

The Devil's Environmental Dictionary

by Jim Britell (Rev. 4th ed. 9/10)

acceptance & acceptability.

people won't accept what they *do* understand if it costs them money or proves their life is a big mistake. [SEE WILLFUL IGNORANCE]

activism, *1st rule of.* mother nature doesn't love you.

activism, *Gresham's Law of.* consensus groups and partnerships extinguish advocacy.

activists, *best kind.* "mama bears" a.k.a. mothers.

adrenaline. formerly a defense against being eaten by other animals, now a reminder we are one.

america. formerly the best country in the world, now the least worst.

apologies, *insincere forms.*

1. everywhere and nowhere (mistakes were made). **2.** anytime but no time (we now know more than we used to). **3.** everyone and no one (let's not do finger-pointing).

apologies, *sincere form.* roll on your back like a puppy, piss on your stomach, promise never to do it again.

awe and wonder, *two kinds.* **1.** *natural*, go to wild unroaded area. **2.** *synthetic*, run loud gasoline engines proximate to one's genitals. [SEE TOPS OF FOOD CHAINS, GOOFIES]

balance. tradeoff between ignoring a law and tepidly enforcing it. [not fr. L. *bilanz*, to weigh, but fr. Gr. *balanoc*, *insert suppository in rectum to ease irritation.*] e.g. "Please bend over so the doctor can insert a 'balanoc' in your a--."

bastards, *1st rule of.* no man can serve two *b.*

biologist(s), *Emerson's View of.* "... like children...a protected class; ...hiding his head like an ostrich in the flowering bushes, peeping into microscopes." [q.v. AMERICAN SCHOLAR 1837]

biology, *anti-advocacy rule.* constraint unique to *b.*; doing studies that prove humans kill off other species kills your chance for tenure. [If applied to medicine, MD's at accidents would be constrained to counting dead bodies.]

biostitute. formerly biologists employed by corporations, now universities also.

birderism, *a.k.a. peeperism.* pervasive fallacy that maintaining detailed lists of birds helps them.

bull markets, *1st rule of.* never conflate bull markets with your own intelligence.

business planning, *1st rule of.* if you can control the assumptions in business plans, you can prove trees will grow to the sky.

business planning model, *Return on Investment, (ROI).* rigorous balancing of risks and rewards. e.g. snatching an ice cream cone from a 3-year-old on a passing bike would be cost effective.

CAFOs, Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations. **1.** cheap way to make Salmonella, pollution, and antibiotic resistance. **2.** meat factories.

chamber of commerce. group who would line up the town's grandmothers on Main Street on the Fourth of July to be simultaneously raped by LA bikers to draw tourists.

commodifiers & domesticators, *what they fear.* awareness in any human that man is but an animal. [SEE TOPS OF FOOD CHAINS]

consensus decision making. pseudo democratic process promoted by the strong and verbally skillful to oppress the weak and inarticulate. [ok for families, tribes or religious orders with endless time and shared values.]

consensus decision making, *England.* since the Shires in 500AD considered by parliamentarians as a bad process as nothing is "challengeable" and intimidation, oppression of minorities and conflicts of interest are inevitable.

consensus decision making, *Greece.* common decision making process until 109 B.C when due to widespread intimidation and coercion replaced by voting, ballots and parliamentary procedure.

cost benefit analysis. assigning specific dollar values to the incalculable and ineffable.

county. American political designation developed with the township and range system to promote real estate speculation.

counting, 1st rule of. largest number most people can comprehend is 20, [possibly 21 for males].

counting, 2nd rule of. people by the billions don't know a million from a trillion.

cross purposes. "State and Federal agencies too often work at *cp.*" when Fish and Wildlife agencies won't fudge data and ignore violations, they are at *cp.* with agencies who do.

dysergy, ant. to synergy. unpredictable, disagreeable outcomes created by tinkering with or simplifying complex systems. e.g. disease, floods, fire or famine, [four horsemen].

ecological equilibrium, 1st Law of. political smarts of ecologists are equivalent to the ecological smarts of politicians.

Ecological putz: one who knows everything about a place except a plan to rezone it as "light industrial."

ecologically significant areas, *ways to protect.* **1.** *wrong way,* memorize Latin names of everything in the area. **2.** *right way* memorize English names of anyone who could halt its development.

ecotourism. non-fattening hot fudge sundae approach to economic growth.

ecotourists (ETs). 1. people who don't stay home where they belong but go around being a nuisance to others. 2. easiest way to attain entitlement to everything with responsibility for nothing.

economic development. way for politicians to run free water and sewer lines to their brother-in-law's undevelopable property. [SEE UTOPIAN PLUMBING.]

economic development, 1st law of. subsidies must be incomprehensible to voters yet easy for speculators to understand.

ecosystem management. creative and innovative method of enforcing environmental laws such that they are applied uniformly and even-handedly on nobody, anywhere.

engrossment. for 800 years the crime of piling up undue personal wealth whose punishment was "pillory and utter ruin." cured in medieval public ceremonies that "disgorged" engrossers.

environmental effectiveness, rule of thumb. political smarts relate inversely to how many things you can name in Latin. *Nonnulli tam intellegentes sunt ut stulti sint*, (some people are so smart, they're stupid.)

environmental enforcement, 1st rule of. q.v. St. Augustine, "give me chastity and continency - but not yet!"

environmental enforcement, circular argument of.

A. Environmental laws sustain the web of life, B. alas, if we ever enforced them public outcry would cause their repeal, C. therefore, we cannot enforce them. (return to A.)

equation, "let's put people back into the equation!" argument to include job losses when making Endangered Species listings; not done as it would preclude saving anything, anywhere.

evolutionary education, niche of. formerly colonized by biology teachers until creationists drove them out. biologists teach about niches, but cannot actually defend one.

forester. a deforester.

givings, political theory of. those who derive windfall profits from public infrastructure and zoning changes should split some of the windfall with the treasury.

goofies. domesticated animals with a trusting manner like cows and sheep, tended by those characterized by dullness, predictability, and a hatred of predatory wild animals.

grandfathered in. if your grandfather got away with it, you can too.

grants, 1st rule of. people only write checks to buy things.

grants, 2nd rule of. foundations don't fund anti-corporate campaigns for the same reason monks don't dissolve monasteries.

gridlock. **1.** formerly, third-world traffic congestion created by non-enforcement of traffic laws. now, a legal impasse that prevents clear-cutting in many forests. **2.** badge of honor and measure of effectiveness.

habitat conservation plans, (HCP), *God's Plan.* rain leaches nutrients down to the sea; salmon, bears, eagles and other species bring them back. continues forever.

habitat conservation plans, (HCP), *developers plan.* scalp 90% of a mountain and extirpate every living thing and deed what's left to the condo association.

idealism. craving for political processes different from the ones you have.

local involvement, *myth of.* government efficiency improves when locals are involved, e.g. scrap iron dealers from Bayonne N.J. might help manage the Statue of Liberty.

local knowledge, "*locals know best.*" rural people have unique insights. e.g. trees and fish are infinite and thus can never be used up.

managerialism. form of totalitarianism peculiar to democracies, outward forms of some freedoms like speech, press, and voting are retained. [SEE TOTALITARIANISMS]

market-based solutions. way to destroy communities and reframe what ensues as investment opportunities. [SEE PRIVATIZING]

Milerepa's prediction. *12th century Tibetan saint.* in our time, the iron age of kali-yuga, horses will ride on metal; information will grow too stupendous to comprehend, and conclusions will be hard to reach.

mitigation. save a parcel of land to compensate for paving another. *if English depts used m. "100 Bottles of Beer on the Wall" would outrank sonnets.* [L. MITIGATIO, APPEASE, PACIFY, OR SOFTEN, SEE HCP]

monitoring. collecting detailed, comprehensive data so scientists in the future can prove what is already obvious to anyone driving by.

movies, *meta message.* only Batman or Clint Eastwood can stop Mr. Big.

Napoleon's law of motivation. pins, badges and ribbons are the best motivators.

national environmental player. one who knows nothing about local environmental issues who nevertheless settles them behind the backs of local activists who do.

native americans, *basic teaching.* if white people really loved their country they wouldn't have done what they did to it.

neo-liberalism. product of crossing the Lovin Spoonfuls with Excel spread sheets.

neo-liberalism, *six principles*.

1. people of good will can negotiate away all problems. **2.** social conflicts are imaginary constructs. **3.** no problem's root source is corruption. **4.** all problems arise from mistakes. **5.** bad actors never have faces or names. **6.** the more conflict of interest the better.

not ramming, *things down people's throats*. modern version of John Calhoun's nullification theory that led to the Civil War.

nudnik (nudzh, nudge), [YIDDISH]. one who continually pesters and annoys. activists who participate in roundtables, partnerships, local development schemes or other win-win processes, inevitably become *n*.

nuisances *1st rule of*. don't be a nuisance to yourself or others.

observer. according to conservatives, the only proper relationship of a citizen to local extractive industry.

“Oregon Style” planning, *a.k.a crooks know best*. “partnering” between agencies and landowners promoted by Democratic Governors to avoid enforcing environmental laws.

part-out. right-wing approach to America's public assets, e.g. forests, oceans, water, roads, students.
[DISMANTLING CARS TO RESELL THEIR WATER-PUMPS & CARBURETORS FOR PARTS.]

partnering. public policy tool to create conflict-of-interest-prone relationships between law enforcement and violators.

perfect storm. perfectly predictable catastrophe whose obvious harbingers were ignored.

pigs in troughs, *1st rule of*. to remove a pig from a trough, use a 2x4 not a flipchart.

policy, *1st rule of*. the devil's in the details because that's where the policy is.

political power. the ability to influence what people look at and how they think about what they see.

powerpointing. doing tech support on a computer in front of you while reading a speech on a wall in back of you.

property, *1st. law of*. land, once stolen fair and square, cannot be stolen back.

property rights *1st. law of*. defending rights on private land is all-American; opposing the theft of *public* land is socialism.

public land *1st. law of*. tough guys always get the ground.

pukes. term of endearment applied to Pew foundation grantees by non-grantees.

quantification paradox. important issues are seldom quantifiable; quantifiable issues are seldom important.

reaching out, fallacy. accommodating people impacted by environmental laws requires not enforcing them. *if Eisenhower had ro. to Arkansas, schools would still be segregated.* [SEE PARTNERING AND WIN-WIN]

reconciliation. possible outcome *after* one side wins and the other is reconciled to it.

Republicans and Democrats. political arms of Goldman Sachs.

right wing political strategy, *basis of.* reduce turnout in black voting precincts by demoralizing, disorganizing or destroying them. [EX NEW ORLEANS.]

roundtable. forums where environmental activists can waive environmental laws. If policemen *roundtabled* they could issue “free to speed” permits.

Salwasser’s Law. some people are so smart they’re stupid. [e.g. H. SALWASSER]

scientific proof. unattainable standard of proof required to stop any destructive practice, not required to commence one.

scoping. formal public input on agency proposals. generally scheduled too early to affect things, or too late to make a difference.

scrupulosity. exposing imaginary flaws of others in furtherance of utterly unachievable and possibly undesirable ends.

selling out, 1st rule of. make sure you get paid.

selling out, 2nd rule of. never confuse shilling and pimping.

social change, 1st rule of. to remove a pig from a trough use a 2x4 not a flipchart.

squirrel. person who lacks “walking around” sense.

stakeholderism, a.k.a *steakholderism.* **1.** crackpot political theory. **2.** to celebrate conflicts of interest as good public policy.

Sustainability (slang). **1.** futile goal. **2.** impossible challenge. e.g. maintain excessive levels of logging despite laws that forbid it.

talk and log group. local group that explores alternatives to a proposed clearcut; generally disbands when logging begins.

timber dependent community. community so complicit with logging that its reduction cannot be considered or imagined.

timber taxes, laws of. **1.** property taxes on the timberland viewable from any town’s highest point are less than the average home’s. **2.** industries strong enough to wreak devastation you can see, can do worse damage on tax laws you can’t.

tops of food chains, why extirpate? when wolves and sharks are gone, humans can never again be prey and any awareness we are an animal will be extinguished. [SEE COMMODIFIERS, GOOFIES]

totalitarianisms, three kinds. communism, fascism, managerialism.

utopian plumbing. “outputs” of most economic development schemes are free underground pipes, a.k.a. pipes for partners. [SEE ECONOMIC DEV. 1ST LAW OF]

watershed council. innovative way to substitute science fair projects for environmental laws; transfer public resources to criminals; and legally use tax dollars for lobbying.

watershed council, appropriate agenda items. non-controversial issues e.g. to lobby a federal agency not to list a near-extinct species where the law and science compel it.

watershed council, inappropriate agenda items. controversial and divisive issues e.g. asking a *wc.* member to not log a sheer slope in a critical fish spawning watershed.

watershed council, blocking. right to exclude from an agenda the issues which created it in the first place or which establish a *wc.* member is a criminal.

wilderness. a place where you may die even if you *are* careful.

wilderness paradox. people love scary situations where they can't possibly get hurt. e.g. horror movies, blood sports, roller coasters, and eco-tourism.

Willer constant of forestland ownership. in any rural county four or fewer out-of-state companies own 75% or more of the industrial forestland. [q.v. C. WILLER]

willful ignorance. reflex of “higher monitoring authorities” to data that shows their past actions caused big problems.

win-win. negotiating strategy urged on activists to make them “lose-lose” by those who never use it themselves. [OE. WINNAN, TO FIGHT]