicts and jeopardy to these non-target species.

3) Conflicts With Dispersed Recreationists: Bear baiting has the potential to conflict with the growing interest with dispersed recreational activities such as backpacking, mountain biking and photography.

4) Littering: The baits themselves, along with permanent structures used in the practice, can affect visual and water quality and public safety, and essentially amount to littering.

5) Administration of Bear Baiting

Activities: The practice establishes another activity which is difficult to monitor for compliance with land management standards.

These are all excellent reasons to end the practice of bear baiting, which

we view not as hunting but as slaughter. Montana has already outlawed baiting. The following is an analysis of information we have uncovered about baiting and other bear hunting issues in Colorado, Wyoming, and Idaho.

**Colorado:** Spring hunts to be phased out

A study of Colorado registered voters and black bear hunters commissioned by the Colorado Division of Wildlife revealed that "There is little voter support for bear hunting with bait or dogs." Spring bear hunting is also opposed by a majority of the public. A 1989 survey showed that almost 90% of respondents were bothered by the idea of spring hunts which might result in the death of females with nursing cubs (at least 6 nursing females were killed by hunters in 1990). This survey also revealed that about 75% of the public opposes the use of bait and hounds in bear hunting because these practices give hunters unfair advantages. 54% of bear hunters surveyed also opposed the use of hounds, while 25% opposed the use of baits.

The Colorado Wildlife Commission recently decided to phase out Spring bear hunts due to public opposition. This is significant, as 2/3 of black bears taken in Colorado in recent years have been taken in the Spring. Colorado will also scale back hunting with dogs and will not sell bear tags during the October-November big game rifle season. Thanks to all of you who wrote the commission or attended the November hearing.

**Wyoming:** Littering isn't really littering

Each state has different regulations regarding the administration of black bear baiting. In Wyoming, hunters are required to obtain a special use permit from the Forest Service for baiting on National Forests. The permit outlines a series of stipulations which must be met to legally bait for bears. Though it is illegal to leave refuse, debris, or litter in an exposed condition on public lands [36CFR 261.11(b)], the permits allow

legalized littering under an 1897 public lands law (30 Stat. 35; 16 U.S.C. 551). The Forest Service in Wyoming is experiencing increased problems in administering baiting permits. The Lander District of the Shoshone National Forest cancelled this year's fall baiting sea-

son due to 68% non-compliance with permits during the spring 1991 season, stating that they will not allow activities they cannot administer.

Baiting also occurs on the Wind River District, where baiting since 1982 has been permitted only during the Spring season. 38 permits were issued in 1990 and 29 in 1991. A traditional black bear baiting area on the district was closed to baiting in 1991 due to the presence of grizzly bears. Baiting is not allowed in recognized occupied grizzly habitat in Wyoming or Idaho, yet it undoubtedly occurs, as grizzlies are expanding their range in the Wyoming portion of the Greater Yellowstone area, particularly on the Shoshone National Forest. The Wind River District admits that "We have received numerous complaints which center around the smell of the baits and allowing baiting in areas covered by the Grizzly Bear Special order (occupied habitat).

In response to a letter from the Greater Yellowstone Coalition which brought up the points out-

lined by Stan Tixier, Pete Petera, the Director of the Wyoming Game and Fish Dept., pretty much wrote off any concerns over bear baiting. He said that, "We don't feel most of the points in (Mr. Tixier's) letter have merit. Those that have merit are only so because of enforcement problems within the Forest Service." In other words, the Game and Fish Dept. is doing everything right. Petera claims that baits have provided a great deal of protein for non-target species in parts of Wyoming. Perhaps so, but in the process animals like wolverines and grizzlies have most likely become habituated to and even dependent upon human food sources! Besides, it is illegal to feed wildlife on public land, and agencies like the Park Service have put considerable effort into discouraging the public from doing so. In response to the issue of littering, Petera states "Littering occurs everywhere." Oh, then I guess we don't need to do anything about it. What other activity do you know of which allows one to break laws against littering and feeding wildlife simply by getting a permit? But, according to Petera, Wyoming Game and Fish has it all under control. I do think, however, we should give Wyoming credit for banning baiting in some areas where grizzly use is increasing.

**Idaho:** Bear baiting ban thrown out

A very different attitude is prevalent in the Idaho Fish and Game Dept. On November 14, 1990 the Department issued a draft black bear management plan recommending prohibition of black bear baiting. The management plan stated, "The Department's criteria indicate that bears are being overharvested in many areas of the state. Research in Idaho and elsewhere has demonstrated that bears are easily attracted to baits, making them highly vulnerable. Eliminating baiting will reduce bear vulnerability and allow populations to recover to biologically acceptable levels." The Department admitted that 22 of 72 units open to bear hunting, or nearly 1/3 of the state, show symptoms of overharvest. This is primarily true of the northwestern part of the state. This seems a pretty clear indictment of baiting, yet the hunting lobby screamed loud enough that the Fish and Game Commission rejected the draft plan and is forcing the Department to start from scratch. This was despite a January 1991 survey which showed that 45% of hunters surveyed supported the elimination of baiting, while 35% were opposed.

Unlike Wyoming, the Forest Service in northern Idaho, which lies within Region 1 of the Forest Service, has no permit system for baiting. According to Michael King, Supervisor of the Nez Perce National Forest, "Since we have no permit system in place, we have no information about the practice locally. The Nez Perce Forest does not have information on locations where bears are baited frequently or how many bears are taken this way. Since we have no permit system in

*Continued next page*



# BEARS BEARS BEARS BEARS BEARS BEARS

## Grizzlies to be Delisted

BY KEITH J HAMMER, COPYRIGHT '91

*Continued from previous page*  
place, knowledge about user conflicts is weak and not documented." In other words, the Forest Service in Idaho is allowing an activity it has no way to administer or track.

Black bear baiting and hunting with hounds has been banned in the Selkirk Mountains of Northwest Idaho and Northeastern Washington and in the Idaho portion of the Yellowstone grizzly bear ecosystem since at least 1986 as a means of protecting the grizzly bear populations which survive there.

### Bear Advocates Needed at Idaho Hearings This Winter!

Idaho Fish and Game is holding 15 public meetings on black bear management early in 1992. Contact the Predator Project if you need the schedule. Obviously, most of you will not be able to attend these hearings. However, letters from across the country will impress upon Idaho's wildlife managers that these bears are not Idaho's property. They are a national heritage, and we should all have a say in their fate. Let's take this beyond Idaho. Idaho's management of black bears has ramifications for black bears nationwide.

Tell Idaho Fish and game your ideas for managing bears. We strongly suggest you ask for elimination of black bear baiting, hunting with hounds, and Spring hunts. Of course, we are opposed to any hunting of predators. Suggest a more ecologically and ethically sound approach to bear management which recognizes the bears' role as omnivores and their right to exist.

Write to: Wildlife Bureau, Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game, POB 25, Boise, ID 83707.

### Predator Project Seeks Information on Black Bear Hunting in Grizzly Habitat

Black bear hunting in grizzly habitat poses a real threat to grizzlies, mainly because of the likelihood that hunters will mistake grizzlies for black bears. Grizzlies are protected under the Endangered Species Act and there is currently no hunting season on grizzlies in the lower 48. Though some types of black bear hunting have been banned in some grizzly habitat, not enough is being done to ensure that grizzlies are protected from poaching or mistaken identification.

Thus the Predator Project is seeking evidence of black bear hunting having a negative impact on grizzlies. Anything you come across—articles, reports, etc—please send them on. We will keep all sources confidential. Thanks!!

—Phil Knight, Predator Project, POB 6151, Bozeman, MT 59715 (406) 585-9211



In 1987, the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee (IGBC) began monitoring observations of female grizzly bears with cubs of the year (FCY) as one of several measurements of grizzly bear recovery in the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem (NCDE). Observations in 1987 and 1989 numbered 27 and 25, respectively, are likely to fall short of the then 30 FCY three-year average intended to represent the recovery goal set in 1982 at 560 bears. IGBC members announced the NCDE population had reached recovery levels, increased efforts to observe FCY in 1989, and "reanalyzed" the 30 FCY goal.

Observations of FCY increased in 1989 to 35, resulting in a three-year average of 29, still short of the 30 FCY goal. The IGBC lowered the recovery goal to a 22 FCY average intended to represent 440 bears. Although observations of FCY dropped to 12 in 1990, the resulting three-year average of 25 FCY still meets the now reduced FCY recovery goal. The following discussion and referenced documents show that the IGBC abandoned scientific and professional integrity in manipulating monitoring goals and methods in order to justify the prior conclusion that the NCDE grizzly bear population has recovered and should be "delisted".

In 1987, members of the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee (IGBC) began monitoring observations of female grizzly bears with cubs of the year (FCY) as one of several measurements of grizzly bear recovery in the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem (NCDE). At that time, 30 FCY observed on a three-year average was set as the criteria necessary to meet the NCDE recovery goal of 560 bears set forth in the 1982 Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan (Servheen 1989). The 1982 Recovery Plan, however, set 56 FCY observed on a six-year average as the criteria necessary to meet the 560 bear goal (Jantzen 1982).

Observations of FCY in 1987 and 1988 numbered 27 and 25 FCY, respectively (Reid 1990). Late in 1988, the IGBC announced that the NCDE population had "reached levels established in the existing recovery plan", recommended "the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service initiate the delisting process", and concluded "(i)t appears that concurrent with the completion of the revised Recovery Plan adequate data will exist to delist the population". (IGBC undated).

Following an IGBC meeting in early 1989, the Chairman of the IGBC wrote "(t)he IGBC believes that the requirements for a target of 30 unduplicated females with cubs should be reanalyzed by the NCDE subcommittee to validate the figure." (Strickland 1989). IGBC member Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (MDFWP) objected to the 30 FCY target, stating "(t)he IGBC has agreed that the NCDE population has reached a level of recovery. It seems illogical to establish a recovery parameter which would be impossible to ob-

tain at its present density." (Erickson 1989 in Servheen 1989).

While the IGBC was looking at changing the recovery goal, it was also looking at ways to increase observations of FCY. IGBC member US Forest Service (USFS) predicted that, under the established monitoring system "(t)he lack of (sufficient) observations in 1987 and 1988...will preclude achievement of production and occupancy monitoring goals." (Brannon 1989). Similarly, MDFWP found that "(I)n order to achieve the (30 FCY) average, 38 females with cubs will have to be sighted in 1989 (Marcoux 1989).

In response to likely insufficient observations, MDFWP indicated "(i)n many respects, this goal is related to the amount of effort expended to achieve it, and all participants pledged to make an effort to make these observations." (Marcoux 1989). The Flathead National Forest agreed to increase its monitoring efforts, including increased use of remote cameras and aerial surveys, stating its proposed "monitoring effort is significantly greater and different than the observation reporting system that we have been using. I feel this level of effort is needed in order to deal with the delisting issue in 1989. We will return to the observation reporting system that we have used in the past, in future years; as this is the agreed to monitoring system of the IGBC Managers Subcommittee." (Brannon 1989).

It is apparent from the Flathead's statement that the IGBC knew that it must conduct a consistent monitoring effort in order to obtain reliable monitoring results. In this regard, MDFWP later clearly states "(w)e have a concern in using

minimum values with no measure of effort...Distribution of bears by BMU (bear management unit) is absolutely related to effort and minimally related to the populations of each BMU." (Erickson 1990).

Increased monitoring efforts in 1989 resulted in the observation of 35 FCY (Reid 1990), bringing the three-year average to 29 FCY, still short of the then 30 FCY goal. Following the reanalyses of the 30 FCY observation goal ordered by the IGBC Chairman, the goal was lowered to 22 FCY to account for FCY not actually observed and to represent a lowered recovery goal of 440 bears (Servheen 1989 and 1990). The revised goal of 22 FCY is included as one of the NCDE recovery goals in the draft revised Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan (Servheen 1990). In 1990, 12 FCY were observed (Clair 1991), resulting in a more recent three-year average of 24 FCY.

By increasing the monitoring efforts in 1989 and decreasing recovery goals, the IGBC now has in hand monitoring data intended to demonstrate that the FCY criteria for NCDE grizzly bear recovery and delisting are being met. The above discussion and referenced documents make it readily apparent that the IGBC did not set out to develop a grizzly bear monitoring system which would objectively discern whether or not the NCDE population had reached recovery status. Instead, it is readily apparent that the IGBC started with the conclusion that the NCDE population had recovered, then lowered recovery goals and manipulated the monitoring process in order to justify the conclusion.

## Florida Bears Endangered Officials Refuse to Stop Slaughter

BY MAD HATTER, CANNEBRAKE EF!

"These people believe animals have the same rights as humans. 85% of them are vegetarians and you aren't ever going to find any common ground with a vegetarian."

So states J. Ben Rowe, a Gainesville, Florida member of Florida's Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. He also states "Bear hunting has been a tradition. There's not a whole lot of people left who want to hunt bear." MARVELOUS!!!

Florida's Black Bear population is estimated between 500 and 1000. Since 1980 460 Bears have been killed by hunters, with automobiles killing another 234.

The sub-species is so threatened that hunting is now only permitted in two counties and the Apalachicola and Osceola National Forests. For 18 months the director of the USFWS, John Turner, has

been sitting on his "pompous ass", refusing to make a ruling on a federal designation of threatened, stating other species were higher on the agency's list of priorities. Sure is tough to walk down the street and chew gum at the same time, huh!

The FGFWFC does not consider hunting a threat to the bear even though it agrees the bear meets the criteria for federal protection??? So while government agencies sit on their butts, the Black Bear edges closer to extinction while the "good ole huntin' boys" can enjoy their "God given right".

According to one "hunter", hunting starts before dawn and entails a long day following the dogs that track and tree a bear before it is shot. We will kill it and it goes back with us. We drag it out. It goes in the freezer. We don't leave anything to waste.

SAB THE BASTARDS !!!!!!!!!!!!!



# International News

## Send it Back to Sarawak

Yesterday (4th of December) in the early hours of the morning the ship M.V. Singa Wilstream carrying tropical timber from Malaysia met opposition both at land and at sea while it tried to dock in Tilbury, England. Four demonstrators chained themselves to the lock gates to prevent the ship from entering, while four motorboats containing Earth First! and Sea Shepherd activists buzzed around the ship and attached a magnetic banner to the ship proclaiming that "TIMBER IMPORTS=RAINFOREST DEATH!!". The Police had to remove one activist from the lock so the ship could enter, and the ship narrowly missed another activist by 10 feet.

The actions against the ship continued: At Ten o'clock a group of over one hundred people gathered and continually blockaded the entrance to the port. They chanted "EARTH FIRST! PROFITS LAST" and "SEND IT BACK TO SARAWAK". Many people entered the docks and had to be forcibly removed while attempting to reach the ship. Two women chained themselves to a pile of dead rainforest for over an hour. Vehicles breached security and made it to the ship. A woman

climbed the cranes, thus delaying the unloading.

The actions featured an unprecedented coalition of environmental groups including Friends of the Earth, The Green Party, Sea Shepherd, Sea Action, Rainforest Action Groups and Earth First!. Earth First! activists Angie Zelter and Jake Burbridge - who have both recently returned from prison sentences in Sarawak - initiated and coordinated the actions as part of their pledge to the tribal people of Sarawak who are facing genocide at the hands of the timber industry and Malaysian and Sarawak government. Jake Burbridge said "This action is the first stage in an campaign to ban the importation of tropical timber from Malaysia, within months we will be focusing upon every port. The people of Britain have shown that they do not want the timber here. We will not tolerate this immoral trade in death any longer. The murderers and criminals of the international timber trade are on the run and we're after them."

For further information on the campaign and issues contact Earth First! at +44 (0)81 806 1561.

## Nicaraguan Marine Reserve Created

On October 31, Nicaraguan President Violet Chamorro signed an emergency decree establishing the Miskito Cays Marine Reserve. The Miskito Reserve will encompass over 5,000 square miles of reefs, sea grass beds and coral islands off the northeast coast of Nicaragua. The area is home to endangered sea turtles, manatees and other rare species, along with productive shrimp and lobster fisheries.

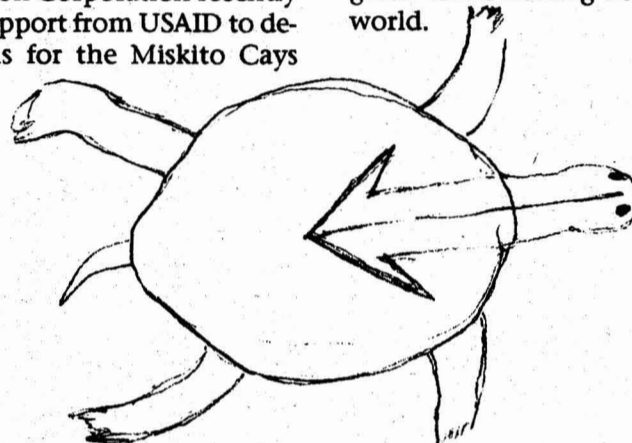
The decree sets up a multi-agency commission to oversee an emergency plan to curb resource piracy by foreign fishing fleets in the area and to set up a permanent management plan for natural resource conservation in the area. The commission includes representatives of the indigenous Miskito communities.

The non-profit Caribbean Conservation Corporation recently received support from USAID to develop plans for the Miskito Cays

protected area and to aid the newly formed community organization "MIKUPIA" ("Miskito Heart") in managing the protected area. It is not clear what USAID's plan for development in the area is, but their involvement should certainly make environmentalists nervous.

While the grass beds and reefs of the Miskito Cays are one of the world's most important foraging grounds for endangered green sea turtles (*Chelonia mydas*), many of these same turtles migrate 300 miles south to a single nesting beach along the northeast coast of Costa Rica.

Costa Rican Vice Minister of Natural Resources Mario Boza is expected to sign a decree later this fall calling for the expansion of Turtuguero National Park, which shelters one of the most significant green turtle nesting beaches in the world.



## Sweet and Deadly

Not that you might be surprised but a new environmental spectre has reared its ugly head in the ongoing conventional agricultural saga.

Bananas, it seems, are the number one export crop for several of the Central and South American countries with Ecuador and Costa Rica being first and second respectively in total production. According to Victor Menotti of the Rainforest Action Network, Costa Rica is cutting 2000 hectares of virgin rainforest annually to add to their existing massive network of multinational owned banana plantations. The continued growth and expansion of the banana industry is a major goal of many Central American Governments and the multinational big boys such as United Fruit, Chiquita, Dole and PPI Del Monte.

Marketing bananas is a billion dollar industry in itself, and it's easy to see why, as bananas comprise 10% of total produce sales and an astounding 2% of total profits for most supermarkets. Bananas are the single most popular produce item in America.

Bananas are grown in the typical unconscious western chemical agricultural manner, leaving in its wake a legacy of massive fish kills, human chemical exposures, and poisoned and depleted soils. According to Dr. Ann Thrupp of the World Resources Institute an astounding variety of insecticides, nematicides, herbicides, fungicides and fumigants constituting 40-44% of total input costs are used in banana production. Many of these chemicals have restricted use classification in the United States and

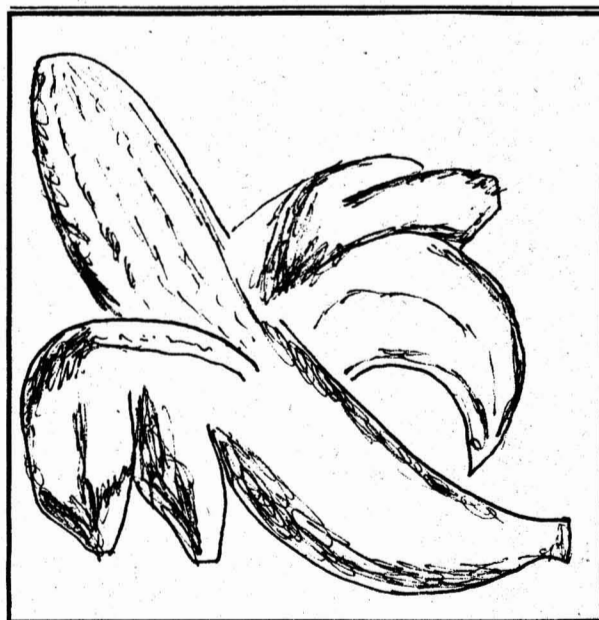
some have even been banned. Dow Chemical continued to produce and sell DBCP, a pesticide, to the banana growers in Costa Rica after being banned in the U.S.

Dow is now involved in a lawsuit- Dow Chemical Co. and Shell Oil Co. v. Domingo Alfaro, et al, which is striving to reimburse Costa Rican plantation workers who suffered sterility from DBCP during the seventies. Some 2000 workers were affected, although many continue to work for Standard Fruit because no other jobs are available.

Pesticide residues in bananas complete the circle of poison, bringing the reality to our own families unwitting mouths. The effects on the rainforest are devastating, far more detrimental than even cattle production due to the massive chemical scale of banana production occurring there. In July of 1990 the largest fish kill to date occurred with over one-half million fish found floating belly up in one of the canals in Costa Rica. According to the In-

ternational Marine Alliance, silt and pesticide run off in the rivers are reaking havoc with the coastal invertebrates and the hard corals in the Caribbean off of Costa Rica, destroying over 90% of the existing reefs. Shreds of pesticide-saturated blue plastic bags used to cover the bananas until harvest have been found washed up on the coast and in the stomachs of sea turtles.

Bananas have been planted on both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts since 1899, with the plantations



switching coasts after either disease or soil poisonings reduced productivity in the region. United Fruit pulled out of the town of Golfito in Costa Rica due to the extensive copper

residues left from the heavy applications of fungicides, basically leaving the soils unusable for any agricultural production. According to Dr. Wing Ching, a sociologist at the University of Costa Rica, intensive banana cultivation depletes ordinary soils in about 15 years. "The banana plantation is a plantation in movement; it migrates and occupies new space, modifies the land-

scape and abandons areas which have been depleted."

The resulting economic effects have been devastating for the dependent communities which are left with high unemployment and poisoned soils. This legacy of exploitation is not new to the area and involves a variety of other agricultural endeavors, including cotton, sugar cane, coffee and beef production.

According to Chris VanArsdale, who researched the banana issue for Ralph Nader's "Multinational Monitor", sustainable agricultural techniques could be immediately employed, which would greatly reduce chemical use, top soil depletion and the subsequent siltation of rivers and coastal areas. So one might wonder what personally can be done to remedy this situation.

Stop eating non-organic bananas is the first step. "Certified Organically Grown" bananas are now widely available from Mexico. Writing nasty letters to the multinational growers telling them you refuse to buy chemically grown bananas would help too. Consumers will however need to lower their cosmetic expectations of bananas as organically grown ones are smaller and have more blemishes on them. Although organic bananas cost around 30% more than conventionally grown ones, it should not be difficult to change your purchasing just by looking at the true costs associated with chemically grown monocropped multinational bananas. Care to call Chiquita Bananas: 1-800-344-1299

# Himalayas *vHs still had*

BY ANAND

The Chipko movement, which became a symbol and legend within the environmental movement worldwide, had its roots in the foothills of the Himalaya Mountains. A group of village women hugged the trees near their homes to save them from loggers' saws. Despite the Chipko, the onslaught continues in the highest mountain range on earth.

The Himalayas stretch 2400 km long, 400 km wide and 6000 meters high. They make up a complex ecosystem, with varied topography, climate and soil. Sunderlal Bahuguna, one of the leaders of the Chipko movement, said that at the present rate of destruction the Himalayan ecosystem would not survive another century. "If the present rate of deforestation continues," he said, "The forests will reach a dead end by the year 2020."

Dharamsala, a small town at the foot of the Himalayas in the Indian province of Himachal Pradesh (land of snow mountains) is a case in point. Built along the spur of the Dhauladhar ranges bordering the Kangra Valley, this was once a British hill resort. Now the place has the additional significance of the Dalai Lama and his followers who have established here the seat of the Tibetan government in exile giving it a strong Tibetan character. The continuous stream of visitors from all over the world to Dharamsala who are attracted by Buddhist studies and spirituality lend it a cosmopolitan charm.

The Chipko movement and its leader Sunderlal Bahuguna have appealed to the Indian government to effect total ban on all commercial logging in the Himalayas. Besides

this logging another primary cause of the degradation of the Himalayas is the extensive commercial cultivation over slopes.

The degradation of the Himalayas is evident in the areas around Dharamsala. Once heavily forested by deodar and pine and abounding in wildlife of all sorts, this former paradise is only vaguely remembered by the few spectacular birds, the Paradise Flycatchers, still flitting around.

All sorts of buildings and settlements have come up in and around Dharamsala. The whole area of Upper Dharamsala which includes the internationally popular Tibetan township called Mcleodganj have been carved out of the forested mountain slopes. The heavy pressure of the population for fuel wood results in massive and continuous deforestation of the remaining forests on the high mountain slopes. Kerosene, the locally popular alternative, is rarely available in the governmental depots which monopolize the sales. The grazing of cattle, especially goats, ensure that no fresh trees may spring up to take the place of those fallen.

The slate mines and continuous quarrying with explosives in and around the small hamlet of Bhagsu Nag, near Mcleodganj is killing not only the mountain slopes and the beautiful waterfalls there, but also the only remaining river inflow there by dumping all the waste from the mines into it.

Another result of the settlements are the plethora of roads. Between Mcleodganj and Bhagsu Nag, on a single mountainside, there is a whole network of roads fragmenting and threatening the

existence of the remaining forests. With every monsoon, a number of trees along these mountain cut roads are uprooted.

International and domestic tourism have only abetted or at the best been mute witness to these crimes. Pollution has increased beyond measure. The holiest mountain streams like the one behind Bhagsu Nag temple (which itself is a concrete monument over a pristine Himalayan pool) have become a refuse of plastics, junk food containers and detergents. Epidemics like cholera and dysentery are rampant in this area because of the highly polluted drinking water sources.

Tibet has been used by occupying China as a site for the production of nuclear weapons and the dumping of nuclear waste. In his Five Point Peace Plan, the Dalai Lama called for the end to the nuclear industry in Tibet. The Dalai Lama won the 1987 Nobel Peace Prize for his plan, but the dumping goes on.

Hardest hit by the influx of the "civilized" world are nomadic tribespeople like the Ghatti shepherds who were once attuned to living in harmony with nature on the Himalayan grasslands. Now the Ghattis are mostly settled around Chamba and Dalhousie areas further north of Dharamsala. However a small group is settled near Dharamsala on a single mountain slope. These noble mountain nomads are now completely acculturated. Their main sources of income now are the rents from tourists and agriculture on the mountain slopes. Their indigenous values, lifestyle and spirituality have all been affected. Unknowingly they have be-

come double victims of the tragedy, initially by being the first human victims of the "developmental" destruction of their ecology and later by playing their role in this continuing process.

Tenzin Atisha, heading the environmental desk in the Central Secretariat (KASHAG) of the Tibetan government in exile, ruefully admitted his community's role in this misguided process of environmental destruction. The small Tiben community in Dharamsala, also called "Little Lhasa," is slowly waking up to its environmental responsibilities, Tenzin Atisha pointed out. A thousand tree saplings were planted under the direct supervision of his desk and Tibetan school children from the Tibetan Children's Village School planted another few thousand saplings this year before the onset of the monsoon to mark the birthday of the Dalai Lama. Of course, this is no solution for a problem which is global in dimensions. Destruction of tropical rainforests goes on unchecked. There has been an unprecedented rise in the import of tropical hardwood by the rich nations; 1500% from 1950 to 1980. International action and a shift in global consciousness away from the logical mind to a sensitive global heart is needed. Maybe the school children Dharamsala have planted a seed for this.

## OIL

Impossible to think of them at night--that endless rock, rock, the spit and hiss of stars in a cast-iron sky ---and not feel desolate. If those pumps squeak or scrape, you've never heard it. In silence, they make their muscular push into earth, into flat, flat field and the field yields up what it contains. You think: black above, viscous black below and, between, the thin crust of ground, fragile as the skin on milk. Your husband won't speak on the drive to Galveston, so you do your usual lean into the passenger door and search for wells. In three-hundred miles, you'll meet a horizon jagged with rigs. You read somewhere we'll never see the earth emptied of it. The air will be unbreathable before it's gone.

—MARISA DE LOS SANTOS

## US Wants New Panama Canal

BY VICTOR FORSYTHE

If you are unsure of what global warming is all about, visit the new Republic of Panama this winter. The sweat will ooze out of your body either in the blistering hot sun or in the shade. There is no relief from the heat except perhaps in cool air-conditioned homes of the rich. The heat is cooking tempers as well. People grumble about the mess left by the liberating gringo army which left homes and businesses in ruins and wiped out the middle class of Panama City. As far as corruption is concerned, you can buy politicians cheap in Panama. Also for sale are the rainforests throughout the country, the most important being the watershed surrounding the Panama canal.

What makes this old canal run is fresh water. However, as the rainforests surrounding the canal are cut down, erosion is silting up the once pristine lakes of the canal system. It is a losing battle as every year the silt gets worse and dredging will soon become too costly. This of course is of no great surprise to the U.S. military who have long sought a replacement to the out-dated old canal. They want a much broader "strategic" canal to move the big destroyers and carriers from ocean

to ocean.

The key to solving their problems is Nicaragua. There is a large fresh water lake which would serve as the ideal center for the new nuclear canal. Rumor has it that all the underground nuclear tests the U.S. has been conducting in Nevada as "Top Secret" have one main purpose and that is for "strategic ground displacement." It does not matter to them that the unique ecosystem in the lake is already very polluted. The fresh water shark is just another fish to the military planners. For this reason, Nicaragua is very important to U.S. interests in the region.

Eco-Solar, based in Mexico City, is trying to stop rainforest destruction through education and providing people with jobs through the application of alternative technology.

However, we cannot ignore the plans that foreign governments have in the region, above all, if it entails the use of nuclear energy as it did to the people of Bikini atoll who have not been able to return home since their island home was the site of nuclear testing 40 years ago.

## Haitians Return Waste

The industrialized world's habit of dumping wastes in the Third World may soon change as they find it being dumped right back.

That's what two environmental groups in Haiti are doing with some of the 2700 tons of Philadelphia's incinerated ash that has been shipped to their country. Les Amis de la nature and the Ciabo Club have sent back close to 500 ash-filled letters to the mayor of Philadelphia and to the head of the Environmental Protection Agency in the US.

The envelopes are marked, "Contains Philadelphia Waste. Return to Sender. Delivered Three Years Ago. Mislabelled as Fertilizer." —SOURCE-ALTERNATIVES



# Mosquito Coast Sold for Packaging

By CHRIS PHILIPSBORN, THE INDEPENDENT

TEGUCIGALPA-Honduras has signed an agreement with a Chicago-based multinational for the development of a vast tropical forest which ecologists fear could spell the end of one of the world's last wildernesses.

The deal, struck at the end of September by President Rafael Leonardo Callejas and the Stone Container Corporation, a paper and packaging giant ranked 93rd in the Fortune 500 list of the biggest US companies, has still to be ratified by the Honduran Congress.

But the company is confident the contract will be approved when congress, dominated by the President's National Party, reconvenes in January.

It gives the company the right to exploit for 40 years the tropical pine forests found only in Honduras and neighbouring Nicaragua. Most of the pines are on the Mosquito Coast, a largely unexplored region with a complex and delicate ecology which was a British protectorate until 1859. The 390,000-hectare

Rio Platano biosphere reserve, which has more bird species than the US and Canada, has been designated by UNESCO as of world significance.

The Mosquito Coast has never received much attention from the government. Until now its isolation has been its salvation. As well as pine forests, the coast has millions of hectares of tropical hardwoods, extensive wetlands, salt and freshwater lagoons, mangrove swamps and coral reefs off the sandy Caribbean shore.



Stone Corporation's contract only gives it the right to develop the 340,000 hectares of tropical pine. The hardwoods and the Rio Platano reserve are safeguarded, and Stone is committed to extensive replanting of pines.

But ecologists and campaigners for the local Indian tribes fear that none of this will be sufficient to save the Mosquito

Coast from destruction.

The Honduran government has agreed to provide infrastructure

and energy for the company, and it is the construction of roads where none have existed before that will pose the greatest threat. The roads will attract hundreds of thousands of settlers and slash-and-burn farmers from the rest of the impoverished country. Not only will this mean the end of a way of life for the thousand or so Tawahka Forest Indians, one of the last tribes of hunters and gatherers left in Central America, but it will not even provide a living for the migrant peasants.

As Mirna Marin, a biologist at the University of Honduras, points out, the soil is too poor to sustain agriculture once the forest cover has gone, and it will be fit only for extensive cattle grazing.

P.S. Watch for information to follow involving Nicaragua and the logging concession given to a Taiwanese company for 926,250 acres. It is the same Atlantic region as above. Request for info applies as above. Thanks!

## An End to Ocean Strip-mining?

By DAVE COLE

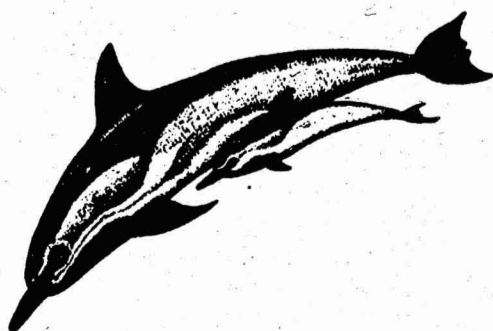
"This is a sweet victory for the global environment," announced Albert Manville, a biologist for Defenders of Wildlife, as Japan stated it will support a United Nations resolution banning drift nets at the end of 1992. US politicians and bureaucrats were quick to congratulate Japan and themselves on the decision, the White House felt "Japan had demonstrated its commitment to the protection of the ocean environment." Members of Congress said a combination of international pressure and U.S. threats of trade sanctions had been responsible for Japan's change in position, and hoped it would influence other drift netting nations to quit. A spokesperson for the Commerce Department's National Marine Fisheries Service said the U.S. government had been concerned about driftnets' waste and destruction since the late 1970's.

What does it mean? The resolution calls for a complete end to large scale drift netting on the high seas by December 31 of 1992, with a 50% reduction to take place by mid 1992. It will be voted on in the very near future, and observers feel it is almost guaranteed it will pass. If passed, the resolution will only have to be adhered to by U.N. members. It will not affect Taiwan, who is not a member of the U.N., though it is hoped pressure can be brought on them to get them to quit. Recently the European Economic Community adopted a similar resolution, although it allows France to continue drift netting until the end of 1993. Britain has already said it will recall its own drift net fleet.

While the U.S. government talks of its long standing concern over drift netting, activists wonder why it has done nothing

over the last decade to end it. The fact is that this resolution is the result of tireless campaigning by groups such as Sea Shepherd, who once again have catalyzed and focused public outrage to a level that the politicians can no longer ignore. That it is a victory there can be no doubt, but certain facts should not be forgotten. Japan has steadfastly refused to abide by the International Whaling Commission's call for a moratorium on whaling, annually slaughtering hundreds of whales in the name of scientific research. Can we be sure they will abide by this ban? Countries like Taiwan admit they have little control over the activities of their fleet, leaving open the possibility of substantial pirate fishing operations if they even decide to comply with the ban.

Without a commitment to rigorous worldwide enforcement of the ban the resolution means little. Once again, while the navies of the world continue to play war games it will probably fall to one vessel with its volunteer crew to continue to police the world's oceans. This summer the Sea Shepherd II will again take to the high seas for a campaign of direct action against the drift net fleets. We will not be satisfied until the last drift netter has been decommissioned or sent to the bottom.



## Japan Still Killing Turtles

*We told you before but we'll tell you again; save the Hawksbill Sea Turtle from extinction. EF! Oceans Task Force planning actions nationally. Visit your local Japanese consulate - come in from the cold.*

The Earth First! Oceans Task Force, purveyors of fine day-glo consumer education products, is calling on all activists to get involved in our campaign to shame Japan into ceasing their reprehensible trade in the shell of an internationally recognized endangered species, the Hawksbill sea turtle. (Please see "Calling All Ocean Defenders - Japan's Sea Turtle Slaughter Must End Now!" in the Lughnasadh / August 1 / SOS Sarawak EF! Journal.)

Japan made a phase-out (com)promise to the US government and the mainstream environmental movement last May, promising to import "only" 7500 more kilograms (about 8 TONS) of tortoiseshell, or "bekko", before ceasing importation in January of 1993. This translates into at least 7,000 endangered sea turtles, enough to push the Hawksbill past the point of no return. Never mind the very real danger of stockpiling. All this for expensive combs, shoe-horns, eyeglass frames, cigarette lighters and other useless trinkets. January 1993 is also the deadline they have given themselves to phase out driftnetting — six months later than the deadline set by the UN resolution on driftnets. Sorry, not good enough. Japan needs to hear the no compromise message of Earth First!ers everywhere: No phaseouts! End the carnage immediately! No deal assholes!

We're organizing actions at the 14 Japanese consulates in the US and possibly some in Canada, all to happen the week of January 20-24, 1992. Yup, it's gonna be cold — you might want to head inside to warm up! Surely the plush offices

of an occupied consulate are preferable to cold and windy sidewalks... The 14 consulates in the US are Boston, New York, Washington DC, Atlanta, Chicago, New Orleans, Kansas City, Houston, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Portland, Seattle, Anchorage, Honolulu.

We have available an organizer's packet of issue information, prop and costume ideas, a poster/flyer, a video, and lots more. We have established key contacts in 9 of the 14 cities, and can connect you with those folks; other cities still need active groups/individuals to run with this. We have truly lovely stickers available (suggested donation \$1/dozen), and of course we also gratefully accept plain old \$\$\$\$.

For more information, to get involved, to share ideas/contacts, please call us at 510-547-5501 as soon as possible. Our mailing address is PO Box 77551, San Francisco, California 94107. **Hands off endangered species! Turtle Islanders for sea turtles! Earth First!**

Tired of seeing computer-generated text stacked in neat little columns? Feel like your bioregion doesn't get enough editorial attention? Wish that you could have a creative influence on the journal, but aren't lucky enough to live in Montana (or able to move here for a while)? Don't despair. Just send us enough material to fill up the center section of the journal. It's a Blank Wall, and you get as many cans of spray paint as you want.

The center section of EF!, the pages that would be pages 19-22, is the space designated for the Blank Wall. We will not edit the Blank Wall. It is space to fill and arrange as you desire. You will be completely responsible for anything you print on your pages. Lay it out if you want to, or take advantage of whatever expertise we may be able to offer.

Tell us when you want to fill the Blank Wall, and you will get your chance when your turn comes around, unless another group needs the space for a particularly urgent issue. Have at!



# Australia Earth First!

GOOD SHOT IN SYDNEY  
- Abolish the Earth Club!

## Introduction

Australia is a fucking old place mate. How old is anyone's guess, but one can feel in this sunburnt, wrinkled land a sense of longevity. The grandmother continent is made of ocean sediments deposited eons ago and eroded rock. However, in places exposed rock still protrudes from beneath the surface. In southwest Australia lies some of the oldest rock on earth; known as the Yilgarn Block of the Western Shield, it dates back two and half to three billion years to the Archaean Age.

Between 100-150 million years ago, Australia, part of the southern supercontinent known as Gondwana, started to separate into smaller moving continents: Africa, India, South America, Antarctica/Australia. Perhaps 50 million years ago, Australia became a continent unto itself when it broke apart from Antarctica's tectonic plate and began to drift northwards into warmer latitudes creating the Southern Ocean; that furious body of water and the only ocean that completely encircles the planet. Eventually, Australia collided with the Asian continent. Flora and fauna previously isolated for 100 million years (give or take a few million years) were reunited with their genetic ancestors in the ancient forests of Oz. Much mating ensued and weird species evolved like platypus and echidna (egg laying monotremes), marsupials such as the wombat, Tasmanian devil and greater glider (flying possum) and, lest we provoke the wrath of one Jasper Carlton, the legless lizard.

Geologic and climatic forces have combined to whittle and carve some of the world's most unique landforms and landscapes, including such otherworldly features as Uluru (Ayer's Rock) and Kata Tjuta "place of many heads" (the Olgas) in the Northern Territory; the wet tropics including the Daintree River catchment, the Cape Tribulation coastline and the Atherton Tableland; the Great Sandy Region with its centerpiece—Fraser Island; the immense Cape York Peninsula and the Kimberly that represent two of Australia's largest, most intact wilderness areas; Shark Bay, the reefs and islands of the Houtman Abrolhos and the Cape Range and offshore Ningaloo reef all located on Australia's West Coast; the Stirling Range and Fitzgerald National Park in southwest Western Australia; the Great Artesian Basin underlying much of the eastern arid plains of Central Australia and containing such marvels as Lake Eyre, Stuart's Stony Desert and Cooper's Creek and the Nullarbor Plain; the Snowy Mountains and Australian Alps; the subtropical rainforests of southern Queensland and New South Wales; the cool, moist forests and mountains of Tasmania; Australia's version of Dinosaur N.P.—the Willandra Lakes; the Great Barrier Reef, Kakadu National Park and Arnhem Land. The list goes on and on.

*Homo Shitticus Europenis*, with such limited historical perspective, has a hard time comprehending continental land masses moving thousands of kilometres, largely arid continents like Australia draped in closed rainforests or how evolutionary processes created such incredible biodiversity. The aboriginals had no such problem surviving without

outside interference for at least 50,000 years. Dreamtime passages enabled the aboriginal culture to understand the history of this biogeographic masterpiece.

Within the last fifteen years, a strong, spirited environmental movement has emerged in Oz. The campaign to protect Terania Creek and the Nightcap Range, stopping the Franklin River Dam (a fight that led to Bob Hawke being elected Prime Minister), the fight over building the Cape Tribulation road through the Daintree National Park/Wet Tropics World Heritage Area, and most recently, the successful Chaelundi old growth campaign on the Far North Coast of NSW are all prime examples of how well-organized and motivated grassroots activists have made the protection of these ecosystems a national issue. Australia provides a glimmer of hope for the white race.

Earth First! in Oz is just beginning to make inroads into the environmental movement and, as such, is in a good position to expand the wilderness/biodiversity/deep ecology perspective. Australia has no national wilderness system and most of the states lack designated Wildernesses as well. Furthermore, from an ecological viewpoint, Australia's plant, animal, forest and marine communities are in trouble with a capital T as many species are extinct, nearing extinction or confined to an ever-shrinking habitat. Rare, threatened and endangered ecosystems and species are inadequately protected or missing entirely from parks and reserves. Few groups are prepared to risk life and limb to defend ancient stands of mountain plum pine, volcanic grasslands or the eastern barred bandicoot. Enter Earth First!

EF! has a vital role to play in advancing biocentric values above anthropocentric ideals in Australia. The following articles, raves and regional campaigns/issues provide an overview of how much of this continental island has been mined, logged, woodchipped, chewed, cleared, burned, sold, turned into Hollywood theme parks and generally fucked over since good old Captain Cook set his eyes on Terra Nullius. It is a tragic story (they all are when you're discussing the march to extinction's door) but necessary to build an effective network of individuals and groups willing and able to defend the remnants and restore the original denizens.

Melbourne EF! urges activists from all over the world to take a sabbatical Down Under and come and see for yourself the splendor and the carnage. Justify the expense and the holiday by working with EF!ers in Oz on one of the existing campaigns or on a new issue that needs inspired advocacy. I should caution the movement that working in Oz does not just require lifting stobbies of Cooper's and throwing bricks through windows at Broken Hill Properties, Australian Paper Manufacturers or one of Murdoch's newspaper offices. It requires personages with the brains (i.e. knowledge of the issues) and guts (the ability to use direct action to show that you know what the fuck you're talking about) to generate pressure and effect change.



Occupation of Malaysian High Consul, Canberra

## Melbourne Earth First!: The Beginnings

1987

EF! Melbourne started up about three years ago when a small group of activists got together because they felt the need for a group that would focus specifically on direct actions. At about this time, the Melbourne Rainforest Action Group was starting to plan for timber ship blockades. This generated more enthusiasm and subsequently, many potential EF!ers ended up in RAG. As a result, with the "niche" of a direct action group taken, EF! has remained fairly small. We have mostly organised smallish type demos—largely in support of aboriginal struggles, seeing land rights and the environment as being interlinked. There have also been lots of small, often personal actions in solidarity with the Penan. At once we staged a six week vigil outside the Malaysian consulate.

McToxic has also been a favourite target, and there is always an EF! contingent working with Animal Lib at Duck Opening. We're also pretty much into consciousness-raising around the ideas of deep ecology/biocentrism, bioregionalism, and ecofeminism—all areas that are on the far fringes of the environment movement. Much of our work has also been supporting other campaigns and initiatives—especially direct action campaigns in forests—particularly East Gippsland and the Otways.

Early on we realised that we had a certain amount of notoriety simply because of the name. There is one particular "journalist," Christopher Reid, who delights in sending articles to Australian newspapers around the theme of Earth First! = Green Terrorism. It may not be a total surprise to you media hardened folk that the papers here love it, and they routinely want to know if we'll admit to spiking trees! So, even though we haven't done a real lot, we sure have a pretty decent reputation!

We see the EF! movement as being in its formation stage in Australia. There are a few scattered groups around the country using the EF! banner—not

all are "above ground." Last summer we hosted a RRR in the hope that more closet EF!ers would surface. We had around 120 folk show up, with representatives from every state, but a year later the networking is only a bit further down the track. Bit by bit we are trying to get more regional reporters for the EF! journal we produce, which is the de facto national journal because it's the only journal. There are small collections of EF!ers that we know of in northern New South Wales, southwest Western Australia, the mountains of Tasmania, and far north Queensland. In lots of places there are local groups and alliances which are both brave and effective in defending their life space (such as the North East Forest Alliance).

However, in many other places, there is room in the web for a radical, direct action focused group. Sadly, in many of these places there simply aren't any people inspired to take action. Most Australians are huddled on the east and south east coast and in a little enclave in the far south west. Elsewhere, the non-aboriginal people tend to be quietly or rabidly anti-green (although this is changing through the necessity of having to do something to avert disaster through overgrazing and other inappropriate land use). Through much of Australia, it is the aboriginal (Koori, Murri, Nunga, Yolgu....) people who are the (un-named) Earth First!ers. Long before the Franklin or even Terania Creek actions, aboriginal people were resisting mining operations in the northwest of Western Australia. It is over 100 years since the Butchulla of K'gari (Fraser Island) speared the first timber fellers. The people of Cape York in Queensland are currently fighting against the proposed Space Base and other "developments."

This year there will be another national gathering; this time in the Victorian Alps. We hope to see the rise of other EF! groups and alliances in the coming year.

## Overgrazing in Australia: Does Anyone Give a Shit?

Conservationists (not to mention politicians) are putting virtually no energy into preventing what is undoubtedly Australia's foremost environmental disaster. While all eyes are focussed on Australia's coastal forests, 70% of this country is blowing away, unnoticed, in the wind. While arid lands may not have the same visual appeal as a forest, they comprise a unique and vital ecosystem (i.e. a system which is both very much alive—not a wasteland, and which is of great importance).

The invaders (euphemism = settlers) of these arid zones congregated upon the most fertile areas grazing their cattle and sheep on the pockets of rich lands along the river flood zones and foothills of the desert mountain regions. This resulted in overwhelming competition for a number of native mammals, which are now extinct or severely depleted in numbers, followed by the killing to near extinction of their natural predators.

Massive overgrazing in these fragile areas has stretched the land's resources well beyond its limits. Overgrazing has led to massive levels of degradation of native vegetation. Ten percent of the arid zones plant species are currently threatened with extinction (as a proportion, this is greater than anywhere else in Australia).

Victoria's Mallee is just one example where a highly significant arid area has been grazed almost into oblivion. According to scientists, the Mallee ecosystem has become imbalanced as a result of sheep grazing. The close-to-the-ground grazing preferred by sheep destroys deep-rooted perennial grass species, allowing them to be replaced by shallow rooted annual weeds. This means soils are more prone to erosion, from water in wet times and from wind in dry times. High salinity of soil, a huge problem on Australian agricultural and pastoral lands, is another result.

Australian soil is not able to withstand the impact of hard hooved animals, sheep and cattle hooves have broken up the fragile lichen crust which holds together the Mallee soil and compacted the subsoil, thus preventing moisture from reaching the deeper root systems of the native plants. Feeding exotic grass species to stock has meant a spreading of these plant types which are encouraged by farmers as they are more "productive."

Problems caused by grazing are hardly restricted to the arid lands. Alpine grazing, for example, is another enormous problem, and another one of those hot potatoes no one wants to grasp. Cattlemen have a romantic and macho image; just read Henry Lawson's *The Man From Snowy River* or watch the recent movie of the same name and you will get an idea of how bad this is. The fact is, however, that their cattle do tremendous damage to the public land to which they have ridiculously cheap access. Damage includes destruction of sphagnum bogs, creation of bare ground and damage to soils, serious erosion in some areas, spread of noxious weeds, changes in vegetation structure, loss of species diversity and reduction of alpine flowers.

When the first shipment of sheep was introduced to Victoria, the local Kooris, in an act which could have been considered great foresight, killed them all. Soon however, far greater numbers were imported, and these bred and so started what has become a large part of Australia's largest environmental disaster. It is imperative that conservationists confront these problems; it is fast becoming too late.

## The Mines of Oz

Australia is often described as a first world country with a third world economy. We have developed an export-based economy which seems to delight in sending resources overseas at the lowest possible prices with the least possible processing. There has been more than one suggestion of corruption and collusion in the timber and mining industries.

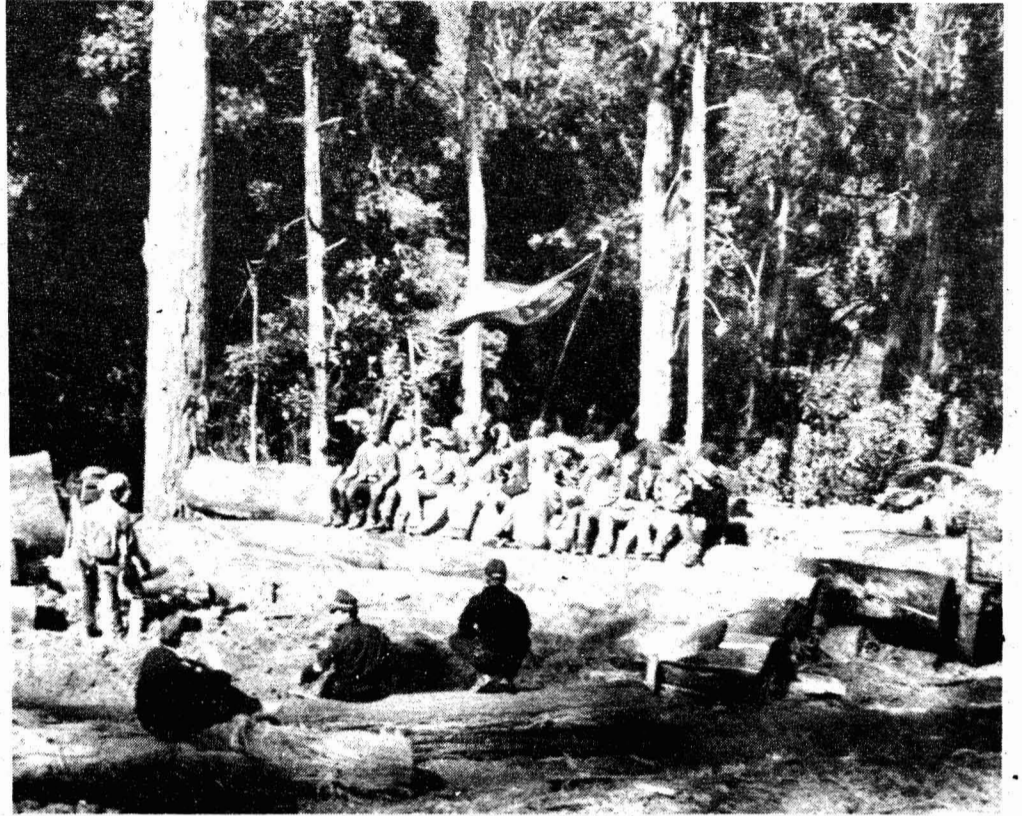
Just as we export vast quantities of native forests in the form of chips, we also ship out millions of tonnes of silver, copper, gold, alumina, uranium and other minerals, with the vague notion of maintaining the balance of payments. After a considerable backlash against mining in the 1970s when average Australians started to realise that perhaps we were selling ourselves short both economically and environmentally, the mining lobby has spent many millions to recapture our collective consciousness through a very slick advertising campaign that is at once soothing and authoritative. So, with the exception of the uranium industry, the mining cabal is getting on with the quiet job of looting (oops, sorry, developing) this great continent without the bother of public scrutiny. Most mining occurs in remote, semi arid regions, which also makes it easier to avoid too much unfavourable publicity.

The exception to this often occurs when Aboriginal people resist mining operations. There is currently considerable effort being made in parts of the media and government to discredit Aboriginal beliefs that might make the people oppose mining. Currently, the major struggles against mining are on the part of the Martu people of northwest Western Australia, who are opposing mining in the Rudall River region, and there is still considerable focus on Kakadu in the Northern Territory (see the sections on these states for more details).

There has only been limited watchdogging and resistance to mining over the last few years, largely because there are so few people of conscience in many of the places where the worst excesses occur, or because people are too scared to speak up.

The recession has hit the environment movement hard in Australia, as the powers that be are setting the agenda by stating that in these tough times we can't afford to be "too green." "We all need to make sacrifices for Australia to get back on its feet," etc, etc. But, as we all know, its not the business executives who make the sacrifices—its the environment and average people. This is especially true in the case of mining as there is increased pressure to "develop" "our" resources in order to instigate a resource led recovery. In the case of Western Australia, there are many worrying precedents as legislation has been introduced to excise mining leases from a number of national parks—most recently Neerabup, Watheroo, and West Cape Howe. This means that six national parks in Western Australia are now under threat of exploration and mining. The Environment Protection Authority is also informally approving exploration licenses in nature reserves under a new "fast tracking" agreement with the Department of Mines—a rather worrying situation where even the pretence of public consultation is now removed.

# Australia's Land



East Gippsland logging protest

## Tasmania

At this very moment resource security legislation is being ushered through the Tasmanian parliament. Over one million hectares are about to be handed over to the woodchippers as "Permanent Wood Production Zones" with no public involvement. A further 400,000 ha. have been placed into a "deferred logging category." This represents virtually all of Tasmania's forest that are currently not contained within National Parks or World Heritage Areas.

The process is not as advanced on the mainland. Tasmania is always at the cutting edge (literally) of Australian forest politics. Whatever happens here, happens later on the mainland, once it has been tried and tested. This is exemplified by wood chipping. At present logging companies are getting stuck into extensive areas of Native Forest in Tasmania—even before the spectre of resource security. The introduction of cable logging in the mid 1980s accelerated this process of deforestation. Cable logging gives access to land with a gradient steeper than 30% or 70%—previously unreachable by bulldozers. It is a system not dissimilar to cable cars, with thick cables dragging trees along the ground by a system of wires running out from a giant crane. The system was designed for the logging of Canada's temperate forests in the '60s and has since been expanded across the planet.

A good example of the current scene in Tasmania is the logging that is occurring in the Tarkine Wilderness of the northwest. The area consists of pristine cool temperate rainforest with an overstorey of brown top stringybark (*Eucalyptus delagatensis*). Due to current entirely production-oriented terminology, the area is referred to as "mixed forest" by the Forestry Commission Tasmania, which is proud to claim it does not log rainforest. In addition, Tasmania is home to the tallest trees of the Southern Hemisphere, mountain ash (*Eucalyptus regnans*—100m or more). These have been extensively logged for woodchips, as have the stringybarks, and the Commission has given cable logging contractors access to previously unloggable mountain areas such as the Tarkine in order to maintain quota expectations. Logging of the Tarkine is centred around Mount Hellyer, with cable loggers recently granted access to Coupe 19—a recognised National Es-

tate Area and part of the pristine Pikes Creek catchment. The area has never been logged and no adequate studies have been conducted to show what undiscovered species are in the region, or the effects of logging on the area. The entire Wilderness is being logged primarily for woodchips destined for Japanese paper factories.

Other natural areas that will be lost in Tasmania under resource security legislation include the Great Western Tiers. The Tiers are the northern end of Tasmania's Central Plateau—Australia's most extensive and unique alpine area. The Tiers are exceedingly steep-sloped with rapid successional communities moving from alpine forests of King Billy pine (*Athrotaxis selaginoides*) to montane rainforest of myrtle and subsequently to wet and dry sclerophyll, all in 1,000m or more. The area is extensive—containing approximately 29,000 hectares of eucalypt forest and a complete range of Tasmania's predatory mammals including the Tasmanian devil (*Sarcophilus harrisii*) and spotted quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus*). The tassie devil is confined exclusively to the island due to predation by dingoes on the mainland (aboriginal Tasmanians did not hunt with dogs). The Tiers provide the major water catchment for nearby towns such as Deloraine (pop. 5,000) and contain some extensive limestone or karst cave systems.

As part of the currently existing Wesley Vale Concession, small sections of the Tiers have been logged, mostly at the lower altitudes. Resource security will put the remaining 29,000 ha. into a Permanent Wood Production Zone. Logging will go as high as 700m, on slopes of 30% or more.

The Tiers have become a well-known focus of conservationist opposition to logging. One of the environmental hotspots of the area is the valley of Jackeys Marsh. Grassroots resistance is centred around this valley, which has twice blockaded bulldozers, police and timbermen over the last decade. It has been targeted for logging again, with logging plans currently being drawn up by the Forestry Commission. It is clear that the Commission and its multinational partners intend to "take out" the forests of Jackeys Marsh in a concerted effort to break the struggle against their destructive practices. The logging of Jackeys Marsh will herald the beginning of resource security for the Western Tiers.

This tabloid was produced by Earth Firsters from around Australia.  
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# ids and Issues

## Victoria

Most of Victoria's big environmental issues have traditionally been focussed on the forests. This is changing slowly as we realise that the once vast native grasslands and grassy woodlands are now all but extinct. It is certainly already too late for many species. However, the forests are likely to stay in the spotlight. Because they are also under relentless attack and perhaps because they are mostly on publicly owned land, people feel it is easier to confront the government rather than dealing with farmers and developers on freehold land.

Another significant issue is that of cattle grazing in the Alps. There have been many advances over the last few years at getting these meadow trashing beasts out of the mountains (at least below the tree line) but for our urban based population, the image of the bronzed, lean mountain cattle "men" is an endearing one, and public opinion is a real sucker for a bit of whip cracking and Akubra hat wearing.

Vast areas of Victoria's original forest were burned in the fires of 1939, which means that what is left and not yet logged is especially valuable. Like Tasmania, Victoria is home to the mountain and alpine ash, the tallest of the eucalypts (mountain ash will grow to 100 metres, but the highest ones now days are about 80 metres). In the gullies and on occasional well-suited ridges and table lands are cool temperate rainforests, dominated by myrtle beech (*Nothofagus cunninghamii*), blackwood (*Acacia melanoxyloides*) and sassafras (*Atherosperma moschatum*). Where the rainforest is still emerging, there will be an old overstorey of mountain ash in senescent stage, offering invaluable habitat for leadbeaters possum, yellow-bellied glider, powerful owl, and other endangered species.

Victorian rainforest, as found within the Otway Ranges, Central Highlands and East Gippsland, is scientifically defined as closed broadleaved forest vegetation with a continuous tree canopy of variable height, and with a characteristic diversity of species and lifeforms. The ecological definition of rainforest includes transitional and seral communities with sclerophyll emergents that are of similar botanical composition to mature rainforests in which sclerophylls are absent. The Victorian government does not acknowledge the scientific definition of Victorian rainforests. The Department of Conservation and Environment (DCE) headed by minister Steve Crabb refuses to use the ecologically sound definition of rainforest and excludes emergent eucalypts.

The sclerophyll emergents referred to above are old-growth eucalypts which form the tree canopy and provide shade for rainforest plant species to grow in the gully below, where water runs down the catchment collecting nutrients for rainforest pioneer species. It's these eucalypts that are valuable to the unsustainable woodchipping industry. Eucalypts provide protection, or buffer, to protect rainforest against fire. Scientists recommend a one hundred metre buffer zone, but this is being ignored and logging often occurs with only a twenty or forty metre buffer zone. Sometimes, trees are logged up to the rainforest itself.

While the national park system is still expanding, and the Land Conservation Council (a semi-governmental body responsible for making recommendations about public land use in Victoria) is proposing a considerable (though by no means visionary) extension of the wilderness preserves, the fact remains that the protected areas usually exclude the high-value old-growth forests. Another favorite tactic (as in the case of the Alpine National Park) is to allow "once only"

logging before declaration of park status. In Tasmania a number of areas have been "undeclared" as parks when they realised that there was some thing they wanted in the park after all. I was never a cynical type until I started to find out about how governments work!

So, back to the forests. In Victoria, the three main fronts are the Otways, the Central Highlands, and East Gippsland. The two main other regions that desperately need more attention are the Alps (grazing, logging, and roading of existing and potential wilderness) and the north-east (where woodchipping operations are taking over from more sustainable mills; plantations of introduced softwoods are also a major problem here).

### Central Highlands

In many ways the Otways and Central Highlands can be taken together, as there is more similarity between these areas than with East Gippsland. The forests of East Gippsland are more diverse and contain warm temperate as well as the cool temperate rainforests of the other two regions. The other major region not already mentioned that supported tall forest and rainforest was the Strezlecki ranges, south of the central highlands. This region has been almost totally cleared for dairy farming.

The Central Highlands are located east of Melbourne. There are only remnants of old growth—mostly in the deeper gullies where the '39 fires jumped from ridge to ridge. There is an intensive sawmilling industry which is increasingly turning to pulp production. There have been some quiet plans for a Central Highlands National Park, but timber interests are busily fragmenting the components of the proposed park to prevent the existing state parks and water catchments from being linked up. Most of the water catchments here (which feed Melbourne) are protected from logging. There is no concerted campaign to protect remnant forests. Perhaps the single most threatened species is the Leadbeaters possum (faunal symbol of Victoria) which is dependant on nesting hollows of old eucalypts.

### Otways

The Otways Draft Management Plan was drawn up in April 1990 by the DCE and submissions closed on September 13, 1991, although the planning committee accepted submissions after this date from the timber industry to balance the number received from conservation groups. One of the main problems with the draft plan is that the plan itself admits that "there are several notable gaps in our knowledge and understanding of the flora and fauna of the Otways region. Only inadequate and short term scientific studies have been carried out on the Otways region."

Finally questions have been raised about the DCE's ability to enforce the plan's provisions as the timber industry does not seem able, or willing, to regulate it's own practices.

### East Gippsland

The richness of east Gippsland is due to the fact that it is a giant ecotone, where the cool-Victorian vegetation meets the warmer vegetation patterns of New South Wales. East Gippsland covers only 4% of the state, but contains a third of the state's plant species and two thirds of the birds and animals. Because of the steep nature of the escarpment that marks the southern (ocean) side of the Errinundra Plateau, the streams are the least interfered with of any in the state, lacking the invasion of exotic species characteristic of most other waterways. There is considerable opportunity for (tall) forest wilderness, especially around the Rodger River, which borders onto the Snowy River National Park. Two wilderness areas—the Snowy River and the Bowen (totalling 44,500

hectares) were recently proposed by the Land Conservation Council. The long-footed potoroo (a type of small wallaby) is perhaps the best known of the endangered species from East Gippsland.

There have been two major direct actions in East Gippsland to prevent old-growth logging—in the summer of 1983/84 on Errinundra Plateau—and the summer of 1989/90, when several hundred people were arrested over a number of weeks on Brown Mountain. Ultimately, neither action was successful at preventing logging. Part of the Martins Creek catchment (largest warm temperate rainforest in Victoria) has recently been clearfelled. Since the collapse of the East Gippsland Coalition, there is not a high profile campaign to defend these forests. The Concerned Residents of East Gippsland (CROEG) is doing what it can despite an antagonistic redneck population throughout much of the region.

## Old Growth Not Woodchip

The Great Dividing Range runs from north Queensland, down the entire length of the eastern seaboard, then swings around and fizzles out entirely over near South Australia. Though not "Great" compared to the Rockies or Himalayas (Kosciusko, the highest peak, is 7,300 feet), the range is beautiful and supports a wonderful array of ecosystems, from the tropics down into cool temperate regions. On the back-bone and associated escarpments of the Divide are the regions where the soils and climate combine to make suitable habitat for tall open and closed forests (dominated by eucalypts) and rainforests (usually dominated by native softwoods). On either side of these forests, eucalypt and acacia woodlands predominate, and on the drier western slopes and basins this eventually turns into semi-arid shrub and grasslands.

Only about 5% of the original forests still exist (the remainder being regrowth or agricultural land). Most of the forested country occurs along the Divide: the other two pockets are in southwest Western Australia—massive Jarrah and Karri groves—and on Tasmania, the most southerly part of Australia. It is in these areas where the timber industry is most entrenched. As most Australians live near these forests, and the destruction is dramatic and obvious, there is a lot of concern as well as occasional action to defend what remains.

In Australia we are witnessing a swing away from a sawlog-driven industry to one dominated by woodchipping. The chips are shipped overseas, mostly to Japan, for processing. Then we buy paper products back from them. Makes a lot of sense, hey? The end result is that most of the old growth is gone, and logging/woodchipping is now going on in second and third growth forests. The rise of woodchipping also means that areas can be harvested that were marginal for milling alone (rain shadow regions and forests at higher altitudes).

Perhaps the most devastated region is in southeast New South Wales, where the giant Harris Diashowa conglomerate has been feeding old-growth forests to the pulp mill at Eden for over 25 years. Victoria is stepping up its quota of woodchips, and in Tasmania there are massive operations, especially in the north and northwest of the state. Given the huge current demand for woodchips and the strong likelihood of more mills and disastrous "resource security legislation" in the near future, stopping proposed pulp mills is perhaps the single biggest priority of the green movement in regards to forest conservation, as a mill needs to be fed once it has been built.

## Adventure Playground

—Let's damn Tully-Mill Stream for Hydro Power on Cape York.

—Let's build a Space Port on Cape York.

—Let's build Very Fast Trains, starting from Melbourne to Sydney via Canberra of course 'cos that's our National Kapital.

—Let's build Multi Function Polis', starting with Melbourne. Oh, you don't like that, OK, we'll build it in Adelaide, we don't give a shit, we just want one so we have a precedent.

—Let's destroy the Wilderness in East Gippsland, southeast New South Wales, northeast NSW, the Daintree and every other bit of worth while forest along the Eastern Coastal area of Australia.

So where is it all leading? Why do we need Mega power on Cape York? Easy, how else do you get the power to run a Space Port. When you have Mega "fast" people landing way to buggery up there on Cape York how do you get them to "civilisation?" Easy, on a train that goes Mega fast. So you have to build a Very Fast Train.

Apart from paper to wipe our bums on, why must we destroy all Wilderness areas on the East Coast? Easy, when you want a Very Fast Train line right down the middle of it, you need to "rectify" minor problems like Wilderness Areas and things like that which some people hold a silly sentimental value for.

When you've brought all those pathetic little, unfortunately not species endangered, video camera toting tourists to "civilisation" on that screaming metal monster where do you put them? Easy again, you build Mega cities. So we really do need some Multi Function Polis'.

Of course, so as not to offend the sensibilities of said video camera toting morons, we need to restrict Australian entry into these areas. After all we all know how uncouth your average Australian can be.

So the end result is that the Wilderness of Cape York is invaded several times a day by the "thunder" of landing and taking off space shuttles. The local aboriginal community are turned into performing bears for visiting Japanese and American tourists to take videos of. Then, video camera in hand the bastards invade southward.

Tourists who pay big bucks to get here via space shuttle aren't into meandering down the country by local yokel transport, they want to travel in a straight line at 250 kill-ometers an hour. When they arrive, they can't be expected to stay in some grotty little hotel so we have to build the turds Multi Function Polis'. When they get here they want to be entertained, so we better bloody learn to be entertainers, or they might just throw us out of this country and import some new stock.

There are other minor problems, like Wilderness areas in the way of a VFT line, but that's all right, they'll give us jobs so we can make some money clearing that for them, after all they don't only want us as dancing clowns, we've also got paper for them to wipe their dirty little touristy bums with (which is a change from us licking the dags off for them).

Unfortunately, the few politicians with enough guts to do anything but suck to anyone who will throw them a bone, don't have enough power to do much and our environment and social justice movements are splintered and in enough disarray to render them almost totally ineffectual.

So unless we can get it together and ward off the biggest threat this amazing remnant of Gondwanaland has faced since us pale skinned, Earth-haters got here we are destined to become an island Disneyland for rich Japanese and Americans to come and play on. The bits left of our Wilderness will become Adventure Playgrounds for the very people responsible for most of this planets destruction and if we're lucky we might be employed as tour guides, to staff the hot dog stalls and sushi bars, or to perform as clowns in corny Hollywood re-enactments of our past "glories."

This is written by someone who's sure they should have been born a few thousand years ago 'cos these people are bloody crazy!!!!!!

# Oz EF! Actions

## The First Trees

It all started one night sitting around the fire at Base Camp, four of us, A.J., Gareth and Gerard, who were all experienced climbers, and myself. I didn't have any formal climbing experience but have an excellent working knowledge with ropes, knotting and doing things with my hands.

None of us liked the idea of going into the forest, getting arrested, just to be taken to Eden for some stupid charge, coming back and doing it again. (It was like sex when I was young, over almost before it started.) If there wasn't a way of making it last longer we may as well build a conveyor belt from Base Camp to the cop shop and forget the forest.

So we all started putting out ideas, they were all pretty much the same, we all wanted to go up into the trees and stay there. To arrest us they had to come up because we weren't coming down.

I went to Melbourne to get gear so that I could move up full time. When I got back Gareth had left and A.J. was busy as camp co-ordinator so Gerard and I got to work. About two weeks before the first platforms were to go up, A.J. and Gerard landed in jail trying to stop the bail restrictions.

My climbing experience consisted of one quick lesson a couple of days before they were arrested. Suddenly the project needed an expert climber, nobody knew I wasn't, so I was. I taught almost everyone else in the camp to climb and picked from them the other two sitters. At about the same time three forest warriors, Col, Laurie and Greg, came into the group. They lived in the forest for the forest and became the much needed ground support.

We carried those first platforms and support camp in on our backs, up and down hills sometimes thick with undergrowth, some places steep and rocky. The platforms were rigged with myself as the only rigger and a ground crew who had never done it before. We

all replaced experience with determination. Not one of us knew what we were doing but everyone did their job. It took nine hours to rig three platforms and get the sitters on them. Before we went in I told the other two sitters the truth about my "experience." They were still happy to sit.

Then and for most of that first action we only had one rope which I kept up my tree. As I was the only one to train people our replacement sitters were taught to climb as they went up the rope to their new home. They stayed there without a rope, we needed it for training, to change sitters, we took the rope in brought the old sitter down, put the new one up and took the rope away.

Slowly the bureaucracy of the green movement realised we were doing a good job. The road was getting worn out by media walking in through five miles of "arrestable country." In the first week we had *Sixty Minutes*, *Good Morning Australia*, *The Bulletin*, *The Age*, *Sydney Morning Herald*, *Canberra Times* and heaps more I can't remember.

Slowly, the Green(?) bureaucracy started to help us with equipment, by the time those first platforms came down we had climbing gear coming out our ears and the small group who started with more willpower than ability had swelled to the Green T.R.G. (Tree Rescue Group). The experience and trial and error learning had created a group of people which meant that next time we had three riggers, better planned support, platforms that were like the Ritz and more sitters than we knew what to do with.

When that first action came to an end it did it with a thud. Those platforms were rigged not to fall, nobody thought of them flying, when strong winds hit the platforms lifted up to two feet with the gusts, the sitters had to come down. Next thing we knew the coupe was full of cops and the chainsaws screamed. They killed the trees but not the spirit, with the people who had gathered around those platforms there was no way more wouldn't go up.

## Opening Nullica

Just before I left the South East Forests and returned to Melbourne, a group of us involved with the tree actions decided to close down logging in Nullica for a day. It wasn't much, but after months in that forest with the sound of screaming chainsaws and dozers we wanted a day of peace.

With the promise of some good action and a lost TRG (Tactical Response Group) cap as a prop it wasn't hard to get a fair sized group eager to go from Base Camp. These people, combined with the people already in the forest, assured us of a fun-filled day of productive action. The day started at 4.30 a.m. when the loggers turned up to load logs. A small amount of timber was loaded dangerously before work was given up due to people lying under the loaders wheels.

We packed up so that we could go and find other loggers to silence. We were half way up the road when the loggers returned, so it was back down to the loading area. What ensued then was a standoff; the loggers sat in their 4X4 wondering what to do, and we stood in a small group wondering what we should do. After a while I decided "stuff this," went over to the loggers and explained that we were going to one of the other coupes but would leave a small group behind to make sure they couldn't work, so they may as well go to the pub. They agreed and left.

We then split up to cover the rest of the coupes in the forest, the group I was with headed for the sound of a dozer working. Two other climbers and I stood casually in the path the dozer was supposed to be taking and discussed the merits of the different trees for climbing. The dozer itself was backing slowly up the hill with Bob doing acrobatics in front of, behind, under and over the blade, whilst Greg followed it up the hill screaming at it to get out of the forest and assaulting the blade with a large piece of wood.

After this it became a matter of greenies marauding through the forest. A truck half full of logs tried to leave; the driver had to finish his journey on foot because of people taking siestas on the road. About 11 a.m. the Rainbow Greenies arrived accompanied by a large group of people down from Sydney who would normally see only unlogged forest or old regenerating coupes on the organised tours.

They walked, dressed in their bright colours along tracks where we normally moved with caution and always in muted colours so that we could fade when the cops came, they had a party under the tree platforms and chatted happily with the sitters. Jenny Kee the fashion designer, who, because of her "celebrity" status is destined to always be "symbolically arrested" with the Green Bureaucrats, spent the day witnessing the devastation first hand. It was great to see her and a large group of University design students strolling down into a coupe seeing the destruction their hearts had felt.

The last group of us out of the forest left by blockading the Forest Commission foreman and telling him he couldn't leave unless he gave us a lift. We went out the gate at about 5 p.m. Even though the cops had been called at 4:30 a.m. they still hadn't arrived. A bunch of Feral Greenies sitting around a campfire had planned and executed an action which halted logging in the whole of Nullica State Forest for a day, complete with public tours and picnics. But that's not surprising, the same bunch of people had by that time kept platforms going for about three months, had gotten constant national media for the forest with no injuries and a handful of arrests.

## Stopping AIDEX

When we talk about deep ecology, when we talk about the fucking over and desecration of the environment, when we talk about the insatiable, rapacious hunger of the "development" mentality of white Australian/Amerikan/European society, when we talk about the genocidal wars which have been and are being waged against indigenous people, when we talk about the very basic threat of the reduction of biomass on planet earth, what the fuck are we actually talking about? Who the fuck is responsible?

We in Australia have been working hard on these issues for a long time. Before the formation of EF!, Australian activists were involved in full-on confrontation with "developers" in such ecologically sensitive areas as the Central Australian desert and the Cape York wilderness. A little bit of forest here and a little bit of desert there has been plucked from the jaws of the beast, and of this we are proud...BUT, the destruction goes on.

Loggers, miners, property developers have to date been the target of our activities. There is a feeling over here that the biggest criminals have thus far escaped relatively unscathed. We're talking about the people who build the bombs that have torn apart places like Murarua, the people who want to build a weapons testing range the size of Texas in South Australia, the people who are producing the means whereby tribes such as the Penan are being persecuted for their attempt to save their forest homelands, the people who are responsible for destroying 8-10 million tonnes of ozone every time they launch a fucking satellite with a solid fuel rocket. The feeling over here is that if we're serious about stopping or at least slowing down the rapid depletion of biomass then we should start hitting those who are most responsible (that's not to say we're gonna leave the cattlemen alone!).

Australia is a relatively small player on the world weapons scene, but we're getting bigger. Australian-made weapons and weapons components are found wherever there is a military action. Renegade Activists Action Force (RAAF) are working with EF! groups in Oz to screw up these companies and put them on notice that the increase in criminal activities over here is just not fucking well on! These companies are having a trade show in Canberra. We intend to stop it in true EF! fashion. Big demos at the gates will be aided and abetted by other activities designed to ensure that the show (called AIDEX: Australian International Defense Exposition) does not run its course.

Most of the companies involved in this show are Amerikan and this is where you diehard EF! readers come into it. Right around Australia and some European cities, corporate offices of weapons builders will be the subject of "solidarity" activities. You know who these companies are: United Technologies, Westinghouse, General Electric, McDonnell Douglas to name just a few. We are asking you to help us make this statement by carrying out actions at the offices of whichever arms companies are in your area. Multinational companies deserve multinational actions. Keep your eyes and ears tuned to the international media for our progress, but in the likely event of censorship from the media moguls, we'll write a report of what went down next year. We'd dig it if you'd let us know if anything comes of this missive (after we shut down AIDEX).

In the spirit of love and anarchy and the feeling that we're sick to death of cutting our teeth on chicken shit loggers and the like, we send greetings from the Renegade Activists Action Force, PO Box 24, Kings Cross 2011, Australia.

At the heart of every just cause is the cause of justice.



Chaelundi blockade

# Baucus Bill Shafts Wilderness

By FREDDY FEELGOOD

The wilderness of the Wild Rockies, the most pristine land in the 48 states, is about to be laid to waste thanks to a recent vote by the US Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Congress finds itself under recent attack from the American public, and rightly so if this latest folly is any indication of how they do business. Just before Thanksgiving the Energy Committee, on a 20-0 vote taken just before midnight, passed S1696, the Montana National Forest Management Act. Sponsored by Montana Senators Max Baucus (D) and Conrad Burns (R); the bill is a travesty.

Imagine a pristine wilderness four times the size of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area handed over to multi-national corporations for private profit, to be leveled within a few years at taxpayer expense. It's bad enough the Senate would approve such a thing. Making matters worse, they did it without ever seeing the contents of the bill. That's right, the vote was taken without the Committee members ever seeing a text of the bill. That's because there wasn't a text at the time it was passed out of committee.

For a moment, let's set aside the absurdity of voting on such a major federal public lands issue without knowing what they were voting on. What's at stake? Over 6 million acres of Montana's National Forest wilderness lands have yet to be added to the National Wilderness System. They remain unroaded and undeveloped. These lands are home to world-class populations of grizzly bears, gray wolves, woodland caribou, elk, bighorn sheep, moose, bull trout, and a host of other species found nowhere else in the 48 states. It is America's Serengeti. The headwaters of three major river systems, flowing to three different oceans, originate in the Northern Rockies. The last intact mountain forest ecosystems are found here, as well as America's most popular outdoor areas including Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks and

surrounding wildlands. The interests of the people of the United States, who own these National Forests equally, were not weighed in the committee vote.

Also at stake is the public's right to be involved in decisions regarding lands that we own. According to the Senators and their staff, new language prepared for this bill (still not made public) restricts citizens' rights to challenge logging, roadbuilding, and mining on public lands. This language was drafted by a timber industry attorney.

The US Forest Service, in bed with the timber industry, has planned thousands of miles of new logging roads and clearcuts for the pristine wilderness lands covered by the bill. The public will pay for these costly roads at the rate of \$50,000-100,000 per mile, to access high elevation, slow-growing forests. The public has to pay for the destruction of our only remaining ecosystems.

Congressional hearings chaired by Rep. Gerry Sikorski (D-MN) uncovered that Northern Rockies Regional Forester John Mumma was ousted from his job because he would not violate federal environmental laws in order to meet demands for increased logging from the White House. More recently, Ernie Nunn, supervisor of the Helena National Forest in Montana, was also ousted for not meeting the increased logging targets. To the contrary, Lewis and Clark National Forest supervisor Dale Gorman was given a cash bonus and a pay raise for increasing logging. Guess who's running the show on the National Forests? The Burns-Baucus bill is designed to open up more than 4 million acres (82%) of the remaining wildlands to these corporate barons.

The people of America can make a difference, and should reject this bill, S.1696, in its entirety. On the Senate side, key players include Dale Bumpers (AR), Paul Wellstone (MN), Albert Gore (TN), Howard Metzenbaum (OH), Pat Leahy

(VT), Tim Wirth (CO), Bob Carey (NB), J. Bennett Johnston (LA), Wyche Fowler (GA) and Bill Bradley (NJ). They all need to hear about this. Key Representatives include George Miller (CA), Bruce Vento (MN), Peter Kostmayer (PA), Jim Jontz (IN), Wayne Owens (UT) and all the rest! The Alliance for the Wild Rockies (AWR) and the Wild Rockies Legislative Action Fund have prepared The Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act for introduction in Congress. A positive approach that would protect ecosystems and serve the national public interest, it is endorsed by more than 150 organizations and business owners throughout the country and has gained the announced sponsorship of Rep. Peter Kostmayer (D-PA). This bill addresses the states of Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, and eastern Oregon and Washington. It would designate 13.4 million acres of Wilderness, 1,000 miles of Wild & Scenic Rivers, and two National Park & Preserve study areas. The bill would also protect biological linkage corridors for wildlife movements, and establish a Wildland Recovery System to rehabilitate lands that have been trashed because of excessive "management." For more information about this bill, contact AWR at PO Box 8731; Missoula, MT 59807 (406)721-5420. Other Senators and Representatives should be encouraged to support the bill.

Write: Sen. \_\_\_\_\_ Rep. \_\_\_\_\_  
U.S. Senate / U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20510 Washington,  
D.C. 20515



## Further Bad News on Mt. Graham

By ROBIN D SILVER, M.D., F.A.C.E.P.

The Northern Goshawk, like the Mt. Graham Red Squirrel, is an indicator species for a densely canopied old-growth forest. A recently released, October 15, 1991 study on goshawks in the Coronado National Forest by Southwestern Field Biologists of Tucson states, "It is possible that the construction activities could affect normal goshawk behavior and disrupt nesting if it occurs during critical periods of the reproductive



cycle [April - September]."

A goshawk nesting territory has been found within 0.6 mile of the current University construction site on Mt. Graham. Multiple past studies have documented negative effects on the nesting success of goshawks, secondary to human disturbances. The Northern Goshawk is

currently being considered for addition to the federal endangered species list. The new study's findings further emphasize the uniqueness and the fragility of the Mt. Graham ecosystem. It is in the heart of this fragile ecosystem that the University of Arizona is attempting to build the proposed Mt. Graham telescope project. Earlier, a delayed-release University study had already documented negative effects of the telescopes on the already federally listed, endangered Mt. Graham Red Squirrel. Even though the population census of the Mt. Graham Red Squirrel is currently between 364 and 417 (a population of approximately 500 is necessary for long-term survival), the population is directly dependent on available cone crops. In 1986, habitat loss secondary to past logging and to road building resulted in the addition of the Mt. Graham Red Squirrel to the endangered species list. The densely canopied old-growth of the Mt. Graham summit provides the squirrels with their primary food source, the cone crop. In 1989, after the last cone crop failure, the Mt. Graham Red Squirrel almost became extinct. On Mt. Graham, the Northern Goshawk feeds upon the Mt. Graham Red Squirrel, as well as on old-growth related birds. As winter begins in 1991, the cone crop on Mt. Graham has again failed. The difference between the cone crop failure of 1989 and that of 1991-1992, however, is that the University has now already destroyed more than a thousand cone producing trees and has begun to fragment the summit's tiny surviving Englemann spruce/corkbark fir forest. This tiny remnant forest on the Mt. Graham summit is important for the long term survival of the Mt. Graham Red Squirrel. On August 31, 1987, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) biologists studying Mt. Graham concluded, "Emerald Peak [the site of the current construction], regardless of access, is an extremely important red squirrel habitat...impacts

on Emerald Peak could not be reduced below jeopardy with reasonable and prudent alternatives."

This conclusion was changed to accommodate the University telescopes on Mt. Graham, however, as the result of an admitted violation of the Endangered Species Act by USFWS Regional Director Mike Spear. The University has subsequently attempted to ignore the illegal acts upon which the proposed telescope project is based by claiming exemption from the Endangered Species Act, itself. Compliance with the Endangered Species Act would not only require correction of the project accommodating violations of law, but would also require examination of less environmentally damaging, alternative astronomical sites.

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# RRR In San Juan

The Wild San Juan Mountains of southwestern Colorado have been selected for next year's Round River Rendezvous. This will be the time for our tribes to once again come together to focus our energies on defending wilderness and biodiversity in a setting that is Alive and Wild. Music and dance will reverberate through the mighty San Juans as we chant down Babylon and sing our love for the Mother Earth.

The site for the RRR will be somewhere on the Pagosa Ranger District in the San Juan National Forest. There will undoubtedly be direct action taking place in this area before, during, and after the Rendezvous to stop the logging and other intrusions that are threatening this area.

All you wage slaves can mark your calendars for June 25 - July 5 as the tentative dates of the '92 RRR.

An RRR committee has been formed to work on site selection, permits, publicity, security, ect. We encourage performers and people interested in giving workshops to contact us as soon as possible so we can publish your plans and ideas in future journals. All you home brewers can start whipping up some tasty beer. If anyone is interested in coordinating rides on the roads, rails, or preferably trails let us know. Of course, early contributions to cover organizational costs would be greatly appreciated.

Please contact the RRR Committee at: POBox 1166, Boulder, CO. 80306.  
PS Shall we have porti-potties or pit toilets?

Imagine the Rockies the way they were, the way they will be once again: Wolves and Grizzlies ranging freely from the Animas Mountains (OK, a little south of the Rockies) up to Glacier National Park. The species that epitomizes the untamed wilderness of an old growth spruce/fir forest—the lichenous "old man's beard"—mixing its untamed genetic soup from the high Gila to the vast primeval wilderness of Canada. The sensitive curvature of the Rockies with the intact vertebrae of the ponderosa foothills, healing in a few decades when fossil fuels collapse and human population crashes.

Imagine.

Making this dream come true entails protecting intact segments of the Rockies. And the ecosystem that will provide the first major connecting link between Yellowstone and the Gila, a sanctuary for wolves with the wanderlust, is under attack. The San Juans, home to wolverine, lynx, Mexican

spotted owl, and possibly grizzly, needs your defense.

The San Juans will host the '92 Round River Rendezvous, and spirits of the bioregion hope you *homo activists* will arrive early and stay late. Us ghosts ain't planning a "post-RRR action." Instead, we will pass out maps of the ecosystem, highlighting the hundreds of miles of roads that need to be closed to restore the wilderness. From there, it's up to you and your affinity group.

In the last year a Colorado group called Ancient Forest Rescue (AFR) has championed the Greater San Juan Ecosystem through tree-sits and extensive blockades of the infamous Sandbench timber sale in the lower elevation part of the Weminuche roadless area (940,000 acres): Though AFR lost Sandbench itself (after over 50 arrests and the closure of 10,000 acres enforced by military-style Forest Service agents), over two million acres remain

roadless. That, of course, is not nearly enough. With extensive, *decentralized*, and repeated road closures (with no one sticking around for the TV cameras and jail), we can probably double the amount that will be roadless, and shut down the entire deforestation industry centered around the San Juan's extensive old-growth forests. Forest Service agents from around the country could guard one timber sale until it was cut; they won't be able to guard every mile of every forest road in the ecosystem over an entire century. There are lots of rocks and logs to be rolled.

So make plans to come on out, *companeros y companeras!* Details of date and spot of the RRR to follow, along with maps and road closure tips.

You owe it to Yellowstone goshawks, who'd love to meet their kin in the Gila.

—MOGOLLON

EF  
(they're off in  
in England.)

## Cor Blimey! Blighty Action

An insight into the growing UK Earth First! movement and the environment that it's been born into. Written in various stages of mental deterioration.

"The mainstream groups have lost their guts" are the words that most stick in my mind from a meeting with David Bellamy, a well known face on the British environmental scene. He's right and what's more everybody knows it, especially here in Britain where a radical green movement has never seen the light of day. Here wishy washy reform groups such as Friends of the Earth proliferate this small but beautiful land of ours. In their London offices they have propagated the reverence for the 'professional' environmentalist and disempowered people from taking local action. This is in deep contrast to the UK peace and animal rights movements, which are way laid with hard nosed individuals and strong grassroots groups. There are no raised eyebrows at the odd one or hundred arrest(s) and hard uncompromising messages are banded about with relative ease. Recently there were over 150 arrests at an Arms Fair and riots after a member of the animal rights movement was killed during a hunt sabatour demonstration. I'm sure that the present British green movements' response to such events would be to encourage people to write 'polite but strong' letters of complaint.

Compromise and patience is all part of the British culture, with queuing an important part of etiquette and the show of emotion a sign of weakness. The British animal rights movement has led the way and shown that radical uncompromising campaigning can work, much to the dislike of professional groups. So where's the emotion in the British green movement? All being channelled through the animal rights and peace movements? Held inside awaiting a corkscrew? Dissipated by 'professional' mainstream groups?

or are we all wrong and nothing exists to get emotional about? Yep, you guessed it all but the last.

Unlike the American green scene with the group of 10 etc., Britain, with its myriad of groups, seems to me to be even more divided, with the word conservation stretched to encompass the protection of ancient buildings right through to the protection of countryside.

Rebellion has graced Britain more than once in a variety of forms. Although none of them have ever been sustained or been of a revolutionary nature. The British mentality is probably to blame for years of subservience under the remnants of a once feudal system. However, change is on the way, or so it seems. Social change activists are getting tougher with the emergence of groups such as Class War and local anarchist solidarity groups. With the defeat of an unpopular and much criticised tax, 'The Poll Tax', by a campaign of mass non-payment, new confidence has been gained by groups and individuals alike. Britain's social change movement has taken the victory as a much needed breath of fresh air.

Learning from the 'Poll Tax' defeat, which was largely accomplished by local community 'Anti-poll tax' groups, no doubt can remain about the importance of grassroots groups. Unfortunately British environment groups still haven't caught on.

Green politics seemed to give hope and even a taste of radicalism to European greenies. Without a doubt the 'Greens', as they are known, have played an important part in the mobilisation of radical politics and, perhaps more importantly, introduced the idea of radical grassroots campaigning locked up with the idea of ecological consciousness. However, the green party's bubble seems to have burst. After well know success in Germany and more recently in England the

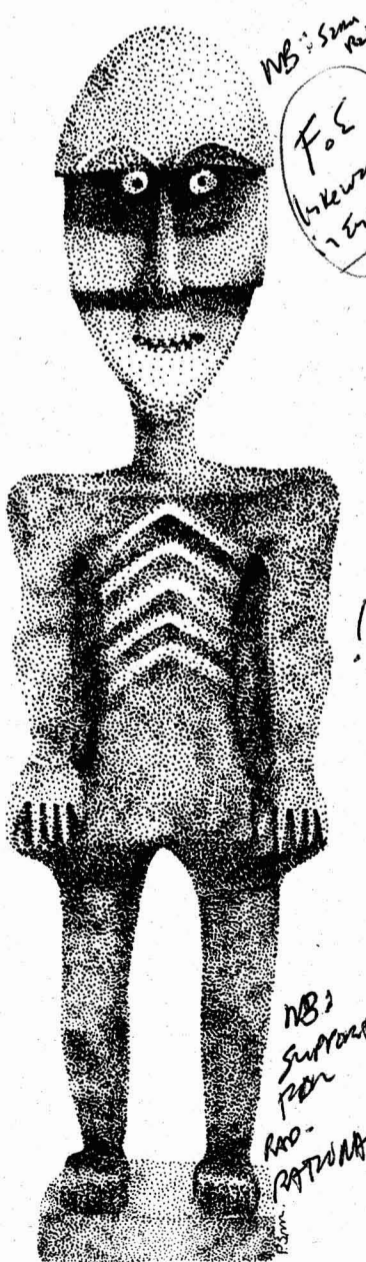
Greens have lost support and are riddled with internal divisions. With the disappointment of a flagging Green party, Greens are tired, disempowered and looking for a new home.

Earth First! seems to have made a timely appearance in Blighty. People are beginning to get angry with the disempowerment dished out by existing green groups. The niche is there, and the wave is rising for groups of the right nature to ride. Nothing agitates and aggravates in the ole EF! way.

The British Earth First! movement will without a doubt follow a different path to its American cousin. At present it appears as though strong influences will come from the British animal rights movement, mainly because it's the main area of activity, with peace and existing green groups adding to the chaos. Deep ecology is more like deep confusion for many British people who have read reports from the States which to say the least have lost a lot in the Atlantic crossing. Needless to say a lot of groundwork needs to be done to iron out the media created craters in peoples minds.

What about the future? Well we've finally produced a 'UK EF! action update'—any requests?—there are seven local groups, a London office, an inflatable and two full time eco-nutters, with several nearly full time. The rainforest campaign rolls on just as Carmageddon, a new national campaign rears its ugly head. The number of groups continues to grow as does the number of individual EF!ers. The word is finally beginning to spread as requests for various EF! groups to be present at fairs, public debates and of course actions continue to increase. The only way is UP!!

MS



# Overgrazing in Great Basin

BY GEORGE WUERTHNER

Great Basin National Park, Nevada's only national park, has issued its draft management plan which will guide Park operations for the next 15 years. One of the major issues is when, how much, and if, livestock grazing will continue here.

One of the major weaknesses with the original authorizing legislation which created the Park was the stipulation that *mandated* the continuation of livestock grazing within the Park. This clause, placed in the legislation by the then Senator James McClure of Idaho, benefits five permittees, which, among others, includes one large California corporation. It is a significant slap to democracy to compromise the value of this National Park for all citizens, merely to maintain special commercial privileges that largely benefit a half dozen individuals and companies.

Domestic livestock as alien, non-native species are inappropriate in our national parks, utilizing water, space, and forage that should be supporting native species. By common consent, our national parks are valued as reservoirs for *native* biodiversity and models of natural ecosystems. Domestic livestock grazing severely compromises both of these goals, and this was recognized during the scoping process when more than 200 letters were written specifically objecting to the continuation of livestock grazing within the Park.

It is truly ironic that the Park Service is spending hundreds of thousands of dollars to rid other national parks like Olympic of non-native mountain goats which were at least part of the native fauna of North America, while permitting privately owned alien species like domestic livestock to continue to degrade the only representative of the Great Basin ecosystem among our national park units.

Like most areas of the Great Basin ecosystem where livestock grazing occurs, Great Basin continues to experience many of the same problems as found elsewhere, including damage to riparian areas, water pollution, and trampling of vegetation. Cattle regularly wander into campgrounds, and destroy the aesthetic quality of backcountry meadows. In addition to cattle, domestic sheep are grazed here as well, overlapping the range of a small herd of wild bighorns which have suffered a recent decline in population—with disease transmitted from the domestic animals strongly suspected as being a contributory factor.

To rectify some of the problems, and feeling compelled by the legal mandate to accommodate livestock, the Park Service is proposing to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on fencing, water and other developments, and management schemes designed to reduce but not eliminate the negative impacts associated with domes-

tic livestock use.

If enough mail is generated opposing the continuation of domestic livestock, the Park Service may choose one of several alternatives. The Secretary of the Interior has the authorization to terminate livestock grazing or to prescribe any limitations or conditions upon its continued existence. The authorizing legislation also permits the Park Service to negotiate an exchange of all or part of existing grazing allotments within the Park for allotments outside the Park.

**What You Can Do:** Write the Park Superintendent, Al Hendricks, and thank him for recognizing the obvious conflict between continued livestock grazing and the Park preservation mandate. Argue that national parks have a higher value as representative natural ecosystems than as feedlots for private livestock. Ideally, all grazing allotments should be closed considering their obvious impact upon other park values and resources. Point out how incredulous it is that backpackers are asked not to camp near lakes or streams or to cut switchbacks, when these impacts are minor by comparison to the impacts domestic livestock enact upon trails, water quality and vegetation.

1. Assuming that the Park Service will at no time soon ask the Secretary of the Interior to terminate livestock grazing in the Park, one can still request that strong

mitigation measures be implemented. Since most of these mitigation measures such as fencing campgrounds and riparian areas are very costly, insist that permittees pay for the full cost for all these developments—which in the absence of livestock grazing would be entirely unnecessary.

2. Also insist that grazing allotments be closed if any base property is sold and not transferred to the new owners upon sale.

3. Ask that allotment exchanges outside of the Park be vigorously pursued and given first priority in management efforts. Barring the success of this approach, suggest that instead of spending any more funds on "range improvements" or range management within the Park that they use these funds to purchase base property with grazing privileges attached, and to use these allotments to provide alternative grazing options for permittees.

Without your letters the Park Service cannot make a case that livestock grazing is greatly compromising park values for visitors and citizens. Please take the time to write your concerns and mail them by December 31, 1991 to Al Hendricks, Supt. Great Basin N.P., Baker, Nevada 89311. If you can't make the Dec. 31 deadline, send your letter anyway. It will probably be counted and considered.

## Give 'em Shit!

Ranchers proclaim the many benefits of cow dung to the Western public range.\* Understandable therefore, we—as owners of public land and resources thereon—feel that it is time to share this wondrous bounty with the dedicated public servants who make it all possible. If you agree, then mail a cowpie during this holiday season, or anytime thereafter.

1. Procure an *old, dry, critter-free* cowpie (otherwise you might be in trouble with the law)
2. Place in a suitable box and seal—as you would any other gift—perhaps with a short note of explanation.
3. Address and mail to one or more of the following (or others of your own choosing):

—Cy Jamison, Director, BLM, Dept. of the Interior, Washington, DC

20240

—F. Dale Robertson, Chief, U.S. Forest Service, USDA, POBox 2417 Washington, DC 20013

—John Turner, Director, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Interior Building, 18th and C Streets, NW, Washington, DC 20240

\*Actually, domestic bovines deplete at least ten times more range nutrients than they return via feces and urine, and then their bodies go to feedlots, slaughterhouses, stores, dinner plates and sewage treatment plants, not back to the range.

Note: All this is entirely legal, so include a signature and return address.

## Standing on Fishes

"Standing on Fishes," a play that was written, produced and performed by local Twin Cities environmental activists and sponsored by Minnesota EP! has just returned from a highly successful tour of the Northeast and Canada. Utilizing the ritual elements of the Council of All Beings workshops, the play intended to evoke a deeper response to the ecological crisis and inspire people to *act*. But unlike the Council, which often caters to those who can afford a weekend workshop in the woods, the hope was to reach a much broader audience, one less familiar with the concepts of deep or even shallow ecology. There was little or no admission charged. Audiences left teary-eyed and committed to change their lives.

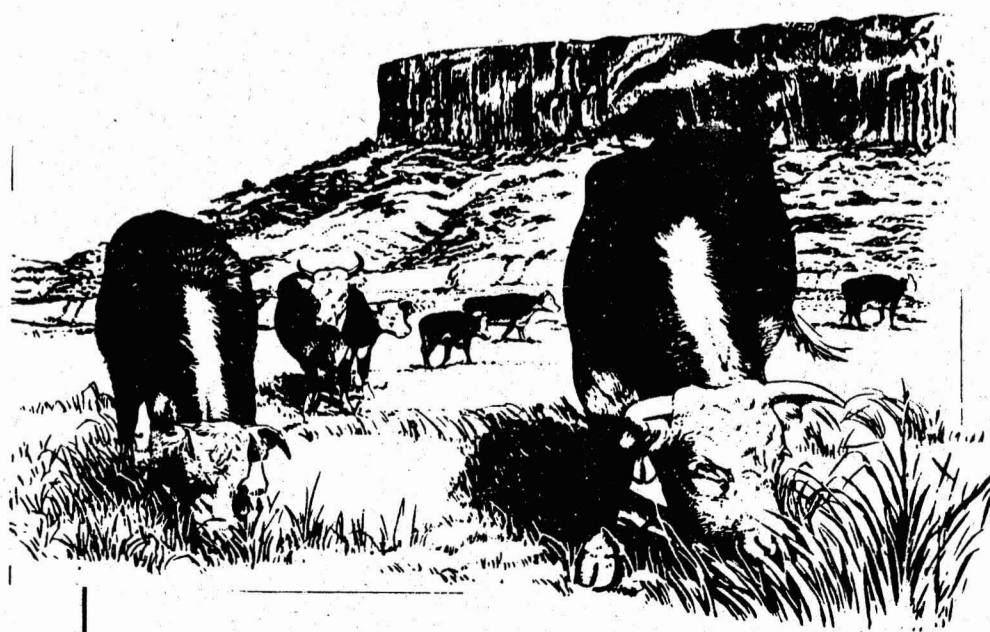
This was accomplished in part by giving a voice to the animals and other non-human entities. Actors, wearing simple masks, moved in and out of the human world, offering animal wisdom, criticism and commentary from an other-than-human perspective, thus challenging the audience to go beyond their habitual, anthropocentric way of thinking.

For me, however, the real magic occurred during the "loss" ritual, when, towards the end of the play, we invited the audience to come up on stage and express, one by one, their grief over a particular loss—of a fondly remembered patch of woods, swallowed up by a urban sprawl, or of a favorite pond, now a shopping mall, or of a parent or child lost to cancer. In this moment a truly moving transformation oc-

curred: people crossed that invisible barrier of "audience" and became participants in the play—or should I say life—themselves. No longer passive observers of the destruction of Mother Earth, people found that by giving voice to their grief (or rage), on a stage, in front of everyone, that suddenly their voice *mattered*, that their loss *meant* something, that their participation in the Council of Life was *important*. And listening to everyone calling out their losses in a litany, like a steady rhythmic drumbeat, gave people a feeling of membership in a *tribe*. In other words, empowerment.

As I listened to the responses people gave, as I looked into their tear-stained faces, it became clear to me that people have been waiting, for a long time, for the revival of Earth ritual. I believe now that most people feel a connection with the earth and are outraged by what is being done to it. What is lacking is empowerment, a belief that one's actions can and do make a difference. Through ritual—the songs, dances, the repeated words and gestures that honor the self and membership in the tribe and the web of life—one arrives at that place of empowerment.

Plays like "Standing on Fishes" are one way of remembering that ancient drumbeat, and I would encourage Earth Firsters everywhere, in addition to their important political struggles, to give time and space to this equally vital work.



# International Paper and Hate Groups Spew Shit in NY/VT

BY ORIN LANGELE

About 8:45 pm on November 17, Earth First! received a phone call tip that two anti-environmental groups, the Adirondack Solidarity Alliance (ASA) and the Alliance for America (AFA), accused EF! of sabotaging a waste water pipeline at the International Paper (IP) mill in Ticonderoga, NY. A valve on the pipeline was closed which resulted in a spill of 500,000 gallons of waste water that contained dioxins and furons, heavy metals, and phosphorus. At least half of the spill had poured into Lake Champlain earlier that morning. This spill was the smallest of seven spills that occurred at the plant since 1978.

An EF! Biodiversity Liberation Front spokesperson denied the charge, claiming it was ludicrous that EF! would further any type of pollution of Lake Champlain, or anywhere else for that matter, and added that the spill was a travesty and condemned the incident.

It appears that the right-wing groups leveled the charge against EF! because of a scheduled public hearing at Ticonderoga on the 19th where IP's permit to discharge waste water into the lake would be evaluated. They were also upset because of the tremendous publicity EF! was getting from the day before, when four days of media attention was launched to inform the citizens about the pollution in Lake Champlain and the effect the poisons were having on the lake's inhabitants.

Starting the informational campaign on the 16th, EF!ers held a funeral procession for the lake's famous monster, Champ. On the NY side of the Lake Champlain bridge, a press conference was held. "International Paper has murdered Champ," said Heather Locke, a conservation biologist with EF!. "As a result of that and the decline of other species in the lake, we've got to do something to stop the polluters from destroying the lake." Locke pointed out that there are 17 listed rare or endangered species and innumerable biologically threatened species which are declining because IP dumps 20 million gallons of waste water into the lake each day. She also added that because of all the dioxins and other poisons, officials say that you cannot eat more than one lake trout per month from the Champlain water.

The funeral procession, with Champ in his coffin atop an EF! hearse, then crossed over the bridge to the Vermont side. Abenaki Native American, Tall Pine Dawson, was on hand to receive Champ's death certificate from Locke. Dawson said, "Champ will be buried along the sacred Mississquoi River, along with other Native Americans who have been murdered over the years since the coming of Christopher Columbus."

Champ's funeral procession proceeded at a painfully slow pace the 30 or so miles to Burlington, VT, where EF!ers the next day marched down the outdoor mall with Champ's casket and went to city hall, home of granola crunching mayor Peter "Buffy" Clavelle. As Champ lay in state for the night,

EF!ers posted a mock arrest warrant on Buffy's door charging him with collusion with IP and the Burlington Sewage Department for poisoning Lake Champlain. Clavelle and his lackeys are planning to build a larger and longer sewer pipe to pump excrement out further into the lake. This summer the city's beaches were closed north and south of the pipe.

The following evening, Tall Pine Dawson announced at a popular counter-culture cafe that Champ was safely put to rest in sacred Abenaki burial grounds earlier that day.

On the day of the hearing in Ticonderoga, the United Paperworkers International Union also publicly denied the pipeline sabotage, stating that anytime something goes wrong at IP it is usually blamed on the union. Along with the union denial came more threats to EF! from right-wing extremists. Threats such as, "Bring your own blood type because you never know when you might slip in the parking lot and hit your head on a baseball bat" were thrown out. We were also told that cars with VT license plates would have their tires slashed.

For the hearing, IP worked the town of Ticonderoga into a frenzy. Every shop in town boasted "IP Complies" (to environmental standards) signs. Stickers were passed out and pro-IP rallies were held. IP neglected to tell Ticonderogians that in 1988, when Jay, ME townspeople supported a union strike, the IP plant released 110,000 gallons of chloride dioxide over that town.

## Nuke Dump Planned For Mississippi Floodplain

The current focus of MNEF! is the utility company, Northern States Power (NSP), and its proposal to put a radioactive waste dump in the flood plain of the Mississippi River. The existing waste storage pools for the NSP nuclear plant at Prairie Island will be full by 1993. Despite claims from the feds that a national dump site, known as WIPP in New Mexico, will be ready any day now (claims designed to discourage protests along the WIPP trucking route), NSP reports that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission shows no sign of being able to provide a federally operated site by 1998, the promised deadline.

NSP's own impact statement indicates that for a cost lower than that of building the "storage facility", conservation subsidies could reduce power demand enough to make the dump unnecessary, and allow for a smooth phase out of the plant as its licence expires in the next decade. In its corporate wisdom, NSP has opted for building "temporary" dry storage casks of steel and concrete—an untested design that is supposed to hold spent fuel rods and remain intact for 20-30 years. The concrete is supposed to not leak or crack, even though it will have a constant surface temperature of 270 degrees Fahrenheit.

Also, IP did not tell them that an IP mill in Georgia was recently fined \$800,000 for worker safety violations. Nor did they mention that CEO John Georges recently plead no contest to five felony counts of environmental pollution and, as a reward, President Bush appointed Georges to a position on the President's commission on the environment.

When EF!ers arrived in Ticonderoga that evening, a surreal attitude seemed to have gripped the inhabitants. Anti-EF! placards proclaiming EF! and the Audubon Society as eco-nuts and "Champ Lives" greeted us. A stupid human in a Champ replica costume paraded around. Chants at the pro-IP demo included, "Greenspeace (sic) and Earth First! why bother our IP, when it's Vermont whose pollution is giving Champ the D.T.'s"...or (to the tune of Row, Row, Row Your Boat) "Row, row, row your boat past the IP mill, merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily IP pays the bill."

Townspeople came up to us and said they were worried about their town since IP made it what it is today. Our response was that they were right; it is a smoke belching lake polluter, but the actual town was built by the labor of the workers. To which they replied, "But the workers will lose their jobs if IP leaves." Then we explained about worker control and that if the workers ran the factory, they probably would not produce poisons to pollute themselves, the town or the lake. They responded by saying "What if that doesn't work?" Our response was, at least

Snaggletooth's anyway, "We'll show them how to grow and harvest a useful, sustainable crop of marijuana."

The bogus hearing (rumor has it that IP already had their permit to pollute renewed) found over 300 people packed into the armory and guarded by NY's finest to prevent violence. As the hearing went on boringly, EF!ers and the ASA met tete-a-tete outside. A few harsh words, but nothing more than the concept of brainwashed, anthropocentrism versus biocentrism.

During the hearing, most people told how they loved IP, although there were a few disgruntled folks who did not buy the IP line and spoke the truth. EF! provided two critters for testimony, a salmon and conservation biologist Locke. The salmon spoke for things that could not speak for themselves, and Locke lambasted the NY Department of Conservation for their abuse of EF!ers in the past. She also attacked the IP mill saying it was very likely that there was some money being exchanged between IP and Dow Chemical to see that IP did not switch from their highly toxic chlorine-bleaching process (for which Dow supplies the chlorine) to a less toxic oxygen-bleaching process (which IP presently has the technology to do). Locke concluded her testimony by saying, "IP may provide your bread and butter, but how much are you willing to be paid to have somebody shit in your mouth?"

MB: WORKERS CONTROL PROVIDED \* MARIJUANA ALTERNATIVE

These casks, as many as 48 of them, are to be placed upstream from millions of people in the Mississippi valley—on a site that was under water as recently as 1965. As usual, the site is adjacent to a Native reservation. In this case, it is land belonging to the Mdewakanton Sioux, who have opposed the plant since before its construction in 1970. Although "temporary", the casks are not designed to transport waste, meaning that some transfer of waste to rail cargo will be necessary—unless the fuel rods crumble into non-transferable piles of hot, radioactive dust (as they often do in storage), in which case the casks will have to be used for transport anyway, and the railroad and everyone else can take their chances. More likely, the casks will just be left where they stand. But that wouldn't be surprising. An on-site dump is feared by many to be the excuse the NSP needs to successfully relicense its aging, brittle reactor before the operating permit runs out in 2013.

Hearings on NSP's permit to build this nauseating addition to the historically disasterous Prairie Island plant have begun and will continue through December. At this crucial phase, MNEF! has joined the ranks of the Prairie

Island Coalition Against Nuclear Storage, a broad based coalition of over 40 groups: minority lawyers, environmentalists, community activists, corporate watchdogs and assorted riff-raff. The contribution of MNEF! so far has been to generate public awareness of this media-ignored problem by engaging in theatrics that other members of the coalition tend to avoid. The town of Red Wing and the hearings in St. Paul have felt our presence, but this call is still going out for troops, ideas, and fucking nasty letters from rightously pissed off children of Earth. Interested parties should contact the following: Call (612) 379 3853 or write the Public Utilities Commission 700 American Center Building 150 East Kellogg Blvd. St. Paul, MN 55101.



By KAREN WOOD

On August 30, John Mumma, Regional Forester for the Northern Rockies Region (Region 1) of the US Forest Service, resigned under pressure from timber hardliners. Mumma, the first wildlife biologist to make regional forester, has been a key figure in the burgeoning reform movement within the agency, refusing to meet inflated timber targets in Region 1. As a result, Region 1 fell about 30% short of these politically imposed targets last year, and will fall short again this year.

The hardliners responsible for this coup include Deputy Chief James Overbay, Associate Chief George Leonard, and Assistant Secretary of Agriculture John Beuter. During a recent trip to Region 1, during which he informed Mumma that he would be reassigned to Washington, DC, Overbay advocated the prohibition of timber sale appeals in order to "move aggressively" to increase logging in roadless areas ("Retrenchment in the Forest Service," Jeff DeBonis, Fall 1991 Inner Voice). Overbay also recommended that Forest Service plan standards and guidelines be changed because of their negative impact on timber targets (DeBonis).

The ousting of Mumma is the result of increasing pressure on the agency to meet timber targets by timber interests and their puppet politicians. In a letter to F. Dale Robertson from Senator Larry Craig (R-ID), printed in the Fall 1991 issue of *Inner Voice*, Craig addresses the Forest Service Chief as follows:

"Dale, I am very disappointed with the Forest Service's accomplishment and accountability for timber outputs in Idaho and the Nation as a whole. You have serious management problems that must be addressed. It is my hope you will move to assure targets are met and line officers are held accountable for targets."

The decision to oust Mumma apparently came from the office of the Secretary of Agriculture, with hints that Chief Robertson would be next. Reporter Sherry Devlin of *The Missoulian* daily newspaper reported on August 30 that Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan met with Montana timber executives and assured them that Mumma would be replaced ("Coup in Missoula," Jeffrey St. Clair, *Forest Watch* Vol. 12, No. 2).

In the Pacific Northwest, effects of this hardliner backlash are manifesting in Regional Forester John Butruille's joining Overbay to advocate the prohibition of timber sale appeals. Overbay claimed, at an October press conference in Salem, Oregon, that the appeals process is being abused by environmentalists "who merely disagree with how we're doing business" ("Owl Calls", Jeffrey St. Clair, *Forest Watch* Vol. 12, No. 4).

Proposed changes in Forest Service appeal regulations announced by Overbay include the elimination of appeals on procedural grounds and the levying of fines for "frivolous" appeals (St. Clair, "Owl Calls").

Meanwhile, Dale Robertson appears to have taken this coup seri-

ously and has decided to protect his position at all costs (to the environment). He told the Associated Press that the agency needs to honor its "commitment" to timber dependent communities by producing 3 billion board feet per year from the Pacific Northwest National Forests. This figure assumes the expedition of timber sales in roadless areas such as Shasta Costa Canyon and West Indigo in the Siskiyou National Forest, the lifting of the Judge Dwyer's injunction on logging in northern spotted owl habitat, and continued high cutting on endangered eastside forest ecosystems (St. Clair, "Owl Calls").

Representative Gerry Sikorski (D-MN) initiated hearings of the Civil Service Subcommittee that have so far brought testimony from Mumma and Lorraine Mintzmayer, former regional director of the National Park Service for the Rocky Mountain Region. Mintzmayer also faced reassignment for her part in compiling a plan for the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem that called for reduced timber cutting on federal lands adjacent to Yellowstone National Park. Mintzmayer told the subcommittee that White House Chief of Staff John Sununu ordered the original "Vision" document completely rewritten, which it was. Needless to say, the new "Vision" was more of the same old exploitation.

It is clear that the Bush administration is the driving force behind this oppressive, anti-environmental political maneuvering. Forest Service employees who have dared to speak out or to work for reform are all in fear for their jobs. Jeff DeBonis of Association of Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics (AFSEEE) states, "The time is now to stand on the tanks and cry foul, or we can kiss the budding reform movement within the Forest Service good-bye" (DeBonis, "Retrenchment"). If we activists stand by silently while the oppression continues, we can also kiss our own rights (to appeal, for example) good-bye, and look forward to standing by silently while the rest of the ancient forest is sacrificed to corporate interests.

**What You Can Do:**

Contact your US Representative. (This doesn't have to be limited to a letter or phone call - visit in person, perhaps in costume, perhaps with a lot of other people and some media...) Express your concerns over Mumma's ousting and recent anti-environmental silencing activities of the Bush administration toward federal employees. Ask your rep's office to keep you updated on the progress of the Civil Service Subcommittee hearings, and ask your rep to launch her own investigation of attempts to subvert citizen appeal rights.

To find out more detail about the hardliner coup, you can reach the publications quoted in this article at: Forest Watch, 14417 SE Laurie, Oak Grove, OR 97267; 652-7049 *Inner Voice*, PO Box 11615, Eugene, OR 97440; 484-2692.

Handwritten initials and signature: MB URNE

## Oregon Logging Lawsuit

By KAREN WOOD

On November 26, the Eugene-based Forest Conservation Council issued a 60-day Notice of Intent to Sue to over 150 private landowners and logging operators in Lane County, Oregon. The group is threatening to sue under the Endangered Species Act for incidental "take" of northern spotted owls after completing research that shows 365 logging, road building and herbicide spraying operations on over 27,000 acres that lie within a 1.3 mile radius of spotted owl nests or activity centers. All but one of the operations are located in Lane County; we threw in a 1300 acre clearcut by Medford Corp. (Medco) in Jackson County for good measure. The industry's reaction to the largest enforcement action taken against private land logging operations in Oregon has been predictable. The Weyerhaeuser spokesperson blathered about thousands of jobs to be lost, and charged that, why, these radicals won't be happy until we can't cut another tree anywhere. Well, a ceasefire would be nice....

The requirements of the Forest Practices Act (FPA) for spotted owl protection do not meet the standards of federal law. The FPA requires a written plan from the operator if the operation falls within one mile of a spotted owl site, and requires that a 70-acre core area around the nest tree be reserved. Big deal. Operators are told when their plans are rubber-stamped - I mean approved - that the operation may not necessarily be in compliance with federal law. The biological standard accepted habitat requirements for spotted owls is a 40% canopy cover in a 1.3 mile radius around a nest tree or activity center on the west side of the Cascades, and 1.5 miles in the Coast Range. The forest in this circle must meet other criteria as well, concerning the amount of down woody material and open space under the canopy, for example. Although the US Fish & Wildlife Service recently withdrew these "official" guidelines under political pressure, the biological reality remains; if an owl is harassed or killed by destruction of its available suitable habitat, then a "take" has occurred under the Endangered Species Act.

Information we have uncovered so far shows that little of the lands surrounding the owls in question meets the biological standard. Most of the owls are on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands that are "checkerboarded" among the private land. And some of the BLM forests are in danger from the God Squad: over 40 BLM sales that were judged to have a significant impact on spotted owls have been sent to the Endangered Species Committee so they can decide whether the economics outweigh the ecological consideration. Since we don't think the BLM will be considering operations on adjacent private lands cumulatively with the "jeopardy sales", the Forest Conservation Council will try to get intervenor status with the God

Squad to present the information we have compiled.

Doing the research for this action has given us some good experience with the Oregon Forest Practices Act and the Oregon Department of Forestry; enough to know they both need a total overhaul. The Oregon FPA is so weak that recent "environmental" amendments passed by the Oregon legislature have improved it to the point that, for example, there is now a 120 acre size limit for clear cuts. I'm not kidding. Other "improvements" included increasing buffers for streams and highways (the scenic "viewshed"), and increasing the number of snags and downed logs in clear cuts. While forest ecologists at Oregon State University and the Forest Service's H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest are pushing the boundaries of ecological necessity farther and farther, our lawmakers are passing fluff legislation that only gives a green light to further destruction and depletion of valuable forest land.

**What You Can Do:**

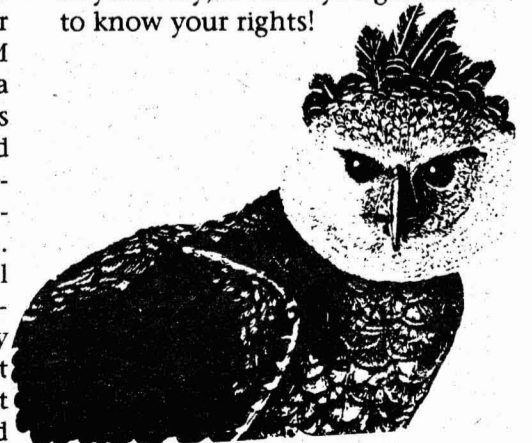
**If You Live In Oregon:**

If you would like to monitor private operations in your area in Oregon, and would like some help getting started, contact me at Southern Willamette EF!, PO Box 10384, Eugene, OR 97440; (503)343-7305. Please don't call to ask me to come save something in your backyard - do it yourself!

Contact your state representative and senators and tell them in your own inimitable style just what you think of the Forest Practices Act's complete lack of muscle. SWEF! also has information on monitoring Forest Service timber sales, and are actively monitoring sales on the Willamette, Umpqua, Siuslaw, and Siskiyou National Forests. We will be starting a clearinghouse for small groups and individuals that are monitoring Forest Service sales throughout western Oregon. Get in touch with us if you are monitoring sales in your area, or if you'd like to get started.

**If You Live Outside Oregon:**

Go to your state forestry office and get information about your state's forest practices law. If it is weak, which it probably is, work to strengthen it. You can also monitor private operations near you; ask your state forestry office or state representative for a copy of the regulations governing citizen appeal rights and access to information. That way you'll get the rules straight from the source, rather than giving bureaucrats the opportunity to throw a bunch of red tape in your way; it's always a good idea to know your rights!





## Getting Information on Logging in Southern Oregon

BY KAREN WOOD

Getting information from the Oregon Department of Forestry makes dealing with the Forest Service seem like child's play. If you want them to put you on their mailing list, they charge about \$600 per district per year for a subscription. You can go into their office and get it, but you'll have to work with their schedule, which is hectic during fire season. But if you're persistent, the information is there. The operation notification contains the names, addresses and phone numbers of the landowner, operator, and timber owner, as well as information about the planned operation: type of operation, logging and spraying methods, chemicals being used, number of acres, board feet removed, feet of road being built, and legal description to the sixteenth of a section. It also gives the operator's description of the site: how far from Class I water, how steep of a slope, and how stable the soil is. Sometimes the notification will indicate whether a threatened or endangered species is involved. There is often a map attached.

If you want to monitor private operations in a small area, you can subscribe just for your "backyard" for a smaller fee; the ODF will then mail you any notifications they receive for that area. If you want to monitor a larger area, one option is to have the ODF perform a computer search for the townships, ranges, and sections you are looking for. You'll get a printout that will then give you the operator names and notification numbers, so you can go straight to those operations. The hitch is that they charge \$22 an hour for computer time, and their computer is slow.

You do have the right to appeal private operations. I haven't had much experience with the process, but it seems pretty dismal. Since state law is so weak, I would suggest you focus on possible violations of federal law. There is a 15-day appeal period after the notification is filed, which severely limits most people's ability to pull it off. The law simply must be changed. Forest Conservation Council has started a political action committee to achieve this goal.

## How to be a Complete Failure as an Environmental Activist

OR

## Yesterday I Couldn't Even Spell it and Now I Are One

PRAGMATIST Humour

Rule 1: Always proclaim yourself proudly as an Environmental Activist to any and all who will listen. This will have one of the following very effective results:

A) If she or he is also an EA s/he will either:

- a) not believe you
- b) engage you in an enviro one-upmanship conversation, such as:

"Well, I was at Redwood Summer, all five base camps.

"Yeah, well I was in jail the whole time, while you guys partied."

"I deserved some party time; I spent three months last winter buried up to my neck in cement to stop that dam in Canada.

"Big deal. I spent three months in the hospital 'cause I lassoed a moving logging truck with a chain and was dragged 400 yards down the highway."

"So what! I once placed my body between a tuna boat and a nuclear submarine and was actually crushed to death!"

B) If s/he is *not* an EA, you just might get punched inna nose.

Rule 2: Clothing. All clothing is a statement, and this can be a particularly effective means of offending as many mainstream people as possible, thus totally alienating them forever from the Movement. After all, it's getting crowded out there on those demonstration lines, isn't it? T-shirts espousing the legalization of hemp on the front and promoting a Druid for President on the back are examples of such statements. It is also helpful if you could keep this clothing as filthy as possible. Remember, only your heart has to be pure.

Rule 3: Modern high-technology. sneer at it loftily whenever possible. Keep your \$1600 mountain bike with 88 gears out of sight.

Rule 4: Alternative Energy. Take the philosophical high ground and unplug yourself totally from all sources of electricity, gas, hot water,

and plumbing. Use your friends' lights, stove, shower and toilet, and let them pay for it, too.

Rule 5: TV. Smash your television. Of course, you don't have electricity anyway, remember? Make a big ceremony of the destructive act, hoping your friends will come, and that they will bring beer. Now you can watch Monday Night Football in your friendly neighborhood hippie bar, just like everyone else.

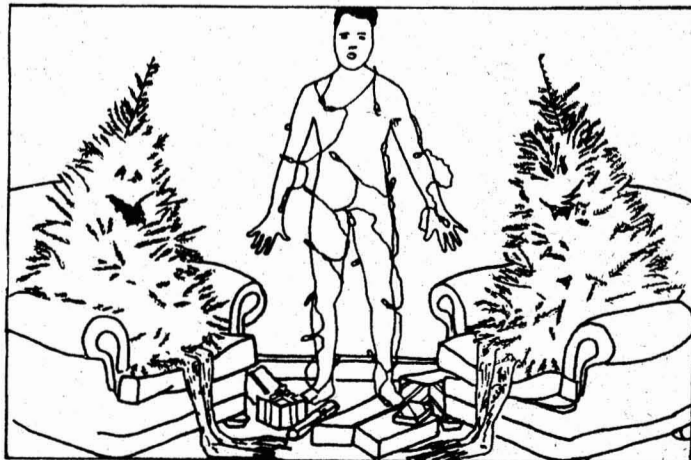
Rule 6: Newsletters. If your grassroots organization decides to publish one, be certain that the editors never completed the third grade. This will ensure that at least one word in every ten will be misspelled, that commas will rarely be used, and that run-on sentences will be the norm. Particular attention should be paid to the constant misuse of the words "its" and "it's". The result will be that your publication may be totally incomprehensible to the average American, but who needs 'em anyway!

Rule 7: The political process. Under NO circumstances should you register to vote. I mean, if we actually managed to elect a few politicians who thought like us, there'd be no revolution, and what's the fun in that?

Rule 8: Exercise. Since your only tasks in life are sitting in logging roads and indulging in political rhetoric and bombast, there is no need to stay in shape. Besides, slam-dancing is good for you, isn't it?

Rule 9: Education and self-improvement. What are you, a yuppie? Everything you ever needed to know about anything is in "Dear Shit fer Brains." Jeez.

Rule 10: Other grassroots organization. Attend any and all events they may stage, especially if food and/or music will be involved. As far as actually *doing* anything for their cause, fuck 'em; you got enough problems of your own already, dontcha?



## Toronto water processes photos

Photography buffs looking for an alternative to expensive processing chemicals might try water from the Toronto waterfront. With just a little bit of patience the polluted water can do the job, says Jeremy Lynch, a third-year photography student at Ryerson Polytechnical Institute.

Lynch found the developing process took about 28 hours versus the normal ten minutes. But he was still able to develop pictures because the Lake Ontario pollutants include compounds found in darkroom chemicals.

—SOURCE-ALTERNATIVES®

## Suing EPA for Child Abuse

The Citizen's Clearinghouse for Hazardous Wastes (CCHW) is collecting evidence from contaminated communities to help present a case of large scale child abuse against the EPA and its director Bill Reilly. If an adult knowingly exposes a child to danger, or neglects to protect a child when possible, that is a crime. If you agree that the EPA has knowingly allowed children to live at dangerously contaminated sites, CCHW invites you to add your community to the "Contaminated Site of the Month" roll call. This is part of the Forgotten Faces campaign to bring the issue of long-contaminated communities back into the news. To receive a Forgotten Faces kit write CCHW POB 6806, Falls Church, VA 22040 or call (703) 237-CCHW.

—SOURCE-VIRGINIA ACTION

## Freddies Shred Records

In a recent memo, the supervisor of the Stikine Area of the Tongass, in Petersburg and Forest Service regional timber officer warned employees to "sanitize" any records in their possession, lest they be subject to a Freedom of Information Act request or a court subpoena.

"We need to be sure the data we retain is the kind we would not be embarrassed to have printed on the front page of the Seattle PI or the WA Post..." says the memo.

—SOURCE-RAVENCALL



# Earth Night

## Their Nightmare is Real

Liquid Metal Embrittlement (LME) agent. Applied with a felt-tip type pen, LME is a clear, invisible substance that changes the chemical structure of a metal so that it is no longer resilient and flexible. The result: The metal can fracture under stress.

After frustration with eggs and balloons, I found green peppers to work very well as billboard bombs. Simply inject with latex paint using a turkey baster. Plug the hole with caulk. Cigarette and alcohol billboards get the most sympathy. Call your local paper for media attention. If you like.

Miri Prison  
Sarawak, Malaysia  
July 25, 1991

Dear Friends,

It was effortless to make the decision to travel to East Malaysia to join a group of others from around the world who had not previously met, but who share a deep commitment to the ecology of our planet, and a clear perception of the interrelatedness of all aspects of those who share it, (not that a holiday would not sound better than two months in a Malaysian prison!)

The choice was easy because the present situation in Sarawak is critical, and the potential for loss is so great. In just a few years time experts affirm the oldest rainforest on earth will be laid waste, and the Penan, one of the world's last nomadic people will face cultural genocide.

Coming to Sarawak was a natural sequelae to the endless attempts to call attention to the issue through less affirmative means. Jumping onto a log laden barge from a motor boat on the Kuala Baram river to ocean bound ships on the South China Sea, and hanging banners from the top of 30ft cranes was to punctuate the statement. The chain that locked around my waist, shutting down workers' operations, spoke for the 400 natives who have been arrested since 1987. Two thirds of the homeland of the nomadic Penan have been destroyed. There are only 9300 Penan left, a quarter nomadic, the remainder semi-settled. WE must do something soon, or it will be too late.

After being held for two days in prison and then sentenced to sixty days I couldn't help but think of the irony. I learned that eight Iban were imprisoned there for six to nine months. The "crime" was blockading roads to protect their homes from loggers. Who was trespassing here? Who will care for the women and children while their men are in prison?

The owner of the barge said he had no intention of pressing charges against me. He was told by the higher authorities that he must do so. Also, it's unheard of for a first time offender found guilty of criminal trespass to be given a prison sentence.

As a group of eight (4 men and 4 women from Germany, Australia, Sweden, the U.S.A. and the U.K.), we had already decided to initially withhold our identities and our passports, knowing that if we did not we would be quickly and quietly deported. This would hopefully avert international attention. Our intention was to openly discuss why we had come to

Sarawak, and we made a concise press statement available on request. We consistently stated that our action was in no way "anti-Malaysian". We are not sensationalists, we are deep ecologists!

Initially we were detained under violation of Immigration laws. Later we discovered a high ranking police officer had spoken to the press stating they still couldn't decide what to charge us with, but that they would come up with something. We made up fictitious names like mine NirBhao for the forest, Let the Truth Prevail, Clouded Leopard, Can't live with Tropical Deforestation..... The police were sure one man was called John, so he called himself John Stop the Logging. After three days we handed over our passports. This was clearly not an issue of criminal violation of Immigration Law.

We attempted to explain that being in prison is so small a sacrifice when there are sick and hungry people in the forest. One woman held to a two week hunger fast.

Two weeks later we were told we were going. Where? The Immigration officer came and gave us our passports: "You are cleared from Immigration, I have no further comment". We had yet to contact a lawyer, or an embassy. We had not yet even been formally charged with anything. As I walked outside I noticed a squadron of police outside the prison gates waiting. We were told we were going to court (for what?). We were given just five minutes to meet with the lawyer who had luckily been arranged for us. Later I learned that my friends in Sante Fe, New Mexico knew vis a vis the media that I would be going to court before I did, even though they were on the other side of the world!

The judge told the court room, that was packed with reporters, that Malaysia would not tolerate outsiders telling them what to do. "If foreigners are allowed to dictate the laws of the country it is better for us not to have our legislature...". As I stood beside my friends Nancy Rolfe, and Ralph Schmitt-Australian and German citizens (we had all been on the same barge), I wondered what on earth this had to do with trespassing. Sixty days - Panjara Pusat. The judge said this would deter others who may intend to come to Malaysia and protest as we did.

The press continues to grossly distort the truth. They can't seem to own up to the fact that last year despite recommendations by the IIO to cut down on logging to 9

## Charges Against Mine Blockaders Dropped

By JAN JACOBY

Civil charges of "trespass on a construction site" were dismissed against five Wisconsin environmentalists October 16, when the judge agreed with the defendants that the prosecutor, Rusk County District Attorney Keyan, had failed to meet the burden of proof against the five. The anti-pollutionists, Pat Gomez of Elmwood, Will Fantel of Eau Claire, Jan Jacoby of Clayton, and Barb Katt and John LaForge, both of Luck, were arrested along with four others July 10, after sitting on a Kennicatt/RTZ access road and in the way of a fencing crew which was attempting to enclose the site of the proposed open pit copper/gold mine near Ladysmith. The five had intended to present a defense of justification, i.e., that their petty offense was committed in order to prevent the greater harm posed by the pit-mine, but the 10 women and 2 man jury never heard the argument, because of the prosecutor's error - a technicality.

million cubic metres, they took out 18 million.

They say the Penan are happy to be told to relocate into longhouses and be rationed powdered sago, their staple food that is harvested from the forest and was easily obtainable. The press does not report the fact that Penan are arrested at random for peacefully trying to protect their landrights. 82 were detained here for road blockades a few years back. They were given mosquito coils, and one broke them into 82 pieces for his friends.

To be imprisoned here is a small sacrifice for me to make. My fasting is a choice. It is an honor to ask on behalf of the Dayak peoples that their landrights be observed by the nation to which they are citizens. It is a privilege to ask for the trees, one of our earth's most precious resources, that they continue to support the complex bio-diversity of the 150 million year old forest, (only a small percentage of its species have even to date been identified). The heritage of humanity is in the evolution of the Borneo Rainforest, and in the respect for the Dyak people who simply wish to continue to live peacefully within them.

• It will not discourage others from coming to Sarawak, my prison sentence, though they won't make so dramatic an entrance! Quite the contrary. It will hopefully inspire and foster widespread global change in thought and deed.

No, we won't go away, we are just a few of the many whose collective voice is echoing around the world. Voices for Borneo. Voices for the Forest.

It is not about criminal trespassing.

—NIRBHAO FOR THE FOREST, DEBORAH WITKIN, AMERICAN

## On the Radio

By RON HUBER

Public outreach is one of the most important things we can be doing now. Every day and every night, thousands of ordinary people become widely listened-to news commentators by phoning in to a radio talk show. Some go on the air in just their local region; others go national via nationally syndicated shows.

All of them are having an impact on local and/or national opinion and policy makers. Just as the central tactic in advertising is repetition, so also does the repetition of an idea over the radio give it entry into the public mind and eventual acceptance. A few guidelines can help make you into an effective propagandist for Gaia:

Know the stations: By scanning the airwaves or consulting newspaper guides to radio formats, one can easily discover the existence of these shows. Listen to them. Discern the various hosts' interests and biases. Some stations have program guides listing upcoming guests. Others have recordings available by phone of the day's topics. Use these to determine your most effective time to call. Most talkshows have a once per week restriction on calling, so plan for maximum effect.

Know the station's listeners: This lets you frame your message in such a way that it will be most easily understood and accepted by the listeners. You would not want to express your message the same way on both a show that caters to blue collar listeners and one that is listened to primarily by students, scholars and politicians. Adapt!

Avoid sterile language: Words like 'wetlands', 'old growth', and 'harvest' fail to capture the reality of the living world and lack flavor. Substitute 'marshes and swamps' for 'wetlands'. 'Wild', 'ancient' or 'virgin' forests for 'old growth'. 'Harvested' is another Newspeakism. Substitute 'cut down', 'killed', or 'chainsawed' for 'harvested'. People can more easily be persuaded to protect something they can visualise, a wild forest or marsh, than old growth or wetlands.

Be clear and to the point: Get your thought or idea across right away. If the host is interested, you will have time to develop your statement. If not, you will have gotten your idea across anyway.

Stage fright: Even the most loquacious of us can freeze up when confronted with the prospect of impromptu speaking to a large and invisible audience. Imagine you are speaking only to the show host and no one else. Have a list of your main points at hand. Feel free to speak right over the host, if s/he sounds uninterested or tries to steer you away from your point. Courage! Remember, whole ecosystems and millions of wild organisms' lives are at stake. Discard hesitations and fears. Pick up that phone today or tonight and get ON THE AIR!

# ...More Shit

Continued from page 3

ranks at demonstrations. Imagine! They actually think EF! split apart!

Well, I'm off to ace another bulldozer (or six). I expect you to have an action planned by morning, and say, another dozen or so timber sales appealed. All in the name of "Earth First!"

A lost of shit has flown since Dave threatened to "tell everyone not to go" to Rendezvous if they didn't install Porta-Potties. It's time we own our shit.

Quit wimpin' out! It's time for action and "woo-woo" in equal measure. God is coming back, and she's pissed!

Still making tracks,

CHIM BLEA

Ed. note: The Journal has never had to borrow money to quench its insatiable thirst for more technological gidgets.

Dear Earth First!,

I am writing to let you know how much I admire your movement. With the death of postmodernism, and the birth of its successor, nomadology, there is finally hope for this earth.

Nomads like Dave Foreman, Lev Chernyi, Gilles Deleuze, Mike Roselle and Yves Navarre are the heroes of the contemporary world, and *Earth First! journal, Anarchy, Advocate and Semiotext (e)* are the courageous voices raised against the tyranny of christofascist technoculture, Vive la résistance!

—AN ADMIRER IN CANADA

Dear Shit fer Brains:

I have no particular love for the idealized "worker" as he appears in the bourgeois Communist's mind, but when I see an actual flesh and blood worker in conflict with his natural enemy, the policeman, I do not have to ask myself which side I am on.

—GEORGE ORWELL

Earth First!:

I would like to know what purpose the local contacts serve. I have written to both the Michigan (Val Salvo) and the Toledo Black Swamp (Michael and Margery Downs) chapters and did not receive any kind of response from either. Why list them if they do not even have the consideration to make any kind of reply?

I was curious as to what an EF! group would be doing out here, since there is no virgin land to protect. I was hoping that I might at least meet some kindred soul (or maybe sabotage a Ted Nugent hunt). Now I'm not sure if these people are rude, paranoid, illiterate or all three.

Anyway, I thought you should be aware of this.

—SUE DEGROFF

Dear Shit fer Brains,

Thanks for printing Douglas C. Taylor's inane hunter apologetic in the last issue. One can never get enough of the Ducks Unlimited spiel these days, especially since Bush started smothering everything with his pro-energy development (c)rap.

Seriously though, how are we anti-hunting activists to deal with the "Hunters"? Unfortunately, we have to work with them when there is nobody else around who cares to defend habitat. If we can leverage their power to stop incoming roads, oil wells, cyanide heap leach operations or public lands livestock grazing expanses, we should, however reluctantly, do so.

That being said, we should still stab the bastards (and bastardesses) whenever we can, even if we were politically allied with them the previous month. And we should always hammer Taylor-like rhetoric into dust.

Ducks Unlimited may have saved some marsh, but it has also promoted the destruction of many an ecosystem. Dig this (from *The American Hunting Myth* p 269):

"A prime example of game management practices that have upset ecosystems and destroyed habitat for many native species are the projects under-

taken by Ducks Unlimited. In Canada, this organization has caused the flooding of 1.4 million acres to create duck-breeding habitat. Many small mammals were drowned in the affected areas, and many other mammals were forced to flee to other, perhaps less favorable, locations. A booklet published by Friends of Animals claims that as many as 8 million animals may have been drowned as a result of these water containment projects."

As for lands further south, bird hunters in the US killed 94 million upland game birds and 21 million waterfowl between Autumn 1975 and Autumn 1976 (Dan Atycn, *Blood and Guts*). If these are the acceptable costs of a responsible, balanced conservationism, I want no part of it.

Concerning wildlife recovery since the turn of the century, Taylor seems to have forgotten that "excessive hunting and trapping in the 19th century brought half the native birds and mammals (in the US) to the verge of extinction" (Merritt Clifton of the *Animal Agenda*). Given the hunting lobby's potent disdain for natural predators, it is not surprising that the only species that have really recovered since then are the ones that hunters like to blast to death. Real enlightenment, eh?

While I am ragging on hunters, I might as well trash the old propaganda that justifies deer, elk and moose hunting on the grounds that the overpopulated ungulates need to be "thinned," lest they all starve to death in the winter. This myth is a total crock of shit! First, wildlife agencies (totally dominated by hunters) systematically generate ungulate overpopulation by promoting the killing of bucks so that the fawn production will be maximized. That is, with relatively few bucks, the grazing lands can then sustain many more pregnant does and fawns. A 5:1 female to male ratio in a 3300 strong deer herd can easily generate a 1000 animal increase over the span of one year.

Of course, such expanding herds are great for hunters yet remain rotten for the herd—in spite of extensive hunting, the herd usually remains too large to feed sufficiently on its traditional territory, and hence, many of its members will starve.

Hunters only add to this woe by spooking, harassing, and pursuing deer for the many weeks of the season. By the end of the hunting season, those deer escaping the bullet and arrow often face the upcoming winter with their fat reserves severely depleted...a sure death sentence for them.

Even worse, hunters aggravate further the starvation situation by crippling over a half a million deer during each hunting season nationwide. These crippled deer will face a slow, lingering death from gangrene and starvation during the winter...uh,oh, I am ranting—I guess that you get my point. Shalom.

—TODD M SHUMAN

Dear Druids,

This year (1992) marks the 300th anniversary of some really nasty business in Salem, Massachusetts. Long before there was a Jerry Falwell and a Moral Majority, America had Cotton Mather and his theocratic cronies. In 1692, if Earth First! had published a few papers to honor "the solstices, equinoxes, and cross-quarter days," things would have been hard. Anybody talking about "deep ecology" or "Neo-Paganism" or "eco-feminism" or anything related could have been dragged to Gallows Hill. Life in Puritan New England was rotten.

Nowadays, there are still a few witch hunters and religious fanatics who go snooping around Earth First! gatherings in search of "goddess worship" evidence and signs of "Satanic conspiracies." Keep your eyes on these

guys. They can be a pain in the butt. Tell them to go read a soap wrapper, chase after a heavy metal group, or crunch a *Dungeons and Dragons* game. Just say, "No more witch hunts!"

Hey, if I want to worship the Jolly Green Goddess, that's my business. America was pagan country for thousands of years before Columbus hit the Bahamas. For some of us, the old ways are coming back. Maybe the pagans will apply for membership in the National Council of Churches.

Remember the Salem victims in 1992. Never again! This time, we won't get burned. We know how to raise hell. Maybe we should raise it more often. No more witch hunts!

Blessed be,

—WILD MARY

Dear Friends,

While greatly appreciating Karen Pickett's personal support for the defendants and coverage of the AZ 5 trial and sentencing, I was equally dismayed to read her comment in the Samhain edition about "how little they deserve to be wasting away in jail." As if anyone deserves such a fate!

Mark Davis phoned the other day and observed that of all the spiritual journeys he has taken, his time in jail has certainly been the most intense.

Indeed. And it is no less so for any of his cellmates. Mark and Peg and Marc and Ilse have the distinct advantage over most inmates of being literate, educated, compassionate and blessed with loving friends on the outside. By the mere fact of these attributes, their humane rapport with other inmates will be considerably more than a waste of their time and energy. Indeed, some of the most wounded humans on the planet are those kept in cages. Lending an ear, a hug, a postage stamp or a little love is yet another small effort to heal the wounds afflicting this planet and its lifeforms.

Not only this, but having walked the walk, these four will always have a bit more authority to talk the talk.

Which, having had the honor of meeting them all, I believe they undoubtedly will continue to do so. One need not willingly go to jail to make the most of the time spent there. It's only a waste if we let it be.

If we continue to devalue the experience of imprisonment - "wasting away in jail" - as a result of acting according to our conscience, we will only add to the fear that inhibits warriors for the earth from taking actions which risk imprisonment or worse. Yet without more who are willing to take such risks, will the juggernaut ever be stopped?

Sincerely,  
—JACK COHEN-JOPPA

Hello People!

No doubt Marc Davis does not belong in prison. If he were a black man, no doubt he would follow Malcom X instead of Martin Luther King.

Violence in all its forms is detrimental to life. While the Chinese government has denuded Tibetan forests and enslaved the Tibetan people, the exiled leader of Tibet, the Dalai Lama, has lead his followers through a doctrine of compassionate non-violence. For this the Dalai Lama has received the Nobel Peace Prize, and led his country in a manner that avoided war, and hopefully expedited a solution.

Buddhist ecology is to walk the center, balancing the extremes. In this way, dialogue with the extremes can take place: through dialogue solutions can be found. Saul Alinsky's first rule for radicals is to work with the system.

Marc could (would) probably have accomplished more in the following six years doing mundane things like talking to people, working on mailings, being a volunteer, etc than he has accomplished by one act and the

draconian penalty.

Here in Alaska, in the aftermath of the Exxon Valdez, instead of blowing up the Exxon office (rhetorical example) we created the Green Party.

The Green Party is our hope for a better future, it is a seed of intellectual discourse and viable solutions of sustainable economies that are ecologically sound. People who believe that it is possible to go from A to Z in one step, through the violence of eliminating all the other letters, defeat the end by justifying the means.

If you really get desperate, and believe you are pushed to the extreme of violence, instead perhaps you should move to Alaska and work for positive change through the Green Party. We could use your help.

—JED WHITTAKER

ON MARTIN: KAREN WOOD: Dear Ka-Ka In The Cranium,

Add my voice to the multitudes who are expressing outrage at Robert Marten's "A-Hunting We Will Go" article printed in the Samhain issue. Although I have appreciated Robert's technical articles in the past, I was offended to see a technically precise, yet strategically and ethically vague treatment of such a sensitive subject in the Journal.

Don't wildlife have enough human-caused problems without encouraging a bunch of well-meaning wannabe hunters to go around shooting over the animals' shoulders while they're eating lunch? I cannot support such a tactic. There are more than enough overly zealous humans running around in the woods making animals' lives miserable for their own amusement; let's not add to the problem.

And what about all those vague references to killing living animals? Was Robert talking about cows and sheep, or was he hinting around at killing hunters? Killing cows and sheep is already a very controversial tactic; personally, I think it is misdirected and doesn't really help in the long term. As long as humans demand meat and wool from ranchers, there will be cows and sheep tearing up the wilderness. Yet Robert's article was vague enough and

included enough insinuation that many folks think he was advocating shooting hunters. Now there's a fine suggestion to make in the Earth First! Journal. Frankly, I've been wondering just what the staff was imbibing when they decided to run this article unedited. Now we get to deal with a bunch of already fanatical right-wing goofies spreading the word that Earth Firsters are arming themselves.

Next time I'm out on an action in Oregon where some half-crazed security guard is pointing a gun in the faces of non-violent protesters with their necks locked to logging equipment, I'll remember you, Robert, and thank you for making our job that much more dangerous FOR NO GOOD REASON! Just one or two sentences making it clear exactly what these guns were to be used for, and removing the insinuations of killing hunters, would have made it much more difficult for the vigilantes to find the excuse they are looking for to start blowing away environmentalists.

I think we really need to address the problems raised by the printing of this article. And foremost among these is the problem of whether or not to draw the line, and where to draw it, for what we print in the Journal. A few more articles like that one, and Earth First! will become marginalized to the point where it loses its public face entirely. Is this what we want?

Perhaps some people want this; perhaps Robert Marten is one of them. Personally, I think it would weaken the movement and severely hinder the struggle to protect the Earth, and isn't

addresses: Tea or wine... @ EF! RRRs. JAIL AS SPIRITUAL JOURNEY! GIBRALTAR PARTY

J. BURNETT (PACIFIST) ECOLOGY JAIL - NO GOOD

that what we're trying to do? Sometimes I get confused, because it seems that we get so caught up in the "more-radical-than-thou" game that we lose sight of our goal. Just because I advocate non-violence, does that mean I'm not radical enough to be an Earth Firster? I think that's a bunch of crap. Non-violence is a powerful strategy. It requires patience, and I feel as keenly as anyone else the urgency of the ecological crisis. But I also feel strongly that resorting to violence is admitting defeat.

If EFlers hadn't been out there climbing trees and blocking logging roads, in the public eye, I think the fight to protect old growth forests would be years behind where it is now. It was the acts of civil disobedience, and for some, the acts of ecotage, that caught the minds and hearts of enough people to turn the tide. Those people will no longer listen if we marginalize ourselves by publicly advocating violence against life, particularly (anthropocentric as most people in this society are) violence against humans. It will be useless to perform acts of nonviolent direct action as Earth First!

Now, this is not my movement, nor does it belong to anyone else. No one individual or group can dictate the direction in which Earth First! goes. But if there are other EFlers out there who felt alienated by Robert Marten's article, or who disagree with anything else you've read in this Journal, sit down and write it down and send it in! I've a feeling that there is a large voice for non-violence out there that is not being heard. Let's come out of the closet, folks!

I am not advocating censorship in the Journal (the dreaded C-word). But I do think that highly controversial articles on sensitive subjects should be treated carefully. A "Point-Counterpoint" format, with opposing viewpoints presented in the same issue, would help to communicate to those new to EF! that this subject is a controversial one, and not advocated by all EFlers. Editing with the author's permission can help; a couple of sentences, and cutting out insinuations, would have done a world of good for Robert Marten's article. But only with his permission. And a written record of feedback from phone calls, letters and Rendezvous Journal workshops, kept in a prominent place in the Journal office and read by incoming staff, would help the rotating staff be more accountable to people in the movement. I'd like to see us use this experience to get some positive results, and move on from there - there's lots of work to do. Yours from the Big Stump Bioregion,

—KAREN WOOD  
Dear SFB,

I found the summary of the Journal workshop at the RRR ("Same Shit for Another Year", Mabon issue) to be rather an over-simplification of a subject that deserves a more detailed report. I think one of the things we haven't perfected is a well-lubricated route for input from the movement and reaction from Journal staff to that input, and given the HOT TOPIC status of the Journal these days, and given the sparse attendance at the RRR, the Journal discussions at both the RRR and the Northwest Rendezvous were rather key, AND rather under-reported. Which brings up a disappointment of mine, expressed at the RRR workshop, that only one representative of the Journal collective came to hear input from the larger movement at both rendezvous.

I don't think it's desirable, or even realistic to send the comments of that many people on such an important topic through the filter of one person's mind. The issues of how to put out a national newspaper representative of a part of the environmental movement that's (supposed to be) on the cutting edge, must (I feel) be an on-going discussion involving as many of the play-

ers as possible. Recognition of the newspaper production being a tough and thankless job and hard work notwithstanding, I don't think we've achieved the kind of perfection in publishing that would allow us to rest on our laurels even if those laurels were there to sit on. This has to be a continuing, active and open discussion.

Okay. Some stuff that came up that was left out of the "Same Shit..." piece: When the question of criteria for the Journal collective came up, Tim B ran down the general criteria which includes longevity in the movement, activism in one's own community and computer literacy (big razz). What disturbed me was that editorial skills and/or graphic skills were not primary on the list. My suggestion that editorial skills be added as a criteria met with agreement and leads to a point of a Journal discussion I was recently part of that involved EFlers from 5 states: That, to produce a quality national newspaper covering activities of a radical, cutting edge environmental movement, it behooves us to seek out our best and brightest for the job(s). We should ALL take responsibility for exploring within the movement where those talents lie and somehow push the embodiments of those talents in the direction of the newspaper. One's availability to travel to Montana for a month or two are not newspaper production skills. We should not treat it as such. The question of how we achieve consistency and allow for long range (longer than one issue) planning came up at the RRR workshop and wasn't really answered. The question of how to attain and maintain consistency within a constantly revolving collective doesn't have easy answers, but bioregional editors was one suggestion and a resurrection of some form of Journal advisory committee was another. (A Journal Advisory Committee was formed at the '90 RRR as a democratic way to deal with controversy and problems with the Journal. The Committee was in the process of collecting, distilling and feeding back input re. the newspaper when suddenly the Journal staff quit en masse. As we scrambled to deal with the upheaval and figure out the nitty gritty of how to continue to publish a national paper (or not), the work of the committee; indeed the committee itself, fell by the wayside.)

Unfortunately, the second meeting at the RRR to explore ideas for a resurrected Journal advisory committee was rained out. However, it remains an option. Any interest?? Ideas as to function/relation to collective/structure ??? I think that at the very least the IDEA of some sort of other group that helps develop editorial policy needs to be revived and developing this idea would be in everyone's interest. Too often the response to criticism of Journal content is "Well, if you want to have input, come to Montana..." which I feel is a bogus response. Many of us, for many and varied reasons may not be able to do that, but it is no less our newspaper if we are Earth First! activists. We should encourage our best newspaper production talent to go to Montana, but it should certainly not be the only way to have input into the Journal. A few "detail" suggestions... The page 2 editorial spot would, I think, be better used for communication about what is in the current issue, what is going on at the Journal office, what the collective is dealing with at the moment, rather than some of the inane stuff that has been in that space. I would most like to see discussion re: what issues are coming up at the Journal office re: Journal content, and comment on the state of the debate (i.e., the debate re: the best strategy to save the planet), but guest editorials would also be appropriate in that space. I would also like to see notice of who is on the upcoming

Journal collective, and a little more identifying of who is on the current staff. Saying someone is from "out there" or "nowhere" may be cute, and identifying someone as from the headwaters of the Illinois, or Clark rivers or Monterey Bay may be bioregionally correct (b.c.) but it doesn't tell us diddly squat about that person since there are a million Illinois or Clark rivers and I want to know WHO is working on the paper I am contributing to and depending on! A covert editorial team is not what we need; save that stuff for the field. Those are some ideas and suggestions. We need to continue the discussion and when we do, more than one or two of the Journal staff need to be involved. I won't enter into the debate about the Hunting article in the Sept. 21 issue because I've used up my time and there are plenty of other contributors to that issue...EXCEPT to say that I am greatly offended by a detailed discussion of guns and ammunition in our newspaper, and I feel that it's what I spent my summer in Arizona doing damage control about: I kept telling the media — Earth First! has never been associated with explosives or weapons or violence of any kind (which is TRUE). I saw NO strategic point to that article at all and isn't strategy what it's about insofar as this newspaper is concerned?

Later,  
—KAREN PICKETT, CANYON, CALIFORNIA

Dear Horsehocky of the Headbone,  
Douglas C. Taylor (Samhain 1991) spews the same verbal effluvia that all the "hunting equals conservation" brigade does.

Douglas, old son, it's interesting that you bring up Ducks Unlimited, as for the past several years waterfowl numbers have been at their lowest numbers/levels due to your buddies at D.U. blowing them away.

'Tis true that there are more game animals now. However, Mr. Taylor fails to drop the other shoe. Environments are "managed" so that game species will prosper at the expense of other non-target animals; thus they thrive and the others do not, creating a literal "biological desert", in direct contrast to Earth First!'s goal of biological diversity.

Also, hunters "conserve" only the game species for their disgusting "sport" (if Douglas had been an Earth Firster, he would know that EF! has worked for all, from elephants to eelgrass, from great whales to Goodding's onion).

As to Taylor's threat that any "ecological warrior [who] deliberately interrupts a hunt that I'm participating in, I will personally boot said warrior so hard", may I suggest, Mr. Taylor, that you gauge the size, strength, skill and frame of mind of your ecological warrior? There may be some question of just who will boot whom.

—JAMES CLINK

Dear EFlers,  
When we get a letter of praise from a Catholic priest (Niel Voigt, Samhain) we'd better be on guard.

This was from the paid representative of one of the environment's most destructive institutions; not only with huge investments in oil companies, chemicals, munitions, etc., but that invests directly in real estate developments and other destructive adventures.

If Niel Voigt wanted to do something useful, he'd stop trying to convert the Indians with his religious crap and get the Vatican out of the Mt. Graham Astrophysical Project.

—ZORRO

ANTI-CATHOLIC  
EFLER LETTER  
MONARCHY NEW  
OF ATTACKS ON

Dear Earth First!  
Enclosed please find a check for \$20 to renew my subscription to your journal.

I have some comments, however. The article on the plight of the Penan and their rainforest homeland said very little about the people, and said very little about the forest. It said very little about why the logging goes on, or how the forces in the government and economy of Malaysia are affecting the deforestation.

What are the products of the logging? Can you be more specific? Who could us folks here at home put pressure on to stop this destruction, thereby possibly affecting, in however small and immeasurable ways, the outcome of this struggle? All I know for instance is that Mitsubishi, the auto maker, is responsible for much of the logging. I have this information from Greenpeace, which ran an article on this last year.

I feel like the "action" was an important demonstration against this heinous logging, but it's the Penan people and their land which is suffering most. It is the logging, the land, the loggers and the Penan who should be the focus of the article.

For me, these articles are effective when I read them, get pissed off, and write letters to senators, congresspersons, and those responsible for managing these lands and corporations and governments involved in this bloody war. By the time I have written the letter, I should have a good basic grounding in the situation, (i.e. who the players are). Then I can start making noise.

I think your articles could facilitate letter writing campaigns much better if you made sure to give a concise, comprehensive overview of the problem, and made sure to include addresses for those people responsible so I can bitch at them, give them my 29 cents worth.

Permaculturally yours,  
—BRIAN HIGGINS

Dear Shit Fer Brains...  
Dogman! I'm with ya. I got so much hair on my ass its like sitting on a bear skin rug everywhere I go.

Keep faith friend, for if we can't personally bring the demise of modern civilization, the next ice age will.

More power to ya.  
—SAND STEPPER

Dear SFB:  
I've read some excellent articles in the journal over the last few years, but "The Abstract Wild" by Jack Turner tops them all. It was outstanding! On the other hand, could you please find another person to do the book reviews. French sounds like a true wimp. There wouldn't be an Earth First! if it wasn't for D. Foreman's "masculine" tactics and attitude. The Frenches of the world would still be cruising around in Volkswagon buses, wearing long hair, thinking feminist and other sociological, anthropocentric thoughts, and feeling passive and persecuted. When it comes to ecological effectiveness, French wouldn't make a pimple on Foreman's ass!

—NO-WIMP WILLY  
Shit continued on next page

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# ...Still More

Dear Computers fer brains,

I have just received your card saying that I could not work on the Journal unless I worked on the computers. In a phone conversation with a collective member, an admitted techno-weenie, it was explained to me that there is six peoples' worth of computering to do and that if one person did not do any computering, the other five would have to pick up the slack.

This seems to me to be a rash, narrow-minded and downright unfair decision. Get your faces away from the tubes and go outside...and take a look at all those people out there who don't use computers. If you can, imagine the species that used to live there who didn't use computers. Are you going to tell them that they have to compute? What about all the people in EF!...the artists/musicians, the tree climbers, the bulldozer fodder, the banner slingers, the speakers, the luddites, the children, the cooks/brewers, the kachinas, the wolfs, frogs, dancing nudi branches, bears, stumpfrogs, RATs, skunks, dogs, sequoias and sages that, if they don't compute, THEY CAN'T BE A MEMBER OF THE DEFACTO OFFICIAL EARTH FIRST! "collective of voices!?"

I have a real problem with this. The Journal belongs to us, the movement, and as a movement for eco/socio change let's be progressive. By your figures, one less computerer would increase the surviving fives' fingerload 20% each. This can be compensated through work exchange or barter.

The point I'm trying to make is that the Journal staff runs the EF! "office" which is the day-to-day maintenance of the Journal, and to some degree, the movement itself. All kinds of work are required for this. AND MOVEMENT DECISIONS ARE MADE. For example: who's going to be on the Journal Board of Directors, what letters, articles and art (opinions) are printed, whose blank wall gets used, merchandise selection, Journal ad placement and, of course, who gets to be in the collective.

These duties need to be shared by the movement regardless of techno-addictions.

I'm not asking my future collective buddies to slave away and ruin their eyes while I lounge about. I realize putting out the Journal is hard work. Use me.

And to the readers of this rag, I'm not asking you to accept a less than state-of-the-art Journal. I'm not asking you to smash all their (our) computers (yet). However, some hate mail, late night calls or pickets might be appropriate. Maybe even a boycott.

Luv, yer friend,  
—GIM

Editorial response:

At the October 30 journal staff meeting, the collective discussed, among other topics, how to deal with such issues which will inevitably occur in the future. The consensus was to create a "special conditions" (read deadbeat) position to be filled at the discretion of the editorial staff. This position would be available to those who choose not to deal with computers, those who can only come for the last two or three weeks of editorship, or those working in other areas linked only by computer. We must admit, however, that full-term techno-weenie editors are preferred. Our friend Gim has been offered the deadbeat position for an upcoming issue.

Dear SFB:

Another letter (in the Samhain issue) extolling the virtues of hunting with the same old tiresome WRONG rationale. How many times do these transparent arguments have to be shot down (excuse the expression) before the deathmongers give up, or at least come up with new and less obviously

fallacious reasoning?

Yes, from a certain perspective, hunters are the "environmentalists' friends." But that perspective is the prevailing mentality that believes unless something can be exploited for selfish, whining humanity, it isn't worth preserving. As a former employee of the Forest Service, I saw with crystal clarity what their priorities were. Grazing, deforestation, mining, and wildlife murder. Since wildlife can't live on a strip-mined planet, one of the "many abuses" the Freddie's are infamous for—hunting—was endangered by others. So, to be fair to its management policy of balancing abuses, a little semi-wild land is left, in order for wildlife to have a place to be murdered. Groups like Ducks Unlimited may have been instrumental in saving wetlands, but they have a sick and twisted motive for environmental preservation.

Since the only criterion for preserving wilderness in the minds of the Forest Service, Ducks Unlimited, and their ilk is its exploitive value, I used to be concerned that if one evil (hunting) was abolished, it would lead to a greater evil (no wilderness). But allowing these thugs to claim to be environmentalists in return for some acreage to be used by them as a massacre site is plea bargaining that makes a mockery of the cry "No Compromise!" I believe if humans ever reach the level of consciousness needed to ban hunting, they will have also reached the conclusion that wild land is worth preserving for its own sake.

No, I do not like this particular special interest group's motives at all. Contempt for life on a small scale is indicative of an insensitive attitude toward nature on a large scale, too. In his book, Inhumane Society, Dr. Michael Fox states: "The abusive treatment of animals is no different from the abusive treatment of nature: both are symptoms of a lack of reverence for the sanctity and dignity of the life of the individual and of life as a whole."

Yes, there are more deer than at the turn of the century. This is because the herds are manipulated and "managed" at the expense of biological diversity and healthy habitats. It is because fish and "game" departments burn, bulldoze, and chemically defoliate hundreds of thousands of acres of public lands every year to promote "game" animal habitats. It is because the artificial reduction of herds and alteration of the sex ratio stimulates reproduction and causes more fawns to be born after a fall hunt than in a non-hunted area. It is because natural predators have been eliminated. Due to this last factor, the old, weak, and sick are no longer the first to be culled, in favor of the biggest bucks. This degeneration of the gene pool is apparent in Pennsylvania (the state with the most hunters) where the deer are substantially smaller and weaker than they were a century ago.

In a bizarre convoluted reasoning, after artificially increasing the population, hunters claim the deer are overpopulated and if they didn't shoot them, they'd starve! Shooting is, after all, more humane than starving, right? Right—if instantaneous death is the result of every shot. But it has been established that for every animal killed and recovered, at least two are wounded but escape, only to die later of blood loss, infection, or severe injury—or are disabled for life.

Now is hunting or not hunting more humane? More environmentally sound? Better for the gene pool and diversity of the species?

But let's assume for a moment that the starvation argument is valid and use that scenario as one more look into the motives of these "allies" of ours. Suppose the successful reintroduction of wolves, grizzlies, and mountain lions

comes to pass. Now picture these camouflaged killers throwing away their guns, wiping their brows with relief, and saying, "Whew! Thank goodness! Now I don't have the responsibility of a good environmentalist to save those poor deer from starvation every winter." Right.

With all the havoc and harm we as a species, in our massive arrogance, have inflicted on this planet—sometimes inadvertently with the best intentions, more often from greedy self-serving interests—when are we going to finally learn to leave it alone, leave it alone, leave it ALONE!

—JOANNE COCKERILL

Dear EFers Everywhere,

An article about FBI agent Mike Fain and the infiltration of the Arizona EF! was published under my byline in the Sept. 1989 issue of *Spin* magazine, and has remained an ugly scar upon my reputation inside the EF! movement ever since. This letter of explanation, apology, and rectification is long overdue.

I was one of several *Spin* correspondents laid off in September '91 (I was former West Coast Editor), and welcome the opportunity to quit chasing Axl Rose around Hollywood and return to writing on environmental issues and direct action. No doubt I will meet many of you while researching news stories on action sties, and I would rather you know the straight story on my AZ5 article.

The article, entitled "Razing Arizona," was intended to chronicle the first known FBI infiltration of the environmental movement. Both the title and the cover line, "FBI Nabs Eco-Outlaws," give the impression that the magazine perceived EF! as criminals. This was never my intention. Cover lines and titles in national magazines almost always spring from the minds of editors and publishers, and reflect their particular biases. That was certainly the case with "Razing Arizona." Both during and after writing this piece, I have considered FBI counterintelligence activity infinitely more threatening to all US citizens than any amount of monkeywrenching could ever be. I thought that was clear in the article, though others have told me they didn't think so.

The ambiguity on this point, however, is greatly overshadowed by the inaccuracy of the material reported in the article. The lead contains a short burst of dialogue amongst Mark Davis, Peg Millet, Marc Baker and the incredible disappearing "Mike Tait" (Mike Fain), supposedly from just before Davis began to cut the powerlines and the arrest occurred.

The seven lines of dialogue were fabricated, at the request of an editor, primarily based on comments and attitudes conveyed to me by Mark Davis during jail interviews in Phoenix. This editor no longer works for *Spin* and it would be counterproductive to name her/him. I was to write the dialogue into the so-called "crime" scenario with the understanding that the completed lead would then be cut down, for space, and the dialogue either labelled as hypothetical or removed. In fact, neither happened. I would never agree to print fabricated dialogue. This is a rule even novice journalists (which I was at the time) understand well: the quote is sacred. The piece was never edited after my revisions, never fact-checked, never went through legal edit, and what was supposed to be a working draft was on its way to the printer the next day. I never saw the final draft.

This fuck-up has remained an embarrassment to both me and the article's editor ever since. Every pro journalist gets knocked on her/his ass sometime in their career, humiliated into maintaining a manic degree of accuracy and control from that moment forward. That AZ 5 piece made me old

overnight. My naivete and trust corroded as the complaints came in from Tucson in Fall of '89. I sincerely wish that this foul hadn't damaged Earth First! in any way. I have since come to know many EFers and their strategy through Redwood Summer, offered support in the press where appropriate and/or possible, and have struggled to develop a working relationship with your movement again.

I must respond, however, to those EFers, lawyers and activists who attacked me for assuming in the article that Mark Davis had, in fact, cut the high-tension tower as charged by the FBI: I do understand that the crime was alleged. But the entire scenario in the desert was described to me, on a tape recorder, by Mark Davis in June '89 in the Maricopa County jail. This was before he had a lawyer to look after him, and I literally had to keep turning off the recorder and advise him not to reveal incriminating details to me. Most reporters would call me a fool for not letting him spill the entire story, but I was confused by his lack of caution or fear.

I offer the entire EF! movement an apology. Misreporting, even when not malicious, is damaging.

You will continue to see my byline in San Francisco newspapers and national magazines, and I ask only for your cooperation in delivering straight, accurate reporting and stories in the future.

For All That is Wild,  
—DEAN KUIPERS

Editor:

RE: *Slow Boat to Trouble, Trip Gabriel, 9/91 Outside*

Like a cocktail waitress trying to catch a 2:30 cab, I believe it only took 5 minutes for Mr. Gabriel to pack. It took a lot longer, and much more heart for Paul Watson and his volunteer crew to pull the ship back together, and go on to successfully enforce the laws meant to protect the North Pacific against driftnetters. Captain Watson's record speaks for itself, of commitment that our children will be grateful for.

That Trip Gabriel would come back and write a pissy article, saturated with out-of-context gossip, skewed by shallow perception, is just cowardly. Good people worked around the clock at jobs that you couldn't pay anyone to do, overcoming insurmountable obstacles under dreary conditions. Trip was miffed because the "cruise" didn't leave on time. Incredible.

As for the crew "... (knowing) nothing about the environment, and less about life at sea...", you've notably forgotten about Myra; the petite vegetarian powerhouse whose incredible strength of spirit filled an otherwise hot, diesel-soaked engine room, fifteen hours at a stretch. She's got a degree in marine biology, and is a veteran of the war to save the wolves in British Columbia, where she parachuted onto a frozen lake in sub-zero temperatures to block government eradication efforts—and succeeded. Was the information I gave you about the relationships between destruction of Hawaii's rainforest, by geothermal energy development, a 500 megawatt undersea cable, and its effects on sharks, humpback whales, dolphins, and the marine ecosystem, so forgettable, or didn't you understand it?

Your flaccid derision of Sea Shepherd may hold its water between the resin-coated, unrecyclable covers of *Outside*, but Gabriel and the editors had best take responsibility for what they publish. The fight to save the Water Planet is not furthered by such trash.

—PAUL J. VON HARTMANN, SEA SHEPHERD VOLUNTEER  
DIRECTOR, PROGRESSIVE ECONOMIC ALLIANCE CULTIVATING ENERGY (PEACE)



# REGIONAL ROUNDUP



## Bison Slaughter Continues

The annual slaughter has begun on the borders of Yellowstone National Park. After two relatively "slow" years in which less than ten bison were killed each winter, 1991 is shaping up to be a repeat of the massacre of 1989, when the government sanctioned and oversaw the killing of 569 bison. There have been 15 killed as of the first week of December, 1991.

When the first bison was shot in West Yellowstone, Missoula and Bozeman activists met to discuss the option of putting hunt saboteurs in the area, as was done last year. While they were meeting, three more were shot in North Yellowstone. Now we're operating on two fronts. Seven of us went to the Northern Entrance for recon, saw that there were more bison right near the border, and decided to leave two activists camping there to monitor the situation and contact others if shooting started. Meanwhile, three more were shot in West Yellowstone. Can't seem to be in the right place at the right time.

Over Thanksgiving weekend, eight more bison were killed in North Yellowstone on the 28,000 acre Royal Teton Ranch, owned by the Church of the Universal and Triumphant. These are the same apocalypse-preaching loonies that earlier this year released 31,000 gallons of gasoline into the Yellowstone River while trying to prepare for the end of the world. All 11 bison shot on the northern border were in response to complaints filed by the ranching Church.

So far this year Fish, Wildlife and Parks are shooting only in response to complaints by private land owners and are ignoring bison on public land outside the park, or hazing them back in with horses.

The bison population in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem is on the upswing. There are now 3500, up from an all-time low of 400 in the earlier part of this century. They are moving beyond the artificial borders of the park to reclaim their native range, and are butting up against the system of private land ownership and in particular the livestock industry that has usurped so much of the area. The county veterinarian was quoted in the Bozeman Chronicle as saying that up to 600 may have to be shot this year. Park officials have announced that 200 bison are a viable population and they will shoot until there are that few left, if necessary.

A representative from CUT accused the radical environmental movement of not offering any solutions for the problem. We told him our solution: the end of the livestock industry and the reintroduction of bison to their native range. If you haven't stopped eating beef yet here is one more reason to stop now.

—SOURCE: WILD ROCKIES EF!

## Enough Already!!!

### DEC Still Poisons Pond

Samhain Salmon arrived bleary-eyed to the Department of Environmental Conservation, headquartered in Albany, NY on land that used to be Pine Barrens, bulldozed for malls and offices, and renamed Wolf Road (thought to be extinct in NY since late 1918).

Our intention was to demonstrate our opposition to the slaughter of indigenous aquatic species of the Adirondack bioregion. Upon arrival, Samhain directed the activists to the second floor in order to throw off the SBI (Salmon Bureau of Investigation). Once we were sure we lost our tail, we continued our journey to the sixth floor. The executive office of DEC was our target. Upon arrival, Samhain immediately tied a banner to the track lighting which read, "We stand for what we stand on...Earth First!". As Samhain stood on the chair, he declared to the surprised office workers, "Pond reclamation is tyranny!"

With the current plight of amphibians experiencing decline and acid-depositing industrial waste sterilizing aquatic ecosystems, it is a travesty that this public agent is exterminating natives in favor of mono-culture hatchery raised yuppie brain-dead trout into an otherwise intact ecosystem. Samhain declared that we had intended to dump the dead victims on the commissioners head, but we have been informed that DEC will change its priority to protecting biodiversity and self-sustaining native populations.

So, we refrained this time, but if any more transgressions occurred, we will return! Samhain then gave the victims of Dry Pond and Mt. Pond to the public relations person, instructing her to deliver these relatives to the Commissioner with a warning that, unless this practice was abandoned, the spirit of our dead relatives would hunt their souls.

—SNAGGLETOOTH

## Cheoah Bald Spiked

The Grassy Gap-Wesser timber sale near Cheoah Bald in the southern Appalachian Mountains has been spiked. After spiking more than 200 trees, the traditional anonymous note of cut-out newspaper letters was sent to the Cheoah District Ranger.

The Forest Service intends to go on with the sales as planned. They are now going to cut all spiked trees, whether they were part of the sale or not, including trees they themselves classify as den trees that are vital to wildlife because, "A spiked tree is like a time bomb." They make much of the possible dangers to loggers, ignoring the fact that if the trees were left alone, there would not be even a remote possibility of injury. The Cheoah Bald area is scheduled for slaughter next year.

—SOURCE: ASHEVILLE CITIZEN TIMES

## Dozers Trashed!

Spikes  
50k

Sabotage of logging equipment has temporarily halted the destruction of 120 acres of forest in the Siskiyou Mountains of southwestern Oregon.

"It was just total devastation," said Monte Walker, referring to the sabotage, not the logging. Walker runs the forest roadbuilding corporation Monte Walker Inc. of Medford, Oregon.

An estimated \$50,000 in damage to three loading trucks, a bulldozer and a road grader has delayed the completion of a helicopter landing pad in the Applegate Valley.

"It was sickening to see when we pulled up Tuesday morning," (Nov. 19) Walker said.

Just north of the Red Butte Wilderness, this ecosystem has been continually exploited by timber companies, mining operations, cattle grazing and big game hunting. The region, once inhabited by Daukapatit peoples, now supports populations of blacktail deer, black bear, mountain lion, bobcat, pileated woodpeckers and other native life from the Rouge River Basin.

The vandals drew an insignia with grease on the side of one dump truck, either a fist or an owl in a circle. No one has accepted responsibility for the action and authorities have no leads in the case.

Boise-Cascade's southwestern division said economic concerns might delay the logging near Carberry Creek. Aerial logging was scheduled to begin on November 18th, but as of December 1st, the trees were still standing.

"We got a higher price than we had anticipated, so we're rethinking our position," said Russ McKinley, timberlands manager for Boise Cascade.

## Allegheny Appeals action

The Allegheny National Forest in northwestern Pennsylvania has been swamped with eight timber sale appeals in the last month. In addition, PAW is filing a lawsuit which would require Pennzoil to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the 700 oil wells that they plan to drill in the forest.

The Allegheny National Forest is one of the most abused pieces of public land in the country. With its 100,000 oil wells, thousands of miles of roads, and a way too-high timber target, the Allegheny is easy pickens for the champions of multiple abuse.

To date, two timber sales have been stopped, and the other six are still being decided. Also, Congressman Peter Kostmayer (D-PA) has gotten in on the action by telling forest supervisor David Wright that his forest is in piss-poor ecological shape, and changes had better happen soon.

—SOURCE: BUTTERFLY AND CARIBOU

## Amex Update

Semi-big news: American Express has acquired Balcor's assets, and is trying to liquidate them. What this means in English is that the time is ever-ripe to protect the East Fork Valley!

Yes, it's time to increase the pressure on American Express to "do the right thing." Now is the time to insist that Amex purchase the remaining two thirds interest in the "East Fork Joint Venture" and donate it to the Trust for Public Lands, Nature Conservancy, etc.

The corporation is trying to destroy the wildest place in Colorado by building a huge ski resort. Oh, woe, what can be done?

Cut up your card and send it to our pal, Mr. James D Robinson, III. He's the top dog at American Express. Write him at American Express Tower C, New York, NY 10285. Along with the card, send him your sentiments.

"But, gosh, I don't have an AMEX card!" you cry. So get one. Cut it up after they bill you. Also, once you cut it up, the dopes invariably send a form letter, "Just sign here if you change your mind." So sign. The record is eight cards cut up, and counting.

Other ideas? How about a little action at AMEX offices...they're worldwide! Or give the "World Hotline" a call. The number is 1-800-528-4800. The operators are friendly, though not incredibly informed. Talk to them, and keep calling!

Almost all stores carry AMEX applications. Postage-paid, they're excellent ways of sending your message to the coporation, and costing them just a little more grief. Stamping them with appropriate messages makes your job easier.

Get some "De-Business" cards. They're wallet-sized, so you can hand them out to anyone that you come across who's less-informed. On one side is info about the boycott; on the other, the AMEX logo, slightly altered. This logo is also available on stickers. Order some today! Place them wherever you see the AMEX sign.

How about getting merchants to join the boycott? Just ask for a merchant boycott packet, and ye shall receive! Make your town "AMEX Free." All of this stuff can be ordered from Colorado EF! POB 1166 Boulder, CO 80306 for FREE, though donations are quite nice (a rubber stamp costs about \$7, for instance.)

Are you a student? Do you "table" for environmental causes? Add info about AMEX East Fork to your outreach materials. The company loves to target the student market...target the company back!

Help to protect Colorado by helping to get AMEX out of our wild backyard. The company is trying to bail out by selling its portion of the venture...we want wilderness, not new investors!! Send for your "packet-o-stuff" from Colorado EF!, call AMEX, make a difference!

# Hiking the Greater Yellowstone

Phil Lammer to Forest E

By ALAINA LAMMER

On one of the mountain ridges that divide Yellowstone National Park and the North Absaroka Wilderness in Wyoming, we are hiding under krummholz that protects us, perhaps more psychologically than physically, from the storm that has come thundering down. Crouched at 10,000 feet, in "lightning position" for the past 20 minutes, my legs are cramping. The rain is drumming down. Drenched, windblown, lightning blind, thunder deafened, I am praying, sobbing, dripping tears and snot and waylaid raindrops down on Gaia. I look up and over to Phil, my hiking partner, crouched in the next opening in these dwarf fir. We remain silent in the storm. Over 500 miles hiked since the first of July, another hundred to go before first snow. This is the only time in these first 500 miles that I have truly feared for our lives. It is also the first time since we began this trek that we have been so utterly humbled by the natural happenings in the wild. This rain could care less. These gusts of wind blow by, heedless of my terror. I think the lightning seeks us, and the thunder laughs loud as we hide. Still, somewhere out of the storm, Gaia answers a prayer of one insignificant, frightened human when I hear clearly, "You're not going to die today. There's still so much work that can be done." A moment for me to remember...

And fuel for the green fire I was looking for when Phil and I decided to spend the summer walking wild Yellowstone. Greater Yellowstone is one of the last and maybe the largest nearly intact ecosystems in Earth's temperate regions, and, no surprise, its wildness is being threatened. We mapped a route that had us cross seven mountain ranges, hike parts of five national forests, walk almost the entire length of Teton National Park, and completely circle Yellowstone National Park. In part, the trip was our way to become more familiar with this area we call home. It was also an opportunity to touch Earth for an extended time. The trek served as a fact-finding tour regarding the overall health and threats to the area. And it was one hell of a personal challenge.

Six hundred miles, seventy days, countless high mountain passes, surely over a million wildflowers of all kinds and colors, August meteor showers, dozens of springs bubbling up, one very holy hot pot, forages for wild berries, sunsets, *Aurora Borealis*, 15 to 20 moose, hundreds of elk gathered on one high plateau, a billion blackflies, two billion mosquitoes, plenty of creek crossings, one mama hummingbird protecting her egg in a nest the size of a walnut,

miles of trail through the "ghost forest" left by the '88 fires, a curious weasel, moonrise, mid-day punges into cold rushing water, a hawk playing catch with its kill, quiet nights falling into sleep to moving water's lullaby, moments of pure silence. All this and more contrasted painfully with geometric clearcuts that looked as if Earth had been scalped and left for dead, hiking through Wilderness areas so thick with cattle it was a struggle to discern our trail from theirs, and even ours was plastered with cow shit so slimy it dripped from leaves and smeared our shins. During three days of walking logging roads on the Targhee Plateau the clearcuts often spanned as far as our eyes could see. We renamed Forest Service Road #066 "666 The Devil's Road" and left a load of tears in the miles of devastation. In

the Madison Range, a carved wooden sign welcomed us to the Lee Metcalf Wilderness, but below and behind it was a clearcut forest. At beautiful Brooks Lake there's a very real potential that oil drilling rigs will shatter the pristine landscape. Just outside the northeast entrance to Yellowstone, Noranda Minerals Company of Canada is determined to dig a cyanide leach gold mine in spectacular alpine country which is also critical grizzly habitat.

Nearly all of Greater Yellowstone is the land of the bear, the Great Bear. Ah, the mighty griz, we have followed their tracks up the trail, pulled fur from a scratching tree, worried about maybe seeing one, longed to see one, which Phil did, at a distance of about a hundred feet, or five to six seconds from a running bear. It ran the other direction, but returned to the area after dark, coming close to camp to complain loudly about our presence.

Life on the trail was simple, with a rhythm sustained by each step, every mile, every hoist of pack again on back, as we traveled through the landscape that's forever changing. I remember those miles now as I wade through a 40 hour work week, errands, dirty dishes, and the search for enough fun to help me keep it going. My feet stayed sore as a souvenir of the trip, and may never be the same. There's griz fur tucked in my medicine cabinet, snapshots on the refrigerator door, and there's still so much work to be done for Gaia. Walking through this ecosystem where you can still feel the wild makes the race to protect and preserve it seem even more urgent. Yellowstone is a last stronghold of the natural world, but its strength is being sapped and our help now could make a difference.

Imagine for yourself, the flash of a grizzlies hind end as it (luckily) steams off into the trees, picture the waters of the Yellowstone River growing from a trickle off a snowfield into the wide moving ribbon as you hike along it, imagine waking to the summer scent of wildflowers silently dancing on a full moon night, imagine the satisfaction of hiking 90 miles without having to cross a road. Now think how satisfying it could feel to know you'd made a move to save this wildness. Think about the huge loss if we don't try. Without having to organize a 70 day trek, without having to don your hiking boots, without having to organize publicity, write articles or give slide shows, without even having to leave your cozy chair, you can make a difference. At the very least, write your Congressperson and ask him or her to support the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act (see related article by Phil).

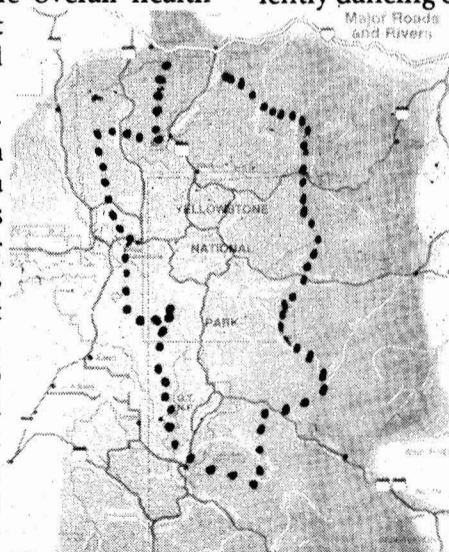
Send your dollars and your offer to help to any of the hard-working, effective groups listed below. When you can, get out here, get into the backcountry of Greater Yellowstone. Once you see it and feel it and smell it and drip your juices on it, you won't need me to prod you into action.

CONTACTS:  
Yellowstone EF! POB 6151 Bozeman, MT 59715 (406)585-9211  
Greater Yellowstone Coalition POB 1874 Bozeman, MT 59715 (406)586-1593  
Alliance For The Wild Rockies POB 8731 Missoula, MT 59807 (406) 721-5420  
Beartooth Alliance Box 1141 Cooke City, MT 59020



The Gallatin Crest

Photo: Alaina Lammer



Route through the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem

## Book Review

*Wilderness on the Rocks* by Howie Wolke, 1991. 246 pp., paperback, published by Ned Ludd Books. \$15.00  
Reviewed by Dave Havlick

If you open Howie Wolke's latest book and expect radical rantings to leap from the pages, you may have to wait a little longer. Not for another book, but at least until you've read the first eighty or ninety pages of this one.

Despite Wolke's opening Disclaimer that, "Nothing in this book should be construed to encourage any group or individual to undertake any illegal actions, however necessary, effective, or heroic those actions might be..." *Wilderness on the Rocks* begins not with fire and fury so much as it does a measured presentation of wilderness ecology, biological diversity, and science.

While Wolke eventually delivers the spirited message he seems to promise with his early disclaimer, this is a book firmly embedded with facts. If there is a major flaw to this book, it is that Wolke remains unsure of his audience through the early goings. There are chapters, such as "Ecological Wilderness" and "Wilderness and Biological Diversity," where *Wilderness on the Rocks* could just as easily serve as a textbook for an ecology course as it could be a product of one of EarthFirst!'s founders. Wolke is surely wise to establish a foundation of legitimacy for his proposals and visions that come later in the book, but at times his scientific presentations spawn as many questions as answers.

The relatively sedate first third of this book comes as a surprise not just because of Wolke's reputation, but also from the context in which he writes the book. Before reaching page one, Wolke has already let his readers know a half dozen times or more (in the Disclaimer and Prologue) that he is writing from the Sublette County Jail in Pinedale, Wyoming. (Wolke was caught de-surveying a road in Wyoming's Grayback Ridge Roadless Area and sentenced to six months in jail, which he served from February 11 to August 10, 1986.) While Wolke's setting in jail adds a certain rebellious flavor to his writing—and provides a steady warning to other wilderness defenders to take care in their own activities (don't get caught)—it also detracts somewhat from the effectiveness of the opening chapters. (I found myself wondering how Wolke could possibly get all his facts straight while writing in jail; or, if he compiled much of the book out of jail why does he want me to think he is writing from jail, and so on.) Eventually these questions detract from the content of the book, which is unfortunate because Wolke's message is important: we need to preserve every scrap of wilderness that we possibly can, save that which already exists, restore wilderness conditions to some areas that have been abused, logged, mined and roaded, and establish vast ecological wilderness preserves throughout North America.

Wolke's vision of a United States consisting of 30 percent wilderness—versus its paltry present level of nine percent—may be both inspired and inspiring. In some instances, such as his detailed proposals for Central Idaho and the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystems, his visions may also touch upon the realistic.

Wolke's writing is not often flowery and poetic, but it is certainly good enough to get his message across. At times he kicks butt. There is a terrific, honest truth to lines such as, "Show me a wilderness activist eager to 'compromise,' eager to be accepted—or worse, liked—by those in political power, and I'll show you a person who needs to spend more time in the wilderness." At times Wolke sounds happily Abbey-esque, "Nothing is as American as the American Wilderness, and, in her defense civil disobedience of various sorts is as American as apple pie, country-western music, the single action revolver, and watered down beer." It is through passages like these that Howie Wolke speaks in a voice that carries most clearly. When Wolke steps back and bemoans "an unadulterated, unbastardized, uncompromised wilderness that we shall never again know," that is when this book becomes most compelling.

Read *Wilderness on the Rocks*. Learn to believe in the importance of ecological preserves. Join the Wildland Rebellion that Wolke espouses. But don't do what Wolke did: don't get caught.

# Blurbs and Bulletins

By VAL SINGER

We wild womyn held a very productive caucus in Vermont. We discussed our constant frustrations of not having enough womyn in visible activist roles, and the sense of isolation and disempowerment that often leads us to. The complete lack of female speakers planned for the second annual PAW (Preserve Appalachian Wilderness) was a specific example of our frustrations.

Happily, the situation was rectified this year with the presence of Margaret Hays Young. Margaret blew everyone away in her fifteen minute allotted time. She proved beyond a doubt what none of us should have to prove: that there are womyn in this movement who have things to say and CAN NOT be ignored! Keep shouting Margaret!

A second important result of our caucus was the creation of a womyn's forum for communicating beyond the rendezvous. The first full edition of this forum is being sent out as I write this article. This forum (which we need a good name for) is by, for, and about womyn, a way to work closer with other EF! womyn across the country and break down that sense of isolation. We will be sending thoughts, feelings, poetry, artwork, updates, questions, advice, whatever—to one central womyn, Crystal at least for now. She will simply collect them (no editing/layout mumbo jumbo) and send the collection periodically to all the interested womyn. So far we are not sure what direction this will take, maybe even a recipe collection. (Humor, folks!) It is definitely *not* meant to be a womyn's version of the journal. It definitely will be casual and creative communication.

## Frequency Listing of Western, Mid-western and Eastern National Forests

The Journal was recently sent complete and current frequency listings for monitoring radio activity in National Forests across the country. These frequencies are current for only a short period of time. If anyone is interested in obtaining a copy/copies, please call or write the Journal office and specify which National Forest you need frequencies for.

## James Bay Video

If you want a video about the James Bay Hydro-electric project in Quebec, send a blank tape and money for postage to Kurt Nelson, 224 Bevier St., Binghamton, NY 13904. They can be used for public education events or your viewing pleasure of impeding ecological disasters.

The idea of a womyn's newsletter has offended some men and womyn, none of whom were in the Vermont Womyn's caucus, so it's time to explain our intent. Two words that came up for us were exclusion and inclusion. We are not trying to exclude the men, we are trying to include the womyn. That distinction was misunderstood when we first started holding the Womyn's Caucus. Now that the men too are having their inclusionary caucuses, we are able to face issues together that we couldn't in the past.

Perhaps there is fear we are becoming self-involved whining feminists and forgetting to put the Earth First. We deserve a little more credit than that. The men must understand that sex and gender issues affect our everyday lives whether we attend to them or not. This crap drains the energy that we womyn would much rather give to the Earth. This forum is meant to help reverse that drain.

This should be an excellent way to stay in touch with the rad womyn across our many biospheres. If everyone sends *something* in, it will be fantastic! We can make this really big if lots of folks contribute writings. All womyn interested should send their letters, name address and phone number to Crystal McLaughlin at 9925 Mallard Creek Rd., Charlotte, NC 28213. Please don't mention EF! on the outside of the envelope, and if you can contribute a couple dollars for copying costs, that's great. Let's keep in touch.

Note to Bill and Jill from Huerfano Valley EF!: Please return my stuff! —Tim Haugen, The Wild Ranch Review, POB 81, Gulnare, CO 81042.

## Celebrate the Holiday Season in Style: Target a Fur Farm Near You

Christmas is the season of giving: giving skins of trapped wild animals to drape over the backs of rich people. If you were inspired by Rod Coronado's fur farm action and would like to try some creative liberations yourself, Rod has given us a list of national fur farms. Just contact us, or Coalition Against Fur Farms, POB 3095, Ashland, OR 97520.

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## Gentle Warrior



## A New Cassette from Peg Millett

Available through the EF! journal, with: *Women Come Forth, Forever Wild, Gentle Warrior, Forest Song, High Plateau, Medicine Wheel Song, Lady of the Flowering Waters, Now is the Cool of the Day, Wild Things, Earth Chant, Womb Song, Where There is Fear There is Power, Let Things Grow, I Can See Your Aura, What's Left of the West, Have a Nice Day, Travelin' Shoes, and Like a Prayer.*

"Peg Millett is a pure spirit and in her voice that spirit soars to heights we seldom hear in singers. You'll want to heed the call and help heal the wounds of Mother Earth."  
—Katie Lee, folk singer

"A marvelous singer."  
—Mike Fain, FBI agent and EF! infiltrator

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## Editorials EF? continued...

Earth First? continued from page 2

locusts," and "wilderness destroying machines." Once the objectification occurs, it becomes much easier to kill them. Identities have been removed and they are no longer individuals, but things.

Yet the cow is not the cause of the problem. It is the rancher who is responsible for not only choosing to destroy the wilderness, but also controlling and manipulating the lives of others for profit. Just as the hunter who consciously chooses to enter the wilderness and murder those who live there...for "meat" in the freezer, for a trophy on the wall.

But it is easier to remove the identities of non-humans. We cannot communicate with them. They are different, they are the Other.

And with this thinking, we have fallen into the trap. With this thinking we have, either consciously or unconsciously, placed non-human animals beneath humans. We have decided that the human is more worthy of life simply because s/he is human. We will

not even consider stopping those who are the root of the problem. They are human.

We have effectively destroyed our efforts. With this way of thinking we recreate the mindset that enforces all we are fighting against...a patriarchal mindset that sees humans above nature, men above women and whites over people of color.

I do not advocate killing of any kind. I simply put this out and ask that we begin to question. We must question our ideas and especially our reactions. If we truly want to preserve wildness, we must constantly critique and challenge our own paradigms. For within us all are remnants of culture; a culture that, for its survival, seeks continually to tame that wildness which is so basic for our own survival.

Accuses critics of Anthropocentrism - excessive worry

## Party Line continued...

Continued from page 2

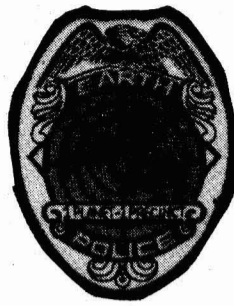
But there is an editorial policy remember? Certainly it gets tiring trying to convince the media, the "opposition" and even other members of the progressive movement that opinions in the journal are only the opinion of the individual author, not of the movement. We're dealing with a society so indoctrinated in the notion of hierarchy that they have trouble conceiving of people speaking only for themselves. It's part of fighting the dominant paradigm. Personally, I'd rather have to justify opinions in the paper that I don't agree with by saying that we don't censor, than have to justify why certain viewpoints are left out.

None of this is meant to imply that people should read the journal and passively accept everything they read. Write letters, call and yell at the collective, or better yet, join the collective yourself. Just don't refuse to accept that there are others in the movement who think differently than you do. And don't quit!

In our life's path

# Trinkets & Snake Oil

This is a list of the gew-gaws, trinkets, snake oil, tapes and baubels we currently have in stock. All prices are postpaid. We will publish more extensive visual displays in some other issue.



### T-SHIRTS

All 100% cotton.  
Sizes currently in stock are indicated.

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Short slv, tan, S \$10  
Short slv, lt. blue, S \$10

#### Griz and Cubs

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#### Canyon Frog

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\$1 each, unless otherwise noted

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- Desert Raper
- Don't Like Environmentalists?
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- Dream Back the Bison, Sing Back the Swan
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- Eschew Surplusage
- Fight The Power!
- Hayduke Lives!
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- Hunters: Did a Cow Get Your Elk?
- I'd Rather Be Monkeywrenching
- I'll Take My Beef Poached, Thanks
- Love Your Mother, Don't Become One
- Muir Power To You (\$5/doz)
- Native
- Nature Bats Last
- Not Politically Correct
- Oil and Bears Don't Mix
- Pay Your Rent, Work For The Earth
- Pregnancy: Just Another Deadly
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- Resist Much, Obey Little
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- Stop the Forest Service,
- Save Our Wild Country
- Stop Clearcutting
- Subvert the Dominant Paradigm
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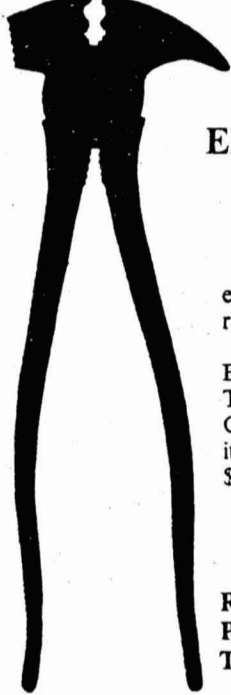
OKAY, HERE'S

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The Earth First! movement runs on your financial support. We don't need as much as other groups since we are grassroots, volunteer, decentralized and have low overhead. Moreover, you get to select where your hard-earned money goes. Don't send your contributions to this newspaper, send them directly to one of these hard working groups:

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- \*Earth First! Oceans Task Force, POB 77551, SF, CA 94107-7551
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- \*Preserve Appalachian Wilderness, POB 51A, Bondville, VT 05340
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- \*Santa Cruz Earth First!, POB 344, Santa Cruz, CA95061
- \*Stumpfrogs Earth First!, POB 10384, Eugene, OR 97440
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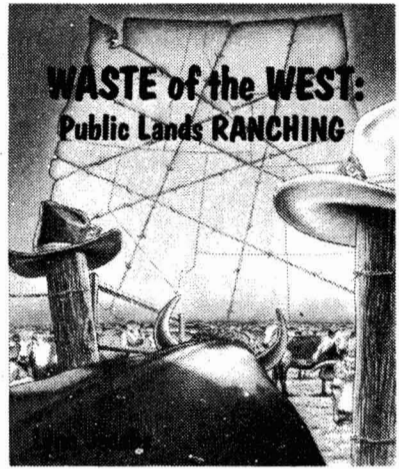
**COLO. EF! - PO 1166 - BOULDER, CO 80306**

## Earth First! Directory

The Earth First! Directory lists the contact points for the international Earth First! movement. It is divided into four sections: 1) Continent-wide EF! offices, 2) International contacts, 3) Active EF! Chapters or Groups, and 4) Contact persons where there is as yet no active EF! group. If you are interested in becoming active with the Earth First! movement, reach the folks listed for your area.

*Earth First! The Radical Environmental Journal* provides a forum for Earth First!ers around the world. This directory is provided as a service to independent EF! groups. If you would like to be listed as a contact or as a group, or have address changes or corrections, contact Earth First!, Box 5176, Missoula, MT 59806. 406-728-8114.

**LOCAL NEWSLETTERS:** Addresses marked with a "\*" or that have a newsletter title produce either an Earth First! newsletter or regular mailings for their area or issue. Contact them directly to receive their newsletter or otherwise be on their mailing list.



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Ashland, OR 97520  
(503) 796-9559  
EFl Direct Action Fund  
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Brookport, IL 62910

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Albuquerque, NM 87195

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## ONTARIO

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Box 4612 Station E  
Ottawa, ONT K1S 5H8  
CANADA

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Montréal, Quebec H2W-2T3  
CANADA

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Bondville, VT 05340  
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Glacial Erratic  
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UVA EFl  
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Virginia Highlands EFl \*  
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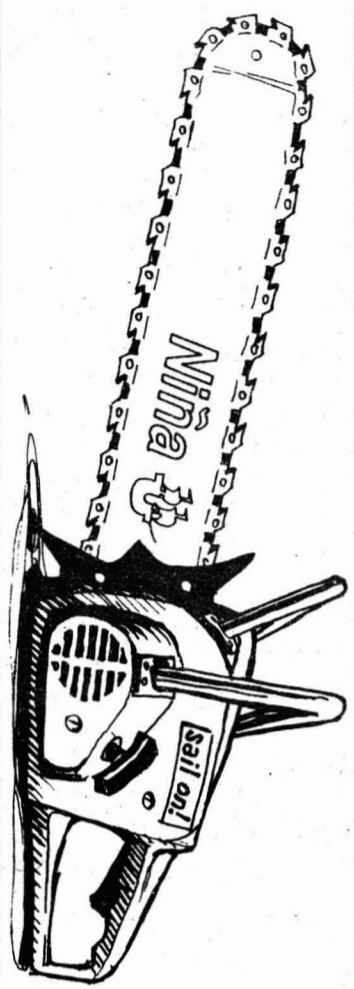
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(607) 724-0348  
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\*Wetlands Preserve/Russ Weis  
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New York, NY 10013  
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(516) 424-6499

## INTERNATIONAL EF! DIRECTORY

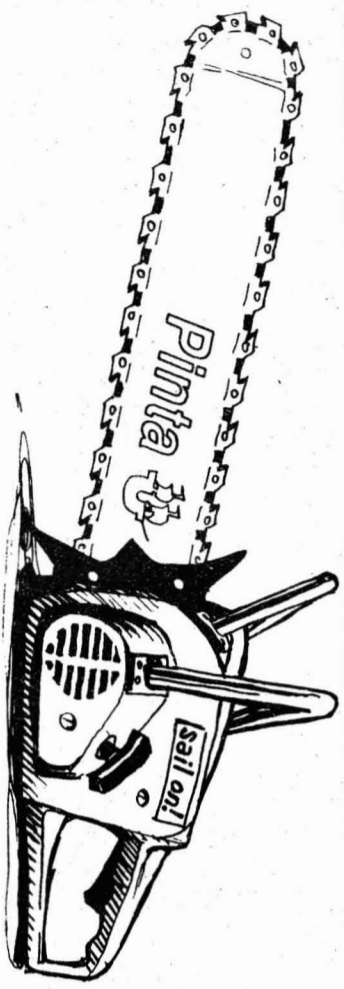
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Melbourne, VIC 3001  
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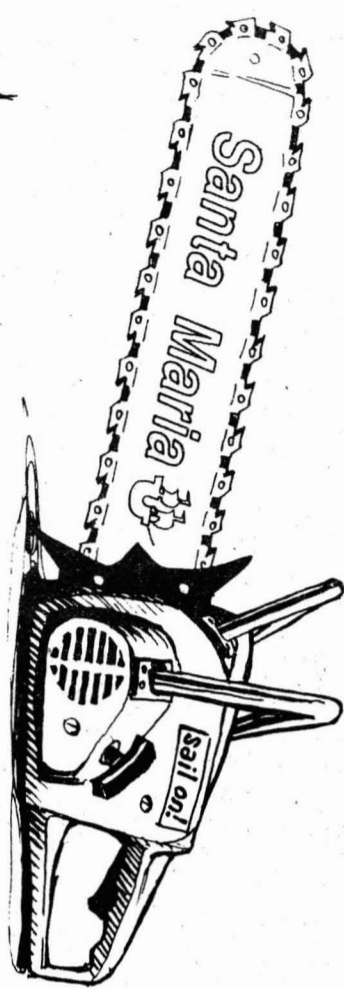
**WHERE**



**NEXT**



**COLUMBUS?**

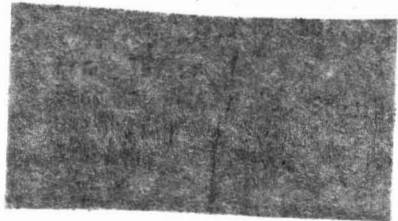


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